HANNA

NORTH

A RURAL HISTORY

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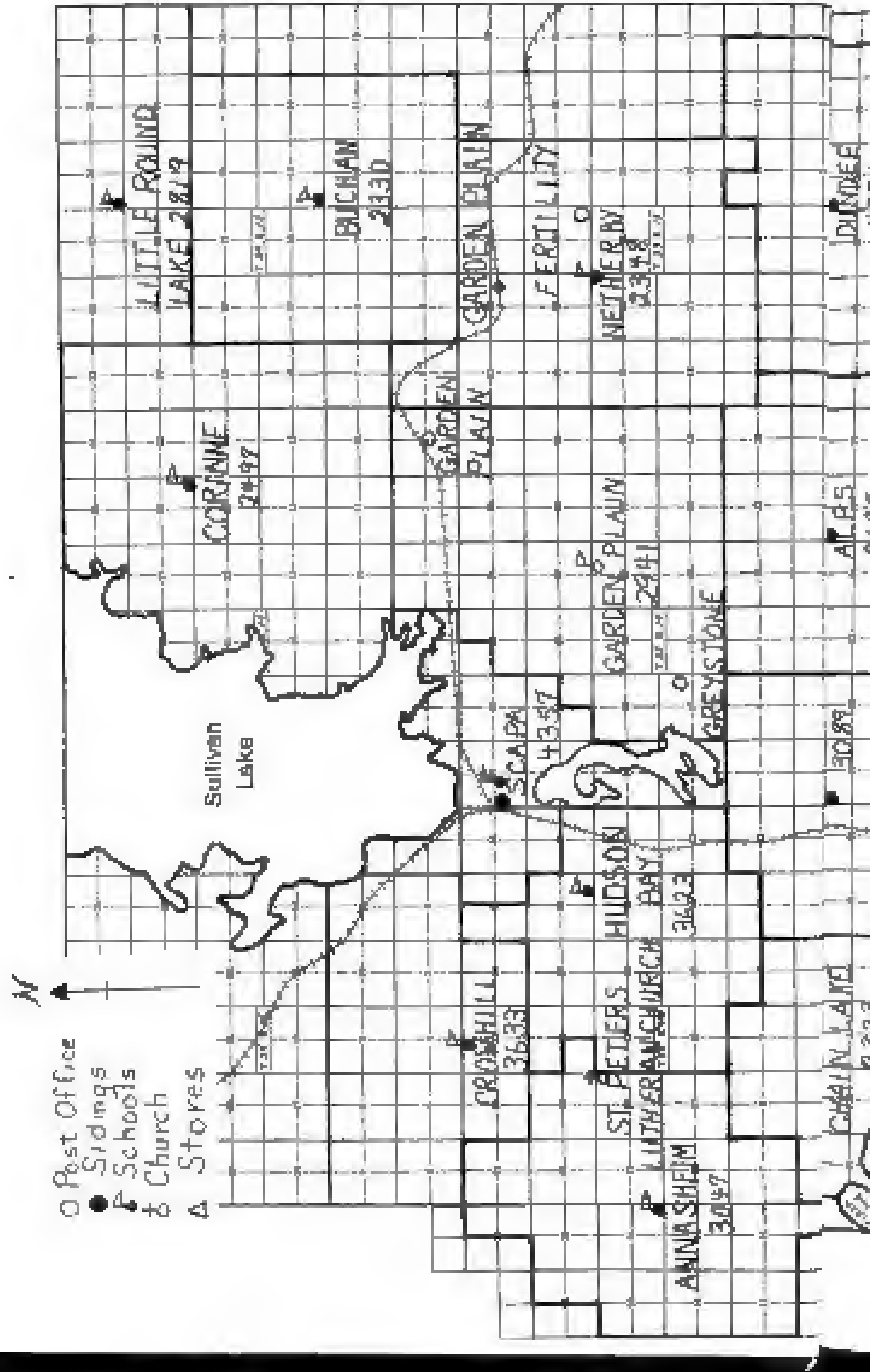
HANNA NORTH

A RURAL HISTORY
1909 - 1978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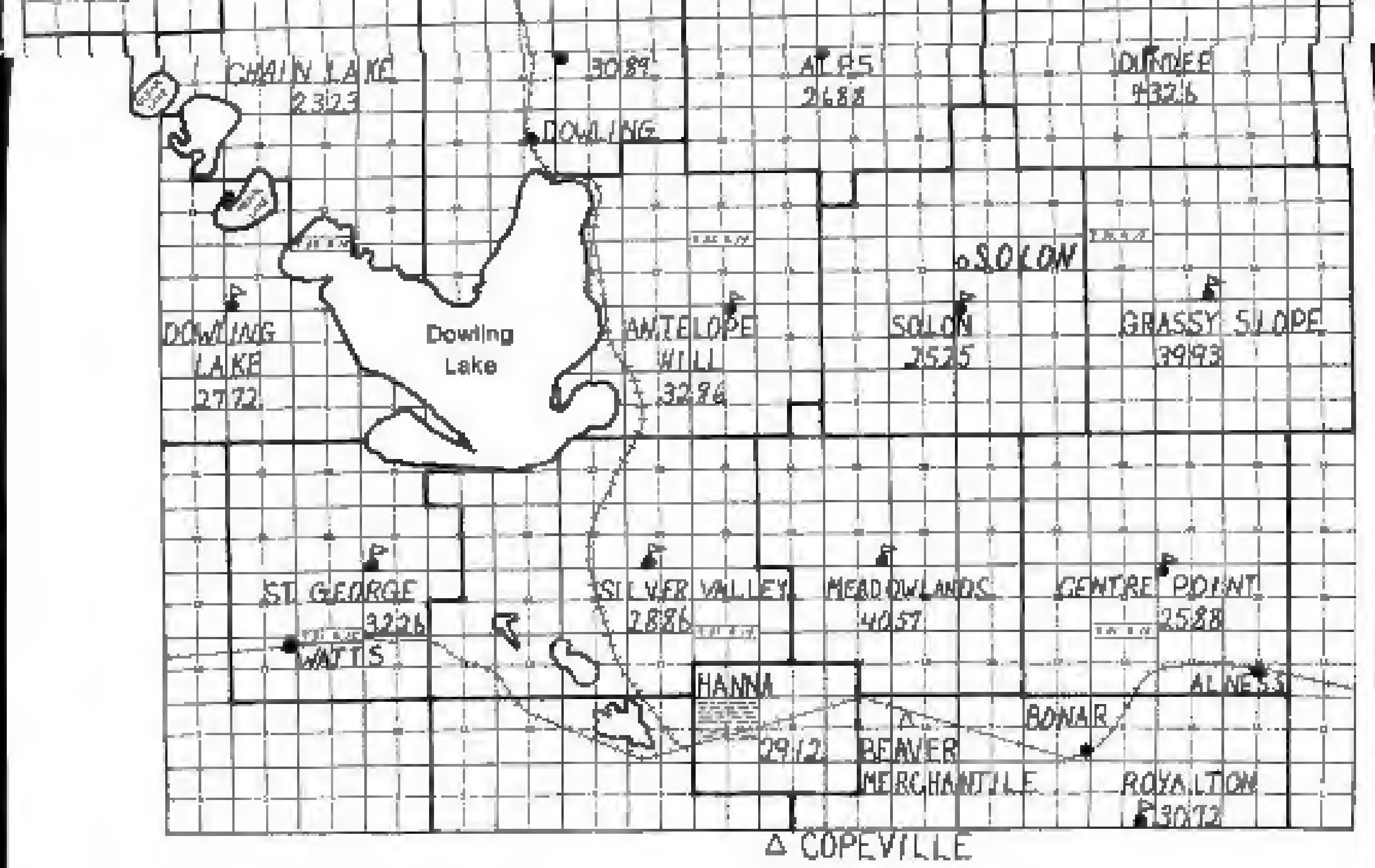
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HANNA NORTH

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Hanna North Book Club

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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the pioneers . . . to the honored oldtimers still with us,

And to the memory of those who did not live to receive this tribute to them.

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TO THE READER

"We must write the history of our district, so that our heritage will be preserved for present and future generations, that they may know of the stamina and courage it took to turn a virgin land into what it is today." How many times and for how many years did we express these feelings to each other? It is with a guilty conscience, we say that we waited far too long to write this book. Had we taken up the challenge sooner, the task would not have been so tedious. History is being erased daily as old things are scrapped to make room for the new. Sometimes we must question if there are improvements being made, or just changes. The pioneers are also leaving us one by one and with the passing of each, there is another bit of history lost. And so, as the years pass, compiling local histories becomes more difficult.

We have done our best to get accurate accounts of people and events that are the history of the large area north of Hanna, which we have attempted to cover in this book. This wasn't always possible. Truth has only to change hands a few times to become "fiction," and many a pioneer story is no longer first hand. You will find mistakes, for they are easily made. You will find omissions, and they may offend you. We apologize if this has happened, it was unintentional.

The reward of writing a book such as Hanna North, is knowing that it brings pleasure to its readers. May you enjoy scanning these pages and may you find your own personal niche tucked away in a story or picture. If you do, then we have accomplished our purpose.

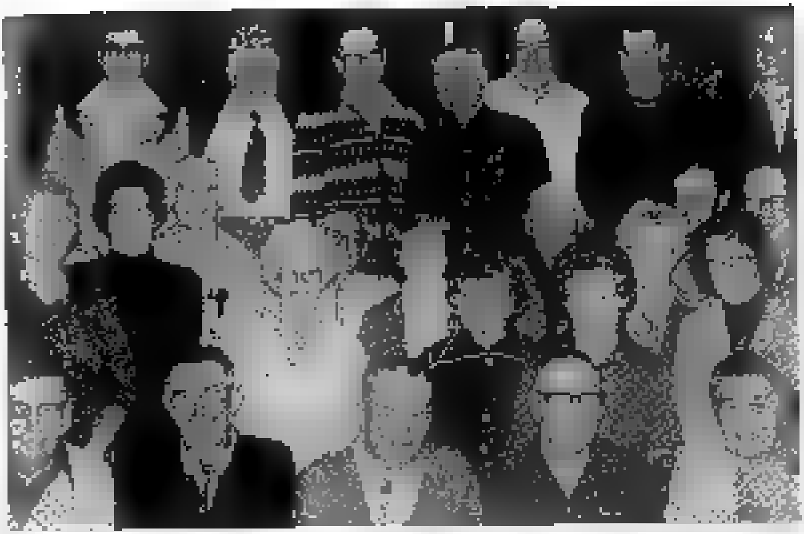
The Book Committee

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO

Each and everyone who contributed stories, poems and pictures. All those who patiently answered our many questions, in person, by phone and letter. It was your information that gave us a foundation to work from. Also the ones who helped us with maps and feature stories, the typists and proof readers.

We thank those, like Mrs. Pearl Rusteman, who shared their previous experience with us, and started us out in the right direction. Our Editor, Mrs. Jean James, who read, re-wrote, re-read and organized our jumbled pages into presentable form. The Scapa Athletic Assoc. for the use of the hall, The Editor of the Hanna Herald for giving us access to the Herald files and the material therein, The Glenbow Institute, Calgary and the Provincial Archives in Edmonton for allowing us information from their files. The Hanna Stockyards Ltd. for unknowingly providing us with a place to swap our stories and information. Last but by no means least, those who helped us with our finances.

THESE BUILT THE BOOK



School district representatives and assistants: Louis Unsworth, Bob Rehill, Norman Greenway, Bill Storch, Walter Viss, Tom Pattinson, Herb Wimmer, Inga Strandberg, Edna Welch, Earl Burt, Margaret Hage, Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Mrs. Johnston, Bill MacKenzie, Florence Storch, Margaret Nelson, Fred Johnston, Freda Viss, Cliff Kerr; Austin Ludlow, Alex Wolfert, Bill Curtis, Albert Hutton, Frances Unsworth. Not present for the picture: Fred Nill, Ida Grosse, Doris Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fonno, Orpha Wolfert, Mrs. Bill MacKenzie, Harold Strandberg.

Typists: Margaret Storch, Rena Nelson, June Matthews, Doris Hutton, Elsie Storch, Phyllis Boyson, Joan Marlowe, Hildegarde Jabs, Freda Viss, Joan James, Orpha Wolfert, Doreen Kerr, Myrtle Greenway, Agnes Mahl.

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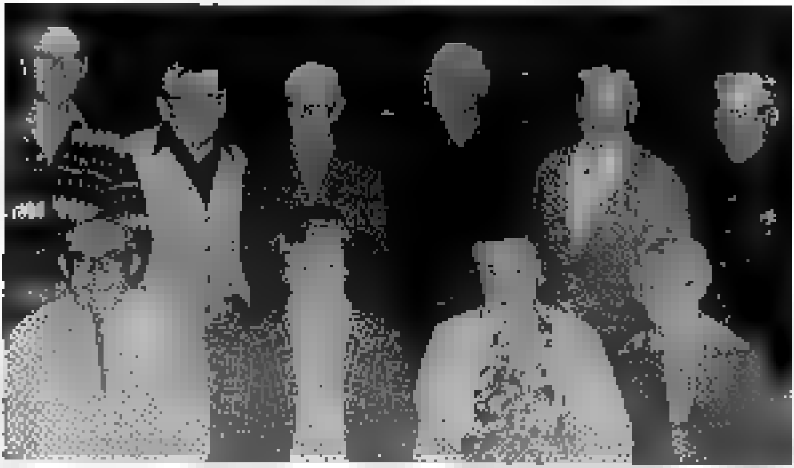
Executive of Hanna North Book Club: Austin Ludlow, Vice-President; Bill Storch, President; Norman Greenway, Secretary-Treasurer; Joan James, Editor.

NEW HORIZONS COMMITTEE



New Horizons Committee in charge of the production of this book: Norman Greenway, Austin Ludlow, Harry Lumsden, Bill Mackenzie, Bill Curtis, Bill Storch; Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Frances Unsworth, Margaret Nelson. The New Horizons Committee wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Federal Department of Health through the New Horizons Program for Senior Citizens, and from the Alberta Culture Heritage Resources Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

One short year ago, Hugh Campbell began working diligently with us, to compile the history of "Hanna North." His untimely death on July 3, 1978, took from our midst a friend whose sense of humor inspired us to keep going when the hill looked too big to climb.

"To know Hugh Campbell, was to know a gentleman, one of God's gentlemen."

CHAPTER I

THEY WERE HERE FIRST

Between the Battle and the Red Deer Rivers, a broad plateau stretches eastward to the Saskatchewan border. The territory covered in this book, the land immediately south and east of Sullivan Lake, is undulating prairie, rising to hills 2800 feet in altitude, sloping to Sullivan and Dowling Lakes, 2651 and 2595 feet respectively. These lakes, as well as numerous smaller bodies of water, are shallow and alkaline. Springs, a few creeks and small sloughs provide fresh water.

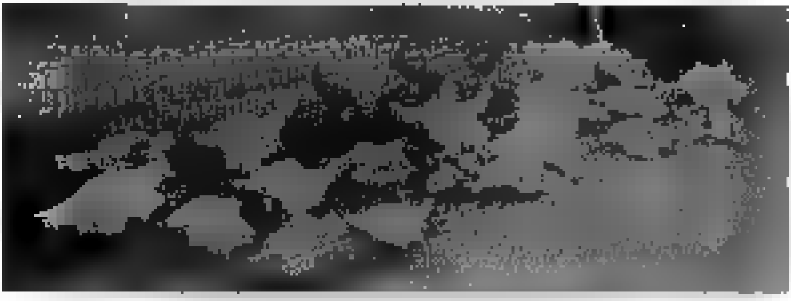
Thick grass called prairie wool covered the land. It was ideal pasture for the buffalo which the Cree and Blackfoot hunted, but in spring and fall it was tinder dry, and carelessness or lightning caused many prairie fires which destroyed everything in their path. The only trees which survived were a few clumps of willow and poplar which ringed the sloughs.

There was no white settlement here before the twentieth century. Explorers who followed the rivers skirted the area. There were no trading posts, no missions, no R.C.M.P. outposts. Palliser's expedition crossed the area on its way from the Neutral Hills to the Hand Hills; reported outcroppings of coal, and suggested that except for a few fertile spots, the land was unfit for cultivation. It remained an Indian hunting ground, and signs of their life style can still be seen.

Several years ago there was an exceptionally heavy spring run-off, which cut a deep gully between two hills on the south side of Dowling Lake. Amateur archeologists discovered three distinct layers of buffalo bones and skulls, evidence that this may have been the location of a buffalo jump. Local enthusiasts declare that arrowheads can be picked up almost anywhere. The pictures on the following pages include artifacts from the collections of Harold Strandberg, Tom Pattinson, Bill Curtis, Al Werner, Bill Blois, Larry Stelzlspacher, Ross Schissler, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Viste.

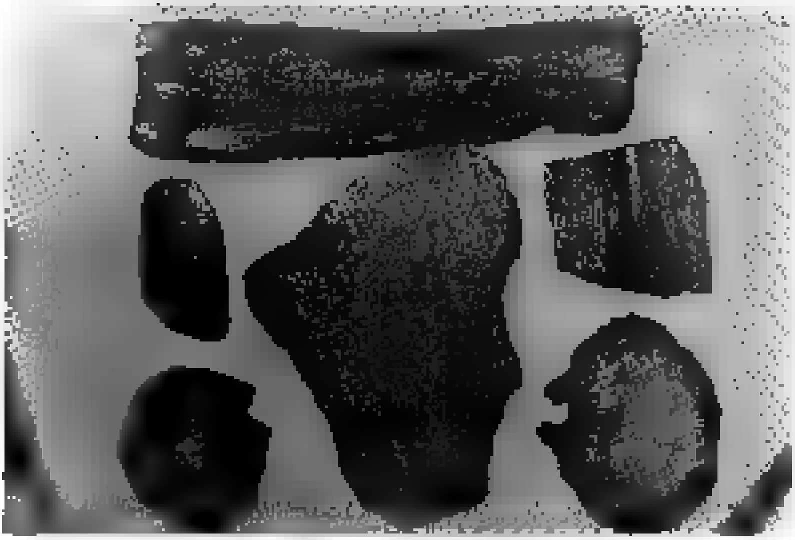
Mr. Harold Strandberg submitted the following information:

There are records of when the first men of European origin came to this area. The North American Indians were here before them; when their ancestors arrived will probably never be known. But they, too, left their records; there is evidence that they were here about ten thousand years ago.



Buffalo skulls dug out of bank along Dowling Lake.

Some of the older stone projectile points which appear on these pages date back to 7000 - 9000 B.C. These have been found in this area, along with grooved hammer stones, scrapers, knives, and various other tools, made of different types of stone, some not native to this area. The corner-notched and side-notched points were the later styles, made when bows and arrows were being used. Pottery shards have also been found; some bowls were plain, but most of them had



Dinosaur bones and petrified wood found locally.

designs on the outer rim. Iron points have also been picked up. These are of much later origin, when the Fur Companies started trading with the Indians.

Some of the Indian campsites can be seen. They consist of circles of stone, eighteen to twenty feet in diameter; at some sites the circles are only six or eight feet in diameter. The smaller ones are believed to have been used before the Indians had horses.

Fire pits can still be located. They are usually close to water and some were used to heat stones for the sweat baths.

Buffalo trails are still visible on some of the uncultivated land; and there are rubbing stones, worn smooth after thousands of years of use.

The Plains Indians lived a nomadic life, and did little, if any, damage to the land.

Photo No. 1 is a sample of some of the oldest projectile points found in this area. Those with the tapered base are believed to be the oldest, dating back to about 7000-9000 B.C. These are the 'Agate Basin' type.

Those with the square base are the 'Scottsbluff' type, also named 'Eden' or 'Alberta' points. The longest one in this photo is 4½ inches long. These were used about 5000-7000 B.C.

Photo No. 2. Those with the notch at the base are known as the McKean type; they were used about 2000-3000 B.C. Those in the bottom row with the base partly notched are dated about 1500-2000 B.C.

Photo No. 3. These points, corner-notched as well as having a notch at the base, are known as the Oxbow type. They date back to about 1500-3000 B.C..The longest point is 3¼ inches long, and could have been used as a spear point or a knife.

Photo No. 4. The large point which is about 4¼ inches long was probably used for a spear. The smaller ones may have been used as arrow points. The others could have been either spears or arrows. Date, about 1000 B.C.

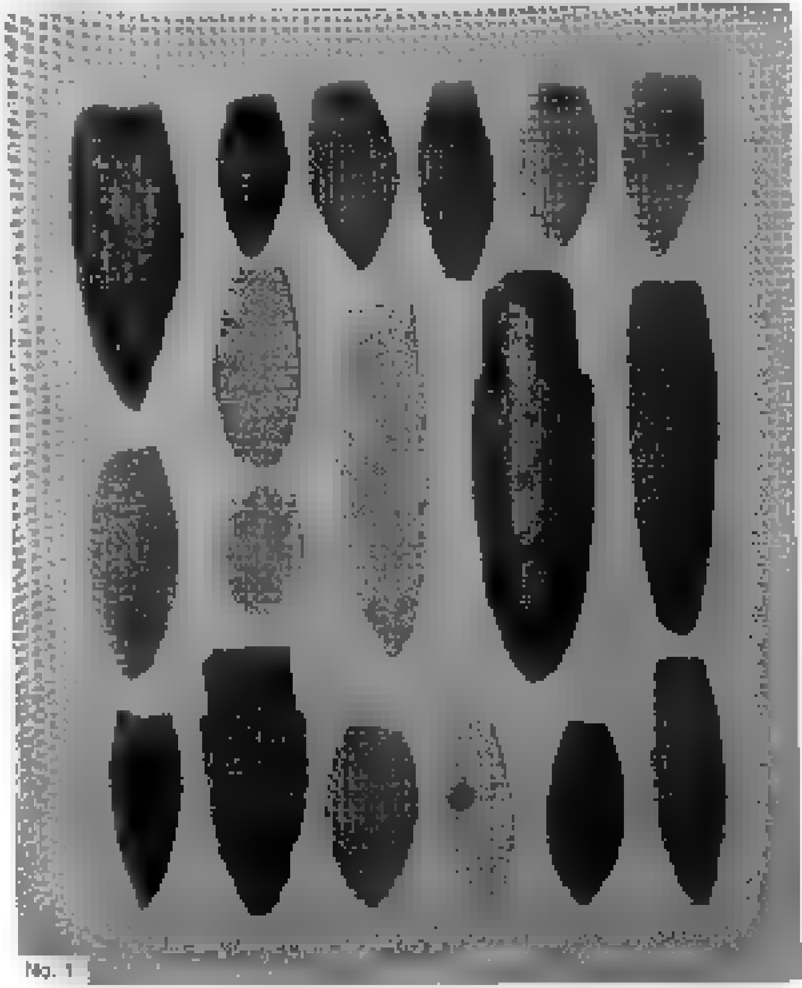
Photo No. 5. These side-notched points are the later type. They were

probably all used for arrows. Very few of this type are more than one inch long; some are less than a half-inch. The bottom artifact, which has a hole in it, is made of glassy black obsidian. It is about four inches long and could have been used as a knife or scraper.

Photo No. 6. These are grooved hammer stones; they vary in size and shape. The stone with no groove, top centre, was held in the hand and used as a pounder. It is worn very smooth.

Photo No. 7. This shows a variety of stone tools, scrapers, knives and drills.

Photo No. 8. This also shows a variety of tools, some made of iron, two arrow points and one large spear point made from a double-edged I.K. Sorby knife, about ten inches long. The artifact in the top left corner is a spokes shaver made from a piece of Hand Hills agate. The stone with the hole in it may have been used as a pendant. The others could have been used as knives or scrapers.



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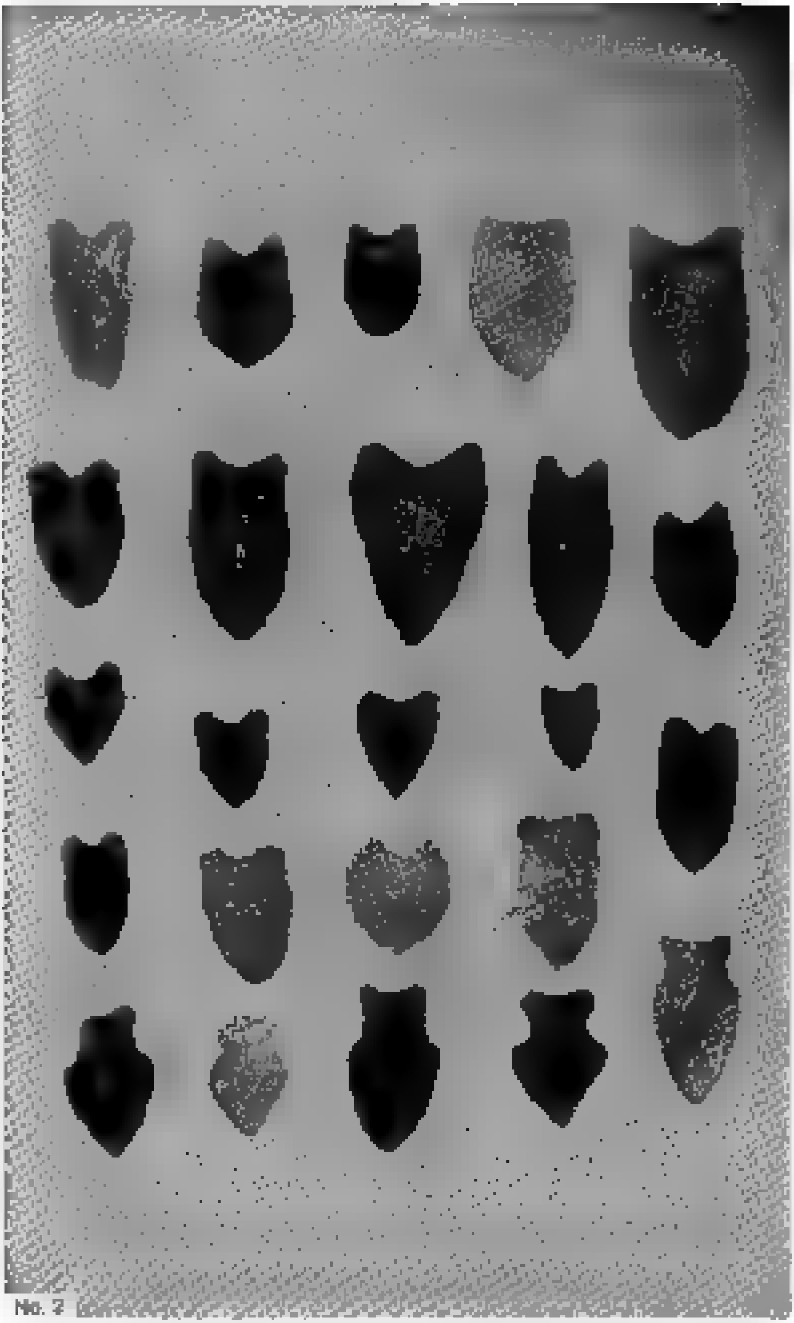

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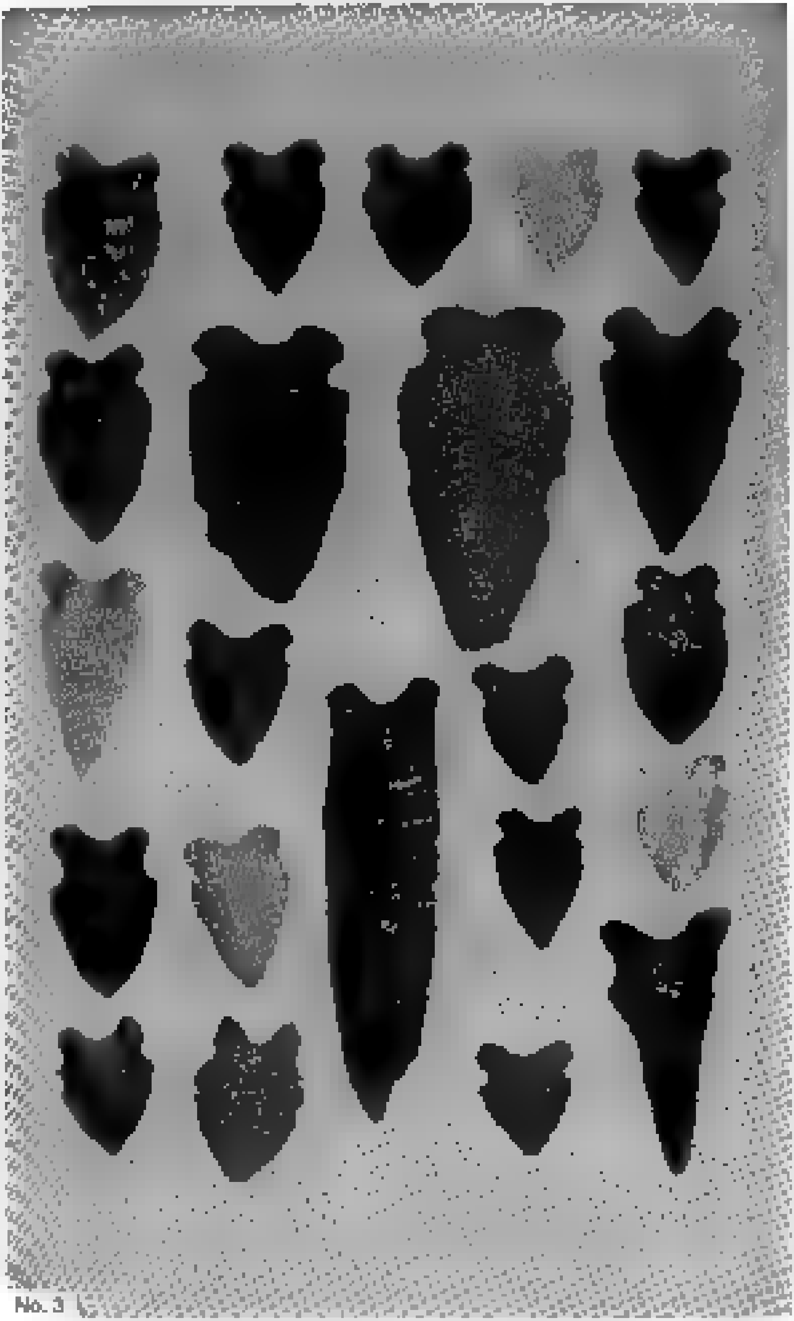

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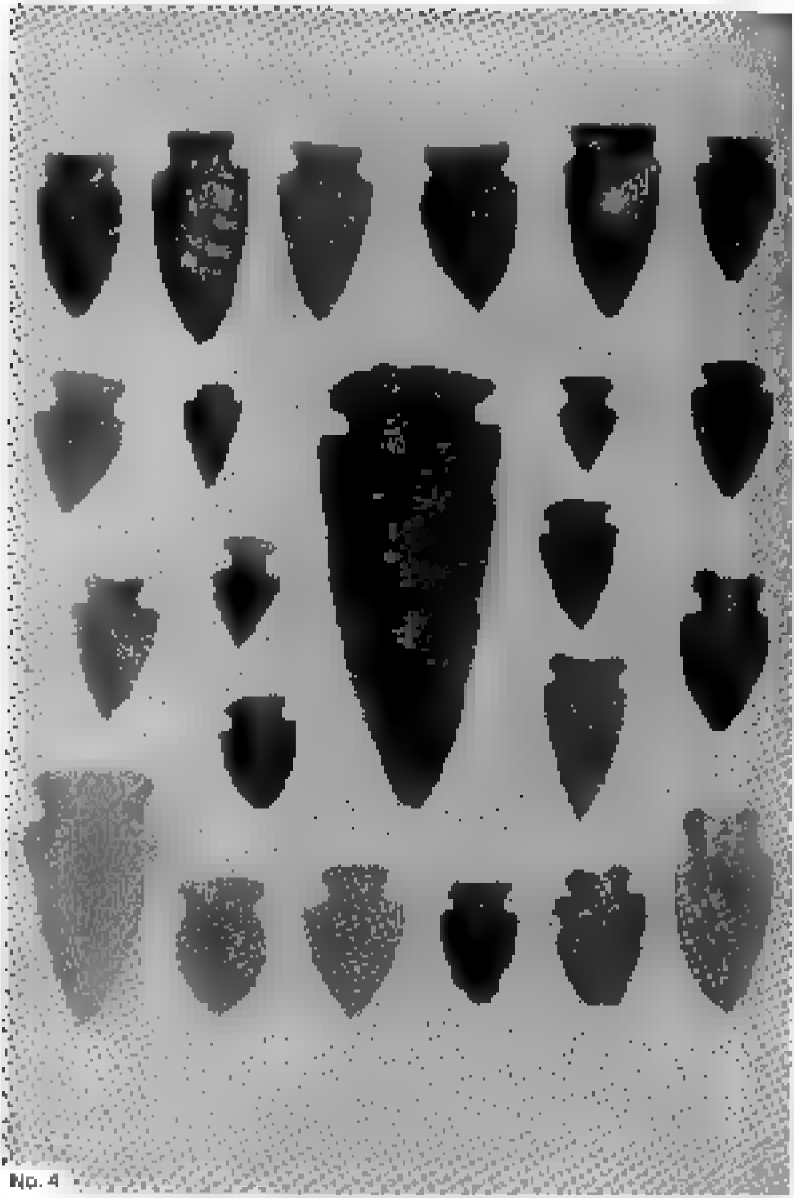

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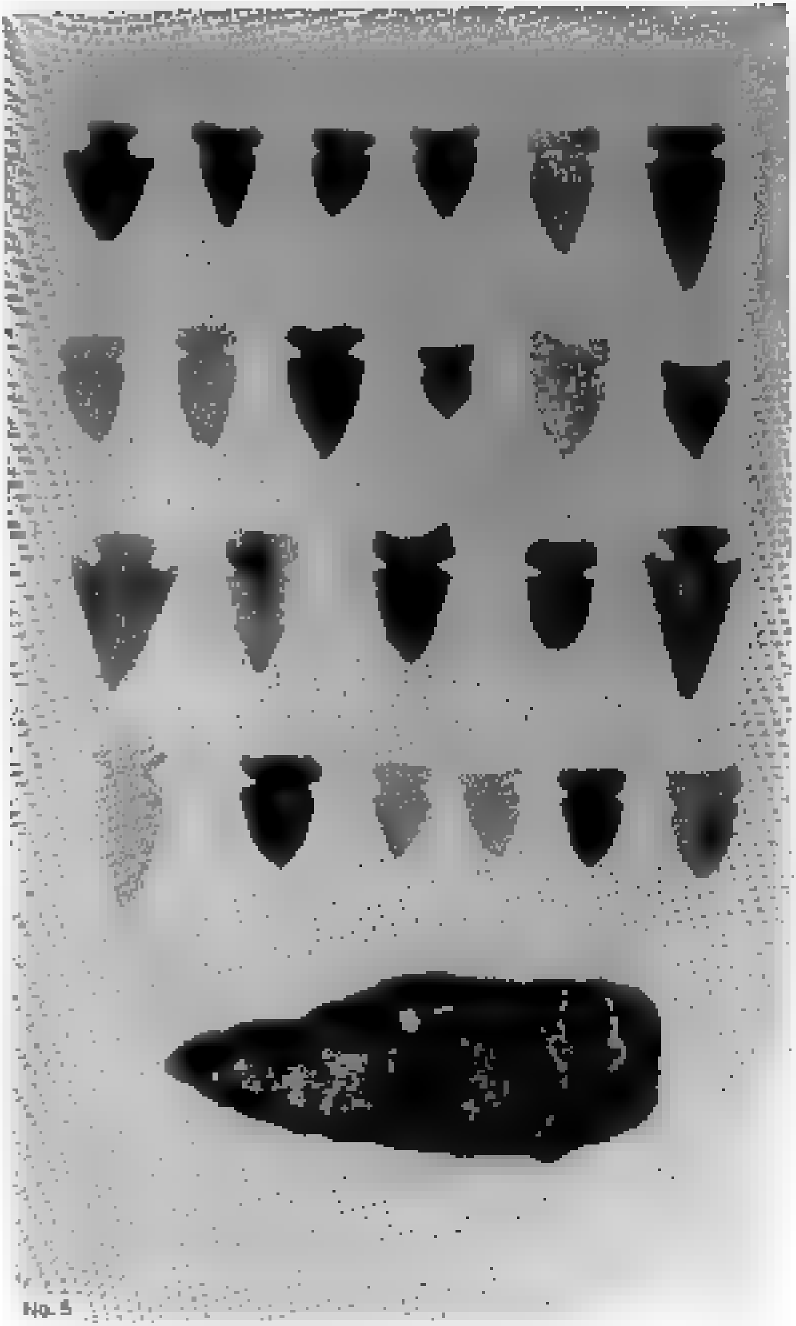

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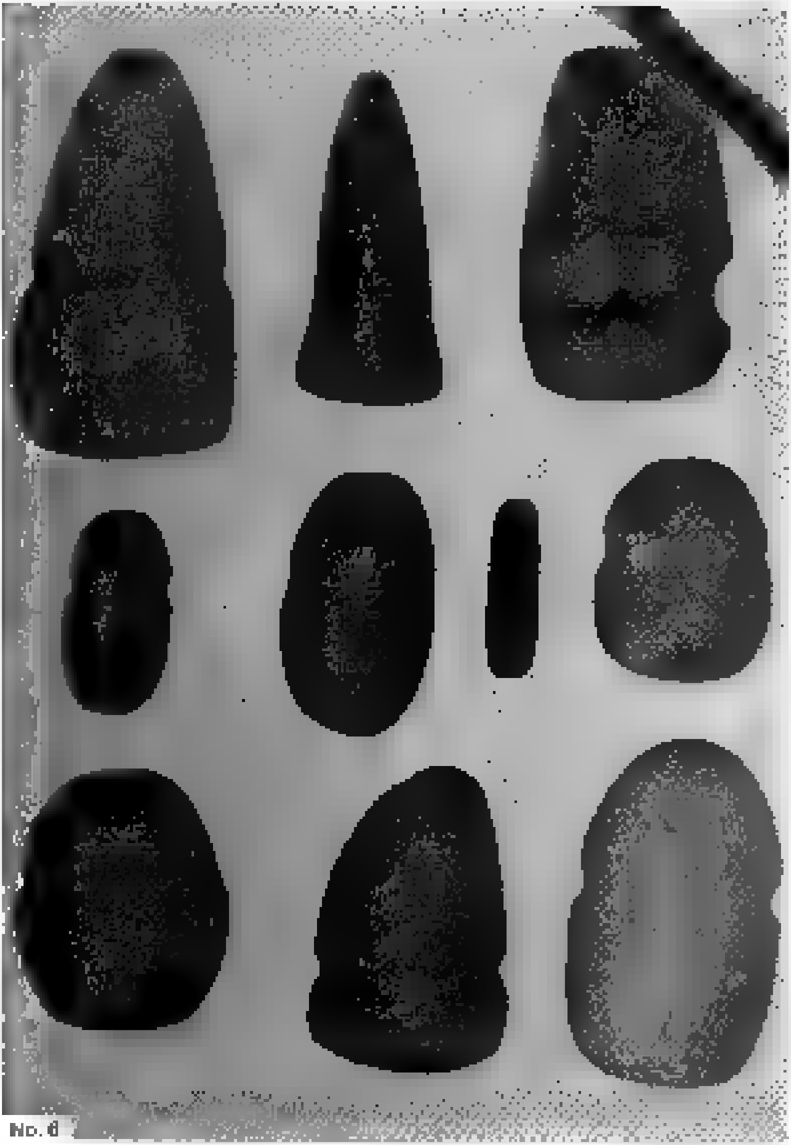

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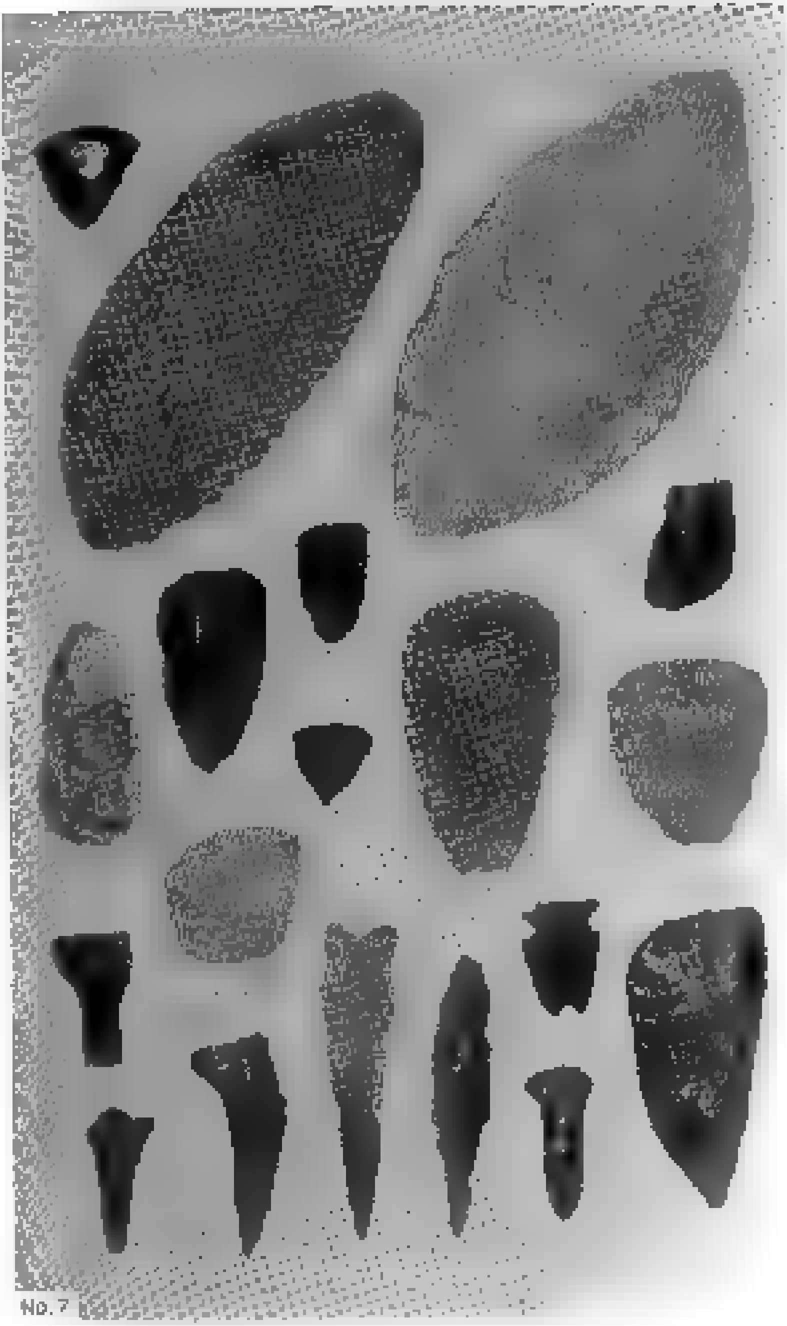

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CHAPTER II

HOW THE LAND WAS SURVEYED

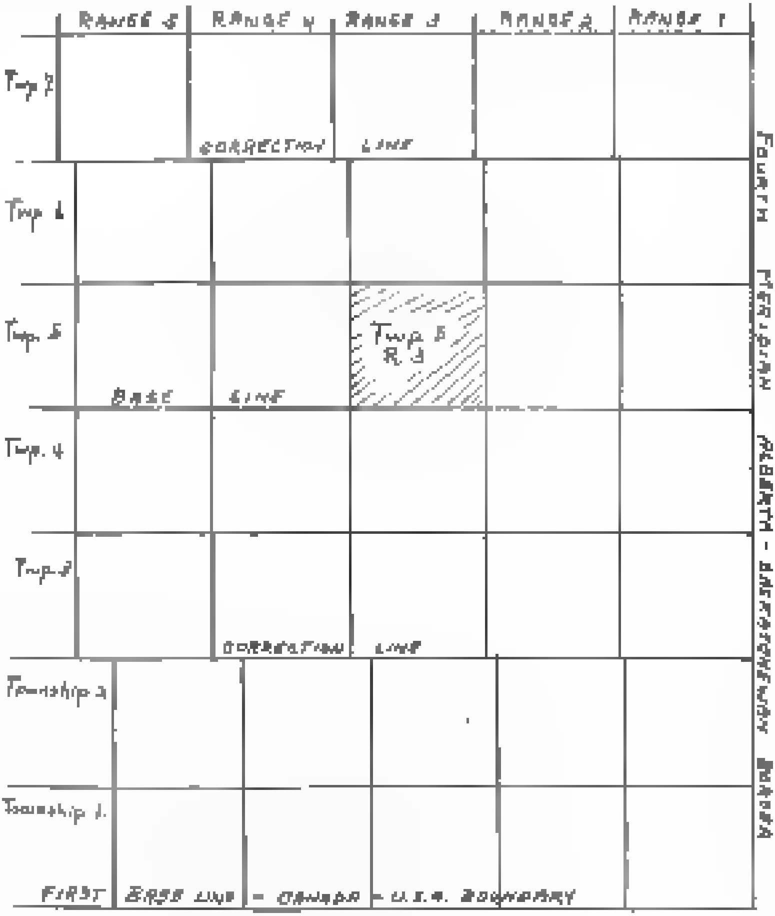
The territory covered in this book includes parts of townships 31, 32, 33, and 34 in ranges 13, 14, 15, and 16. Each quarter section of land has its own description, for example, the south-west quarter of section 19, township 34, range 16, west of the fourth meridian. This may be abbreviated thus: the SW ¼ of sec 19, twp 34, range 16, W4; or simply SW 19-34-16-W4. As all land locations mentioned herein are west of the fourth meridian, W4 has been omitted from the land descriptions.

Land numbers are meaningless unless one understands the survey system used in Western Canada, which actually marked off the area like a huge checkerboard. In essence, draw lines north and south, six miles apart. Call these strips ranges and number them westward from the meridian. Cross them with east-west lines the same distance apart; call the resulting squares townships. Divide each township into thirty-six sections, each section into four quarters.

The fourth meridian is the Alberta-Saskatchewan border; the first base line the forty-ninth parallel. Successive base lines were parallel to the American boundary, and twenty-four miles apart. At one-mile intervals west from the meridian, lines were extended twelve miles north and twelve miles south from the base line. Because of the curve of the earth, lines originating at one base line did not meet exactly those from the next base line. The variation could be as little as six feet, or as much as a mile and a half, depending on the distance from the meridian. The east-west road allowance where the jog occurred was called a correction line.

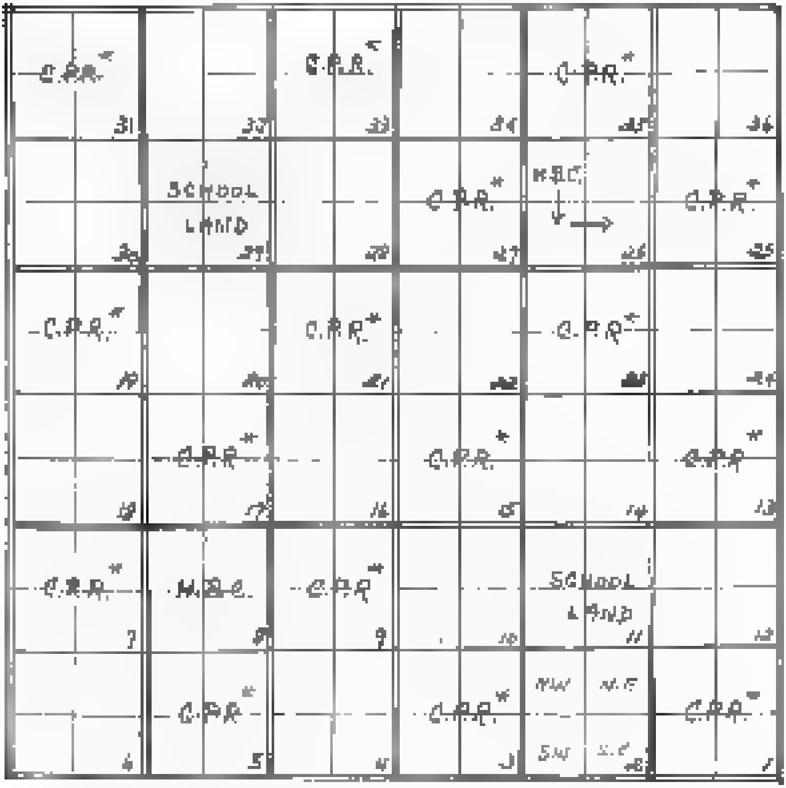
Road allowances, sixty-six feet wide, were laid out one mile apart running north and south, two miles apart going east and west. The overall picture would look like this:

SKETCH No. 1



Each section in a township was given a number, and divided into quarters which contained 160 acres each.

ONE TOWNSHIP



* C.P.R. Land was located within 20 miles of right-of-way — not in all townships.

On paper, the plan was clear-cut and simple; in reality, it involved a great deal of work. Pioneer surveyors were based in Winnipeg, and came west during the summers to plant their markers and make detailed notes regarding the soil, minerals, and wildlife of the area. Hampered by rough terrain, storms and smoke from prairie fires, the surveyors travelled hundreds of miles, climbing hills and circling sloughs and crossing rivers, to chart the range and township lines. In the north-east corner of every quarter-section they drove into the ground a long metal rod with the land number marked on it. So that they would be easier to locate, the rods were marked with a trench and four square holes.

During the winters, the surveyors worked in Winnipeg, transferring to maps the exact location of lakes, water courses, and any trails which were visible at the time the survey was made. The surveyors' notes, preserved in the Provincial Archives, indicate that this area was surveyed by E. Bray in 1883 and J. K. McLean in 1884. Here are their comments:

RANGE 13 — Twp. 31: Rolling and undulating prairie; clay loam soil; clay

subsoil. Class 2. In section 36 the east line crosses a small creek, but generally water is scarce. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, gently rolling prairie, with a fair soil. Creeks, flowing south, cross the line in sections 31, 34 and 36. (1883) Slightly rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. Class 2. Several large clear-water ponds were crossed by the west line, and the east line crosses creeks in sections 25 and 36. (1884)

Twp. 33: Rolling prairie. The western portion class 2; the eastern, being very stony, class 3. Creeks and ponds in sections 6, 18, 13 and 36. (1884). South, rolling; fair soil; creeks in sections 1, 3 and 12 (1883).

Twp. 34. Rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. The eastern portion is very stony, class 3; the western, class 2. In section 19 there is a cut clay bank flat, without alluvial soil. There are occasional small marshes, and a large clear water pond in sections 6 and 7. (1884).

Picture of a surveyor's camp, taken and developed by the Lund Family. The men in the picture are the surveyors, Jim Scott and Andy Alpaugh.

RANGE 14 — Twp. 31: Broken and hilly prairie, with numerous intervening ponds of fresh water. A small creek, now (19th August) merely a succession of pools, runs south-east through section 7. The soil is clay loam, with clay subsoil. Class 3. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, hilly prairie, with a good soil. A number of marshes were crossed by the line. (1883). Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil, class 3. A bay, from a lake which extends several miles west, occupies sections 18 and 19, as well as a portion of 6 and 7. (1884).

Twp. 33: Broken and hilly prairie, clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. Section 6 is a level clay flat. In sections 1, 19 and 30 there are several large clear water ponds. (1884). South, hilly prairie, but good soil. Several marshes. (1883)

Twp. 34: Except for a strip of rolling prairie along the east side, the whole is in Sullivan's Lake. (1884).

RANGE 15 — Twp. 31: Except a few sections of first-class prairie near the north-west corner, this township is class 3. An alkaline flat takes up the south-west portion, the remainder being broken and hilly. A creek in section 8, a large pond of alkaline water in 7, and several smaller ponds elsewhere. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, rolling and hilly prairie, rising eastwards. In section 31 are arms of a large lake. (1883). A large lake occupies the south-east quarter of this township. An alkaline valley, dotted with small lakes, runs north-west from this

lake. The country is broken and hilly to the north, with rolling prairie towards the west. (1884).

Twp. 33: Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. The north-east and south-west corners are low, and have ponds of water, but the rest of the township is high and dryer. (1884).

RANGE 18 — Twp. 33: An alkaline flat, dotted with small lakes, extends from the south-east to the north-west corner. East of this flat it is hilly prairie, with sand loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 2. Large bodies of water in sections 8, 30 and 31, the greater part of [illegible] being under water. (1884). South, rolling prairie with good soil. A long lake extends north-west into this township from the south-east corner. (1883).

It is notable that nowhere in these reports are trees mentioned, only in the summaries of townships further north, or nearer the Hand Hills to the south, do the surveyors speak of 'occasional patches of poplar or willow scrub', or 'small timber, suitable only for fuel.'

CHAPTER III

FREE LAND

When the Canadian government took over the administration of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, it became responsible for a vast empty expanse stretching from Hudson's Bay and the tiny province of Manitoba on the east to British Columbia on the west, and from the American boundary to the Arctic Ocean. In the United States, settlement was pushing ever westward, forcing ranchers off their open rangeland, and there was a very real danger that the Americans would try to annex the western Canadian plains in the same way that they had taken Texas and California from the Spanish. It was imperative that the Canadian government establish its sovereignty over the area; the scattered trading posts and the thin ribbon of C.P.R. steel were not enough. The empty spaces had to be filled.

Not only would settlement of the West establish Canada's claim, but it would provide business for the railroad, moving settlers in, hauling their produce out, and adding to the economic well-being of the country as a whole. But before the land could be offered to immigrants, it had to be surveyed, for the Canadian government had other promises to fulfill.

Part of the price Canada paid to the Hudson's Bay Company for Rupert's Land had been one-twentieth of the arable land in it. The C.P.R. also, had been promised twenty-five million acres, and the Indians had been persuaded to give up their nomadic way of life and accept the white man's law, in return for reservations. None of these land claims could be settled until the land was surveyed, and so in 1874 the first survey parties moved out from Winnipeg.

Meanwhile the government had passed its homestead act. Certain lands were set aside as Indian reservations. In the remaining townships, the Hudson's Bay Company was given all of section 8 and three quarters of section 26; sections 11 and 29 were set aside as school land, and the C.P.R. received all the other odd-numbered sections within twenty miles of its right-of-way. The rest was available for homesteading.

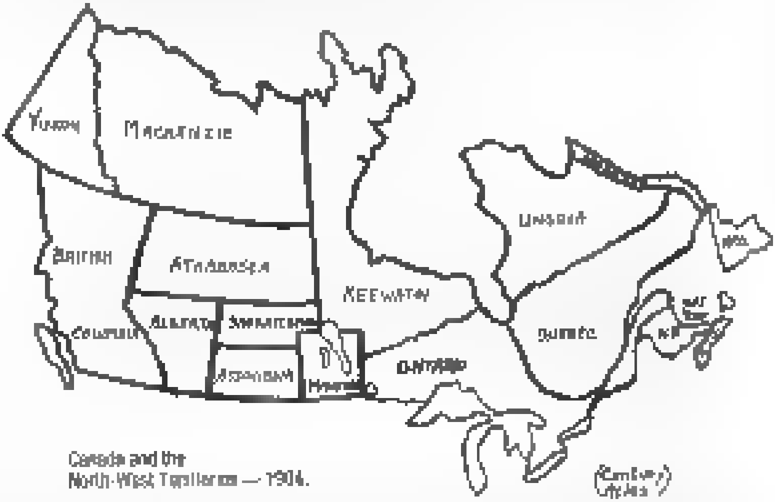
To provide for orderly settlement, the land nearest to already-settled areas and railroads was opened first; as this filled up, another area was opened.

Regulations stated that any sole head of a family, or any male eighteen years old, could obtain a quarter-section of land by paying a ten-dollar filing fee and performing certain duties. These included living on the land for at least six months

in every year for three years, cultivating thirty acres, and building a house worth three hundred dollars, or making other improvements.

The homesteader had to be a British subject, or declare that he would become one when he received title to his land. Application had to be made in person at a Land Agency. These regulations were relaxed to allow the applicant to live with his immediate family within nine miles of his homestead and for immediate family members to file by proxy for another. A parent could reserve a homestead for a son who was not yet eighteen.

In some districts pre-emptions or purchased homesteads were available. The latter allowed anyone who had already exhausted his homestead rights to buy land at three dollars an acre. Homestead duties had to be performed, and fifty acres had to be broken in the three years.



Canada and the
North-West Territories — 1904.

(Century Atlas)

Many homesteaders coming to the Hanna North area had served during the Boer War, (1899-1901), and for their services had received South African Scrip, which entitled them to a half-section of land. Some of them took this land in addition to their homestead and pre-emption. Others sold the Scrip, with the result that a large number of quarters were held by people who had not seen service during the Boer War, but the land was still known as an S.A.V. homestead.

When all was prepared, the call went out. In Britain, Central Europe and the United States, advertising posters, magazines and pamphlets offered free land to any who would come. The extremes of climate, the isolation, the hardships, were glossed over; testimonials from earlier immigrants spoke in glowing terms of the freedom, the fertile soil, the bumper crops.

The advertising brought results. In the United States, available land was becoming scarce and expensive. In Britain, the farms were not large enough to divide among all the sons in a family. Jobs in the cities were poorly paid and hard to find. Emigration seemed to be the answer.

There were even more urgent reasons for the exodus from Central Europe. Wars and rebellions and treaties were constantly altering the boundaries of Russia, Poland, Germany and France. Many people became aliens in the country of their birth, ruled by a foreign power, liable for military service in its armies.

Eagerly they grasped the opportunity to live in a country where they could be free of the fear of conscription, and at the same time become landowners for the trifling sum of ten dollars and a few years' work.

And so they came, factory workers and shopkeepers and teachers, doctors and professors and laborers. Some of them were farmers, able to wrest a living from the soil; others had never been outside the large cities which had been their homes, and had no idea how to farm. Some were well off, and could buy good animals and equipment, and build a decent home. Others had only what they could carry with them, and their faith in themselves.

They endured rough ocean crossings in crowded ships; crossed the continent in the immigrant cars the railroad provided . . . hard wooden seats which could be made into bunks at night . . . carrying their food and their blankets with them, preparing their meals on a stove at the end of the car.

When they arrived at their destination, some of the men found work in the towns, and spent the winters there. During the summers they would work on the homesteads and prepare homes for their wives and families. Others chose their homesteads, gathered enough supplies to last them for a few months, loaded their possessions and families, and struck off into the unknown.

PIONEERS

By Helen Standing

By horse-drawn cart and then by train
We came to our native shore
To cross the turbulent ocean
A new country to explore.

We travelled far, and farther,
By foot and by caravan
Until we came to virgin soils
At Scapa, Dowling, and Garden Plain.

We pitched our tents for shelter
Against the blustery weather
Till we found time to build a shack
Of logs, or sod, or both together.

Yet still we felt the stinging storms
Of wind and rain and sleet;
The sun became our enemy
In times of drought and heat.

But perseverance was the backbone
Of the settlers of early years.
We tamed the wild and rolling plains,
We, the dauntless pioneers.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY DAYS IN HANNA NORTH

Before 1908, only a few ranchers occupied the short grass country, letting their cattle range over the broad plains which not too long before had been the home of thousands of buffalo. There were the Hunt Brothers on the west side of Sullivan Lake, the McCutches near Dowling Lake, the Madges on the Berry Creek, and Leo Brainard on the flat north of Richdale.

The majority of the homesteaders came into the Hanna North area from 1908 to 1912, mainly Scots and Scandinavians and Americans. A few trekked in from the south, traveling overland from Calgary or Bassano, but the more favored route was from the north, by train to the end of steel at Stettler and later Castor. There were Land Offices in these towns, where the homesteaders could examine maps of the area, find out what land was available, and if they desired, could file blind. Those who did often found their selection not to their liking; one man discovered that he had chosen land in a dried-up lake bottom. The more prudent looked over the country first, then filed their claims.

Immigrants from Europe could bring few possessions with them, but those from the United States and Eastern Canada often had railway cars of settlers' effects. These were shipped to the nearest town, with one of the men riding in the car to obtain the lower freight rate. The more well-to-do bought horses, or brought them with them; others bought oxen to haul the wagons and break the land.

The women and children usually remained in the towns while the men scouted the land and selected their homesteads. When the all-important claim had been filed, they loaded their wagons and struck out for the promised land. Most of them lived in tents until they could erect a house from the only materials readily available, prairie sod.

Furrows were turned with a plow, and cut into sections about eighteen inches long. Like huge bricks, these were piled on top of one another to form the walls, with openings left for one or two small windows and a door. The roof was made by placing poles as beams, and covering them with tarpaper, hay and more sod. The houses were warm in winter and cool in summer, but were not always the easiest places to keep clean. Although some settlers lived in sod houses for only a short time, others occupied them for years, finishing them inside and out with plaster and whitewash.

It was an exciting and challenging time for the men. They built their houses and barns, protected them with fireguards, and began to cultivate their land. They plowed with oxen or horses, or hired huge steam engines which could pull a six- or eight-bottom plow. They sowed the grain and put up hay, and worked on threshing crews in the fall, and coal mines during the winter. In time the land produced, and they could buy milk cows and range cattle. Over the years many of these pioneers were able to build up fine homesteads, in spite of frost and drought and hail.

It was the women who suffered the greatest hardships. Many of the emigrants from Central Europe had been totally unaware that they were moving to a country with a language different than their own. The men who worked with English speaking neighbors, and the children who attended school soon learned the new tongue; the women did not have the same opportunity. They remained on the farm, bearing and raising their children far from churches, schools and medical facilities. The women who had come from the cities were especially aware of the isolation; many declared they would have gone back, if there had been any way they could have done so.

But most of them remained, learning to build fires with a handful of dry grass, a little wood, and buffalo chips. They baked bread for their own families and their bachelor neighbors, and raised gardens to supplement the diet of oatmeal and beans and rice. They learned to cook wild geese and ducks, and prairie chicken and rabbits. They knit socks and mitts and scarves and hats, and made clothing from flour sacks if nothing better was available. They carried water to wash their clothes, and watched their precious linens turn brown from the chemicals in it.

Somehow they found time to see that their children received an education, teaching them at home until there were enough pupils in an area to warrant the

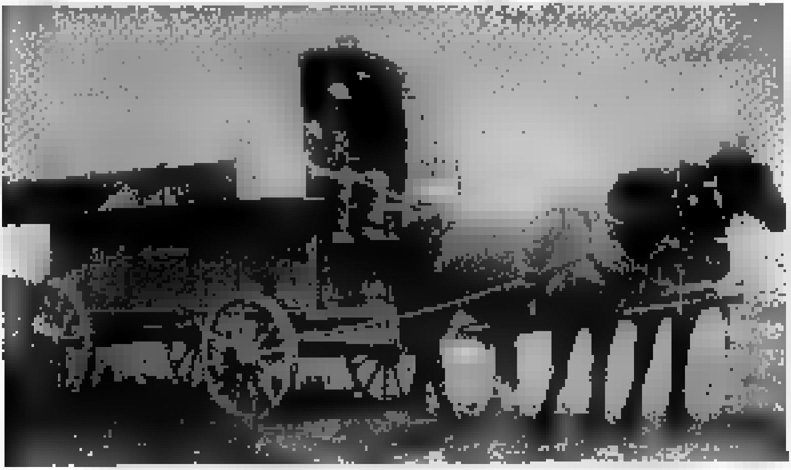
building of a school. They encouraged attendance at church services, and helped to organize community entertainments. They formed Women's Institutes and Red Cross groups, and always found time to be neighborly.

That is the theme that runs through so many of the family histories . . . "What would we have done without our good neighbors?" The women assisted one another deliver their babies, and when mother or child or both died, as was often the case, it was the neighbor women who prepared the body for burial. There were three registered cemeteries in the Hanna North area, Netherby, St. Peter's, and the Seventh Day Adventist cemetery on the Steinbrecker farm; but throughout the area there are tiny family plots which contain the graves of babies who never grew up, children who died of appendicitis or tuberculosis or diphtheria, men who were killed by runaway horses or overcome by gas while digging a well, and women who died before their time for lack of proper medical care.

When World War I began in 1914, huge tracts of land were turned under to assist the war effort. King Wheat was the motto, and the economy was booming. The heavy rainfall of 1915 produced bumper crops, and prices were high. Sod houses were replaced by frame buildings, wells were dug, new and better equipment purchased. After the war, the Soldier Settlement Board was set up to help returned men establish themselves on the land.

Unfortunately, prosperity did not last. After the war, the bottom fell out of the cattle market. War veterans who had bought land were hardest hit, for they had paid high prices for land and cattle, and were not yet established. The country was ravaged by an epidemic of Spanish Influenza; there were thirty thousand cases in Alberta, ten percent of the victims died.

The end of Prohibition in 1923 coincided with a return to more favorable weather conditions, and better prices. By the end of the decade some farmers had bought gasoline tractors, many were driving cars. Some homes even had telephones and radios. The pioneering days were over.



("The Lee Brainard Story" in verse, by Helen Standing)

DEATH IN THE BLIZZARD'S WAKE

Lee Brainard heard such wonderous tales,
Of a land both free and warm.

Where grasses grew so thick and high
Up to the belly of any longhorn.
So he gathered his horses and cattle,
His son Albert and their hired hand.
And in nineteen hundred six left Montana
For Alberta, the ranchers dreamland.

Several extra riders were needed
To start the herd on its way
With seven hundred horses and cattle
They must keep them from going astray.
They headed their cattle towards the north
Letting them graze on the native grass.
When they crossed the border at Wild Horse,
Their excitement, no man could surpass.

Now they entered the land of chinooks,
Warm winds that melted the snow,
Allowing the cattle to graze all winter
With the deer, the antelope, and the buffalo.
When finally they reached Medicine Hat
It surely was a day of great glee.
They replenished all their exhausted supplies,
But their hardships they could not foresee.

Here was their first disappointment,
For the Mounties heard of their plan.
They warned them of the long, cold winters,
But Brainerd was not a quitting man.
Then at the Government Land Office,
A second disappointment he bore.
Ranches were no longer available
On the South Saskatchewan River shore.

But North of the Red Deer River
Was a country rich and vast.
So they headed for the area near Richdale
Where they claimed a ranch at last.
One of their two covered wagons
Was taken to be their home.
The cattle were let out to graze.
Here there was space to roam.

But unknown to Mr. Brainerd
Who thought that this was divine.
The "chinook belt" that he so desperately sought,
He had left very far behind.
So instead of harvesting the prairie,
He explored the country side.
Visiting his neighbors near and far.
Telling of his adventure with pride.

One day he rode upon a ranch,
Owned by the Hunt brothers, three.
He refused their kindly offer of help.
If only the future he could foresee!
For one morning late in October

He awoke to a landscape of white,
And the snowflakes continued falling
All day and all night;
floating; twirling; swirling; drifting.

'Twas in the cold month of December
When no warm winds had blown from the west,
That Brainard decided to move his camp,
This decision seemed one of the best.
The thin and starving cattle
Were driven towards Dowling Lake,
To graze on the partially bared hillsides,
At last he realized his mistake.

Then in the New Year of nineteen and seven,
A long sought chinook did arrive.
So the three men gathered the remaining herd,
Perhaps at the Hunt Ranch they could survive.
They travelled north about a dozen miles
To the south edge of Sullivan Lake
Here they were forced to stop and rest,
And themselves some food did partake.

They rested in the warm, calm air
The cattle quietly grazing nearby.
When suddenly Albert looked to the north
And gave a warning cry.
A dark grey wall was descending
Upon the unsuspecting herds.
A storm was quickly approaching
And the wind began, whispering;
gusting; whistling; roaring.

They used their wagon for shelter,
Against the piercing storm.
But the cold was so intense,
There was no way to keep warm.
They were forced to march in circles,
To keep from freezing to death,
All night they marched and rested,
In the blizzard's icy breath.

Next day in the freezing wind and snow
Mr. White was the first to succumb.
Young Albert lost all will to live
When he saw his good friend gone.
After a long and bitter half hour,
His body also lay still and cold,
So Brainard laid them side by side
In a drift of the new fallen snow.

He then went in search of his cattle,
Found them frozen to death on their feet.
With an axe he chopped pieces from their sides
So that he could have something to eat.
Then turning his face into the storm
He started for the Hunt brothers' farm.

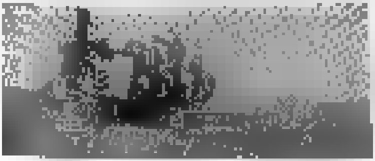
Stumbling and falling in the drifts.
Trying his best to keep warm
Against the storm that was stinging;
piercing; stabbing; freezing.

But on he struggled into the storm
Until something made him fall.
He found it was a barbed wire fence.
By then, on hands and knees he had to crawl.
He followed the fence past the feed stacks
Till he fell against the Hunts' cabin door.
He was pulled inside to the fire.
His long, cold trek was o'er.

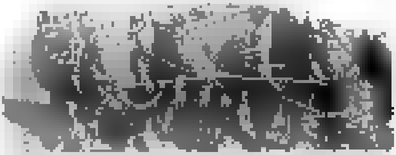
Spring found him back in the saddle.
Most of his cattle were dead.
Of six hundred yearlings, cows and calves
He found only fifteen head.
Lee Brainerd went back to Montana
For a fresh herd of cows, and his wife.
They returned to his ranch near Richdale.
Together they would start a new life.

SEEDING AND PLOWING

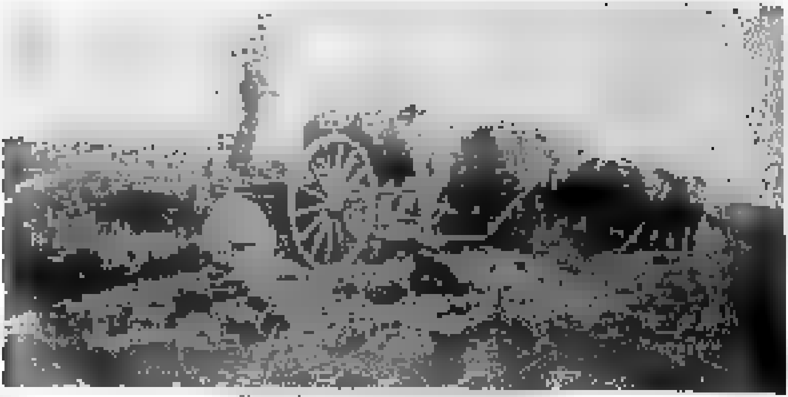
Newly broken Prairie Land (Courtesy of Glenbow- Alberta Institute).



1916 — Steam engine and gang plow on Hannah farm. Jim, Tom and Dick Hannah.

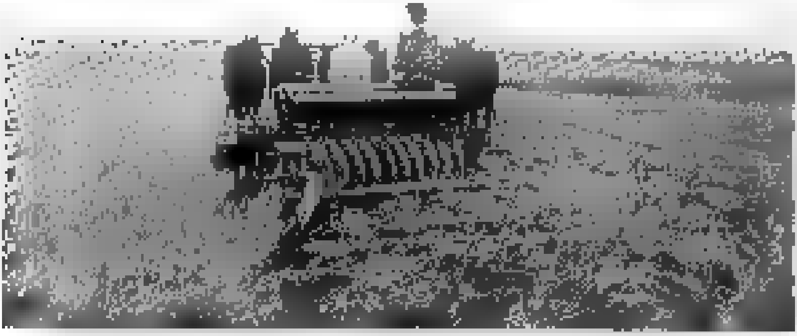


Hanna 1909 — Breaking with oxen. Driver unknown.



Charlie Glover breaking with sixteen horses.

Fred and Ed Erm breaking the prairie with their Pioneer tractor. Note the carbide lights on the car.

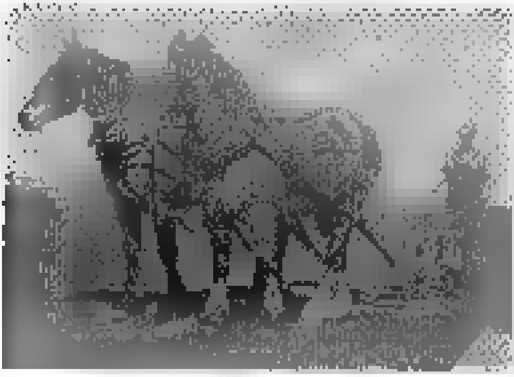


George C. Standing Jr. seeding in spring of 1940 with ten horses pulling a six foot tiller.

Howard Kerr plowing with a sulky

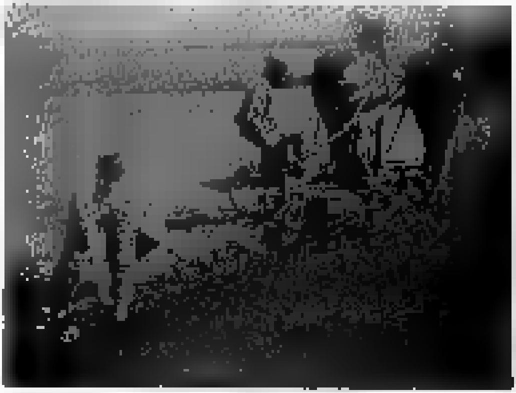
1921 — Frances Lewis discing with a minimum of harness. Sister Winnifred is behind the disc

Riding in comfort in the buggy behind the harrows while driving six horses. Walter Lewis is on the seed drill.

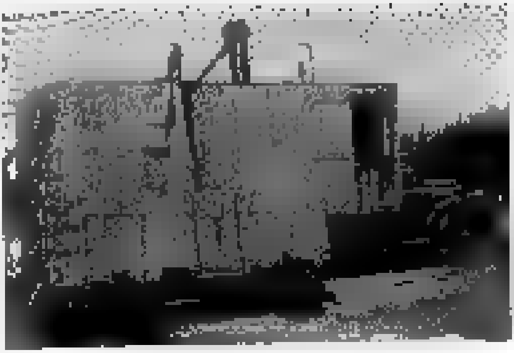


John Marlowe planting potatoes with Babe and Baldy on the walking plow.

1958 — Fred Kautz and daughter-in-law Frances planting potatoes.



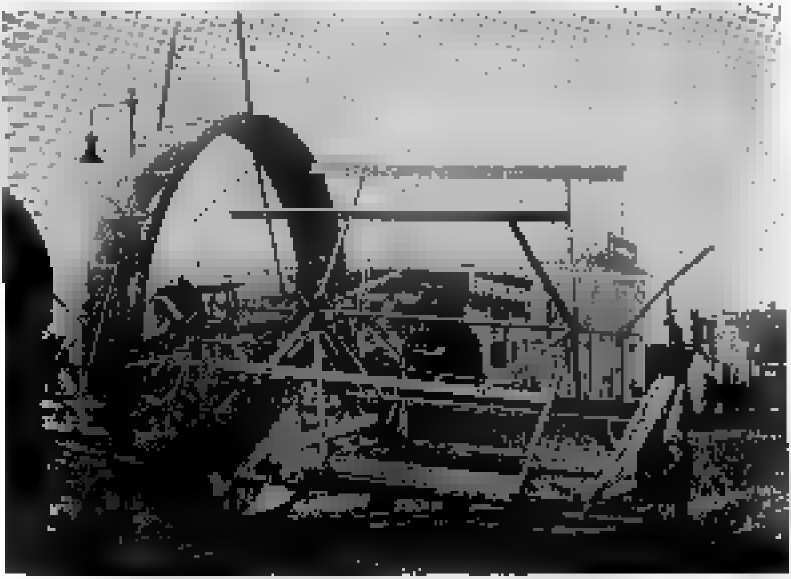
Mr. Fred Kautz broadcasting grass seed.



Much in demand before seeding. Arley Quidley's Carter disc grain cleaning outfit

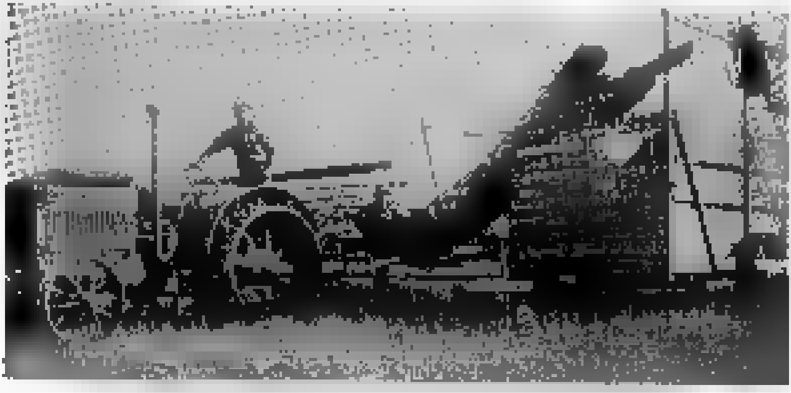
HARVESTING

Charlie Glover cutting crop with a push binder.



Binder with small bullwheel inside big bullwheel for cutting grain in wet fields.

Tom Scott and Jack Greg harvesting a short crop with a [illegible] box on the binder in the thirties. No twine required.



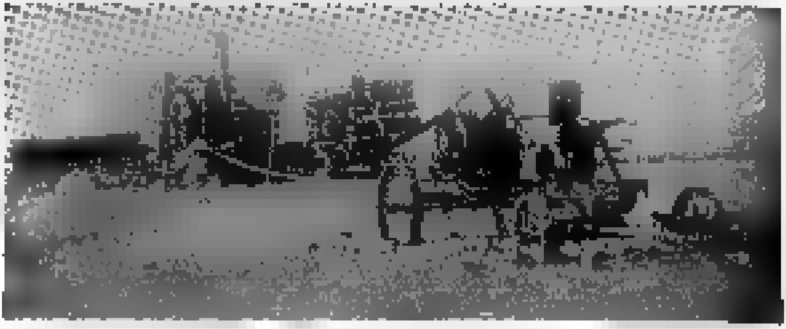
Harvesting with a [illegible] on the Fred Mattes farm, 1937. The John Patton outfit.

About 1920. Stook loader used for loading grain stooks into a bundle rack.

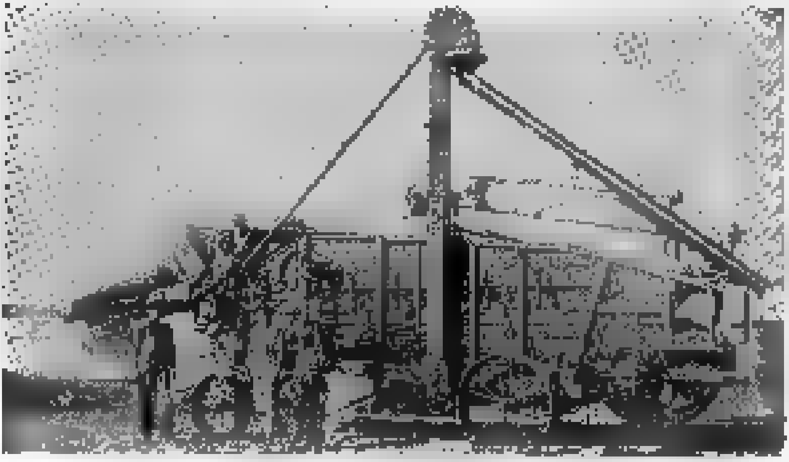
Labor saving device. Pipes pull clover 30 [illegible] Steering equipment has two universal joints.

Hanran threshing outfit, 1913. Coal fired steam engine.

Threshing at J.W. Taylors, 1915. Pete Jensen feeding the machine. Steve Wagner and son Albert at wagon. Russell Chisley by feeder cutting bands. Elly Wagner, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Taylor forking straw back. The machine had no blower.



1917 -- J.W. Taylor horse-drawn stationary engine.

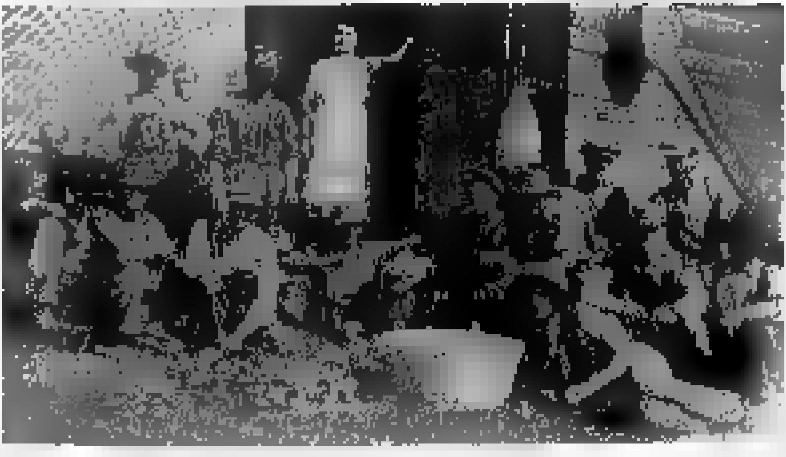


Harry Steeves wooden Rumely separator

Threshing into the Fred Whaley barn in 1928

Dan Morris threshing machine and cook car, 1929

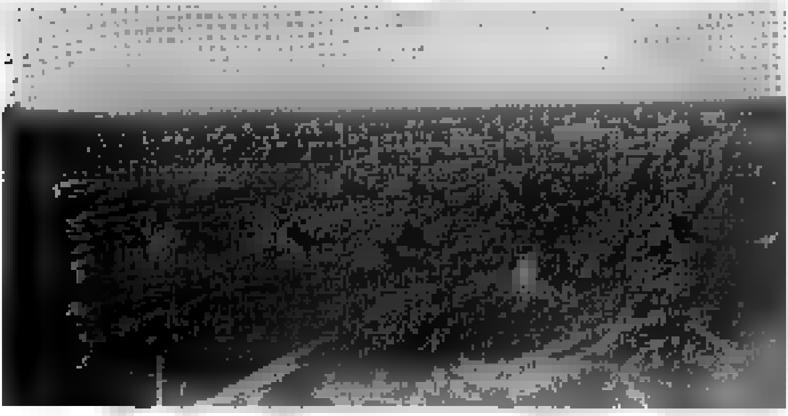
[illegible] threshing crew and cook car with Chinese cook.



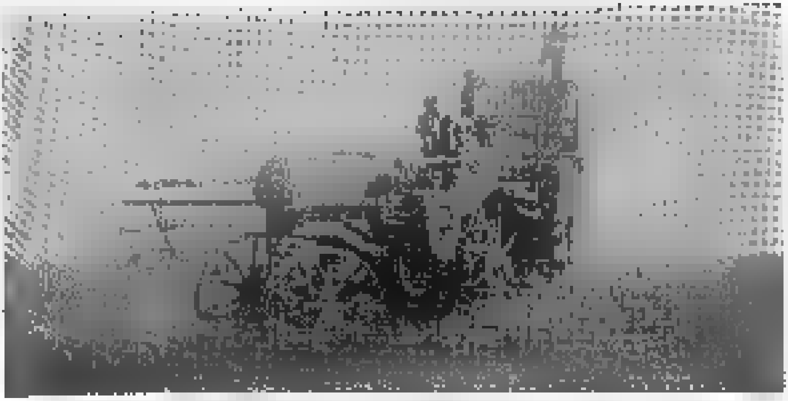
Roy Bartman threshing crew, 1920. Standing: Unknown, Norman Williams, Roy Bartman, Mrs. Vic Bartman (the cook). Seated: Alex McLean, Lyman Grove, Pearce Morris, Elmer Steen, Fred Bauholt (with pipe). Claude Lohmann, against building is George Forster and Fred Johnston with Russell Childey and George Benze in front of them. The man lying down is unidentified.

J.W. Taylor and Burt Brown stacking bundles for threshing before 1915

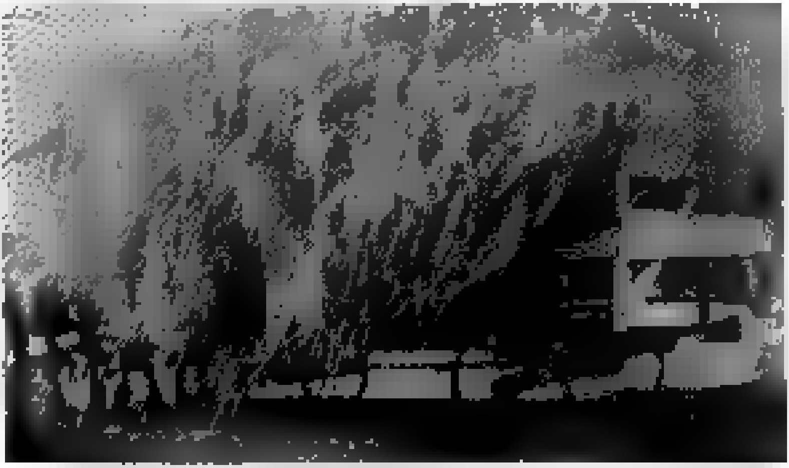
Stack threshing



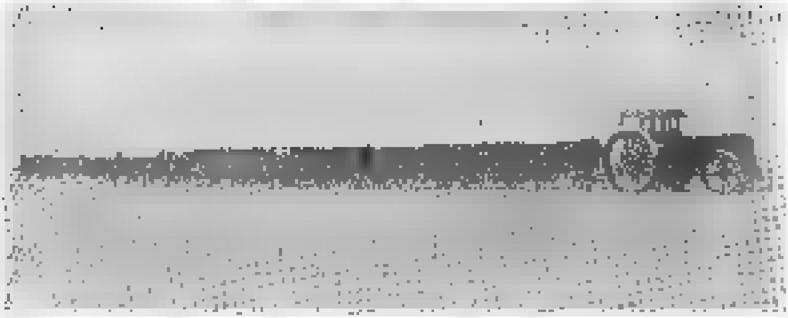
Stooks on the Clara Vista farm.



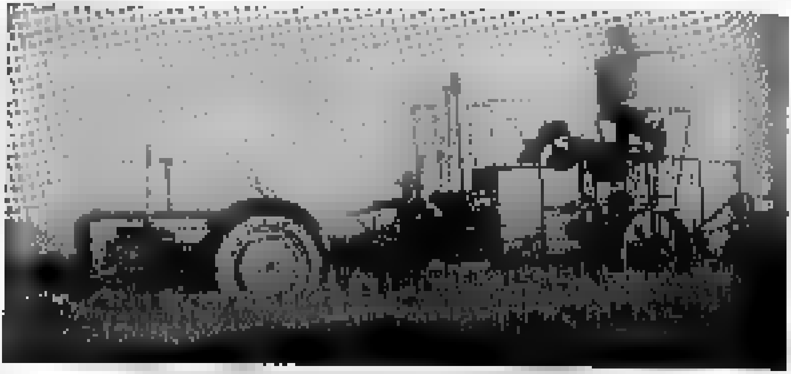
[illegible] pull-type combine. Ring Hansen, John Hansen and Fred [illegible] straight combining.



A hayrack loaded with slough hay.



Hauling grain in 1933. 1917 Pioneer Tractor; fuel, gasoline, 60 h.p. 4 cylinder horizontally opposed engine. Drawbar 30 h.p. Grain Tanks, 165 bushels. Wagon train capacity, 1800 bushels. Operated by Fred Ens.

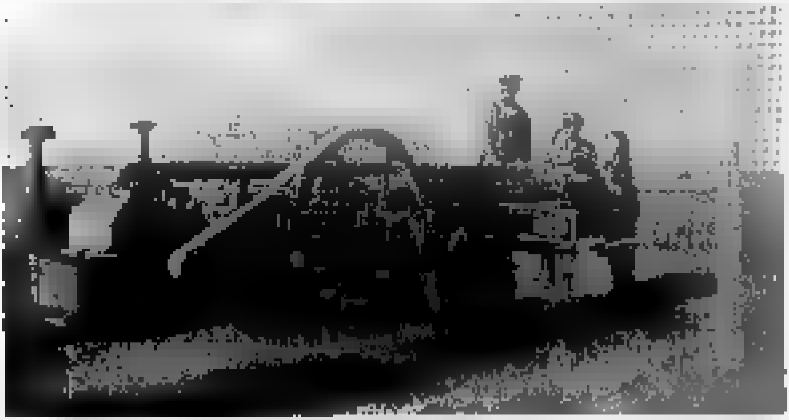


Kerry Nelson and Case pull combining a standing crop in 1944.

1928 [illegible] the [illegible] tractor. Useful [illegible] and when pulling hay rakes.

Louis and Gary Unsworth stacking bales with their Kruchten bale loader, 1975.

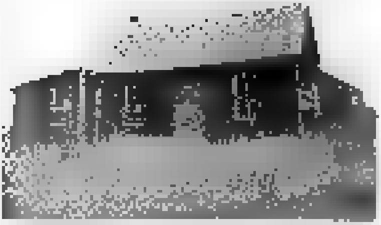
Putting up hay with slide and buck. J. J. Heinl and son Carl



About 1949. Case wire tie baler. Two men sat on seats at the back and tied the wire. Sure was hard on gloves.

Dwight Boysen picking up hay with his Hay Buster. 1974.

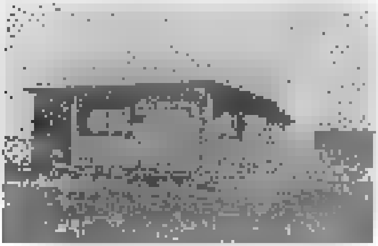
OLD BUILDINGS



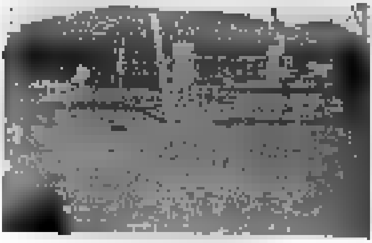
As the family grew so did the house. W. Oliver house built in 1911.

The shingled shanty-roofed bachelor shack.

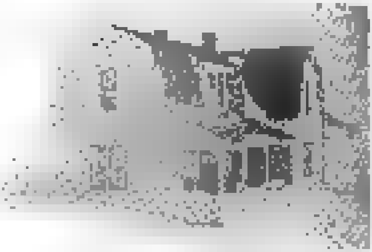
Relics of the past, the stable and the out-house



Square one-storey shingled home of Pete Jessen taken about 1917

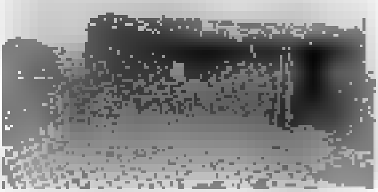


Halverson's sod barn.

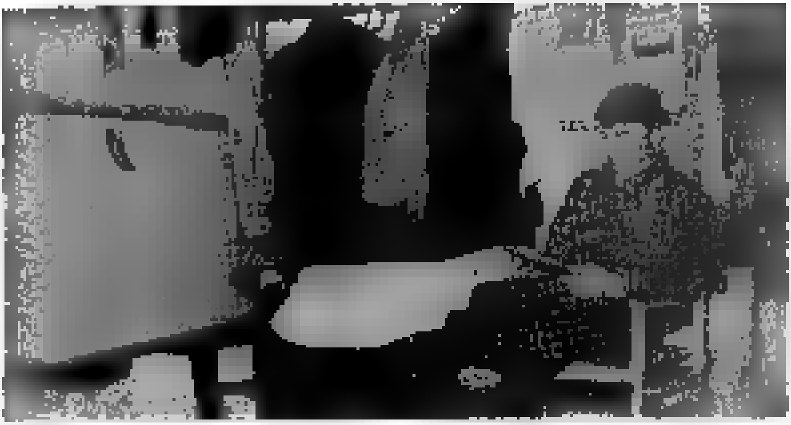


The Frank Kennedy home built in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert are presently living in it. 1977

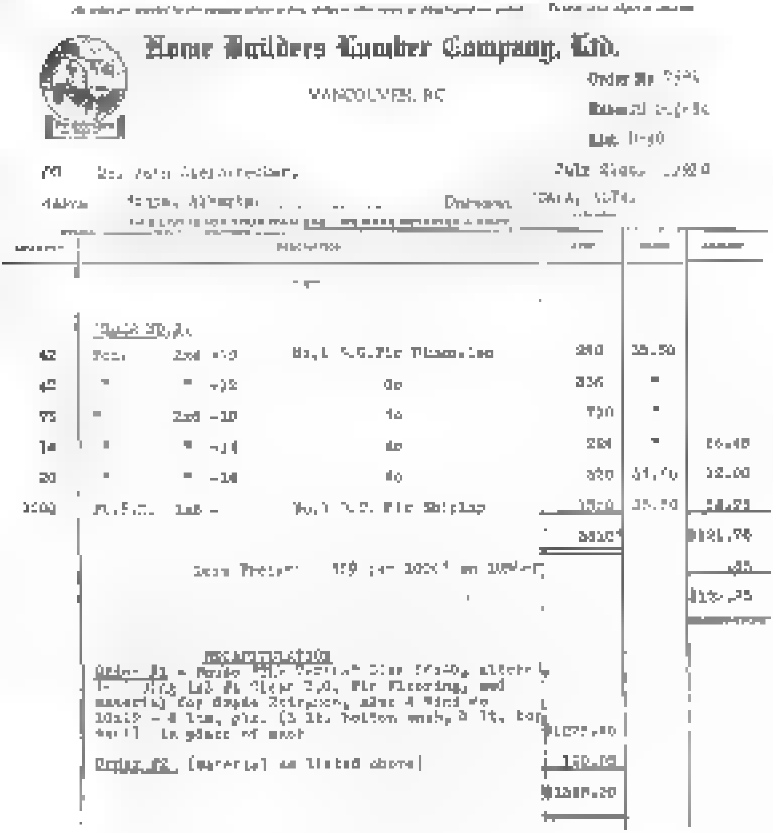
Old time windlass for pulling the pump pipes for repair. It was built in 1909 and is in good working order.



1909 — J. W. Taylor sod shack.



Alex Cooper relaxing in his homestead shack on SW 32-33-13 in 1928



Home Builders Lumber Company, Ltd.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Order No. [illegible]

Dated [illegible]

List [illegible]

To [illegible]

Address [illegible], Alberta

	[illegible]					
42	Pcs.	2x4 -10	No. 1 S.G. Fir Dimension	280	25.50	
42	"	" -12	do	336	"	
75	"	2x6 -10	do	750	"	
14	"	" -14	do	[illegible]	"	[illegible]
20	"	" -16	do	320	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	1x6 -	No. 1 S.G. Fir Shiplap	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
				[illegible]		$[illegible]
	Extra Freight [illegible] per 1000' on [illegible]					[illegible]
						$[illegible].25

RECAPITULATION

Order #1 – [illegible] Fir Flooring, and [illegible] in place of [illegible] $[illegible]

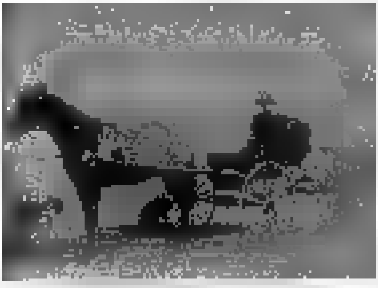
Order #2. (material as listed above) [illegible]

$[illegible].20

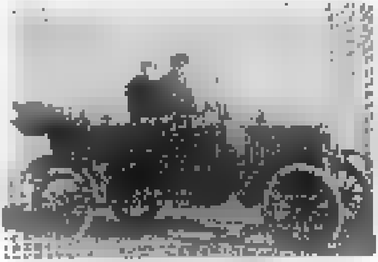
1928 — Lumber Billing

1908 — All ready for the trip to the homestead with lumber, flour and roof jack. The wagon box is on top of the lumber.

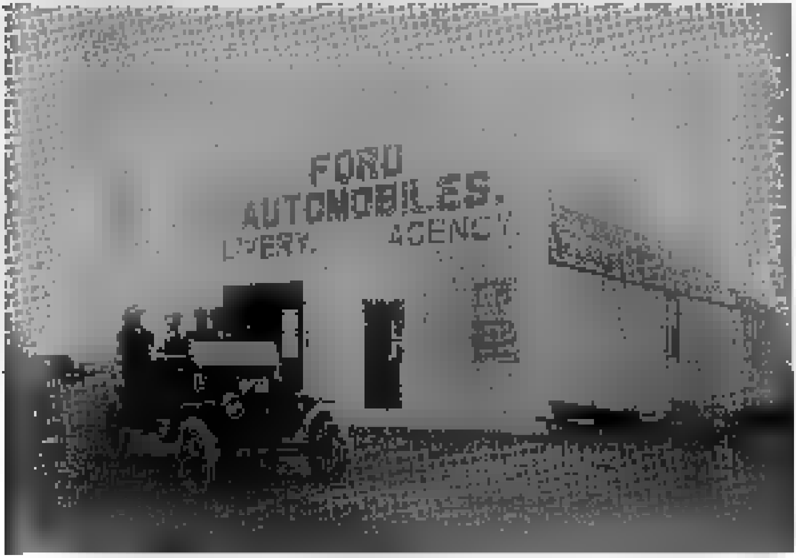
Anthony Waugh and William Glover Sr. beside the Sunday buggy



Chrissie Glover all dressed up for a buggy ride.



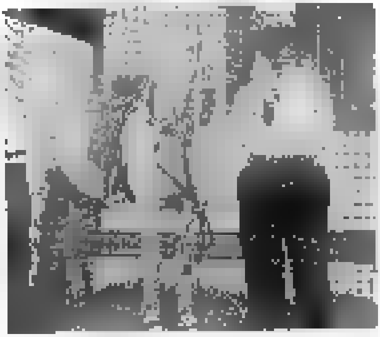
1917 — Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Ekelund in their new Ford



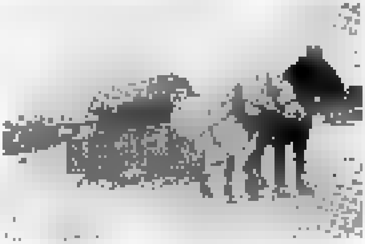
J. Parker, driver, in front of the Ford Garage.

1918 — The Stopping House and farm buildings of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis on the Castor Trail.

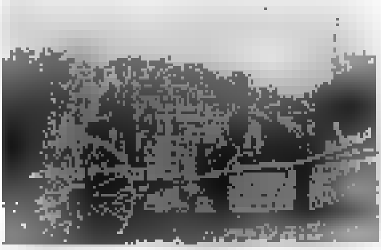
William Nelson with his team of mules.



1930 — All dressed up for a ride. Note the hair style.



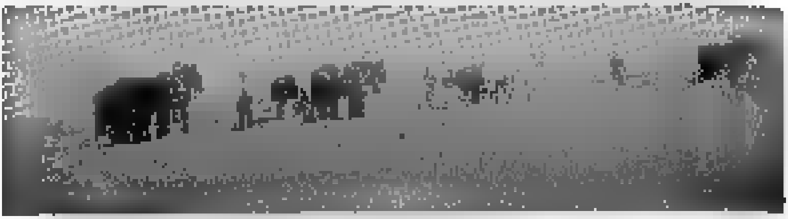
The Earl Ness children off to Kelloby School.



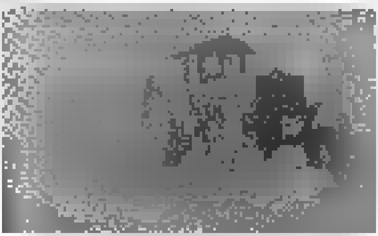
Improvised car: the result of many cutaways. Kenneth and Gordon Robertson. Note the pole shafts.

1949 — Janet and Arthur Standing off to Buchan School on Old Nellie.

1915 — W. Wingell Sr. and Horace Lewis grading roads with a horse-drawn grader.



1930 — Road work to repay taxes. Theodor Feglund, Stanley Strandberg, Frank Evans, Unknown.



Fred and Ed. Dix road grading on the Castor Trail with their Pioneer Tractor. About 1913.

CHAPTER V

THE DIRTY THIRTIES, AND AFTERWARD

Perhaps the thirties would not have been so dirty or so hungry if farmers then had had access to the methods of cultivation and the weed sprays available today. In those days cultivation was the only way to control weeds, and trash cover was a sign of poor farming, and it was inevitable that during the dry years the land would blow. During the few years that there was sufficient moisture to produce crops, prices were at an all-time low. Unemployed men rode the rods, and gathered on the street corners in the towns, trying to find work.

The government introduced make-work projects, such as building the railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka. It encouraged farmers to hire help, paying the farmer five dollars a month to keep a man, and paying the man's wages, another five dollars per month.

Relief supplies were shipped in to the hardest-hit areas, apples and cheese and fish. There are still people today who cannot stand the sight of salted cod. Baled straw and slough hay, and feed oats, were made available, but the farmers had to pay for them, and in some cases it was years before they were able to pay the debt and have the lien removed from their land titles.

Some gave up. Their farms were mortgaged to the limit, and taking what they could, these disillusioned people moved to areas where they hoped the soil would be better and the moisture adequate. Others stayed; and when they were unable to pay their taxes, took advantage of a government offer to consolidate them, and gradually repaid their debts.

The depression years left their mark; no one who lived through them can forget the grinding poverty of those times. But the very lack of money fostered a closeness and a strong community spirit between neighbors, and when all were poor, making over, making do and doing without did not seem so bad.

By 1938 the cycle of bad years seemed to have run its course; the beginning of World War II in 1939 put an end to unemployment, as men and women joined

the services or took jobs in industry. On the farms, outworn equipment produced food for war-torn countries, and gradually prosperity returned.

Once again, at the cessation of hostilities, the government made money available to veterans who wanted to farm, through the Veterans' Land Act. For a time wheat was King again, but when surpluses began to build up, many farmers increased the size of their cattle herds.

Today there are no quarter-section farms in the Hanna North area. Lands abandoned during the drought years are administered by the government, and leased to farmers residing in the district. A few stunted trees or a sunken foundation may be all that remains to show that once someone had great hopes.

Today the population of Hanna North is sparse, its farmsteads scattered. Those who chose to remain in the area have learned to cope with blizzards and hail and drought; they have built on the foundations their fathers and grandfathers laid for them, and they can be assured that the pioneers would be proud of what they have accomplished.

CHAPTER III

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

By Norman Greenway, with information on
Special Areas contributed by Art Spencer

Prior to 1905 the Federal government provided local government through Local Improvement Districts. When Alberta became a province in 1905, the L.I.D. came under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Public Works.

The performance of the L.I.D. was not very satisfactory. Taxes were low (a maximum of 7½¢ per acre) and expenditures had to be spread very thin. In 1912 a Department of Municipal Affairs was set up, and provision made for the formation of rural municipalities. They consisted of nine townships, numbered from one upward, starting at the south-east corner of the province. Residents of such an area could apply for incorporation as a rural municipality.

Dowling Lake Municipality was formed in 1913. The first meeting was held January 6, 1913, at Dowling Lake school. John Sims was appointed Reeve, Nicholas Lund Deputy Reeve, and C. B. Tingle Secretary-Treasurer. Municipalities had the power to borrow money by issuing debentures, to form hail insurance districts and hospital districts. They had a greater degree of self-government than the L.I.D.

The municipalities of east-central Alberta functioned quite well until the depression years. The stock market crash of 1929 coupled with drought conditions in the early thirties, brought bankruptcy to many municipalities as well as individuals. In 1929 the west portion of Tilley East was organized as a Special Area. By 1936 many more municipalities had been dissolved, including Dowling Lake on December 1, 1934.

In its largest state the Special Areas consisted of thirty-six municipalities comprising 7,836,826 acres. The area was considered to be over-populated and the number of farms was reduced from 13,000 to approximately 5000.

The administration of the Special Areas is set out in the Special Areas Act. It provides for a three man board which is located at Hanna. There are also district offices at Consort, Youngstown and Oyen. In addition there is a fully equipped Maintenance Shop at Youngstown to service the road equipment.

There are nine hospital districts and six school divisions wholly or partially within the Special Areas. The Special Areas are served by five community pastures accommodating approximately 9000 head of cattle annually. There are

several proven gas and oil fields in the Area, with 1400 oil and gas wells in production.

Hanna North is in Special Areas No. 2. Generally speaking we have been well served by the Special Areas administration. In an area which is plagued by recurring cycles of drought and economic uncertainty, it is no doubt our best method of government.

CHAPTER VII

LIFE OF THE COUNTRY MAILMAN

By Bob Rehill

Our rural mailman was very important to us. Not only did he deliver our letters, parcels and papers, but often he would go out of his way to collect our cream cans for us, pick up express or freight, or even provide a ride for a traveller stranded in town.

He made two trips a week in our area, on Rural Route No. 1 from Hanna. The evening before he would go to the post office, collect the mail for the boxholders on his route, roll up the letters inside the papers, and make a list of the parcels. The following morning he would load it in his vehicle, putting it in the order in which his customers lived along the route. As an added service, because he was good natured and wanted to help the rural people, he would load up the cream cans and perhaps pick up some groceries or medicines that were needed.

The first mailman I remember was Dick Hannah. He drove a team and open buggy. The mail was in canvas bags and the parcels were covered with a blanket or piece of canvas. As long as the mailmen drove horses, they used to try to make the farthest point on the route by noon, usually a local post office where they had their dinner and fed and watered their team. They would leave the mail for those who had boxes along the route, and take the remainder to the local post office where other residents picked it up.

There were several postmasters in the Spondin district at the end of our route: Clarence Kensey, George Dawson, Coopers, Elliots, Harry Crego, Bill Starkie and Howard Mulgrove. When this post office finally closed, a group of metal boxes were installed at the end of the route.

In winter the mailman had a covered van, with a small heater in it. We used to be able to see him coming down the sleigh trail, with little puffs of smoke coming out of the stovepipe. Times when there were bad blizzards, he might get part way along the route and have to turn back. Occasionally he might have to stay overnight at a farm home.

When the mailmen started using trucks, they had trouble too. The roads weren't very good, and often in the spring or after heavy rains there would be wash-outs and mud holes, and if they got stuck they would have to walk to find someone to pull them out. In the winter they would find many of the side roads blocked with snow. Then they would go up the Castor trail to Greenway's corner, and someone from east of there would meet them and pick up the mail for the whole neighborhood.

I think the Pincombe family have had the route longer than anyone else. The father, Art Pincombe, did many favors for his customers. One time he delivered to me a twenty-four foot grain auger which had been shipped by freight. Other drivers I remember are John Fox, Bee Howery, Cecil Embree, Glen Grover, Bob Pollock, and Mrs. Albert Holzer.

The route is not as heavy as it used to be, as many have dropped off the route in favor of a box in town. The mailboxes which remain along country roads remind

us of the faithful mail carriers who did their utmost to see that the mail went through.

ARTHUR PINCOMBE SR. — Mailman on R. R. No. 1 from 1939 to 1968

By Helen Pincombe Riddle

Art Pincombe, mailman on Route One Hanna from 1939 to 1968

Art was born in 1881 at Lobo, Ontario. In 1918 he bought a farm eight miles north of Richdale. He and Lillian McPherson were married the same year. He and his wife gave their time and effort in the pioneering and development of the area. In 1925 Art acted as butcher for the Fleet district beef ring. While living here the Pincombes had four sons and three daughters.

In 1939 he and his family left the farm and moved to Hanna, at which time he took over the contract for rural route No. 1, from Bea Howery. For a time he drove a Model T and then he drove the well-known Model A pickup. In the winter he used horses and a covered sleigh. Leaving Hanna on mail day with a rested team, he would stop overnight at Spondin. Next day he would take the other team that had been barned at Spondin and continue on the route. The first few years the route was over fifty miles long, later on it lengthened. Those winter trips were punishing to man and beast. Usually he was the first one over the road after a blow.

Art Pincombe's mail truck

He braved a wide variety of weather in all seasons of the year to see that the mail, freight, eggs and cream got through. Freight went to the two Spondin stores, and the cream to the Spondin Creamery owned by J. A. Rasmussen. On his way back to Hanna he brought the mail from the Spondin post office, sometimes delivering a few groceries as well as the mail, and taking cream and eggs to the Dairy Pool. By 1950 he also had the contract for Rural Route No. 3. This made four trips a week, two on each route. By this time the roads were greatly improved, so he used a truck all year round.

The faithful mailman, Art Pincombe, made his last trip on Tuesday, April 8, 1968, and passed away the following day. He had delivered mail for twenty-nine consecutive years, a record very few rural mailmen achieved.

He is survived by his wife Lillian, one son Gordon and a daughter Sylvia Holzer in Hanna, his other daughters Helen Riddle of Scapa and Eileen Swoop of Delia; and sons Arthur at Alsask, Albert in Calgary, and Percy at Manning.

RURAL ROUTE No. 1 — SCAPA WEST

By Erbin Grove

Earl Hill also drove rural route no. 1, south and west of Scapa. In the winter time, in some of those hills, it was a hard job to make the trip. There were times the

only way he could make it was to ride one horse and lead a pack horse. A few times I helped him get his pack horse loaded; at Christmas time he sure looked like a wide horse. Other drivers on rural route no. 1 were George Hausher, Richard Zeamer and Emil Glubrecht.

George Hausher drove from 1932 to 1940. He would leave Scapa at ten in the morning after mail was sorted from the train and if roads were bad returned at eleven or twelve in the evening. As there were no snowplows, winter roads were often so bad he had to go through fields and then explain to the postal department why he had changed his route.

The pay was thirty-five dollars per month which was most welcome in the hungry thirties.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 — SCAPA EAST

By Erbin Grove

John Corry and William Storch Sr. were the main organizers of rural route no. 2 from Scapa east. It was started in the fall of 1927 with sixty mail boxes, and is still going in 1977, but there aren't so many now. The route was thirty miles long. In winter the trip was made by team of horses and covered cutter, which had a small heater in it.

Jesse Hill was first mail route driver, and then Earl Hill took it over. We had no snowplows at that time and the snow seemed to keep getting deeper all winter. The road would get so heavy that Earl would have to leave his team, named Belle and Fanny, at a farm along the route and exchange it for a fresh team. By the time he would get to our place just four or five miles from Scapa his fresh team would be very tired, so he would rest his team for an hour or so before he went on his way. He was a good mail man; he also hauled cream and eggs to be shipped by train to Hanna or to Alix next morning. Other drivers were Chester Hill, John and Maymie Cattanach, Ernie Riddle, Milt Stuart, Fred Bottomley, who had the mail route from 1937 to 1946, was a very faithful mailman. I remember one time he made the trip on Christmas day; he sure made a lot of people happy that day.

Fred Harvey is our present mailman, and has been since 1946. I can remember one winter he was driving a closed cutter with a little stove in it. The snow was very deep, so when he made the turn by our gate over went his cutter. The stove fell out in the snow but no harm was done. He picked up his little stove, put the fire back in the stove, put the stove pipe on again and he was on his way with the smoke pouring out of the stove pipe again.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 FROM ENDIANG SOUTH

By Tom Parkinson

This route started on November third, 1928 with R. S. Gregory-Allen (Dick Allen) as driver on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Other route drivers were Albert Webber, George Baird, Forest Tucker, Carl Boehlke, Albert Boehlke, Hicks Cole, Cliff James, Roy Phibbs and Eric Stoneystreet who still delivers the mail.

George Baird carried mail for nine years by team. He missed two trips in that time, and came once on Christmas Day. Total length of the route is twenty-two miles.

CHAPTER VIII

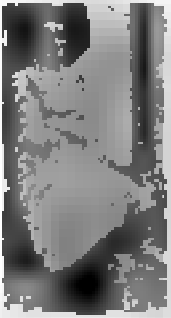
NO DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

By Freda Vlate

Of all the tribulations faced by the early settlers, the lack of hospitals and

doctors was one of the greatest. Putting it plainly it was "Survival of the Fittest". It was fortunate that the very first to come west were generally healthy young men who seldom required a doctor's services, except for treatment of injuries due to accidents. As more of the wives and families joined their men and some of the bachelors married, the need for hospitals became more evident. Occasionally there was a nurse among the pioneers' wives. They were a godsend to any community, often being called upon to administer aid in the absence of a doctor. They ran into situations where they had to set broken bones, or sew up and dress wounds without anesthetic. The only thing available in most homes was a good strong whiskey or brandy, kept on hand for medical purposes. It was used as an antiseptic as well as a pain killer.

It was these nurses, or women who had some knowledge through experience, who became mid-wives. Their role was not an easy one, since they had to be prepared to go whenever they were needed, in any kind of weather, often travelling over rough terrain to get to the expectant mothers. It was customary for them to stay with their patients and care for the baby up to a week or more. Sometimes they found themselves working in circumstances where people couldn't even afford the necessities for the baby. There were times when a mid-wife couldn't be reached, and a neighbor who had a child or two of her own, might be called upon to assist with the delivery. In times of need everyone did what they could. The following women were among those who served in the area north of Hanna as mid-wives and nurses: Mrs. Henry Wills, Mrs. Julius Schultz, Mrs. Willington Hamilton, Mrs. Paulson, Mrs. Dunkle, Mrs. Sexsmith, Mrs. J. W. Taylor (registered nurse).


Mrs. J. W. Taylor, R.N.

Mrs. Sexsmith, mid-wife and nurse, October, 1931

Mrs. Taylor was a resident of the Garden Plain district. About 1913 she wrote the following account of a nursing experience she'd had, for her New York Alumni magazine. The first page of the original story was lost so her daughter Marion wrote it as she remembers it.

"It seems that there was an older bachelor, Shorty Snyder, I believe, who had wooed and won as his pioneer bride, a much younger lady. They homesteaded somewhere in the Grassy Slope area, I think.

"Anyway one morning he drove his team and buggy to our farm, to see if Mother, who herself was several months pregnant, would come back to his little home to help deliver their first baby. So mother, who never refused to help, checked her nurse's bag, which was kept ready for such emergencies, left instructions for her husband and family, and climbed into the buggy with Shorty. They were off in great haste, bumping across the prairie trails to the south east.

"Now from Mother's story: "One woman told me after that, when she saw us passing her place she said, 'Well, that couple are in a big hurry to leave the country'.

"We travelled thus for seven miles, until the thoroughbred horse he was driving with the other high-spirited one, nearly dropped from exhaustion. I kept telling him the case was not so urgent as he feared, and he had better save his horses some, but he replied, 'Oh, no, I can always get another horse, but it's not so easy to get a wife'.

"When we arrived at his abode, a crazy patchwork shack, about 10' x 10' in

which were a bed, dresser, stove, table and chair. I found another neighbor lady with his dear wee wife, who was only 17 years of age. After talking things over I decided he would need to go S.W. to Hanna for a Doctor

"Well, he hitched up the poor exhausted team again, and off he went alone. People who saw him passing say he was whipping his team all the way. The Doctor arrived about sundown, and decided an operation was needed. You can imagine the inconvenience, one kerosene lamp, one little table, and one basin.

"When I had the patient and all in readiness, the only place to set the basin of disinfectant was on the floor by the Doctor's feet. I administered the chloroform, the other lady held the lamp while the husband helped hold his wife in position. I kept thinking, 'Whatever shall we do if the lamp glass should break!' When horror of horrors! the Doctor changed his position a little, and stepped back — I heard a splash. Yes, he had stepped into the basin of disinfectant. He said not to worry as he could do without it. Soon he was finished. What a relief! The husband took the Doctor back to Hanna, and brought a nurse back from there. I felt sorry for her — a big girl having to manage in that small shack. But I was glad to start for home myself.

"I could tell of other cases — another time — some extremely sad. One lady patient was in convulsions for hours, and passed away thus. Thank God, the Doctor was in attendance with me there."

This was the era of mustard plasters, onion poultices, tonics, liniments and home cures of all sorts. Every family had its own pet remedies, and used them with great faith. Every newspaper had pages of advertisements of remedies to cure everything from a bald head to ingrown toe nails. They were always accompanied by letters from satisfied customers. The mail contained the same type of quack advertising, with cards so you could send in the names of your ailing friends so they too could be placed on the mailing lists.

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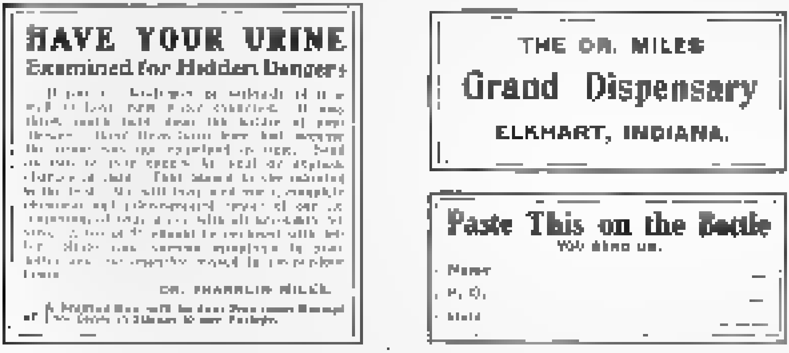


HAVE YOUR URINE

Examined for Hidden Dangers

[illegible]

DR. FRANKLIN MILES.

[illegible]

THE DR. MILES

Grand Dispensary

ELKHART, INDIANA.

Paste This on the Bottle

YOU send us.

Name

P. O.

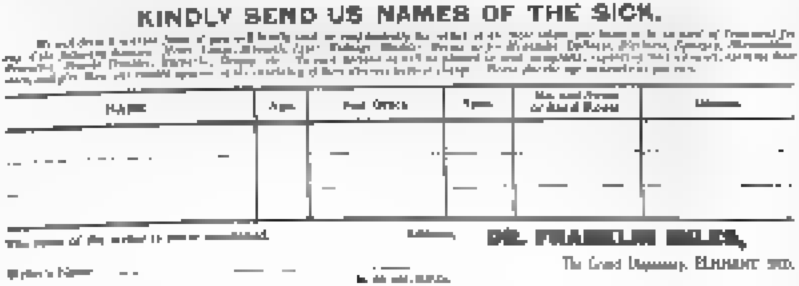
State

Quack Advertising

Before there was a hospital or doctor in Hanna, a Dr. Crawford from Craigmyle and Dr. Lyons of Castor were sometimes called into the district. Castor was the nearest hospital. In most cases the doctors went to the home. Appendicitis seemed to be the most common medical problem, often resulting in death. This was mainly due to the long slow trip to summon a doctor, or the rough ride in wagon or sleigh to a hospital. A tragic story of such an incident was written in the "Garden Plain Story" by Mrs. Margaret Taylor.

"In 1918 when our oldest girl started school she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. We called in Dr. Mason who operated right on the kitchen table, since

there was no hospital in Hanna. Although we had a trained nurse stay with us, we lost our little girl. As a result of this Jim worked very hard with Dr. Mason to start the Hanna Hospital."



KINDLY SEND US NAMES OF THE SICK.

DR. FRANKLIN MILES,

The Grand Dispensary, ELKHART, IND.

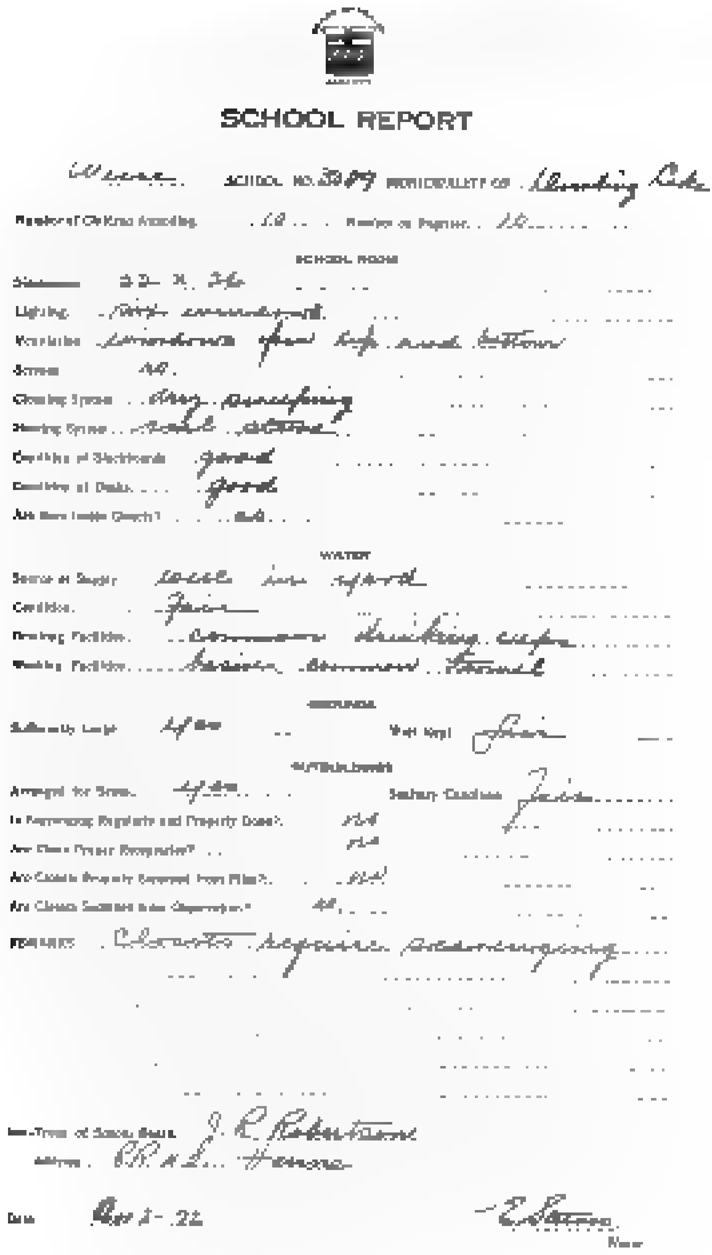
This is the type of advertising that frequented the mail.

At the mention of year 1918, any old timer would think of the "Spanish Influenza" outbreak, and all the suffering it brought. The few doctors in the area were exhausted and couldn't begin to tend to everyone. Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann told of their experience at that time. They were the only ones in the district that weren't down with the flu, so Charlie made the rounds on horseback, doing chores for all the neighbors. Mrs. Lohrmann did baking and washing to help out. All nine of the Hat family, who lived kitty-corner from them, were down at once. Charlie went to Hanna with the team to get Dr. Mason for them and then took the doctor back. He just got home and started doing his own chores when Mrs. Ernest Fletcher came for help. Her husband was delirious, so Charlie went to haul feed for them. Mr. Bodemann, who lived to the east, was very sick. Charlie was sure he had pneumonia, so he went to town for the doctor, but couldn't convince him to come out. Mr. Bodemann passed away. It was a similar story throughout the whole area, with the able, like Mr. and Mrs. Lohrmann, helping the disabled.

In 1914 the old Copeville post office was moved to Hanna and remodelled for an 8 to 12 patient hospital. There were four nurses on staff, who did all the housekeeping duties and the laundry service. In 1918 that building was abandoned for a larger one. Nick Lund was the first patient admitted into that hospital. It served a large area and was soon found to be too small. In 1922 the new Hanna Municipal Hospital opened, located where the present hospital and nursing home are. This was adequate for many years.

In the early twenties the Provincial Department of Public Health set up Public Health Nursing Services. Districts were formed, with a nurse to be appointed for each district. A letter to the school board stated, "It is the desire of this Department to make the Public Health Nurse a valuable asset in a community for the prevention of disease and reduction of infant mortality". This program was slow in getting off the ground. Meanwhile local doctors and nurses acted in the capacity of Public Health personnel. The purpose of the program was to look after immunizations, examine the children, inspect the sanitary conditions of the schools and even do minor surgery.

Miss Lomness, now Mrs. Jack Rose, of Chilliwack, B.C. was one of the pioneer nurses in this work. She was also matron of the Hanna Hospital for nine years, from 1929 to 1938. She was kind enough to submit the following information: "Health Clinics were formed, composed of a nurse, doctor or dentist to visit the rural schools annually. I believe there were about 26 schools altogether.



SCHOOL REPORT

[illegible] SCHOOL NO. 3049 MUNICIPALITY OF [illegible] Lake

Number of Children Attending .. 18 .... Number on Register .. 18 ....

SCHOOL ROOM

Dimensions 22 x 26

Lighting [illegible]

Ventilation windows from top and bottom

Screens no.

Cleaning System .. dry sweeping

Heating System .. coal stove

Condition of Blackboards good

Condition of Desks .... good

Are there Inside Closets? ..... no ...

WATER

Source of Supply well in yard

Condition . fair

Drinking Facilities .. common drinking cup

Washing Facilities ..... basin common towel

GROUNDS

Sufficiently Large yes .. Well Kept fair

OUTBUILDINGS

Arranged for Sexes yes .... Sanitary Condition fair

Is Scavenging Regularly and Properly Done? no

Are there Proper Receptacles? .. no

Are Closets Properly Screened from Flies? .. no!

Are Closets Screened from Observation? no

REMARKS . Closets require screening

Sec.-Treas. of School Board J. R. Robertson

Address . [illegible] Hanna

Date [illegible] 1-22

E. Stevens
Nurse

A typical report by a Public Health Nurse

He would examine the school children. Then later as a "follow up", minor surgery such as removing tonsils or adenoids, or dental work was performed in the school room. I remember with awe helping the doctor remove tonsils or perform minor surgery with our limited supplies at hand. Afterward the child patient would be laid on a makeshift bed, lovingly prepared by the parents present, to recuperate. Later in the evening the child would be taken home by team and buggy, or sled, to be cared for by mother. To my knowledge there were never any serious complications — something parents today will find hard to believe.

"I have many memories of my days at the hospital, one mother instructing me regarding the special laundering care of her boy's (a patient) home knit, long woollen underwear; one father who would bring his children in for hospital care, with various accompanying colorful (?) oaths.

"I remember the special gold pieces the staff members received every Christmas, accompanied with a note of appreciation to us, a special thank you from the Hospital Board.

"Another fond memory concerns the Board meetings. The members who often had to drive over nearly impossible snow or mud-bound roads, or in blizzard conditions, rarely missed a meeting. Mr. J. McDonald Taylor and Mr. J. Corry were two of these stalwarts, who with the other board members would discuss and thresh over the ever present problem of financing in those depression years. Often the hour of dismissal was in the "wee small hours" of the second day. To allay some of these troubles and help soften their anxieties, thus helping them "get on with the job", I would hastily prepare bacon, eggs and coffee as a break period for them. It was not unusual in those hard years for staff members to have to wait for their pay until two or three months had passed, and funds for financing could be obtained.

"Whenever news of the Hanna district arrives at my door, courtesy of friends, fond memories return. Often I have deep longings to meet some of these old friends, the pioneers and others, to refurbish memories as we knew each other in those good old days."

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent to the school boards in 1930: "The Clinic comes to the district fully equipped for the work to be undertaken. Those responsible are notified of the date, parents may bring any children they wish to the Clinic, including pre-schoolers.

"To help meet the cost of the service, the charges are as follows: Removal of tonsils and adenoids $15.00. (Other minor surgery in proportion). Dental Services: Extractions 50¢ to $1.00, Fillings $1.00 to $2.00. Vaccinations against Smallpox, free of charge."

Some of the first dentists in Hanna were Dr. Sandercock, Dr. W. Honey and Dr. Scott. In this field there weren't very many home practitioners. Carl Welch had a pair of dental pliers and did extractions. The tooth-ache had to be unbearable to have it pulled without any freezing or anesthetic. Carl was also a handy man in other areas. He made a lot of caskets, and even prepared the bodies for interment, especially within the large Welch family.

Care of the elderly, mental patients, and the disabled was swept under the rug as much as possible. It was considered shameful to have a member of the family mentally disturbed and they were kept hidden most of the time. The same went for the older members of the family when they became senile.

It would be utterly impossible for any of us to imagine what it would be like to live under the conditions that our pioneers did. Still they accepted things as they were, without much question. Perhaps it was the staunch faith most of them had, and the belief that whatever happened was what the Almighty had decreed for

them, be it injury, sickness or death. There was a peace of mind prevailed that we have lost in the struggle to make things easier and more secure for ourselves. We have almost instant communication, modern hospitals, wonder drugs that we rely heavily upon. They had each other.

CHAPTER IX

COAL

Indians, no doubt, discovered coal in the area and used it to fire their pottery cooking vessels. Perhaps they used the black "stones" around their campfires and found they would burn and give off more heat than buffalo dung, their only other source of fuel on these treeless plains.

In 1858, when Captain John Palliser noticed a coal seam burning along the cut banks of the Red Deer River, he asked the Indians how long it had been burning. They replied, "As long as we can remember." Cut banks, in what we call the bad lands, could be the remains of burned out coal beds from long ago.

Men seeking homesteads rode through the area, now known as Garden Plain, as early as 1905 and saw out-croppings of coal along the banks of Berry Creek, noted its location and returned to dig their winter fuel supply — a welcome change from buffalo chips. John Grove says, "I dug and hauled my first load of coal from Garden Plain in the summer of 1907. No mine was in operation then as no settlers were there, not even a sod shack could be seen."

In 1909 a mine was opened on 1-34-14 and was operated by Thomas A. Kane, assisted by Martin Siverson. This soft lignite coal had much moisture and little carbon but was a most welcome winter fuel. Two other mines were opened, one on 6-34-13 by Donald Cattanach and the other on 18-33-13 by Thomas McCafferty.

At the mine on Bert Kirkeby's homestead on 3-33-16 in 1914 Austin Ludlow recalls: "With the help of Bert's brothers Gilbert and Alfred, a shaft was sunk straight down and a bucket arrangement brought up the coal. Later a grade and tunnel were dug, and first a horse and quarter-ton cars and then a horse-powered winch and half-ton cars pulled the coal to the surface, where it was loaded by hand onto wagons which lined up from daylight to dark.

"A mud seam divided the top three feet of coal from the bottom foot. This mud was dug out with a pick, the top coal knocked down and then the bottom coal dug out.

"Trevor and Bill Wiese and then John Koehn took over the mine, followed by Hjalmer Holgren, Allie Donald and in 1920, by Louis Anderson and Scotty Edwards.

"In 1928 Bert Kirkeby opened a new mine on Fred Borell's homestead on the southwest quarter of 3-33-16. He used a steam engine to hoist coal up from the mine, where tunnels were so low miners could not stand upright but had to pick coal from a kneeling position. This was most uncomfortable as the mine was always wet. This mine was soon closed down because it could not meet government safety regulations.

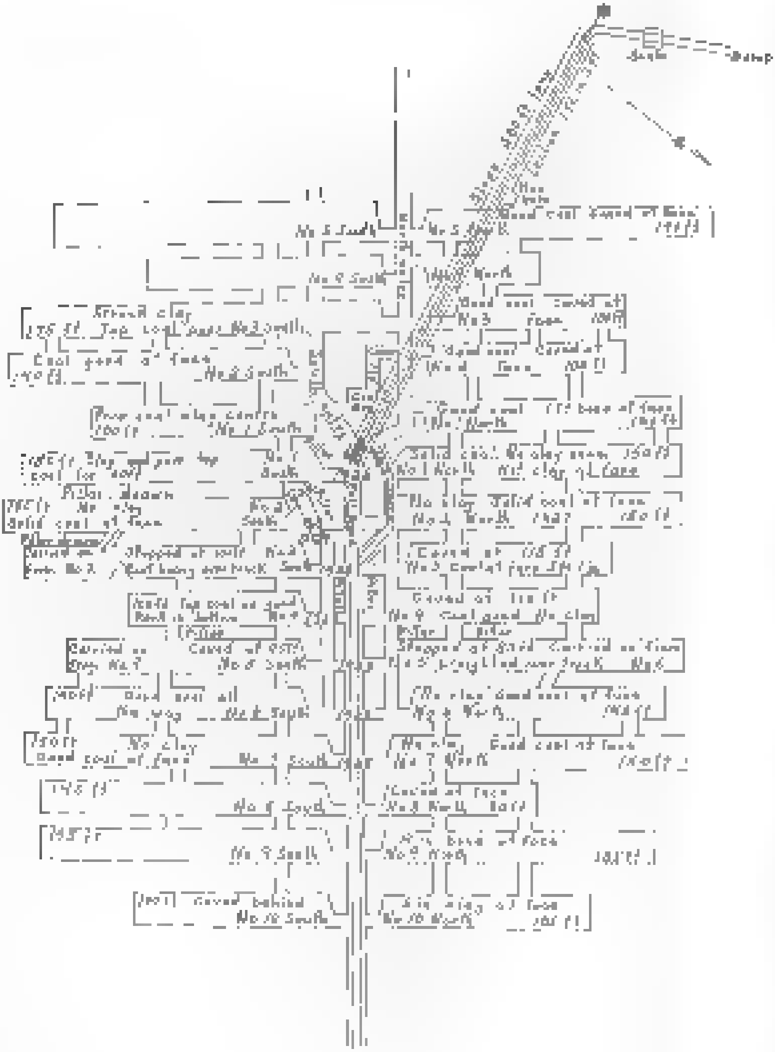
"In 1934 Bert opened a strip mine, where George Grosse drove twelve horses on a road grader to strip twenty-seven feet of dirt from a five-foot coal seam.

"Some other miners were Fred Gelda, Clyde Wooden, Bert Ludlow, Ed and Fred Rogers, Tom Samson, Conrad Hansen, Mack Sobolewski, Emil Kammerle, Clyde Coons, Louis and Martin Johnson, Melvin Kirkeby, Hicks Cole, Jim Clancy, Paul Weadel and Elmer Holgren."

A strip mine on 23-33-13 was opened by Jo Zehner who sold to Bill Glover, who in turn sold to Clarence and Louis Dalos, who operated the mine until 1926.

MINE No. 1296 GARDEN PLAIN

Location: L.S. 16 25-33-14 W4
Operated by R. J. Unsworth. and Owned
Strata Horizontal
Thickness of cover 70 ft.
Thickness of seam 4 ft. 6 in.



As this coal didn't slack easily it was stock piled in summer for sale later in the fall and winter. The dirt and sand stone was removed with a fresno pulled by four horses. They would drill a hole in the coal with a coal auger about an inch in diameter and put in a charge of black powder with a fuse on it, light the fuse and get back out of the way. The coal chunks were then loaded into the wagons by hand.

One late fall when there had been no snow, a blizzard blew up suddenly and caught men with loaded wagons at the mine. They had to stay in the bunk house for three days, then unload their coal and return home with empty wagons and difficult wheeling, to come back later with sleighs.

Before the Oxtoe Brothers sold to Charlie Brown, who had a mine near by, they stripped dirt from five hundred tons of coal which are still there covered with mud and water, as the seam is lower than the Berry Creek bed.

Some workers in the Oxtoe mine were: Harry Lumsden, Charlie Overton, Ralph Cleary, Fred and George Whaley, Ed Cleary, Ed Loveday and Mert Wright.

Another operator of a mine in that area was Russel Hemstock.

Frances Unsworth tells of the coal mining experiences of her husband Bob.

"While trying to locate a water well, he struck a seam of coal and in 1925 he and a hired man worked all winter sinking a slope down to it. He started putting out coal and worked for over fifteen years in his own mine.

"He was unlucky enough to meet with an accident and got his back broken. After eight weeks in a Hanna Hospital bed he surprised his physician, Dr. Baxendale, by getting up and walking.

"After that he leased the mine out and was an overseer.

"Many a car of coal I hauled to the top with a team of horses, and weighed it and pushed it out to the tipple to dump it into the farmer's wagon.

"If you ever were caught in the dark you should try walking in a mine and have your light go out. Black is black and dark is dark, but it really gives one a funny feeling to try and grope one's way out long entries to get to daylight. I have helped load cars, helped drill holes in the face for shots, made paper dummies for tamping shots, and pushed a car of coal out when Bob was lighting the fuse. Believe me, that is when you feel your strength, as I was so scared I'd be on the run before I'd gone far.

"Other mines opened up around us and began cutting coal prices with the result that no one made a living. Coal was sold at first for $3.00 per ton, then $2.50 and then $2.00. The miners were paid $1.50 a ton to dig it, so that left only fifty cents a ton for timbers, fuse, powder, tracks and tools and hauling to the top. The mines began to close down and the owners moved away. We also had to close down.

"Men from the mines department still come and check over our mine, perhaps with a view to reopening it in the time of energy crises."

Henry Finkbiner in 1927 opened a mine just north of Unsworths where they mined a seam about fifty feet underground. With a two ton truck they hauled coal to Hanna and to country schools. A royalty of ten cents a ton was paid to the government. In the depression years, coal was traded for cattle, grain or whatever they had. The mine closed in 1938. All that remains is a small mound of dirt.

Alfred Pahl tells us: "In 1930 seven farmers in the Solon area worked together to strip a small area of coal bed so they could have coal for their own use. Digging down about four feet resulted in some flooding so each morning the water was pumped by jacking up a model T Ford and running the pump off the back wheel. In 1931 my father, Fred Pahl, applied to the provincial government and was granted the right to legally operate a coal mine. In the hard years of 1933 to 1936

the government issued vouchers to residents of the area which they could use to buy coal. The mine owners sent the vouchers to Edmonton and a cheque was received back. People came for coal from as far as the Saskatchewan border with horses and wagons or sleighs. In the war years it was difficult to obtain powder and dynamite. When times improved heavier equipment was used and up to 3,000 tons were stripped each year. When gas was installed in Hanna and farmers switched to stokers, which required crushed coal, Fred Pahl and sons Alfred and Otto closed their mine in 1952."

In the Glenbow Institute in Calgary the following information was found.

Mine Number	Operated By	Year	Address	Location
375	T. A. Kane	1912	Garden Plain	1-34-14
396	Baxter & Camp	1913	Fertility	16-33-13
398	Tom McCafferty	1914	Fertility	18-33-13
468	Charlie Brown	1918	Hanna	29-32-13
487	Fred Gieck	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
489	Zehner & Unsworth	1915	Garden Plain	8-33-13
490	Ken Bryanton	1915	Garden Plain	18-33-13
492	Don Cattanach	1916	Garden Plain	6-34-13
496	Bert A. Kirkeby	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
546	Harry Trentham	1916	Garden Plain	1-34-14

Hanna's First Coal Shipment was in 1912

Hanna Herald: January 2, 1913 — "As Hanna is situated in the centre of one of the best coal districts in Alberta it is a surety that in a very short time this will be one of the most important coal shipping points. The first shipment of coal from this town went out last week by C. N. R. consigned to Alsask.

The car contained thirty tons of high grade lignite coal from the Brown mine north of here and Mr. Brown, proprietor of this mine, has the honor of being the first man to ship coal out of this district by rail."

Early miners were fortunate in having an experienced English coal miner in the area. He was Robert Unsworth Sr. Whenever they had a problem he was there with willing help.

When Walter Mansfield was trapped under a frozen overhang which collapsed on him at the Brown mine, the first thought was to send for Mr. Unsworth, but his help came too late and young Walter Mansfield lost his life.

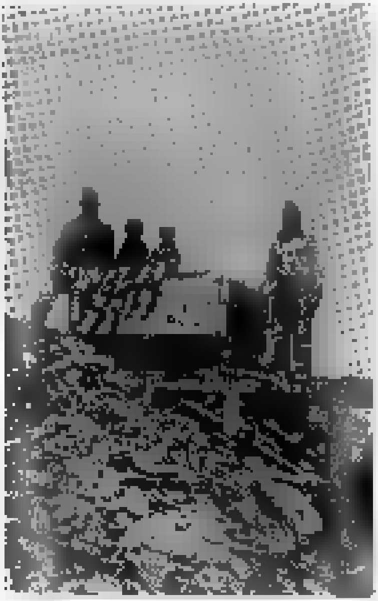
A coal mine was started by Clyde Wooden the summer of 1914 on land owned by Nick Lund on the NW¼ of 16-33-16.

Attention was first drawn to this spot by the appearance of coal in a small spring at this site.

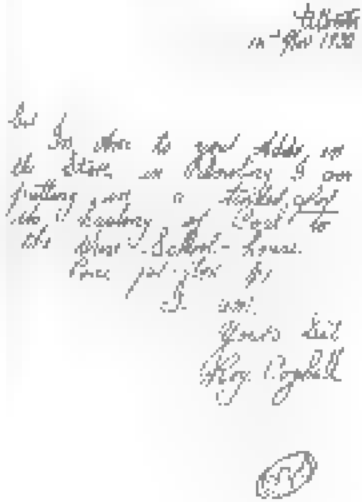
The entrance was at the foot of a steep high bank on the south east side of a seventeen acre slough where a tunnel was dug about 350 feet to a room where several tunnels branched out in search of a thicker seam of good coal. There were approximately fourteen inches of good coal with a thicker seam of poor coal on top. Coal was pushed out by hand in small low cars on rails. Among others who worked in this mine were Harold Lund and Gene Flanders. It operated during the winter of 1914-15, but was abandoned in the summer of 1915.

1910 — Tom Kane's Gordon Plain Mine. Note the poles holding up the frozen coulee bank as coal is loaded into the sleigh box.

1940 — George Unsworth and first car of coal out of new slope at Bob Unsworth's' Three Star Mine.



1939 — George Unsworth and Rudy Hoover at new slope of Three Star Mine. Children are Gordon and Albert Unsworth



Alberta
10 Nov 1932

Sir
In answer to your Adds in the Star, on Tender I am putting in a tender for the delivery of Coal to the [illegible] School-house.
Price per ton [illegible]
I am
Yours Sir
Roy Campbell

1932 — Letter of Tender.

CHAPTER X

SPORTS

By W. L. Storch

The pioneers had to make their own entertainment, and would drive for miles to attend a stampede, a ball game or other sports event. They were family affairs with something for every age group.

The first U.F.A. picnic in the area was at Buchan School in 1912. The next year it was held at Corinne and when Garden Plain Hall was built in 1914, picnics were held there where they had baseball, football, horse races and every other kind of races and even bucking horses without benefit of chutes or corrals. Just good pick up horses to rescue the contestants.

This is Charlie Seefeldt's story of the 1914 picnic. "I am going back to some of the things that happened around Hanna in the early days. I can remember of an incident in which I was involved.

"When the Railroad came through this district in 1912, things began to bloom as the saying goes. New towns sprang up all around us and the same could be said for the districts away from the railroad.

"In the summer of 1914, the district known as Garden Plain came to life. Word got around that they were going to have a big picnic, baseball, football, and a big dance. It was to be their first big picnic. They sent word to Hanna to have somebody bring out a ball team. Hanna's best ball team, of which I was a member, were playing at Big Valley for a purse of $500.00 so the manager asked me if I would pick up a team to go to Garden Plain. This certainly sounded like a big deal to me. I got word around that I was going to take a baseball team to Garden Plain for a big celebration.

"Now in order to get to the picnic, we had to find someone to take us, so we got in touch with a fellow by the name of Bill Vowell. Bill came in with a four horse outfit on a hayrack equipped with a few wooden boxes to sit on. About twenty-six or twenty-seven people got aboard. This was an overload to start with. The result was some of his horses played out and he had to go to some farmer to borrow two horses to get us to Garden Plain. A number of us walked and got there ahead of Bill.

"We got a sandwich and immediately started to play baseball. We won the baseball game quite easily, so later in the afternoon we were asked if we would like to play a game of football. We started to play, I got the ball and ran the hundred and ten yards, the length of the grounds and demanded a touchdown or six points. I was overruled and was told in no uncertain manner that the game would be played the same as it was in Europe. At the end of the first half the score was 37 to 0 against us. So while we were resting a team of horses got loose and in no time at all a lot of other horses broke loose. A number of buggies were upset and three or four horses started north-east as fast as they could go. Some of these horses ran all the way home, some sixteen miles distance to the north-east of Garden Plain. So by the time things quieted down, darkness had set in and they called it quits and we were darn well pleased because we did not want any more of that kind of football."

Margaret Welch Foss gives a child's impression of her first Garden Plain Picnic.

"The very first annual First of July picnic and celebration at the site of the Garden Plain Hall that I attended was one of the big events in my life. This was due mainly to the fact that the Big Band from Castor was in attendance and playing a March as we arrived. As we were approaching the main gathering, with the holding hands with my parents. I couldn't walk because the music went straight to my feet and I danced every step I took that day. No one will ever realize how much that band music made my day and being outdoors made the music even more beautiful. I couldn't really guess as to the actual size of the band, but to me it was huge. I guess it really was to a four year old. Those picnics were always filled with fun and good fellowship. They usually had a baseball game or two, all kinds of foot races for all ages from toddlers to the oldest adults, including sack races, three legged races, relays with potatoes on a spoon and every other type devised by man. Of course, they had a food booth with popcorn, peanuts, ice cream and other food items. Later in the day everyone opened their picnic lunch they had brought, put it on a tablecloth spread out on the grass. No one could ever forget the delicious fried chicken, potato salad, pies and cakes to eat and enjoy, and to return to for added snacks later on. The day wound up with a dance in which children of all ages took part. The children didn't just dance with each other but rather with the kind adults who were so willing to teach us all kinds of dances. No wonder so many grew up to be extremely good dancers."

Clear Lake was the centre for a unique kind of picnic, which included water sports. Mrs. George Grosse tells the story of that area.

"The Clear Lake Community Club was formed in the early twenties, everyone working together. They had a real picnic, an annual affair, people from far and near were there. To start with everyone brought their lunch and a huge picnic supper enjoyed by all. There was every kind of dish you could think of and then to end up with home made ice cream for everyone. Yum was that good! Mr. [illegible] was a real swimmer and he gave lessons to most of the young ones, so we had some real good swimmers in the community.

"There were swimming races, a greased pig, horse races, fast and slow. In the slow event, anyone could get on an old horse, which there were lots of then, and try to come in last in that race. There were bucking events with no pick ups, no corrals, and some very good local talent I can tell you, foot races for young and old, fat man's race, tug of war, three legged races and jumping contests, boxing matches, baseball and football. These were, of course, all local people entering, which made it more interesting, so different from this day and age. There might be a prize of anywhere from twenty-five cents to one dollar and chocolate bars for the kiddies. After the day came to a close, everyone travelled by horses and to Les Doyle's or Jim McGuire's barn to a dance, which was packed. The music was supplied by Art Weiss, Mrs. Benson and I think Miss Reebeck from Hanna. We also had a local orchestra from the west at times which was very good consisting of Buckley Limpert, Charles and Frank Applegate, Herb Burrows, Roye Duchenne, Russ Bradford, Nels Limpert and Bill Limpert. It was one of the best, all played by ear.

"Everyone seemed to get behind the project and there was a booth built out in the open with trees over the top, where ice cream, pop and lemonade was sold for five cents.

"As the years went by, in 1927 there was enough money raised to build a dance hall and two dressing rooms for the swimmers so again everyone pitched in. George Grosse and Elvin Churchill hauled all the lumber from Hanna with two four horse outfits 10,000 feet of it, and I don't know how many shingles, so up went the hall. The Banners, Doyles, Lunds, Schultzs, Weiss, Bob Holloway, Fred Trotter, Hicks Cole and numerous others around all helped. Then for a short while they had a dance each week, which was well supported, and every Sunday ball games and a booth on the grounds.

"For the annual picnic then, up went the prices to fifty cents each. Mr. McCaga of the Hanna Herald did the advertising and printed reel tickets and he was a great help; he just charged barely the cost, which was very much appreciated. Hanna was a great supporter of the club at all times.

"As years went on the hall was all paid for, and then in the hungry thirties the Lake went dry, the trees which had been planted died, and that was the end of all the good times there. The hall was finally auctioned off and sold to Carl Schultz. I think around 1939. The money was divided I believe between Craigmyle, Endiang and Hanna, all supporters of the project."

One resident of the Hanna North region entered a professional sport. Here is his story.

MY WRESTLING CAREER

By David Ruhl

In the winter season of 1946–47, I worked out at the north-east Calgary Y.M.C.A. wrestling with many light heavy and heavy weight wrestlers including Hubert Pelzer and Bob Kitchen before having my first match as a professional, in Acme, Alberta. I did farming in the summer months and wrestled in the winter, living on the farm until I started professional wrestling, this was in 1951 when I moved to Calgary turning to full time wrestling.

In 1958 I defeated Al (Mr. Murder) Mills for the Canadian Heavyweight Championship. In the years that followed I wrestled across the U.S.A. from San Francisco to New York City, and in Alaska. I have also wrestled all across Canada.

I wrestled for the World's Championship six times: these were with Lou Thesz once with whom I drew after 58 minutes, a one hour draw with Gene Kiniski and four one hour draws with Dory Funk Jr. I won the Pacific Southwest Title from Abe Kashey in Phoenix, Arizona in 1959 and the North American Title from Abdullah the Butcher in 1970. I wrestled in Japan and Korea.

I retired with the Canadian Championship upon returning from my second trip to Japan in 1973.

I was married to Martha Miller in 1940. We lived on the west ½ 22-33-15. Martha and I have two children, a daughter, Diane Lynn, born in Hanna in 1945 and a son, Glenn David, born in Calgary in 1953. We make our home at 5848 Thorncliff Drive, Calgary, Alberta.

EXCERPTS FROM THE HANNA HERALD

Garden Plain — January 1923: The Rabbit Hunter's dance is reported to have been one of the most successful affairs of the season.

Chain Lake — February 8, 1923: We understand from reliable sources that the grounds at Clear Lake have been secured by the community for picnic or sports grounds for the nominal rental of $1.00 per annum. This was first taken up by the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local and afterwards it was found necessary to find a body acceptable to the government by the Municipality.

Greystone — December 11, 1914: A masquerade given by the young people of the district took place in Garden Plain School. They danced until 11 o'clock, had costume judging, then danced some more and had a big supper. It was said the bachelors shouldn't have to cook for a week. Dancing continued until 6:30 A.M. W. E. Ricker served breakfast. The dance went on until sun-up. Music was supplied by Mrs. Huskins and E. Himmelreich.

Greystone — May 27, 1915: A dance will be given in the Wiese School on Friday, June 11 under the auspices of the Greystone Football Club. Ladies are asked to bring refreshments. The proceeds will be given to the boys. All are welcome to attend.

July 4, 1915: At the July first picnic at Garden Plain the Greystone and

Garden Plain Football teams could not reach a winning point. The score was a 1 - 1 tie.

July 15, 1915: A football game will be played at Wiese School grounds on Friday evening at 6:30 between Greystone and Garden Plain. A dance will follow.

SPORTS IN SCAPA

By Earl Burt

Scapa was able to field a good baseball team until the late forties when baseball slowly died from a disease of fast cars and T.V.

Crow Hill junior team became the nucleus of Scapa seniors. The first game played was in 1928 with Scapa against Endiang with the score of 2 - 0 in favor of the latter. At Sports Days at places like Castor, Coronation and Hanna, Scapa came away with top money. In 1933 they were in a league with Hanna, Craigmyle and Delia. Scapa was coached by Harvey Burt and the team was a real power house, losing only two games all season. The Hanna Herald says: "At the Clear Lake Sport's Day the pitching of Stan and Wes James was too much for Harvey Burts' heavy hitters."

One Scapa boy said he could pitch well because he had strong muscles in his wrist from milking ten or fifteen cows by hand twice a day.

Another league was formed with Hackett, Byemoor and Endiang in the late thirties and into the forties with a new generation and a few old pros. One game this club lost which will never be forgotten was played in Coronation on July first 1940. Jim Boehlke was behind the bat, Reinhardt Welch on the mound with seventeen strikeouts to his credit and we lost 1 to 2.

When one thinks back to all the boys who played just for the fun of it; supplied their own uniforms; rode in the back of a two ton truck, rain or shine, for the love of the game and the club they represented: we wonder if they might have become super-stars if they had the opportunities that are here today.

It would be impossible to name all the boys but we should give credit to the coaches: Harvey Burt, Jack Temple, Charlie Lohrmann, Eddy Graham, Fred Stemp and Bud Henson.

The Burt family presented a trophy to the No. 9 league in honour of their dad, Harvey Burt, who was widely known for his baseball knowledge.

In the early thirties, Scapa also had a men's softball team in the Byemoor league under the eagle eye of Eddy Graham.

Girls basketball was started in 1928 and lasted three or four years. Mac Stemp was their coach. Harvey Burt made the back boards and hoops, and the court was south of the hall where the Catholic Church now stands. Games were played with Fleet and Corinne.

The sport of Hockey was not too important in this area in the twenties and early thirties, broom ball played on sloughs was more popular, with an occasional game being played between Scapa and Garden Plain.

In the late thirties the Hein boys started a rink in their yard where Eddy Graham taught the basics of hockey having played with some of the best hockey men in Canada in his younger days.

In the early forties a rink was built north of Scapa beside the east section site where water was brought in by the C. N. R. to start the base of the rink. After the base was formed water was then pumped from a well to flood the ice. A four foot wall on the sides and an eight foot wall on each end made this a fine out-door rink with blue lines and good goals.

One of the big problems was trying to keep the snow off the ice when it blew in to a depth of five feet and had to be shovelled off by hand.

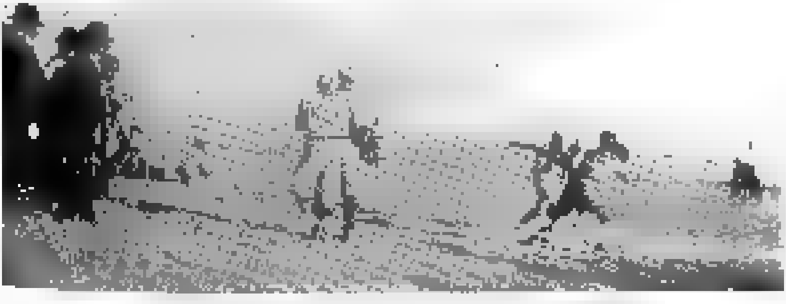
In the early fifties with players from Endiang, Dowling, Garden Plain and the surrounding area Scapa entered a team in the highway number 9 league which consisted of teams from Delia, Hand Hills and two teams from Hanna. During these games in Hanna the arena would be packed mostly with country people.

Interest in hockey in this area is growing; Scapa is once again forming a team with help from Dowling, Garden Plain and Endiang. As yet it is a fun thing but who knows what may develop as time goes on.

SPORTS

[illegible] — First of July picnic at Garden Plain. Horse race on Castor Trail — now Highway No. 36

Letting the duck out of the box at Clear Lake picnic. You had to walk a greased pole to release the duck.



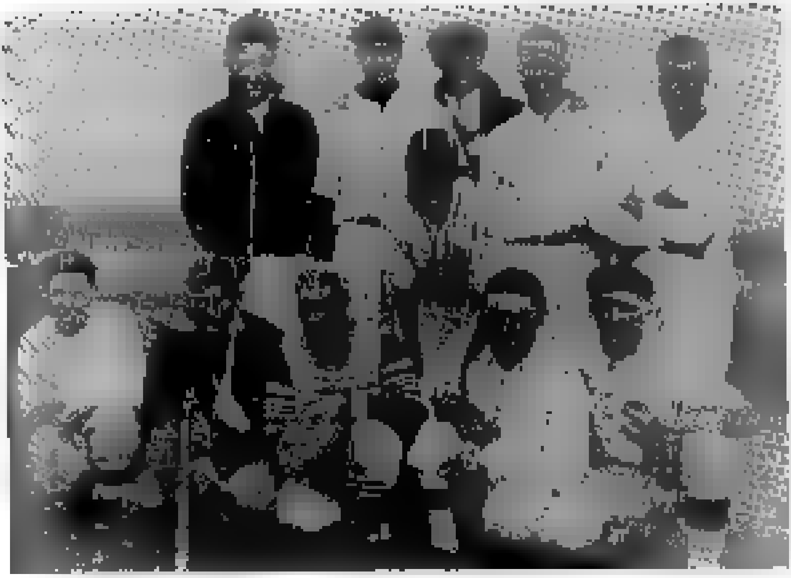
1921 — A Sunday ball game at Garden Plain complete with uniforms

Dave Ruhl, Canadian Champion Wrestler 1955 until retirement in 1973. Pacific Southwest champion 1959 - 1961

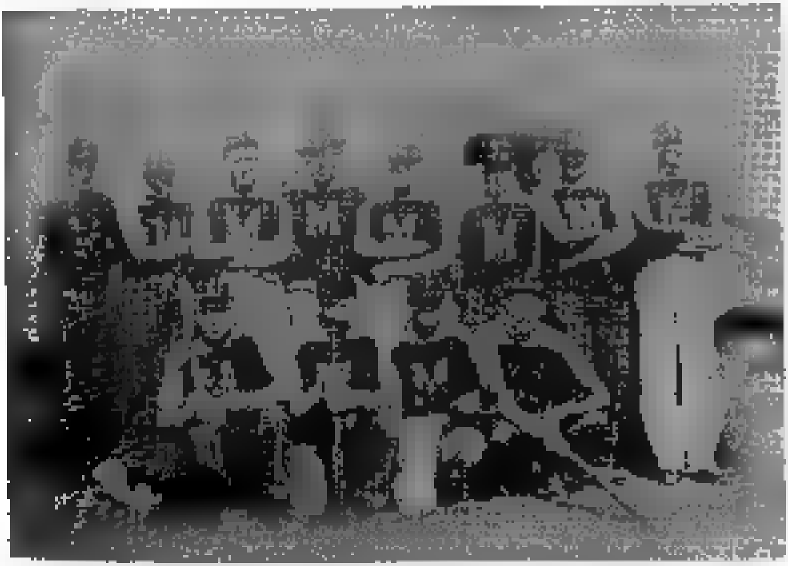
A poster from the collection of Ben Zeemer

Clear Lake Picnic. Left to right: Agnes Burt, Liane Baxter, Nina Wiese, Edna Johnson, Lucy Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Bert Smith, Harry Wiese

1950 — Winter fun on the farm. A sleigh riding party with skis and sleds pulled behind the horse-drawn sleigh.



1909 — Scarth Baseball Team. Back Row, left to right: Reinhardt Wersch, Earl Burt, Eddie Graham (manager), Albert Storch, Fred Stemp. Centre: Bill Riddle. Front Row: Walter Jensen, Basil Hamblin, Eddie Newman, Bill Storch, Rudy Hein.



1949-1953 - Meadowlands Softball Team. Back Row: Carl Kern, Dirk Mackenzie, Wes James, Walter Kern, Ross Smyth, Al Sinclair, Leonard Smith, Jack Schmidt. Front Row: Albert Kern, Lawrence Wells, Ross McGuire and Stan James.

1925 -- Corinne Basketball Team: Coached by Jim Wayne. Back: Alberta Kennedy, Lenora McCafferty, Violet Williams, Jane Wallace. Front: Helen Kennedy, Gladys Hamilton.

1971 — Scapa - Garden Plain Choral Group. Back: Glenda Diegel, Mrs. Bill Diegel, Mrs. Tom Pattinson, Mrs. Gus Mattheis, Mrs. Walter Visle, Mrs. Dan Welch, Mrs. Fred Hill, Mrs. Carl Smith, Mrs. Arnold Fache. Front: Tom Pattinson, Gus Mattheis, Fred Hill, Art Mattheis, Wm. Storch, Reinhardt Welch. Missing from the picture is Mrs. Emil Illingworth (director).

Garden Plain goose hunters: Harold Strandberg, Albert Storch and son Kenneth, Clifford Corey, Wm. Storch Jr., Jo Ferguson (grain buyer), Eric Strandberg.

1927 — Jack Temple, Scapa baseball pitcher.

1957 — Scapa Hockey Boys, Pat Burns and Allan Harvey

CHAPTER XI

THE WAY IT WAS

LIGHTING SYSTEMS

By Bob Rehill

Sometimes when the power goes off and it is necessary to resort to a coal oil lamp, one wonders how the pioneers used to be able to read or sew by their light.

I can remember my parents using the old coal oil lamps. They had to polish the glass chimneys, fill them with oil and trim the wicks. Occasionally they would get a bad batch of kerosene, and the lamps would smoke, yet they sat around the table, with the lamp in the middle of it, and read or played cards, and it seemed that they could hardly see each other.

Next came the Aladdin lamp, which was a big improvement as it gave a much brighter light. It had one disadvantage; when the room got warm the flame had a tendency to smoke and blacken the chimney.

Gas lamps were the next. Air was pumped into the tank which held the fuel, and under pressure produced a brilliant white light. They gave off a hissing sound, and the mantles were very delicate. A moth flying against them could make a hole from which a flame would shoot out.

The first electricity in farm homes came from wind-powered generators. Some men connected the generator from an old car to a windmill, and obtained six-volt power. Later six- and thirty-two volt generators powered by wind or motors could be bought. The electricity from these plants was sufficient only for lights and small appliances. Complete modernization of farms was possible only after power lines were installed throughout the country.

In the early years, only a few dim lights would be visible at night. Today, blue or yellow yard lights mark the location of many farm homes.

THE DAYS OF THE BALING WIRE

When the first hay balers were invented there was no such thing as an automatic trip to make different sized bales. They were hand-fed from stacks; the baler pressed the hay into the chamber and the operator would drop a heavy board into the chamber to divide the bales into the desired lengths. The bales were tied by hand. The operator would push two wires through at one end, bring them to the other end, circle the bale and twist the ends of the wire together.

When the bales were fed, the farmer accumulated a lot of wire . . . the handiest repair item a farmer had. For in those days money was scarce, repairs were hard to get and it was a long slow trip to town. So when a farmer went into the field, he always had a supply of wire tied to the outfit and a pair of pliers in his pocket.

Makeshift repairs made in this way before farmers were able to have electric welders gave birth to the expression, 'a hay-wire outfit.'

BEEF RINGS

Fresh meat for the farm. George Wright and Len Ilage.

In the early years it was hard to keep much fresh meat on hand. A small amount could be kept in ice houses or down wells, but when a farmer butchered an animal, the women had to preserve most of the meat. This was done by pickling and curing, canning in jars, or sometimes, in the case of pork, by frying it down and covering it with lard.

In order to have a constant supply of fresh meat during the summer, the farmers started a meat ring. There would be ten or more members, and every two weeks one of them would contribute an animal to be butchered. One man did all the butchering. The meat would be allowed to hang overnight; the next day the butcher would cut it up and share it among the members in such a way that at the end of the summer, each farmer had received all the roasts, steak, stew, etc. from an entire beef. Members took turns delivering the weekly shares to the members. The ring operated until each member had contributed one animal.

In later years the Grover Butcher Shop started a meat route, and housewives could buy the cuts they wanted right at their doors.

The convenience of modern deepfreezes has put an end to the old time meat rings.

THE RAWLEIGH MAN

No account of the early days would be complete without mention of the Rawleigh man. Bob Johnston was the agent for years; he drove a buggy made into a van, with a big sign on the side. One never knew when he was coming, but everyone looked forward to his visits.

In the early years people didn't get to town very often during the winter, and they would depend on their Rawleigh man for their supplies of cold remedies, stock medicines, and spices. The products were good. Mr. Johnston always carried a supply of Rawleigh's chewing gum for his customers' children. That was a real treat for them as they didn't get pop, chocolate bars, chips and such that the children of today are accustomed to.

The Rawleigh man always stayed overnight at whatever home he happened to be visiting when darkness fell. In return he would give the lady of the house some of his products.

The travelling salesmen of that era were not merely peddlers; they were often the only link with the outside world. So an overnight stay would allow the family to catch up on the news of the area and affairs in the world.

Bob Johnson was really missed, and people will always remember the excitement that his visits brought to their rather drab existence.

PUTTING UP ICE

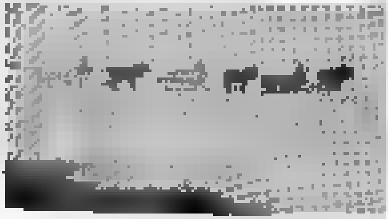
In the days before electricity, the only way to keep food cool in the summer was to lay in a supply of ice during the winter.

Bill Glover and Ken Williams with their ice tongs and saw, ready to cut a hole in the ice to saw blocks.

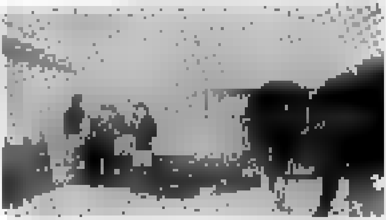
Bill Glover, Ken Williams

Jack Greenwood, putting up ice

Putting up ice in 1938 at Pahl's mine. Bill Glover, W. R. Greenwood, Carl Pahl, Dave Temple, Ken Williams



Putting up ice, 1939. Bill Glover, Carl Pahl, Sid Grimes



Harvesting a load of ice. Lorne, Bill, Edwin and Margaret Wright.

The blocks were hauled onto the ice, loaded into sleigh boxes and taken to the farm, where they were stored in an ice well, or in a building, well covered with straw for insulation.

If the ice was carefully stored, it would last throughout the following summer.

THE LITTLE HEN OF THE PRAIRIE

By Blanche Johnston

Remember when farm wives tried to raise chickens for farm use and a little pin money? Sometimes it happened quite by accident. If a hen hid her nest and came out a few weeks later trailing a brood of chicks.

The more methodical housewife took the broody hens from the nests, set them in apple boxes on fifteen or sixteen eggs each, and locked them in some dark building. They were given feed and water and watched carefully. A setting hen turns her eggs, and her body moisture provides the humidity necessary for good hatching. After a week or so the eggs could be tested for fertility by shaking them or holding them up to a strong light.

If all went well, the little chicks would break their way out of the shell in about three weeks. They were fed hard-boiled eggs, chopped up, until they could eat grain. The hen would take her brood on excursions around the farmyard, becoming very excited when she found a tasty morsel for them. A manure pile was a great place for them to scratch in.

At night the hen would go to shelter and settle down, with the young chicks safely hidden under her. The growing period was not without its dangers. Mortality rate was high if the farm wife did not keep a watchful eye out for hawks, coyotes, badgers, skunks, or even the occasional cat. The watering trough, rain and hailstorms were additional hazards. If the chicks survived, the housewife had done her job well.

Predominate breeds were Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, White Wyandottes, Buff Orpingtons and Dominiques. Today we would call them a general purpose bird. They laid fairly well, and were good meat birds. To reduce inbreeding, neighbors would exchange roosters, a practice which produced some very colorful birds indeed.

In later years incubators became more common, but these involved work too. The temperature had to be kept regulated and the eggs turned by hand and sprinkled with water several times a day. When the chicks hatched, many people who did not have brooder houses kept them penned under the cook stove for a couple of weeks. As they got older, they would be put outside in a pen during the day, and gathered in again in the evening. One couldn't wait too late to gather them up or they would get cold, bunch up and smother.

The care necessary to raise chickens put the housewife and her flock on close terms. Each woman had some ingenious method of calling her chickens for feed or to shut them in. One woman made a pet of a young rooster which she called Johnny. One evening she called him but he did not come. That was when she remembered that he was in the frying pan!

CHAPTER XII

DO YOU REMEMBER?

. . . an Endiang ball game at which the Scapa left fielder was accused of carrying an extra ball in his pocket?

. . . the time that Wes Howery Sr. pitched a nine inning ball game wearing a heavy overcoat?

. . . the time Jack Temple said "Give me a catcher, a first baseman, and this center fielder and we will beat you guys?"

. . . when Eddie Graham studied the rule book every Sunday morning before a ball game?

. . . when the managers of the two local ball teams came to blows on July first at Scapa?

. . . the time Eddie Graham chased Reinhardt Welch from third base to home plate to make the winning run?

. . . when the elastic broke on the bloomers of one of the girls at a Garden Plain basketball game?

. . . when baseball suits for the Clear Lake ball team were made by the wives of the players at the home of C. L. Stillington?

. . . when Charlie Hocket rode a bucking horse at Garden Plain picnic and pulled leather?

. . . when Charlie Johnson Sr. always hauled the brush for the roof of the booth at Clear Lake picnics?

. . . when Johnnie Stewart's wooden leg creaked with every step, as he gave a whole package of Rawleigh's gum to each child?

. . . two trustees who exchanged blows at a school board meeting?

. . . what it felt like when the seat of the two-holer was covered with frost on a January morning?

. . . when a gentleman from Garden Plain made for the door after the store keeper had traded the peppermint jar for a jar of mothballs on his counter. He also would cut the ends off the bananas before he would allow the store keeper to weigh them?

. . . when Fred Blaxall sang "Slap Dab, Slap Dab," and "When They Broke the Bank of Monte Carlo?"

. . . when Mr. Josley Olsen at sixty-eight years of age in 1924 missed only one trip in eight years, when he drove the mail from Castor to Garden Plain and Fertility?

. . . when Hugh Campbell had a different humorous story to tell at every gathering he attended?

. . . when John Vandenberg, Buchan teacher, was champion checker player of Alberta?

. . . when 2% beer was sold at picnics, some called it "Silver Spray," others had a different name for it.

CHAPTER XIII

CHURCH SERVICES

By Mrs. E. Grove

In the early years church services and Sunday school were held at many points in the country, which gave everyone a chance to attend without having to travel too many miles.

Presbyterian services were held from May, 1910, to 1912 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hannah. The first service was led by Mr. J. T. Warwick, a student appointed to the Copeville Mission Field by the Home Missions Committee. His Text was "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." Genesis 32:26.

Among the many ministers who held services at the country schools were Rev. Tanahill, Rev. McNeil, Rev. Darby, Rev. Hanley, Rev. Gourley, Rev. W. G. Shaw, and students M. D. Oliver, Mr. Walker, Mr. Farquerson, and others.

Church of Christ services and Sunday School were started in the Garden Plain area in 1913, and held in the homes of the Livingstone and Unsworth families.

In 1948 Rev. and Mrs. Fred Pahl held summer Bible schools in schoolhouses

around the area, and had a Bible school picnic at the Gaugler farm buildings to complete the summer session.

Margaretta Nelson, who taught Wiese school in the early Thirties, had some Salvation Army training and held church and Sunday school services. After she left the district she went back to Salvation Army work and spent some time as a missionary in Africa.

Netherby Sunday School - 1913. Back Row: Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Miss L. A. MacDonald, Miss M. Fisher, Lizzie Caruthers, Lily Watson, Frances Lewis, Mrs. Corry Sr., Frank Sturgess, Mrs. Tom Waugh, Lena Sturgess, Tommy Watson, John Waugh, Reg Waugh, Mrs. W. Wright Sr. Front Row: Jim and Herb Taylor, Mary Waugh, Iona Wright, Dolly and Gerty Sturgess

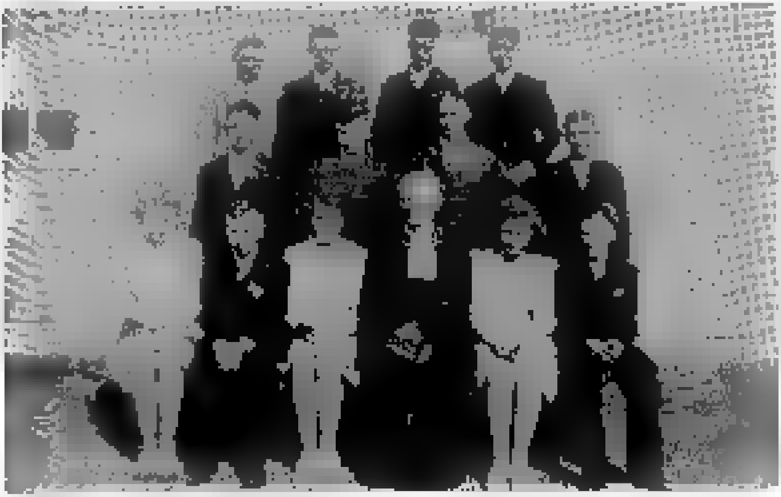
1952 - Sunday School at home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson. Back Row: Inez, Sandra, Gordon, Dennis Mattis. Others: Marilyn and Mabel Ironside, Hope and Fraser Wilson, Rosemary Mattis, Donald, Stephen, Brian Greenway, Miller boys.

Father La Conte and Father O'Halloran of Castor conducted masses at Garden Plain hall and at Corinne School.

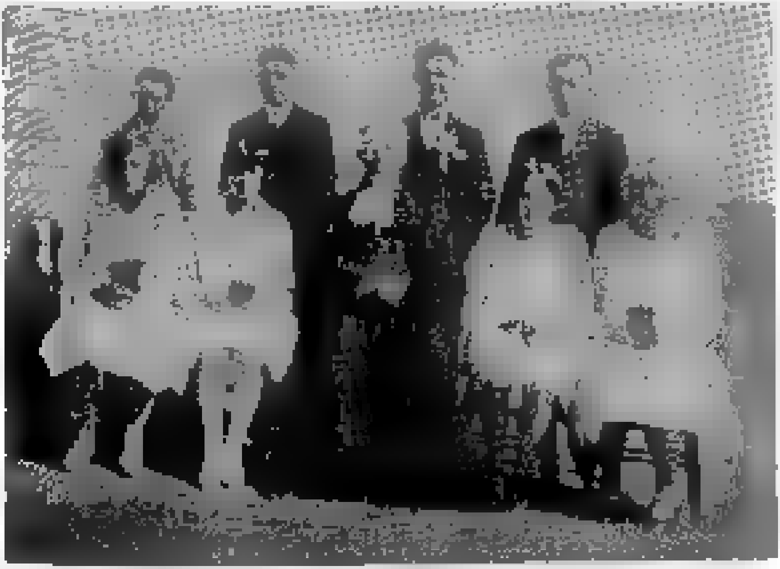
Catholic Church services were held at the Scapa hall by Father Harnett. In the 1940's a small building was moved into the village of Scapa to be used as a church.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church was opened in 1921, south-west of Scapa. Services have been held there since that time, and many former members of the

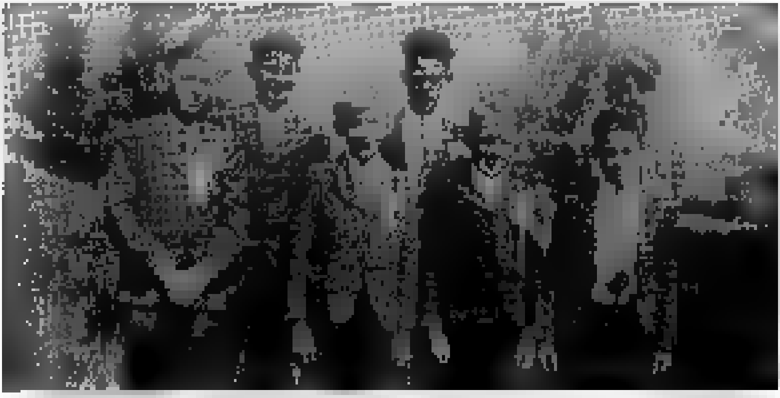
congregation are buried in the little cemetery which adjoins the church. To celebrate their golden jubilee, special anniversary services were held on August 1, 1971, and many oldtimers returned for the occasion. During the picnic in the afternoon many old acquaintances were renewed.



Pastor John Abs and Confirmation Class of November, 1943. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa. The Confirmands: Samuel, Christ and Reinhold Hintz, Nelson Annas, Reinhardt Wasch, Ewald Ottenstadter, Henry Hilt, Archie Diege, Bernard Kading, Art Mathes, Katie Glubrecht, Emma Ruprecht, Pauline Hein.



The Rev. Henry Betsch and Confirmation Class of 1928. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa. Back Row: Ruth Hein, Gottfried Ruprecht, Herman Schultz, William Storch. Front Row: Elna or Ida Wasch, Mary Schultz, Elizabeth Betsch, Caroline Gluberg.



Confirmation Class, [illegible] Catholic Church. Back Row: Herb Wimmer, Philip Brunner, Leo Wiens, Alloys Brunner. Front Row: Alfred Brunner, Ken Fassler, unknown.

Sunday School Group taken at Sevor School - 1924. The visiting minister was Rev. Green.

Netherby School also served as a church, and many Sunday school, church and funeral services were held there. Land adjoining the school grounds was donated for a cemetery in 1911; the first grave was that of William Lewis.

The following account of the history of the Anglican Church in the area was compiled by Mrs. E. Hanson:

In 1913 Rev. H. E. Scalton left Castor by saddlehorse to survey the area between the CPR line to the north and the CNR to the south, and decided to build a Mission House at Hartshorn, near the present hamlet of Byemoor. The first buildings were destroyed by a severe hailstorm, were rebuilt and served until 1920, when they burned to the ground during Rev. Scalton's absence. Once again it was rebuilt.

It was from this centre that Rev. Scalton came to conduct services in the Netherby and Garden Plain areas. Services were held once a month. He also visited the sick, and performed weddings, burials and baptisms. He served the

area for twenty-five years. He often married young people whom he remembered holding in his arms for baptism.

The beautifully carved oak altar that travelled with him for many thousands of miles folded up into the space of a suitcase and contained all that is necessary for the celebration of sacraments, including silk robes, vases, cross and candlesticks, altar vessels and a portable font. This altar converted many an out-of-way spot into a Sanctuary of God.

Memories of the Garden Plain area are recalled by a former minister in the area, J. Mayne:

In May, 1923, I was appointed to the Garden Plain Mission Field. Conditions were dry, but with western optimism the fields were seeded. On Sunday, May 27, as I was going to my morning service, the rain started. A nearby farmer, Don Cameron, called me to take shelter in his home. After about twenty minutes the rain stopped, but by then the roads were too muddy for my bicycle, so Mr. Cameron offered me his horse to ride the remaining four miles. It was raining again when I reached the school where the service was to be held, but there was no one there. I returned to the farm. The rain lasted all day and I stayed till morning. Mr. Cameron was a Soldier Settlement Board man from Toronto, and had been five years in the area. This was the first rain he had seen in Alberta. He moved from one window to another saying, "This is great!"

The result of the rain was a bumper crop. I knew that help would be scarce and if I didn't do something I would be called a lazy preacher. I was not that. I got work on a farm and stooked barley, wheat and oats for five weeks. I hadn't stooked for many years and found the partly hailed barley hard work, and the heavy wheat and oat crops were not easy. My last stooking there was a twenty-four acre oat crop which took four days to do. The next spring the owner, Frank Kennedy, told me that he had threshed over twenty-four hundred bushels of oats from it. No wonder it took four days to stook!

I carried on Sunday services as usual. There was no Sunday work in the fields and congregations kept up very well. I can call my summer at Garden Plain a great experience.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth supplied the following information regarding Rev. Martin Holdom. He was a young Anglican minister who was stationed in Castor about 1910. A young nurse who worked in Castor asked him if he would ride to the present townsite of Hanna in January, to marry her to Jim Parker. He consented and set out the day before the wedding, wearing a fur cap, sheepskin coat, chaps and felt boots, and riding a mare which he said could go about eight miles an hour all day. It was fifty miles to the ranch, so he set out early in the morning, in twenty below weather with a breeze. He stopped at Garden Plain for dinner, but darkness fell before he reached the ranch and he missed the trail. He followed a fence for some time until he found a gate and eventually arrived at his destination.

The next day he performed the ceremony and rode the fifty miles back to Castor.

The homesteaders were not the only ones who braved hardships and danger when the west was being settled.

Mrs. Crowe recalled Rev. Scalion: "A very colorful person of that era was Rev. Scalion . . . It was he who married Aubrey and me. Mr. Scalion drove a team of horses and a cutter in winter, and weather permitting, an old car. He was constantly getting lost, stuck or broken down and was usually late for services, but he arrived sometime. He was a dedicated, well-loved man, and gave of himself and his worldly goods to the mission he served."

Hanna Herald, February 26, 1925: It is intended to hold a radio church service

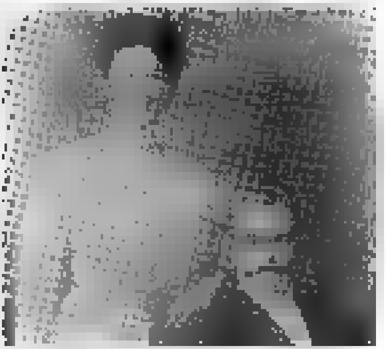
in the Crow Hill school house in the near future. Any interested people should see Mr. C. A. Hill.

Later reports in the Herald indicate that the first service was very successful, and many such were held subsequently. One of these was an Easter service.

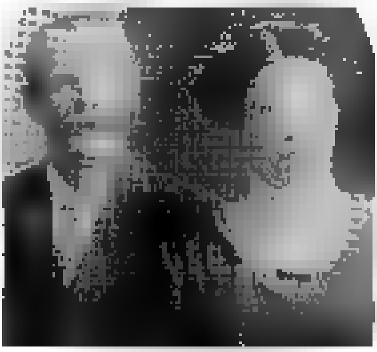
WEDDINGS

1905 — Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]

1908 — Mr. [illegible] Shomberg.



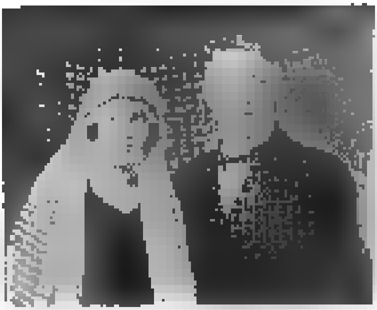
1909 — Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]



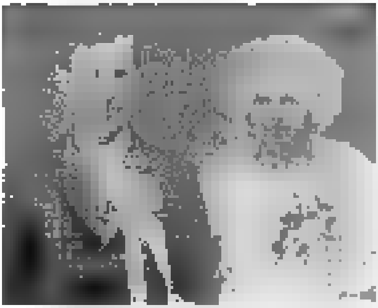
[illegible]

1916 — Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hansen.

1918 — Mr. and Mrs. George Wright.



1926 — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hassel



1924 - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brunner.

CHAPTER XIV

ORGANIZATIONS

MUSICIANS OF HANNA NORTH

By Ellen Ironside

Anyone who could play an instrument in the early days was really an asset to the district for without some form of music there could be no dancing.

Among the very early musicians were, Mr. Jack Lepard, (an uncle of Mrs. Bechie Chidley), Clyde Wooden, Mr. Charlie Halverson and Jack Campbell as well as the Richardson brothers.

In 1912 the Garden Plain Hall was built and one of the first orchestras to play there included Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hamelrich, Al Bowman, Jack Leicht, with Harry Wiese and Bill Sim taking part at different times.

Mr. and Mrs. Leech played for the first of July picnics at the Garden Plain Hall. They were from Castor where Mr. Leech owned the Pekin Theatre. They would bring extra musicians down as he taught music in Castor and it was an opportunity for his pupils to practise!

Roy Embree played for dances during this period also, accompanied by Bill Sim. He is well known as an old-time fiddler by everyone and down through the years has played with Gottfried Glubrecht, Marion (Taylor) Fox and George Gwin as well as many others.

In the Lake Thelma district, George Vigen on violin, Alfred Anderson on bass violin and Ingwell Vigen on guitar made a harmonious trio.

Farther east, the Johnson brothers played for dances. Their father was the Rawleigh dealer at Whatcheer.

In 1922 George Unsworth and his brother Bob played for many dances. Through the years till George left Garden Plain he played for dozens of dances from Spondin to Endiang and south to Wiese and Anneshelm and eastward to Centre Point. He was accompanied by Bill Sim on piano and at times by Joe Fielding on trumpet. Walter Jensen, Bennie Weller, Bob Unsworth and George Jr. were on hand at various times to provide music for wedding dances, barn dances and at house parties.

In 1923 Tiff Ironside and his sister Bella Cooper on violin accompanied by Ed Berg on guitar played many peppy tunes. Other names to remember at this time were Ben Sens on violin, Thorcliffe Wangeness on guitar and Mr. Chappell. Then came Thorcliffe Bergum, Harry Wiese, Joe and Mac Lepard, Elsche Chidley and Jim Cuthbert followed by Butch and Will Ironside.

Around 1936 Mr. and Mrs. Benson played drums and piano with Reg

Wismore on violin. At this time Bill McLaren and Bob Rehill were called upon to supply music.

By 1945 a five piece band had started playing for dances in the district with Fred Johnston on violin, Herb Wimmer playing accordion, "Shorty" Glubrecht on banjo, Jack McLaren on piano and Bud Hanson on drums. When Jack left to teach elsewhere, Betty Herold replaced him, then later she left to be replaced by Elsie Ironside. When Shorty left Hanna, George Gwin took his place and the band played together for quite a few years.

Music was supplied north of Hanna in the late thirties by Sam Bell, his daughter Mrs. Smart and his granddaughter Helen Smart. George Gwin was on hand to play banjo or guitar.

Harry and Winnifred Parker, George Gwin and Bill Curtis played for dances at Wiese, Alps, Meadowlands and elsewhere. Later, Harry and his wife, Marion teamed up to provide good music for dancing.

Pat and Stuart McRae, Bill Burt and Bud Hansen played for dances at Garden Plain school and at Scapa also.

Harry Zimmerman came down from Castor to play violin at the Garden Plain Hall and Mrs. Harry Saar from Spondin gave of her talent also.

In later years Shirley Lumsden, Alex Garrow, Herb Pfahl, Joe Martin, Albert Benco, Danny Gall and Ben Childley have given of their talents to supply music for dancing.

My apologies to those whose names I have missed, or for errors in dates and spelling.

GARDEN PLAIN LOCAL U.F.A. NO. 310

By Fred Johnston

At a joint meeting held in Edmonton [illegible] September [illegible] 1909, the Alberta Farmers Association and the Canadian Society of Equity amalgamated to form the United Farmers of Alberta. It was not till 1914 that the Union was incorporated.

The Garden Plain local was formed in August of 1911 at a meeting at Garden Plain store and post office with T. A. Kane, president, John Graham, vice-president and T. F. Ironside, secretary-treasurer. Directors were: John Hutchinson, Martin Gulseth, Fred Stickney, George Gibb, Martin Siverson and Bob Livingstone.

Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall - 1935. Left to Right: Laughlin Campbell, Steven Wagner, George Campbell, Albert Kennedy, Olaf Larson, Martin Siverson, Frank Kennedy, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charles Lohrman, Bill Vesche, Bob Livingstone, Bill Collins, Hugh McRae, Charlie Blamhead (kneeling).

At first they met at local farm homes and at the Buchan, Corinne and Netherby schools, but the members wished to have a meeting place of their own

and so a committee was formed. They chose a site at the Diamond ranch, Donald Cattanach's homestead, to erect the hall. All materials were freighted from Castor. On February 21, 1914 work commenced on the hall and it was completed in time for the first meeting to be held there on March 7. Later on there was talk of moving it to a more permanent location. In 1920 ten acres of land was purchased from the C.P.R. on NW-31-33-13 for $35.00 per acre. The hall was moved on July 7, 1920 to its present location. The kitchen was built in 1922. In 1945, with the co-operation of the district, a huge renovation project was undertaken. Monies received from dividends applied to purchases were put into the general fund for this job. The interior was lined with plaster board and the outside stuccoed with a porch added. Later a new floor was laid and a foundation poured. Electric lights were installed in 1954 and a propane heater in 1963. With aid from a Government Grant more renovations were done in 1975.

Through the years a variety of functions were held: dances, hard time, masquerade and benefit dances, card parties, box and pie socials, minstrel shows, debating contests, Burns nights, St. Patrick's and New Year's Eve celebrations, Christmas concerts, Chatauquas and showers. Everyone's favorite was the annual picnic which at times featured bucking contests. One incident pertaining to the picnic was a motion to sell beer. This was defeated. Ball games and the "Old Timers" picnics of the last few years are still very popular. And of course there were U.F.A. (Unifarm) meetings, ratepayer meetings and polling booths.

The Garden Plain Local for many years ordered and distributed many farm supplies for its members' needs. Such a list would include: barrels of formaldehyde, binder twine, car loads of posts and coal, barrels of machine oil, plow shares, flour, oatmeal, apples and even gopher poison. Through the years various trustees were elected to oversee the purchase and distribution of these items. Jack Corry held this position for many years.

Over the years hundreds of resolutions were directed to the proper authorities on varied matters. Some such resolutions were in regard to the war effort of 1914-18, the influenza epidemic of 1918, the need for more threshing machines in the district, the erection of rural telephone lines in 1922 and subsequent transfer from A.G.T. to farmers' mutuals. There were also resolutions regarding U.F.A.'s action when it was involved with politics.

Until Highway 36 was regraded and gravelled many resolutions were directed to Edmonton for its immediate construction. It was not till 1945 that construction commenced.

During the thirties a resolution directed to Dowling Lake R.M. was regarding release of land from abandoned farms. The Local was successful in petitioning for a Pool elevator at Garden Plain siding in 1938. In the late thirties the Local sponsored the local A.I.A. (Agricultural Improvement Association). Little Round Lake U.F.A. amalgamated with the Garden Plain local in 1938.

At one time or other almost everyone in the area belonged to the U.F.A. A membership of fifty to sixty was quite common. Many people served the Local faithfully for years. It would not be amiss to mention just a few: Jack Corry, Jack Campbell, Bill Harvey, Frank Kennedy, Pete Jensen, J.R. Taylor, Rudy Moore, Charlie Noyce, W. R. Storch, Fred Johnston and Sandy Donaldson. There were numerous presidents but secretary-treasurer F. W. Johnston held that position for twenty-eight years and Hugh Campbell had it for eighteen years. Today our Unifarm Local 113-32 is still active with Louis Unsworth as president and Ed Byron as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Garden Plain Community Club, registered under the Friendly Societies Act, now takes care of the needs of the Hall. Our hope is that the Garden Plain Hall

will serve the needs of the people for years to come.

This short history is gleaned from the minute books and materials preserved by the Local.

GARDEN PLAIN THRESHERS

By Fred Johnston

In 1923, eight farmers organized a co-operative called "Garden Plain Threshers." Members were: Fred Blaxhall, Ken Bryanton, Russel Chidley, George Forster, Pete Jensen, Fred Johnston, Steve Wagner and George Wright. George Forster was president for the first two years and Fred Johnston for the remaining years. Fred Blakhall was secretary-treasurer at a salary of $25.00 per annum.

Some of the men looked at an all-steel Case outfit. The Case tractor used kerosene, the 28" steel separator was small enough to require only six or eight teams to operate it. However, they agreed to purchase a Sawyer-Massey from Mockett of Hanna. As events later proved, this was an acknowledged mistake.

The more expensive Sawyer-Massey was something else again! The steamer had to have a boiler inspection every year, required an engineer, a coal hauler and a tankee to keep it going. The steamer was a used one but in good shape. The thresher had a wooden body, a 32" cylinder and required eight teams and two field pitchers to keep it going, when it went.

None of the owners really understood the mechanics of threshing. Mostly through inexperience, some of the jobs done were pitiful. More chaff than grain in the bin, or too much grain thrown over. Eventually, the co-op had to hire a separator man. Sandy Hills, Morgan and Lorne Hannah were hired different years. Even at that, the machine would break down at the most inopportune time, necessitating a trip to town, usually with a team. Very few had cars to make a hurried trip for repairs. Jim Hannah was engineer one year, but Pete Jensen was usually the engineer.

Coal at two dollars per ton was hauled from local mines. The water from Pete Jensen's well was used because it was more suitable for the boiler. Average wages through the years were seven to eight dollars per day for the engineer, ten dollars for the separator man and teamsters. Bundle, coal and water haulers got four to seven dollars per day. Threshing charges were fourteen cents for wheat, twelve cents for barley and ten cents for oats. Meals were paid for at the rate of thirty-five cents per meal.

1923 was the year of the bumper crop, 1924 poor, 1925 good, 1927 hailed out, 1926 damp and tough, 1928 no crop. By this time farm prices had declined rapidly compared to prices after World War 1.

At the time of purchase the outfit cost $4,500.00 but by 1929 the co-op still owed almost the same amount. Miss a payment or two, add interest and compound interest; it was hopeless! About 1936, the remaining few members went through debt adjustment, sold the boiler to the Memorial Hall, Hanna, as a heating unit and were clear of the debt.

As of December, 1976, Pete Jensen is the only surviving member of the Garden Plain Threshers.

RHYMES OF A THRESHERMAN

By J. W. Taylor

In Sunny Alberta, the year twenty-five,
I hired for the threshing to keep things alive
To a place north of Hanna, they call Garden Plain
Where the fields are all yellow with plump, golden grain.

So I hired with a rig, a so–called Syndicate,
The farmers who made it comprised number eight,
The man at the head was a fellow called Fred,
And when he bawled you out, you wished you were dead!

The Engineer was a chap called Pete
And when he moved the engine, it sure was some feat,
With the crashing of gears and the hissing of steam
And a bill for repairs was soon on the scene.

The Separator man was a fellow from Sweden,
With a look on his face like the Garden of Eden,
With a pair of pliers and a greasy oil can,
He kept up his end as long as she ran.

Johnston, the farmer, a man from B.C.
As nice a young man as you would e'er wish to see;
But the weeds and the worms from his crop took a toll
And sadly depleted his fat pocket roll.

Our crack bundle man was a fellow called Steve,
The first to begin and the last to leave,
While his wonderful knowledge and visions afar
Have earned for him, a large golden star.

The coal man went by the name of Ken,
His time of arrival you always knew when,
But, boys, oh boys, he was full of old Nick,
And by his line of talk he was some Bolshevik.

George Wright was the name of the Tanky,
And he was surely lean and lanky,
And unless he slept in on a frosty morn,
He was Wright, alright, as sure as you're born.

The only one who had a car,
And made trips both near and far,
Was little George Forster, a happy Papa,
But the bumps we got on his farm
Made a lasting impression far from calm.

The outside men were a tough looking bunch,
Hungry for dinner and worse for lunch
But they stayed on the job and looked for the day,
They could pack their valises and draw their back pay.

GARDEN PLAIN A.I.A.

By Fred Johnston

A federally-sponsored organization called the Agricultural Improvement Association was formed under the auspices of the local U.F.A. group about 1935. Many of the members of the executive of the local U.F.A. were also on the A.I.A. directorate. The A.I.A. was a movement to help farmers and needed the co-operation of the farmers to succeed. The association was responsible for the distribution of Sweet Clover, Wheat grass, Brome grass, potato and Fall Rye seed. The government provided trees, accompanied by instructions as how they should be planted; and aided any farmer wishing to put in a stock watering dam, dugout.

or small irrigation scheme. Fruit trees and bushes were also supplied to be irrigated from these dugouts.

The Garden Plain and Hanna Locals of the A.I.A., in co-operation with the Neutral Hills Livestock Association and the Goose Lake Livestock Association, sponsored the sale of livestock by public auction at the local Hanna stock yards. A committee was set up to look after the details such as listings, advertising, hauling and selling. With assistance from the Provincial government a policy of distributing herd sires was also undertaken. One year, with the assistance of the local D.A. and federal engineer, a field day was held, demonstrating the setting of tiller seeders for ease of draft and coverage. The Regional Conference of A.I.A. locals was hosted by the Lethbridge Experimental Farms at Lethbridge. The Local, having outlived its usefulness, was disbanded about 1943. The P.F.R.A. took over some of the projects initiated by the A.I.A.

GARDEN PLAIN JUNIOR GRAIN CLUB

By Fred Johnston

The Junior Grain Club was formed in the spring of 1940 under the auspices of the local U.F.A., and sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool. There were approximately twelve members, farm boys from the area from the age of fifteen to twenty. Each received five bushels of registered Marquis wheat. The grain was seeded on a summer fallowed plot isolated from other wheat varieties. A field day was arranged when all plots were inspected. Through arrangements made by Ken Walker, D.A. of Youngstown, another field day was held at the sub-experimental farm of Casey Pals of Castor.

Judging of the threshed samples was done in the Garden Plain Hall in November. Who won the competition and the trip to Olds has long been forgotten. The Club was in operation for that year only; however the use of this foundation seed in following years resulted in a decided improvement in yield.

SULLIVAN LAKE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

By Fred Johnston

On February 11, 1952, W. L. Marsh, Rural Supervisor of Canadian Utilities, Drumheller addressed a meeting of interested farmers in the Scapa Hall. His discussion centered around the procedures involved in setting up a Rural Electrification Association. The chairman for the meeting, Jack Corry asked for a show of hands and all who were present agreed that an R.E.A. should be formed.

The board of directors included Jack Corry, chairman; Ernest Haessel, vice chairman; and Fred Miller, Charlie Lohrmann, Manley Viste, Stewart McRae and Albert Gadarneau. Fred Johnston was secretary-treasurer. W. R. Storch's suggestion of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. as the name of the association was approved. The directors, in a canvass blitz, successfully signed some fifty subscribers in a month's time. On October 1, 1952, the Master Contract between Canadian Utilities and Sullivan Lake R.E.A. was signed. As the Association was required by Co-op Activities Branch to pay half cash on the signing of the contract, the Provincial Government loaned the Association the balance. The money was to be repaid in ten yearly installments, plus no more than three and a half percent interest. The first payment was for $36,370.06.

Meanwhile a crew were busily surveying the actual route and sometime during July 1952 the contract for actual construction was let, with Harkness Construction of Calgary as the successful bidder. The members were also busy wiring or rewiring their farmsteads for the actual turning on of the power by Christmas 1952.

In 1954 the Spondin branch was constructed, nearly doubling the number of subscribers, bringing the total to some one hundred and thirty users of power. As the times changed, there was a drop in the numbers due to one farmer buying out another, and other reasons; and now the Association has approximately eighty customers.

The Sullivan Lake R.E.A. has always been a member of the Alberta Union of R.E.A.'s. The directorship has changed through the years; many of the original directors are no longer with us.

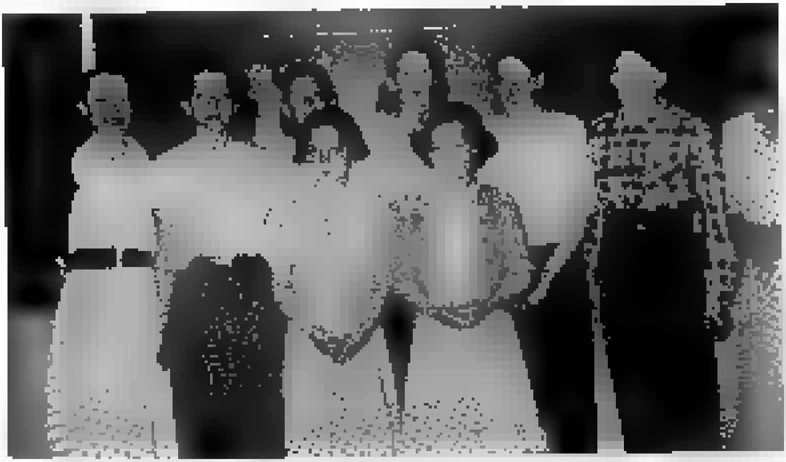
The board of directors of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. for 1977 are: Albert Storch, chairman; Erbin Grove, vice-chairman; Herb Pfahl, W. L. Storch, Harold Strandberg, Henry Nielson and Bob Rahill. Rayford Johnston is secretary-treasurer.

NETHERBY GIRLS 4-H; 1953-54

By Mrs. George Standing Jr.

In the fall of 1953 the first 4-H group organized in the Netherby District, consisted of the following girls (who had to be the age of twelve years or close to it): Annabelle Haessel, Janet Standing, Inza Mattis, Sandra Mattis, Muriel Strandberg, Lois Miller and Verna Tetz. The Club leader was Mrs. Battryn, school teacher at Netherby; the assistant leaders were Mrs. George Standing Jr., and Miss Lorraine Shatz, the Hanna Home Economist.

During the fall and winter the girls learned the 4-H pledge and how to conduct the meetings, prepared handicrafts and project books, studied and practised etiquette, listened to speakers and gave speeches; and served tea to their mothers



Netherby Girls 4-H - 1954. Back Row: Mrs. George Standing Jr., Annabelle Haessel, Inza Mattis, Lois Miller, Sandra Mattis, Verna Tetz, Mrs. Ernestine Battryn. Front Row. Muriel Strandberg, Janet Standing.

On May 19, 1954 they held their first Achievement Day. Miss Lorraine Shatz judged their work and the results were as follows: Lois Miller won first but was too young to attend Club Week. Annabelle Haessel was Efficiency winner. Inza Mattis was the alternate winner, Lois Miller received the T. Eaton award. Annabelle Haessel was unable to attend club week at Olds, due to a holiday trip with her parents to Peace River, so Inza Maltbe became the first girl from our group to attend Club Week at Olds.

The Efficiency winner must be fourteen years of age at the time of the Achievement Day. Expenses involved in sending the Efficiency winner to Club Week are borne by the Department of Agriculture or another sponsoring organization.

A Garden Club was their project for the spring and summer of 1954. The President was Lois Miller, Secretary, Annabelle Hassel. On July 28, 1954 they had their garden tour and they were judged by Mr. Ness, Wheat Pool Representative, and Miss Lorraine Shatz. On August 24, their Achievement Day was held at Netherby. The results were: Annabelle Hassel, first with seventy-nine percent and Janet Standing runner up, who was too young. Annabelle attended Club Week at Olds in 1956.

During the summer of 1954, Janet Standing, Inza Maltbe and Annabelle Hassel attended 4-H camp at Bar Harbour for one week with leaders Miss Lorraine Shatz and Mr. Ness and assistants and girls from other groups. The girls were all happy with the training and experience they received in 4-H; but as some of the girls left to attend school elsewhere, the group was disbanded.

DUNDEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Doreen Rehill

Knowing the need for a Ladies Group in our area north of Hanna, Mrs. George Wright, Convener of the Acadia Constituency, asked some of the ladies of the district to meet at the home of Mrs. Robert Rehill on the afternoon of June 18, 1958. Seven interested women joined the Institute at the fee of twenty-five cents per member: Mrs. Rayford Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Roderick Standing, Mrs. Clifford Corry, Mrs. Wilf Lumsden, Mrs. Helen Standing and Mrs. Robert Rehill. The name of our Branch was decided upon and sent to Edmonton for approval. We received our Charter by registered mail later on, from that day we were legally formed and named The Dundee Women's Institute.

Our first President was Mrs. Rehill, secretary was Mrs. Johnston, Vice-President was Mrs. George Standing. We have held regular meetings once a month ever since we organized. We have had as many as twenty-two members, but now are only ten of whom three are charter members, Evelyn Standing, Eileen Standing and Doreen Rehill. We held our meetings for several years in Dundee School, and when it was sold to Mr. Halverson for use on his farm, we moved our meeting place to Netherby School. After a few more years our membership decreased so we could accommodate the group in our homes, which was more convenient for our hostess of the month. At one meeting there were twelve ladies present, with thirteen pre-schoolers to add liveliness to our meetings.

At our meetings we have birthday gifts, tea prizes or amusing roll calls, to try to hold the interest of our members. Our Christmas Party has always been the highlight of our year. We used to hold them in the school to entertain the non-members with music, poems and the exchange of small gifts. Now we are a smaller group, we have a Christmas dinner in a member's home. We usually take a picture of the group which is amusing to look back at after a few years have rolled by. We still exchange gifts and each member is responsible for an entertaining item for our program. At our Christmas meeting we have a very short business session and pay our annual dues which are now three dollars per member.

Our Pioneer Picnic has been held every July since we organized in 1958, and it has now become very popular. People travel miles to meet their old friends at the Garden Plain Hall. Our W.I. Ladies usually try to present a program and we always serve tea in the hall, to those who wish to be our guests. The visitors always compliment us for our good day. The last few years we have had a Strawberry Tea in June to honour the Pioneer ladies of the district. We always have a very good turnout to enjoy the hospitality of our hostess, Mrs. Fred Johnston, who has always opened her home to us on that day.

In 1968 we published the Garden Plain Story, a history of the district and the pioneer families who lived there.

Dundee Women's Institute - 1973 - 15th Anniversary: Mrs. W. L. Staich, Mrs. Alex Wolfert, Mrs. Erwin Stone, Mrs. Fred Standing, Mrs. R. J. Rehill, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Francis Unsworth, Mrs. F. W. Johnston

The serious business of our group is to work for home and country. We have a hospital committee to send cards and gifts to the hospitalized neighbours of the district. We have helped to plan bridal showers; served lunch at auction sales in our district, usually have several card parties a year; and have sponsored pot luck suppers. We are very active in attending our own W.I. conference and annual conventions, held at different places in Alberta. We all enjoy them and always bring back valuable information to use in our own district.

We are a small group, but really enjoy every meeting and one another's company. We try hard to live up to our W.I. Creed standards; we feel we can be very proud of what our local Dundee Women's Institute has accomplished.

SNOW PLOWING

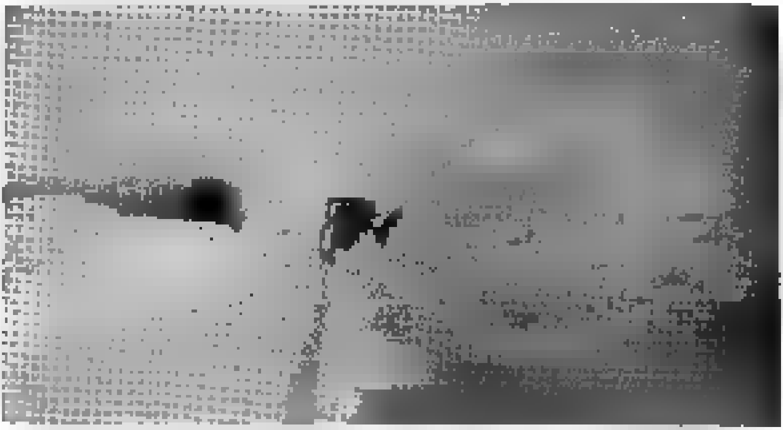
By Fred Nill

The first snowplow associations were formed about 1955 and carried on until 1964 when the Special Areas began plowing roads. Each member of the association paid from five to ten dollars each year, the amount varying with the amount of snow to be moved. The Special Areas matched this money to a maximum of five hundred dollars.

Six associations were formed, Anneheim, Chain Lakes, Scapa West, Hudson Bay, Wiese and Garden Plain.

The Anneheim and Chain Lakes plows were operated by Ervin Schultz.

Albert Bass, Irvin Bossert, and Ken Robertson. The Hudson Bay and Wi associations hired Feschner, Kirby, Grover or Gaugler to plow their roads with a bulldozer mounted on a cat. The Garden Plain association plow was driven by Albert Storch. The Scapa West plow was driven by each of the members in turn, using their own tractors to operate it.



Albert Storch with snow plower on front of Case Tractor

School bus roads were the first to be opened after a storm; then the others were plowed out. The wage for snow plow operators was four dollars an hour, to a maximum of one hundred and twenty-five hours.

RURAL TELEPHONE LINES

The first rural phone lines were built in the area north of Hanna in 1921 and 1922. During the depression years many farmers were forced to do without this convenience; with fewer subscribers on each line and the resulting lower income, the government had difficulty keeping the lines in repair. Eventually the government decided to discontinue being responsible for rural lines; at meetings held in February, 1935, residents of this area followed the path taken by all rural areas if they wished to have telephone service. They formed Mutual Telephone Companies, and bought what was left of the old government lines in their area. With very little capital, and volunteer labor, they built a line in their area and in to the nearest telephone exchange; in this case Hanna.

There were several Mutual Telephone Companies in the Hanna North Region.

Hanna North East Mutual The first chairman was Mr. Blain and Mr. Grimes was secretary. Members were S. Herring, W. Storch, J. Litke, B. Howery, A. Mattis, D. Mattis, A. Wilson, S. L. Grimes, E. Blain, G Thomas, J. Tratz, and H. Smith. Over the years a number of others joined.

One member on the circuit acted as central for anyone who had a barbed-wire phone. This person would take messages from the barbed-wire phone line and relay them over the main line; and periodically collect ten cents per call from the barbed-wire phone users. This amount was turned over to the Hanna North East Mutual to help pay their expenses.

A main trunk line came out of Hanna to the three mile corner, up the Castor trail to Garden Plain hall, and one mile west. This gave service to several mutuals.

and a representative of each formed the Board of Directors responsible for the trunk line. Each mutual company paid for pin space on the trunk line, according to the number of circuits each mutual had.

Shareholders paid from one dollar to a dollar and a half per month for phone service, excluding long distance calls. Occasionally a mutual would build up a little surplus, and then shareholders would have their phones rent free for a few months.

There were three circuits in this mutual, numbers seven, nine and eleven. Each had its own trouble shooter. In 1948 the line was extended further east to take in the Spondin district. The lines were rebuilt in 1960 in preparation for conversion to dial service the same year. In 1972 the lines were put underground and the government took over the operation of them. The old lines were torn down, the poles and wire sold, and the proceeds were turned over to the mutual for distribution among the shareholders.

The Garden Plain Mutual was formed on July 8, 1936. John Corry was elected President and Ralph Greenway Vice-President. Directors were C. W. Noyce, J. R. Hemstock and Mr. Donaldson. On a motion by R. Greenway, seconded by Eric Small, it was agreed that the secretary should not be called upon to work on the line. Shares costing $24.00 each were issued; the down payment was $4.50.

A meeting was called August 14, 1936, with representatives from the Meadowlands, Hanna North East, Scapa and Garden Plain Mutuals. One person from each mutual was chosen to act on the committee to look after the trunk line and collect pin money from each mutual. The men selected were Mr. Steeves, Mr. Storch, Mr. R. Unsworth and Ralph Greenway.

The [illegible] Mutual had thirteen subscribers and three renters. The same men served as officials of the mutual during its entire existence. They were President, Ted Quaschnick; Vice-President, George Fleck; Secretary-Treasurer, J. L. Boyd. Directors: Albert Hutton, Jack Leach, Henry Quaschnick. Jack Phibbs served as lineman for many years, followed by George Edwards.

The Dowling Mutual, or Line 14 as it was commonly called, was formed in 1936. Early records are not available but men who figured prominently in its formation were Jack Robertson, Manley Viste, Chris Viste, Harold Lund, Harry Wiese, and of course there were others.

Line 14 served a large area east and north from Dowling, extending west and north-west into the Chain Lakes district, and after 1960 to the Armesham district. With the advent of dial phones in 1962, Line 14 was split into three separate circuits with a total of over thirty subscribers.

Some of the presidents down through the years were Harry Wiese, Roger Doyle, Tom Pattison and Louis Wesch.

In 1965 Cellor Viste took over from Bill Grantham as Secretary, and served in that capacity until the mutual was dissolved when underground lines were built in 1974.

The Scapa Mutual, formed in 1936, paid the government one dollar per mile when they bought the old line from Garden Plain hall to Scapa. In 1940 the line was extended east to Louis Unsworth's and Henry Nelson's, and west to Fred Nill's. The Scapa Mutual had two lines, No. 15 and No. 16. Erben Grove acted as secretary for twenty-one years.

The Scapa South Mutual was formed at a meeting on August 20, 1940. President was Emanuel Erion, Vice-President, Stuart McRae, Secretary, Henry Ruhl; and directors were Fred Wesch, John Wimmer and Lyman Grove. The mutual obtained material for their line by buying from the C.N.R. the old telegraph

line from Scapa to Spondin. Pin space to the Hanna exchange was on the Dowling Mutual poles from Wiese school corner.

Original members were F. Haessel, E. Haessel, Ralph Gaugler, F. Welch, J. McRae, L. Grove, J. Wimmer, E. Erion, H. Ruhl, D. Ruhl, O. Pehl, J. Goodsmith, Ed Glubrecht, F. Brunner, W. Gaugler and J. Steinbrecker.

In 1968 Scapa South joined with Lines 14 and 17 to build a trunk line to Hanna in preparation for conversion to dial phones. The company was dissolved in April, 1973.

CHAPTER XV

WAR VETERANS OF HANNA NORTH

Compiled by Cliff Kern and Margaret Nelson

Lest we forget the brave men and women of "Hanna North" area who served in the Boer War, World War 1, and World War 11, we have researched names and pictures of same. Regretfully, some will be missed, not intentionally, but because of lack of information.

Some of these servicemen are homesteaders, former residents, present residents, and their sons and daughters. "Hanna North" had her heroes; some decorated for bravery, while others paid the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for King and country. May their memory linger in our hearts.

We pay tribute also to the Women's Divisions in World War II who served faithfully and well by the side of their soldier brothers.

THE BOYS OF THE MAPLE LEAF

Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to call of the Motherland the young Canadians came,
Eager to show their mettle, ready to shed their blood.
They bowed their neck to the collar and trained in the Salisbury Mud.
Shipped in the fulness of time, across to the other shore,
Heard a deep hum in the distance, the volley and thunder of war.

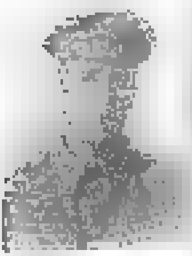
Fretted to get to the business, chafed for the firing line,
Forward with throbbing pulses, like pilgrims who near their shrine,
Spoiled for a fight and got it, lurid, merciless, red,
Trifled with death in the trenches, braved, battled and bled.
Then at a given order, gathered together and backed;
Not because they were bending, but to keep the line intact.
Four of their guns defenceless, left in the enemy's hand,
That was a bitter buffet, more than the boys could stand.

Back charged the men of the Maple, routed the jubilant Huns,
Captured a pack of Germans, and saved their precious guns,
Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to the call of the Motherland; the keen Canadians came,
Hurrah for the young Dominion, cheer them with heart and voice,
The maple shall never wither; brave Canadian boys.

Thomas Smeed.
The poet of the Plains.
June 9, 1915.

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I

(* those who were killed in action)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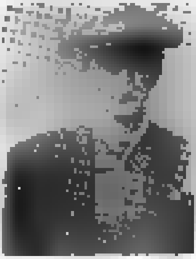
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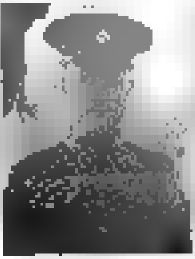
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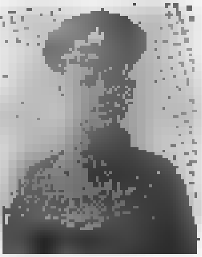
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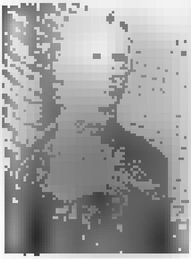
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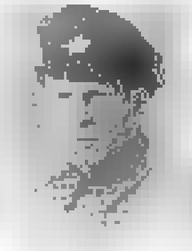
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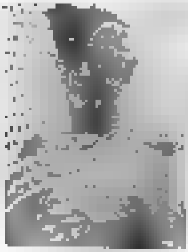
George Forster

Sid Grimes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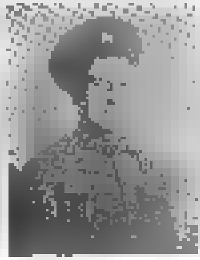
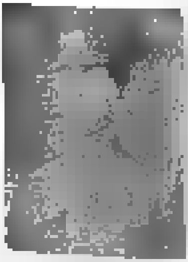
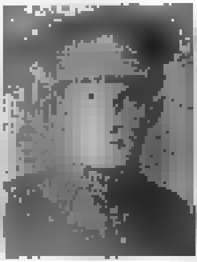

Ray Grantham

R. Hammersah

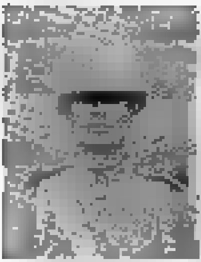
Tom Hough


Fred W. Johnston

John Knudson


M. G. Lepard

John Lepard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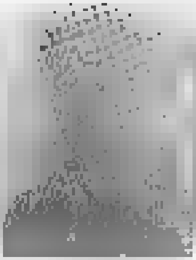
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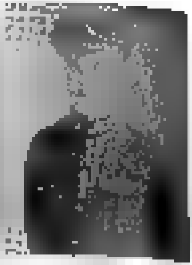
W. Pattinson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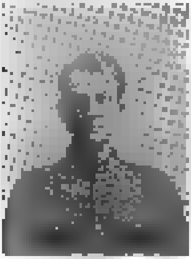
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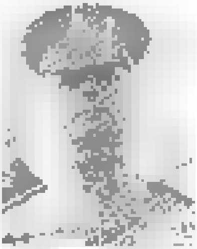
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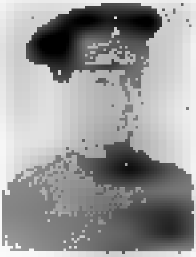
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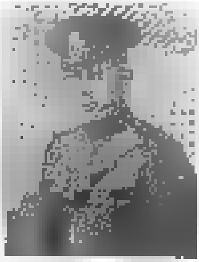
Len Taylor


R. J. Osworth

SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed in action)

Andy Alpaugh
Jim Boyd
Stan Boon *
Gibb Brown
Jack Bemore
David Bates
Edgar Burkholder
Fred Bottomly
Dan Campbell
George Crossfield
Donald Cameron
W. R. Curtis Sr.

Donald Campbell
Cyril Doyle
Lou Doyle
H. B. Dunn
Edgar Dean
Raymond Frederick
Ralph Gaegler
Jim Glover
John Glover
Andy Glover
Robert Gordon
Frank Hutton

Fred Haig *
Clyde Holbrook
Ernie Howe
Bert Jones
Curly Johnson
Scott Johnson
Joe Lidgett
Sydney Linley
Ed Loveday
Bob Livingston
J. B. McKenzie
Jack McEwan

Joe Moulding
Bill McLaren
Bill Mowatt
Allan McKinnie
Andrew Murdock
Mack McMillan
Stan Peake
R. S. Perry
Jimmy Ridell *
Willie Ridell *
Mike Rile
Joe Robinson

James Biddle
W. W. Ryan
Clarence Rooney
Bill Rutherford Sr
F. J. Sim

Bill Sinclair
Thomas Smith
Robert Smith
Milton Stuart
Neville Thomas

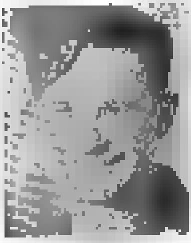
R. J. Taft *
Bill Waring
George Wright
Harry Wiese
Jimmy Wie

John Wilson
Melvin Walker
B. S. Wenbush
Charlie Wood *
Charlie Wigley Sr.

Art Wigley

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN WORLD WAR II

(* those who were killed in action)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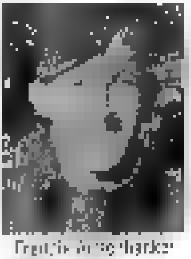
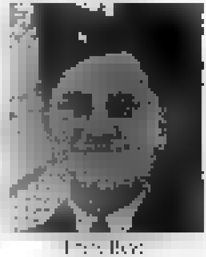

Francis [illegible]

Earl Burt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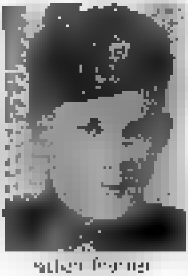
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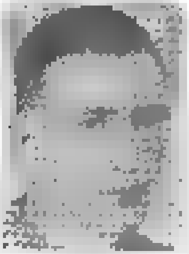
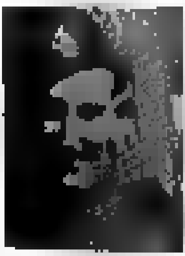

Frank Brunner

Hugh Campbell

Warren Chidley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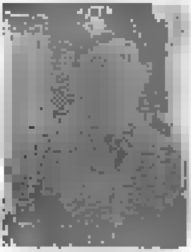
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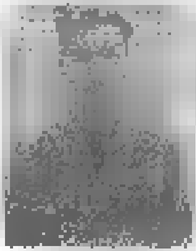
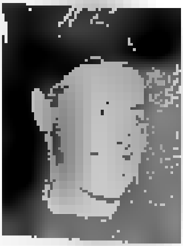
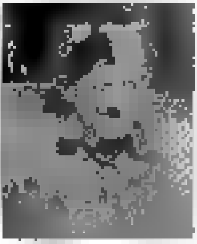

Albert Chee Choo

Fritz Chee Choo


George Campion

Elvin Churchill

C. L. Elms

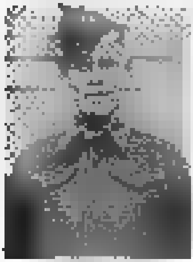

James Elliot

C. W. D. R. Edwards

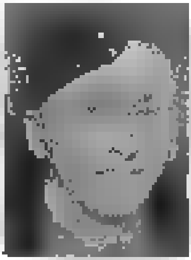
Irene Elm

Luther Fauges

Edwin Fox

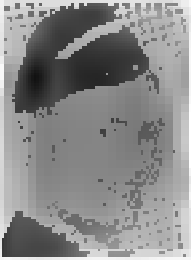

Clifford Fox

Katrina Glubrecht


Ed Glubrecht

Jack Greenwood

Norman Greenway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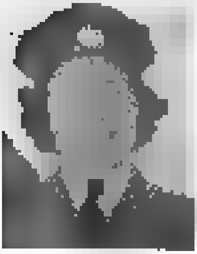
Margaret Graham

Marjorie Graham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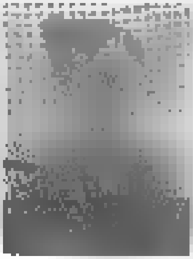
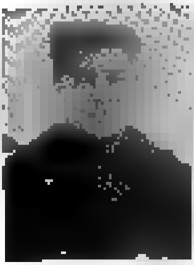

Wilma Hair

Edwin Hann

Rudy Hann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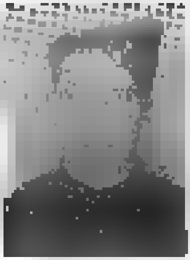
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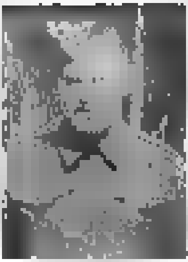
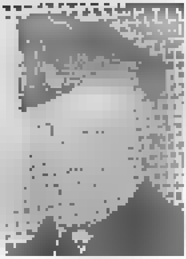
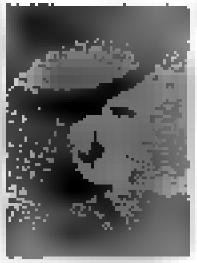
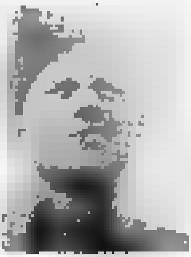

Ronald Hannah


Roy Hutton

Walter Heptonstall


Sid Herring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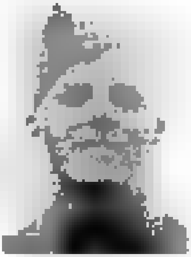

Charles Johnston

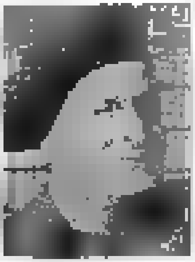
Dennis Johnson

Walter Kern

Olaf Kene

Harold Kautz

William Kautz


M. A. McCuish

Aubrey McCuish

J. M. McCuish

M. E. McCuish

J. A. McCuish

J. R. McCuish

Arvid Malm

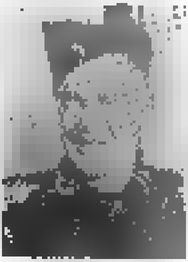
Nancy Olsen

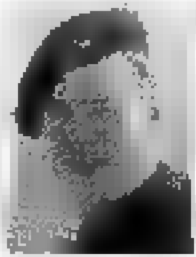
Tom Parker

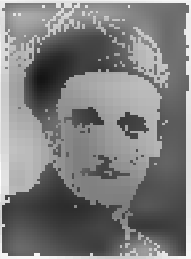
Ben Parker

Margaret Riddle

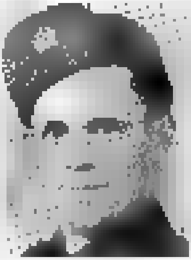
William Riddle


Kenneth Russ


Harold Pils


Peter Ruppert

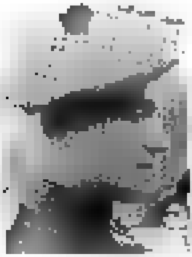
W. Ruppert

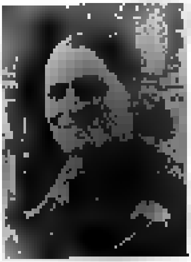

Hugh Riddle

Wilfred Smith

G. E. Scott

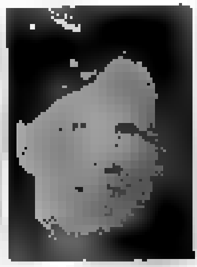
Stanley Scott

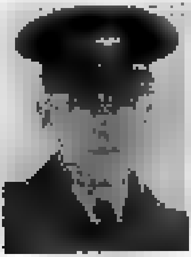

R. H. Storch


Glen Smart

Harold Strandberg

E. C. Taylor


George Taylor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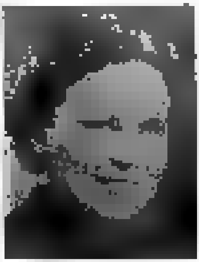
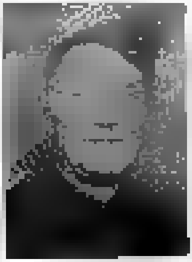
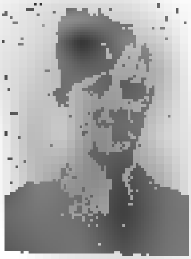

Marion Taylor

Jim Temple


Tom Welch

Bud Williams

Ken Williams


Keith Williams

James Williams

Roy Unsworth

SERVICEMEN OF WORLD WAR II WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed in action)

Jim Boyd
Margaret Boyd
Bill Burns
Austin Bye
Calvin Bye
John Baich*
W. R. Curtis Jr.
Sam Diegel
Andy Duff
Art Evans
Arnold Evans
Jim Fielding
Charlie Fielding

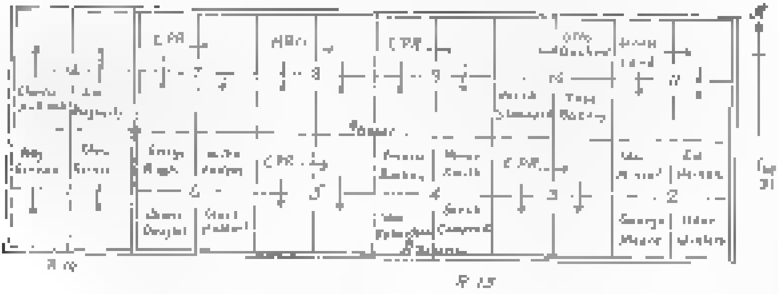
Fred Faro
Lloyd Fleck
Dave Faro
Sam Gilmer
Jack Gilmer
Roy Gilmer
Jack Glover
Russel Glover
Hank Hildenbrand
Phillip Henning
Roy Johnson
Ervin Johnson
Wes James

Henry Johnston
Alfred Luka
Will Lumsden
Robert Loveday
Lionel Loveday
Bill Miller
Ed Pohl
Helmer Pederson
Lewis Pederson (U.S.)
Frank Parker
Edmund Pfahl
William Rutherford Jr.
Allan Rutherford*

Albert Schwing
Gotthold Schwing
Ed Schwing
Lionel Thomas
Ward Thomas
Bill Temple
Louis Welch
Art Welch
Jim Wright
Norman Wright
Fred Wigley
Bill Wigley
Charlie Wigley*

DISTRICT & FAMILY HISTORIES

ROYALTON No. 3072



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS & RENTERS

Section 2
NE-2
Ed Hamas
Jim Hannah
R. A. Evans

NW-2
Wm. Messel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

SW-2
George Moore
Wm. Messel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

SE-2
Isaac Winters
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

Section 3
C.P.R.
R. A. Evans

Section 4
NE-4
Homer Smith
Mrs. Paterman
R. A. Evans

NW-4
Francis Buchan
Frank Hoskins
Abe Miller
Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans

SW-4
Wm. Robertson
H. C. Harder
Adam Hahn
Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans

SE-4
Sarah Campeals
Mrs. Paterman
R. A. Evans

Section 5
C.P.R.

E ½-5
H. Vander Weyer
John Sinclair

W ½-5
Wm. Adams
G. and K. Stewart

Section 6
NE-6
Willis Andrus
Mrs. H. Shore
H. Stewart

NW-6
George Riggle
L. E. Pierce
G. and K. Stewart

SW-6
James Douglas
G. and K. Stewart
SE-6
Louis Hascarl
John Grove
Dan Pahl
G. and K. Stewart

Section 7
N ½-7
Lindsay McLeish
Bob Rogers
Bob Gilker
A. Kautz

S ½-7
W. S. Douglas
G. and K. Stewart

Section 8
H. B. Co.
N ½-8
W. and B. Sloan
H. H. Mann
Thompson Brothers
Bob Fraser
George Hamilton
Ida Kautz

S ½-8
W. & B. Sloan
Gibe and Bill Thompson
Bob Fraser
Mrs. Bregheer
R. Kautz

Section 9
C.P.R.

E ½-9
Harry Winters
George Peterson
Bert Nash
Bucumuline
Dan Dyke
Jack Kennedy
Mel Lambert
R. A. Evans

W ½-9
T. B. Peterson
R. A. Evans

Section 10
N ½ 10
Otto Dochow (Scrip)

Joe Martin

SW-10
Joe Stannard
Mel Lambert
Joe Martin

SE-10
Thos. Beach
Joe Martin

Section 11
School Land
N ½ 11
Joe Martin
S ½-11
R. A. Evans

ROYALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3072

By Fred Johnston

To meet the educational needs of the children of the area, Royalton School District No. 3072 was established on December 10, 1913, with William Boos as secretary-treasurer, and William Miesel as senior trustee. In April of 1914 approval was given for borrowing the sum of $1200.00 to build the school. It was erected and ready for occupancy that same year.

The school site was on the SW 4-31-13 and consisted of the lands shown on the map, which were north of the correction line (No. 9 highway), as well as land south of the correction line which are not included in this history.

Due to the same problems that faced most school districts during the thirties, Royalton became a part of Sullivan Lake school division and was eventually closed. The building was sold to a group of interested persons who moved it to Hanna where it served first as a rest room, later as a library, and more recently as a meeting place for the Hanna Pioneers Association. Called 'The Hut,' it is owned by the Town of Hanna but maintained by the Association, and is available to other groups as well.

Some of the teachers at Royalton were Mr. Moss, Miss Somme, George Burkell, Miss Lewis, Leona Goodfellow, Vera McCarthy, Miss B. Marquardson, Norine Maynes, Mary Morrison, June Smith, Virginia Thomas, and Frank Jacob.

The last Board of Trustees were Charlie Dyke as secretary-treasurer, John Evans as Chairman and John Evans Jr.

John Grove recalls some of the early homesteaders in the Royalton district. He had homesteaded on the east side of Sullivan Lake in township 35, range 15, about 1907. He and Alex Falconer established the Commercial Livery in Hanna in 1912, and claims that he was the first person to go bankrupt in Hanna. He dissolved his partnership with Alex in 1914, rented Andy Mackay's farm for a year, and then Louis Hascarl's farm.

Louis Hascarl, a miner from Carbon, homesteaded the SE 6-31-13 in 1909. In 1914 he became a partner in the Commercial Livery and eventually owned it outright. He traded it and his farm to Dan Pahl and moved to Eston, Saskatchewan. The Hascarl children were among the first pupils of Hanna school, and Louis was Hanna's first bandmaster. While threshing on Hascarl's land in the fall of 1914, the straw pile caught fire and the new threshing machine belonging to George Burkell and the Parker Brothers was destroyed.

George Riggle homesteaded the NE 6-31-13 in 1910. He became manager of

the Beaver Mercantile Co. store which was established by C. A. Walters of Ca east of the present townsite of Hanna. Chris German and Harry Long (who had clerked at Garden Plain) were working in the store. When the town of Hanna was established, the store was moved there and George continued as manager. He was elected to the village council and later moved to California.

On the NE 8-31-13, Willie Andus proved up and left. Jim Douglas, on the SW 8-31-13, had come with his brother Fred to homestead in 1908.

William Missel also came in 1908, to the NW 2-31-13. The Missel girls, Ruby and Irma, attended Royalton school. Irma married Harry Dalton, a World War I veteran, and they farmed the Missel lands.

George Moore, a son-in-law of Charlie James, came in 1909 to the SW 2-31-13. Ed Heinze, who was the cook at the Sam Wadsworth mine, filed on the NE 2-31-13.

Three bachelors homesteaded on section 10. Thomas Bazely had the south-west quarter and Jacob or Joe Stannard the south-east quarter. Otto Dochow got the north half of it as scrip, but never resided on it; his home was on the south half of 14-31-13. The siding of Alness was on land purchased from him.

Frank Moulding recalls that Lindsay McLeish, a bachelor from Illinois, purchased the north half of 7 from the C.P.R. He erected a tarpaper shack on the property but nearly smothered during a blizzard. The snow drifted in the cracks of the house, and if it had not been for a neighbor passing by, Lindsay would have perished. He sold the land to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Briner from Leader, Saskatchewan, who remained for a few years and then went to Medicine Hat.

On section 8, Hudson Bay Company land, William and Sam Sloan built a farm site, and their sister kept house for them. Later Gibb and Bill Thompson and their mother lived on the place, and later Bob Fraser and his housekeeper, Mrs. Brasheer, lived there.

Today, almost all this area is a grazing lease. The only residents are the Art Evans and Reinhold Kautz families.

JOHN R. KENNEDY STORY

By Rosella Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kennedy and their three children, Helen, Archie and Rosella, came from High River to the Royalton district in 1912. Their fourth child, Tillie, was born in 1914. The Kennedys had come originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and were accompanied to the Royalton district by Mr. and Mrs. William Bope and their eight children; Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart and their three children, Elizabeth, Robert and Francis; and Uncle Charlie Stewart.

The school opened in 1914 with Mr. Moss from the Philippines as teacher. Archie Kennedy was allowed to start school at age five in order to have enough pupils to open the school. Rosella and Tillie attended Royalton school until 1925 when the school was closed because of a shortage of pupils. They boarded in Hanna and went to school there for one year until Royalton was re-opened.

Church services were held at Royalton. There were usually Catholic services as these people were all of that faith, but as in other districts, everyone attended regardless of denomination.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy moved to the Buckwalter place, now owned by Art Evans. After a few years there, when the family were all gone, they retired to Hanna. Mr. Kennedy passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Kennedy made her home with her daughter Tillie Faupel until her death. She was loved and respected by all who knew her, and was very devoted to her family and her church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, John, Tiny and Lizzie Schultes, Uncle Bob Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy, Joan and Margaret Simpson, Robert and Rosella Anderson (just married), Frank Moulding, unknown, Jean Anderson, Myrtle Steean, Tillie Kennedy, Marlene Schultes, Billy Simpson, unknown.

Helen married Dan Dyke of Royalton and they had three girls, Florence, Veronica and Patricia. They retired to Edmonton where Dan passed away, and Helen still lives there.

Archie married Mae Perdue and they have three girls, Thelma, Jean and Joan.

Rosella graduated as a nurse from Edmonton Misericordia Hospital. She married Robert Anderson and they had two boys, Joe and Jim. Robert passed away in 1982 and Joe in 1983. Jim lives in Hanna. Rosella nursed for several years in Hanna Hospital and is now retired and living in Hanna.

Tillie married Luther Feupel and had three children, Sharon Groat, Stanley, and Teresa Liggett. During World War II they lived in Calgary while Luther served with the Air Force, then moved back to Hanna where Luther passed away in 1972 and Tillie in 1974.

THE JACOB BUCHWITZ FAMILY

By Nat Buchwitz

After losing all their property as a result of a cloudburst and flash flood, my parents decided to leave the little farming village of Leipzig, Bessarabia, and move to Canada. A land agent, a native of Bessarabia who had settled in the Craigmyle district some time earlier, had been hired to encourage immigration to Canada, and he painted a rosy picture of life in the new land. My folks packed a few personal belongings and sailed for Canada, arriving in Hanna, where they had friends, on June 23, 1929.

Somehow it never occurred to my family that a different language would be spoken in the country they had immigrated to, and it was very difficult for the children to start school with only a few words of English. Through their friends, my father obtained part-time work on the C.N.R., and my mother got a job washing dishes at a circus which was in Hanna at the time. Both started work the day after their arrival.

The depression and drought of the next eight years belied the land agent's stories. My parents worked at any job that was available, and in 1934 moved to the

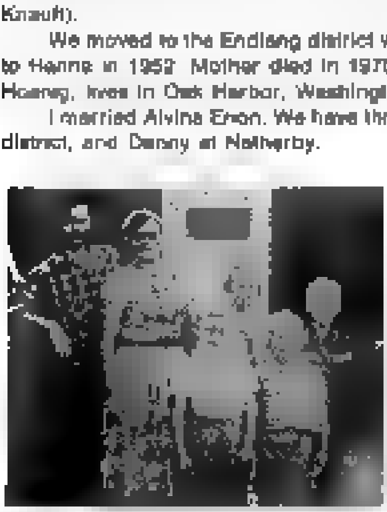
Chris German farm three miles east of Hanna. They milked cows and raised poultry; the first year they threshed 380 bushels of wheat from their half section. The next year the crop yielded six hundred bushels, but it had been frozen, and brought only sixteen cents a bushel, and cost four cents a bushel to thresh. In 1936 all they got was two level rackloads of feed, and they decided that it was time to move elsewhere.

My older sister, Pauline, had married John Engel and remained in Hanna. They had four children and still make their home there.

While we lived on the Chris German place, my sister Frida and I attended Royalton school, which closed the year we left the district because there were not enough children left to keep it open. The last teacher was Catherine Steven (Mrs. Knauft).

We moved to the Endiang district where my parents farmed until they retired to Hanna in 1952. Mother died in 1970 and my father in 1976. Frida, Mrs. Ben Hoenig, lives in Oak Harbor, Washington.

I married Alvina Enon. We have three sons, David and Robert in the Endiang district, and Danny at Netherby.


Reinhold Kautz Family, (left to right) Reinhold, Ida, Jurgen, Anne, Karl, Wilfried

REINHOLD and IDA KAUTZ — Reinhold Kautz and Ida Baumann arrived in Hanna on February 14, 1951, and went to the home of our sponsor, my cousin John Yeaman. We were married in March of that year and moved to Edmonton where we both worked.

In 1952 we moved back to Hanna, where we were happy and proud to work for John and Leah Yeaman for $150 a month and our board. In the fall we made arrangements to purchase three quarters of land four miles east of Hanna. With the money we had saved from two years in Canada, we bought three milk cows with calves, and three brood sows; and John Yeaman and Ida's cousin, Fred Schreiner, each loaned us a cow to milk for a year.

Milking our own cows and raising our own hogs made us feel very worthy. Although there were a lot of things we went without, we said to ourselves, "We have nothing to lose, but all to gain." Cousin John let me use his machinery to prepare the land, sow the crop. In return I did manual labor on his farm. That autumn we purchased milk quotas from Bill Mackenzie, Chris German and Joe Martin, which were large enough to give us a good income.

Our first child, Anne Marie, was born while we lived in Edmonton; our second, Reinhold Wilfried, arrived in 1953. In December, 1955, Jurgen George was born to us. Our last child, Karl Heinz, was born in 1957.

In 1955 crops were poor and we lost several good cows due to milk fever. The next year crops were much better and we were able to regain a substantial part of our losses. We accumulated more modern machinery, and purchased another four quarters of land. We still had problems in the winter months as the roads were poor and drifted in much of the time. Many times I shovelled snow for two hours to go the four miles to town. This particular spring, I had to build a wooden platform on the tractor, to set the milk cans on to take them to the dairy.

During the next ten years we built a dairy barn and a milking parlor, installed

milking machines, bought another half-section of land, and milked about fifty cows. When the Central Alberta Dairy Pool closed in Hanna, we sold several dairy cows and bought range cows.

In 1968 we left Anna Marie and Willfried to manage the farm, and taking our two youngest with us, we visited our homeland, West Germany. When we returned, Anna Marie went to Germany to live for eleven months, and worked there as a secretary. When she came back to Canada, she worked as a nursing aide for a few years before marrying Alan Harvey of Scapa. They have one son, Jason, and live at Sarnia, Ontario, where Alan is an accountant.

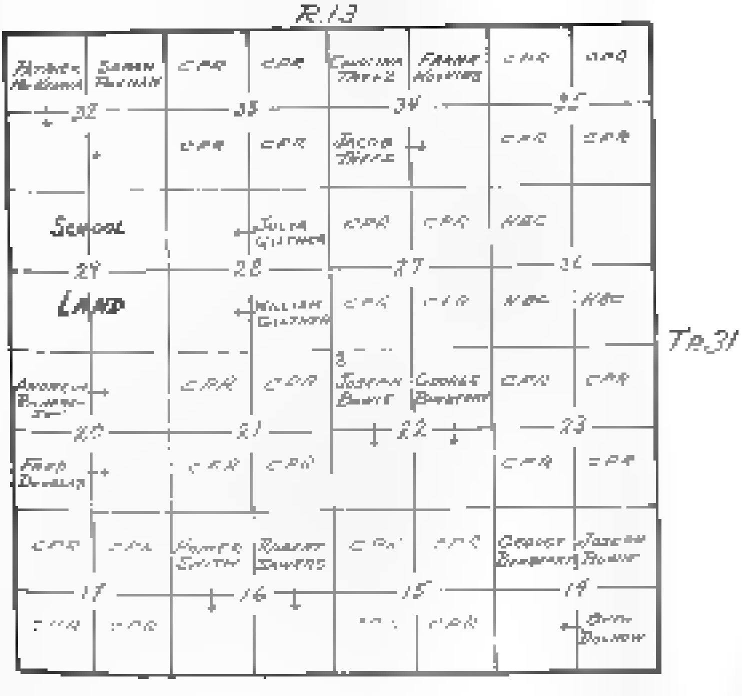
After graduating, Willfried travelled to West Germany to meet his relatives, took on a factory job and remained ten months. While he was away, we bought for him Alfred Pahl's farm. In 1974 he married Thyra Riddle of Hanna, and has since resided on his farm northeast of Hanna. We are working and farming together as one family.

Jurgen wished also to be a farmer, so he quit school, and for him we bought, in 1974, the Dan Kautz farm. In 1976 he married Bonnie Jess, and they live on their farm.

Karl Heinz graduated from high school in 1975 and started working for the C.N.R., as well as farming with the family. In 1976 he decided to become a plumber, and now lives in Calgary.

For all the years we have seen come and go, we have no complaints, but give all thanks to the Lord for this good land of Canada and the province of Alberta in which we have prospered. To me and my family there is no equal to it in the world.

CENTREPOINT No. 2646



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS
CENTREPOINT 31-13-4

Section 14
NE 14
Joe Bowie
R. A. Evans

NW 14
George Bunbury
Glen Ives
Irvin Michael
Mike Lidke
John Diachuck
Henry Hoover
R. A. Evans

S ½
Otto Dochow SAV
Robert Brown
Joe Martin and C.N.R.

Section 15
C.P.R.
E ½ A. L. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

W ½
Wm. Anderson
R. Kautz
Section 16
E ½
Robert Sawyer
H. R. Smith
Joe Martin
W ½
Homer Smith
Fred Facho

Section 17 C.P.R.
NE 17
Douglas Brothers
Mike Lidke
Freda Facho
SE 17
Mad Gosselin
Mike Lidke
Elsie Hien

W ½ 17
A. J. Lauer

W. Hamilton
Edwin Hien

Section 20
N ½
Gibb Richardson
Bob Fraser
Herb Pfahl
Wellington Hamilton

S ½ 20
Fred Douglas
Mrs. Brasheard
Edwin Hien

Section 21
C.P.R.
NE 21
Charlie Gilmer
Leon Knapp
Fred Facho

NW 21
George Thrish
H. R. Smith
Fred Facho

S ½ 21
Homer Smith
Fred Facho

Section 22
E ½ 22 SAV
George Bunbury
Wm. Anderson
Frank Moulding

W ½ 22 SAV
Joe Bowie
Joe Moulding
Frank Moulding

Section 23
C.P.R.
NE 23
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans
NW 23
A. Buckwalters

John Liland
Wm. Anderson
Bob Wishart
R. A. Evans

S ½ 23
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

Section 26
H. B. Co.
Neville Thomas
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

Section 27
C.P.R.
N ½ 27
Jack Lohr
Elmer Pfahl
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 27
Wm. H. Gilmer
Otto Stern
Frank Moulding

Section 28
N ½ 28
Julia Gilmer
Neville Thomas
Fred Facho

S ½ 28
Wm. Gilmer
Otto Stern
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

Section 29
School Land
Hanna Farms
Fred Ehm
Andy & Terry Moehn
Elmer Pfahl & Doug Metz

Section 32
NE 32

Sarah Pfahl
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Metz
NW 32
Pat McKenna
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Metz

S ½ 32
Pat McKenna SAV
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Metz

Section 33
C.P.R.
J. C. Buckwalters
Neville Thomas
Fred Facho

Section 34
NE 34
Frank Hosking
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

NW 34
Caroline Tretz
Neville Thomas
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 34
Jacob Tretz
Dan Tretz
Wayne Faupel

Section 35
C.P.R.

N ½ 35
Homer McCullough
Frank Hosking
Dan Tretz
Don Mattis

S ½ 35
Dan Mattis
Don Mattis

CENTREPOINT
By Margaret Hage

Centrepoint School No. 2586 was built in 1912 on the northwest corner of Section 22. The first teacher was Miss Douglas, who lived with her brothers who had homesteaded two miles west and south of the school. The first pupils were Joe, Ruth, Charlie and Harry Gilmer; Elizabeth, James, George, Lydia and Esther Tretz; Dan, Martha, Albert and Fred Mattis; and Ben and Mary Coma. Teachers, who usually boarded at Gilmer's, Moulding's, Anderson's or Thomas' were Hilda Meadows, Miss McKinley, Sarah Houlihand, Margaret Sangster, Lavina Raymond (Mrs. Honey), Catherine Strong, Miss Martin, Mr. Evans, Freda Sterling, Vera McCarthy, Norman Lambly, Fred Barber, Virginia Thomas (Mrs. P. Collins). School

trustees were Neville Thomas, William Giltner, Mrs. William Anderson, Joseph Moulding and Homer Smith.

Back Row: Harry Giltner, Vera Giltner, Virginia Thomas. Middle Row: Bob Anderson, Lorne Thomas, Jack Giltner, Raymond Thomas, Frank Moulding. Front Row: Ronald Thomas, John Anderson, Delbert Giltner.

Many good times were had at Centrepoint, in and out of school. Boys and girls, which were always few, played games together, carried our lunches in syrup or lard pails and often exchanged with others. One time Henry Mattie brought the can of Roger's syrup instead of his lunch, so the rest of us shared ours with him. The teachers usually shared our lunch hours and our games and put up with a lot of our nonsense.

Dances were held occasionally at the school. Just a few girls, (we were popular then) and plenty of men and boys, particularly bachelors who would come quite a distance if we had a lady teacher. Musicians played violins, mouth organs, and fiddles and guitars. Sometimes someone played the school organ. Among those I remember were "Wild Bill" Wilkinson, George Quin, George Unsworth, and Benny Walter.

Christmas concerts were always a real event as the teachers had a way of drumming up a lot of good entertainment. Mrs. W. Anderson filled in as Santa Claus many times. She usually gave the bachelors and teachers a bad time.

Centrepoint School

During the summer months we usually had church services at the school, which were well attended by all denominations. They seemed to give the people new hope and courage during the poor years. Ministers I recall were Rev. Scallon, Rev. Hammill, Rev. Finkbeiner, and Rev. Westaway.

Our school entered in the school fairs which were held in Hanna. The girls baked and sewed articles and the boys took vegetables and handicrafts. Penmanship and stories were entered in the school work section.

The C.N.R. came through our district in 1912 and we had a station, Alness, one and a half miles south of us, and Bonar station was south and west about four miles. These stations had houses for the station agent and the section men. The elevators, two at each station, also had living accommodation for their men and their families.

The passenger trains, one east and one west, went through at 1:30 A.M. and 3:30 A.M. We would go to the station before the train was due and flag it down to stop and pick us up, which wasn't too often, mainly when teachers were travelling back and forth to their homes. After Alness elevators were closed, and later Bonar, we hauled our grain by team and loaded it on boxcars which were left at the station for that purpose.

Back Row: Margaret Anderson, Virginia Thomas, Marlie Quast, Emmanuel Trefz, Josie Trefz, Delbert Gilmer. Front Row: Mary Quast, Patricia Thomas, Jean Anderson, John Anderson, Lionel Thomas.

One young man from Dundee was showing our teacher around, so when she was to go home for holidays in the winter time, he came to take her to Bonar to catch the train at 3:30. I guess he was short on time and made too quick a turn around the slough at Bonar and upset sleigh, teacher wearing a fur coat, and all into the slough which had a thin layer of ice on it. Consequently she had to be returned to our place, dried out and warmed up. He also had to have a change of clothes so he could drive home and return the next night to get her safely away. What a razzing they got!

Several prairie fires started because C.N.R. workers were burning weeds along the track right-of-way. It took only a bit of wind to carry the sparks to the very dry grass and stubble of the thirties. One bad fire went nearly to Spondin before it could be stopped . . . through sloughs where the grass on top was dry, into grain fields, and only by very hard work were the firefighters able to save buildings. Everyone dropped their work, men took teams and plows, barrels of water and sacks to fight the blaze. My mother phoned to Hanna to the R.C.M.P. and to Joe Winkler, who rounded up men and brought them out to help, along with food supplies which the women made into lunches. This, and making gallons of coffee, kept the women busy too. Often firefighting had to go on for hours and into the night.

Telephone lines came through our district around 1920. The telephone crew camped in tents in our yard so that they could get fresh water, milk, eggs and butter. They were there most of the summer. Occasionally my brother and I would be invited to eat in the big cook tent. The telephone lines went along the road allowances, beside the roads which were built and maintained by the men of the district using fresnos and scrapers drawn by teams.

The young people of the district learned to skate on sloughs, Gilmer's and Moulding's dams, and Trefz' creek. We also had sleigh riding and tobogganing on the hill on Thomas' farm. After one of these parties, no one at school wanted to sit down when the teacher said, "Seats!"

I remember a few bad blizzards when Dad wouldn't let us go to school, and everyone was phoned to stay at home. One blizzard about 1927 or 1928 lasted all day and most of the night, filling every crack in the old shacks and even in the

better ones, so that when the thaw came, all the ceiling paper came loose, and tubs just couldn't catch all the water.

We had mail delivered twice a week from Hanna, by horses and later by car. We had mailboxes on the mailman's route, which went as far as Spondin. In the winters he often brought groceries or medicine to people who couldn't get to town. Everyone looked forward to getting the Hanna Herald, the Free Press, the Family Herald and the Country Guide.

We had a big slough which extended through our farm for over a mile, and when hunting season opened in September, we could expect hunters from three or four o'clock in the morning. Mother kept the coffee and breakfast on for hours, as well as a supply of dry socks. In the evening it was supper and more dry socks. Visitors were always welcome, no matter who they were or why they came.

Although it is several years since I left the Centrepoint district and there are very few people left there I did learn many valuable lessons and have wonderful memories of neighbors and the good times we had.

The schoolhouse was removed from the district about the year 1949.

GEORGE BUNBURY, ***By M. Hage*** — George Bunbury was born September 10th, 1886 in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1906. His parents in Ireland paid a monthly wage to a rancher, Bill Channel (near the Bow River) to teach George how to become a rancher.

During the winter of 1906 he made extra money skinning dead cattle and other animals, and selling the hides.

George homesteaded on northeast of 14-31-13 in 1909. He freighted lumber from Castor to Hanna by team.

On April 2nd, 1913 he married Greta Lyness of Hanna and they had two children, Lawrence and Kathy. In 1917 they moved to the Paintearth district, where their son Robert was born in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bunbury

Four Generations: George Bunbury, Lynne Storch (granddaughter), Bob Bunbury (son), Allen Storch (great grandson).

BILL GILTNER, ***By Harry Giltner*** — William Henry (Bill) Giltner came to Alberta from Missouri in 1902. He shipped his effects to Lacombe and took up a homestead about fifty miles east of there. He proved up on his homestead in 1906 and farmed there until 1909, when he had a chance to purchase two South African scrips near where Hanna is now, section 28-31-13.

In the summer of 1910 he and Jonas Schaus went down and built a sod house and barn and put up some hay. That fall he moved the family down. I don't

remember what month it was but we moved on sleighs. We had a small caboose built on the frame of a hay rack. What a trip it must have been for my mother, as there were six kids then, Joe, Ruth, Charlie, Harry, Roy and Viva. Joe and Ruth had been born in the U.S.A. and the rest of us on the homestead near Stettler. Joe was eleven years old, so was some help, but the rest of us were just underfoot all the time.

Ruth, Mr. Gilmer, Joe, Mrs. Gilmer, Harry, Charlie, Roy.

My Dad had brought four head of horses with him from the States, and he had bought two more horses and a team of mules, so this made the trip faster than if we had had oxen, but it still took three days. He left what cattle he had with a neighbor to winter, but must have taken a couple of milk cows.

There was no one living for miles around. I don't think my mother saw another woman all winter, just snow to look at for miles. It's a wonder she didn't go out of her mind. It was some time that winter that George Bunbury settled on the NW 2-31-13, so we had one neighbor, but he was a bachelor as most of them were that settled there first.

My Dad had done some breaking so put in some crop in 1911. It looked pretty good, but around the first of August there came the worst hail storm I ever saw, stones as big as hen's eggs and a terrific wind. We all ran for the sod house as the wind couldn't hurt that. The wind picked up my mother's wash tub and started it rolling across the prairie. We watched it as far as we could see but never did find it afterwards. The crop and tub were a total loss.

Several people moved in the next year or so, Tretz, Gib Richersons and Joe Bowie. Bowie was a bachelor. He was there only a short while when he went to visit his sister in California, took sick and died there.

In the fall of 1911 the family moved to Castor so the kids could go to school. Dad and the hired man, Willis Evans, stayed on the farm and looked after the place for the winter. Evelyn was born in Castor. When we moved back the next spring I remember the almost steady stream of homesteaders who were moving out to that location and farther south.

A school district was organized about this time and Centre Point school was built in 1912, the same year that the railway came through and the town of Hanna

got started. They used to hold dances at Centre Point and there would be about twenty-five men and four women, so the women never sat out a dance. For square dances, they would tie a handkerchief around a man's arm and he would take the part of a woman. They kept going till daylight as the dances were the only social gatherings there were. Some of those bachelors rode a horse twenty miles to get there.

My Dad was the first to get a gang plow around there, and he used to do breaking for others. He built a new house in 1913 and a new barn in 1915. Both 1915 and 1916 were good years and prices were good. At this time my Dad had about one hundred head of cattle and forty head of horses. The next three years were not so good but grain and cattle were a good price so most people did all right. There was a good crop in 1920 and those were about the best times in that country.

Dad had bought a steam threshing outfit in 1916 so he did most of the threshing around there for several years. He also did a lot of breaking for others.

Our home was the gathering place on Sunday and we always had a crowd there. There would usually be twenty-five or more for dinner. We would play ball or horseshoes or run in a bunch of range horses to see who could ride the best or get thrown the highest. No one was ever hurt very badly but there were a lot of bruises the next day.

In 1921 the crop was almost a total failure. Farmers didn't get their seed back and prices dropped on both cattle and wheat and that was the end of the good times for that country. The next year was also dry though better than 1921. In 1923 there was lots of rain at the right time and we threshed for forty four days that fall and only lost three or four days because of rain. In 1924 most of the crops weren't worth cutting. There was a fair yield in 1926 but we had frost and the grain was a poor grade, so there wasn't any money made that year. Although 1927 was good, frost and a wet fall took most of the profit out of 1928. The next years were worse. Worst of all was 1930.

It never rained all summer and most of the wells went dry. At one time we were driving cattle eight miles every day for water, and the water was so thick with mud you could almost cut it with a knife. Then one well that had gone dry started producing again for some unknown reason, for we had no rain. We had no more water troubles, but there was very little grass and no feed for the winter.

We left our home that fall and moved to Erskine, not far from where Dad had homesteaded in the first place. We leased the Ewing Ranch twelve miles south of Erskine. Prices were poor but at least we had feed and water for the cattle.

Mrs. Gilmer died suddenly in January 1936 and Mr. Gilmer died of a stroke in 1937. None of us stayed farming long after that.

Joe had a blacksmith shop in Nevis that he operated until he retired in 1967.

Jack and Delbert (Sam) and Roy (Cap) all joined the army when war broke out, also Viva's husband Olaf Volker. Jack was sent to Italy. Sam and Olaf saw service in France. Roy was kept in Canada in the Provost Corps. They were all lucky enough to get back alive.

After the war they all took up mechanics. Sam lived in Alix and worked in the gas plant at Consort. He was killed in a car accident in 1976. Jack is shop foreman for Battle River Coal at Forestburg. Roy took up welding, worked for Bertman's in Hanna and then for Battle River Coal until he retired and moved to Nevis. He died suddenly in 1972.

Viva lives at Nevis and Evelyn at Kelowna, B.C. Charlie went to Ontario in [illegible] and is still there. He was a butcher until his retirement.

I (Harry) went up on the Alaska highway for a while, then worked on highway

construction. In 1949 I went to work for the County of Stettler and was grade foreman for twenty years. I am retired now and live in Stettler.

OUR RICHARDSON FAMILY, By Clarence Richardson — My parents settled in the Centre Point district in 1910, but because there was a shortage of water there, he bought the Leithhead ranch, five miles north of Endiang, from Mr. Arne Larson in 1914. Dad moved his stock to the new ranch that summer, and mother and my brother Gordon and I spent the summer there. My sister Florence was born in September, and as mother was afraid that the log house on the ranch would be too cold for the baby, she took us children back to the Centre Point place for the winter.

In the spring of 1915, Gordon, who was five, and I who was seven, attended Centre Point school for two weeks. Then we moved to the Endiang area.

My clearest memory of the Centre Point farm concerns the trip we made back there. I rode bareback all the way, driving two milk cows, and had a good blister when we arrived.

My parents retired to Calgary in 1936. Mother died December 12, 1961, and dad on December 13, 1966.

THE GUY V. GIBBS STORY, By M. Hage — Guy V. Gibbs was born near Woodland, California on March the fourth, 1892. He received his early grammar and high school at Woodland. He later went to the University of Southern California to study law. He completed his course and opened his own law office at the age of twenty-one, being the youngest attorney in California.

In 1913 he was married to Estelle Harris. In 1915 they went to Alaska where he worked for the United States Government on new railway work. In 1917 he moved to Hanna area and took up farming on the Richardson homestead which was the north half 20-31-13. In January of 1919 he died of the flu and his widow, his son Guy Gibbs Jr. who was born in 1914, and his baby girl went back to their old home in Woodland.

LIVING IN CANADA, By Hilda Adam Thomas — My folks, William and Katherine Adam, my brother Dan and I, Hilda, moved to Alberta from North Dakota.

We lived in a large house which was later used as a barn. Somehow, somewhere, Dad bought a house and moved it to our place which was close to the Mattis farm. We had a horse and a cow. Dan and I started school, and had to walk four miles each way. I was eight years old when I started.

From there we moved to Grandpa and Grandma Adam's farm. In the meantime Alvina was born, then Leona and Mabel. We remember Charlie Lake, Fred Lake and their families, and we remember that the highway went right through Giffner's farm. We all went to Centre Point School. Then another school was built north of our farm and we had to go there, but I don't remember the name of it. Hanna was the closest town and that was ten miles from our place. Dad used to send Dan and me to Hanna for repairs for the machinery whenever we needed them.

Dad had a pair of jackasses, the ornery ones. We called them Jack and Jill and when we hitched them on the stoneboat they would take off like a bat out of hell, but not the way you wanted them to, only the way they wanted to go. Dan and I tried to drive them to school one day. Halfway there they made up their minds to turn around and go home. We had to walk the rest of the way to school and all the way home.

Leona, Alvin, Dan, Hilda, Mabel and John Adam. Karoline and Bill

We helped stook the wheat or oats when it was cut. Dan, Dad and I cut hay, and hauled it home for the cattle and horses. That was fun.

Just about everyone, including us, had the flu. Grandma Adam died of it. Grandpa Adam was driving the horse and buggy to town and the horse was scared by a bird and started to run. The buggy tipped over, and Grandpa was taken to the hospital. Dad said he had a broken collar bone, but pneumonia set in and he died.

In 1919 John was born. Mother was ill for a long time. Soon after that our house burned down. Mom and Dad were visiting Fred Litke, so Dan and I tried to carry a few belongings out and the rest of the girls hid in the grainfields. No one knows how the fire started. We moved into Grandma Adam's house.

Two baby girls were born and died. We moved to Saskatchewan where we lived for a year. Another girl was born and lived for a day and a half. In 1926 another girl was born.

Dad died in 1958 and mother in 1961.

The Treitz family: Josie, Emmanuel, Esther, Ruth, Dan, Lillian, Lydia, James, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mr. and Mrs. J. Treitz

RECOLLECTIONS, *By Dan Treitz* — I was barely a year old when my father, J. J. Treitz, filed on his homestead on 34-31-13, almost ninety miles southeast of the nearest town, Stettler. How or why they picked that particular section is beyond me, perhaps they drew the numbers out of a hat at the Land Titles Office in Calgary.

They drove out from Stettler by wagon late in October, then walked to a spot nearly in the middle of the section near a tributary of Berry Creek. Noticing a spot where the grass was considerably

greener. Dad thrust in a spade and found that the ground was moist. He dug deeper and struck water at three feet. To this day that well has been a good source of water for the farmsite which was built around it.

Dad and mother had filed on a homestead each and a pre-emption each. Because homestead regulations required at least six months' residence on the land every year, my parents decided to pitch the tent and later build the house right on the line dividing the quarters. I can never remember one parent telling the other to go live 'in your half of the house'.

There were twelve of us in the family, seven girls and five boys. Carrie married Frank Hoskins, both are deceased; their son Francis is in Chicago.

Elizabeth married a minister who later went into the bakery business. He developed the Butter Gem Roll which lured the whole Tretz family off the farm, for the duration of the Hungry Thirties at least, and into the baking business. Jim had a very successful baking business in Washington, D.C. Lydia, a nurse, and Joe, a medical doctor, reside in New York State. Esther in Tennessee. Ruth and brother Mennie in California. All are more or less retired, as I am here at Creston, B.C. But our thoughts often revert back to Centre Point days.

And they were memorable days to be sure. While we did not attend local dances or social functions as a rule, we did enjoy picnics and sleighing parties. Centre Point School was usually well attended, especially when the school could boast of a particularly attractive teacher. Then all the eligible bachelors such as Joe and Charles Gatner, Reg Moulding, Albert and Fred Mattis, Emil and Leonard Gosselin, would make themselves available for further learning. There is also the memory of strap-swinging, yardstick waving Miss Michell; and of Vera Gatner making faces at me to provoke me to laughter that usually resulted in the teacher expressing herself on the palms of my hands.

Teachers usually boarded with the Mouldings or Andersons, but Miss Michell stayed with us, for as long as she could stand it. We drove the two miles to school in a democrat, and as I had a hard time avoiding the badger holes along the road, I sometimes upset the occupants of the rear seat. That, of course, spelled my finish as the driver.

I've been told that times were pretty hard in the early days. A neighbor, Homer McCullough, kept quite a few horses. I recall his barn being pretty well chewed up, especially the mangers. In fact, Homer had to drive nails into the studdings to keep them from being chewed clear through!

One night when my father was hauling a load of lumber from Stettler, he hoped to make it home after dark but his horses were tired. There were only trails across the prairies and few landmarks to tell you where you were, certainly none after dark. Dad felt he must be near home, but his horses refused to go any further. So he unhitched the team, tethered them out for the night, rolled into his blankets under the wagon and went to sleep. As light broke over the horizon early in the morning he realized he was within shouting distance of his tent, and home.

On another occasion he took Jim with him to walk ahead of the horses with a sheaf of oats, and lure the team on.

Frequently whole caravans of neighbors travelled together to do their shopping in Stettler. On one such caravan a Mr. Lawrence composed a poem describing the trip. I have heard the poem read and would give a considerable sum for a copy of it. It mentions the names of all the people involved.

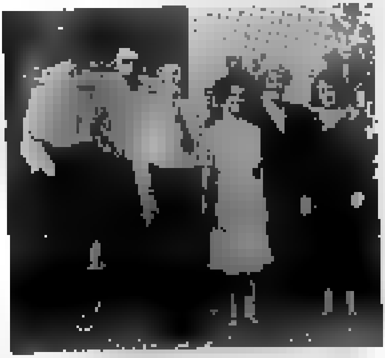
During the flu epidemic just after World War I, we had all been sick except sister Beth. Through the siege she had nursed us all, and some of the neighbors as well. One day when we were just about to be up on our feet again, she called, "Come see this!"

We scrambled to the window just in time to see Frank Hoskins, our brother-in-law, come around the corner riding the stoneboat and clutching the water barrel. The stoneboat was tied to the tail of his milk cow! The cow knew exactly where to come for she knew where our oat bin was.

As the outfit circled the fence corner the stoneboat struck the gate post and came to a full stop, while the cow, minus her tail, kept going straight for the chop bin.

Frank and Carrie had also been down with the flu and had turned their horses out to pasture. Now that they had recovered somewhat, and the water barrel was empty, they had pressed the cow into service.

And that's what pioneers were made of!



William Anderson, Bob, John, Jean, Mrs. Anderson, Margaret

WILLIAM ANDERSON, By Margaret Anderson Hage — William Anderson was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1880, and went to Vermont, U.S.A. when he was twenty-five. There he met and married my mother, Jessie Mitchell, who had been born in Brockville, Ontario, and had moved to Vermont with her parents. Their son George was born in 1910.

William came west in 1910, worked for the railway company in British Columbia for nearly a year, and then returned to Vermont to bring my mother and my brother George to the homestead at Lone Butte. My brother Robert and I were born there in the little tarpaper shack with a neighbor woman in attendance.

As there was no school there, my father moved in 1918 to the Centre Point district, to the former George Sunbury place. He later moved the buildings from the south-west quarter of the farm to the north-west quarter, one-half mile from the school.

W. Anderson farm house - 1932. Bob Anderson, Ted Hasse.

My brother John was born in 1919 at the home of Mrs. Thompson with Dr. Nixon attending. My sister Jean was born in 1922 at home with Dr. Baxendale and Mrs. Gilmer attending. My brother George passed away at the age of eleven years, from cancer.

The rest of us attended school at Centre Point as far as grade nine. Bob later went to Technical School in Calgary. He married Rosella Kennedy in 1939 and was employed by the C.N.R. until his death in 1982. He had two sons, Joe and Jim. His widow nursed for several years in Hanna and is now retired there.

My brother John attended business school in Calgary, served in the army and the air force during the Second World War, and now works as a bookkeeper at Bomier in Calgary. He married Ruby Mortimer and they have one daughter, Jo-Ann.

My sister Jean also attended business school and during the war worked in

an office as part of the clerical staff for the armed forces. She married Bob Ellingson and they and their three children, Donna, Robert and Kathy, live in Calgary.

I attended high school in Hanna and in 1931 I went to work at the Hanna hospital. Except for a few years when my children were small, I have been there ever since. I have four children by my first marriage: William Simpson in Hanna, George in Leduc, Roberta in Vulcan and Margaret at Camrose.

My mother once said that she would not go homesteading again for a thousand dollars, but that she wouldn't take a thousand for her experience, either. One time when Dad was away during the slim years, she shot what she thought was a duck. She cooked it practically all day without much success. When Dad came home he took one look at it and had to tell her it was a mud hen. She said her recreation was riding horseback and shooting ducks or gophers; at least it broke the monotony. She always seemed to be able to make the best of things, helping out with chores and driving a team on the binder at harvest time.

In 1930 my uncle, Robert Anderson, who lived with us for several years, rented the John Buckwalter land and we moved to that place as there were new buildings. My father bought the north-west quarter of section 16 and my mother bought the south-west quarter of 24, the former Lyness place. They farmed the land until 1939, when they sold to Mr. Lambert from Munson, and moved to Calgary. They had an acreage there for about fifteen years and then moved into the city.

My mother passed away in 1957, my father in 1971.

There were many happy years spent in the Centre Point district. Neighbours like Gilmers, Mouldings, Tretz and Mattis were so helpful in time of sickness and lasting friendships were formed. Mrs. Gilmer, Mrs. Moulding and mother often took the team and buggy to town for a day's outing, a little shopping, and a treat at Harry Grummel's bakery and ice cream parlor.

THE STRINGERS. ***By Cecil Stringer*** — My family arrived in the Centre Point district in the late fall of 1920, and rented the J. J. Tretz farm for three years. My folks had come to Didsbury from Kansas, looking for a homestead, but as they were all taken up in that area, they moved to Hanna to rent an already-established farm.

My Dad, assisted by his brother Oliver Stringer who had homesteaded in the Bullpound district south of Hanna, trucked our belongings from Didsbury to Centre Point with two teams and wagons, while my mother and her family of three arrived by car, owned and driven by Mr. Tretz.

As I was only four when I arrived at Centre Point and had just turned eight when I left, I can give an account of only those things which affected my own small world. I was always interested in horses. After I started school I drove the teacher who boarded at our place to school each day in a single buggy drawn by Topsy, an old thoroughbred mare who was always skinny but never lazy.

Another horse was Flash, a blue roan which was a wonderful kids' pony. Flash was also a very able cutting and working horse but she loved to pretend to shy at the least provocation. Consequently my brother Wayne rode her with spurs to make her tend to business. I remember Dad donning spurs and leading Flash out of the barn to mount her. I said to him, "You can't ride her with spurs."

"Why not?" he wanted to know.

"She'll buck you off," I said. I was only six at the time and perhaps he didn't believe me. At any rate, she did buck him off, so he removed the spurs, remounted and rode away. He often laughed about that afterward.

Mr. Tretz owned a threshing machine and during the time that we operated the farm, he and his son James would come out every year to thresh the crop.

He also owned a mechanical stook loader, and I remember that one fall my mother ran the stook loader pulled by four horses. I drove the bundle racks to the loader which filled them up, then took them to the machine where Dad and my brother Wayne pitched the bundles into the machine while I went back for another load. That fall's threshing was very much a family affair, for my sister did the cooking.

I remember the Thomas family who lived a half-mile from us. The year I started school their house burned down and they stayed with us for several weeks. While Dad was helping Mr. Thomas dig a new well, they found a petrified fish, twenty feet below the surface of the ground.

Other neighbors were the Mouldings, the Gilmers, the Andersons and the Ives. One young couple I remember was Frank Hoskins and his wife Caroline who was one of the older Tretz girls. To help make ends meet, Frank bought the odd beef from local farmers, butchered it and sold the meat to his customers. As we had no way of storing fresh meat in those days, farmers could butcher their own beef only after the weather was cold enough to freeze it.

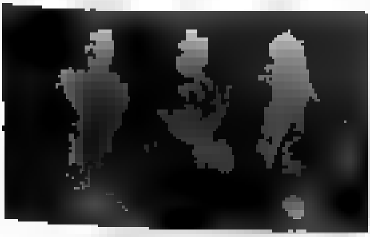
Frank had no saddle or saddle horse, so he brought his live purchase home by riding a work horse, complete with harness, and tying the cow or steer to the harness. It could not get away and he would proceed to haze the critter home.

Just as children today want to experiment with trucks and tractors, so did we with horses. Before I had started school I had the urge to drive a team, so one day when Dad was not at home I chased a team into the barn, put them in their stall and proceeded to harness them. It took a long time as I had to push the harness onto their backs and then get on the manger and the side of the stall to pull it into place. When I eventually got them harnessed, bridled and hooked to a stoneboat, I was the proudest kid in the country.

In the spring of 1924 Mr. Tretz decided to come back to his farm, so before spring break-up my Dad moved us to the O. P. Stringer farm south of Hanna. My Uncle Ott was leaving the homestead to make his home in San Francisco where he ran a streetcar till he retired.

On the day we moved by team and wagon I had a high fever and everyone thought that I had the flu. Several days later they began to suspect something more serious, so my uncle rode to Hanna to get the doctor. As the snow was very deep and the spring thaw had started, it took a relay of three teams to get the doctor to our home twelve miles from Hanna. When he arrived he diagnosed my illness as diphtheria, and told my folks it would have been too late to save my life if he had been one hour later in arriving.

This is an example of the trials that pioneers had to put up with, even in the twenties, and it must have been much worse when the homesteaders first arrived.



Louise, Jackie and Jack Litke

JACK LITKE, *By Louise Litke* — Jack was born in Emerson, Manitoba, in 1901. He moved with his father and mother, four sisters and seven brothers to the Solon district, where he received all his schooling. He then went to Hanna to work for the C.N.R., first in the shops and then as a brakeman.

He married Louise Engel in 1925. Their son Jack was born in 1926. In 1928 they moved to the Gosselin place and lived there for thirteen years. Jack continued working for the C.N.R. until he retired in 1963. He passed away in 1973.

Jack and Louise had four children. Jack, at Barrhead, has a Men's Wear Store. Kathy lives in Edmonton. Norman operates a barber shop in Stettler and Stanley lives in Calgary.

Louise still lives in Hanna, very active in church and pioneer affairs. Jack also worked with community organizations: after his retirement he worked with the Museum committee and at the Pioneer Hall. He was a well-liked and respected person and did much for his community, sportswise and socially.

THE QUAST FAMILY, ***By Helen Quast Dyke*** — My Dad, Christian Quast, was born in Bessarabia in 1881. My mother Magdaline was born in Roumania in 18[illegible]. They were united in marriage in Roumania in 1904. To this union were born eleven children.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Quast.

Back Row: Mary, Dorothy, Martha. Middle Row: Ida, Mrs. Quast, Helen. Front Row: Diana.

My parents came to Canada in 1910. With them were two of my Dad's cousins, C. Quast and J. Quast, with their wives and families.

My parents had two sons who were born in the old country, my brother Jack born in 1906 and a brother Ferdinand, an infant who became ill, died aboard ship and was buried at sea. This was my parents' first tragedy and sorrow before arriving in Canada.

They came directly to Calgary by train and lived there until 1916; my Dad worked for Burns' as a meat cutter and also did carpenter work. In 1916 they moved to Saskatchewan where they lived until 1926, then moved to Hanna. They lived in town until April, 1928, when they moved to a farm twelve miles east of Hanna, to try their luck at farming.

Times were hard and the land was poor. Because crops were often hailed out or dried out, my Dad did carpenter work to try to put food on the table for his, by now, large family. He helped build the first Hanna Hospital and the Church of Christ, as well as several homes, some of them still in the town. Dad and my brother Jack built East Point School. Dad also built caskets and church pews.

Our home was a two-room tarpaper shack and we can all well remember when it rained outside it rained inside too. In the winter the drinking water froze solid in the pail. In the summer time we girls would move beds out to a granary and sleep there until it was needed for grain.

Mother used to roast wheat in the oven until it was brown, roll it with the rolling pin and use it for a substitute for coffee, which we couldn't afford to buy. According to neighbors and friends, Mom was known for the excellent bread and coffee cakes she used to bake, and of course we children thought she was the best cook in the world. Mom used to make noodles for the neighbors as well as for her own family. Although she never learned to read or write, she could turn out the best darn cake and cookies anyone ever tasted.

Mom used to make dresses for us girls out of flour sacks, and we used to argue about who was going to get the next new dress.

I can remember walking three miles to Centre Point School, and for lunch having thick slices of bread spread with lard that Mother had rendered down. If we were real lucky we would have syrup spread on the bread. It would soak in and get all hard and dried out.

My older brothers and sisters attended school at East Point; it was closed down in later years and then we went to Centre Point. One of my first teachers there, and always one of my favorites, was Virginia Thomas.

Our closest neighbors were the William Andersons and many a time in an emergency we called upon them for help. Mrs. Anderson used to give our family preserves for the winter, and butter and milk. I can remember Mother saying years later that if it hadn't been for the Andersons, she wouldn't have been able to keep going. Mrs. Anderson used to play the part of Santa Claus at our Christmas concerts, and what a disappointment to us younger girls when we found out that Santa wasn't a real person.

In 1929 my parents moved to the Grassy Slope district. Our home was much better but times were still hard for my parents, although my older brothers and sisters were away from home now and making their own livings. We were then into what a lot of old timers call the dirty thirties. Our crops were either dried out or hailed out and Dad had the misfortune of breaking his leg twice, so Mom had to do the best she could.

Our parents never owned a car, but our good neighbors were always there to help if we needed them. Dad used to plow a fire guard for the railway, and get old ties for firewood. In the winter, if he was lucky enough to get a coyote for its hide, he would take it to the store at Richdale and bring back flour, sugar, coffee, and at times even a box of apples.

In 1943 our parents sold their farming equipment and moved back into the town of Hanna, where Dad again did carpenter work. In 1946 Mother became ill and Dad retired and stayed at home to look after her. They lived in Hanna until the fall of 19[illegible] when they moved to Edmonton to live with their daughter Dorothy. Mother passed away there in November, 19[illegible], and Dad died in January, 19[illegible], in the Camrose Nursing Home.

They were predeceased by a son Ferdinand and a daughter Matilda as infants, a son Emanuel at the age of eleven, and a son Jack, at the age of fifty-one. Jack left four daughters.

Surviving members of the family are William, a bachelor who lives in Vancouver. Martha, who married Ronald Beach, makes her home in Calgary. Mary married Dmitar Dayton, was widowed in May, 1976 and lives at Gunn, Alberta. Dorothy married Robert Dyke. They live on their farm at Mundare, Alberta. Ida married Ervin Hoyd, they live at Medicine Hat. Helen married Clarence

Dyke and lives in Kenna; Dianne married Albert Sibley. They live in Whitehorse, Y.T.

We girls keep in touch with each other and have many a laugh about things that happened over the years, shed a few tears at the hard times and sorrows we have all lived through, and then think how lucky we have really been over the years.

MOULDINGS OF CENTRE POINT, By Frank Moulding — Dad and Mother, Joe and Minnie Moulding, were born in Manchester, England in 1872 and 187 respectively. They and Reg, just a baby, immigrated in 1903 to Richmond, Ontario. From here they went west to a homestead at Radisson, Saskatchewan where Dad spent the winter of 1906-07 in a tie camp. It was here that brother Leonard was born in 1908. In 1910 the folks, Reg and Leonard came to a homestead in the Parr district. Rancher Gowan, whose land adjoined the folks, sold out in 1911. The family moved to the ranch site and ran the stopping house. I was born at the ranch in 1912

Mrs. Minnie Moulding

Back Row: Joseph, Minnie and Reg Moulding
Front Row: Leonard and Frank.

In the summer of 1914 Dad purchased the land of the Joseph Bowes estate, and we made the move to the Centre Point district in the spring of 1915. Joe Bowie had homesteaded the west half of 22-31-13 as South African Scrip in 1909. He had also purchased a homestead, the northeast of 14-31-13. Joe Bowie died at Redding, California in 1913.

When we came to this area the Centre Point School, which had been built in 1912, was in operation. Guy Gibbs was the first teacher. Reg and Leonard went to the school which was located on our land on the northeast corner of the northeast quarter, just a short distance from home. Both had attended Parr School before coming here. When I became of age I also attended Centre Point. We three boys completed our education at this little white school. We boarded several teachers. One I remember best was Lavina Raymond who married Sid Honey, a neighboring bachelor, about 1923. In 1923 we acquired a Concert Grand piano which my mother could play. We entertained our neighbors with house parties after we got the piano. Lavina Raymond could also play the piano. The school was used for dancing, playing cards, tall tales and church services. The highlight of the year was the Christmas concert. We used to put mice, butterflies and frogs in the teacher's [illegible]. For our troubles we had to stay in and write a five-hundred word essay on how not to pester the teacher. Due to the economic conditions people moved away, lowering the school's attendance, necessitating the closure of the school in 1938. Virginia Thomas was the last teacher. She had only the Christ [illegible], Miss Lila [illegible] and Marie Dachuck as students, far from the forty students who attended in the early twenties. The school was torn down by Sullivan Lake School Division and was used to build the School Division Office in Hanna.

In 1918 we lost most of our possessions in a barn fire caused by a smudge getting out of control. Our things were being stored there while an addition was being built on the house. This was a serious loss for we had to replace our clothing and furniture and build another barn. As the whole we had to break new land. Dad and Reg broke it with horses. Later on we got the Gunners to break with their Case engine. All together we got one hundred acres under cultivation. The stock grazed on the open sections around the country. We cut our hay off these same sections. The best hay land was section 31.

Dyna Brothers, Gunners, Andy Panthers and Fred Whaley to name a few were the ones who threshed our crops. We hauled our grain in a double box wagon with horses to Aneas and also Bonar and Hanna. Also loaded over the platform at Aneas. Home Grain owned the elevators at Aneas and Bonar. Bonar, a forty thousand bushel elevator, was built in 1914 with D. B. Grant as manager. Aneas, smaller at forty-five thousand bushels was built about 1918 with L. B. Pickles as one of the managers. I learned to play crib from him. Aneas was dismantled in 1935. Bonar eventually became part of the Searle Grain Company and was later part of the Federal elevator system. Alberta Wheat Pool acquired Federal's assets and demolished the Bonar elevator in 1972. Some salvage materials were used in the new Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. Ian Grossell was the last elevator agent at Bonar.

As I remember, 1923 was a good year with thirty-five bushel crops quite common. Our crop suffered hundred percent hail damage in 1926. Both 1928 and 1932 were banner years but the prices were ridiculously low.

In 1921 Reg, who had steam papers, ran the steamer for Scotty Glover of Garden Plain. He fired Gunner's steamer when they were breaking land in 1923. One winter Reg fired the boilers at the round house in Hanna. Then in 1928 he went to work for Sandy Foote who managed the pool elevator in Hanna. Sandy had the North Star Oil Agency and Reg's job was to deliver fuel to the customers with a Ford truck. Otto Lindstrom, who had the contract of supplying power to Hanna, engaged Reg to operate the plant. In 1932 he met Kay Ashford when he was elevator buyer for the Alberta Pacific at Hanna. She was hauling grain by truck from the threshing machine for her father. They were married in 1933. During the [illegible] years he bought grain at Dorothy. He worked for the Alberta Pacific at different locations until the beginning of World War Two when he hired on with Standard Gravel of Calgary as a buyer. In 1968 he retired from Standard Gravel and is still residing in Calgary. Reg and Kay have a family of two, a son Jack and a daughter Marjorie. There are several grandchildren.

Leonard, after completing his education at Centre Point, worked for several farmers in the district as a hired man. In 1929 he operated a dump wagon for the contractors who were building the railway line from Scapa to Hemaruka. After two years construction working in the States, he came back to go farming at Endiang until 1939. He and his wife went to Edmonton where he was employed as a guard at [illegible] Correctional Institute, retiring in 1973 to live at Rimbey. The Leonard [illegible] have a son Jerry and a daughter Mary.

After leaving school I stayed home and worked on the place with Dad. I spent

the fall of 1930 on the Watts flats driving four horses on a fresno putting in a grade. That same fall I drove eight head on a plough, cutting a drainage ditch from the Number 9 highway north-east to Watts so the water would drain into what is now known as Fox Lake. The fall of 1931 I worked off taxes putting in a slough-fill north of the Greeks on the township line. This was known as relief work. I remember the plagues of grasshoppers, army worms, the dust storms and the Russian Thistles. One year we put up Russian Thistles mixed with straw for feed. During the hungry thirties I went threshing five different falls around Coronation, Veteran, Bulwark, Fleet and Ponoka for winter's grub stake. The folks cared for the farm while I was gone. Mother died in 1938 leaving Dad and me alone. I continued farming with my Dad until he passed away in 1947. Both are buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

In January 1947, Milt Rickett brought seventy head of cattle here, which Bob and I fed from the old straw piles sitting around. In one of these stacks we hollowed out the good straw leaving a shell. When I jumped on the shell the whole shebang caved in and Bob came a-running, wondering where I had gone. After the straw piles were used up we fed from my barge stacks which had been left out because of the early winter.

I helped Dad Trefz build a few barges during the winter months during the late forties. I used a barge of Dan Trefz' patent for five years. I pulled this with a 22-36 International. I purchased my first new tractor, an Oliver 88, in 1952, continuing to use it for years. I even bought a threshing machine which was used only a short time, then got a combine as it was hard to get help. I have been with cattle all my life and some years they were the only income that I had to carry on with.

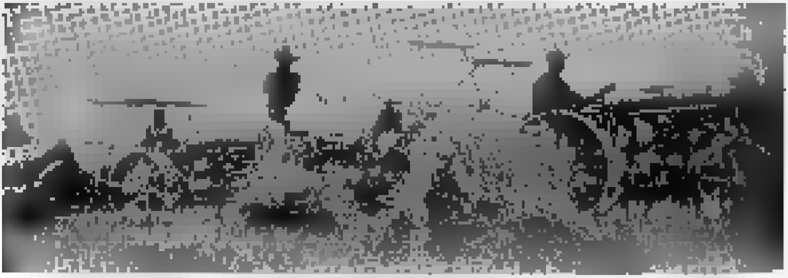
In 1929 I purchased my first car, an old Model T. Bob Anderson, Ralph Cleary and myself plus others travelled over rough roads and prairie trails to dances and ball games at Richdale, Stanmore, Clear Lake, Grande Ridge and other places. Through the years I have owned at least six cars and four trucks. The one I would like to have today for an antique is the 1927 Model T with the wire wheels

I spent several years as a telephone repair lineman on the North East Mutual. I never knew when I would have to go out, and the weather was often not in my favor. I had no regrets about A.G.T. installing the underground system.

I was married in 1949 to Florence Greenwood, and have one daughter Caroline Hume of Calgary, and a son Phil at home.

HANNA FARMS LTD.

By Clarence Elm



Ed Elm on Tractor, Hanna Farms - 1921

In February, 1919, a group of Hanna businessmen formed a farming company. The first regular meeting was held February 25, 1919; officers and

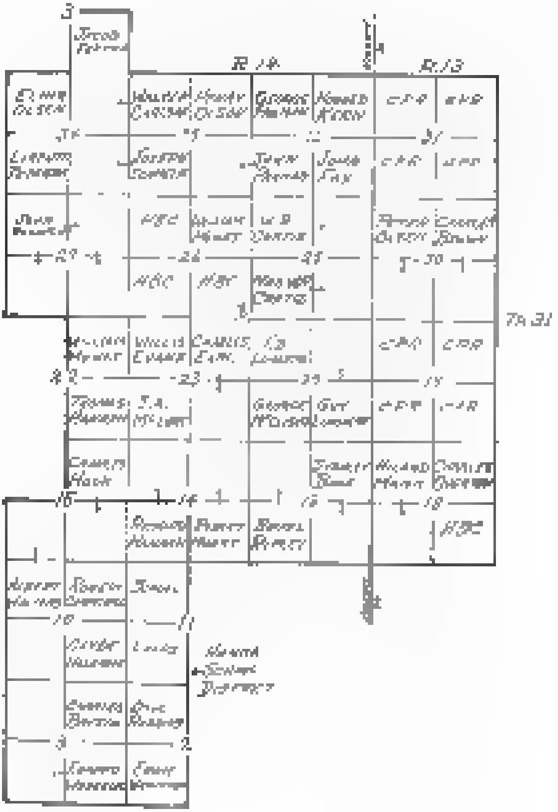
directors were C. A. Coughlin, president; G. W. Flemming, vice-president; J. C. Trenaman, secretary-treasurer; J. G. Odell, Arthur Burrows; The company secured the services of Fred Elm as farm operator.

The company purchased eight hundred acres of land, including section 29-31-13. It also bought machinery, and an 'All Work' tractor. These tractors were sold by Arthur Burrows. The company capital was $20,000.00, and the plans included expanding in the fall with the purchase of more land.

Fred Elm broke the first hundred acres in 1919 with the All Work tractor. The last part of the breaking was done with a Fordson tractor, which was obtained through the government. Fred said that it was a dry year! He operated Hanna Farms until 1922.

Andy Mosier was operator in 1923, when five hundred acres were sown. The following year William Sinclair was operator, and in 1925 the company ceased operations.

MEADOWLANDS No. 4067



RESIDENTS AND PRESENT DAY OWNERS OR RENTERS

NW-34-31-14
Art Campion

SW-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

SE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NW-35-31-14
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman
Bob Paxman

SW-35-31-14
Jim Parker
Rudolph Kesl
Fred Werner
Fred Engel
Gordon Robertson

NE-35-31-14
Hilda Paxman

SE-35-31-14
Cliff Paxman
Hilda Paxman

NW-36-31-14
Lionel Paxman
Levi Kennedy
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman

SW-36-31-14
Hilda Paxman

NE-36-31-14
Andy Duff

SE-36-31-14
Levi Kennedy
Melvin Pfahl

W½ & SE-31-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

SW-31-31-13
H. Macropol
Rudolph Doering
Ed Ela

Emil Pfahl
Otto Stern

W½-30-31-13
Walter Newman
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Metz

E½-30-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

NW-25-31-14
Bill Curtis

NE-26-31-14
Hilda Paxman

S½-25-31-14
Percy Flood
Annie Costyk
Hilda Paxman
NW-26-31-14
Jim Parker
Les Martin

NE-26-31-14
John Martel

S½-26-31-14
Cliff Kern
Hank Hildenbrand
(acreage)

Section-27-31-14
Albert Kern

NE-22-31-14
John Martin

SE-22-31-14
Jim Parker
Mr. Oldham
Art Green
Mike Lilke
Ed Zabeck
John Diachuck
Cliff Kern
Andy Duff

NW-23-31-14
Howard Kern
Albert Kern

SW-23-31-14
Theodore Pedersen
Joe Berry
George Scott
Fred McGowan
Henry O'Neil
Dick Hunnell
John Hannah
Lorne Hannah

NE-23-31-14
Josephine Curtis
Bill Curtis

SE-23-31-14
Stan James

NW-24-31-14
Fred Baas
Jim Parker
Bill Curtis

SW-24-31-14
E. Simpson
Ted Sams
Stan James

E½-24-31-14
Ted Kinder
Joshua Flood
Harvey Flood
Chris Pfahl
Herb Pfahl

W½ & NE-19-31-13
Herb Pfahl

SE-19-31-13
Frieda Fechu

W½-18-31-13
Bill & Gibb Thompson
Lorne Hannah
Jack Lilke
Elsie Hein

NE-18-31-13
Mr. Thompson
Wellington Hamilton
Mike Lilke
Ed Hein

Doug Hein

SE-18-31-13
Reinhold Kainz
W½-13-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-13-31-14
Herb Pfahl

W½-14-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-14-31-14
John Engel
Bill James
Orpha Wright

E½-15-31-14
Jake Kessel
Doc Sim
N. E. Stamps
Fred Miller

NE-10-31-14
Thomas Boyd
Fred McGowan
Harry James
Stan James

SE-10-31-14
Stan James

SW-10-31-14
Lee Price

W½-11-31-14
Stan James

NW-2-31-14
Fred McGowan
Fred Werner
Stan James

SW-2-31-14
Stan James

NW-3-31-14
Lee Price

NE-3-31-14
Airport
S½-3-31-14
Fred & Wayne Schultz

MEADOWLAND'S SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4067

By Bill Curtis

Probably because this neighborhood seemed to be populated by many bachelor homesteaders, the Meadowland's School didn't organize until the spring of 1922, when a summer term was started in the homestead shack of Chas. Earl which was located on the north side of the N.W. 23-31-14. A few weeks earlier a meeting of interested residents of the immediate area had been held at the home of W. R. Curtis, and the preliminary planning started. The Jim Parkers, William Mowat, Walter Carlson and John Paxman were probably those who attended; and after several names were suggested, they finally agreed on the name "Meadowlands", which was suggested by Mrs. Curtis, as it was the name her

mother, Mrs. Mary Earl, had given to the hayfields on the farm when she visited from Ontario in 1919.

A neighborhood work-bee lined the homestead shack with beaverboard, added a small porch, and built two essential "Little Houses" from the small barn that was on the place. The first scholars: Harry and Winnie Parker and Billie Curtis, were already nine or ten years of age, but this fact did not seem to hold them back for in a couple of years they were up to grade five standing.

The first teacher, Mrs. Jack Telford boarded at William Mowat's and the second summer term a Mrs. Ruddy skillfully and speedily coached the small class in the three "R's". During the second term, Marion Parker and Harold and Ethel Fortna joined the little class, which by 1928 finally outgrew the twelve by sixteen room.

Meadowlands First Schoolhouse

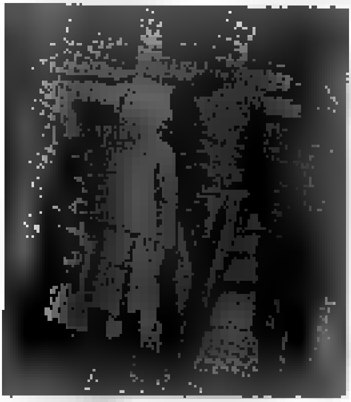
It was then that Ed Elm and his great "pioneer" tractor was hired to move a real white schoolhouse out from Hanna. This building, which had been known as the "Grade Seven Room", and had stood on the northeast corner of the east school grounds at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Third Street East, was hauled to the southeast corner of the S.E. 28-31-14 and placed on a three acre plot, provided by H. V. Kern, who was one of the original school trustees. Eventually, this building was deemed unsafe, structurally, since the north wall seemed to wobble in an alarming manner when the north wind blew, and it was purchased by J. P. Fortna, who moved it to his farmstead. Through the efforts of Vic Swanson and his School Division Repair Crew another cottage-type, imitation brick building made its appearance on the same site, complete with a teacherage and a bigger barn.

After consolidation and school bussing came into effect in the fall of 1961, the Meadowlands community acquired the school building for a very nominal sum of money, and have turned it into a very active community center known as the "Meadowlands Mutual Recreational Club".

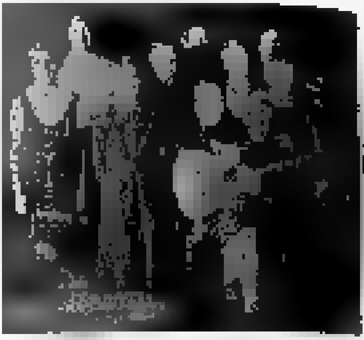
The old-time community togetherness seems to be brought back when

dances, card parties, picnics and ball games are organized, and neighborhood enjoys a few hours of fun and frolic.

From 1922-1928 school was held during the summer months only. In the of 1928, regular school terms started in September of each year.



Meadowlands First School Class 1922. Minnie, Marion, Harry Parker and Bill Curtis.



Meadowlands School Class 1936. Back Row, Left to Right: Elsie Pfahl, Linda Pfahl, Bernice Paxman, Albert Fenna, Cliff Fox, Cliff Kern, Phyllis Hannah, Cliff Paxman, Herbert Pfahl. Seated: Jean Curtis.

Meadowlands School Class 1944-45. Back Row, Left to Right: Leonard Pfahl, Mary Paxman, Elsie Ulke, Irene Paxman, Edis Ulm. Second Row: Eva Paxman, Verna Paxman, Carol Paxman. Third Row: Marie Pfahl, Louise Pfahl, Eileen Engel. Front Row: Geraldine Engel, Edna Pfahl, Gerald Engel, Eddie Pfahl, Ott Ulke

Following is a list of teachers who taught at Meadowlands from 1922 to 1961:

1922, Mrs. Telford; 1923, Mrs. Ruddy; 1924, William B. Cromarty; 1925, Lorna Trace; 1926 and 1927, Edith Kern; 1928, Mr. Skeaching; 1928-30, Kathleen Allen; 1930–33, Gwen Rose; 1933-36, Irene Lewis; 1936-38, Myrtle MacDonald; 1938-39, Betty Wallace; 1939–42, Violet Stewart; 1942–43, Mrs. Grimes; 1943–44, Mrs Bardseth; 1944–45, Mrs. W. R. Curtis (Supervisor), October until December.

Phyllis Morton, January until June; 1945-46, Mrs. Dave Harvey; 1946-47, Verda Hoffman; 1947-49, Sylvia Robinson, September until December, Mrs. Allison Burton, January until June; 1949-52, Mrs. A. M. Peterson; 1952-53, Alex Proudfoot; 1953-56, Mrs. Betty Lumsden; 1956-58, Catherine Durand; 1958-59, Myrtle Moench, 1959-60, Mrs. Housch; 1960-61, Donald Moench

TEACHING AT MEADOWLANDS SCHOOL - 1925

By L. M. Trace

I was not an oldtimer in the district but I taught at Meadowlands School in the summer of 1925. School was held in the shack of the original homesteader, Charlie Earl. My class consisted of Billie Curtis, Lloyd Campbell, the three oldest of the Parker family, two Geem children and one boy from Kern's Dairy farm. There was just enough room to crowd in eight desks. I boarded with Captain and Mrs. Curtis. I played ball with the Garden Plain ball team, playing around Bolon, Scapa and Endiang. I am now retired and living in High River.

MY YEAR AT MEADOWLANDS 1938-1939

By Betty Wallace MacKenzie

In the fall of 1938, I came to Meadowlands to teach the children of that district. The school was under the direction of The Sullivan Lake School Division, with the main office situated in the town of Hanna and with Mr. H. K. Fielding as the secretary. My home was in the community of Gem about sixty miles south, and I had taught at St. George, a school not far from Meadowlands, the previous year.

My boarding place was with the Kern family, well known dairy farmers of the district. They made my year with them very welcome and happy, and they all helped in any way possible. Their home was approximately one mile from the school. This distance I usually walked in the company of Agnes Kern who was one of my grade two students. If the weather turned extra cold or stormy we often were given a ride in the milk wagon by Mr. Kern which was used to deliver the milk and was warm and comfortable. I remember that it was a lovely fall and we really enjoyed walking to school, often taking a short cut through the newly cut stubble.

I had about fourteen or fifteen children as students and grades one to nine inclusive. These children were Carol, Irene, Mary, Cliff and Bill Pasman. Agnes Kern; Herb and Elsie Pfahl; Russel Costyck; Herb, Elsie and Freda Litke; George "Sonny" Kennedy. Rita, Garry and Jim Parker and Art Campion who attended only part of the year.

Rita Parker did the janitor work, keeping the school neat and clean and looking after the fire when the weather turned cold.

This was a real help for me as this had been my duty at the previous school. Salaries were not very high, but were improving over what they had been under the local rural school boards. I think my salary was an all time high of seventy dollars per month and as board and room was only twenty dollars a month I was able to save quite a bit as of course clothing, etc. was very little as by today's standards.

Recess time was always fun, ball being the most popular sport. And we often hosted other districts at a ball game and in turn went to play at other schools.

The children and I soon got to know each other and I know I had a very enjoyable year with them. They were all very helpful and did their best to complete assignments, with discipline at a minimum. Reference material was not plentiful, and duplicating machines were unknown at our school, so it was necessary to put most all exercises on the much used blackboard. The big social of the year was the Christmas Concert. For this every one worked very hard, including the parents of the district. The mothers helped with the costumes and the Christmas bags for each child and we held a box social before the concert to raise money for the extras needed to fill the bags and purchase the tree and the few gifts for the children. After the concert, the men soon cleared away the stage and benches in readiness for the old time dance, which we all enjoyed.

School closed with the usual annual school picnic, which consisted of races and contests for children of all age groups, peanut scrambles, prizes and a picnic lunch to conclude the day and so the end of another school year. In the fall, Miss Violet Stewart took over as the new teacher as I had resigned in favor of marriage to Bill Mackenzie. My memories of teaching at Meadowlands will always be remembered with fondness.

THE MEADOWLANDS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

By Cliff Kern

As early as 1916 the farmers of this area were meeting with the Alberta Government Telephone Company in order to construct a rural telephone system but because of the war this was not accomplished until 1922. The telephone was a great help to farmers, saving them many miles of travelling with a team and wagon to do their business and communicate with their neighbors. Due to the depression and poor crops of the thirties, the farmers of this area were unable to pay their telephone bills. As a result, the Alberta Telephone Company decided to dispose of all rural lines.

On the evening of June 14, 1935 a meeting of all rural subscribers on line "16" and "6" was called in the old town hall in Hanna to consider purchasing these lines from the Alberta Government. The meeting was called to order by Mr. A. M. Blackburn, a representative of the Alberta Government Telephone Company who gave a very detailed explanation of the reasons the government had for disposing of the rural phone systems in Alberta.

After considerable discussion a vote was taken to find out whether the meeting was in favor of forming a company and purchasing the lines. The vote was favorable and a company was formed under the title, "The Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited." The following officers were duly elected: President – N. E. Steeves; Secretary - Ferg James; Directors – T. A. Campion, H. V. Kern and W. Carlson.

On July 1, 1935, the President and the Secretary met with Mr. Blackburn and an agreement was drawn up for the purchase by the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited of all of line "16" and part of line "6." The purchasing price was $262.50 payable to the Alberta Government in $24.00 cash at time of sale plus two annual instalments of $119.25. The cost was to be divided equally between the shareholders. A $3.00 initial payment was collected from each shareholder to cover the first payment.

The first shareholders were: T. A. Campion, J. Fortna, W. Carlson, R. Hannah, J. E. Hamilton, Ferg James, H. V. Kern, W. Mowat, E. Olson, G. Paxman, W. Riddell and N. E. Steeves.

At a meeting on August 10, 1935, it was decided that the fees be set at seventy-five cents per month per member. As times were hard, the first note which was due on July 1, 1936 could not be met so the secretary asked the Alberta Government for an extension. This was the trend for the next three years as they

could only make part payments on the note when it was due, but in the fall of 1939 the note was finally paid in full.

The two trunk lines running to the north and east of Hanna connecting the Scapa-Dowling and Garden Plain–Spondin areas to central exchange were copper wire instead of the usual galvanized type in order to overcome the resistance. Since these lines passed through or along side the Meadowlands Mutual territory there developed a problem concerning the responsibility of servicing them. The various servicemen who looked after the Meadowlands phones had no desire to be involved. The problem was finally solved by Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited paying for pin space on the trunk lines.

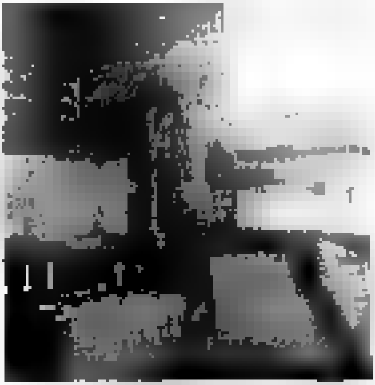
Other subscribers and shareholders on the line were: Mrs. Wirth, Chris Gasper, Otto Max, Art Campion, Bill Miller, Fred Engel, W. R. Curtis, Louis Pahl, Brian Gladdish, Andy Duff, John Dechuck, Albert Galarneau, Bill MacKenzie, Dave Temple, Cliff Paxman, Albert Banco, Stan James, Lorne Hannah, Albert Kern, Cliff Kern, Bill Paxman, Dooley Allen, Jobe Martin and Hank Hildenbrand.

When the Alberta Government Telephone Company completed the underground phone system in 1973 the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company was dissolved after being in business for thirty-eight years. At dissolution the share value was $22.50.

The poles and wire lines were all dismantled and stock piled in the schoolyard and usable material was divided equally among the shareholders. For some time the road allowances seemed bare and unfamiliar when one drove through the neighborhood, but perhaps this was nostalgia rebelling against progress.

THE DAIRYMEN OF HANNA

By Cliff Kern


Howard Kern bottling milk and cream

When the village of Hanna sprang up in 1912 there was an immediate need for milk. This was a boon for the nearby farmers as most of them had a cow or two. Some of them could see the opportunity for a thriving business. One such man was Charlie Glover who homesteaded four and one-half miles northwest of town. Sometime in 1912, Charlie decided to start a milk route, bringing the milk in every day in cans. These cans had a quart measure in the lid and he would go from door to door measuring out the required amount of milk each person wanted. He first named his dairy the Hanna Dairy but in June 1914 changed it to the City Dairy. He carried on his business until May 1916 when he sold out to the Ferguson Brothers south of Hanna. That summer milk was selling at twelve quarts for a dollar.

The Hanna Creamery took over this business from the Ferguson Brothers but did not stay with it too long and in April of 1918 decided to discontinue selling milk. The town then was without a milkman.

In June of 1918, W. R. Dolbler, who lived on the Con. Lawlor homestead one

mile north of town had milk for sale but it is not known whether he actually started a milk route.

In August, 1916, Joe Barry, who lived on the McLure homestead two miles northeast of Hanna, started a milk route but he delivered milk for only about a year.

In December of 1919, H. C. "Doc" Sim who moved from the Lonebutte area south of Hanna onto the Charlie Hook homestead announced his intention to go into the dairy business on a big scale as Hanna had been hard put for an adequate supply of milk for several years. A modern plant was installed and the cows were milked with milking machines. In November 1921, his dairy barn and milkhouse were totally destroyed by fire but by February of 1922 were completely rebuilt. He delivered milk until 1934 when he sold out to N. E. Steeves, who carried on until he left the district in 1937.

Jim Hamilton, a farmer from north of Hanna, moved into Hanna and started a dairy in the early twenties. He kept a dairy inside the town limits but when a by-law was passed he had to move his cows out to his brother Ernie's place one mile of town. Ernie Hamilton milked the cows and brought the milk into town where Jim bottled and peddled it. He sold out to Beard Tucker in 1936, who ran it for a time then resold to Johnny Pelzer.

Early in 1920 Howard Kern also started in a dairy business. This was the longest running dairy in the town's history. He peddled milk in town from the time of starting until his death in October of 1958. When a by-law was passed in 1947 requiring all milk delivered in the town of Hanna to be pasteurized, he moved a building into town from Chinook and set up the necessary machinery to do the pa Before he got it into operation he sold this part of the business to Leo Benson and Johnny Pelzer, but continued selling milk to them. When Benson and Pelzer sold out to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, Howard again started peddling milk. This milk was not pasteurized and the town council put pressure on him many times to stop, but he kept on just the same.

Several dairies have been started with more or less success but all have sooner or later withdrawn from the field. Harvey Howitt who was living on the O. E. Payne homestead north of town bought out the dairy business of J. Hamilton in April of 1922 but only stayed with it for about one year. In April of 1922, A. J. Campbell entered into the dairy business. He also purchased the milk route of E. R. Holbrook in May of 1922.

In September of 1922, A. F. Green moved from the Golden Hill district to the Oldham place northeast of Hanna and bought the dairy herd and business of A. J. Campbell. He peddled milk until 1925 when he moved out of the district.

Ferg James moved onto the Robert Churchill homestead and started a dairy in 1931. He made a real success of this business and was in operation until 1943. He sometimes delivered milk in the evenings instead of mornings as was the custom.

When Kern's Dairy closed down, that marked the end of the era of the dairy farmer who milked the cows, bottled and delivered the milk. For several years many of the farmers of the area sold bulk milk to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool but they eventually closed down and the dairy herds were sold. Today most of the farmers who at one time had milk to sell by the gallons now are buying milk shipped in from various mixed farming districts in other parts of the province. It seems strange that the dairying industry, which must have contributed a lot to the economy of the area, has now completely disappeared.

Milk usually sold for about eight to ten cents a quart, but in 1932 the dairymen of that time started cutting prices and the milkman's war was on. It was the case of

there being too many milkmen and not enough customers. Milk was selling for as low as five cents a quart for nearly a year. This can be better described by the following poem:

THE MILKMAN'S, WAR

By Ferg James

The Milkman's war broke out today
They slashed the price, there's hell to pay
They gnashed their teeth and then turned grey
For the milkman's war is on.
Put out your pails and pots and pans
And leave five cents for the old milkman.
He'll fill them all and an extra can;
For the milkman's war is on.
They're putting it out with cars and rigs,
In wagons, trucks and one horse gigs,
And snorting around like Mag and Jiggs,
For the milkman's war is on.
They deliver at morn and at evening too,
In the pale moonlight and the sparkling dew,
When it's pelting rain, or the skies are blue,
For the milkman's war is on.
The beer resorts are on the bum,
Folks are drinking milk instead of rum,
The breweries are going broke, by gum,
For the milkman's war is on.
These boys are rich, they don't need dough,
But the lacteal fluid still must flow,
It gives them a thrill, and makes them glow,
For the milkman's war is on.
And pulling "teats" is a nifty job,
When old Brindle swings you on the gob
And makes you swallow your old corn cob
When the milkman's war is on.
I wish my bottles were filled with rye
I'd sit in the wagon and drain them dry.
Bud Howard and Doc and Jim, goodbye,
Till the milkman's war is done.

THE JIM PARKER STORY — Jim Parker was born in Milner, North Dakota on November 29, 1884. He was the youngest boy of a family of five boys and one girl. His father, Thomas Parker and mother, the former Mary Ann Strickland, and family, with the exception of the eldest brother, Herb (who was married and living in Montana) moved from Dakota in 1901 to Coal Banks, Alberta. Coal Banks was near where the town of Ardly now stands. Brother Frank, who had been in ill health due to a bout with diphtheria passed away here at the age of nineteen years.

In 1903 the Parker brothers, John, Ed and Jim moved down to Waite and established themselves on what is known now as the Lamb Brothers' farm. They also had another camp at the springs in the Hand Hills which is now the Don Benedict ranch. Here, they kept calves and young cattle until the hard winter of 1906-07 when they lost most of their herd. They also had a bull pasture which is now called the Wells Flats, but they called this the Bullpound. The creek runs just south of the town of Hanna. In 1908 there was a terrible prairie fire in the area which destroyed hay for miles around.

In the spring of 1909 they all took up homesteads in the Copeville area.

In 1911 Jim was married to Carrie Brown Harris and the couple resided on the groom's homestead and pre-emption, the west half of section 8-31-14. The homestead house was near where the C.N.R. tracks and Roundhouse were later built. In 1912 this half section along with the George Burkell quarter was purchased by the Canadian Northern Railway, and incorporated into the present townsite of Hanna.

Children of Jim and Carrie Parker. Boys, Left to Right: Frank, Ben, Harry, Jim Jr., Alvin, Tom. Girls: Winnifred, Marje, Carrie, Rita

In December 24, 1912 a son was born to Jim and Carrie — Dr. James Mason in attendance and they called him James Harry Fredrick. He was the second boy born in the Hanna area.

Jim and George Burkell, his brother-in-law, became implement Dealers — stocking machinery for farming and haying in this community. In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent in Hanna and he and Ed ran a taxi service to Castor. A runabout car at that time cost about $675.00, a touring car $750.00 and a town car $1,000.00. Jim also bought the Tom Hannah farm in 1913. This was the SE 22-31-14 and not far from town. He also took the SW 22-31-14 as a purchased homestead.

A daughter was born to them in July of 1914, Winnifred Frances. In 1916 another daughter, Marion Alberta arrived.

In 1917 Jim's brother Ed and Frances and family went back to Colville, Washington so Jim and Carrie and family decided to go back also, but didn't find things and times as interesting as they thought it would be so both families moved back. Then in 1918 a second son was born to the Jim Parkers but lived only a few days. This boy was christened Ray. We were still on the Hannah farm at this time.

On this place Jim (my Dad) had a well dug and a windmill put up which I can remember we were warned to stay away from. It is recorded in one of Dad's books that he got water at this place in April 1918, at a depth of 129 feet, water in centre of twenty eight feet of rock and the cost to dig the well was $185.00. In 1918 Dad sold this farm and bought the Schmeale farm north of Hanna and farmed from there. Also sold at that time were the following items as they were entered in Dad's book: piano $200.00, cookstove $50.00, heater $16.00, sideboard $15.00, dresser $15.00, brass bed $30.00, two common beds $10.00, lounge $12.00, mattress $10.00, extension table $6.00, cupboard $3.00, gramophone $25.00, buggy $100.00, car $100.00, two sets of double harness $50.00, sulky plough $40.00, and five head of horses and one colt $600.00.

In 1919 a son Ben Colin was born on the Schmeale place. Here the house was a good one-third of a mile from the well so my folks moved the house nearer to it.

In 1922 Meadowlands School was started in a shack on the Charlie Earl quarter (which later belonged to Mrs. J. Curtis). There were only four pupils to open the school — three from our family, Harry, Marion and myself and Ed Curtis. Miss Telford was our teacher and school was only held in the summer months. Earlier Dad had driven Harry and me to town school for a while but that was a long haul with team and wagon. Dad rigged us up a one-horse shay for old Blue and that worked real well until one day as we were getting ready to go home and had our horse hitched and ready to go a car came around the bend and away went old Blue and cart and my little sister. Luckily a man driving down the road saw her coming and managed to stop her. My sister wasn't hurt but badly frightened.

Also in 1921 a son Thomas Maxwell was born. In 1923 a daughter, Rita Jeanie was born. That summer we lived on the Day place over by the La Porters to be nearer school. Here we attended the Silver Valley School. It was here that Harry and Hazel (cousin) put Fern (Hazel's sister) on a calf which bucked her off and broke her wrist. It was also here that Ben and Tom, two and four then, were riding around the house on Louse, our old pet horse when they went under the clothesline and the line caught the saddle horn, scaring the horse and she jumped and Tom fell off on a rock and broke his arm. Ben managed to stay on but when we got him off his chin was all skinned so I guess he was riding pretty low. I also remember we kids caught a badger in a trap and could not pull the trapped animal out of the hole so we decided to get the milk cow, old Betty, as we could catch her and we put a rope around her neck and tied the end to the trap and one of us led the cow and the others stood around the hole — each armed with a big stick and as the badger and trap was pulled out — we all let him have it. Good thing our cow didn't take off with badger, trap and all.

On July 4, 1926 twins were born to mother on the Schmeale place. They were James Lewis and Carrie Elizabeth. In January of 1928 my sister Marion became ill and passed away due to a ruptured appendix. She was nine years old at the time. Only mother and myself were with her when she died. I was eleven. We had no phone, no ploughed roads. I walked up to Walter Carlson's place early in the morning to phone my dad to let him know. He had been travelling back and forth [illegible] horse to work but hadn't been coming home every night.

In 1927 my Dad sold the Schmeale place to F. A. Mathis of Hanna. Then we moved over to the Langston place near Harvey Rhoads (later Chris Rhodes). Times were hard and there were so many dry years we could barely raise any garden but kept milk cows and chickens.

In 1928 we moved into town and lived in one of Mr. Graham Rhodes's houses. Dad brought in a team of horses and planned to haul coal from south of Hanna for the winter — that is until he could get something better. We went to school in Hanna. Miss Howard was teacher for Harry and I and Ben had Miss Winning. Dad hauled two loads of coal, one for a Mr. Talmage who was the Rawleigh man. From him he got a big buffalo coat in payment and which would have been ideal if he had stayed with coal hauling, but he had an application in to work on the railroad and was called to work. We were all very happy about this as Dad could stay home and work near. He took the horses back out to the farm and worked on the C.N.R. until spring when he got laid off.

In the spring of 1929 we moved out of town to the Robinson place north of Hanna and owned by Howard Kern at that time, I think. Dad had a crop to put in and we managed to grow a good garden that year. We stayed here a summer and then moved back to the Longacre place.

In 1931 Dad's brother Ed and family (Hale, Faith and Bob) left their farm at Hanna and moved to the Peace River country. Then Dad and family moved over to the Ed Parker place and tried to farm it. It was nearer to town and handy to work for Dad as he worked every winter on the C.N.R. The biggest drawback on this place was the drastic shortage of water. Here we lost a horse that walked right over a well and fell in. We ended up shooting the horse — Fly was its name and Dad had to get a big chain and pulley from town to get the horse out of the well. The horse didn't drown — there wasn't enough water for that.

It was on this place that Kay Marlene was born in 1933. In the summer of 1935 Dad moved Mom and the youngest ones of the family to Critchley for the summer. Here Alvin Douglas was born. It was here that Tom, fourteen, broke his wrist again while up at Ronny Glass's place riding calves.

In 1936 Winnie was married to Lash Callison of Moninney, British Columbia. They had two boys.

In 1937 the plague "sleeping sickness" hit the horses in and around the Hanna District. Dad lost four or five head. Brother Tom tells of an incident when Harry went into the stall and was trying to get this horse to take a drink when she was standing there with her eyes shut and would take only a taste. He finally got disgusted and threw the pail of water over the horse's head. The horse jumped and opened her eyes and from then on improved. She was one of the ones that lived.

In 1937 a son, Frank Dale was born, thus making a family of ten children. In 1942 Mom passed away in the Hanna Hospital following an operation at the early age of fifty years and Dad died in 1957. The family at that time were spending the summers either on the Longacre place or on the Hudson's Bay quarter north of Kerns and the winters in town.

In 1941 Ben and Tom went overseas with the Armed Forces and didn't return until 1946. Harry was at home and did most of the farming with the help of brother Jim. After mother's death the family stayed in town. Harry also worked on the railroad and Rita and Carrie worked for Mrs. Chadbourne who had a general store. An aunt of ours stayed with the family quite a lot. She was Jennie Harris, Mom's sister.

In 1945 Harry married Marion Banz of Big Valley who was a school teacher and taught near Hanna. She and Harry played piano and violin for many of the dances around Hanna for years. They had a family of four boys.

In 1946 Tom married Irene Greenslade from a pioneer family from Rose Lynn south of Hanna, and went to Fort Nelson and worked with R.C.O.C. there in 1949. They had a family of three, two boys and one girl.

In 1948 Ben and Jim went to Fort Nelson where Ben immediately got work with R.C.O.C. there. Ben married Adeline Birkbeck of Greencourt, Alberta who

was working at Fort Nelson at the time the Highway was under construction. They had a family of two girls.

In 1951 Jim married Nancy Lee. They had a family of three - two girls and one boy.

In September 15, 1951 Carrie married Stan Meares. They had a family of five - two girls and three boys.

In 1952 Kay married Frank Dolan. They had a family of six - four boys and two girls.

In 1956 Alvin married Kathleen Schornhut. They had a family of four - three girls and one boy.

Rita married Logan MacLean in 1960. They had a family of seven - four girls and three boys.

The whole Parker family settled in and around Fort Nelson with the exception of Harry who remained in Hanna.

In 1953 Frank enlisted in the Army and went overseas and was in Egypt for a year. He returned in November of 1957 to civilian life at Fort Nelson where on July 3, 1965 he married Gail Reed who was a teacher there. They had a family of three - two boys and one girl.

Harry passed away August 18, 1970. He had had a hip replacement operation the summer of 1969 but with having had rheumatism since he was the age of nine years, the operation didn't seem to help much and as he got older he became worse. His wife, Marion was just recently married in 1976 to Charlie Whaley of Hanna and Jim was also remarried in 1976 to Betty Birrel of Fort Nelson.

Walter Carlson

C. W. CARLSON STORY, *By Nancy Aalt and Freda Dahl* — Charles Walter Carlson was born on January 11, 1878 in Smaland, Tingsryd, Sweden. The exact date of his immigration to Minnesota is not known but it must have been in the early 1900's. He spent several years there before coming to Canada where he homesteaded northeast of Hanna, NW-35-31-14.

We have no knowledge of his experiences in those early years prior to and during the First World War. Our memories of him begin in the 1920's when he had already become "Uncle Walter" to us all and godfather to at least one of us. He and our father, Elmer Olsen became life-long friends. In fact, being a bachelor with no relatives in this country, he really adopted our entire family. Our aunt and uncle, Joe and Charles Stringer, were married at his home and lived with him for a time. This friendship lasted until his death, age eighty-five on April 27, 1963 in Calgary, Alberta.

In the late twenties his nephew Harold came over from Sweden. Again the exact date is not known but he appears in snapshots taken in 1929. He lived with his uncle for several years but seemed unable to adjust to life in Canada and returned home to Sweden, probably in the early thirties.

Uncle Walter farmed all his life with horses and to the best of our knowledge never owned a car. He seldom drove his horses anywhere around the

neighborhood, preferring to walk summer and winter. During the depression years when it was difficult for many parents to provide any sort of special treats for their children, he could always be depended upon to arrive with gifts of oranges, candy and nuts just in time for Christmas.

Walter Carlson haying

In 1949 he sold his farm to Bill and Pauline Paxman, held an auction sale and returned to Sweden. He arrived "home" on July 15, 1949, intending to spend the rest of his life there with his two sisters. In letters he wrote back to Canada it was obvious that he was homesick for Alberta — Sweden was not his home anymore. In one letter he wrote, "Alberta is a powerful magnet trying to bring me back — with good years, and not so good, with droughts and dust storms and crop failures — Alberta is still very dear to me." After less than a year in Sweden he returned to Canada and bought a few acres in the Ogden district of Calgary. Here he grew a large garden, raised a few chickens and welcomed his old friends and neighbors from Hanna whenever they dropped in for a visit.

George and Isabel Paxman

THE GEORGE PAXMAN STORY, by Ida Paxman Preston — My parents, George and Isabella Paxman, with their year-old daughter Mabel came west in 1909 from Dundalk, Ontario. My uncle, John Paxman, and grandmother came also and the two brothers filed on adjoining homesteads about seven miles northwest of what later became the town of Hanna.

Dad had shipped a team of horses, household effects, lumber, etc. ahead to Stettler, the nearest town at that time. They travelled by horse-drawn wagon to the homestead and both humans and horses suffered greatly from the mosquitoes. They built a small wooden house which later housed chickens after they were able to afford a larger one. They purchased a cow from Jim and Ed Parker to supply milk for my sister. Being a range cow it didn't take too kindly to being domesticated.

My father broke a good portion of his land with a small plow with a single share — "foot burners" they called them. His first crop was a good one but unfortunately was destroyed by hail in the terrible storm of 1911. It was heartbreaking to watch all his work being destroyed. To make some money he went to work in the coal mine near Garden Plain which incidentally was their Post Office.

When he was bringing food supplies that fall from Stettler, the bags of flour came into contact with a leaky oil can and their bread all that winter was flavored with coal oil!

I was born in the fall of 1910 with my Grandmother Paxman acting as midwife. She died when I was seven.

For my parents, those first years were filled with hard work and loneliness, far from family and old friends.

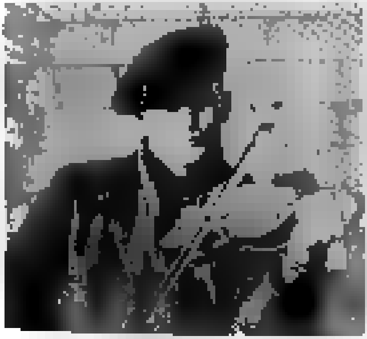
Other families came — the Curtis', Whaleys, Ross, Mark Pope, Walter Carlson, John Fox and many others.

Dances, picnics, and other socials were held at Solon, our first school which also served as a church under the guidance of Reverend Ole. We became a close-knit, friendly, prosperous community.

Dad served as a member of the Dowling Lake Council for several years. Because of failing health he was advised to move to California, where we remained for some five years. We returned to the farm, and following a lengthy illness, Dad died July 2, 1932 at the age of forty-eight.

My Mother, truly a pioneer, passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1974 after having lived almost one hundred years. My sister Mabel, who married Levi Kennedy in 1928, died in the Hanna Hospital in July 1974.

I am the only remaining member of my immediate family. I married Jack Preston in 1934. We farmed in Richdale for seven years, then moved to Calgary. In 1952 we came to Victoria, B.C. where we still reside.



John Paxman playing his fiddle

DR. JOHN STANLEY PAXMAN, by Bernice Paxman Zelmer and Mary Paxman Smith — John Paxman was born in Dundalk, Ontario in 1886. In April 1909 he came west with his widowed Mother, Sarah Paxman, and two sisters Mary and Virginia, also a brother George and family, and homesteaded in what later became the Meadowlands School District, northeast of Hanna on SW 36-31-14. There they built a sod house to live in until they hauled lumber for a house.

Sarah Paxman died in 1918 of the flu and Dad went back east in 1920. He entered the Davenport School of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. In December of 1921 he married Edith Gamey of Grey County, Ontario. In 1924 he came west again to the homestead with his wife and two small sons, Bill and Cliff.

Dad took up farming which I believe was his first love and did chiropractic only as a sideline for many years. I remember the many people who came on Sundays for treatments. In 1936 he opened an office in Hanna and commuted between his farm and town for seven years.

Mother died in 1939 at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving eight young children. Dad moved into Hanna about 1942 or 1943, where he was an active practitioner until his death in 1961, at the age of seventy-five years

I don't think the generation of today could ever understand what the pioneers of those days must have gone through. I can remember my Mother's lonesomeness for her family back east. She was going to make a trip back home to see her mother in June of 1939, but she passed away in March of 1938.

In December 1936 our farm home was destroyed by fire and we spent the winter of 1937 in Hanna, and moved back to the farm in April onto the preemption, the SE 35-31-14, one mile north of the Meadowlands School. Dad was severely burned in the house fire saving the children and Mother, none of whom were burnt at all, but Dad suffered many months from those awful burns to his hands, arms and face

I don't think Dad was ever off duty, because I remember the throngs of people coming on Sundays for treatments even after he opened his office in Hanna. I think it could be said he had a magic in his hands.

The children of John and Edith Paxman were: William Joseph Paxman was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1922 and came west as a child to the Meadowlands district. He married Pauline Camp in 1944 and they moved onto the George Paxman homestead. Later he bought Walter Carlson's place which was one mile west and moved over there. A few years later, needing more land, he bought a half section four miles north which was the S 27-32-14. Bill and Pauline were always willing to help in the community as well as any neighbor in time of need. Bill spent several years as secretary of the Meadowland's Mutual Telephone Company and drove a school bus for several years. Pauline was secretary of the Meadowlands Recreation Club for a time. They have three children, Bobby, Beverly and Brian. Bill passed away March 22, 1973 at the age of fifty. Pauline is living in Hanna and their oldest son, Bob is operating the farm.

Clifford John Paxman was born in Clarke Township, Ontario in 1925. He came west as an infant to the Meadowlands district. He married Hilda Welch and they lived on the home place. Later Cliff acquired several other quarters of land. They were NW 26-31-14 from Jim Parker, the S 26-31-14 from Mrs. Coslyk, the NE 25-31-14 from Bill Curtis, the east half of 1-32-14 from Albert Kern and the NE 36-31-14 from Sayle Brown (the Howard Kern homestead). Clifford helped construct the first Hanna swimming pool, the Lutheran Church and the Co-op Locker Plant. They have four children, Patricia, Stanley, John and Betty. Cliff passed away May 5, 1975, age fifty years.

Bernice Paxman married Albert Zelmer and lives at Endiang; they have two daughters, Linda and Brenda.

Mary Paxman married Leonard Smith of Craigmyle. They live in Hanna and farm at Craigmyle. They have four children, Jane, Judy, Greg and Karen.

Irene Paxman is married to Walter Serabin and lives in Edmonton. They have one son Timmy.

Carol Paxman is married to Jack Stulberg and they farm at Endiang. They have two boys, Leslie and Larry.

Eva Paxman married Ray Engang of Fort St. John, B.C. They have six children, Gordon, Cathy, Debbie, Keith, Judy and David.

Verna Paxman married Joe Engleman and they live in Edmonton. They have two children, Diane and Daryl

We want to specially thank Levi Kennedy for his assistance in compiling this story; also Pauline Paxman (Bill's widow) and Hilda Paxman (Cliff's widow).

THE LIME KILN

Sometime around the fall of 1926 or 1927 John Pearson who had homesteaded on the SW 36-31-14, finally decided he was going to make good use of some of those pesky boulders that had been getting in the way of his farming operations and built a lime kiln. It is very likely such lime burning kilns were used by many of the farmers of eastern Canada, since the walls of many of the large barn walls there were built of stones cemented together with lime mortar, and almost every farm house had a stone fireplace and chimney. These homemade kilns or furnaces were built into a steep hillside by excavating a vertical well-like shaft with an enlarged room below, allowing easy horizontal access at the bottom. The vertical shaft was lined with slabs and pieces of limestone, and when a roaring fire was built at the bottom, a forced draft was created, causing the flames to rise up through the limestone-lined flue. The action of the heat drove out the carbon-dioxide from the rock leaving a white crumbly powder known as unslaked lime, which could be mixed with water and fine sand to produce lime mortar.

With the help of his hired man, a true son of Erin named Pat Murphy, John built such a kiln on the edge of the field in the center of his homestead, gathering up lime stones from the stone piles and fields, and using the willow brush from the several sloughs which were conveniently close to make the fires. This operation required continuous firing for several days and nights, and proved to be a herculean task, causing Pat Murphy to complain bitterly about "building the fires of hell while still here on earth."

When allowed to cool quite a quantity of unslaked lime was found at the bottom of the flue, but most of the limestones in the upper part of the furnace were not changed much because of underfiring. Probably the hardwoods of the eastern Canadian woods would have produced more heat and more satisfactory results. However, this story vividly illustrates the initiative and ingenuity found among many of the settlers of the west and bespeaks the indomitable spirit of the pioneers.

THE RICHARD HANNAHS, by Elsie Hannah Scott — Richard Hannah, better known as Dick, was born in Owen Sound, Ontario in March 1874. At the age of ten he moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba. On November 27, 1901 he married Ellen Churchill who had come to Killarney from Clinton, Ontario. They had four children: Lorne, James, Elsie and Robert.

They came to Alberta in April 1910, and settled on the homestead one mile west of where the town of Hanna now stands, the W½-14-31-14-W4.

We lived in a tent that first summer. Our first and nearest neighbor then was Ike Moore, a bachelor, living in a sod house a mile east. Another bachelor, Charlie Hook, also had a sod house northeast of us, on the farm now occupied by the Fred Millers, and before them by the Kessels and the Sims. Just north of that place was the homestead of Tom Hannah, where the George Hannah family lived for a time until moving into Hanna where he operated a flour mill. Later in the year 1910 the Rob Churchill family came and homesteaded on what is now the James place.

A frame house was built and ready to move into that fall. Poplar two-by-fours used in the building were brought from Manitoba. Some of the people helping to build the house were father's brother, George, mother's brother George Churchill and the Lathams who also helped with the moving from Castor.

Household effects and farm implements had come by train to Castor and then were hauled with horses and wagons to the homestead, about forty miles south. We had six horses, a cow, some chickens, and a dog and a cat. Dad and

Mother had brought some trees, currant bushes, and other plants from Killarney, and we always had a big garden.

My father used a walking plow to break the land, the same plow used by his father in Ontario. It is now in the Hanna Museum. The following year he got a steam engine and a gang plow. Later he had a threshing outfit, and for several years did the threshing for all the farmers in the district.

The rest of the family, Isabelle, John, Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis were born on the homestead. Lorne went to the Red Rose school for a few weeks, later we all went to school in Hanna. In 1930, the family moved from the homestead to a farm one mile north, and Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis went to Meadowlands School. Former residents of this farm were the McLures, Pedersons, Berry's, Scotts and McGowans.

The Hannah Family — 1945 John, Ivan, Robert, Ronald, Lorne, James, Isabelle, Elsie, Phyllis, Mr. Richard Hanna, Mrs. Hannah

Church services were held in our home from May 1910 until July 1912, with a student Presbyterian minister, Mr. J. T. Warwick in charge. Mother played the organ for the hymns. Many social gatherings were also held in our home in the early days.

The first store and Post Office was Copeville, but many of the supplies were brought from Castor, with stop-overs at the home of the Lewis family in the Garden Plain district.

The C.N. railroad was built in the area in 1912. The camp was across the road from our place, and the crew got water from our well.

My father and brothers hauled coal from Sheerness, starting out at three or four o'clock in the morning and getting home late at night, mostly using a four horse team. They also hauled coal from a mine north of Solon, and from the Morse mine south of Hanna. In the first years they got it from the cut-banks southeast of where Hanna now is.

Mother passed away in December 1960, and Dad in February 1965. Lorne lives on the farm; Ivan, Bob, Isabelle (Mrs. Jack Schmidt), Johnny, and Elsie (Mrs. Joe Scott) live in Hanna. Jim passed away in May 1969 in Big Valley. Ronald lives at Rocky Mountain House, and Phyllis (Mrs. Arnold Anderson) at Delmida.

THOMAS H. HANNAH — Tom Hannah was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on April 8, 1879. He moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba in 1884 and to Alberta in 1910. He homesteaded on a quarter about two miles northeast of the present location of Hanna. This was the SE 22-31-14. Later he sold it and bought a farm in the Red Rose district. He enlisted in the Army in World War I and went overseas with the 175th battalion.

In 1918 he married Alice Austin in England and returned to live in Hanna for about two years, where their son Harry was born. At this time Tom worked in the flour mill with his brother George.

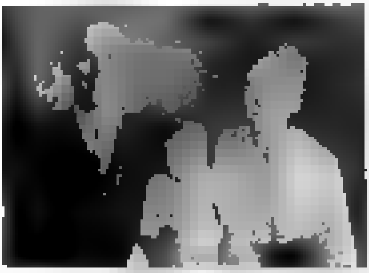
In 1920 they bought land through the Soldier Settlement Board from Charlie Wylie in the Garden Plain district. Harry began his schooling at Garden Plain. They sold out about 1926 and went to British Columbia where he worked in real estate for a time.

He came back to Alberta around 1928 and farmed on the place south of Hanna until he retired and moved in to town.

Later he moved to the Acadia Lodge, where he resided for seven years. While there he made a gift of a piano to the Lodge which has been much enjoyed by the residents. In 1971 his eye sight failed so much it was difficult for him to look after himself and he went to the Palliser Nursing Home.

He passed away in the Hanna Hospital, February 22, 1973 at the age of ninety-three.

Tom was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 25



Howard and Emma Kerr and son Robert

THE HOWARD KERR STORY, by Cliff Kerr — Howard Kerr came from the state of Michigan with his family to Gadsby in 1908. In the spring of 1909 he filed on his homestead which was the N.E. 36-31-14 and took the S.E. 36-31-14 as his preemption. He cancelled his preemption in 1911 but proved up on the homestead quarter by 1914. He built a shack on the land but stayed most of the time with his father who had a homestead across the road. A well was dug but the water was unfit to drink because of too much alkali. By this time he had around sixty acres broke. He sold this land to Sayle Brown, taking a Maxwell car as part payment. He then bought from Willis Evans the N.W. 23-31-14 which was three miles northeast of Hanna. Willis had previously homesteaded farther east in Range 13 but cancelled it and filed on this place. The buildings were situated in the North East corner and the homestead shack was actually sitting on the next quarter east, which was the Charlie Earl homestead. Dad said he did not like the place where the buildings were so he moved them to their present location.

In 1917 he was married to Emma Burgemeister who was working for Jim Parker at the time. They had five children. Robert, born in 1918, passed away in 1923 at the age of five. Walter was born in 1920, Albert in 1922, Clifford in 1924 and Agnes in 1931, making the family complete. The children all received their education at Meadowlands which was one mile east.

There was not a good supply of water on this place so in 1917 Howard had Al Hutton drill a well. Later on another well was drilled to a depth of one hundred twenty feet and then there was lots of water. They milked cows and sold cream but eventually got into the dairy business which they carried on for many years.

and when times were rough they always had a steady income. There was always lots of work on the dairy farm so as a result there were one or two hired men around at all times. Some of these were Jim Parker, Ed Ryckman, Adam Schmidt, Herman Hansen, Gottlieb Fenwom, Fred Burgemeister, Hubert Handy, Henry Belch as well as many more.

Howard Kerr and his homestead shack

In the early days milk had to be delivered seven days a week as there was no fridges to keep it from spoiling. Dad missed very few days taking the milk in, and as a result he and the hired men suffered many frost bites when battling the snow drifts getting the milk into town. He was asked why he went out in terrible blizzards when the temperature was well below zero and he replied, "There are lots of babies and small children that are depending on me coming in with this milk." He used a team and covered milk wagon until the early thirties when he bought a truck to do the job during the summer months. In the winter the snow would be too deep for the truck and he would have to go back to team and sleigh.

One day, while talking over years of dairying with one of his neighbors, he said he hand't intended getting into the dairy business, but some of the people who had gotten meat from him talked him into bringing milk to them. One customer led to another — soon he had a regular milk route. He built a milk house and installed many pieces of equipment to help keep the milk fresh and sweet, as well as to cut down on the work. One of these was a cooler to chill the milk as soon as it came from the cows. This gave it a better taste.

The first bottler he had was quite a big thing where he could fill the quart size bottles on one end and the pints on the other, but he had to cap the bottles by hand. He soon bought another one where the quarts and pints were filled at the same place just by raising or lowering the table. It also had a semi-automatic capper which made the job much easier. A bottle washer was also installed. He bought a steam boiler so he could have all the hot water he wanted to keep the bottles and utensils clean and sanitary, and steam to scald the pails and cans.

Sometimes there would be a surplus of milk so we would separate it and make the cream into butter in a big barrel churn. The butter then would be printed into pounds and sold on the milk route.

A gravity water system and a 32 volt light plant was installed, giving running water and electric lights in the house, barn and milk house. The milk would be stored in a walk-in cooler that was cooled by ice. The ice would be hauled in the

winter time and stored in an icehouse nearby. It was a once-a-week job to bring the 400 pound blocks of ice out of the icehouse, wash them off and put them in the cooler.

A hipped roof barn thirty-six by forty was built to house the dairy herd, with the intention of making it another forty feet longer at a later date; however, in the meantime the house burned down and the family lost all of their possessions. By the time a new house was built and furnished times were getting hard and as a result the extension on the barn was never finished.

After the new house was built lots of parties and dances were held there. Some of the people that made music were: Bill Hunter, Reg Wiemer, Bill Schuler, Henry Beach, Hank Kroeker and his wife, Johnny (Slippery) Rosin, Mrs. Smart and her father, Henry Ball. Some of the hospital girls and nurses often walked out to our place for the various forms of entertainment. In the summer time a bonfire would be built in some trees that were close to the buildings and we would have a wiener roast and sing songs well into the night. Toboggan and skating parties would be held in the winter time, ending up with wiener roasts and a singsong. Many of the single hired men would court these girls and in some cases they married them. It might be said that my folks were unintentionally running a matrimonial bureau! One year they held the Christmas Concert there because there was more room in the house than in the little school. Mother used to board some of the Meadowlands teachers because the new house had a spare room.

In the hungry thirties many people in town could not pay their milk bills. The ones who were willing to work came out and worked for the milk they received, but I believe many of the bills are still outstanding.

Dad often told the story of the young fellow he saved from starving. It seems this baby was lying in his carriage by the back door of his parents' home, crying. Dad filled his bottle with milk and gave it to him and he immediately stopped his crying. Now whether his mother planned this or whether it was coincidence, the baby got a free drink of milk every day for some time.

Walter worked on the farm until the war broke out and he joined the Army in 1940. He went overseas and was wounded in action. Upon his discharge in 1945 he returned to the farm. In 1946 he bought a half section of land from the Hudson Bay Company and started farming on his own. After two years he decided to quit the farm and go into the seismic drilling business and soon became a driller. He married Mavis Bye and they travelled to many countries of the world wherever his job took him. He finally came back and settled down in Kamloops where they are presently living.

Albert stayed on the dairy farm helping his dad. He married Lily Temple in 1943 and they have three children — Gordon, Donald and Linda. Albert still farms the home place and is also employed by Wes James at the U.F.A. Bulk Station. Gordon was married to Yvonne Gehring in 1968 and they have two boys, Kevin and Keith.

I (Clifford) worked for dad on the farm until 1944 when I joined the Navy. Upon my discharge I returned to the farm. In 1948 I bought Walter's half section and started farming on my own. I married Violet Teo and we have two children — Wesley and Diane. We moved into town and I spent eight years working for the C.N.R. as well as farming, and upon being laid off in 1958 built a house on the farm where we are presently living. Wes was married to Doreen Bannick in 1975. Diane married Ken Wasch in 1970 and has two girls, Misty and Marena.

Agnes married Leon Mohr. They have one daughter, Donna. Leon operated the Hanna Tire Shop for several years. Agnes, who had taken a secretarial course, worked at several places in Hanna and is now employed at the Town Office.

Dad passed away in 1958 at the age of sixty-eight. Mother was sixty-two when she died in 1963.

CHARLES ORA OVERTON, ***by Fred Johnston*** — Ora, as he was affectionately called, was an early pioneer of these parts coming in 1909 to his purchased homestead the NE 14-31-13. He and his family lived on the homestead until such time as the townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912. Ora was among the first business men of Hanna, building the White Front Livery Stable which opened on August 11, 1912. He was also a horse trader and he supplied the teams for the fire wagon housed on his property. At the first Empire Day celebrations held in 1913 he supplied the horses for the bucking contest. Ora was very effective in taming some of these outlaws and even had some good rope ponies. Along with the livery barn he also had a draying business. All the coal he supplied to his customers came from the Sam Wadsworth mine. He disposed of the draying business in 1914 and the livery barn to Fitzsimmons and Seaman, local auctioneers, in 1915.

Overtons then went back to the farm and did some ranching, but as the Herd Law was in effect by this time, he hired neighbors boys to herd the cattle. Mrs. Overton was treasurer of the newly formed Metropolitan Church in 1913. The boys Fred, Ralph and Clifford attended Hanna's first school. Two of Ora's brothers, Joe, a bachelor, and Al, a married man with a big family came to live in the Solon district.

THE CHURCHILL STORY, ***by [illegible] Churchill*** — In the year 1910, my Father and I set out from our home in Killarney, Manitoba for Calgary. From there we came by railroad to Castor and by stage coach to Dad's homestead, which was the NE 10-31-14 and is one mile directly east of the present town of Hanna.

We stayed at my Uncle Richard Hannah's who had also come from Killarney earlier in the year. We remained there until my Dad got lumber hauled out from Castor and built a shack on his homestead.

It was getting on in the fall when my Mother and sister Olive sold our belongings in Manitoba and came west. They also came in from Castor on the stage, about an eight hour trip.

There was a great deal of snow that first winter, but we were fairly comfortable in our shack. There were some problems heating the place. A group of the homesteaders went down to the Cut Banks south of us and stripped a coal seam and hauled the stuff home. I think sometimes there was more smoke than heat in it. We got our kindling and wood from the trees and brush north of our place.

I am sure I will never forget our first Christmas on the prairies. My Grandpa and Grandma Churchill came from Killarney. They were at Richard Hannah's, Mrs. Hannah being their daughter. We all had Christmas together. There were no turkeys or geese to be found so we had roast beef. It smelt good and looked good but was it ever tough. You had to have good teeth and lots of perseverance to cope with it. I don't think the ranchers would pick a very good animal to butcher or could be they resented the homesteaders cluttering up their range land.

We had lots of company as the settlers were coming in droves. Everyone was talking about the railroad approaching from the east with a townsite near at hand. During the winter of 1910-11 a survey crew arrived and worked between here and Munson. My Dad got a job as teamster with them for the winter. They lived in tents and my Dad said the only warm place in camp was the horse tent.

The Hanna townsite was bought up in 1912 and the railroad grade and steel was completed into town that fall from the east. Everyone was happy. Soon there would be no more long hauls for supplies from Castor with horses and oxen.

My Grandma Grantham came to visit us from Ontario that fall and she and Mother cooked for a railroad construction outfit who were building grade just to the west of town. Chester Shoults and Frank Gibson from the Hand Hills were the contractors. They had also come from Killarney, Manitoba.

During the summer and fall of 1912, there were shacks and other buildings springing up all over the place. Most people lived in tents or other temporary dwellings until they had a more permanent place built. When you consider that all the lumber and building supplies had to be hauled from Castor by team and wagon, it was quite an undertaking. It took a day and a half to freight in a load.

When Stephens Bros. Store was almost completed, my Dad hauled in their very first wagon load of groceries from Castor. I was a ten year old and was along with him, sitting up near the tail end of the load or running around the outfit when I got bored riding. I noticed a carton of raisins on top getting a little closer to the edge each bump we hit. I was getting pretty hungry and we had several miles yet to go so I just may have given that carton a little shove with my foot. Anyway it went over board and was damaged when it hit the ground. The result was I had all the raisins I could eat the rest of the way. Dad even ate a few and didn't ask any questions as to why I let the box get so close to the edge.

School opened in Hanna in the fall of 1912. My sister Olive and I were among the first pupils to attend. We were all there bright and early that opening morning. I forget how many kids there were but not many. The school was just one room with classes all the way from grade one to eight. Our first teacher was Mr. Dafoe. We all liked him very much. He was very strict as far as discipline was concerned but had a nice sense of humor. He was later Principal when the four-room brick school was completed in 1914.

Well, let's get back to the days on the homestead in 1910-11. There were lots of families and quite a few bachelors. Some of the single fellows would live and work on the homestead in the spring and summer and spend the winter back home. We heard of a few of the single boys over in the Hand Hills who would mount their saddle horses and spend the winter near and far visiting among the married homesteaders. They called it "riding the old grub line".

Our store was about a mile east of our place and was in operation when we came in 1910. Ed French was the manager. He used to get a weekly newspaper from Chicago and always saved the comic section for the Hannah kids and us and some news sections for our parents. It was a real big deal when that paper arrived.

The Hannah boys and I used to roam around the area on foot, mostly barefoot in summer. Our main problem was to keep away from cactus patches which were numerous. When you stepped on a cactus in your bare feet you were in deep trouble. You just had to sit down and howl while your companions seemed to take great delight in pulling the needles out of the soles of your feet. Another thing we had to contend with was range cattle. We found those old range cows would really get disturbed and put the run on anyone who got too close to them on foot. Anyway we had a fine time exploring the country around our parents' homes and visiting neighbors.

We moved into Hanna in 1918. My Dad rented the Commercial Livery Barn from the owner, Mr. Batten. My Father passed away in the fall of 1920 from a sudden illness. My Mother remarried in 1922 to John Parker and lived in Hanna until 1956 when she passed on at the age of eighty years. Mr. Parker stayed in Hanna and was one of the first residents of the Senior Citizens' home. He passed away in 1967.

My sister, Olive married Scott Johnson. They made their home in Winnipeg. She died in 1930 at an early age. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

I married Rena Elizabeth Davey in 1943. We had two boys, Robert and Wesley. Robert lost his life in a truck accident in 1966. He was only twenty-two years of age. Wesley lives in Edmonton. He married Sandra Darlene Krenz in 1970. They have one daughter, Carley.

When you look back to the early days on the homestead and in Hanna, it seems a long way off, but if you just take the time to sit down and think, many incidents and events come to mind. It helps to have a chat with some of the other old timers. One will always come up with something the other had forgotten. Those pioneer days were sometimes pretty rough but the majority of the people were young and had the vitality and drive to cope very well with the problems that arose.

John and Beatrice Fox

THE JOHN FOX STORY, By Lily Fox — John Fox was born at Madoc, Ontario, on August 28, 1891. He came west as a young man and stayed with his brother James, who had homesteaded earlier northwest of Hanna, by the lake which now bears his name. In 1912, John homesteaded the S.E. 35-31-14.

John married Beatrice Carr from Bury, Quebec. On January 4, 1917, he set out in a raging blizzard with a horse and cutter, to bring the doctor from Hanna to deliver his first son. There were times he didn't think he would make it.

In 1924, he started working for the C.N.R. in Hanna, and spent many years driving back and forth when the roads were passable. When the weather was bad he would stay in town. Finally he moved his family to town where they lived in a box car near the railway tracks. Later he bought a little white shack, which still stands across from Jimmie's Service Station. He lived there until he retired from the railroad after thirty-five years' service.

John loved dancing as well as all kinds of sports. He would play his mouth organ, or call an old time square dance. Even after his retirement, he was still very active and full of ambition. One year he decided to go camping, packed his tent and supplies, and spent the summer months on the shores of Buffalo Lake.

In the fall of 1961, he pulled up stakes and went to Calgary to stay with one of his sons. He took a job with the village of Montgomery, which is now part of the city of Calgary. In 1965, he was injured in a car accident and could not return to work. He passed away on June 17, 1967. Mrs. Fox died in January, 1974, at the age of eighty-seven.

John and Beatrice had four sons. Harold married Lily Bowers of Hanna. They have two sons, and live in Calgary.

Edwin married an English girl when he was overseas during World War II. They and their six children live in London, Ontario.

Clifford also served overseas. After his discharge he married Vivien Marks of Sheerness. They have six children and reside in Calgary.

Clarence married a girl from Ontario, where they and their five children live.

John Fox lived in Alberta for fifty-six years, making his contribution in his own quiet way, as so many of the pioneers did.

THE GEORGE McCLOSKEY QUARTER, by Bill Curtis — George McCloskey and his wife Julia-Anne pioneered in this area where he homesteaded the SW 24-31-14 and built a two roomed house on the hill above the cut bank coulee, about 1910. However, on May 8, 1914 Mr. McCloskey suddenly passed away. On July 14, 1916 his widow, Julia-Anne McClosky and a Joseph Vincent O'Neil as personal representatives of the deceased received the Certificate of Title to this land.

In August of 1918, Mr. Archibald Bertran Simpson and his family moved onto the farm. Mr. Simpson had a badly crippled arm as the result of an unfortunate accident with the blower belt of a grain separator. The oldest son Archie farmed the McCloskey place and the Stan Boon half section with a Big Oil Pull Tractor breaking land with a five bottom plow. He also graded some of the roads in the district. A younger son "Vic" was a very adept horseback rider, and would often dress up in a silk cowboy suit and put on quite a trick riding show.

A few years later after the Simpsons left, Ted Sams lived on this place. His main power source was a bunch of long eared mules who always seemed to move along quite well when headed for home but had a great aversion to going in the opposite direction. Bill Curtis, Jr. remembers distinctly how Ted got him to ride the stub tongue of a Massey binder and persuade the four mule team with a willow stick to make one more round on a strip of wheat so he could finish the field.

After Ted Sams left, Robert M. Moore acquired title to this land on May 7, 1925.

The McCloskey house was moved north across the creek to the Longacre yard, and the Jim Parker family lived there for a few years.

In 1939 the McCloskey quarter reverted to the Crown and during recent years has been held as a hay lease by Stan James.

Jake Parker family: [illegible] Mrs. Parker, [illegible] Jake, Alice, and Ethel.

THE JACOB (JAKE) PARKER STORY, By Jake Parker — I was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on August 20, 1890 where I got my schooling. I did not like going to school so quit at an early age and got a job training and caring for race horses. I also worked in a printing press and obtained my journeymen printing papers. Leaving the eastern states I worked my way west ending up in Seattle and then went by boat to Vancouver in 1910. I took the train to Calgary and then to Castor.

In Castor I got a job at the livery stable where I drove landseekers south and east looking for homesteads. While on one of these trips we stopped at Jud Daran's stopping house which was north of where Harry Lumsden now lives. Jud told me about a quarter of land that was vacant southwest of there, and after looking at it I thought I would like to file on it for myself. The land in question was the S.E. 3-32-14, but I was unable to get it as there was a reserve on it by Daniel Gilford, who did not return after filing. After trying several times, I was about to give up and was interested in a parcel of land north of Richdale, but when I went to Calgary to file and waited in line for some time, I found out that the first place I was looking for was now open and I obtained my file on my homestead quarter in 1913.

Later I bought the quarter east of me which was the S.W. 2-32-14; a team of horses and a set of harness for $750.00 from Mrs. Beard whose son, Albert Dalton homesteaded in the Sedon district. The next land I bought was the Myles quarter to the west which was the S.W. 3-32-14. Over the years I acquired several other quarters of land as the homesteaders left due to poor crops and hard times.

The first house which I had on my homestead was a cook car that I had brought down from Castor. Later a house twelve by sixteen was built with the help of Howard Kern and the cook car was traded to Howard for some breaking which he had done for me. One day while plowing Howard saw a storm coming up so he unhitched the horses and quickly put them in the barn and came running to the house where I was. I asked him what he had stopped for and he said, "A hail storm is coming." I didn't know what he was talking about as I had never seen a hail storm in my life, but I was soon to find out. It was not the worst storm I was ever to see but it was my first.

The mosquitoes in those days were real bad and the stock would be covered with them so you could hardly tell what color they were.

In 1916 I met and married Mathe Hanson who was a sister of Anker Hanson, a homesteader southwest of Hanna. This was the year of my first good crop as prior to that I was busy breaking land and getting it ready to sow, and most of the grain I grew was used for seed and feed. Water was not too plentiful in the shallow dug well I had, so in the dry seasons we had to drive the stock some six miles to a creek where they would drink their fill and I would fill a tank of water to take back with me. By the time the stock would get home they would be thirsty again and ready for another drink. In 1924, I had Frank Rupert drill a well for me which was two hundred feet deep and after that we had lots of water.

Over the years, to gain additional money, I used my experience in printing to get a job at the Hanna Herald Office, and also I cooked at Slim's Restaurant for a time.

In 1926, I purchased my first threshing machine which was a Fairbanks that I ran with a 10-20 Titan. Later a Rumley Oil Pull was bought to run the separator as well as to do the farming. In the latter part of the thirties I bought a fairly new Case threshing machine which I still have, and in 1940 bought a new Minneapolis tractor. Over the years I threshed for all of my neighbors although some of the crops were poor and I barely met expenses. Some of the men on my threshing crews were: George and Art Campion, Fred Engel, Len Kennedy, Louis Petit, Walter, Albert and Cliff Kern, Bill and Cliff Pearman, Harry, Ben, Tom and Jim Parker, Lorne, Jim, Bob, John, Ronald and Ivan Hannah, Morris Olsen, John Yeoman, Cis Press, Bob Sloan, Len Sloan and Albert Bence. In 1946, the combines came in and the old threshing machine was retired.

In 1917, our son Harold was born. Ethel was born in 1919, Albert in 1924 and Florence in 1932.

Harold married Mae Lerne and lives on their farm north of mine. Their children are: Vivian, Bill, Doug and Marjorie.

Ethel married Vance Bourbonnie and they are living in Calgary. They have five children - Marilyn, Terrance, Karen and twins, Joyce and Joan.

Albert married Minnie Wardle. They lived on the farm with me for a time, then moved to Lady Lake, Saskatchewan where Albert helped run a machine business. He did not like it there so moved back to the Hanna area and got a job in the Sheerness coal mine as a shop mechanic. It was there that he passed away in 1959. They had four children - Delbert, Esther, Peggy and Ruth. Minnie is presently living with her mother at Lady Lake, Saskatchewan.

Florence married Albert Bence. They are living on their farm northeast of

Hanna. Their children are Ronnie, Cheryl and Audrey. All of our children got their education at Meadowlands School.

In December of 1924, when Albert was born, I took my wife to the hospital with the team and sleigh and then left Harold and Ethel with their grandmother southwest of Hanna. On the way home a blizzard came up and I had to leave the team and sleigh at Doc Sims' just east of town. The snow banks were not hard enough to walk over and were too deep to walk through so as a result I had to roll over them. While walking home I stopped at Jim Parker's to get warm, and helped Mrs. Parker to milk the cows as Jim couldn't get home on account of the blizzard. I arrived home around midnight after leaving Doc Sims' in midmorning. About a week later a wind came up and blew all the snow off the road and I was able to pick up my team and sleigh from Doc Sims and bring my wife and son home from the hospital.

We took a great interest in the community, taking in school picnics, parties and dances. I was floor manager and called square dances at Meadowlands School for many years. For several years I was secretary and later president of the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company. I was also committeeman for the trunk line and secretary-treasurer for Meadowlands School. We visited many of the neighbors using a team and buggy but in 1919 I bought a Model T Ford car which we used for transportation in the summer time, but still had to use the team and sleigh in the winter.

My wife was a great help to me through the years, working by my side especially doing the chores, raising a big garden, as well as looking after the children and the house. In the early forties I bought a bigger house and moved it to the farm making it easier for her as there was more room for the family.

We thought of moving out many times because of crop failures and one time I drove many miles with the team and wagon looking for a better place, but found nothing I liked better than what I had.

My wife passed away in 1963 at the age of sixty-two. I lived on my homestead quarter from the time of filing in 1913 (except for a short time when I worked at the Hanna Herald Office) until the winter of 1976 when I moved into Hanna. During the summer months since moving to Hanna, I drive out nearly every day to the old place which was home to me for so many years.

I was asked if I would do it all over again and even remembering the many hardships suffered, crop losses due to droughts, hail and grasshoppers, summer hail storms and winter blizzards, I replied, "I believe I would."

HISTORY OF THE SIM FAMILY, by Lillie Schmidt — Mr. and Mrs. H. C. (Doc) Sim moved to the farm one mile northeast of Hanna, the E½ 15-31-14-W4, in the winter of 1918-19. He had bought the farm from a man named Nelson. Their children, Mildred, Lillie, Lawrence and Clarke were born in the Lonebutte District and Lloyd and Edna were born at Hanna. On January 27, 1927, Mrs. H. C. (Sarah) Sim died very suddenly. Doc Sim ran a dairy farm for years and delivered milk every day in Hanna for twelve cents a quart. He also raised a large number of hogs and hauled buttermilk in large tanks from the Hanna creamery to feed them.

Our neighbor to the east of us was Richard Hannah, north were Burdetts, northwest Howard Kern and to the south, Richard Bond and later Ferg James. Mildred married Gordon Weatherall in 1935 and has two children, Joyce and Ronald. Mildred lives in Rocky Mountain House. Lillie married Emil Schmidt in 1938 and has four children, Robert, Fay, Fern and Connie. She lives in Okotoks. Lawrence who now lives at Taber married Elva Ferguson in 1940. They have four children, Coleen, Harvey, Jean and Joan. Clarke of Vancouver married Doris

Carles in 1939 and has two children, Marilyn and David. Lloyd lives in Barrhead. He married Julie Gaumont in 1947 and has one daughter, Shirley. Edna married Claude Halpin in 1941 and has one son, Douglas. She lives in Red Deer. H.C. (Doc) Sim died in 1944.

THE GEORGE GWIN STORY, by George Gwin — A. F. Gwin moved from south of Hanna in the spring of 1921 to what was called the Oldham place — land number S½ 22-31-14-W4. There was besides my mother, me (George), Robert, Pauline, Ernest and Connie the baby. My father bought out A. J. Campbell who was peddling milk in Hanna at that time and with what cows he had, started up the Gwin's Dairy. I went to school in Hanna the rest of that year. I used to peddle milk till the school bell rang, then run like hell to get there in time. Sometimes didn't make it either! Then in 1922 I went to Meadowlands School. There was Bill Curtis, three Parkers, three McGowans, Lloyd Campbell, Harold Forine and I. In September that year my brother Robert started to school. He was only five years old but his birthday was September 16th so they let him in. He was a funny little guy — always showing off — till one day the teacher went out and she saw him through the window and made him get up in front of the class and do it again. He didn't know he was being punished; he thought he was showing them how to do what he was doing.

One day while going to school at Meadowlands we were playing ball. Some of us were barefooted. We used an old ash pile for home base. I ran from second base to home and slid in just as the bell rang. We all marched in to school. The teacher said, "George, what have you got on your foot?" I said, "I don't know." She looked and darn near fainted — my foot was cut from my toes to my heel from a piece of glass or something. She sent me up to Curtis' place — the closest house to the school. Mrs. Curtis put my foot in a pan of disinfectant and gave me one of Mr. Curtis' felt shoes to go back to school in.

Then another time I was going to show the kids how to pole vault over the fence. I ran and went up but not over as the pole broke in mid-air and I landed on the barb wire fence. Tore my pants and about four inches of hide. The blood was running down my leg so the teacher told me to get home. I was riding a pony. The other kids got me on his back and away I went, but when the sweat and dirt off that horse's back got in that cut it sure did hurt and smart, but lots of things like this happened at the old country schools. Just like one time the McGowans were going home, all three on one old horse going down a hill on the run. The horse stumbled and fell. Flossy went rolling down the hill, George went over the fence and Carry hit a fence post injuring her shoulder, but they all climbed back on and went on home. They lived on the old Stirling place where Lorne Hannah lives now.

Gwins had the dairy till the spring of 1925 when they moved up to the Hamilton place, a half-mile east of the Antelope Hill School six miles north of Hanna. All that is left of that old school is a broken cement foundation. The old school is in the yard at the old Al Wirth farm seven miles north of the town of Hanna.

I worked as a hired man all over this country for many years and I will say this: there were a lot of good people in this area, but once in a while you met up with a miserable outfit.

In 1936, I married Alice Scott and we have two daughters, Jessie Irene and Dorothy Marie St. Denys. We moved back to Hanna in 1941 and have been here ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bond and Margaret

THE THOMAS BOND STORY, By [illegible] Bond — Thomas James Barrett Bond was born in London, England 1877. He came to Canada when he was eighteen years of age. He worked for John D. Rockefeller Sr. before coming to Alberta. He also worked cattle south of the Red Deer River with John Ware and other ranchers in that area.

In 1909 he married Alice Osmond from Berry Creek and took up a homestead at Clivale. During the First World War he had a horse ranch at Crawling Valley.

They moved from Clivale, now known as Homestead Coulee, to the farm of W. E. Fitzsimmons in the fall of 1921 and in the spring of 1922 they moved to the Churchill Farm now owned by Stan James. They farmed there until the fall of 1924. During that time Dad hired on at the C.N.R. as carman at the rip track. They had three children, Margaret now at Victoria, Jim at Calgary and Fred residing in Hanna.

Their neighbours at that time were Dick Hannah, Al Sim and McGowan. There were many good times had by his children while on the Churchill farm. They had a swimming hole north of the road and the Penny, Taylor, Martin boys and many others would swim there in the summer months. One time when the C.N.R. built their new dam, the bridge across the road was washed out and the children had to get to school by crossing the water on a raft.

In 1924 the family moved to Ontario for three years and then in 1927 moved back to Hanna. Dad continued to work for the C.N.R. until 1942 when he was retired. They moved to Victoria where Mom passed away in 1953 and Dad in 1969.

THE FLOOD STORY, By Cliff Kern — Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Flood and their three children Percy, Edith and Harvey came from Ontario to the Fort Macleod district in 1910. In 1913 they took out a homestead north of the Red Deer River near Hutton. Crops were poor in that area and after having only one good crop, which was 1915, they decided to move out. They came to the Meadowlands district in 1923 and settled on the east half 24-31-14, this being the Guy Longacre homestead. Joshua was a blacksmith by trade.

Edith, who married Ben Campbell also came north and they lived for a time on the Chris Garman homestead and later moved over to the Hodds place. Here they kept a weather station and shortly after the New Year in 1924, they recorded fifty degrees below zero. They had two children, Lloyd and Juanita. When their mother died, they went to live with their maternal grandparents. Lloyd went to Meadowlands School for a time. Lloyd and Juanita are presently living near Winterburn, Alberta.

Percy, the oldest son, stayed on the homestead for two years. In 1925 he married Elizabeth Ramsay and they moved onto the Jim Fox homestead in the Silver Valley district.

In 1927, Harvey married Margaret Ramsay and he took over the farm when his folks moved into Hanna. Percy in the meantime had moved to Hussar but came

back to live with Harvey. In 1927 he bought the south half 25-31-14 and moved there. There was a shortage of water on this place so he moved the buildings from the northwest corner of the place to one half mile east of the school where he found an abundant supply of water.

The Floods were a great asset to the community and made many friends. The school teacher boarded at Percy's for several years. Harvey played the violin and his wife "Meg" played the steel guitar. They played for many dances at Meadowlands School.

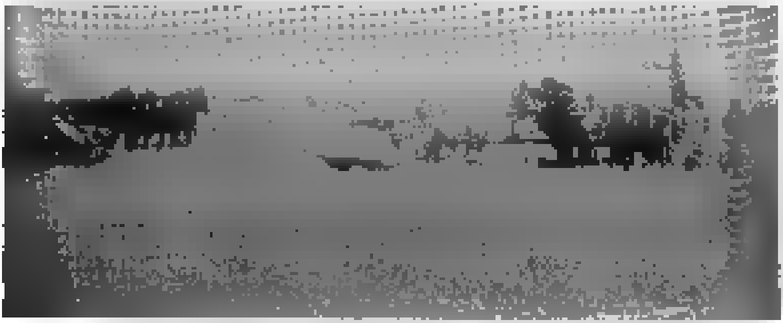
In 1935 the Floods sold their land here and moved north to Winterburn, near Edmonton. There they made a real success of farming.

Harvey and Margaret had one daughter, MaryAnne who was born in 1935 at Winterburn. She married Don Currie and has three children, Anne, Bob and Eda. They are presently living at Westlock, Alberta.

Joshua and his wife eventually moved back to Fort Macleod where they passed away in 1937 within two weeks of each other.

Harvey's wife died in 1964 and Percy's wife in 1970. After the deaths of their wives, Percy once again moved in with Harvey and they still live together. They are retired now and are both enjoying good health. Percy is eighty-eight years of age and Harvey is seventy-five.

MR. RUDOLPH DOERING STORY, ***by Pauline Doering Lehnert*** — Mr. Rudolph Doering, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Doering, immigrated to Odessa, Washington from Russia, as an infant. In 1908 the Dan Doering family with five children -- Rudolph, Ted, Ida, Pauline and Hilde came to Mayton, near Olds, Alberta. Emma was born there. Then in 1910 they sold the farm and took up a homestead in the Hand Hills, southwest of Hanna. Sam and Adeline were born in Hanna, thus making eight children in the family.



Breaking on Greek Farm 1926. Rudolph Doering on push binder with Hilde and Pauline behind

In 1924, Rudolph and his father Dan rented one section of farm land six miles northeast of Hanna which was called "The Old Greek Farm." This land had been under cultivation previously, but was very neglected when they took it over. They summerfallowed almost all the section that summer with the help of one brother and three sisters, using twelve horses and two gang plows.

I recall, we used a lot of plow shares to get the land back in shape, as the pig weeds were as high as the horses' bellies and the land was quite dry. I believe we had a couple of horses to spare but twelve horses were in harness every day for the plowing that summer. How hard they had to work in the heat, and they were long days, sometimes starting as early as seven a.m. to seven or eight p.m. We

galled many a sore shoulder on the horses. Some horses had to walk through those dry pig weeds which scratched and cut their feet. After work, the horses were put into a night pasture in the northeast corner of the section. There was a large slough in it and hoards of mosquitoes plagued the horses and in a very short time all horses appeared to be the same color. Great was the invention of the tractor.

The following year was well rewarded by a bumper crop. We cut the crop using one of the first push binders with six horses, and a smaller binder with four horses. Ida and Pauline spent many long and hard laborious hours in the heat getting the bundles into stooks.

Mr. Whaley, Sr. and sons helped with the threshing. The grain had to be hauled away to Bonar as quickly as possible because of a shortage of granaries. The grain was hauled away in four wagons, two hitched together, the trailing wagon with a stub tongue, and four horses on each. These wagons were driven by Pauline and Hilda. The following years also brought fairly good crops.

Mr. Rudolph Doering married Augustine Gaister on February 8, 1925, at Sweet Home, Oregon. When they were moving with their possessions to their farm north of Hanna, he gave his bride a real Canadian welcome, with all its beauty of blustery winter weather and snow drifts, by upsetting their bob-sleigh and all their possessions.

During their stay at this farm two girls were born to this union, Alma (Mrs. Henry Kerg) and Ella (Mrs. Victor Kerg)

In June of 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Banco and three children Walter, Lila and Pauline arrived from Bessarabia, Romania. They stayed with and helped Mr. and Mrs. Doering over the summer and fall harvesting. When the Doerings moved to the Parr district, Mr. and Mrs. Banco continued farming north of Hanna. Their fourth child was born in Hanna.

After three years, Mr. and Mrs. Doering moved back to south of Hanna where they lived the rest of their lives. Mrs. Doering passed away in 1938. Mr. Doering lived until 1976.

THE TED SAMS STORY, By Ted Sams — I was born in Athens County, Ohio in 1903 and came to Canada in 1910 with my parents who settled on a homestead ten miles southeast of where Hanna now stands. I took most of my schooling in the Alpha School. Before the railroad came to Hanna Dad and I hauled freight from Castor to Hanna with oxen

Ted and Mary Sams with son Harry

On December 26, 1926, I married Mary Karg and we started farming on the Joe Wade place which was fourteen miles straight south of Hanna. In 1928, we moved to a farm one mile south of Meadowlands School which was S.W. 24-31-14 and also farmed the E ½ 13-31-14. I used mules to farm with as I liked them better than horses. I only stayed on this place one year because the one hundred twenty acres of wheat that I had seeded were completely hailed out. We then moved to the Rose Lynn district for a while, then up to Meanook where we took up a homestead and stayed for twenty-eight years. When we retired we went to Rochester where we still reside.

Some of the neighbours Mary and I remember were the Flood brothers, Bill Curtis, Bob Moore and the Howard Kerns — where we always went for ice cream.

Our children and birthdates are as follows: Harry born May 13, 1928; Bill born November 30, 1929; Julia born May 13, 1933; Lawrence born January 9, 1936 and Pat born May 4, 1941.

Mike Litke family: Standing, Left to Right: Herb, Freda, Otto, Elsie, Alfred. Seated: Mike and Mary

THE MICHAEL LITKE STORY, by Freda Litke Fecho and Herb Litke — Mr. Michael Litke came to the Hanna District in 1927 from a German settlement in Bessarabia, Romania with his wife Mary and two small sons, Alfred age five and Herbert age two and one-half years. He settled one mile north of Hanna on the Oldham place which was the S. ½ 22-31-14-W4. In 1928 a daughter Freda was born. The family then moved about twenty-five miles south of Hanna to the Cudmore place, but moved out the same summer because of crop failure. Dad also decided there were too many snakes there to suit him. The next move was seven miles straight east of Hanna to the SW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here in 1930 another daughter Elsie was born. There were miles and miles of open prairie with cattle and horses running at large. We owned between three and four hundred sheep. One winter during a severe snow storm we lost quite a number of our sheep.

In 1933 because of drinking water shortage the family moved one mile north across the tracks to the NW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here the youngest son Otto was born. The school that the children attended was Centre Point which was about three miles away. Our teacher was Virginia Thomas.

Because of various unfavourable conditions we moved back one mile south again. The children then attended Royalton School on Number Nine Highway. The teachers here were Virginia Thomas and Frank Jacob.

In 1938, Mike bought the Hamilton farm four miles east and one mile north of Hanna, the NE 16-31-13-W4. Finally things began to prosper. Now the children attended Meadowlands School. The teachers here were Miss Betty Wallace, Violet Stewart, Phyllis Morton, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Peterson and Miss Verda Hoffman.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Litke moved to Hanna. Alfred married Alma Welch and they have two children. Alfred lives in Calgary. Herbert married Ruby Peterson; they have three children and reside in Hanna. Freda married Fred Fecho; they have one child and live in Hanna. Elsie married Edwin Hein, they have three children and reside in Calgary. Otto married Ruby Engel; they have two children and reside in Vernon, B.C.

Mrs. Mary Lilke died on November 29, 1963. In 1967, Mike married Rebekka Revienous and the same year retired to Calgary, where he remained till his death on January 5, 1973.

Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl

THE CHRISTLIEB (CHRIS) PFAHL STORY, By Herbert Pfahl — Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl with their family of five children, Erna, Elmer, Linda, Elsie and Herbert immigrated from Bessarabia, Romania to Hanna in July of 1929, via ship and C.N.R. In Canada five more children were born — Leonard, Edmund, Marvin and his twin sister, Marlene who died in 1937, and Marilyn.

From 1929 to 1933 the Pfahl family rented the Emmanual Burgemeister place south of Hanna. They then moved to the Frank Olson farm until April 1935 when they moved northeast of Hanna and bought the E½ 24-31-14 in Meadowlands School district.

Crops were poor in those days so as a result they had to milk cows to eke out a living. In 1938 they had a fairly good crop and things started to look a little better. In the early forties he purchased a new tractor and threshing machine in order to thresh his own crop as well as many of the neighbours'.

Erna married Otto Stern and are living on their farm northeast of Hanna. Elmer married Erna Geissler and they raised a family of five. Some of these children attended Meadowlands School and later went to Hanna. Elmer purchased the Shorty Nettleton place and later the Pat McKenna farm and farmed for many years. He sold out in 1975 and moved to Penticton, British Columbia. Linda married Robert Regner. They have two children and are presently living in Hanna. Elsie married Bruce Mitchell; they and their three children are living in Edmonton. I (Herbert) married Mable Roth in 1949 and started farming in the Garden Plain District, later buying my dad's farm where we still live. We have two children, Karen and Bryan who are attending school in Hanna. Leonard married Shirley Wilson. They are living in Prince George. Edmund married Kay Sawler; they and their four children are living in Ottawa, Ontario. Edmund joined the Air Force in 1951. Marvin married Elsie Jane Peterson and they live in Vernon, British Columbia. They have a family of five. Marilyn married Ron Henderson and they have one child. Ron was killed in a plane crash in 1976. Marilyn is living in Edmonton.

The first five children started school at Golden Hill and finished their education at Meadowlands.

Chris and Rebecca moved to Hanna in 1949 but continued to farm until 1953 when they moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Chris passed away at the age of seventy-two years on December 29, 1964. On February 21, 1969 Rebecca passed away at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE LOUIS PAHL STORY,* *by Amanda Pahl — Louis Pahl came to the Scapa district with his parents in the fall of 1927. In 1935 he moved to a farm three miles north of the Meadowlands School where his brother Fred had been living.

He was occupied in mixed farming and raised good crops in the rolling land he had. He started out with three quarters of land but later acquired another section one mile north. For several years he farmed the land owned by Mrs. Orpha Wright nearer to Hanna. At one time he owned a threshing outfit along with his brother-in-law, Otto Mix.

Louis Pahl Family. Standing: Edwin and Rose. Seated, Left to Right: Louise, Jim, Louis, Amanda, Arnie, Edna

Louis Pahl and Otto Mix threshing — 1945

In 1937 he married Amanda Emma Schneider and had six children. They all attended Meadowlands School. We were really in the Solon district but because of better roads we had our place changed into the Meadowlands district.

Our children are: Louise born February 5, 1938. She married Allen Storms in 1959 and they had four children. In 1965 Allen passed away and Louise remarried Bill Pendrake and they have one son. They live at Pickardville, Alberta.

Edwin was born January 23, 1940. He married Donna Marks in 1968. They have two children. His family live at Duncan, British Columbia; Edwin is in the Navy.

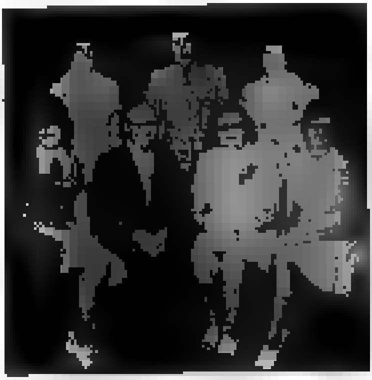
Edna was born December 18, 1940. She married Herbert Schwartz in 1962. They have two children and they live at Dugald, Manitoba.

Rosemarie was born October 28, 1944. She married Ross Wolfe in 1964. They have three children and live in Hanna.

James was born February 4, 1948. James married Doreen Micuous in 1971. They have two children and his family reside at Fort Macleod.

Arnold Gerry was born in June 28, 1949. He married Jean Alyss Flewin in 1971. They have two children.

When Arnold came back to the farm, Louis and I moved to a mobile home in the same yard, where I still live. Louis passed away in February 1977.



Fred Engel Family. Standing, Left to Right: Bernice, Gerald, Gladys. Seated: Jeanette, Fred, Alma, Eileen.

THE FRED ENGEL STORY, By Fred Engel — I was born and raised in the Fraserton District, July 16, 1911. I farmed with my dad and worked for many of the neighbors. In 1934, we moved to the A. Sams farm in the Red Rose district. On November 22, 1936, I married Alma Kautz and we moved to the Joe Schmelke homestead in the Meadowlands district. SW 35-31-14 and SE 34-31-14 that I had rented earlier in the fall.

My first crop in 1937 was a total failure as were most crops in the area. My neighbor to the north, Walter Carlson had some crop that was mostly pigweed and he had cut it with the poverty box. I helped him separate the weeds from the wheat. We did this by having a rack on each side of the window and pulling the weeds on one rack and the wheat on the other one. We got about three or four rack loads of weeds for each rack load of wheat. For my pay Walter gave me all of the weeds, which was all I had to feed my milk cows. We sold milk to Howard Kern for five cents a quart. This was all the money we had to live on. In 1938, our crop went close to forty bushels to the acre but it was all lodged and I had to cut it one way. In the early forties I bought this half section and in the late forties I bought the Clarke quarter section from Stirling which was the NW 22-31-14. Over the years I rented several other places some of them being the Dachuck place, Emile Pfahl's and Walter Carlson's.

In 1936 and 1937 coal at Pahl's Mine was worth $1.50 a ton but we had no money so as a result I took my four horses over to the mine and helped strip the coal. For one day's work he allowed me two tons of coal. I was getting $3.00 a day for myself and four horses plus I had to supply my own feed. As we stripped the dirt off the coal we backfilled the hole left from the previous year's diggings. The hole was about ten feet deep and was full of water. We had to crowd our horses as close as we could so the dirt would fall over the edge when the fresno was dumped. One trip I drove too close and the bank gave way and my whole outfit ended up in the waterhole! I had to jump in and unhook and separate the horses and Bee Howery, who had an outfit of horses there as well, pulled them out by their necks with a logging chain. When hauling our coal home there would be a line up of wagons and trucks. We always had to help the men ahead of us load their coal so we would have to shovel many tons before it would be our turn. One day when we got to the mine gate we saw two trucks coming. We galloped our teams to the mine so we would get ahead of the trucks and we would not have to help them load and they would have to help us for a change!

Our first child, Eileen was born in 1937. In 1956, she married Roland Dua. They had two girls, Debra and Wendy. Eileen and Roland were separated and in 1971 she married Steve Kucher, who had two daughters, Robin and Kathy. They live in Calgary.

Gerald and Geraldine were twins and were born June 22, 1940. Geraldine married Larry Jameson from Byemoor. They have three children, Connie, Glenda and Brian. They live in Innisfail.

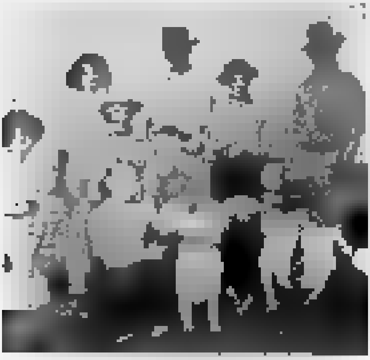
Gerald married Armella Ham from Calgary on February 8, 1964. They have three children, Kevin, Kelly and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Gladys married Walter Fedoruk on July 9, 1958. They have three children, Denise, Barbara and Michael. They live on their farm at Hairy Hill.

Jeanette, the youngest daughter graduated as an Operating Room Technician from the Alberta Vocational Centre in Calgary on July 18, 1972. She was formerly a Certified Nursing Aide in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary for four years, and is now working in the Medicine Hat Hospital. Our children received all of their education at Meadowlands School, except Jeanette, who had to finish her education in Hanna.

All of the community activities were centered around the school. We always had dances, parties, Christmas Concerts, ball games and picnics. The first year we were in the Meadowlands district I can remember going to the Christmas Concert with the team and buggy as there was no snow on the ground at the time and the weather was fairly mild.

We enjoyed living in the Meadowlands district and had wonderful neighbors. There was always a community spirit with everyone helping each other in times of need. We lived there for thirty-six years, selling out in 1972. Gordon Robertson bought the home quarter, Bill Pasman one quarter and Jerry Martin bought the other one. After leaving the farm we moved into the new home we built in Hanna on Eighth Avenue. For three years after moving into town I did some carpenter work but am now retired.


Fred Miller Family. Back Row, Left to Right: Dorothy, Jeanne, Jack Ross (Dorothy's father), Ross, Bruce, Fred. Front Row: Jose, Garry, Betty, Rennie, Jimmy

THE FRED MILLER STORY, by Fred Miller — I was born November 18, 1900 at McKlushey, North Dakota. My parents and all of their family moved to Canada in November 1909, settling in Stettler, Alberta for the winter. In April 1910 my father filed on his homestead four miles west of the present town of Hanna. My brother Abe, myself and my sister, Anna drove our stock on foot from Stettler to our homestead, following our father who had our furniture and lumber to build our house. My mother also drove a team and buggy with the little ones who were too young to walk. My youngest brother George was only two weeks old.

We had many good times and dances at St. George School. I stayed

home helping farm and with chores till my folks moved to Hanna in 1924 when I took over the farm.

I was married to Dorothy Ross on August 9, 1930. When we went to Calgary to get married we had a beautiful crop of wheat standing. It hailed while we were away which was only four days, but it damaged our crop about forty per cent and before our crop was ripe enough to cut we had five different hail storms go through it. When we threshed our crop we got about fifteen per cent of the crop that was there the first week in August, and the price of wheat was from thirty-one cents to nineteen cents per bushel.

On August 26, 1931 our first child a son was born, Ross Alexander. We continued farming on my father's farm and on December 11, 1932 our second son Bruce was born. In the fall of 1933 we moved to Hanna and ran the Feed Mill for Fred McAurthur and hauled the relief feed for my father-in-law, Jack Ross who was the Pool Elevator Agent in Hanna at that time. On March 23, 1934 our first daughter Jean was born and we stayed in Hanna hauling coal and draying for people around town.

On August 12, 1935 our second daughter Joan was born. In the spring of 1935 we moved to the Dan Smith farm south of Hanna in the Lonebutte district. We were going to buy this place but our children would have had to go six miles to school so we just stayed there one year. We had a fairly good crop that year. In the spring of 1936 we moved to the John Parker farm south of Hanna. We stayed there till the spring of 1939 when we bought the east half of 15-31-14 where we are still living. Our son Ronnie was born while we were on the Parker place, on July 18, 1937, a bouncing baby boy. We milked cows and sold milk to the local dairy men Fred James and Howard Kern. On March 3, 1941, our fourth little son, William Henry was born, on May 16, 1943 our fifth son, James Harvey, and on August 13, 1944 our sixth son, Garry Wallace. These are the three little sons we lost on November 30, 1946. And our oldest daughter Jeannie died September 19, 1947. Though it is over thirty years ago since we lost our four darlings the ache is still in all of our hearts.

On September 6, 1948 our seventh little son was born, Gordon who was a great comfort to us all.

On April 11, 1950 our third little daughter was born, Shirley who we were so proud to have.

On June 8, 1951 our youngest daughter Margery was born. We were so grateful that God was so good to us after our great loss.

Our oldest son Ross was married to Gwyne Morris of Tees, Alberta on October 4, 1953. They have had four children, two sons and two daughters, but they lost their youngest little son when he was just a tiny baby. In May of this year, 1977 my wife and I will be great-grandparents to Ross and Gwyne's second daughter Cathy who is married to Gordon Sim of Tees. They now reside in Bashaw, Alberta.

Our second son Bruce was married to June Hale of Bassano, Alberta on August 27, 1965. They have one son and are farming and ranching in the Scapa, Alberta district.

Our second daughter Joan was married to Dan Boetcher of the Lonebutte district and they have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Our third son Ronnie was married to Linda Pugh of Dorothy, Alberta on December 5, 1964. They have four children, one son and three daughters. They farm and ranch south of Chinook. The children go to school in Cereal, Alberta.

Our seventh son, Gordon was married to Kathy Anderson in May of 1969.

They live in Calgary where Gordon and Alfred Frick own and operate the Twilight Construction.

Our third daughter, Shirley married Gordon Robertson August 23, 1969. They farm and ranch in the Meadowlands district north and east of Hanna and have two children, a daughter and a son.

Our fourth daughter, Margery married Stan Moench on January 2, 1971. They have two children, both sons. Stan is a carpenter and is employed at present time with Knoblauch Construction.

We still reside on our farm and are interested in farming and ranching as always.

Jobe Martin family. Left to Right: Jerry, Gail, Jobe, Freida and Les.

THE JOBE MARTIN STORY. By ***Jobe Martin*** — My parents, Fred and Maria Martin, came to Canada in May 1927 from Liepzig, Bessarabia. I was four years old and my sister Alma was two years old when we arrived. Alma is Mrs. Jack Bassler of Keremeos, British Columbia. My parents settled in the Pen School District where we lived for seven years. Alfred, my brother, was born here in 1928. He was killed in an automobile accident on September 12, 1963. In 1934, we moved to the Lone Butte School District where we lived for seven years. My youngest sister, Elsie, was born here. She is now Mrs. Barry Johnson of Coquitlam, British Columbia. Then in 1941 my parents moved to the Peter Bauman farm in the Olive School District

On October 18, 1943, I married Freda Karg. My folks moved to Vancouver, British Columbia while my wife and I stayed on the place. Our oldest son, Leslie, was born here on October 24, 1944. He is now a brakeman on the C.N.R., helps me farm, and farms his own land in this community. Leslie married Elizabeth Wells of Toronto, Ontario. They live in Hanna and have two children.

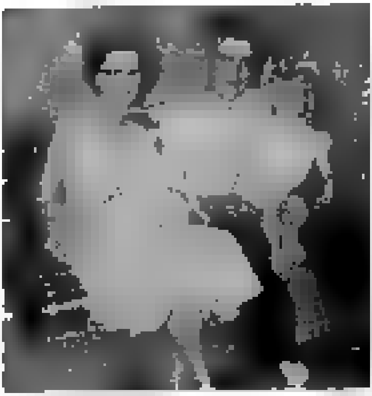
In the spring of 1946, I bought the old Milton Pickett farm, four miles north of Richdale. Times were hard and the weather was dry. Gale, our only daughter, was born here August 17, 1947. Gale is now a computer operator for a trucking firm in Calgary. Gale is still enjoying single bliss.

During the winter of 1947-1948 the snow was so deep that I only got out to haul feed. Once every week or two I went to Richdale on the saddle horse for the mail and groceries. My wife didn't leave the farm for five months because the snow was so deep and the temperature so cold.

In the spring of that year, 1948, on a very foggy morning, a small plane crashed near our farm. The plane hit the deep snow which cushioned the crash and saved the pilot's life. The plane was carrying baby chicks and they were scattered all over the snow. These chicks were being delivered to the neighbourhood because it was impossible to go to town to pick them up. The horses couldn't travel any distance through that deep snow. They just played themselves out and couldn't go on. The plane wreckage was picked up by a large truck that spring after the snow was gone.

We became tired of all the snow and cold so in September 1948 we headed for Vancouver, British Columbia. I went to work inside a large warehouse for eight hours a day, five days a week, carrying a lunch bucket, while my heart was out in Alberta with all that fresh air, sunshine, and those deep snow banks. Our youngest son, Jerry, was born in Vancouver on September 22, 1950. He now works for Ducks Unlimited, helps me raise cattle, and farms on his own in this community. Jerry married Linda Fury from Lethbridge, Alberta and they live in Hanna.

On April 4, 1951 I took my family and headed back to the sunshine and snow banks of Hanna. When I crossed those Rockies and breathed that fresh Alberta air again I knew I was back where I belonged. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mowatt, oldtimers of the Meadowlands School District, had their farm for sale. After looking at those beautiful trees and hills we couldn't resist buying their farm and we have now spent twenty-six years in this wonderful community. I have enjoyed life to the fullest here with my family and my two hobbies — raising cattle and curling in the winter to keep in good shape.



Ernie and Elaine Pfahl with daughters Joan, 2 years and Janice 6 months

THE ERNIE PFAHL STORY, by Elaine Nunweiler — Ernie Pfahl was born in June, 1930 at Hanna and was the son of Alex Pfahl who lived in the Hand Hills. He received his education at Hand Hills Lake School.

He bought the Edward Elm farm northeast of Hanna and on June 8, 1952 he was married to Elaine Pogson of Hanna. We tore down a big two storey house on the place and built a new one. In the meantime we lived in a granery.

We had two daughters, Joan born May 27, 1955 and Janice born on April 9, 1957. Ernie passed away on August 27, 1959 and I moved into Hanna. The farm was then rented out to Ernie's father who farmed it for quite a number of years.

In 1964 I married Norman Nunweiler and we moved to his farm at Laporte, Saskatchewan. We sold the farm at Hanna in 1975 to Melvin Pfahl and Otto Stern.

THE ORPHA WRIGHT STORY, by Orpha Wright — We came to the Meadowlands district in the spring of 1959 from Patricia, Alberta where my husband (Dean) had died on June 6, 1958 leaving me a widow with six small children.

I bought the Bill James place just east of Hanna which was the original Bob Moore homestead. This place wasn't that fancy but it was close to school and had electricity on it and a good well. When we arrived in the area my family were too small to help operate the farm so I rented the cultivated land out to Lorne Robbs for about five years and then to Louie Pahl for the next ten. There was quite a bit of pasture land on this place, so when my oldest son Herschel became old enough to help me we kept more cattle. It was quite a struggle putting the feed up in the summer months and looking after the cattle in the winter time. My youngest son Forrest is now looking after the farm.

Although we were in the Meadowlands district my children attended the Hanna schools because of the distance and road conditions. There they all received a full education.

My oldest daughter Gladys was born June 14, 1947. She married Archie

Kinter of Hanna and they have three nice daughters Shauna, Kristy and Angela.

Her twin brother Herschel married Vicki Olsen and they have one son Dean Bradley. They are located at Rainbow Lake in northern Alberta.

Hope was born May 4, 1948. She is still single and works in Edmonton.

Joy was born June 7, 1949. She is married to John Garret and they live in Hanna.

Forrest was born April 1952 and is married to Karen Armes. They have one son Stuart Dean and live in Hanna.

Adeline my youngest daughter was born September 1950. She is in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where she is finishing her education.

Four years ago when our house caught fire and was destroyed, the Meadowlands and surrounding communities were a pillar of support to get us back on our feet. Many thanks to you all.

THE HANK HILDEBRAND STORY, by Shirley Hildebrand — Henry "Hank" Hildebrand was born in 1919 at Horsham, Saskatchewan, where he farmed until joining the Army during the Second World War.

Upon his discharge, he came to Hanna in 1946, where he was employed by K and B Motors for a number of years. In 1950 he married the former Shirley Carter a native of Hanna.

In 1958 they moved to the Watts district, where they lived on the Tommy Scott farm for twelve years. While there Jo Ann was born in 1959 and Shelley in 1961.

During this time they purchased land from Clifford Kern in the Meadowlands district; in 1969 they moved onto the property. In 1973 Hank took over the Operation of Shell Canada Limited Bulk Plant in Hanna.

THE DOUG MOTZ STORY, by Doug Motz — I was born April 4, 1956 at the Hanna General Hospital. I lived in the Spondin area from that time up until June of 1975. There I helped my Dad on his farm and learned many tricks of the trade. I attended Spondin School from grades one through nine. And I really appreciated those years in that country school. The first year that I attended, there were grades one to twelve, then each succeeding year, the grades declined down to grade nine. The year after I finished grade nine all the grades were bussed to Hanna, as the school was closed down. From then on it was more competition as far as studies were concerned, but those were also well spent years. In my last year of high school, I had the privilege of driving the kids to Hanna, instead of being driven! But that was a terrible winter for us bus drivers because of all the snow — I'll never forget it.

Then after I graduated from high school, I was able to attend Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat for a year. There I learned more about the Bible, and there I also met my good wife. Joan was born and raised on a chicken farm at Carstairs. Later she and her family moved to Three Hills where she finished her high school years at Prairie High, and later spent three years at H.C.C. and graduated with her diploma and E.T.T.A. (teaching certificate).

We were married in June of 1975 in Three Hills. We bought Elmer Pfahl's place in the spring of 1975. I have been farming this place now for two years as well as driving school bus on the Meadowland route. On December 23, 1976 we had a little son born to us, named Arlen Douglas.

THE GORDON ROBERTSON FAMILY — Gordon was born and raised in the Hanna and Endiang communities. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm (Huck) Robertson farmed north of Endiang. In November 1953 Gordon's Dad passed

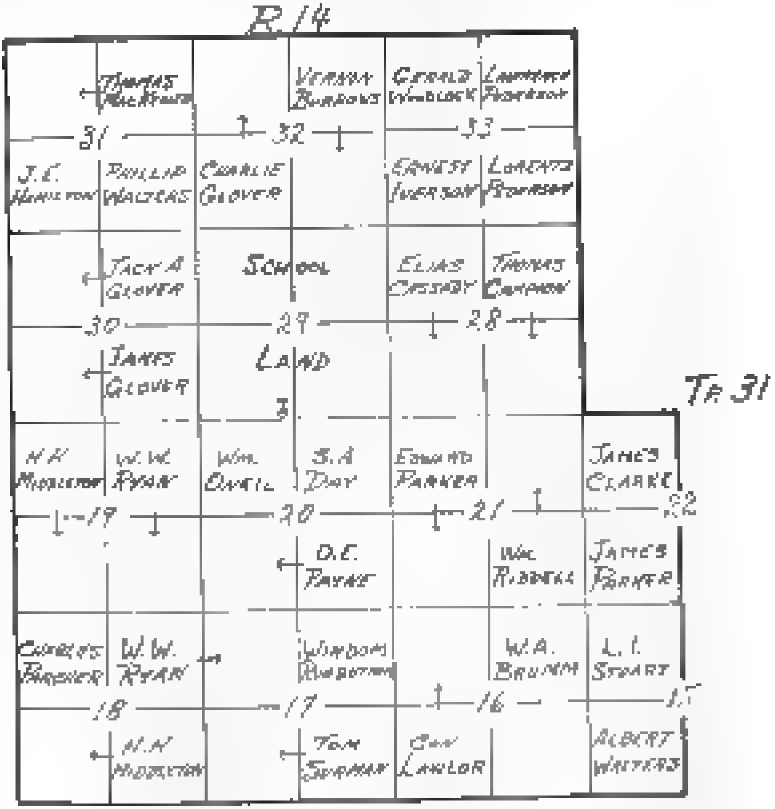
ody and in 1956 his Mother remarried Mr. Walter Stuberg. His mother and step-father reside in Calgary.

Through the years of growing up Gordon's family moved from Endiang to Hanna. While in Hanna Gordon had a hand at quite a few jobs, but he always went back to butchering at Central Meat.

Gordon was married August 23, 1969 to Shirley Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller. Shirley was born and raised in Hanna. Her parents live on a farm one mile east of town.

After we were married we both worked in town for a couple of years. In November 1973 we purchased the Fred Engel farm where we have set up a feedlot operation. We have two children, Lori Ann, who was born June 1, 1971 and Donald Edward who was born February 20, 1973.

SILVER VALLEY No. 2596



OWNERS AND RENTERS, TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 14

N.E-31-31-14
William MacKenzie
Al Hutton

S.W. 31-31-14
John Price
Art Swann
Al Hutton

S.E. 31-31-14
Stan Grant

Bill MacKenzie
Al Hutton &
Bill MacKenzie

N.E. 30-31-14
Jim Glover
Elmer Glover
William MacKenzie

N.W. 30-31-14
Elmer Glover
Al Hutton

S.E. 30-31-14
John Price
William MacKenzie

S.W. 30-31-14
John Price
Al Hutton

N.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

S.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

N.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Dal
Gottlieb Schmidt

S.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Dal
Gottlieb Schmidt
William MacKenzie

E½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
William MacKenzie
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

W½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
Hutton & MacKenzie
William MacKenzie

N.W. 20-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 20-31-14
Mr. Hunter
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 20-31-14
Alec Coburn
Harvey Howatt
Muriel Cranston
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.W. 20-31-14
Harvey Howatt
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

- W½-17-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Jim Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 17-31-14
Alec Bardula
Mike Lilke
R. Pfahl
Al Hutton

S.W. 17-31-14
Bert Mod
Bob Sloan
John Sibon
Alberta Housing

W½-28-31-14
Will Glover
Martin Bye
Fred Cook
R. Steinbrecker
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

E½-28-31-14
Arthur Campion

W½-21-31-14
Jim Parker
Al Desjeans
Albert Gareneau
Russ Mayberry

E½-21-31-14
Frank Isitt
MacBeans
Rounsville
Dee Banco
Albert Balanneau
Art Campion

W½-16-31-14
Alec Bardula
Mike Lilke
Reinhold Pfahl
Alberta Housing

N.E. 16-31-14
Fred Miller
Bill MacKenzie

S.E. 16-31-14
Golf Course

Sec. 15-31-14
Doc Sims
N. Stearnes
Fred Miller

N.W. 33-31-14
Coughlin
Morris Olsen
Art Campion

N.E. 33-31-14
John Forine

S.E. 33-31-14
Elmer Olsen
Essy Holmes
Dave Temple
Dooley Allen
Art Campion

N.W. 22-31-14
Bill Sterling
Art Fincombe
Fred Engel
Jerry Martin

S.W. 22-31-14
Oldham
John Olachuck
Clift Kerr
Fred Engel
Andy Dud

SILVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. [illegible]

By B. MacKenzie

Silver Valley School - 1914. Back Row, Left to Right: Bert Johnson, Ken MacKenzie. Middle Row: Zema Samson, Margaret MacKenzie, Lorene Glover, Virginia Johnson. Front Row: Charlie Glover and Bill MacKenzie

Silver Valley school district was established on January 26, 1913. It included sections 17-21, 28-33, the west halves of 22, 27, and 34, the north half of 16 and the northwest quarter of 15, all in township 31-14; and the east halves of 13, 24, 25 and 36 in township 31-15. The Senior trustee was Chas. Glover of Hanna, the treasurer, E. G. Cassady.

The site of the school, in the southeast corner of S.W. 28-31-14, was selected by the school trustees, and approved on February 14, 1913. In June of that year, approval was given to borrow the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for

purchasing the school site, erecting the building, furnishing it and digging a well. The latter was never accomplished, as water was never found.

In 1936 Silver Valley School was included in the Sullivan Lake school division. It ceased to operate in 1938, and the building was moved to Watts to serve as a high school there. Sale of the site was approved on November 27, 1968.

Silver Valley School. Left to Right: Ken MacKenzie, Charlie Glover, Art MacKenzie, Bill McEwan, Alex Fox, Dorothy Paulson, Emerline Beier, Freddie Paulson, Beatrice Glover, Teacher Miss Dack, Mildred Paulson, Olive McEwan, and Margaret MacKenzie

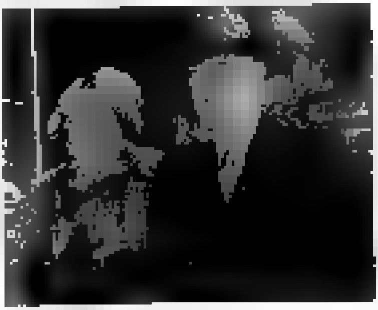
No record of teachers prior to 1930 can be found, but some of them were Marie McKay (1914), Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922), Pearl Falkbeiner, Miss Maclean, Miss Dack, Hudson Hoover, Mrs. Prothrowe, and Maud Henderson. Teachers from 1930 to 1937 were Mrs. B. Portfors, Faye Tillotson, Amanda Wall, Minnie Wiese, Muriel Cranston; during this time attendance varied from a high of twenty-five pupils to a low of eight.

Children who attended Silver Valley School were from the Glover, Samson, MacKenzie, Oel, Bye, Price, Fox, Johnson and Paulson families.

Silver Valley School served its purpose well during the time it was in operation. The building is gone, and there is nothing to remind the passer-by of the many times it served the community well, but an old timer might imagine, if he pauses a while by the old school site, that he can hear the ringing of the bell, the shouts of the children, and the lessons which the teachers so painstakingly prepared.

THE ED PARKER STORY, ***By Faith Parker Fell*** — The Parker Brothers, John, Ed and Jim came originally from North Dakota in 1901. For a few years, while Alberta was yet a district of the North West Territories, they had lived at Coalbanks (near where the town of Ardley now stands) helping their father, Thomas Parker get established on a homestead there with their mother, Mary Ann, sister Lucy and niece, Mabel Smithsman, and brother Frank who died

Mrs. Ed Parker, nee Frances Harris - 1911


Ed Parker and second wife Eva in Calgary after wedding 1962

From 1903 the boys had ranched in the Hand Hills and Watts area and being among the first settlers there, they had their choice of location for their buildings while the cattle grazed the prairie wool and the lush meadow hay at will.

In 1909 their lives changed: the ranchlands were surveyed and opened for

homesteads which meant an end to ranging cattle. Their sister Lucy, who had been keeping house for them, married George Burkell and they settled on a homestead which was northeast 9-31-14, where the town site of Hanna now stands. The Parker boys took homesteads too — Jim's was the west half 9-31-14, John's three miles south and Ed's was one and one half miles north. Their parents moved into a sod shanty near their daughter.

Just south of town, along the Bull Pound Creek, Claude Harris of Salmon Arm, British Columbia filed on a quarter of land and soon his young brother, Fred and sister, Carrie came to live with him. Carrie went to Castor and nursed at the hospital with her sisters, Jennie and Frances.

The Harris family were to play an important role in the lives of the Parkers within the next few years, for in 1911 Jim married Carrie Harris, the next year Ed married Frances Harris and Claude Harris married Elsie Smithman, a niece of the Parker boys. The address on the marriage certificate was "Copeville" so named after G. R. Cope who had a post office in the vicinity.

Of interest here is the account recorded in the memoirs of Reverend M. W. Holdom, a young Anglican clergyman of Castor. He tells that in December of 1911 he arranged to ride horseback south forty miles to perform a marriage ceremony. A blizzard caught him midway and all he could do was to give the horse its head and hope for the best. The horse floundered its way against the blinding, driving snow and wind for hours. The preacher was so cold and numb that he was only hanging on with difficulty when the horse carried him into the yard of a house. It was his intended destination! The bride and groom were still waiting and the ceremony, though delayed, united Jim Parker and Carrie Harris in Holy Matrimony.

In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent and he and Ed ran a taxi service to Castor. Previous to this the trips had been with horses which necessitated an overnight stay at the sod house of "Lewis' Stopping Place" at Garden Plain. Frances told of one such trip when arriving there late at night from Castor en route to Copeville. Mrs. Lewis had to build a fire in the range before she could prepare any food for the weary travellers. No paper could be found with which to kindle the coal until Mrs. Lewis realized she could get some by tearing the paper label off the box of Cow Brand baking soda. With that she soon had the fire going and supper cooking.

Before the rails came to Hanna the lumber for houses was hauled from Castor, so it was very precious and the shacks were either built of sod with lumber roofs, or as small as possible. Many young wives mentioned how forlorn the wind sounded at night as it whipped around the corners and flapped the tar paper under the eaves.

A story is told about Bill Parker and Claude Harris going early one morning to get wagon loads of coal from the Black Diamond mine eleven miles south of town. At noon the men ceased their digging long enough to eat lunch but Claude, on opening his ten pound Roger's Syrup pail, found it filled with ginger snaps! He'd picked up the wrong pail.

Ed Parker had two quarters of land with the house situated near the line between the two (one and one-half miles north of town) where he farmed and raised cattle. Water was always a big problem and at the edge of every slough there was a shallow well which went almost dry in the summer months. The "house well" provided enough water for their home use and for whoever was living at the time in "the Payne house" across the road. This memorable house was hexagon shaped. It was said the builder declared he constructed it thus so the Devil couldn't catch him in the corners!

At the north end of Ed's farm was the hay slough around the edge of which lay rocks in circles where Indian tepees had been erected, and on the hill was a sunken rectangular depression which was suspected of being an Indian grave. All over the pasture lay whitened buffalo bones and horns — relics of the Indian era years before.

Between 1915 and 1919 Ed and Frances had three children: Hale, Faith and Bob who were all born at home with Dr. Mason and nurse Kate Garman in attendance. Later the children attended Silver Valley School which was a mile northwest of their home. During a wind storm one day the roof of the barn blew off and was carried outside the page wire fence of the school yard. The walls of the school were swaying back and forth so the teacher moved the children away from the windows in case they crashed.

Among the teachers at Silver Valley during the twenties were Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922) who with her husband lived in the former house which was the original Day homestead (one-quarter mile north of Ed's house), Mrs. Fred Portors, Pearl Finkbeiner and one who got fired for wearing men's riding breeches to school. (The poor girl had to walk a mile to school through snow drifts.)

Among the pupils during this period were: Freddie Paulson, (the original Dennis the Menace), Beatrice, Emerteen, Elmer and Harold Glover and their cousin, Walter, Gussy, Rosie, Ted and Red Price, Austin and Mavis Bye. There were also the three little Darr children whose father, uncle and grandfather were all killed at the same time by lightning as they stood in the door of a barn watching the storm. For a while the Burkell children, Howard, Erma and Ted attended as well as the eldest of Jim Parker's children, Harry, Winnifred and Marian.

The little country school room was in those days the essence of economy — a back bench crowded with lard pails which had wire-bale handles which served so conveniently for children to carry lunches and drinking water to school, a big coal stove encircled by a tin jacket to prevent burns, oiled board floors, slates on the primary desks, the brass hand bell on the teacher's desk, meagre blackboard space for eight grades and the bare necessities for teaching the "three R's". One 'must' was a MacLean's Writing Book for each child and many a time little fingers got smacked for using finger muscles for moving the straight pen instead of arm movement!

There was no playground equipment as such so the children played "Steal Sticks", "Tug-of-War", etc. A favorite game was "Anti-I-Over" during which, for the big kids, the ball was thrown over the little white schoolhouse but for the little ones it was over the shanty-type barn or over one of the two outdoor toilets near the back of the schoolyard.

The boys, up to the age of ten or so (depending on size) wore 'knicker' pants which buttoned below the knee over long underwear and long wool socks, tall shoes and rubbers and the usual jackets and toques, but for little girls in the early twenties the outfits were much more complicated — long fleecelined underwear because chilling was deemed to cause consumption, long black or brown wool stockings held up with a garter belt; felt boots which were still buttoned in 1922, fleecelined bloomers (obtainable at Eaton's mail order in dark grey, navy or plum color) and a petticoat and a wool dress to well below the knee. Pinafore aprons were worn over the dress so they could be washed, but usually there was only the one school dress, worn all winter. With long coat, toque, mitts and a scarf it was a wonder a child could move, let alone run to play games.

Among the souvenirs of my childhood is a bronze medallion dated 1927 which was presented to each school child in Canada, commemorating Canada's Diamond Jubilee (sixty years since Confederation). On this occasion the teacher and the class walked about two miles north to the home of Charlie Glover to listen via battery radio (likely the only one in the district) to a speech by a representative of the reigning monarch, King George V. How awesome was that "wireless set" that from the air waves could capture a voice so far away!

Leisure times were usually spent in self-made entertainment, for although Shaker's Theatre in town showed black and white, silent films, there was no spare money to squander on tickets. As a means of advertising this new form of entertainment, complimentary tickets were sent to families and it was one of the highlights of the late twenties when our family went in to see "Sweethearts on Parade".

In the early twenties, highlights of an ordinary week would be when we drove by horse and buggy into town on Saturday night. Stores were always open to eleven o'clock. We would visit other farmers and buy the week's supply of groceries with a pound of bologna as a special treat, for sandwiches when we got home. Sunday afternoon was usually spent with a gathering of relatives or friends: in summer a picnic, and in winter, weather permitting, cards, and music with violin, piano or mouth-organ.

One memorable event in the winter of 1927 was the wedding of Beulah Kruger whose parents lived on the Payne Place, to Walter Lewis of Garden Plains. When the bridal party were ready to leave after the celebration, they, along with Mrs. Lewis Sr. and Walter's sister, climbed into a bob sleigh and cuddled down under the robes. Well wishers gathered around showering rice on the newly-weds and shouting last minute advice. The team jumped and started to run, whipped around the corner on to the road and over went the sleigh box spilling gifts, blankets and gasping occupants into the snowbanks! Everyone pitched in and soon had everything loaded again and they went quietly on their way, but strangely, it was only a couple of years later that Walter lost his life as a result of a run-away accident.

Toward the end of the twenties, automobiles became the accepted mode of transportation and Sunday outings extended to surrounding towns and to Clear Lake where on the beach, some brave girls introduced the "shocking" newest fashion — brightly flowered, wide-legged Beach Pyjamas! Daring drivers in the latest model cars travelled at the breakneck speed of forty miles an hour. The cars enabled the ball teams of the various districts to play together with a cheering squad of neighbors. On one such occasion when the game was being held in Ed's pasture, a summer storm broke and everyone rushed to the buildings for shelter. The hailstones, like small snowballs, pelted so hard that some went right through the canvas top of a touring car; shattered windows and hopes as crops and gardens were battered into the mud.

Ed took time from his farming operations to serve on the school board and on the town council for several years during the twenties.

During the latter half of that decade the rainfall lessened, resulting in light yields of grain, very little water in the wells and skimpy grass for the cattle, so most of Ed's cattle had to be sold. The boys earned pin money by collecting bounty which was paid for gopher tails, crows' eggs and crows' feet. Hale, in 1931, won a provincial prize for the most crows' feet and eggs collected — a twenty-two Browning rifle and a cheque for fifty dollars.

These events leading to the depression years are best described by the following verse:

When the drought came, disbelieving farmers watched,
And more each day —
Saw their prairie like a maiden stricken,
Wasting fast away —
Then the wind came, howling, lashing,
Like a fiend the Devil sent, —
Like a giant black with fury, it ripped and roared
On Destruction bent.
It lifted soil from bare fields parching,
Filled the air with dirt and sand,
Beat her, lashed her, with no mercy,
Languid, helpless, hopeless land!

In 1931 when the Government of Alberta offered the residents of the stricken area free railway transportation for family and effects to any point in Alberta, Ed bade a sad farewell to his beloved prairie and moved his family to the opening Peace River country.

Twenty years later, several years after Frances passed away, he returned to Hanna, married Mrs. Eva Meehan and lived there until his death in 1954.

Hale Parker is now a barber living with his wife, Alvina in Fort St. John, B.C. Their only child, Mrs. John Dessemone and family live in Dawson Creek.

Faith and her husband, Percy Fell live in Abbotsford, B.C. One of their children is married to Jim Parker (no relation).

Bob Parker and wife, Gwen, live on a farm in the little town of Montney, B.C. near where Ed established his family in 1931. Ed's homestead there is held by Bob in trust for his son and daughter. The old building site amid the trees is reserved for community use and is known as "Parker's Park".

THE SAMSON FAMILY, By Zelma Samson Miles — Ernest Gregory (Bob) Samson came to Canada from San Jose, California, in the spring of 1908, because times were hard and jobs were scarce there. He was a blacksmith by trade, and his first job was working for a Mr. Flett, I think his name was, at Gleichen. That smithy is now in Heritage Park in Calgary. He was put to shoeing horses all day long but could not stand that as a horse had fallen on him during his apprenticeship years and injured his back. In later years he built a small blacksmith shop on the farm and sharpened his own plow shares, shod his horses and mended his machinery. He also did quite a bit for the neighbors.

While in Gleichen he learned of the chance to get a homestead for a ten-dollar registration fee, so went to Calgary and filed on a quarter section four miles due north of where the town of Hanna now stands. He did the necessary improvements and so later was able to pre-empt another quarter section adjacent to the homestead, and later on bought another quarter across the road from the pre-emption. My father also leased some land from the Hudson Bay Company, and used it for pasture. It was quite hilly and not much use for crop.

When mother and I came, we travelled from Castor to Thompson's by stage, I think. Thompsons lived three or four miles from our place and had a stopping house. My father was working for Fatty Thompson at the time. The next day he borrowed a horse and buggy and took us to the car-roofed, two-room shack he had managed to build and furnish during his first year.

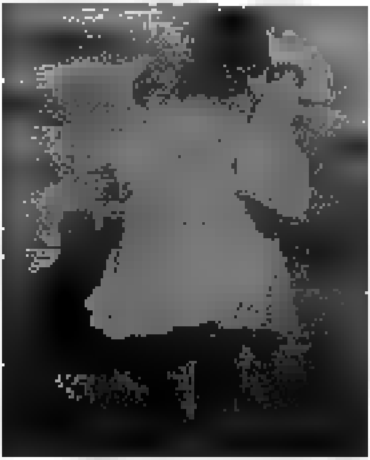
The first plowing to prove up on the homestead was done by the Thompson

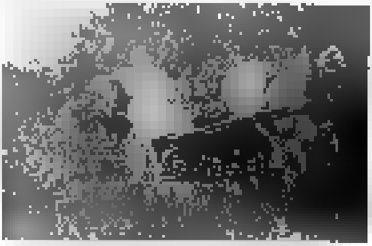
outfit. The huge steam engine pulled a plow that turned sixteen furrows at one time. The next year more ground was plowed by Mark Pope and his oxen.

The first animal we had was Dolly, a buckskin cayuse that we could ride or drive on the buggy. She was soon followed by Daisy, a Jersey-Ayrshire cross cow, a real treasure as a milk producer. Water came from a well about one hundred yards from the house. It was good tasting water, but hard.

We had no horses or wagons at first so had to depend on others for supplies. Mark Pope lived east of us several miles. He had oxen at the time and would go to Castor for supplies. It took most of a week to make the trip. One time the heel flies took after the oxen and they ran into a slough to escape them. The wagon got stuck in the mud and I think he was most of the day getting it out. He had to wait till evening to unhitch the team and pull the wagon out backwards. He switched to a team of white horses as soon as he could.

Once the railroad went through, Hanna sprang up like a mushroom. That ended the long trek to Castor for supplies. We were now five miles by road away from the stores.


Zelma Samson and dolls - 1919


Mrs. Bob Samson (Lena) and old Buck.

The Samson's Shack — July 1910

Charlie Glover had a dairy that furnished milk to the town people. One woman complained that the milk was too thin. He replied, "I can't help it if the cows wade in the sloughs."

Our first neighbors seemed to be mostly bachelors. Mike Sullivan lived close, north and west of us. He had a long-legged ox that he used to hitch to a buggy and it would trot to town as fast as a horse. There was Lyle Gifford east of us. He was an English gentleman and knew nothing about farming so didn't last very long. East of us there was Walter Carlson and later Jake Fortna. Families came later, Knudsons, Glovers, Burrows, and MacKenzies.

The first fall my mother and father went to take care of a place near Castor. People by the name of Clymie went back to England to visit for a couple of months. Mrs. Clymie had frozen several large pans of milk for us and we hauled them home stacked one on top of the other in the sleigh. Dad put them in a large wooden box with a lid on the north side of the house and they kept there just fine. Dad went out every night and cut a wedge of milk like a huge piece of pie and brought it into the house to melt in a bowl for breakfast the next day. Breakfast was

rolled oats and milk as long as the milk lasted, then we ate it with butter spread on it. We got the butter from Thompsons.

The potatoes were stored on the foot of my bed, which was hung from the ceiling over my parent's bed. During a cold spell they froze, even though they were covered with extra sacks. In the morning the blankets would be white with frost where we had breathed on them.

Samson's Shack. Mrs. Samson, Buck and Zeefie

The first year or two were pretty grim. Food was very limited. Rolled oats, beans, bacon, and bread which my mother baked were the main fare. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat at times. There was the odd can of tomatoes and some dried fruit to liven the fare a bit. Later my dad cut a trapdoor in the kitchen-living room floor and dug a small cellar beneath it. A ladder-like stair was fashioned so that we could get down to the space below where we stored vegetables and pans of milk. No more frozen potatoes after that!

These hardships did not bother me too much, but they must have been terrible for my parents, who were used to city living where they had hot and cold water taps and indoor plumbing. The luxury of a bath tub must have seemed like a dream, rather than a reality they had forfeited to become Alberta pioneers.

There was very little in the way of entertainment for the first year or two. Mark Pope played the banjo by ear and could sometimes be persuaded to play. Neighbors came occasionally. We played cribbage and dominoes in the evenings during the long winter months. Later there were dances in the school houses. Those who could play and had fiddles, accordions or mouth organs brought them to the dances and provided the music. I had to go along with my parents as they wouldn't leave me home alone, so I learned to dance, and by the age of thirteen was a good dancer.

I can remember going to a dance at Solon School with my parents. It must have been in the late fall, but there was very little snow so we went with Dolly and the buggy. After midnight the weather changed and a blizzard came up. Everyone stayed till daylight so they could see to get home. There were quite deep drifts in the low places. My parents put me in the bottom of the buggy and covered me with a blanket. The blizzard had subsided but the temperature had dropped to ten degrees below zero. I was out of the wind but my feet were so cold that I couldn't feel them, and when Dad put me down on them I fell over.

My Dad got a summer job working for the railroad at Fleet, blacksmithing, I think. Later he worked at the Hanna Trading Company store long enough to get money to buy some horses and machinery. Mother did the farming, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens, and raising a garden. She sold the butter, eggs, and some vegetables to the store where Dad worked as well as to some of the town restaurants.

Between what Father earned and borrowed he finally got enough equipment to start farming in earnest. He had very good crops of Marquis wheat, for a couple of years, anyway. He got two dollars a bushel one year during the war, and I think he was able to pay off most of his mortgage. Eventually we had thirty head of cattle, seven or eight horses, up to thirty pigs and possibly a hundred chickens.

Mother got some duck eggs one year and put them under a hen. She brought up seven ducklings. There was a slough near the barn and they lived there. I can remember the mother hen frantically running up and down the edge of the water, trying to call them back from danger. She soon gave up and let them fend for themselves.

Dad had well-bred Clydesdale horses, three of which took prizes at the Hanna Fair every year, especially 'King' and 'Queen'. Prince was a long-legged Percheron, the only horse that could begin to keep up to King. The six work horses ranged in weight from 1800 to 2000 pounds. They were huge.

I acquired Buck to use as a saddle horse to get the cows and ride to school, and to drive on the buggy whenever Dolly was busy having a colt. My Dad sometimes rode him to work at the store on Monday morning. Then the milkman would lead him back as far as the fork in the road. He would tie the reins to the horn and start him on the road and he would come on alone. He often carried groceries on his back. One time he brought medicine for Daisy when she had a touch of milk fever after having a calf. He would not let anyone touch him until he got to the home barn. He would also wait for me all day at school without being tied.

I can remember going to one picnic when I was ten years old. I came down with the measles that day and was very ill by the time I got home. I gave them to the other children there. They must have hated me about them! My cousins from California had brought them to me.

Coal was mined at Garden Plain. We were fortunate to have wood on our own farm. There were a number of willow and poplar trees on the edges of several sloughs. There was always enough deadwood to make kindling and some large pieces to use for cooking in the hot weather.

After several years, Dad built another room onto our shack. It served as a livingroom and bedroom for me. There was a small heater in it that burned coal as well as wood. It could be banked to hold fire all night so the house was more adequately heated and we had a comfortable place to sit in the evenings. It was nice to sit by the stove and read on long winter evenings.

Minnie Burrows kept house for her father and brother Vernon. She was the first school teacher as well. She had classes for the neighbors' children one summer. I think there were five of us, Lorne and Charlie Glover, Kenneth and Margaret MacKenzie, and myself. She married a Mr. Portfore and that ended our first school. The next year I rode Dolly to Solon School, until the mosquitoes got so bad I could not control her. Then Mother took me each morning and came after me each afternoon, but that didn't last long as mother spent most of the day on the road and Dolly got pretty worn out doing twenty miles a day.

Then I was out of school until the Silver Valley School started. My mother spent a good deal of her time in those years teaching me the three R's. She used some books I had received at Solon School, as well as some that my school-teacher-Aunt Ada sent out from California. Another school started in the district north of us. I went there for about six weeks; I think I was in grade five. The teacher

seemed pretty inadequate and pupils were scarce, so it folded up after a few months.

When I left Silver Valley School in the fall of 1917, I was in grade seven. I spent six months in that grade in California and then went to Hanna School. After four years at Hanna, I graduated from High School there, then went to Camrose Normal School for eight months, graduating from there as a second-class teacher. I taught at Crow Hill and later at Silver Valley. Silver Valley School always closed in the winter as the children came so far.

My father decided he didn't really care for farming, as compensations were few, money scarce, for the effort expended. In the fall of 1917 he sold the farm to some people by the name of Lane. He got a house and lot in town on the deal. We went back to California for the winter, where I went to school and Dad worked at whatever he could find to do.

He came back to Hanna at Easter time in 1918 and settled in the house which was just behind the school. It was still there the last time I was in Hanna. The dry years came and my father got the farm back. He was unable to pay the taxes that had accumulated so turned it back to the government. Jake Fortna bought it later.

I married Jack Milne in 1924 and moved to Trail, B.C. Our first child, Yvonne, was born there. We moved to Princeton in 1926, and had three more children there, but lost a daughter Margaret, aged ten years. Gregory was born in 1935 and Esther in 1940.

My brother Stanley, who was born in Calgary in 1920 and adopted by my parents, lives in Vancouver. He has one son, Paul.

We had two celebrations to mark our golden wedding anniversary in 1974. One was in Penticton in August when all our family were able to be present, the other, on the actual date, was given by our church and our friends at Princeton.

My father died in 1949, my mother in 1959.

THE VERNON BURROWS STORY, By Vernon Burrows — I came from London, Ontario on June 2, 1910 with W. Lumsden. When we reached Calgary there were two inches of snow on the ground. We went to the end of the railway at Castor where we both got jobs. Later we filed on homesteads. Mine was four miles north of the west side of Hanna. Bill Lumsden homesteaded about twelve miles north-east of Hanna and is still living on his place in the Solon district.

I was working for a lumber company in Castor, and later they sent me to run a lumberyard in Drumheller, so I didn't go on to my homestead till 1912. I got a team of horses and a wagon and hauled everything forty-five miles from Castor — lumber, machinery and fencing materials. I built a house fourteen by eighteen and built a sod barn to hold eight head of horses. In 1913 my dad and family came out and settled about fourteen miles north of Hanna.

In 1915-16 I had a crop of wheat that yielded forty-five bushels of number one wheat to the acre. I proved up on the homestead and the pre-emption, put a mortgage for eight hundred dollars on the homestead, and drilled a well. We went down one hundred and sixty feet, and put a windmill on the well. I built a two-storey addition to the house, sixteen by twenty-six.

In 1918 I sold the farm and moved to Clive, where I bought a half-section and later lost it. I moved to Stettler and got a job with the Crown Lumber Company. I ran lumber yards in East Coulee, Tofield and Consort. Then I bought a hardware store at Clyde, north of Edmonton, but was only there for four years when I sold out and bought another one at Innisfail, where I still live.

I am eighty-eight years old and retired now. My son Clifford is running the store.

Vern Burrows and his horse and dog.

Vern Burrows and binder.

Vern Burrow's home on the homestead.

I married Maude Walters in 1913 and my son Clifford was born when we lived on the homestead. My daughter, Eva, was born at Clive. They are both living at Innisfail.

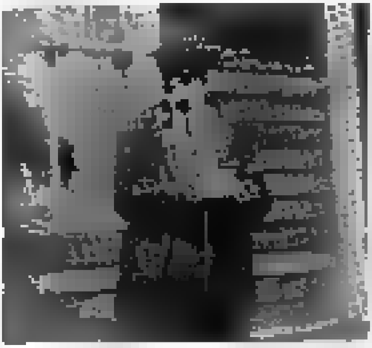
THE MacKENZIE STORY, ***By William and Betty MacKenzie*** — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Christina MacKenzie came from Scotland in 1906 and after a year spent in the States, they moved to Calgary where my Dad worked at his trade as a stone mason. My brother Ken and my sister Margaret were born in Scotland. I was born in Calgary in 1908. In 1910 my parents took up a homestead on Section 31-31-14. This was the southeast end of Dowling Lake.

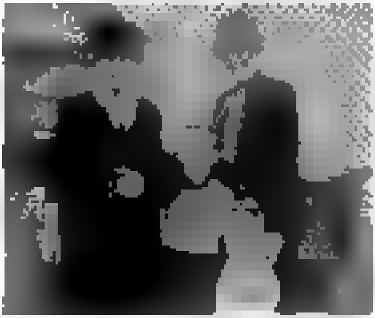
My Dad bought four horses and a wagon in Calgary and we shipped by train to Castor. Then we trailed to our homestead. As there were no buildings we had to live in a tent until a sod shack was built. My Mother used to tell about the terrible times we had with the mosquitoes, everyone said it was a record year for them, and smudges were kept going night and day using bull chips for burning. This was the only means of protection we had from these biting insects.

We were fortunate to have good neighbors living near us. The Glovers lived to the south, Dan Ross and Jack Robertson to the north, Al Huttons and MacKewans to the west of us and the Samsons to the east. Our closest neighbors were the Glovers. There were four families of them — Will's, Jim's, Charlie's and Jack's. They all lived close to each other and to us. Mrs. Jack Glover (Nellie) and my Mother were the very best of friends. They visited back and forth, and helped each other in so many ways. She was one of the kindest women that I ever knew. She often had treats of lemonade and cookies for us when we trudged wearily home from school. She always seemed to have time to spend with us and, of course, we all loved to go to "Nellie's"! Life was never quite the same when the Glovers as well as some of the other neighbors left the district in search of a better place to live in the early part of the thirties.

When we first arrived at the homestead there were no fences so as a result cattle roamed at large and sometimes hundreds of these herds would come milling around our place. Some belonged to the Parkers and some to the McCulohs and until the land was all surveyed and opened for the homesteaders these cattle were allowed to stray afar.

There was no school until 1912 when Silver Valley was opened so our early education was taught to us by Minnie Burrows. She lived about one mile and a half east of us and taught us half days in her home. By 1912, we had a house built, and my father also built a stone barn and chicken house in 1916. He also built most of the chimneys of the district and helped build the foundation for the old Hanna High School.


Tom MacKenzie, Bob's Father


Left to Right: Mrs. Tom MacKenzie, her daughter Margaret and Bob and Don, her grandchildren.

About the worst things that I can remember were the long cold winters and the blizzards that raged for three or four days. One of the coldest winters that I can remember was in 1924. Winter set in early that year. The temperature dropped to as low as fifty degrees below and it stayed well below all winter. My father had the misfortune of freezing his hands very badly and was not able to do any of the chores, so I had to take over the hauling of the feed and the other farm chores. We were very short of feed and had to haul it across Dowling Lake from Stan Kusse and from Doyles. I had to leave early in the morning, before daybreak and did not reach home until after dark. The wind blew fiercely and each day the trail had to be broken. It was a long tedious haul. Levi Kennedy who lived where "Smitty" now lives was also hauling feed from north of Watts, so sometimes we met on the lake and had a visit. My lunch of course was usually frozen so was not very edible. Somehow we made it through the winter and spring arrived. By this time the hardships of the winter were soon forgotten and my Dad's hands were nearly better.

Towards spring in 1924 big timbers were hauled in as the railroad was starting to go in that summer. Ten big four-horse outfits did the hauling. In 1925 they started building the grade for the railroad. It was quite a sight to see so many animals, there were about two hundred horses and one hundred mules. The main camp was quite close to our buildings. Most of the work was done with elevator graders and dump wagons. To make some much-needed extra money most of the neighbors including myself worked on the dump wagons. We made four dollars a day which seemed like a lot of money in those days. We used three horses and worked ten hours a day but it was an exciting time for us. I recall vividly the chaos that followed when the first train roared down the track. Horses and cattle stampeded in every direction!

The Wm. MacKenzie Family from left to right: Billy, Bill, Betty, Ned (and Jim on his knee), and Donna

Bill MacKenzie, Betty MacKenzie, Angus MacFadyen, and Jimmy MacKenzie, at Jasper - 1982

Even though we had tough times, I have fond memories of our childhood. Sleigh riding in the winter, horseback riding in the summer, and as our neighbors were close we often met to play games of all kinds. We skated on the sloughs when the ice was right, skied down our big hills on home made skis. When we grew older there were always school dances, surprise parties, and get togethers of all kinds. Sometimes Charlie Glover and I would ride ten or twelve miles to go to a dance. Even after I owned my first car in 1928, sometimes I left it at home and rode as money for gas was scarce.

In the thirties most of our neighbors left to try to make a living elsewhere. It was very dry so grass was scarce and the crops dried up and blew away. The government gave them free freight so many of our neighbors loaded their few belongings in boxcars and went north to the Peace River. Some of them went by wagons, loading their stock and other belongings and headed north.

As there was no further need for a school, the Silver Valley School was moved to Watts in 1938 to serve as a high school.

My brother Ken left home at the early age of fourteen and hired on to help freight some cattle to Seattle. Then he became a sailor, travelling all over the world for many years. He finally settled in Glasgow where he met and married Alice. He worked as a journalist for a Glasgow paper and also wrote a couple of books. They had a family of three girls, Alice, Chrissie and Margaret. Ken died as a result of an accident in 1940. His widow still lives in Glasgow and his three daughters are married. Chrissie and Margaret live in Scotland and Alice lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

My sister Margaret trained to be a nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. She nursed for a while in Hanna, and was Matron of the Hospital which used to be at Craigmyle. She married Stan Crowe in 1937 and they have a family of two sons, Bob and Don. They are both married. Bob lives in Brisbane, Australia, where he has his own manufacturing business and Don teaches school at Kelowna, British Columbia.

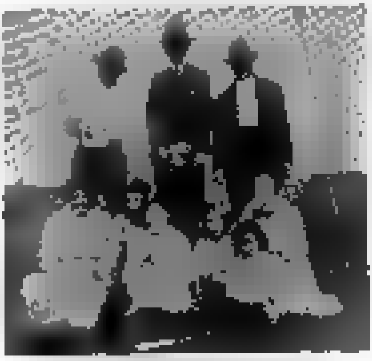
Included in our family was Angus MacFadyen who lived with us for a number of years after his parents died. He is now retired from the C.N.R. and lives at Jasper, Alberta.

My Dad passed away in 1927 leaving Mother and me to run the farm. By this time the dry weather was starting so we had some tough times. Dealing in horses kept the wolf from the door as crops were scarce and the price of cattle was very

poor. Mother was a very hard worker and her hands were never idle. She must have knit a thousand pairs of socks during her lifetime as well as mitts, sweaters, etc. She would quite often get the cows in for milking, knitting while she walked along. She was a devoted community worker, helping out in confinements and sickness. She fed many a hobo and as we lived close to the railroad track our place was a natural stopping place for them. Mother moved from the farm in 1939 to live with Margaret and Stan in British Columbia. Later on she moved to a suite of her own in Hanna and she passed away at the age of ninety years in 1959.

In 1939 I married Betty Wallace who came from Gem, Alberta and had been teaching school at Meadowlands. We have four children, Donna, who graduated as a nurse in 1962 and married Brian Wilkows of Vernon. They have two children Jerry and Rhonda. Neil our oldest son lives in Calgary and is in the oil business. Neil married the former Doreen Bérubé. They have one child Ryan. Bill, our second son, lives at home and runs the ranch. Jim, our youngest son, is at present attending technical school in Calgary.

We live on an acreage close to town, having moved here thirty years ago. I still maintain my interest in the cattle business and enjoy going to the thriving local auction market. We will likely spend the rest of our lives here as I can't think of any place I would rather be.



Back left to right: standing, unknown, Jack Glover, Tom MacKenzie. Seated: Nellie Glover, unknown, Margaret MacKenzie, Beatrice Glover, [illegible] Glover, Mrs. Tom MacKenzie

THE JACK GLOVER STORY, By Elmer Glover — My mother and father, Jack and Nellie Glover, came from London, Ontario in 1910 and settled on a homestead four miles northwest of the present town of Hanna. The northeast 30-31-14 was the homestead quarter and the northwest of 30-31-14 was the pre-emption. They brought three horses with them and lumber was hauled from Castor to build the house. A sod barn was also built.

We all tramped one mile to Silver Valley School and our main entertainment was surprise parties, playing ball and dancing. Some of our neighbors were Tom McKenzie, my uncle Charlie Paulsons, Parkers and many more.

The winters at that time were real bad. I remember one blizzard when the snow piled up against the door of the house and we had to crawl out of the bedroom window and it took Dad and I until noon to dig our way to the barn. One time my sisters were visiting Dorothy and Mildred Paulson who lived east of our place about a mile when a blizzard came up. I was sent to walk them home, but I got lost. All of the neighbors searched for me and found me the next morning walking in circles on Dowling Lake which was northwest of our place.

When my father passed away in 1930 I farmed the place for two years until my brother Harold was old enough to take over. Then I went to work in the Morse Mine which was twelve miles south of Hanna. Harold farmed for another two years with very little return for his work and in 1934 they decided to move out and Irma was their destination. The first year that I farmed I had sown one hundred and forty acres of wheat, in the fall I threshed a three decked wagon box of grain amounting to approximately seventy bushels. The next year was a little better; I got two hundred and forty bushels.

I remember when Pete and Bob Kennedy had the meat market, they would come out and buy cattle. They gave us eight dollars for a yearling steer and twelve dollars for a two-year-old. Water was scarce on our place so we would have to drive our cattle down to Bill McKenzie's to water them, a distance of one and a half miles.

My father was forty-six years of age when he passed away in 1930. Mother passed away in 1945 at the age of fifty-six. As I look back I remember my father as being a very witty man. He always had a ready answer. My mother was a very kind and considerate woman and had many friends in the neighborhood, both old and young.

There were seven children in our family:

Beatrice was the oldest and was born in 1910. She married W. J. Morse and they now live at Granum, Alberta.

Emerson was born in 1912 and passed away in 1967.

I was born in 1914. I married Myrtle Haner and we live in Drumheller.

Irene arrived in 1916 and passed away in 1919.

Harold was born in 1918 and is married to the former Lillian Haner and now lives at Wainwright, Alberta.

Jack was born in 1920 and passed away in 1974.

Russel the youngest in our family was born in 1922 and now lives in Drumheller. He is married to the former Vera Kolinchuck.

Charles Glover Jr. Family, left to right: Charlie Glover Jr., Annette, Martha, Clarence and Pat

THE CHARLES GLOVER STORY, By Charlie Glover — Charles Edward Glover was born December the twenty-eighth, 1880 in London, Ontario. On October the thirtieth, 1901, he married Evelin Irene Abel who was born July the twenty-first, 1881 in London, Ontario.

Charles Glover and family moved to the Hanna district and took up a homestead in 1910, on the west half of 32-31-14, about five miles from Hanna. Charles Glover had a dairy in the east and so decided to start a dairy in the Hanna district. He was the first milkman to do this and delivered milk to the residents of Hanna for a number of years.

As hard times came and the drought of the thirties began Charles Glover and family moved to the Irma district, hoping to find a better farming area. Here he farmed quite successfully until 1945 when they retired and moved to New Westminster, B.C. Here he passed away in 1953 and his wife Eveline passed away in 1968.

Charles and Eveline Glover had a family of four children. One of their sons, Roy, passed away in London, before they moved west.

Charlie, their oldest son, grew up in the Hanna district and attended the Silver Valley School. He loved to break horses and spent a lot of his young manhood trying to tame wild broncs. On December the twenty-third, 1927 Charlie married Martha Burgemeister. They lived on the Fox place and here their son Clarence was born in 1929. They also moved to Irma where he trucked for a living. Two daughters, Annette and Pat were born to them while they lived at Irma. In 1947

they too moved to New Westminster and at present are contemplating a move back to Hanna to be near their daughter, and their other relatives.

Lorene, Charles and Eveline's daughter, married Harold Mansfield but died at an early age in 1929, leaving a daughter Evelyn whom her grandparents raised.

Charles and Eva Glover

Charles Glover and "Brownie"

Walter, the youngest son also grew up in the Hanna area and moved with his parents to Irma. Here he was engaged in farming. He married Meta Cooper and they had four children. He moved his family to New Westminster in 1966 and still resides there.

Annette, Charlie and Martha's oldest daughter, moved to Hanna in 1961, with her daughter Debra. Here she married Lorne Robbs. They have one daughter Peggy. Annette still resides in Hanna and is looking forward to having her parents join her in Hanna in the near future.

Morris Olsen

THE E. T. OLSEN FAMILY, *By Freda Olsen Dahl* — My father, Elmer Theodore Olsen, was born September 15, 1878, in Donna, Norway. Like many other young men of that area, he went to work on the fishing boats in his early teens. Looking, I suppose, for an easier way of life, he and his younger brother Conrad decided to emigrate.

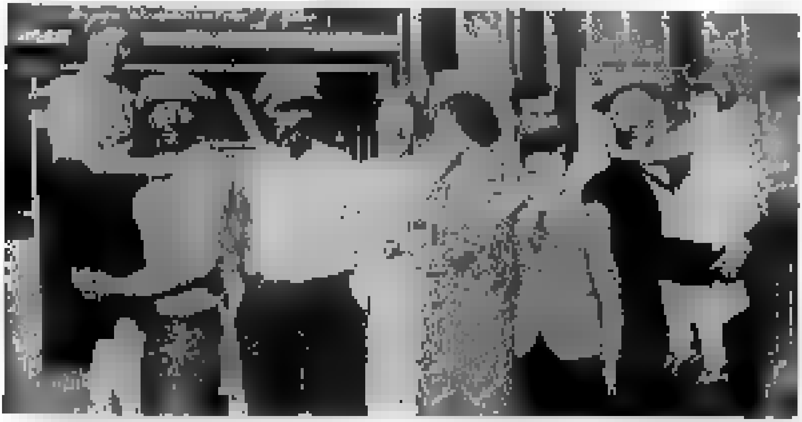
A few years earlier, their sister Bergetta and her husband, Theodore Pederson, had come to the United States. Elmer and Conrad joined their sister in Wisconsin, and married sisters named Jensen. On December 25, 1906, my oldest brother was born. His mother died in 1908, and he was cared for by our aunt, Bergetta Pederson.

In 1910 Dad came to Canada and homesteaded four miles north of Hanna on the NW 34-31-14. The Pederson family came at the same time, bringing three-year-old Morris with them. To bring in some much-needed cash while proving up on his homestead, Dad often worked for others. One of his first jobs was breaking horses on the Benedict Ranch in the Hand Hills. He also drove the mail coach from the Copeville post office to Castor.

In February, 1916, Dad enlisted in the army and went overseas with the 31st Battalion, C.E.F. He served in France, taking part in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and was awarded the Military Medal at Passchendaele. He was discharged in May, 1919.

While in England during the war he met our mother, Nellie Wilkins. Mum came out to Canada in the fall of 1920 and they were married on her arrival on October 5. Within the next few years several of her brothers and sisters came to Canada, all of them spending enough time in the Hanna area to be remembered by the early settlers.

One sister, Ada Wilkins, was one of the first nurses in Hanna; she later moved to the United States and married. Another sister Jo and her husband Charles Stringer spent some time here, eventually settling in Calgary. A third sister Ette Ford lived and worked here. She had two children, Tim and Kay. After Ette died, Kay came to live with us, and Tim went with two of mother's brothers, Arthur and Eric Wilkins, when they moved to Barons and Taber.



Kay Ford, Walter Carson, Elmer Olsen, Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Mowatt, Morris Olsen (in back), Desmond Olsen, Mr. Mowatt and Freda Olsen.

Dad acquired Soldier Settlement land across the road from his homestead, and that is where we made our home. This land is now owned by Art Campion; the Brian Gleddish family has lived on the place for several years now.

In 1921 my sister Nancy was born, in 1924 my brother Desmond, and myself in 1929. We all attended Hanna school, getting there in various ways. At first Nancy, Kay and Des rode horseback, but by the time I started school we drove a buggy pulled by the Old Grey Mare. If that old horse ever had another name, I never heard it. She was completely dependable and simply could not be hurried. No one really drove her; we just hitched her up, climbed in the buggy, and she did the rest. In the winter Dad would take us to school with a team and sleigh. Some winters when the snow got too deep Mum and us kids would move into town for two or three months, leaving Dad to batch it on the farm.

One very special friend of the family was our Swedish bachelor neighbor, Walter Carlson, who owned the land now farmed by Bob and Diane Paxman. He spent so much time with us, walking across the fields to visit, that he became "Uncle Walter" to us kids. No special occasion was complete without his presence.

Dad had a blacksmith forge where he shod horses and sharpened plow shares for himself and the neighbors. I was a real tagalong and spent many hours in that hot, dirty shop turning the blower to keep the forge hot for him.

Dad also had a talent for witching water wells. He would hold a forked willow stick in front of him and walk until the stick dipped down. Many of the wells found in this way are still producing today. In 1958 when he was eighty years old Dad witched a well for Jim and me; we found lots of good water at 165 feet.

Both Mum and Dad loved music. Mum played the piano and organ and Dad loved to dance. One of my earliest memories is of dancing with him at Meadowlands. I was probably four or five years old. Agnes Kern and I would dance together at these gatherings until we were tired out and put to sleep on a pile of coats on the teacher's desk.

During the depression years Mum sold cream, eggs and butter to customers in town. Mum had been a governess in Germany before the war and she must have been totally unprepared for the life of a pioneer wife. But like many others she learned to make do, make over and do without. Once Dad took a crate of eggs to town, hoping to exchange them for a few groceries. When he couldn't find anyone willing to do this, he traded the whole crate to a family in exchange for a little mongrel pup. For obvious reasons the little dog was given the name of 'Scrap', and was part of the family for years.

In 1940 we left the farm and moved to Hanna where Dad worked first for Chris German and later for the Town. He was very fond of young people and found many ways to be around them. For two or three winters he ran the old outdoor skating rink and for several years took tickets at the Legion Saturday night dances. Many young people who didn't have the price of admission were able to sneak in for a dance or two while Dad looked the other way.

In 1949 Mum and Dad retired to Calgary where he passed away on November 22, 1961, at the age of eighty-three. Mom continued to live there until her death in September, 1966, also at the age of eighty-three.

I am the only one of the family still living here in Hanna. Morris suffered greatly from asthma and moved to Victoria for the different climate. He and his wife Norah are now retired in Castlegar, B.C.

Nancy joined the Air Force during the war, later attended U.B.C. and married Byron Ruff. They farm at Coaldale, and have four children.

Des married an American girl and has three children.

I married Jim Dale in 1948 and we farm five miles west of Hanna. We have three children.

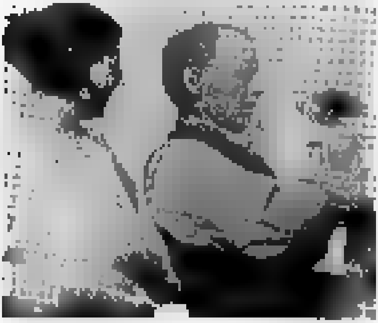
Kay married Dan Ruhl and lives at Surrey, B.C. They have three children.

THOMAS CAMPION FAMILY, *by Art Campion* — Thomas Alexander Campion was born in Ireland in 1872. He came to Canada in 1904, settling first in Manitoba, then following the gold rush to Nome, Alaska, the land of the midnight sun. In 1911 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead, the N.E. 28-31-14, where Rosenau had previously lived as a squatter. In 1912 he worked on the C.N.R. grade east of Hanna.

He also was the Rawleigh man, and covered a route as far north as Scapa, as far west as Rowley where he stopped at McKee's, then went to Marsh's at Delia,

Schultz's in the Hand Hills, and back home. He made his rounds with a horse and a covered buggy.

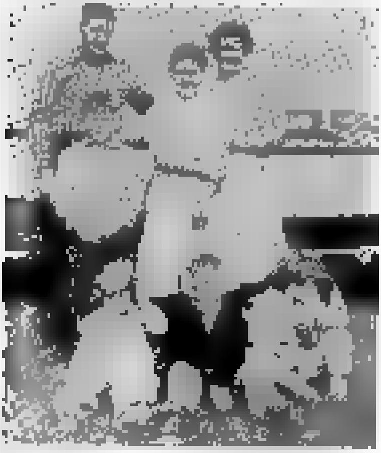
In 1916 he married Eva Louise Graves, who was from Ontario. The ceremony took place in Calgary, and the young couple honeymooned in San Francisco. On their return they built a home, and in 1924 Frank Ruppert drilled a well for them, a two-inch hole 180 feet deep.


Eva Campion, Tom Campion and George

Thomas and Eva Campion had two sons, George born in 1922 and Arthur (Art) in 1924. Mrs. Campion passed away in 1928. For a time Mr. Campion tried to batch and look after the boys; he finally hired a housekeeper, Lenora Cox. They were married in 1935; Thomas joked that it was cheaper to marry her than to pay her wages.

T. A. Campion raised good quality Shorthorn cattle, upgrading his herd by the use of registered bulls. He farmed with horses until 1938, when he bought a 18-32 cross-mounted Case from Joe Robbs.

The boys started school at Silver Valley. Once, when walking through the Kirby place, they were chased by Kirby's rams and had to hide in some trees until the animals gave up the chase. Art and George played hookey quite frequently and once walked across Dowling Lake when it was dry. They were surprised to see the store, elevator and stock yards of the village of Dowling, which they did not know existed. Bill MacKenzie noticed the truants but luckily for them did not report them to either their teacher or their father.


The George Campion Family. Standing: left to right: George Campion, Patrick, Barb, Laura. Sitting: Valerie, Gerald and Carol.

The Art Campion Family. Back Row: Vera and Art Campion. Front Row: Ken, Keith, Norman, and Roy.

They often carried a rifle with them on the trips to and from school, shooting rabbits and gophers. They sold the gophers to William Riddel who used them to

sold the foxes which he raised. The boys helped their father deliver eggs and cream to customers in Hanna twice weekly. They remember calling at houses which bore quarantine signs, and going in to make change and to get warm.

In 1939 both boys left home. George worked at Byemoor and made five dollars a month and his employer received five dollars a month for hiring him. This was a government plan to help combat unemployment. Although not old enough to join the army, George lied about his age and served throughout the war. When he was demobilized in 1945 he worked for the C.N.R. at Hanna, Edson and Calgary. He married Laura Grauman in 1948. For a time they operated the Dry Cleaning plant in Hanna. He now lives in Prince Rupert where George is with the C.N.R.

George and Laura have five children: Patrick, Carol and Barbara who live in Calgary, Valerie in Lethbridge, and Gerald in Hanna.

Thomas Campion died in 1945 at the age of seventy-three. Art Campion bought the farm, which included a half section of deeded land and one and a quarter sections of lease, for $2500.

Art and Vera Grenthum were married in 1947. For eight years they lived in the original farm home, spending the winters in Hanna. He worked for the C.N.R. until 1957, started a propane delivery service in 1958, and sold it in 1967. He bought the Madge ranch at Richdale and stocks it with as many as a thousand head of cattle. He had previously bought the Riddel place from Albert Gatineau, and this is where he and Vera make their home.

Art and Vera have four boys: Roy of Hanna; Norman, teaching at Three Hills; Keith, who lives on his grandfather's place; and Ken, Keith's twin, who lives at home.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN STORY, *By Willie Hoffman* — I will start with my grandfather, who as far as I know came from Germany to Illinois as a small boy. My father, Ferdinand Hoffman, was born in Illinois. Later the family went to Nebraska where they saw some bad times with dry weather and grasshoppers. There my father married Mable Cramer and in time four children were born: my sisters Ethel and Hazel, my brother Fred and myself.

In 1901, my brother Fred and I came to a homestead fifteen miles east of Lacombe. We came in a boxcar with three horses, some chickens, cows and machinery. Until we had a house built we stayed with my Grandmother Cramer whose family had come to Alberta in 1900. My mother and two sisters came from Nebraska in 1902, and in September of that year my brother Robert was born.

I stayed home until 1912, the year that I homesteaded near Hanna. We travelled there with team and wagon, and it took three days for the trip, which I made a good many times after that.

I will tell you what the house looked like . . . two granaries placed side by side. The post office was called Copeville which was about three miles south-east of where Hanna is now. I hauled lumber from Castor and also helped dig the basement for the Imperial Hotel. I remember a school two and a half miles north-west of Hanna, and I remember just one dance; it was east of Dowling Lake.

Farming was hard as the soil was mostly gumbo and the weather usually dry.

I would like to tell you about the well I dug. I dug a pretty big hole about seven feet deep. Then I took an auger and in the south-east corner of the hole I went down about fourteen feet. I hit sand, gravel and water, which came up about four feet. Then I dug a smaller hole, deeper than the one I made with the auger, and hit hard blue clay. I had to go nearly eight more feet, but I got lots of good water.

Our neighbors were Stewarts, Shimmerhorns, Philip Walters and a big Irish

fellow . . . I forget his name. Philip Walters and my sister Ethel were married on Christmas Day, 1913. Six or seven years later he took typhoid fever and died.

I never had much luck farming and in 1941 I joined the Armed Forces. I was in the Tenth Field Engineers for five and one-half years. After my discharge I took up carpentry and made a success of it: now I have a nice home in Calgary.

ORA E. PAYNE, *By Bill Curtis* — O. E. Payne came to the Hanna district several years before the townsite was surveyed or the railway constructed. With his devoted wife Margaret he settled on a half section of land just north of the present site of the town, and for several years he engaged in farming. He received the proved-up title to his homestead, the SE 20-31-14, in October, 1914. His pre-emption, the south-west quarter of the same section, was registered on December 6, 1916.

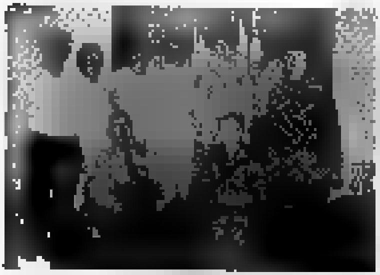
He was a man of great intellect, a fluent speaker, and a capable writer. He contributed much of his time and energy to religious work, and several books and articles from his pen were published.

About 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Payne moved in to Hanna, where they resided for about two years, during which time he was on the staff of the Hanna Herald. Later they went to the United States, and in 1923 travelled to South Africa as missionaries. In 1926 Mr. Payne became ill from strain and overwork in his chosen field, and passed on to his just rest.

The title to the land near Hanna passed to his widow.

The Payne house, situated across the road from the Ed Parker place, was a curious structure, built with six sides, and so appeared to be roughly round. In the early twenties Harvey Howat lived there and operated a dairy business. Wally Olmstead worked for him. Later the house had other tenants: Alex Coulbourne who worked on the C.N.R., and Miss Muriel Cranston, who taught at Silver Valley School.

A man named Kruger lived on the farm during the 'dirty thirties', and among other activities he carried on a one-man livestock dealer and butcher business from the back of a dilapidated truck. Eventually the farm was acquired by Courtney 'Buck' Buchanan, who operated the Model Dairy for a number of years. The land is now part of the Hutton ranch.



The Christian Ost Family. Standing: Christian (Jr.), Hilda, Emma, Marian, Bertha, Oscar, Ida. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Ost.

OUR STORY, *By Christian Ost Sr.* — My wife and I and five of our children came to Hanna from Romania in the fall of 1927. We chose Hanna as our destination because many of our friends and relatives had settled in the area previously. We were met at the station by Pastor Bietsch and some of our Old Country friends, who provided us with shelter and found me a job. We had very little money when we arrived, but by the spring of 1928 my brother-in-law, Gust Rosenau, and I managed to buy a half-section ten miles south of Hanna.

The house was small. The Rosenaus and their five children lived in half the house; my wife and I and our family had the other two rooms. It was very crowded, and in 1929 I had the opportunity to rent the Burrows place about four miles north of Hanna on the snake trail, so I sold my share of the land to my brother-in-law, and moved.

I had no machinery to work my land so I took jobs with the neighbors so that I could use theirs. I did custom work with four head of horses and a binder that were rented to me for thirty cents an acre. I built six miles of fence for J. Gertner for fourteen dollars, and by milking cows and selling cream and eggs, we were able to get by. During the seven years we lived on this farm we were blessed with two more children.

During the depression we experienced many hardships, drought, dust storms, a shortage of water. I built and sold sleds and cutters, and although I couldn't speak much English, I had to learn the language. We never owned a car or truck in those years, but traveled with horses.

We used to drive to Hanna to church, but when we didn't have a minister there we would take turns at conducting services at different homes. Our children attended Silver Valley School.

In 1936 we rented the John Steeves place, five miles west of the Burrows farm, and the children went to St. George School. But again drought was a problem; the land was poor and the water supply much worse than on the previous place. In 1941 we rented the Roessler farm south of Watts, and lived there till 1948 when we moved to Calgary. I worked at various construction jobs until I retired in 1966. We celebrated our golden wedding in January, 1970.

We had seven children. All are married now.

Christian married Alvina Moench and live in Calgary. Only three of their ten children are still single.

Hilda and Willard Diegel had four children.

Emma and Melvin Albrecht lost three children as infants, and have two adopted children.

Marie and Sam Diegel live at Gadsby. They have three boys.

Bertha, Mrs. Walter Radke, lives in Hanna. She has two sons.

Oscar and his wife Pat live in Calgary. They had three daughters.

Ida and Ernest Schnell and their two children are in Calgary.

My wife and I are thankful that we are able to enjoy our health and our home, after all the hardships we experienced after deciding to make Canada our home.

MR. AND MRS. FRED COOK, By Louise Cook — Fred Cook, son of Fred and Minnie Cook, was born in Berg, Germany. As a child, he came with his parents to the Craigmyle district in 1919.

I was born in the Chain Lakes district, the daughter of the late Charley and Theresa Johnson. My parents had come to the district in 1916. I lived most of my life in the district north of Hanna, and received all my education at Chain Lakes school.

Fred and I were married in 1939. During the first year of our marriage we lived on the Joe Northey farm about a mile west of Chain Lakes school. In 1940 our daughter Joan was born and the following year we moved to the farm of my uncle, Casper Bertsch, three miles south of Scapa.

In 1942 we moved to Hanna, where Fred was employed with the C.N.R. During those war years farmers were in demand, and when Fred was laid off the railroad, we leased the Mathe farm, three miles east of Solon school. We farmed there for one year and then leased the Leo Kirby farm, three miles north of Hanna on the road familiarly known as the Snake Trail.

We farmed there for five years. We lived in the house which had been the

Fletcher Lumber building, and which had been moved out from Hanna. It was a high building with a store front and had Fletcher Lumber in large letters across the top. It had been used to store grain, and there were mice everywhere; but in spite of the mice and the smell of grain the building was warm and made a good home.

I recall the winter of 1948 when the snow was as high as the trees. The drifts looked like pyramids and the tips of the trees were just looking out of the top of the drifts. On the fourth of April it was twenty below. Our baby chicks had arrived at the Hanna station. We had to bring them home in the bobsleigh; we put two cream cans of hot water in the sleigh and covered them with a feather tick; it made a warm tent under which we placed the three-day-old chicks. The snow was so deep that it took over an hour to go the three miles, but we got the chicks home, safe and warm. We had to refuel the brooder stove every three hours, day and night. Every morning during the cold spell, we put a small shot of Rawleigh's Red Liniment in the drinking water, and in spite of the cold those were the healthiest and friskiest chicks we ever had.

Fred Cook and daughter Joan in 1945. The house is the Fletcher Lumber Building. It was three miles north of Hanna on the Snake Trail. It was a land mark for many years. In about 1975 the buildings were all demolished and the land mark was gone. Fred, Louise and daughter Joan made their home there from 1943 until 1948.

As there was no school nearer than Hanna, we regretfully left the farm and purchased a home in Hanna in 1948. Fred worked for the C.N.R. for fifteen years, until the railroad converted to diesel power and he was laid off. He then was employed as caretaker at the Hanna Elementary school for ten years. Now we are enjoying retirement, and make our home in the house we originally purchased.

Our daughter Joan married Jack Marlow. They have one son, David, and live on the farm in the Garden Plain district.

MR. and MRS. A. L. DESILETS, ***By Jean Scott and Rita [illegible]*** — In the spring of 1948 Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desilets bought the west half 21-31-14 formerly owned by Mr. Ed Parker; and moved to this location approximately two miles north of the town of Hanna.

Al Desilets was born in Quebec in 1888. He came west in 1909 and homesteaded twelve miles west of Sunnynook and twenty-eight miles south of Hanna. His bride-to-be from Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. came west by train and they were married in Hanna, February twenty-second, 1914. They lived on the homestead for

thirty-four years, experiencing some good years as well as the depression years and complete crop failures of 1930 and 1931. In 1931 many neighbors moved away, leaving a sparsely populated area. Al Deslets chose to stay; it took great faith to remain behind. Though their friends left, their local schools closed and their business community diminished, their pioneer spirit did not let them down, and they still enjoyed a good life. The deserted homesteads were leased to the remaining farmers, and the entire district turned to ranching more than farming.

Mrs and Mr Al Deslets - 1955

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Deslets raised three children, all born on the homestead.

Arthur (Art) born November twenty-fourth, 1914 married Alice Flynn of Hanna. They reside in Calgary.

Joan, born December thirty-first, 1916, married Tommy Scott and resides in Hanna.

Rita, born October sixth, 1919, married Albert Galarneau and lives one mile south of Hanna.

Al Deslets sold his holdings south of Hanna and he and his wife moved to a smaller farm north of Hanna where he was engaged in mixed farming for a few more years. They retired to the town of Hanna in 1950 and then to Calgary in 1954. In January 1962 Mrs. Deslets passed away. In 1966 Al moved back to Hanna and lived with his daughters, Joan and Rita, until his death in September 1968 at the age of eighty-two years.

THE ALBERT GALARNEAUS, By Rita Galarneau — Albert and I and our family moved to the Hanna area in the fall of 1946 when we bought the east half of 21-31-14, about one mile north of Hanna, from Mrs. Huff.

Albert was born in Bassano on January 22, 1913, of pioneer parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dosn Galarneau, who had come from Idaho to the Bassano and later the Finnegan areas. His early years were spent in those districts, and as a young man he took part in the horse and cattle roundups on the open range between the Red Deer and Bow Rivers. He followed the rodeo circuits for years, competing in Canada and in the United States, and won many championships, including the North American calf roping which he held for several years.

The Albert Galarneau Family - 1956. From left to right: Jack, Rita, Albert, Ray. Front Row: Terry, Mary Lou, David

I am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Deslets of Sunnynook, and Albert and I were married in the spring of 1937. In 1941 we bought the holdings of Y. F. Dove, nine miles west of Sunnynook, now the Stampede Ranch. As there was no school there, we moved our family to the Huff place in 1946, and our children attended school in Hanna. In 1950 we bought the west half of 21-31-14 from A. L. Deslets, which was formerly owned by Ed Parker. We lived here until 1958, when we sold

our interests in Alberta. The east half of section 21 was sold to Art and Vera Campion, the west half to Dean and Russ Mayberry.

We ranched extensively in Saskatchewan for the next ten years, then returned to Hanna. Albert and our sons Ray and Terry formed the Galarneau Land and Cattle Company, and acquired farm and ranch interests north of Craigmyle where they operated until the fall of 1973, when they sold to the Brower Cattle Company.

Retirement wasn't for Albert. He and our son Ray still operate the company, raising purebred Welsh Black cattle, a British breed they imported from Wales, and live one mile south of Hanna, on land purchased from Walter Gansong in 1973. Albert has always had a pioneer spirit and even in his autumn years would still welcome a new adventure. As the old saying goes, you can take the boy from the country, but you can't take the country from the boy. As long as Albert is well, I'm sure he'll always own a few cows and ride a good horse.

Albert and I have five children. John (Jack) married Raphaela Bechmeier; they have two children, Sandy and Gary. They live in Hanna where he operates Hanna Auto Specialties.

Thomas Raymond, (Ray) works with his dad and lives at home.

Terrance Donald (Terry) married Brenda Clark of Empress and had two sons, Gene and Derek. Terry lost his life in a tragic farm accident on October 5, 1973.

David is employed with the P.F.R.A. in Saskatchewan.

Mary Lou teaches school and resides in Calgary.

RUSS AND DEAN MAYBERRY — Russ purchased the half section known as the DesRats place from Albert Galarneau in June, 1958. On September 22 of that year, he and Dean Courts were married and moved into the old shack that was on the place. There they lived without power, water, or any of the other conveniences now known to farm living, until they got the power in in 1965. In 1961 they built a barn to house the horses, and in 1965 commenced work on a new house. On December 26, 1965, they moved into the new building, which was not finished inside, but had just the studs for partitions, and gradually finished the work on the inside themselves.

When they got married they began raising purebred and partbred Arabian horses, starting with Fahfaha, the stallion that Dean had purchased from the Cross U Bar Ranch in Wyoming in 1954, and Husia Wedan, the mare that Russ purchased from the same ranch in March, 1956. Today they have twelve Arabian horses, with all but three related to their two foundation horses. All the years have been spent attending as many horse shows under as many judges as time allowed, and the many trophies and ribbons in the house speak for the quality horses raised on the Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch.

In 1968 Russ started a Charter Bus business and has driven groups to the northern United States, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, as well as to many, many points in Alberta. In 1973, Dean became a spare driver, and drives when Russ is unable to do so.

The Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch has had many welcome visitors to see the horses and the old DesRats place, which was previously owned by the Parker family. It is a nice place to live, with small groves of trees, some hills, and the Scapa road right at our doorstep; and we are just two miles from the town of Hanna.

The Walter Radke Family. Left to right: son Ryan, Walter and Bertha, Geraldine (daughter-in-law), and granddaughter Danielle. Missing: son Reg

BERTHA RADKE, *By Bertha Ost Radke* — I was born in April, 1927 in Romania. I came to Canada with my parents Mr. and Mrs. Christian Ost Sr. in September, 1927. The first school I attended was Silver Valley. I started when I was seven years old. I couldn't speak English very well; I remember my sister Emma very patiently teaching me. We walked to school, as for me it seemed very far, and Emma felt sorry for me and used to let me sit on a rock or something to rest awhile. No doubt I made us late for school once in awhile.

My dad had a mare called Minnie, and she had a colt. I was all excited about the event, and of course I had to tell all the children at school about this, and they all laughed. Along came the teacher and asked what was so funny, so I told her "Minnie had a colt this morning," and she laughed too. I finally realized what I had said as the teacher's name was Minnie also.

I also remember we had syrup pails for lunch buckets, and on the way home, we'd drown gophers and tear off the tails and put them in our buckets. Can you imagine! Well, in those days they were worth money, one cent a piece.

In 1936 my folks moved to the Steeves farm and my second school was St. George. The first day there, we were greeted by all the boys; when they realized that we were girls they hurled rocks at us, some welcome, eh! We had boys' black pants on. We walked to school, unless weather conditions were bad, then Dad or my brother Chris would drive us with team and bob sleigh, and pick up Ruth Steeves on the way, as we had to go through their place for a short cut. My sister Marion and I were janitors for a while. When there were any school functions in Hanna, we would walk to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Huttons and go in with them; they were very good neighbours.

In 1941, my parents moved south in the Hand Hills district, where I finished my education.

In 1946 I married Waldemar Radke. We bought a farm in the Hand Hills district, and lived there until we sold to our youngest son, Ryan, and moved to Hanna in October, 1976. We have two sons: Reginald, married Patricia Gladwin of Bentley, and are now living in Edmonton, and Ryan married Geraldine Harvey of Scapa; they have a daughter Danielle.

WILLIAM RIDDLE STORY, *By Jeannie Ritchey (Granddaughter)* — William Riddle, his wife and daughter came to the district in the spring of 1912, and homesteaded one mile north of where Hanna now stands. This was on the S.E. ¼ of 21-31-14. They came from Okotoks where he and his son Jim were employed as carpenters with the C.P.R.

They came in by way of Castor and hauled their lumber by team and sleigh. This they used to build their first house. Mr. Riddell built a second house in 1915 which was considered one of the better homes of that era. This home was later moved to Hanna and served as a home for numerous families, and was finally demolished in 1977.

William Riddell worked as janitor at the old brick school in Hanna for many

years. He was well known for his interest in flowers and trees and for his wonderful gardens. Some of the spruce trees that he planted so many years ago still live today on his old homestead, now occupied by Art Campion. Mr. Riddell raised Shorthorn cattle which won him numerous ribbons at the Fairs in Hanna.

Mr. Wm. Riddell (left) and Mr. Peter Riddell (right). Taken in the fifties.

Mr. Wm. Riddell's home built on the farm - 1915. Moved to Hanna later.

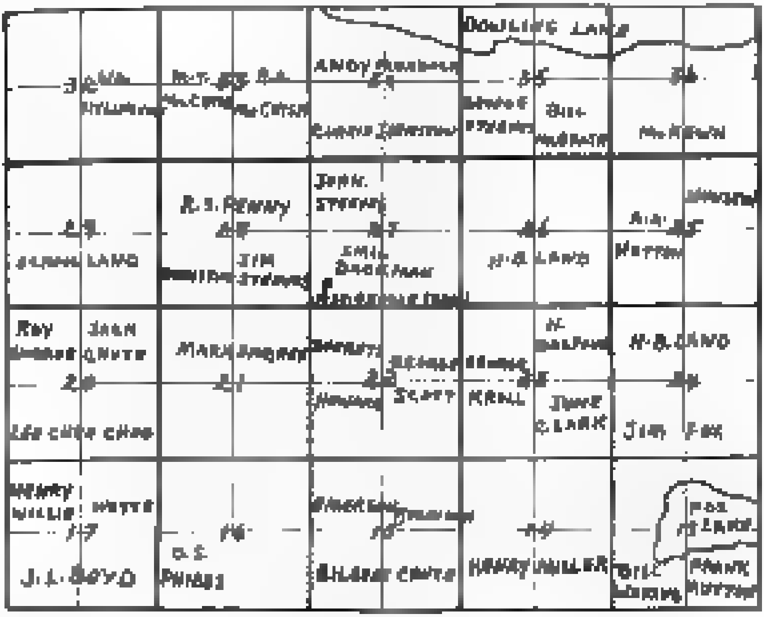
Mr. Wm. Riddell, his wife and granddaughter. Their first home and garden in 1912 1 mile north of where Hanna now stands.

Mr. Riddell donated part of his land to Hanna for the cemetery.

His two sons, Jim and Willie, lost their lives serving in World War I.

Mr. Riddell's first wife passed away and he remarried. William Riddell and his two wives rest side by side in the Hanna Cemetery.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4396
TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 15, WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN



OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIP 31 RANGE 15

Sec.-32-31-16
Wm. Simington
Jacob Fleck
George Fleck
Leslie Hutton

N½-34-31-15
Andy Murdock
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

E½-35-31-15
Bill McGrath
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-28-31-15
R. S. Penny
A. A. Hutton
A. E. Hutton

S½-27-31-15
Emil Backman
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-24-31-15
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S½-23-31-15
June Clark
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

W½-22-31-16
Everett Howard
Lamb Brothers

N½-20-31-15
Roy Embree
Jack Chute
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

W½-33-31-15
Murl McCuish
Sam McCreight
S. McCandless
A. E. Hutton

S½-34-31-15
Currie Johnston
Truman Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-36-31-15
McKeeman
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S½-28-31-15
Burneson
Jim Steeves
Harry Steeves
A. E. Hutton

Sec 26-31-15
H. B. Land
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

S½-24-31-15
Jim Fox
T. A. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

N½-23-31-15
George Krall
T. A. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

N½-21-31-15
Mark Embree
John Fleck
Jack Phibbs

S½-20-31-15
Lee Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

E½-30-31-15
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

W½-35-31-15
George Steeves
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

S-29-31-15
School Land
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

Karl Hoffman
Barry Hutton

N½-27-31-15
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-25-31-15
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

N.E.-23-31-15
N. Bastow
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

E½-22-31-15
George Scott

Joseph Lamb
Lamb Brothers

S½-21-31-15
Clifford Phibbs
Jack Phibbs

W½-16-31-15
Clifford Phibbs
Jack Phibbs

N½-17-31-15
Henry Willie
Dennis Helmer
Larry Helmer

E½-18-31-15
Thomas Edwards
George Edwards

W½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
Fred Miller
Emerson Robinson

E½-13-31-15
Frank Hutton
Dr. Baxendale
Lamb Brothers

S½-17-31-15
J. L. Boyd
Martin Dahl
Gus Annas

W½-15-31-15
Gilbert Chute
Carl Johnston

Wes Robinson

E½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
George Miller
A. E. Hutton
Emerson Robinson

W½-13-31-15
Bill Waring
Martin Dahl
L. Mascote
C. Franklin

E½-15-31-15
Emerson Robinson
Robinson Brothers

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. GEORGE S.D. No. [illegible]

By Albert Hutton

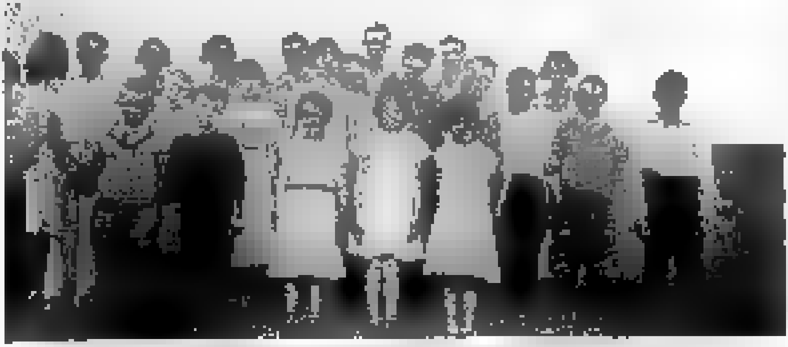
Florence Bennett first teacher at St. George School sitting on first well dug at the Robinson homestead.

When many oldtimers arrived with their families in the early teens, there was not any means of education for their children and no place for meetings of local interest, so G. Scott, H. Steeves, R. Penny, H. Miller and E. Robinson, to name a few, got their heads together. After several meetings, they formed a school district known as St. George, eight miles northwest of Hanna, to be located S.W. 27-31-15. On August 14, 1915 the new school was opened. The first teacher was the lovely Florence Bennett, who boarded at the Robinson's. As winters then were colder and snowy, travel was by horseback, sleigh or walking.

Some of the students that attended the first years were: Joe and Alice Scott; Joe, Lily, Phoebe and Fay Robinson; Abraham, Annie, Fred, Emma, Mae, Johnnie and George Miller; Herbert Penny; Tom, Roy, Lily, Eva and Irene Chee Chee; Delpha, Elva, Lorna and Marion Steeves; also Pearl Chute.

Times were trying with the teacher's maximum pay being sixty dollars a month. Often teachers were behind in receiving their wages, but school carried on with grades one to eleven being taught in one room by one teacher. This school remained open until 1943, when it was forced to close its doors, as families in the district were getting fewer and smaller. In 1945, St. George was moved to Watts, and used as a central public school. Verda Lilke was the first teacher. In 1958 high school students were taken to Hanna. Then in 1969, this school was closed again, due to centralization of schools

in the Sullivan Lake School Division. With improved roads, all the children were transported to Hanna schools by bus. St. George School was then moved to Youngstown, to help them out, as a fire had destroyed their school.



St. George Class, 1935. Back Row, Left to Right: Alberta Boyd, Joyce McCush, Joan McCush, Jean McCush, Tommy Scott, Lewis Steeves, Freda Steeves. Middle Row: Lloyd Hutton, John Steeves, Catherin Boyd, Rose Fleck, Margaret Fleck, Lloyd Fleck, Roy Hutton, Alfred Scott, Arnold Mitschke. Front Row: George Edwards, Ken Fleck, Mary Edwards, Betty McCush, Peggy McDonald, Ron Edwards, Larry Boyd.

During the years of existence in this community, St. George was a great centre for church services, concerts, box socials, ball games and dances. Music was usually supplied by Roy Embree and his band. This centre drew people from near and far, for entertainment of their choice. In the earlier years, there was a small charge of ten cents a man, to cover the cost of coffee and sugar. Ladies supplied sandwiches and cake and got in free.

Names of some of the teachers were: Florence Barnett, Mr. Marr, Nellie O'Connor, Miss McLean, Mr. Hope, Mr. Walsh, Miss McDevitt, Mrs. Phelps, Kathleen McDonald, Mrs. Murphy, Dorothy Foster, Ila Wood, Dorothy Wood, Ilene O'Brien, Miss Forsyth, Betty Wallace, Joan Scott, Mildred Harvey, Emily Beamish and Frances Giesler.

THOMAS EDWARDS, by George Edwards — Thomas Edwards was born in Norwich, England, in 1882 and worked in London in a dry goods store, then came to Canada in 1910. He came to Brandon, Manitoba, and spent about a year there with his brother, then moved west.

He looked at some land in the Hardisty and Holden area but the price of land was too high. He bought a quarter section, six miles south-east of Hanna. Later he went up to the foothills near Bragg Creek (west of Calgary) spending a year there, then returned to his land near Hanna.

His home was built of lumber hauled in from Castor and was a one room shack. He had a good well, with lots of water. The well was only twelve feet deep with about two feet of water, and it could not be pumped dry.

He travelled to Castor for their food supplies, machinery, lumber and repairs. It was a two day journey one way.

In 1923 Thomas married Hannah Birkett, who had come from northern England to see her ailing sister at Nobleford, also sisters at Gadsby and Hanna. They then moved to a farm five miles west of Hanna, which is still in the family today.

The eldest son Ronnie, is married and serving in the R.C.A.F. The second

son George, is on the farm, and also works for Rangeland School Bus Servicing at Hanna. The daughter Margery is married, with three children and living in Edmonton.

Mark Embree Family

MARK EMBREE, by Brother Roy — Mark Embree was born in 1893, in the state of Washington. He came to Castor with the family in 1907. In 1910 he filed on a homestead, the north half 21-31-16, near Watts. He farmed here until 1933, then sold this farm to Jack Phibbs, and moved to Summerland, B.C. He had a fruit farm and also did custom spraying. He got married in 1937, and had two children, Ronnie and Marilyn. He passed away in January, 1957.

JACOB FLECK, by George Fleck — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Fleck came to Canada from Russia in 1910 to a farm in the Fox Valley area of Saskatchewan. In 1928, I with my parents and nine brothers and sisters, loaded machinery and household effects in wagons and herded and drove livestock a distance of two hundred miles, to settle on a farm south of Veteran, Alberta. In 1932 we moved to the Watts area, where my father rented the Sittington farm, located three miles north of Watts. My sister, Olga was attending Normal School at the time, and returned to Watts to take her first teaching position at the Chain Lakes school. Her salary for that year was five hundred dollars. Olga, now Mrs. Fred Stretton of Edmonton, is still with the education department. My sisters Carrie, Margaret and Rose and a brother Lloyd all attended elementary school at St. George school. Carrie, Mrs. Albert Engelhardt, lives in Merritt, B.C. Margaret Hamilton is widowed and living in Virginia, U.S.A.; Rose Monahan, also widowed, lives in Vernon, B.C.; Lloyd served with the Canadian Navy in World War II and is now a realtor in Toronto. My brothers Ken and Norman, born after leaving Saskatchewan, spent some of their younger years growing up on the farm at Watts. My brother John, his wife Ida, and five children, lived for a time on what was known as the Mark Embree place, before moving to Calgary to take a position in the Ogden Shops during the war. My sisters Lydia-Jean and Emily are working in Calgary. Another sister Elizabeth remained in Saskatchewan. My parents retired from farming in 1952. Mother died in Edmonton in 1954, and father in Calgary in 1965.

GEORGE AND MAY FLECK, by George Fleck — In 1936, my parents returned to their farm at Veteran. I stayed on the farm at Watts. I married the former May Long of Veteran, Alberta in December of 1939, and in January 1940 May and I took up residence on the Sittington farm. We rented for a year or two before entering into a purchase agreement with one dollar down payment. Full purchase price of section 32-31-15 was ten thousand dollars — a high price at that time. In 1951, I bought three quarters from Anna Steeves, the southwest quarter of section 9-32-15; the quarter referred to as the Hartt place. Across the road was the east half of section 8 and commonly known as the Spencer Burns farm. Purchase price for the three quarters was nine thousand dollars, with one thousand dollars down payment and the balance at crop share with a four percent interest rate. In 1965, I acquired approximately seven hundred acres of grassland around Dowling Lake. In 1968 I sold these lands to Leslie and Barry Hutton.

Going back over some of the events of these twenty-nine years in the Watts district, I recall the evening the Watts and St. George community surprised May and me after our marriage with a good old fashioned Chivaree. Being unable to accommodate everyone, we all went to the St. George schoolhouse where someone stoked up the old furnace that stood in the corner of the classroom, moved the desks along the wall, and to music volunteered by anyone who could play an instrument, enjoyed a couple of hours of dancing. The grand finale — plenty of sandwiches, homemade cakes and cookies and coffee provided by the ladies.

We had a lot of snow that winter of 1940. Jack McDonald trapped weasels. He checked his traplines every day, riding horseback. No matter what the weather, he would arrive at our place every morning about the time I was getting the fire going in the old coal and wood cookstove. Most of the time ice had formed on the water pail and on occasion the water in the reservoir would have ice on it. The house on the Simington farm had burned prior to 1930, so a couple of granaries were pulled together, and with some wallpaper and paint on the inside, was home to us until 1957, when we built a new home almost on the same spot where the previous house had burned.

I remember a blizzard we had in the late forties, the snow had blown into the attic of our old house. We were not aware of the situation until we were eating breakfast the following morning, when we heard a loud crack, and we had three feet of snow on the kitchen floor, as well as the plasterboard from the ceiling, narrowly missing our infant daughter, Beverly, as she sat in the high chair.

We hauled all our household water with a team and stoneboat, mostly from the Rufus McCuan farm, a mile to the east, until in 1948, when we had a well drilled and got a good supply of water at one hundred and ten feet. Lots of water could be found at the sixty foot level, but it was of such a high concentration of alkali and nitrates, it was completely unfit for human consumption. The water would eat holes in the galvanized pipes in about five years.

We have two daughters, Beverly and Diane. Beverly was born in the Hanna Hospital April 17, 1944, two months premature and weighing three pounds, thirteen ounces. Dr. Argue was the attending physician. An improvised incubator was made by using electric light bulbs in a small crib in the hospital nursery, where she remained for some six weeks. Beverly attended school in Watts and Hanna, going on to the University of Calgary for teacher training. She taught elementary grades in Youngstown, Craigmyle and Delia. In 1964, Beverly married Art Bergman of Craigmyle, where Art was grain buyer for the National Grain Company. In 1973 they purchased the Bob Gessenger farm, located just east of Craigmyle. They have three children, Laurie, Corey and Donna Mae.

Diane was born in Hanna hospital August 31, 1953, weighing two pounds, fifteen ounces. By this time, through the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Hanna Hospital, an oxygen-equipped incubator had been placed in the nursery just a month or two before. Without this lifesaving equipment, it is unlikely that Diane could have been kept alive. She remained in the incubator and on oxygen for some three weeks before getting to three pounds. Shortly before Christmas she was able to come home. Diane attended elementary school in Watts and Hanna, high school in Hanna and in North Surrey, B.C., going on to teacher training at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. Her first teaching position was in Quesnel, B.C., where she met and married Hubert Ducette. They have one son James. Incidentally, the incubator I spoke of earlier, is now in the Hanna Museum.

On August 31, 1945 a bad hailstorm wiped out our entire crop, which was

standing, except for one round with the combine prior to the storm. I had about forty bushels of wheat for that year; not even seed. By doing custom combining in the Endiang and Halkirk area that fall, I was able to make enough money to put a crop in for another year. That year turned out to be a good one. Because the crop was standing when the hailstorm hit, the kernels were shelled to the ground. The following spring I double disced the stubble, and that fall I harvested a thirty-five bushel to the acre volunteer crop of wheat.

Stories are told of the co-operation and community spirit that encompassed life in rural areas, and the Watts and Hanna areas were no exception. The spring of 1953 brought an epidemic of Bang's Disease, resulting in a major calf crop loss. As a result of handling these infected animals, I contracted the human form of the disease, "Undulant Fever," and was hospitalized for a considerable time. That fall my neighbors, aware of my situation, assembled forces, and took over my entire harvesting operations. Bruce Hutchinson and Ken Gullekson (K and B Motors) and Leon Mehl were on the job of getting my combine in good working order. Leon operated the combine. Karl Hoffman, Albert Hutton, Jack Sutherland, Martin Dahl, Ted Quaschnick and Henry Karg brought swathers, combines, trucks and the grain was soon in the bins.

Following disposition of the farm to Leslie and Barry Hutton, and an auction sale in the spring of 1968, May and I, along with our daughter Diane, left the area to make our home in Surrey, B.C. No life story is complete without the proverbial "Believe it or Not" type of experience, and here is mine; in 1967 I lost my eyeglasses while feeding cattle in the corral of the farm, as I had a habit of carrying them in my shirt pocket. I was never able to find them.. A year or two after Leslie had purchased the home place, he accidently came across the glasses, still in the corral, and completely intact. It is anyone's guess how many cattle could have trodden on them.

One may ask what it was that motivated May and I to pull up stakes and leave a lifetime of pleasant memories and good associations. We often ask ourselves this same question, always answer, we aren't sure why. Some retirement experts claim that adjustments are less traumatic in a completely new environment, although lack of farm help and declining stamina probably was the main reason for giving up farming. We have enjoyed and are still enjoying our retirement here in Surrey, B.C. and the winters are a little milder.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fox

MR. AND MRS. JIM FOX, By Alma Fox Van Horne — Mother and Dad were married at Madoc, Ontario in 1899. In 1909 they travelled west, and settled south of Halkirk in the Lanes Lake district for two years. They spent the first year in a tent. In 1911 they took a homestead on 24-31-15 near Hanna. Dad was employed by the C.N.R. at Hanna and worked for various machine companies. They recalled the winter being very cold that year. After four years with the railway, dad decided to devote his time to farming, and continued here until 1934, when they returned to Halkirk, due to lack of water supply on the homestead. He did his farming with mules.

Mother and dad took great pride in their garden. They were also ardent radio fans, and enjoyed the hockey games on broadcast. Mother worked diligently for the Red Cross during World War I. In dad's earlier years, he was keenly interested in big game hunting.

My parents, had one daughter Alma, Mrs. Frank Van Horne, now living in Calgary.

ALBERT A. HUTTON — I was born on November 10, 1893, on a farm six miles east of the town of Rich Hill in Bates County Missouri, U.S.A. I lived there with my family until I was eight years old and during the years 1900 and 1901 I attended Happy Hill School. In the spring of 1902 my parents sold their farm and moved to Canada, landing in Olds, Alberta in April with six children. Elva, Harley, Frank, Charlie, Pearl and myself. Father shipped two carloads of settlers' effects, including ten cows, four horses, machinery and household effects, which arrived a short time later along with my two half-brothers Will and Ira. Shortly after we arrived in Alberta, mother developed pneumonia and she passed away just one month later. When we first arrived we lived on a rented farm, but later that same summer Father bought a farm six miles east of Olds.

In November 1902, father took the family back to Missouri, leaving the farm and cattle with my older half-brother Will, on shares. In the spring of 1906 we moved back to Alberta and took over the farm and cattle, and that was our home until father passed away in September 1911.

The A. A. Hutton Family. 1937: Roy, Margery, Lloyd, Al Albert.

On May 10, 1910 I filed on my homestead and pre-emption the west half of section 25-31-15. During that year I hauled freight from Olds to Trochu with four horses and a wagon, as there wasn't a railroad through Trochu. In the spring of 1911 I moved onto my homestead along with my brother Frank who homesteaded the south-east quarter of 13-31-15. We built a shack twelve by fourteen feet to live in. We did some breaking and fencing on the homesteads and returned to Olds in August to take care of the crop and put up feed for the winter on our father's farm.

In May, 1912, Frank and I left Olds again to make our home and fortune on our homesteads. At that time our closest town was Castor to the north which was the end of the railroad. To the west the towns of Morrin, Munson and Drumheller were springing up as the railroad was coming through. Shortly after we arrived on the homesteads, contractors started to set up camps along where the C.N.R. line is now. During that summer the railroad grade was built and late that fall they were laying the steel and the Town of Hanna started to spring up on an area which up then had been the Parker Brothers Ranch. During that summer of 1912 I worked on the C.N.R. grade, part of the time for Harry Shoults and part of the time for Welman Brothers. I earned thirty cents per hour for myself and a team of horses. The next spring (1913) I hired on with Harry Shoults to go to Saskatchewan where they were widening the grade on the C.P.R. to double track the road from Swift Current to Moose Jaw. Another pioneer of the district, Jake Engle, worked with us on that job. We earned so little that on rainy days we had to pay for our board and horse feed. From May first until August first I cleared a hundred dollars for myself and four horses.

Later in the fall of 1913 I hired on with Nixon and Brooker of Craigmyle to haul bundles to their new threshing machine. It was there that I met Margery (Dottie) Nixon. She was cooking on the cook-car for her brother. By the time threshing was over we were going steady. Two years later we were married and for over sixty years we have lived happily together, and at the time of writing we are both enjoying good health.

By the fall of 1910 all the vacant land east of the Red Deer River to the Saskatchewan border had been taken up by homesteaders. The ranchers who had come in previous years before the country was surveyed, some as early as 1900, were forced to sell their cattle as the homesteaders had fenced them off their grazing and hay land. Most of them filed on the land where they had been living and made their homes there. The Parker Brothers, Jim and Ed, homesteaded section 8-31-15, where they had operated their ranch for several years. They sold their land in the spring of 1912 to the Town Site people and the town of Hanna sprung up. What had previously been a cattle ranch became a prosperous and thriving business centre and a very important C.N.R. Divisional point.

In the spring of 1914 I bought a water well boring machine which bored a hole twenty-four inches in diameter and was powered by two horses. In the next few years I dug quite a number of wells in the Hanna and surrounding districts. In 1916 I quit the well drilling and settled down to farming, growing grain and raising horses and cattle.

During the following years we had several crop failures due to drought and things were tough. It was a good thing we always had a few cattle and horses to sell which kept us living. We didn't get ahead very fast but we always expected to do better next year. I guess that's how we got the name 'Next Year Country.' However, during the period from 1916 to 1940 we lived on the farm and raised our family of three boys, Albert, Roy and Lloyd. They received their elementary schooling at St. George School, two miles west of our farm, and their High School in Watts and Hanna. Albert got married in 1940 and took over the farming operations and the rest of the family moved into Hanna. I then went into the Farm Machinery and Car business. Roy enlisted in the Air Force and was sent overseas, while Lloyd went to University. In 1945 both returned home and joined me in the business and from then on the business went under the name of A. A. Hutton & Sons. When I retired from the business the boys operated under the same name.

In the fall of 1947 along with a few others I became active in an oil well drilling company, Canada West Drilling. We bought three rigs from the firm of Snider and Head who had drilled the first gas well in the Hanna district, just south of the C.N.R. Dam. Our company operated mostly in Leduc, Devon and Red Water, and during the next three years we drilled some hundred wells. In 1951 the Company was sold to Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.

A couple of years later four friends and myself organized a company known

as Modern Packaging Company and began making polyethelene and cellophane bags. The company grew and prospered and three and one half years later we sold our business to some people from Winnipeg, who still operate the same place and under the same name, in south-east Calgary.

As time went on Dottie and I started looking for a warmer climate to spend the winter months. After holidaying in different places we decided Arizona was very much to our liking. We became acquainted with some people from Alberta who lived in Arizona so after a short time we were able to rent a trailer and move into the same trailer park as many other Alberta couples. We have spent the past sixteen winters there in our own trailer home and have gathered a host of friends and it is really like a second home to us now.

In 1971 I disposed of my interest in both farm and business to my sons and decided to take life a little easier.

In conclusion I might say, while we have had our ups and downs during our active years, Dottie and I still enjoy good health and feel that this "Next Year's Country" has been good to us.

ALBERT E. HUTTON JR., by Albert Hutton — I was raised on a farm southwest quarter 25-31-15, northwest of Hanna. I attended public school at St. George, then rode five miles daily to Hanna, in all types of weather, to get my high school education, and also helped at home with the chores. My parents usually boarded the school teacher, and with hired help, along with neighbouring boys and girls my own age, and a lot of relatives around, we just never seemed to have any dull moments.

In 1940 my parents moved to Hanna, to attend to the machine business they had acquired, so I stayed on the farm. In December of that year, I married Doris Dahl, and worked at that farm for seven years. When time came for our oldest son to attend school, we found it very trying to get him the eight miles to and from school. In the fall of 1947, we bought five quarters of land (the McCuish farm 33-31-15), then owned by the Stuart McCandless family, who retired to Chilliwack. By this time buses conveyed our children the three miles to the Watts school.

Our sons got their public and high school education in Watts and Hanna, then each took a year at the Olds School of Agriculture.

The spring of 1948 was very late. There had been a lot of snow, which had been blown into huge drifts, blocking all roads and railways, some were impossible to get through with snow plows. Then when spring finally arrived, we had floods, roads under water, washouts and erosion. The field work had been delayed and machine time was limited, so we found that year very trying.

Wolf Creek flows through our pasture into Dowling Lake. In 1970, Ducks Unlimited built a dam on this creek.

I have worked on executives of the F.U.A., Watts Mutual Telephone Company, Local school boards and the Special Areas.

Our oldest son Leslie married Linda Fedden and have two children, Cheryl and Harley, both attending Hanna Public school. We bought the George Peck farm 32-31-15, where they live, just across the road from us. He also has grassland at Sheerness. Barry our youngest son married Diane Nelson, and have two boys, Gordon at school and Keith at home. They live one mile north on the east half of 5-32-15. With the high cost of machinery and reliable help at a premium, we appreciate the convenience of working together. Along with the farming we each run a cow-calf herd of grade hereford stock. Barry and I have a few purebred Limousin cattle, while Leslie decided to branch out to Salers.

CARL JOHNSTON, *by Merle Quaschnick* — Carl was the only son of the late J. B. Johnston. Carl bought land east of Hanna from Roy German in 1926, and later sold it to Dan Martin. He then purchased the Gilbert Chute homestead in 1928.

He lived with his parents part of the time and farmed this land along with his father's. On his dad's passing in 1940 he took his mother home with him, where she remained until her passing, in the spring of 1964. He then sold this land to Wesley Robinson and retired to Hanna. He was interested in sports, and was an ardent curler. He passed away suddenly in February, 1969.

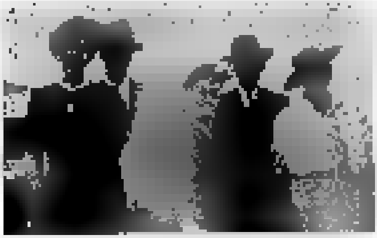
CURRY JOHNSTON, *by H.D. Johnston* — Curry Johnston was raised in Welford, New Brunswick. Curry was a Boer War Veteran. In 1908, he filed on a homestead in the area north of Watts; south half 34-31-15.

Curry and family moved from the homestead to Calgary several times, then moved to Sardis, B.C. Eventually they settled on a farm in Aldergrove, B.C.

Curry and wife Ethel (Steeves) had a family of eleven children, nine boys and two girls, three boys are deceased.

Curry passed away in August, 1955.

GEORGE KROLL — George Kroll came out from Germany and filed on a homestead in the St. George school district; west half 23-31-15. George batched until his marriage to Mrs. Kellerman in 1935. They retired to Hanna in 1939 and Tommy Scott purchased the property.



The Lamb Family, Margaret, Joe, Mrs. Lamb, Johnnie, Sadie.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH LAMB, *by Margaret Lamb* — Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lamb and family came from the Hexham district of Northumberland, England in July 1919. They kept both cattle and sheep in their farming operations there. We came to our father's sister and family; the Emerson Robinson family, and stayed with them for several weeks. We bought our first half section of land from George Scott, east half 31-15. A few years later we bought the west half of the same section, which had been Soldier Settlement land, owned by Everett Howard. In 1926 another quarter was bought, on the south side of what is now the No. 9 Highway, and was formerly owned by Len Waring. Another quarter of land was purchased, which is a half mile east of this piece of land. Also a quarter section was rented from Ken Morton of Calgary, and farmed for a number of years. It was recently sold, so reduced the cultivated acreage to work.

Joe and John started to raise Purebred Hereford stock, after buying several registered heifers to get a start. They have been members of the Canadian Hereford Association and the Calgary District Club, and a few years ago were presented with Memberships and pins in the Quarter Century Hereford Club of Alberta.

After coming to this district, John and Margaret attended St. George School, which was situated at the north side of our home section. For several weeks of that first winter, John was the only pupil who braved the extra cold weather and snow, so he and the teacher, Mr. Marr, kept the school fires burning, and no doubt got through a considerable amount of school work. Mr. Marr, wife and family lived in what is now a very dilapidated old house on the side of the road, a mile north of

Watts. Three of their children went to school while their father taught there.

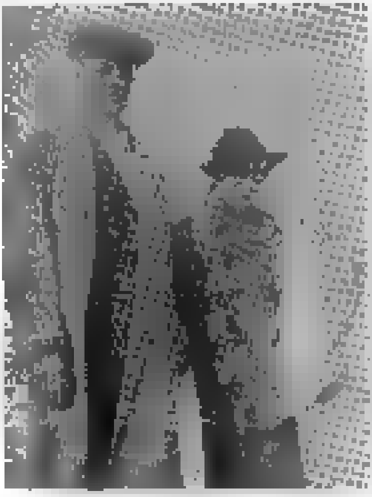
At that time and for several years afterwards there were railway section families at Watts. I recall a girl named Anna Juchpink; and Charolette Creighton, daughter of the Home Elevator agent, attended our school. I mentioned these as they lived in our community for a limited time. Margaret attended St. George School until June 1928, Miss Foster being her last teacher.

The family have been active members of the First United Church in Hanna, following the purchase of our first car in 1926.

Our father passed away suddenly on March tenth, 1937, and mother also passed away suddenly on July twenty-fourth, 1957

The family, Sarah (Sadie), Joseph, John and Margaret still reside on the original homestead and carry on the usual farming operations.

We have never returned to England for a holiday, but have had the pleasure of a visit from three of our former neighbours, who were impressed with the vast distances which we can see in this country.



Edgar and Emily Lloyd and baby Deborah

EDGAR AND EMILY LLOYD, By Emily Lloyd — Edgar W. Lloyd and Emily (nee Adolf) purchased a house from Tom Scott Sr. in the St. George School district, where they resided until they moved to Hanna in 1945. In 1942 Deborah came to her new home in the country; mother and daughter were generously brought home from the hospital by Mr. Scott in his pig truck.

Edgar's work was with the C.N.R. in Hanna and found winters trying when the snow took over, but we loved our little country place, and the peace and quiet. Edgar met his death on the C.N.R. in 1948.

Albert Huttons lived to the east, Tom Scotts to the west and John and Lewis Steeves to the north. They were wonderful neighbours, and never any dull moments.

Hector our son, arrived soon after we moved the house into Hanna, and grew up to be a wise and ambitious young man. His interest always brought him back to Hanna, where finally cupid captured, and Sherry Steeves became his bride. They still reside near Hanna and have a wee newcomer, Casey. Deborah married Ron McKane, now residing at Vancouver with McKanes three: Katherine, Jennifer and Robert

Emily, daughter of Henry Adolf, was born in a sod shack north of Hanna, near Gooseberry Lake School. Edgar's parents immigrated from Shrewsbury, England, when he was five years old and prospered in the city of Calgary. I still make my home in Calgary.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY MILLER, *By Annie Bahl* — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller came from Bessarabia, to North Dakota. Seven children were born there. The older children attended school there, but many nights had to be spent at the

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller

school, on account of blizzardy stormy weather. The teacher boarded with us. Mother usually put in extra lunch, in case we had to stay at the school until dad could come and get us, probably the next day.

In the fall of 1909, Dad and family came to Calgary from North Dakota, then later moved to Stettler. We spent the winter there. My youngest brother was born there.

Dad filed on a homestead, five miles west of Hanna 9-31-15. Horses, machinery, cattle, etc., had to be purchased. In the spring of 1910, we moved to the homestead. My oldest brother and dad built a small house, which we lived in for a few years, then a larger house was built. Dad had to haul supplies from Stettler and Castor, which took days for a return trip. In later years there was a small store to the southeast of us, called Copeville where we purchased our groceries. Then in 1912 Hanna came on the map.

Our farmstead was located near the C.N.R. railroad, which was very interesting. There was also a train wreck close by the house. Of course there were tragedies also, when horses, cattle or pigs would get on the track and get hit by the train.

We kids walked three miles to Earltown School, where Mrs. Leech was our first teacher. Later St. George School was built, which was some closer. For entertainment we had box socials, picnics, ball games and Christmas concerts, and church services at the school.

Dad and mother moved to Calgary in 1925, and dad passed away in 1932 at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at the age of seventy-three in 1942, one daughter in 1973 at the age of eighty-four, and one son, age seventy-one in 1974.

There were eight children born to this marriage: Philip, address unknown; Annie (Mrs. Dahl), Hanna; Abe, deceased; Fred, Hanna; Emma (Peggy) (Mrs. Milton Lieberman), Chicago, Ill., Mae (Mrs. Adam Schniedmiller), Calgary; Johnnie, Vancouver, B.C.; George of Calgary.

RUFUS McCUISH FAMILY, by Jean McCuish Blank — Rufus Aubrey McCuish was born in 1874 in Kentville, Nova Scotia. He homesteaded in the area northwest of Hanna in 1908. The closest shopping centre at that time was Stettler.

Miss Mabel Hawkins was born in London, England in 1884. She and her friend Miss Bee Henley (who later married Jim Boyd) came to Canada in 1913 and worked in Calgary. Miss Hawkins, visiting her brother Henry Hawkins and his wife who farmed north of Craigmyle, met her future husband. Rufus McCuish was a brother of Mrs. Mae Hawkins. They were married in 1914 and went to live on his farm, east half 33-31-15. Six children were born:

Aubrey Hawkins McCuish — Attended St. George School. He farmed, and worked around Hanna, Cochrane and Golden before moving to Vancouver in 1955 where he lived and worked until his death in 1970. He also spent some time in the army.

Jean Renee Blank — Attended St. George School, also school started in

Watts in 1937. Worked in Calgary in 1941 and took a machinist's course in 1942 and moved to Hamilton, Ontario that same year to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, Jean joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp and after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario, she was stationed in London, Ontario for the duration of the war. Jean was discharged from the army in September, 1946 and took a stenographic course in Calgary. Married John Arthur Blank in December, 1949. Jean retired from work in 1960 and in 1970 her husband took an early retirement and they moved to B.C. to live at Anglemont on Shuswap Lake.

Joan Audrey Sherriff — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Worked in Calgary and in 1942 took a machinist's course and went to Hamilton in August to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Joan was stationed in London after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario and a drafting course in Toronto, Ontario. Discharged from the army in May, 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951 as an architect after four years. She was then employed by the Department of Northern Affairs and Public Works in Ottawa. Married Norman Sherriff in September, 1958. Their son Eric was born on November 21, 1959. They moved to Red Deer in 1962 where they still reside.

Malcolm Angus McCuish — Attended St. George School. Farmed until he joined the army in the spring of 1942 — sent overseas in September, 1942. Discharged in January, 1946. Worked around Golden until 1955 when he moved to Vancouver where he still resides.

Joyce Muriel McCuish — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Joyce joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1943, basic training at Vermilion, Alberta, stationed at Suffield, Vancouver and Calgary before being posted to Ottawa. She was discharged in Calgary September 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951, as an architect. Employed by Departments of National Defence, Justice and Transport in Ottawa since 1952 where she still resides.

(Betty) Mabel Elizabeth McCuish — Attended [illegible] George and Watts High School. Joined the army in 1943, took her basic training at Kitchener, Ontario, stationed in Ottawa and London, Ontario. She was discharged in May, 1946. Betty resided in Calgary until 1951 when she moved to Vancouver.

Rufus McCuish died in September, 1928. Mabel McCuish remarried in December, 1929 to John B. McDonald. Two more children were born.

(Peggy) Margaret Josephine McMillan — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Worked in Hanna until 1947 when she moved to Calgary. She moved to Vancouver with the company she worked for in 1948. Peggy married John M. McMillan in June, 1951. They have three children — Doug, seventeen, Don sixteen and Shari fourteen.

Lois Hildreth Giles — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Moved to Calgary in 1948 and lived there until she moved to Vancouver in 1951. She moved to Salmon Arm in 1962 and resided there until 1966 when she moved to Cranbrook where she still resides. She has three children, a son Gerry and two daughters, Kelly and Debbie.

Mabel McDonald moved to Vancouver in 1962 where she resided until her death in 1969.

Dad's brother, Murdock McCuish lived a quarter of a mile northwest on a farm adjoining our land. He died in 1933 and in 1937 the farm was rented and the family moved to Eckville, Alberta. The farm was later sold to Stuart and Bertha McCandless. Evan and Alma McCandless lived north of us. Roland and Lavina Perry, son Herbert and daughter Mildred, lived to the southeast; they moved to

B.C. in 1937 and resided at Armstrong. Truman Steeves lived to the southeast of our farm. Our pasture land ran down to Dowling Lake and Wolf Creek flowed through the pasture to the lake. Other close neighbours were John Steeves family; Spencer Burns and family; also the Harry Steeves and Jacob Fleck families.

St. George School was a mile and a half from our home, which we attended by walking, buggy, democrat, horseback, Bennett buggy, sleigh or car.

Everyone went to Hanna Saturday night, if possible, to see the movie, shop and visit with neighbours and friends. Most of the clothing was purchased through the Eaton's Mail Order Catalogue.

We used to attend the Hand Hills Stampede and other gatherings held in Hanna and district. A picnic was held every year at Clear Lake about seven miles northwest. Everyone took their lunches or dinners and spent the day there. Baseball games and other activities were there to be participated in or just watched. Dances were held often at St. George School. Christmas concerts were a yearly affair followed by lunch and a dance. Most children were put to sleep in a corner while their parents enjoyed themselves until the early hours when it came time to depart for home (in the early days) by sleigh. With this form of transportation you could be sure you'd get there. Many families had bells fastened to the harness and on a still cold night, they could be heard for miles. They were company on many a sleigh ride.

The first cars used in the winter were a real hazard — you never knew whether you'd get to your destination or not. If they didn't freeze up, they usually got stuck in the snow.

THE M. J. McCUISH and W. E. McCREIGHT FAMILIES — by Stan McCreight — Murdoch Joseph (Murt) McCuish was born in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. He and his brother Rufus A. (Ruf) McCuish settled about a mile and a half southwest of Dowling Lake in 1905 when they moved in with a herd of cattle from Crossfield. This was later known as the St. George School District. They ranched in partnership for quite a number of years and were known as McCuish Brothers. They, as well as many other ranchers in Alberta at that time, lost very heavily in the winter of 1906-07 when many of their cattle starved or froze to death from the severe weather. The many bones lying in the coulee for years after were a grim reminder of that hard winter. When the district was thrown open to homesteaders, Ruf took up the east half 33-31-16, which was the place where their ranch headquarters was located. Murt homesteaded the west half of the same section.

They gradually cut down on their cattle herd as they started farming, and continued to operate as a partnership until the end of 1913. This year McCuish Brothers shipped the first car of wheat through the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. from this district on September 14, 1913. It was the Marquis variety and graded number one.

Mr. and Mrs. William Edmund McCreight and their two children came to Alberta in 1910 to take up a homestead. While Wm. McCreight and his wife's brother, Andy Murdoch, looked for land, Mrs. McCreight and two small children, Winnifred and Stanley took a trip to Ireland to visit her father. Wm. McCreight and Andy Murdoch located land on the north side of Dowling Lake. Wm. McCreight took up the south half 23-32-16, and Andy Murdoch took up the north half of that section. Andy farmed for a few years and then sold out to Joseph McBurney in 1916. Andy Murdoch will be remembered by many of the oldtimers as he built many houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He passed away in Ireland in 1974 where his widow still resides.

Back Seat: Murt McCuish, Mrs. Henry Hawkins and son Albert, Nora McCuish and Stan McCreight. Front Seat: Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCuish, son Bill. Standing: Henry Hawkins. In Wagon: Andy Murdoch.

Wm. McCreight's farming career was short lived when tragedy struck and he was drowned in the well that first summer. Mrs. Minnie McCreight and two children, accompanied by her father, returned from Ireland after her husband's death and carried on with the homestead duties. Her father remained with her on the farm for some months before returning to Ireland. About this time her sister-in-law, Martha McCreight, from Ireland, arrived and stayed with her for a year.

During these years the settlers got their mail at Dowling Lake Post Office which was located about ten miles to the northwest. Castor, which was about forty miles north, was their main shopping centre until Hanna became established.

Mrs. Minnie McCreight and Andy McCuish were married and lived in the district for many years, where their two children Nora and William were born. Mrs. McCuish's eldest daughter, Winnifred McCreight, passed away in 1918.

A school district was formed and St. George School was built in 1915. The school house was used for all kinds of gatherings, such as elections, school meetings, church, parties and dances as well as the very popular Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by adults as well as the children. By 1917 a grocery store and post office were opened up at Watts by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newton. The business was operated from the annex of the Home Grain Co. for several months while the store was being built. Newtons later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Lund in 1923.

Murt McCuish bought his first tractor in 1918 which he used mostly for breaking. The following year he came out with a new Ford car which was quite an advance over riding behind a team of horses. As time went on he acquired more land, and by 1925 had his own threshing machine. Later he went to the more modern method of harvesting when he changed over to the combine.

Murt McCuish farmed in the district until his death in 1933. After this, Mrs. McCuish carried on with the farm until the fall of 1937 when she and the family left the district and moved to Eckville. Mrs. McCuish and her daughter Nora drove the car while Bill McCuish and Stan McCreight took the livestock, machinery and household effects by train.

Nora married Jim Hartley and they had one son James. They lived in the

Eckville district for many years before moving to Calgary where Jim died in 1966. Nora and her son James still reside in Calgary.

Mrs. Minnie McCulah lived at Eckville until her passing in 1967.

Stan McCreight married Betty DeLong and they had two children, Joan and Bob. I sold this farm in 1972 and with my wife and family moved to Calgary where we now reside.

Bill McCulah also sold his farm in 1972 and moved to Calgary and lives with his sister, Mrs. Nora Hartley.

ROLAND E. PENNY FAMILY — Roland Penny was a veteran of the Boer War. Mr. Penny homesteaded the north half 28-31-15. About 1934, the family moved to Armstrong, B.C. Their daughter Mildred Hallowelly still resides at Armstrong. Their son Herbert lives at the west coast.

Mrs. Penny passed away in 1936, and her husband, Roland passed away in 1976, at the age of ninety-eight.

EMERSON ROBINSON FAMILY, By Joe Robinson — My father, Emerson Robinson was born in County Durham, England, in 1863. He came to Iowa, U.S.A., early in the 1880's. My mother, the former Hannah Lamb, was born in Northumberland, England, and came to Iowa with her parents as a child. My parents were married in Kalo, Iowa, in 1892. They had six children, Lydia, Margaret, Joseph, Thomas, Phoebe and Faye.

The whole family came to Stettler, Alberta, in March 1911. Dad filed on southeast 16-31-16 in March 1911, but the family remained on the Stettler farm until the spring of 1913, when they moved to the homestead here. Joe Robinson still lives on the farm here.

1916 — Father and Mother, Emerson and Hannah Robinson, standing in wheat crop at homestead.

Joe Robinson Family: Wesley, Shirley, Dad, Sylvia, and Emerson.

In the interim between 1911 and 1913, Mr. Robinson travelled back and forth from Stettler by horse and wagon to make improvements on the homestead. We brought two cows and two teams of horses from Stettler. At that time we dug a shallow well which kept us well supplied with drinking water, and the cattle watered at the creek. As time went by my father, and later, my brother and I acquired more land, and in all the years that we have been here, we have had only one complete crop failure. The C.N.R. rail tracks were laid through our land in 1912.

The first wheat I remember my father selling in 1911 was sold, some for forty-

eight cents a bushel and some for sixty-eight cents a bushel. In 1916 we couldn't get the wheat threshed until the spring of 1917, when Mr. Nysheim did the job with his big outfit. Wheat in the fall of 1916 was ninety-eight cents a bushel, and in the spring of 1917 when we threshed, we were getting two dollars and forty-six cents on the market, until a Government Board set the price at two dollars and twenty cents at the elevator. Around this time good cows were selling at forty dollars and sixty dollars per head. A team of horses was selling around three hundred and twenty-five dollars to four hundred and fifty dollars. In 1916 the Stubbs Brothers' outfit threshed our grain.

St. George School was built in 1916. Prior to this, the children went to Earltown school. Mrs. Leach was then the teacher at Earltown, and the first teacher at St. George school was Florence Bennett, who boarded with my parents.

Our nearest neighbours when we homesteaded were — on the east, Henry Miller and his family, on the north was George Scott and family; to the south, Andy McKay, and to the west the Gilbert Chute family. There were also the Al, Charlie and Frank Hutton Brothers and Bill Waring to the east. We used to get mail at Magee's Store which was two miles to the southwest.

My sister, Lydia, married Harry Beaslow in 1914, and they lived in Coronation. They had one child, Patricia, who now lives on Vancouver Island. Sister Margaret married Reg Voss in 1915, and lived in Winnipeg until her death. They had one son, Reg, who served twenty-seven years in the navy, and now resides in Vancouver. My brother Tom and I farmed in partnership until his death in 1969. My sister, Phoebe, married Harold Lund. They farmed and operated a store in Dowling, until they moved to Hanna where they operated various businesses. They had two children, Frank and Betty. Phoebe still lives in Hanna, as does my nephew, Frank.

Sister Faye, married Ed Bell in 1932, and they lived for a long period in the Handhills, until they retired to Hanna, where Ed still lives.

I married Catherine Fitzgerald in 1927. She taught many schools in the district. Catherine passed away in 1948, leaving me with four children, Sylvia, Emerson, Wesley and Shirley. Sylvia became Mrs. Claude Hunter. They had one daughter, Linda who is married to Larry Nelson, now residing at Michichi. Claude Hunter passed away and Sylvia is now Mrs. Ben Marshall. They have two girls, Janet and Brenda. Emerson and his wife Martha of Hanna, have four girls; Ginny, Catherine, Connie and Tammie Lynn. Emerson is an engineer on the C.N.R., and with his father farms about three sections of land. Wesley and Ruby with their two children, Blake and Sherrie live on a farm one mile west of me. Shirley and her husband Brian Olson, have a daughter, Patricia. They live at Carstairs. Shirley is a registered nurse in Calgary, and Brian also holds down a good job with the Calgary airport.

WESLEY ROBINSON, *By Wesley and Ruby Robinson* — I got my education at St. George, Earltown and Watt schools, and for a few years, with the shortage of teachers, I had correspondence lessons, with mother's assistance.

In 1957, I worked for the P.F.R.A. in Hanna. That same spring I married Ruby Bossert of Endiang, and continued living in Hanna, and worked at various jobs, at the C.N.R. Shops, A. A. Hutton and Sons garage. Then in January 1958, I started to work for K and B Motors, and am still employed with them.

In 1962, I bought a quarter of land from Irene O'Rourke. Then in 1964, I bought the Carl Johnston farm, west half 18-31-15, and moved from Hanna to the

farm. In 1972, I purchased another half section of land from Sam Branum, formerly the Andy McKay homestead.

We have two children, Blake and Sherrie, who both attend school in Hanna.

The Scotts. Mother's eightieth birthday, 1964. Back Row: Joe, Mrs. Margaret Scott, Stanley. Centre Row: Ellen, Hannah, Mabel, Alice. Front Row: Archie, Ernest.

GEORGE SCOTT STORY, By Joe Scott and Alice Gudo — In 1910 we came from Stettler with my grandfather, Joseph Lamb and stayed at his place, until we moved to the homestead east half 22-31-15, in what was later called the Watts and St. George school districts.

I sat on the door step and watched them build the railroad past our house.

Mother baked bread for five bachelors for awhile; Clifford Phibbs, J.K. Sutherland, Andy McKay and the Burdett brothers.

Alice stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leach to attend Earltown School until St. George was built.

We had a good crop in 1911, so dad went to Castor to get a binder, and before he got back, a hail storm had flattened the crop. By the way, that binder cut my thumb off at the last joint, leaving a half inch of skin on the back. I had a stiff thumb for twenty years, until a spill with a saddle horse, broke the joint loose.

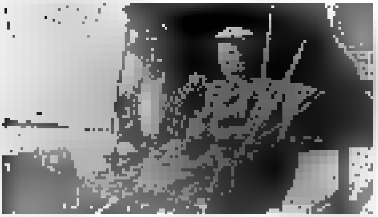
A few years later, a prairie fire early in the spring burnt every blade of grass we had. The railroad grade was new, and stopped the fire from spreading any further south.

We dug a well and got good water at about eight feet, but in the fall the garter snakes denned up in it, and they came every fall as long as we lived there.

Two of my sisters were born here. Mabel, Mrs. Bruce Taylor of Mirror, and Hannah, the late Mrs. Jerry Taylor. Hannah passed away in Calgary at the age of fifty, on January first, 1965. My brother Ernest, lives at Merritt, B.C. Mother is ninety-two years of age and lives in Kamloops, B.C. with her youngest son Archie. She still enjoys fishing and coming to Hanna to visit.

After we left the homestead in 1917, my brother Stanley was born in Hanna and now ranches on Rose Hill, inside the Kamloops city limits.

My sister Ellen, Mrs. Dan Verigin, was born after we moved to Kamloops, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C. I am retired, and still reside in Hanna.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Scott in 1917.

THOMAS A. SCOTT, By Catherine Scott Johnson — Dad was born in 1898 in Norfolk, Nebraska, the son of Elizabeth and Harrison Scott. When he was nine the family consisting of ten children moved to the Innisfail area, where another daughter was born. Dad grew up and went to school in the Huxley area and eventually bought land there and married Katherine "Kit" Steeves.

Mother wanted to be nearer her family; her brothers Truman, Harry and John were farming in the Watts district as were her parents George and Adelaide

Steeves. So Mother and Dad undertook to move all of their worldly goods across country to the Trum Steeves farm. They brought along all their livestock and Dad said the hens even kept laying and supplied them with eggs for the trip.

In the family home in Hanna a glass china cupboard is still in use that made that trip in a lumber wagon, packed with prairie wool.

While living on the Trum Steeves place my brothers, Thomas Allan ("Tommy" to differentiate from "Tom", my father) and James (Jimmy) were born.

In 1923 Dad had a severe loss by fire. The grain elevator at Watts had been plugged but some cars came in, so Dad brought his six best horses into the barn in readiness for hauling the next day. That night somehow the barn caught fire. He lost his six horses, some milk cows, a loft full of feed, equipment and even a rack of feed which was in the yard.

About 1924 my parents bought Mother's parents' farm (The George Steeves farm) and Alfred and I were born there.

Our brother Jimmy, aged six, died in 1928 of pneumonia. In 1928 during the flu epidemic we were all hospitalized and we lost our mother and our newborn baby sister.

Dad was left with us three children, aged two, four and nine, to raise alone. So our aunt, Betty Scott (Greig) came to help us out and she told Dad in the fall that if he could get her a school to teach she'd stay with us for awhile, so Dad did - and the school was Silver Valley. Dad bought his first Model A so Aunt Betty could get to her school.

In the following years, Dad, Tommy and Alfred batched a lot of the time, helped by hired girls and our aunts — Betty Greig and Lucille Steeves. I asked Tommy about amusing anecdotes about their batching years and he said nothing was funny about batching.

In 1935 Dad went to B.C. and brought back a former Hanna girl, Ethel Stirling, as his wife. They arrived in November after a snow storm and had to go the last mile home by horse and sleigh. Mother wondered what she was doing back in this cold country.

She must often have wondered what possessed her to come back to the Hanna district in the following years as she helped to raise us three children, and contended with the hardships of those times. Drought, grasshoppers, dust storms and depression. A town girl set down in a house with no electricity or running water, and a coal stove.

Our neighbours got together and had a chivaree for Mother and Dad. Mother remembers being awakened by what she took to be coyotes but was in reality the neighbours making a great commotion outside the house. We quickly got up and took down all the clothes drying on lines in the kitchen, so we could let people in.

Tommy, Alfred and I all went to St. George School and Alfred and I later went to Watts school. Alfred was janitor one year at St. George (for which he was paid a princely sum). Alfred's idea was that he look after the fires and I do the cleaning, and I still can't remember how he conned me into that.

In 1939 we moved to the Kroll place and in 1943 Tommy married Joan Daniels; my brothers took over the farm and Mom, Dad and I moved east of Hanna to the place where Bill and Betty MacKenzie now live.

Alfred didn't stay on the farm too long as he found he was allergic to the dust so he started in the logging business around Cochrane.

In 1946 my parents bought a hundred acres from Mr. Lindstrom, that area west of third street west in Hanna, they had a house built on the property and Mother still lives there. In that area there are now two schools, the civic centre and a number of homes.

Our parents have always been actively supportive of the Church of Christ in Hanna. Dad was an elder and treasurer for fifteen years and Mother taught Sunday school for many years, was in the choir and president of the W.M.S. and is still as active as she can manage.

Dad farmed two hundred and twenty-five acres west of town and continued to run a feedlot, buying and selling cattle, until his health broke down in 1966 and he had to give up the farm.

In 1975 Mother and Dad celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary, with a small party at the Palliser Nursing Home and all our immediate family attended, also Betty and Jack Greig of Calgary; some of the grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Father passed away in the Hanna Hospital December the twenty-sixth, 1975.

Tommy and Joan have three children, all grown up and married. Tommy and his son Allan still farm in the Watts district. Alfred is in the lumber business in Revelstoke, married Francis Pepper of Cochrane and they have eight children and three grandchildren. Catherine (that's me) married Stan Johnson of Edmonton; we have three children, one married.

THOMAS ALLAN SCOTT, ***By Tommy Scott*** — I was born on the farm, attended St. George School, and have lived in the Watts and Hanna districts all my life.

I remember the lean years of the "thirties." In 1936, I helped my uncle, Jock Greig, move and trek cattle from the Gage place west of Clear Lake to his new location just south of Calgary. Thanks to the grasshoppers, we had no crop the fall of 1937, so I went harvesting northwest of Airdrie.

I started farming operations on my own in 1939 when I rented the George Kroll place. That year, in partnership with my Dad we purchased our first tractor, a fifteen-thirty International on steel.

In 1943, I married Joan Dallais, a school teacher who had taught Dowling Lake School for three years. Dad moved to a place on the eastern outskirts of Hanna and Joan and I lived on the Kroll place. Those were the war years when sugar, gas and tires were rationed. A son, Allan was born in 1945.

My brother, Alfred lived with us and we farmed together until the fall of 1945. That year a hailstorm completely harvested our crop and Alfred left the farm and began lumbering operations at Cochrane.

In 1949, I started a new home on the western outskirts of Hanna. Joan and I and our son, Allan took up residence in Hanna in February, 1950.

Still in partnership with Alfred, we opened a lumber yard, known as "Scott Lumber" on four lots west of our house.

Alfred operated lumber camps at Cochrane and points in B.C. and the yard primarily was an outlet for some of his material, but later we expanded to handle other building materials. With hired help on the farm, we managed the lumber yard and the farming operations.

A son, Randy was born in 1952 and a daughter, Judy in 1953.

In 1956, I sold Scott Lumber to the Revelstoke Lumber Co. and the yard was moved to the corner of Second Avenue and Third Street West. I agreed to stay on as manager for one year, and ended up by doing so for thirteen years. During those years, I was involved with many of the building projects in Hanna, as well as being a trustee on the Hanna School Board for twelve years.

In 1968, I quit the lumber business and concentrated on expanding the farming and ranching in partnership with my son, Allan, who purchased the adjoining holdings of Lewis Sleeves. The lands we now farm once belonged to

several oldtimers and are still referred to as such — the Kroll place, the Fox place, the Steeves place, etc.

Joan and I still live in Hanna and our children are all married.

Allan married Diana Charlton of Hanna and they have a daughter, Shannon. After attending S.A.I.T. for two years and obtaining his automotive license, Allan worked as a mechanic in Hanna for three years before going farming. They now reside on their farm in the Watts district.

Randy married Ann Wallace of Hanna. After graduating from University at Calgary, he worked as a geologist at Elsa, Yukon for two and a half years before returning to the family farm.

Judy married Bruce Pennock of Hanna. They live in Calgary where Bruce is employed with A.G.T. and Judy is a Judicial Clerk at the Court House.

George and Adelaide Steeves

MR. and MRS. GEORGE STEEVES, By granddaughter Delpha Howell — George and Adelaide Steeves, with three of their daughters came from Washington to Olds, Alberta, in 1908. They lived with us for a year. Grandpa came to this district to file a homestead on south-west quarter 35-31-15. Dad and his brother John came to help build a house. Father helped them bring their cattle across country.

Ethel, the eldest daughter married Currie Johnston in 1911. They lived on south-west quarter 4-32-15. His brother Dave lived with them. They moved to British Columbia in 1918. They raised a family of twelve children. Aunt Ethel still lives in Vancouver.

Sarah married Fred Borel in 1914, and lived north of Craigmyle, until they retired to Calgary in 1945. They had one girl, Louise, who married Archie Blair.

Katherine, better known as Kit, married Tom Scott in 1917.

Grandma and Grandpa lived here until 1920, when they moved north to Blackfoot for several years, then came back to the former place, and lived here until his death; Grandma went to Calgary to live with Sarah and Fred, where she stayed until her passing in March 1950, at the age of ninety-six.

Grandpa had a keen interest in his horses. Grandma was always there: quiet, cooking, scolding grandpa or reading her Bible, which was the only thing that she ever read. She always seemed real old to me, but she really wasn't. She would walk over to our place many times, a distance of two miles.

HARRY and ALBERTA STEEVES, By Delpha Steeves Howell — Harry Steeves came to Olds, Alberta in 1900 from North Dakota, where he had worked as a well driller for many years. He took a homestead eleven miles east of Olds. He married Alberta Abel, commonly known as Berty in December 1902. Five of us children were born there, Delpha, Elva, Lorna, Marion and Elroy was three months when we came to the St. George district. I remember the trip across country very well. It was November 1913. Dad had a large democrat with the organ, dad, mother and the two babies rode in it. He pulled the buggy behind and we three

girls rode in it. It took two and a half days to make the trip. We forded the river at Munson. I'll always remember how frightened we were. We were afraid that our old dog (Bounce) would drown.

However, on November the sixth we arrived at Granddad's in the dark. We lived with them until dad, mom and his brothers built a house on Uncle John's place where we lived until the spring of 1916. By that time father had purchased south-half 28-31-15, and built a house and barn on it. The winter of 1916, dad was working on the house and mother had gone to the States for a visit and myself, then eleven and Elva, nine, stayed home with dad. Well, we did the cooking and took it over every day on the stone boat, with our old crippled horse, Pearl. I'm sure that there must have been some queer meals. We had a gray enamel coffee pot that held a gallon, and we always had that. We cooked meat and spuds and sometimes beans. Grandma baked our bread, so that helped. It would not have been so bad, but we had well drillers as well; so there were three extra men to feed. I wonder what kids would do nowadays. We were not in school, as it had just opened in August and always closed in the winter months.

Those were lonely days for two girls, who were expected to be grown up. There were no close neighbours, except our grandparents.

In the spring of 1914, my father was in town, the snow was all gone except a few patches. Mother saw a very large smoke in the west, she had never seen a prairie fire, and was alone with us children. Soon grandfather, Uncle Jim and Emil Backman came running to help. They tried to stop it before it got to our buildings, but were not successful. Mother sent Elva and Lorne, who were quite small, across the plowed field to grandma's. She took the two little ones and me out to a plowed field and I sat and held my baby brother and cuddled Marian for the whole afternoon. I remember it was Mert McCulloh, who came to bring us home after the fire was past. My father's new barn and feed went, also ten brood sows and the new pens. The cow was found a couple of days later. Granddad had to blindfold the horses to get them out of the barn. I never saw a distant smoke after that, without being terrified.

When we arrived there was not a school for us to go to. However on August 14, 1915, our new school was opened. There were four of us girls that started the same day. Half the time I carried Marian piggy back, as she was only five and I was eleven. We really had fun there. Very few of the children had scribblers at first, so Mrs. Bennett went out to the scrap pile, where the workmen had left pieces of building paper, and we all used that to write on. Finally it got settled down to normal. Then chicken-pox broke out in school. For me this was torture, as I hated to miss school. When it got cold we drove old Pearl horse on a stone boat.

Those were hard years in some ways. My dad hauled coal from Sam Wadsworth mine, and it was a long cold trip in the winter.

After my father had moved his parents out from Olds, he saw the need for a threshing machine in the area, so he shipped his big steam outfit to Castor by rail, and drove it over land the rest of the way. To my knowledge it was the first outfit in the district, and he ran it until the fall of 1921, when he sold it to Emil Backman.

As teenage girls there was very little entertainment for us. We went to a few dances, some surprise parties in the winter, but there was nothing much else to do in those days. I went out to work at the age of fifteen.

In 1921, I married Harvey Howell. We had six children, three boys and three girls. Harvey passed away in August 1976. I now live in Lloydminster.

Elva married Ray Grantham and raised three girls and two boys. She passed away in May 1967.

Lorne married Bill Bolton. They had five boys and two girls. She still lives at St. Thomas, Ontario.

Marian married Elmer Gray. They had two boys and two girls. Elmer passed away in June 1972. Marian lives at Smithers, B.C., near two of her children.

Elroy married Maggie Nixon. They had a boy and a girl. He lives at Victoria, B.C.

Alice married Lorne Slack. They had two girls and three boys. Lorne died in 1952. She resides at Quesnel.

Hazel married Johnnie Kessler, they had six boys and six girls. Johnnie passed away several years ago. She is living at the present with Alice.

Bo, the baby, who was born after I was married, has a family of four boys and four girls. She lives at Kamloops, B.C.

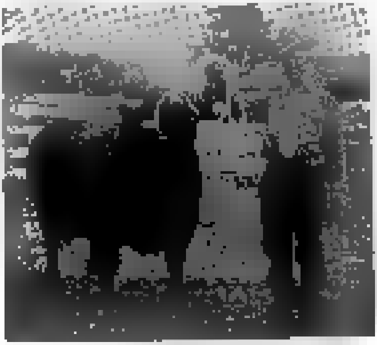
Father and mother lived on the old place until 1934, when they moved to Bluffton. They were there until 1945, when they moved to Edmonton. In the spring of 1947, they moved to Summerland, B.C. Father passed away there in May 1948, at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at Bonnyville, where I lived at that time, in November, 1957, at the age of eighty-four.

JOHN STEEVES, *By Freda Steeves Verrall* — John Steeves came from Chamberlain, South Dakota in 1900 to Medical Lake, Washington, then in 1909 to the Olds area and to Hanna-Watts area. In 1910, he filed on a homestead, the north half of 27-31-15.

He married Lucille Elizabeth Scott in 1916. The Scott family had come from Nebraska in 1905 to Knee Hill Valley, where dad and mother met through Ken Steeves. After their marriage they moved back to the homestead. Dad ran a Candy Store in Innisfail in 1920.

They had four children; Lewis, Freda, Johnnie and Ruth. Mother passed away in 1935.

In 1948 dad sold his holdings to his son Lewis and retired to Aldergrove, B.C.



Lewis Steeves, 1956. Grand Champion Bull at Lacombe Bull Sale.

LEWIS STEEVES, *By Lewis Steeves* — Lewis Steeves, son of John and Lucille Steeves was born in 1917 on my father's homestead. Dr. Mason was the doctor in attendance. I got my education at St. George school.

In 1940, I bought the George Steeves (grandfather) homestead. In 1944-45 I ran the Hamilton Dairy; milking twenty-five cows by hand and later I bought a milking machine. I sold this milk in cans to John Patzer in Hanna, who bottled and delivered the milk

In 1948, when my dad retired to Aldergrove B.C., I purchased his homestead and continued farming.

In 1963, I acquired my first registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, which later became one of the top herds in Western Canada. It was then known as "Sherry Farms" — named after my daughter. Foundation stock were sold in all the prairie provinces and many parts of the U.S.A. I continued farming until 1969, when I sold

the farm to cousin Tommy Scott and son. I retired to Hanna, but found life very boring.

Then in 1970, I purchased a farm at Ponoka, Alberta, where I re-established some granddaughters from my old Sherry herd, which again have become well known for foundation breeding stock.

We had four children: Marcie, Sherry, Richard and Valerie. Marcie married Bob Tychy of Edmonton and has three children; Sherry married Hector Lloyd and has a son. They reside in the Hanna area. Richard passed away in 1976 and Valerie is at home.

THE WARING STORY, *By Wilma Waring Cheney* — William and Mary Jane Waring were both born in England; they came to Canada around 1887, and settled in Victoria, B.C. William worked as a Steam Engineer at the Tuxedo Coffee and Spice Mill. They had six children, William, (my dad), Florence, Mable, Leonard, Harry and Bob, as far as I know they were all born in Victoria.

When at work, my grandfather met a man by the name of Jack Mograge. It seems as though Jack had bought land in Hanna that he had never seen. He moved his family there, and discovered that some of the land was a lake, Fox Lake. He built a sod house. Mr. Mograge was very lonely, so he wrote to his friend William in Victoria, and told him about sunny Alberta, and how great things were there. In 1910 the Waring family left Victoria on the C.P.R. which took them to Castor; they went the rest of the way by wagon. Six miles west of Hanna (now owned by T. G. Franklin) is where their homestead was.

My uncle Harry says, "The first summer we were there, all we had to use for fire was prairie peat, as there was no wood for miles around. In the winter we dug our own coal at a place called the Cutbanks. It took a full day to go, dig it out, and return. The first restaurant, a tent on the west side, but I can't recall the name of it. Copeville was the Post Office at that time, two miles east of Hanna. Things I remember vividly were the mosquitoes and the rain, it rained and rained, I thought it would never stop."

In 1916 Mrs. Waring and family bade their husband and father good-bye, he left for the battle-field; was a sergeant in France and Germany until the First World War ended. He then returned to Hanna.

The coming of the railroad made the walk to and from Hanna shorter as they went via the tracks. Dad helped the cook on the construction gang, when the railroad was being built. It went right in front of their farm.

William Jr. had his homestead closer to Watts. One of his friends was Roy Embree. In 1921 while he was staying with Dad he became ill, and dad nursed his friend through some very sick hours.

The Salvation Army came to Hanna; in 1924 dad married Lieutenant Victoria Eda. They left the farm and moved to Summerland, B.C. When grandpa died on May 22, 1926 as a result of a kick in the stomach he received from a horse, my parents returned to Hanna.

I was born on February 27, 1928. Two weeks later my dad was grief-stricken as they laid my mother to rest in the Hanna Cemetery. Hard as it was, life had to go on, his mother helped him with the baby. Later on he married Jean Mears from Winnipeg.

The younger members of the Waring family grew up and left for homes of their own. In 1929 my grandmother and her youngest son went back to Victoria.

Dad was living in Hanna by this time, where my half-sisters Ora and June were born. June died when she was eighteen months old. I remember how often we moved when we were growing up. Dad went wherever he could get work during

the depression years. He drove garbage and water wagons, he lathed and shingled many buildings.

My parents moved away from Hanna for the last time in 1951 to make their home in Calgary. I became a Salvation Army Officer in 1947, serving in Canada and India for fifteen years in all. I came back to Canada in 1960. I married Ralph W. Cheney, of Drumheller in 1962. We have two boys. One married James Pickering, and has one son.

Dad passed away in 1968 and mother in 1976. My uncles Len and Harry are the only two left of the Hanna homesteaders. They live in Victoria, B.C.

DAVID SCHMIDT, *By Helen Schmidt* — David Schmidt was born April 19, 1909 at Butte, North Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Simon and Maria Schmidt, in 1910. They homesteaded north of Watts on the west side of Dowling Lake.

David went to school at Dowling Lake whenever possible. One of his teachers was E. K. Neff. Others who attended at the same time were Levi and Philip Kennedy, Mac Fuller, Philip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartt, Antonia Hoffman, Pauline, Martin and Bertha Siezle.

After working out at different jobs such as running threshing machines for Doyles and Siezles and trucking for many years, he came back and bought one half section of land from Stuart McCandless, and started farming for himself in 1944. In 1947 he married Helen Welch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Welch.

We have four children; they all attended Watts school until it closed, then they were bussed into Hanna.

In 1960 we bought his father's farm; moved our house over there, and built up a farm yard. We got the power put in, which was very nice. Now there are rural gas lines that show things have come a long way since coal stoves and oil lamps, and carrying water from the pumps and wells.

We have four children: Lawrence married Paulette Campbell. They live in Calgary where he works under the name of Larry's Contracting. They have two children, Michael and Kari-Ann.

Leslie married Wendy Alspach; they are living in Hanna. Marvin married Mary Warminski. They live in a trailer home on the farm with us. Marvin is a mechanic for E. O. Parry and also farms. Gerald is still going to school taking his grade eleven. He does wood work and loves to take old cars apart and rebuild them.

HOFFMAN FAMILY, *By Karl Hoffman* — Julius Hoffman (Dad) was born October 9, 1867, in German-occupied Poland. In 1889 he was married to Eva Augusta Weiss who was born November 16, 1872 in Warsaw, Poland. To them were born four sons and four daughters.

That area of Europe was then dominated by Prussian militarism and ruthless warfare. Not wanting to live under this military pressure, and having heard of the free country of Canada where Julius had a brother in Edmonton studying Theology, they decided to move.

In the fall of 1907 with seven children, Ottilie, Sammuel, Rosalie, Karl, Sigmund, Augusta and Antonia, they embarked on the ship Breslau and after two weeks of ocean travel arrived in Baltimore, Maine, then went on to Edmonton by train. In the spring they rented land south-west of Edmonton.

Here we lived until 1909 when Dad went to Stettler to find a homestead where there was less bush, as clearing land of trees was hard work in those days. After filing on the south half of 17-32-15, we trailed three horses, a colt and several cows

to the homestead where there was not a building or fence in sight. We set up a tent, which was home until August when Dad built the house which was added onto over the years and still stands today, overlooking a steep coulee where we kids spent happy times exploring for Indian Arrowheads and in winter sleigh-riding. Tille and Sam stayed in Edmonton where they had jobs. I, Karl, eleven years at the time had to help look after things when Dad was away to Stettler or Castor. Once I had to help Mother butcher a pig — I never liked meat after that.

Julius and Augusta Hoffman

Karl Hoffman, 1918

In 1911, Albert Kellgren, a big Swedish carpenter and Dad, also a carpenter by trade, built the Dowling Lake School on two acres in the south-west corner of Hoffman's land. It was handy as the three younger ones, Sig, Gusti and Toni went to school there. Being fourteen years old I was considered of more help on the plow than in school. Some of the kids going to school then were the Kennedy's, Whitaker's, Howard's. While I was plowing near the school, out of sight of home, I would stop the horses, run over to the school, play ball with the kids until the bell rang, then back to my tedious job of plowing. The sod was torn open with a breaker plow and a willow tree nailed on a two by six dragged behind like a harrow to smooth the land. Oats was seeded by hand — harvested and stacked for feed — also wild prairie "wool". There were lots of rocks on the land so in 1912, Dad built a barn with a seven-foot wall of stones, cement and lime which stands as a memorial to a lot of hard work. Hope for the future was realized in 1914 with a good crop that year.

For the young folks in those days entertainment was not "ready made". No fancy arenas or such — we skated for miles on Dowling Lake in the winter, in the summer we made rafts. We thought nothing of riding twenty or thirty miles to visit the Keibel's, Boehike's and Michael's at Endiang; often were caught in a rain or snow storms but our faithful ponies Dewy, Pete and Frank used good horse-sense and brought us home. My brother Sig and I were always together and spent a lot of time hunting; everything from gophers to coyotes.

When I was married in March 1920 we lived on the Tingle place. After the terrible hailstorm in June 1923, I decided to leave the farm and in 1925 moved my family to Cold Lake northeast of Edmonton. Then in 1930 we came back again, and when Dad passed away I took over the home place and farmed it until 1974. I am now retired in Hanna and my youngest son Fred has the farm. I'm sure each oldtimer could write a book of his own about all the trials and tribulations and of course also the good times as a pioneer.

Julius Hoffman passed away March 12, 1934. In 1941 Augusta married Anton

Stelzl, now deceased. Augusta died May 18, 1962. Both Julius and Augusta are buried in the Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Their children were:

Ottilie (Tillie) born 1891, married Edwin Clark in London, England during World War I. After his death she married Charles Atwater. She had three children. Tillie passed away at Castle Rock, Oregon in 1966.

Adolph was born 1892, died at the age of four of smallpox.

Sammuel born 1893, married Magdalene Rink, both now deceased. They had two children, Arthur and Violet. Arthur is married and lives in Edmonton. Violet lives in Oaba.

Rosella born 1895; married Paul Vollbrecht of Oyen. She died in 1950.

Sigmund — born 1899 — married Marie Michael, lived at Three Hills, then Edson. Both are deceased. They had three children, Betty, Fred and Stanley.

Augusta — born 1901 — married Luther Schuetze. They lived in Manitoba where Luther was a missionary on the north shore of Lake Winnipeg. They had nine children.

Antonie — born 1903, married Roderick Schuetze and had three children. They are now retired at Duncan, B.C.

Karl was born in 1897. He married Emily Ruff and had six children; Antonia, Erna June, Norma, Verda, Raymond and Donald. Emily died in 1932.

Antonia married Ted Quaschnick, they had three sons. Ted passed away several years ago. Antonia and the boys and their families live in the Hanna area. Rod married Vivian Forma, has a girl and two boys; Wes married Margaret Talmage; Merle married Linda Hutton and has one girl and one boy.

Erna June married Nestor Swanich; lives in Calgary. They have one son and one daughter.

Norma married Elmer Thiessen — teaches in Calgary. She has two girls, Sherry and Cindy.

Verda is married to Emil Lilke. She teaches in Kelowna, B.C. She has one daughter, Rhonda.

Raymond married Lorraine Mossey and has a daughter, Susan. He teaches in Calgary.

Donald married Doreen Kane and lives at Cessford. They have one daughter, Geralyn, and sons Brent and Mark.

In 1948, Karl married Georgina Harris and had four more children, Richard married Shirley Graden, Fred married Bev Kurtz, Debbie and Carla are at home.

WATTS VILLAGE, ***By Doris Hutton*** — Survey of the C.N.R. railway came in 1912. A store and post office were built in 1914, by the Page Newton family. This store was later sold to Nick and Ada Lund in 1923, who operated the business for many years, then sold it to Jim and Alberta Boyd in 1945. They stayed with the business about twenty-five years, until the mail service was transferred to Hanna.

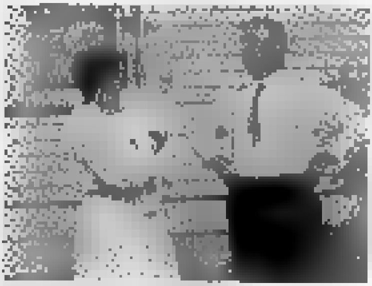
The Home elevator was built in 1914. In later years, it was known as the Pool Elevator. The National Grain Company built an elevator in 1915, the next year the Alberta Pacific was erected. These companies had accommodation in Watts for their agents.

Reinhold Rosenbaum was the first section foreman of Watts in 1916–17. Then a section foreman by name of Steve Gresch and his family of two children, Sophie and Jake had residence here. Sophie married John Jucypink, a section labourer, also of Watts. Jake also worked for the C.N.R.

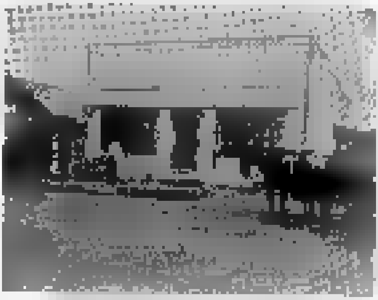
In the years 1926-36, Roy Embree had a garage and service station, where he

did mechanical work, well drilling and was the nucleus of our musical entertainment.

In 1937 with the co-operation of the newly formed Sullivan Lake School Division, a petition of interested parents was taken, and after much planning, a high school was opened in a little house left vacant by a section foreman; known as the "Gresch House".

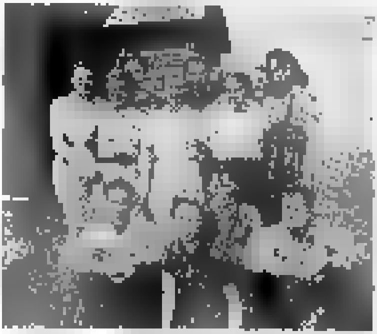


Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newton, 1918, and Jack Phibbs.



Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store, 1923.

Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store



Watts High School 1941. Standing, Left to Right: Patsy Quaschnick, Annie Sather, Marie Durand, Mildred Diehl, Edna Lund, Viola Dieter, Phyllis Cole, Joyce McCuish, Mary Lund. Seated: Bill Burns, Blanche Coutts (teacher), Roy Phibbs, Larry Boyd.

The first teacher was Mrs. M. D. Cook, who used the National Grain Company house as her teacherage, which she shared with some of the students. Others batched in the Embree house and a little shingled shack, moved in by Oliver Durand for his family. Some pupils walked, rode horseback, or went by sleigh to the centre. Students came from St. George, Earltown, Eaton, Dowling Lake, Chain Lakes, Annesheim and Rocky Hill.

A piano was purchased for the school with money received mainly from raffles, box socials and dances. Mrs. Cook also gave piano lessons for twenty-five cents a lesson, and she donated these proceeds to the piano fund.

Classes increased in the little "Gresch School" during the terms of 1937-40, until lack of space became intolerable. In the fall of 1940, the Silver Valley school, which had been unused for a number of years, was moved to the present location on the hill at Watts. Children were then picked up by school vans.

In 1941, the old Martin Dahl house was moved to the school yard to be used as a teacherage. In 1945 St. George was moved to this yard to be used as a public school giving grades one to twelve being taught. By 1964 all grades were conveyed by bus to Hanna schools. St. George was moved to Youngstown after their school burned, and the teacherage was moved elsewhere. Silver Valley building remains as the Watts Community Centre. All that remains of the "Greech" house is a vivid memory of "Watts High".

To mention some of the teachers: M.D. Cook, Verda Lillie, W. Reichenbaugh, Armina Peterson, Kenneth Reeder, Marlene Shouldice, Marjorie Sugden, Beverly Bickle and Miss Ambury.

Due to progress of the country, population of Watts has depleted greatly. The only citizens are Mrs. Boyd, the William Lafferty family and Tom Chee Choo.

WATTS COMMUNITY IN THE 1930'S

By Tom Payne

Before beginning the writing of this article on the Watts community, I've had to analyze the conditions leading to the formation of an active community. I believe there must be sufficient people, with a large percentage of them adults. Secondly, there must be a common desire to find an outlet for self expression; and thirdly, there must be a nucleus of interested elders to start the organizing. With modern cars, and T.V.s, I feel the great cycles of community life have come to an end, except in more isolated areas, but fifty years ago recreation and entertainment was a local product.

Clear Lake was a popular centre for summer recreation in the 1920's until the dry years turned the water alkaline. There was good swimming, and many good ball games were played there, by ball players like Lou and Cyril Doyle, Hicks Cole, Ed Burrows and Harold and Dan Lund, to name just a few. People came there from miles around.

The end of the Clear Lake era left a void, and as Watts had a lot of young people in the vicinity, a community spirit began to form. Roy Embree had a small dance band for some years, which livened up the winter entertainment in the country schools. Now soft ball games were started, and the nucleus seemed to centre around the elevator men, Sandy Orr, Hank Gorr, Allan Murray and Roland Griffin, all ex-ball players. We played just south of the tracks, on Jim Boyd's land, and every Sunday, weather permitting, saw many cars converge on the area. Usually enough people turned up for two teams plus spectators. We played mainly for fun; didn't enter any tournaments but did play Hanna and Silver Valley.

Remembering the names of people involved in the Watts community in the years of the thirties gives me a feeling of nostalgia. McCandless, McCuish, McCreight, Gorr, Miller, Hutton, Chee Choo, Leach, Johnston, Nixon, McAuliff, Abbott, Embree, Lund, Griffin, Orr, Moulding, Phibbs, Hoffman, Dahl, Scott, Stevenson, Nyhem, Flatt, Payne and many more.

We did try to start a hard ball team one time, and collected seventy-five cents for a bat. Hank Gorr had a ball, and a few gloves were collected here and there. Our first game was with Georgetown school and during the first inning, Carl Johnston broke our one and only bat. That was the end. We couldn't afford another.

The community also became more active during the winters, and some good plays were put on in the local schools. These, with the house parties, made our community second to none.

Hockey became quite popular also, although ice was always a problem, and it

seemed that the only time we had good ice was after a spring thaw. So as a hockey team, we were never a threat to the Maple Leafs. Hand Hills could always beat us, and so could Craigmyle. We just didn't get enough practice.

Alas, young people and families began to move away, and the cycle began to change, so by the end of the thirties only a few were left to carry on.

MR. and MRS. J. L. BOYD, *By Mrs. Alberta Boyd* — In 1906 Jim helped with the roundup of the buffalo, near Chicago, where he resided at that time. He was included in the group of men that drove the buffalo to Canada. Upon arriving here and looking the country over, he decided that he would like to remain here. In the spring of 1908 he went to the land office in Calgary. While checking the map over he presumed a railroad would go near this special property south-half 31-17-16 which he chose to file a homestead on. After arriving in this barren country he had many ups and downs. It took several days to go to Castor, which was the closest trading centre in those years, to bring home supplies. He spent a lot of time breaking horses for the neighbours. He worked on the rail grade near Drumheller. He purchased a well machine and for years drilled many water wells in the country. Jim also took his turn at roundups for stampedes in his early years.

I came from Oxford, England with a good friend, Mabel McCuish. I remained in Calgary and did housework for the Bruce Robinson family. After a time, I went to spend my holidays with Mabel. I had written a letter so asked if anyone was going to the post office. Mable said that Jim would likely be going, as he was at the McCuishes breaking horses. Jim asked me to go along for the ride. I was not familiar with horses then. It seemed to me that the horse was going too fast. I was so frightened that I fell off and broke my leg.

Cupid seemed to hit us both at first sight. Jim being concerned, came to Calgary to see me. We were married at the Robinson home in December 1916. Jim was called to the army, and saw services overseas. He suffered shell shock and was almost gassed. On his return from services, he picked me up, as I was still with the same people, and we came out here to start housekeeping. I became a lover of animals and had a beautiful horse that I used for my transportation.

We were blessed with two children, who got their education at St. George, Watts and Hanna High Schools. Our daughter, Alberta, furthered her education and became a Registered Nurse. For the love of her profession, she continued working at Trail Hospital, B.C., after her marriage to Winston Hellman. On her way to work on a frosty, foggy night, she met with a tragic auto accident, that left her husband with six small children: Boyd, Jay, Keith, Judy, Jim and Bruce. Our son, Larry and wife Yvonne have two children, Shawn and Lorna. They are in the Kenmac Automotive and Industrial Parts business at Gibson, B.C.

Jim had a lengthy chore as secretary for Watts Mutual Telephone Co. and St. George School district. He was also a member of Alberta Wheat Pool, Imperial Oil of Canada Ltd., as well as the Hanna Legion.

In 1945 we purchased the Watts store and post office from the Nick Lunds. Jim met the train daily at 1:10 A.M. to collect and dispose of the mail. We operated this business for twenty-five years, and Jim continued his farming. In 1970 we closed out the store when postal services were centralized to Hanna. We then sold the farm to Gus Armes, and decided to enjoy our later years. We still made Watts our home.

We loved to travel in our own car, we covered many miles through the States and Alaska. We drove out several times a year to visit our son Larry and family, also many friends along the way, until illness overcame Jim in 1971. He passed away in March 1973.

I raised turkeys all my farm life, and many folks enjoyed them on their Christmas menu.

I enjoy good health at age ninety-two. I still reside at Watts, and do my housekeeping and entertaining. I enjoy sports and rarely miss any, on my colored television. I raise a garden in the summer and with my plants and cats in the winter, I keep my time filled.

My nephew, Frank Grover, makes his home with me, when he is off duty from his work with an oil company.

SPENCER BURNS FAMILY, *By R. M. (Bob) Burns* — Our Dad, Herbert Spencer Burns was born at Greenbank, Ontario and moved west with his parents and seven brothers in 1901. They first settled in the Didsbury area and later our Dad moved with his parents and some of his brothers to the Hanna area. I believe the district was called Maunders.

Our Mother was born in Sheridan, Montana. She and her parents came to Alberta a short time later and in 1917 they moved from the Lone Butte area to a farm on Wolfe Creek about three and a half miles north of Watts. She lived with her parents Newton and Addie Hartt until her marriage to our Father. Mother and Dad took up farming on a quarter section of land about a half mile north of the creek. My brother Bill and myself were born during the time that our parents lived on this farm, and our sister Marianne came along later, during the time that we lived in Watts.

My earliest recollection of this area, probably about 1932, concerned a terrible dust storm that blackened the sky; Dad was away and Mother was visiting her parents just across the road, and my brother Bill and I had to stay in the house by ourselves as Mother couldn't make it home because the storm was so bad. We were two frightened kids by the time Mother did get home.

We lived on the farm until 1935 when Dad got the job as elevator agent for the Alberta Pacific Grain at Watts, and that summer we moved into a rented house there. In 1937 they transferred Dad to Jenner, Alberta and in 1938 we moved back to Watts at which time Dad took over as agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool. At this time he again started to farm our land north of Watts. This particular venture suffered quite a set back when all the horses Dad had bought died from some disease. Dad was then forced into buying a tractor which turned out to be a far better investment than the horses. By 1939 both of my grandparents (the Hartts) had passed away, and we took over their half section of land.

In later years it became the social event of the week to drive into Hanna on a Saturday afternoon or evening. Much visiting was done by the older folks while the young folks thought up ways to make the older folks older, however Joe Winkler, our town police, never bothered with us so I guess we weren't too bad.

We farmed and Dad ran the elevator until 1945 when dad sold out and moved to Carstairs where he took over the Cockshutt agency for a period of one year, and in 1946 we bought a farm at Delia. Dad kept this farm until 1947 when I left home, he then sold out and moved to Didsbury. About 1952 or 1953 Dad and Mother moved to Vulcan where dad was field Supervisor for the County until his death in 1960.

Mother is living in Lethbridge, as well as our sister Marianne and her family. My brother Bill and his family live at the coast, while my wife and I live in Calgary.

THE CHEE CHOO FAMILY, *By Tom Chee Choo* — My father Lo Chee Choo, and my mother Mary and four children, Tom, Mary L. (Lily), Eva and Roy came from Calgary to Stettler in 1911, where we lived for a while, then we moved to Castor where father operated a restaurant. In 1913 through a friend of his, Mr. Waring, who homesteaded northwest 9-31-15, he heard of land in this area, so dad homesteaded in the south half 20-31-15 and the family moved here from Castor in September 1913. There were two children born here later, Irene and Albert.

I remember how we children had to carry our drinking water from a spring one mile down the creek, in ten-pound syrup pails, for the first two years. We used slough water for washing, then dad bought a cow which we trained to pull a barrel of water on a stoneboat.

I recall a prairie fire that started in the north near Endiang and swept south to the railroad grade at Watts. This new grade stopped the fire from spreading any further.

Another incident I recall, was when the Home Elevator was under construction. They hired me to use my saddle horse to pull lumber by ropes up to the scaffold.

We children all attended St. George School. The rest of the family all left the area. I still live on the home place; Albert lives at Sooke, B.C.; Irene Beauregard resides in Toronto, Ontario; Lily Bassaco lives in California; and Eva Locke is in Seattle.

Mother lived with me until her passing in 1964 at the age of sixty-seven.

ROY CHEE CHOO, By Bertha Chee Choo — In 1913, Roy came from Castor with his parents, Lo and Mary Chee Choo, brother Tom and sisters Lily and Eva to the homestead at Watts. He attended St. George School. Roy worked at home on the farm. He also worked at the Hemstock mine, and the Sheerness and Drumheller coal mines.

In 1940, Roy married Mrs. Bertha Erickson. They lived at Watts, where her son Gerald attended school for a while.

In December 1942, Roy enlisted in the army and after basic training was sent to work at the mines at Morinville, as there was a shortage of reliable help. The Government granted leave to those experienced men to work in the mine. In 1945, Roy got his discharge from the army. We lived at Edmonton and Trochu. We were planning to open a radiator shop in Three Hills, but were called home due to the illness of mother. The next three years we spent on the farm. We raised a bountiful garden and Roy worked with his brother on the farm.

In 1949, we moved into Hanna where Roy operated a Radiator Shop until his sudden passing in June, 1964. I still raise a large garden in my yard and enjoy doing handicraft.

We have four children: Gerald lives at Alabama U.S.A.; Mrs. Pat Griemer of Blackfalds has three children; Mrs. Joan Erm of Hanna has two boys and Douglas, an ardent hockey player in his school days is now employed in Oilfield work at Swan Hills.

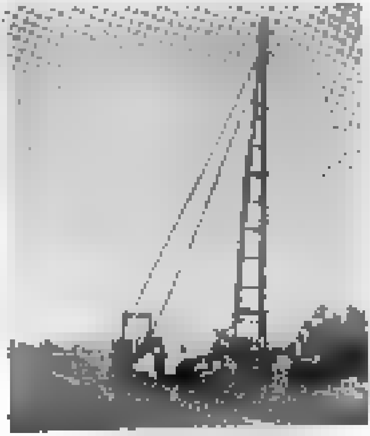
ROY EMBREE, as told by Roy Embree — I was born in the state of Washington in 1895. The family came to Castor in 1907. Then in July 1913, I filed on a homestead, north-west quarter 20-31-16, and batched with brother Mark. I did mechanical and repair work for Louis Payne and Ed Parker. I worked for S. Halbrook in 1915 on his threshing outfit, until harvesting was finished here, then went to Suffield to complete the year at the same type of work. I operated a threshing machine for George Banner from 1922-24. My experience with threshing machines also took me to Vermilion.

My musical talent started to show at age seven and a half years. I seemed to have a unique ability to repair and restore anything, especially violins and guitars.

During a festive season in my bachelor days, I was riding horseback to play for a dance when I developed a sore throat, but my enthusiasm kept me going for three nights. I finally arrived home dreadfully ill. Mark called Dr. Mason, and his diagnosis was smallpox, and ordered quarantine for six weeks. Before the year ended I contracted mumps, measles and pleurisy.

In 1926 I built a house and small garage at Watts, where I did mechanical work for the neighbours. I went to Summerland B.C. to visit my brother and met Jean Duplet. We were married in 1928. We had four children. Dona Bolt lives in Saskatoon and has two girls and one boy. Ruby Tunke of Peace River has two boys and a girl. Yvonne Fawcett resides in Calgary and has three boys. Leslie, a son, died in infancy.

Roy and Jean Embree



Roy Embree's well machine

I purchased a Rock tool machine and later a Rotary for drilling water wells, some of which are still pumping today. We moved into Hanna 1938. I continued with this business, but had gotten pipe fitting tools with the outfit, so I decided to take a swing at plumbing, and sold the well outfit. In 1941 wages for plumbing were fifty-five cents an hour. In 1943, I travelled back and forth to Castor to work with brother Tom, making munitions (airplane parts) for ninety cents an hour. I continued my plumbing business and became interested in giving of my time to repair and restore antiques at the Hanna Museum.

I attended the first stampede at Jack Miller Ranch in 1917, and many others including the Diamond Jubilee of the famous Hand Hills Stampede in 1976. For many years my orchestra played for the stampede dance.

My love for music caused many hardships getting to and from dances. We had to go many miles in all types of weather and road conditions. Transportation was by sleigh, horseback, buggy, walking and in later years by car. I recall leaving home in mid afternoon, early in spring, to play for a dance at Hand Hills Club House, twenty miles from home. Just after midnight a blizzard blew in, and the president ordered no one to leave, and bargained with us to continue playing. We entertained the folks until six in the morning, then shared a bit of lunch that was left from midnight, and tried to rest in corners and on benches. A few hours later, the storm subsided a bit, and we started out on our long cold journey home. The horses had eaten all the hay out of the box, and all that remained to sit on was a few Russian thistles. The horses found it hard to cope with the cold wind at thirty-seven degrees below zero. On our arrival home, we realized that we had been away for twenty-four hours. Our hours of playing in the early days warranted seventy-five cents to one dollar and a half each plus lunch, for an evening's entertainment. In the early thirties my orchestra included Fred Edwards, Tom Payne, George Abbott, Jack Leach and others.

I recall playing for dances and parties at Wiese, Eston, Annesheim, Garden Plains, Chain Lakes, Hand Hills and Craigmyle to mention a few. As the years passed, we were blessed with a few more dollars for the folks' fun.

In two of the later years we played for two hundred and fifty-five dances, from Delia to Youngstown, Cessford to Garden Plain, including Saturday night dances in Hanna.

I suffered a stroke in June 1975. After a couple of months hospitalization, I was allowed to come home in my wife's care. We still enjoy the dignity of living in our home, and enjoy visits from relatives and friends.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

By Tom Payne, as told by Roy Embree

This little vignette of youth took place about sixty years ago, around 1917-18. The stage was set when Jack Sutherland, a young bachelor farmer, who lived south-east of Watts, bought a spanking new high-topped buggy, a thing of beauty. The first act of the drama began when he went over, one Sunday, to the home of Mrs. Annie Johnston, one mile west, to visit her attractive daughter. James, the son of Mrs. Johnston, persuaded Jack to let him try out his new buggy, and then drove north-east of Watts, to the home of Mark Embree.

Visiting there that day were Joe and Tom Robinson and Roy Embree. Whose mind first dreamed up the devilish scheme doesn't matter now, but all were accessories to the fact. They removed the pole and tied a rope to each side of the front axle. Two boys stood in front, each with one of the ropes, and two stood behind. They were cautious to start with and coasted several times down a small hill east of the house without a mishap. All was well. They looked around for more thrills, and more fields to conquer, and found what they were looking for on a large hill on the main road three-quarters of a mile north of Watts. I believe Jim Johnston and Tom Robinson were the steering committee, while Roy and Joe stood on behind. All started fine, and they began their adventure. As they picked up speed, though, it became increasingly harder to steer, they began to drift over to Tom's side, so Jim said, "Ease up on your rope a bit." Tom eased up, and Jim pulled over to his side too much. Tragedy struck, and they overturned into the ditch. The boys were not hurt, but oh, that beautiful buggy; the top was completely demolished.

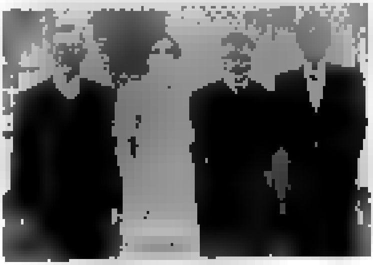
A chastened group of boys hauled the buggy back to Mark's, and surveyed the situation. The outcome was that they spent the rest of the day repairing the top, and did such a perfect job that Jack Sutherland never knew it had happened.

Mark Embree had a well near his house, equipped with a windlass to haul up the water. It may have been the same group of young adventurers who removed the pail, and hung in its place a length of railroad iron, six or eight feet long. The boys took turns striking the iron with a large sledge hammer. It made a lovely gong that could be heard for miles around. Unfortunately the rope finally rebelled, and let the iron fall to the bottom of the well. They found another piece of iron to tie to the rope, but in the process of striking it, accidently dropped the hammer into the well, where they both lie to this day. Mark was not at home that day, and what he remarked when he found out is not on record.

WELL CHARGED

As told by Roy Embree

In 1926 or 27 one of the local lads was Simon Goetz. Roy recalls he sported a large felt hat with a floppy brim, torn across in one spot. One day he visited Roy at Watts, and Roy gave him some radio wire to mend his hat. He wove the wire around the brim, and also mended the tear. Sometime later he was busy working in the field when a storm came up. This super hat attracted a charge of electricity and gave Simon a terrific jolt. He tore off the hat and threw it to the ground, but I can well imagine Simon had the first Afro hair style in Alberta.



Jack, Laura, Clifford, Roy

LAURA and CLIFFORD PHIBBS, *by Jack and Roy Phibbs* — Clifford Stacey Phibbs was born of Irish ancestry at Hagersville, Ontario, March twenty-first 1872, a happy event on the first day of spring anywhere. He was raised on a farm and was the youngest of a family of eight. In his youth he apprenticed with a local blacksmith for seven years, becoming a master blacksmith. He immigrated to the United States in 1894 and became an American citizen in the County of Polk, Minnesota, in 1896. For several years he blacksmithed in the woods and in various mines, and also homesteaded and worked westward. In season he followed large steam threshing machines, one of which gave the crew an oyster supper anytime they threshed five thousand bushels in a day.

By 1909 the desire to homestead in Alberta brought him back to Canada. From Stettler he came down into the area, which later became known as the Watts district, where he filed on the northwest quarter 18-31-15. In the spring of 1910 he left Bear Creek, Montana for Calgary and on April the fifth bought four "broncs", a wagon and box, some farm equipment, and a blacksmith outfit and trekked eastward to the homestead site. He maintained that by the end of the first day out of Calgary the "broncs" were well broken. At that time Stettler was the main business centre and from there his building supplies were hauled.

By 1913, his homestead being proved up and pre-emption paid for, he became a British subject again, by way of a Certificate of Readmission to British Nationality, his address being registered as Obelisk. Besides breaking up his land he raised horses and chickens, and had a local blacksmithing business. He often spoke of helping Andy McKay in his shop in Hanna during the slack times and to get there he would walk seven miles in and seven miles home each day.

The railroad survey came through in 1912, and some of the survey work was done in the winter. Harry Shoultz was the contractor and Dad was hired to haul the survey gang around in his bob sleigh.

Having become interested in breeding horses, in the fall of 1915 he went to Edmonton in search of stock. It happened that he stayed at a boarding house where a young school ma'am was staying and so a romance began. It is unclear whether the original purpose of the trip was carried out.

The young lady in question was Miss Laura Evans, who was born in Chicago U.S.A., on October the ninth 1883, of Scotch and Welsh parents. By the age of ten she and her sister and brother were orphaned and they moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where they were raised by relatives. By 1902 she had acquired her grade eleven diploma and a third class teacher's certificate in Nova Scotia. This started her on a career of teaching and upgrading her own education. By 1908 she had grade twelve and also a first class teacher's license in Nova Scotia. She was also interested in painting and horticulture, both of which she studied in Chicago and Guelph, Ontario. By 1914 she had succumbed to the call of the West and went to Edmonton where she taught under the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Carpenter, who later became Dr. Carpenter, principal of the Technical School in Calgary.

The year of 1916 must have been quite momentous for Mother and Dad as they were married in Calgary in August and spent their honeymoon in Banff. Incidently Mother often mentioned that Dad carried a few heads of wheat in his pocket which he examined periodically. You guessed it, the morning of August the fourteenth there had been a severe frost.

In the spring of 1917 Mother and Dad were expecting a blessed event so the building of a new house was undertaken with Andy Murdoch as carpenter. In spite of everything it wasn't finished before the stork arrived and John Clifford was born in the homestead shack, which has since gone through the process of being a chicken house, granary and a garage. Dr. Mason arrived in a buggy for the event and Mrs. Henry Wallis, a neighbour lady, was midwife.

At this time, namely late teens and early twenties, Dad and Mother with the vision of raising a family and helping to establish a viable community, built a new barn in 1918, bought a new Chevrolet Baby Grand car in 1919, had a thirty-two volt electric light plant installed in 1920 and the telephone installed in 1921. During the same period of time the northwest quarter 9-31-15 was acquired from W. Waring and the southwest quarter 21-31-15 was acquired from Clarke Renn.

The municipality was so short of money that teachers could not be paid and so some schools were closed. In the winter and spring of 1923 Mother taught the local school, St. George, her wages, whatever they were, to be paid later.

At approximately this time, Dad put in his time as councillor in the Dowling Lake Municipality.

February first, 1926, Roy Stacey was born in the General Hospital in Calgary. We had moved to Calgary for three months. Jack went to Bankview Cottage School, just off seventeenth avenue southwest. Dad couldn't sit around all winter so he took a course in farm mechanics at the Institute of Technology and Art. He maintained that he was the oldest student in the school. Mark Embree, a bachelor neighbour, looked after the farm. We all arrived home by train in early April, in the middle of the night. Mark had the bob sleigh to drive us home and it was very cold with a lot of snow. In the excitement Mother's bowl of goldfish was left on the station platform and that was the end of the bowl of fish, for even though Mark went right back, they were frozen.

In the early years the families were not nearly as self-sufficient as they are today. Machinery was not plentiful, and help was scarce so each family helped each other with whatever manpower and machinery was available. This was especially true in haying and threshing times when extra hands were necessary. Dad's closest neighbours were Tom Edwards, Horace Payne, Mark Embree and Jack Sumerland. They pooled their resources each year as circumstances dictated.

Another community effort, especially during the thirties, was roadwork. Each farmer would take a four horse team and move dirt with a fresno at some point on his local road where repairs were necessary. Someone would be foreman and supervise the job. In July or August when the work was usually done, it would be hot and dusty and man and beast would enjoy a rest now and then, the length of set depending largely on the mood of the foreman. One foreman was said to have admonished his crew with this observation, "I don't care how slow you move, but keep moving." The money that was earned from the work was applied towards paying the taxes of the crew members. Sometimes someone would have ice left from last winter's ice harvest, and this would be used to keep the drinking water cool.

By 1937 the depression was about at its peak and so money was very scarce. A great many schools were closed or didn't have facilities for high school. Through the years Mother and Dad remained staunch promoters of education, especially further education for those rural young people whose one room schools were limited to grades one to nine.

These two sons Jack and Roy grew up on the farm. We got our public school education at home by correspondence and at St. George. Jack got his high school at Mount Royal College in Calgary, then went to Provincial Institute of Technology and Art and graduated with a diploma in Industrial Electricity in 1938. Jobs were scarce. Dad had an attack of pleurisy just as spring work was beginning so Jack settled into the routine of the farm. In the spring of 1940 we bought the north half 21-31-15, from Mark Embree and the die was cast for a life on the farm for Jack. The winters seemed longer and tougher then, partly because the municipality and government did not have equipment to keep the roads open. One winter we built a small plough on the tractor and at one time even had to use it on number nine highway to get the neighbours and ourselves to Hanna for supplies.

In December of 1949 Jack married Isabel Forbes, who worked in the Special Areas Office in Hanna. Jack and Isabel built a house in the same yard with Mother and Dad's house.

Isabel and Jack have been involved with the Earltown Local F.U.A., Jack as past president, Isabel catering with the ladies. With the First United Church of Hanna, Jack took a turn as chairman of board of stewards, Isabel, president of U.C.W. In the days of the mutual telephone company Jack was troubleshooter for the Watts Mutual Telephone Company. He is an advisory committee man with local U.F.A. Co-op Limited; farm supply and bulk fuel, also committee man with the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Jack, believing that clean pure seed is very important in a farming community, became involved in the formation of the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant in Delia. He is a charter member of the plant and also a charter member of the board of directors representing the Special Areas shareholders. The Plant cleaned in excess of four hundred thousand bushels of grain in 1978.

Jack and Isabel have two sons, Robert John and William Stacey. Bob got his education in Watts and Hanna, then went to Olds and took a farm mechanics course. This led to various jobs with farm machinery dealerships and eventually a permanent job with the city of Calgary as a mechanic. He married Lorna Groves, who also works for the city. Bill went to Watts, Hanna and Drumheller for his education and farms with his dad and when time permits he has worked with Dinsmoors, moving buildings. He has spent some time on the pipeline.

Roy graduated from Watts High School in 1943 and having developed a trace of his parent's early desire to see new places, spent the next three years working in Drumheller, Hanna and Calgary during the summer and attending Business College during the winters. After working in a service station at Olds, a yen for general stores led Roy to employment in Halkirk. Roy and Marian Lewis were married in 1950 and operated a store, post office and telephone exchange in Endiang. In 1958, they settled in Castor, to be associated with Gulf Oil for fourteen years and then with Alberta Power project at Battle River. Marian worked with Roy

in the business ventures and later worked with an accountant in Stettler. They have three children; Gerald, Gwen and Doug. Gerald graduated from Stettler High School. He had various jobs to finance a world tour and is now a gas plant operator. Gwen married Terry Stenberg and moved to Olds, where she is a cashier in a drug store. Doug is attending Junior High in Stettler.

Dad used to enjoy taking his twenty-two rifle and his old dog out to the fields to check on the cattle and the crops and to raise cain with the gopher population. Later, when his health wouldn't allow him to walk so far, someone would take him around in the truck or car. These little pleasures came to an end when he passed away in April, 1952.

Mother continued to live alone in her house, corresponding with pen pals the world over, reading, playing cards, watching television, tending her garden and house plants. Her health stayed reasonably good until December, 1964, when she passed away after a short illness.

Our parents gave us a good start by being good citizens; we are trying to carry on in the same tradition.

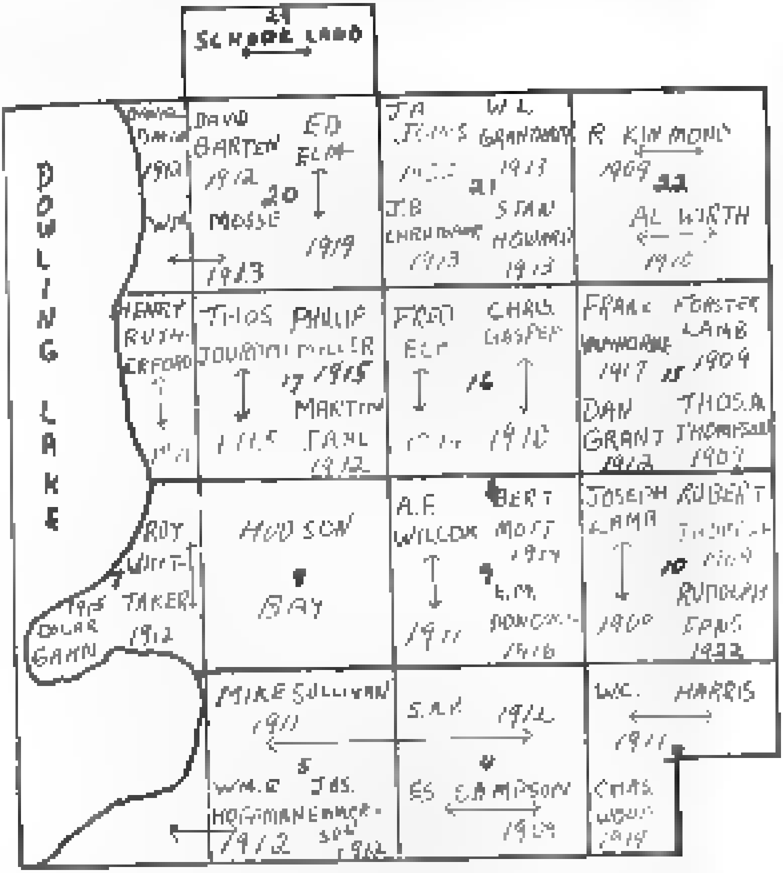
MR. AND MRS. HENRY WILLIE — Henry Willie was a trolley operator in Germany, prior to coming out to the Watts district to file on a homestead; north-west quarter 17-31-15. He was the quiet type, but always enjoyed a game of five-hundred, when friends dropped in.

Mrs. Willie with a kind heart, was always ready to give of her services as a midwife in the arrival of little newcomers, or other illness in the early 1900's.

They had one son, Fred. They retired to Hanna in the early forties.

2nd Avenue, Hanna, Alberta, 1930.

ANTELOPE HILL S. D. No. 3266



ANTELOPE HILL DISTRICT, OWNERS AND RENTERS
TOWNSHIP 35-14-W4

N½ 10
J. Lamb
F. Lamb
L. Sloane
H. Forbes

N.E. 10
R. E. Thompson
C. White
A. Faulkner
H. Guest
R. Clayfield
R. Fano
H. Fortna

S.E. 10
R. Fano
Fortna

N½ 6
MacKenzie

S.E. 6
Wm. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

N½ 5
M. Sullivan
M. Dahl
J. Gartner
G. Schmidt

S.W. 5
W. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

S.E. 5
Jas. Emmerson
MacKenzie

N½ 4
Mike Sullivan
G. Schmidt

S.W. 4
E. S. Sampson
O. Schmidt

S.E. 4
E. S. Sampson
F. Lane
F. Kraft
J. Gartner
T. A. Sampson

N½ 3
W. C. Harris
Frank Harris
Ronald Fano
J. P. Fortna

S.W. 3
Chas. Wood
T. Myles

J. P. Forus

N.E. 19
Daniel Barton
Louis Grantham

S.E. 19
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
Louis Grantham

S½ 29
School Land
A. Fecho

N.W. 20
Daniel Barton
K. Salse
S. Bruner
Louis Grantham

S.W. 20
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
L. Grantham

N.E. 20
Ed Elm
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S. E. 20
Ed Elm
L. Doyle
A. Fecho

N.W. 21
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S.W. 21
J. B. Christopher
A. Mix

N.E. 21
W. L. Grantham
H. Weiss
A. Fecho

S.E. 21
Shea Howard
Chris Gasper
D. Mix
A. Mix

N½ 22
R. Kinnond
G. Greenfield
G. Schmidt

S½ 22
Al Wirth
J. McClosky
A. Mix

E½ 18
H. Rutherford
Pearl and Stan Vista

W½ 17
Thos. Jourdan
Pearl and Stan Vista

N.E. 17
Philip Miller
Ed Elm

Lord Kennedy
G. Schmidt

S.E. 17
Martin Dahl
J. Gartner
G. Schmidt

N.W. 16
Fred Elm
Thos. Ross
C. Gasper
A. Mix

S.W. 16
Fred Elm
Louisa Ross
A. Mix

E½ 16
Chris Gasper
D. Temple
F. Werner
D. Mix
A. Mix

N.W. 15
Frank Vanhorne
Al Wirth
A. Mix

N.E. 15
Fortier Lamb
R. Clayfield
Al Wirth
A. Mix

S.W. 15
Dan Great

J. Hamilton
Ed Wilde
Art Swin
B. Smart
F. Vanhorne
Fortne

S.E. 15
T. Thompson
Fortne

S.W. 7
Oscar Sahn
Wm. MacKenzie
P. H. Bay

E½ 7
R. E. Whitaker
D. Ranke
MacKenzie

W½ 9
A. F. Wilson
M. Dahl
M. Kennedy
F. Schmidt
D. Schmidt Sr.
D. Schmidt

N.E. 9
Carl Mead
G. Schmidt

S.E. 9
E. M. Donough
G. Schmidt

ANTELOPE HILL SCHOOL

By Mae Fortne

Antelope Hill School

Excerpts from a Hanna Herald of 1914 state, "The Antelope Hill S. D. was organized in the summer of 1914. It was situated in the south-west portion of township 32, range 14. From all reports the school should be built and operating by the spring of 1916." A school site was approved December 31, 1915, to be located thirty-two rods east of the south-west corner of section 16, township 32, range 14, W4. E.G. Sampson and Al Wirth were elected trustees of the Antelope Hill school.

Another excerpt from the Hanna Herald states, "July 20, 1918: At last the Antelope Hill school has been opened. This school has been the bone of contention between opposing factions for the last four years."

There are no records prior to 1920 available to show what attendance the school had, or who the teachers were. It was said that the school was opened for three students.

The teacher for the months of August and September in 1920 was D.M.

Thompson, followed by Mrs. A. Thompson, thought to be the wife of the T. Thompson who lived on the south-east of 16 at that time. There were six pupils for that term.

In those days, the school term ran from mid-July or August until the end of November, and the new term began in March. It seemed that there was a holiday break for the first two weeks in July. The school fair was held in mid-August.

There was occasionally an incident where the Department of Education questioned the teacher about the absenteeism of some of the students. Children were required to attend school from the age of six to fifteen, but it seemed that as they reached the age where they could be useful elsewhere, they did not attend school regularly.

Attendance records show from six to nineteen pupils, quite often about four or five to a family, and seldom more than four or five families representing the area. The peak attendance was reached in the late twenties and early thirties when ten grades were taught to about nineteen pupils. With the depression and drought, several of the larger families left the area in 1934. Attendance gradually dropped off until there were only four pupils left in 1938, at which time it had opened to operate only two weeks, and then closed permanently.

The original site of the school was on a hill overlooking Dowling Lake. It operated at this site for about ten years, and then it was moved down to a valley about half a mile away, on the north-east of section 9. It was about this time that the school term was changed to include winter months in the school year. In the late thirties, another school was brought in to replace the old one, but it was not used for a season before the school closed permanently.

The old school became a granary on the Al Wirth farm, and the new one was moved to Scapa.

Names of school inspectors who visited the school were Dobson, Haverstock, and Thurber.

Teachers were D.M. Thompson, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. E.J. Lane, Miss Violet Holmes, Miss Eva Jagoe, Miss Eva Hart, Miss Marion Chamberlain, William Hendrickson, Miss Agnes King, Miss Norma Mayhew, Harold Ruskin, Miss E. Forbes, Miss Ernestine Stewart, and Miss Doris Amber.

JOSEPH LAMB and FORSTER LAMB, By Joe Scott — In 1909 Joseph Lamb came to Canada to take up a homestead. Accompanying him were his son Archie and his daughter Margaret Scott and her two children, Alice and Joe. They were met in Edmonton by Forster, who had already been in Canada for two years. Forster had been living in Edmonton where he had worked for a dairy and later drove a taxi, with horses and carriage. Forster went with them to the farm. They travelled by rail to Stettler, then by ox team to the homestead, in the company of the Lewis family who had settled in the Garden Plain district.

The homestead was the west half of 10-32-14, about five miles north of where Hanna now stands. The first dwelling was a 9' x 12' wooden frame with a tent for a roof. In the following weeks they built a four-roomed house and a barn. The only water was from a nearby slough, and what they hauled from some of the neighbors for cooking and drinking. They managed this way for nearly two years; during that time a well had been drilled down to about eighty feet without getting water, so they gave it up. Finally they found a patch of 'joint grass'. They dug for water near there and got a plentiful supply at only ten feet.

About this time, another daughter and her husband, Dan Grant, homesteaded just north of the Lamb's. They didn't stay there very long, but moved

back to the States, and at the age of ninety-five she still lives in Coventry, Connecticut.

Archie stayed only a short time and left for Lethbridge to ply his trade as a blacksmith; Margaret and her children moved to her husband's homestead in the Wass area. Joseph Lamb and Forster continued to live on the land. Forster had filed on land near there, the NE of 15-32-14 and the NW of 14-32-14, but in 1916 he traded his homestead to W.O. Stevenson of Richdale for a team of horses, and continued to work with his aging father. Joseph Lamb passed away in 1922.

Forster stayed on and worked his father's land. Later his niece, Alice Scott, kept house for him for several years until she married George Gwin. They moved to Cheadle for a short time, then back to Hanna where they still reside.

In the early days, 1911-12, he and his brother-in-law, Dan Grant, hauled lumber and other building supplies from Castor to Hanna. They took in one of the first loads of bricks.

Forster Lamb with a load of coal in 1920's.

Forster was meticulous about his work. On the farm he made a thorough job of picking stones off the cultivated land. He never used a tractor, nor had engines or motors of any kind on the farm. He kept accounts of his sales of butter, eggs and chickens, and of expenses. He sometimes kept a journal of daily activities. One such entry reads: Hanna Fair, August 14, 1918, two first and one second and a special in grade beef classes, and a first for bachelor's loaf.

Forster was active in community affairs, taking a great interest in fairs, picnics, etc. He was on the Antelope Hill school board for most of the time from when the school was built until it closed in 1938.

In April, 1945, he rented out the farm and moved to Tofield where he made his home with his sister Sarah, Mrs. James Murray, for a number of years, helping with the farm work. When he came back to Hanna he sold the farm to Harold Foring, and later moved to the Acadia Lodge.

Forster had a busy life in retirement. He enjoyed visiting his friends, attended church services, did a lot of reading, and wrote letters to friends and relatives. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneers, and the Historical Society. He also liked to work at the Museum. He was still interested in the cattle sales and attended them whenever he could. He liked to go to the Curling rink and watch the games.

Forster passed away in the Hanna hospital on May 18, 1972, at the age of eighty-six years.

THOMAS A. THOMPSON, *By Mae Forbes* — Thomas A. Thompson was a big man and is fondly remembered by the name Fatty Thompson. The Thompsons came here in 1909. The father homesteaded the SE 15-32-14; the son, Robert, homesteaded across the road from his dad, on the NE 10-32-14. There was a fairly large family, Kate, Ruby, Veva, Doris, Robert and Ferdy.

Fatty Thompson had a steam outfit and did breaking for some of the neighbors. It is not known how long the family stayed here, but Fatty Thompson died in the C.N.R. pumphouse fire in Hanna on January 20, 1916. The family remained in the area until about 1920 as the names of both Mrs. A. Thompson and D. W. Thompson appear as teachers in the Antelope Hills school register.

Kate Thompson taught school in Hanna when the first school opened there. Later she married Chris White. They lived on the Bob Thompson homestead for a while and then moved to Red Deer.

There is no information available as to the whereabouts of any of the members of the family at this time.

CHRISTOPHER GASPER, *By Dorothy Gasper Ward* — Christopher Nicholas Gasper was born in Dancy, Wisconsin on October 31, 1882. He came to the Hanna-Dowling area in 1909 by riding the rails. In search of a homestead, he carefully read the survey stakes in the area of his chosen home, but after filing his claim, he discovered that he had transposed the numbers, and instead of filing on the flat land to the east which he wanted, he had filed on the rougher, hillier land. The homestead that he acquired in 1910 was the NE 16-32-14. He later acquired the SE of 16 as well. Stan Howard, his neighbor to the north, homesteaded in 1913, but not intending to stay, never put up any buildings, but lived with Chris Gasper while he proved up on his land. He sold it to Chris in 1916.

Chris Gasper

Chris built his house in 1914. In the early years, there was a syndicate composed of Gasper, Wirth, Weiss, and Young, which owned a threshing outfit. Even while Chris lived in Oregon, he always came back in the fall to run the threshing outfit.

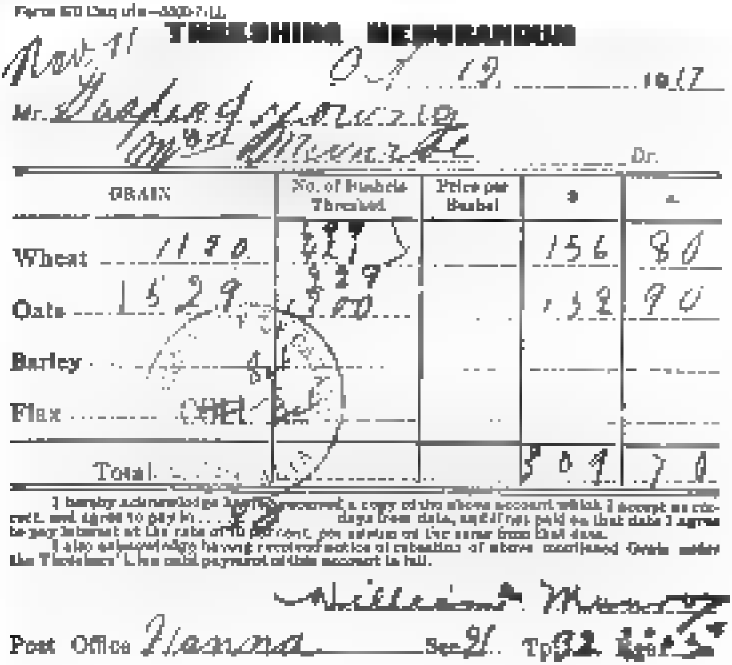
Nellie Gay was born in Kansas in 1897. She and her mother came to Canada in 1900, lived at Tees until 1903, returned to the States where they lived for the next ten years, and came back to the Dowling district in 1913.

Chris Gasper and Nellie Gay were married in Hanna in 1921. A daughter, Daisy, was born a year later. Chris rented the farm to Dave Temple and the family

spend most of their time for the next few years in Oregon. A second daughter, Dorothy, was born while they were there.

The Gaspers returned to the farm in 1932. The girls attended Antelope Hi school, where Miss Beth Forbes was the teacher in 1936, and Miss Ernestin Stewart was the teacher in 1937. Those teachers boarded at the Gasper farm. Ou classmates were Albert, Gottlob, Hugo and Freda Schmidt, and Martin Bess' son. In 1938, because Daisy was going into grade ten and high school grades were no available in the country, the family moved to town.

Chris Gasper, Nellie Gasper, and Daisy Bay Wirth, taken with the old International tractor used for harvesting in 1915-16.



Form 50 Chapple—5000-7-11

THRESHING MEMORANDUM

Nov. 11

Oct. 19 1917

Mr. [illegible]

[illegible] Dr.

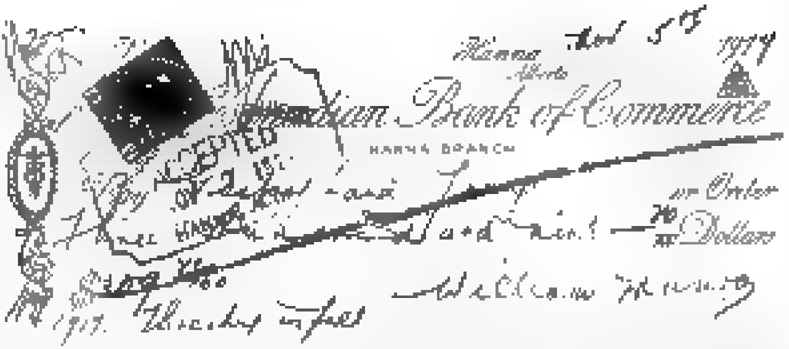
GRAIN		No. of Bushels Threshed	Price per Bushel	$	c.
Wheat	1190	227 329		156	80
Oats	1529	300		152	90
Barley					
Flax					
Total				309	70

I hereby acknowledge having received a copy of the above account which I accept as correct, and agree to pay in ....22 days from date, and if not paid on that date I agree to pay interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the same from that date.

I also acknowledge having received notice of retention of above mentioned Grain under the Thresher's Lien until payment of this account in full.

William [illegible]

Post Office Hanna Sec 21 Tp 32 Rge 5



Hanna Alberta 1917

Canadian Bank of Commerce

HANNA BRANCH

ACCEPTED

or Order

Dollars

William Murray

Chris continued to farm for a few more years, then rented the land and moved to town. In 1940 he was hired by the Town of Hanna as town engineer. He supervised the job of installing a waterworks system for the town. Chris was still working as town engineer when the water plant was completed in the fall of 1949. He worked by himself in the operation of the plant in 1950, then Joe Scott became his assistant.

Times were hard on the farm in the thirties and we welcomed the apples and whitefish shipped in from B.C. Piano lessons were paid for with cream and eggs, and we always had a big garden which we canned, pickled and preserved for the winter.

Chris Gasper died in Hanna on November 16, 1957, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery there. Daisy Gasper Cook died in Stettler in 1959 and Nellie Gasper died in Calgary in 1969. Both are buried in the Hanna cemetery.

Dorothy Gasper Ward lives with her family in Calgary.

Daisy and Al Wirth

ALBERT LUDWIG WIRTH, *By Mae Forbes* — Since information on Al Wirth is very limited, I have compiled this story from an obituary which appeared in the Hanna Herald in 1926.

Al Wirth was born in Wisconsin. Later he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he was employed by the Stone Piano Company for several years.

He came to Alberta in 1910, and settled seven miles north of Hanna in the Antelope Hills area. He homesteaded the south half of 22-32-14. He was a close neighbor and friend of the Block family; he arrived in Hanna with them and lived with them for a while. In 1912 he freighted many loads of lumber when the town of Hanna was being built.

About 1920, Al Wirth married Mrs. Daisy Guy. He passed away in the Hanna hospital on April 20, 1926.

MARTIN DAHL, *By Annie Miller Dahl* — Martin was born at Trondheim, Norway, on June 4, 1892, the youngest of five children. He arrived in Saskatchewan in time for the fall work, unable to speak English. He came to Hanna where

Doris, Mildred, Martin, Jim and Annie Dahl

he filed on a homestead seven miles north of Hanna and a half-mile east of Dowling Lake.

The town of Hanna had just come on the map, and being eager to go to work, he helped to build the Seymour Hotel and some of the other buildings that were being erected in Hanna. In the early days he worked at several other jobs as well as on the homestead. At one time he tended bar in the National Hotel.

On March 10, 1920, Martin and I were married. A few days later we had a blizzard which piled snow fifteen feet high. We were living on the Wilcox place at the time, where Schmidts live now.

In the spring of 1920, we built a house on Martin's homestead. That fall we moved into Hanna for the winter, and Martin went to work on the B & B gang. Our eldest daughter, Doris, was born.

In the spring we moved back onto our farm. We also rented the Mac Sullivan place, one mile south of us. Our own land was very rough and such a side hill that it was very difficult to farm it. During harvest time it was very hard for the bundle racks to pick up all of the bundles without upsetting. We later moved down to the Sullivan place but continued to farm our land also. There was only a small shack there so we built two more rooms on it.

Our second daughter, Mildred, was born in 1923, and our son Jim, in 1925. Times were not good but we had good neighbors. At the time Martin took me to the hospital to have my children, our bachelor neighbor, Henry Rutherford, stayed at our place with the children until he got back. Mr. Rutherford was a bachelor, but he taught me how to make bread! He harvested with us and was really a good neighbor.

For entertainment we had surprise card parties. We were surprised many times by our good friends. If it hadn't been for that, life would have been dull and lonesome. When a number of neighbors would come we would turn on the radio and dance to the oldtime tunes of W.W. Grant on CFCN. One time the batteries went dead on the radio, so Martin got out his fiddle and my brother George his mouth harp and we kept on dancing. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

One night a few men came over to play a card game called 'King Pedro'. They were so interested in the game that they pushed the lamp onto the floor. Luckily it didn't break as it was the only one we had.

There was a lot of 'home brew' made in those days. On one occasion, a neighbor having heard that the police were coming out to investigate, decided to bury his two gallon jugs. He slipped them onto the spade handle, but one broke. He looked at his wife and said, "Look, Mamma, what I have done."

She replied, "Now pull the cork on the other one and we won't have any more trouble." He did.

Another homesteader made a bunch of home brew, and thinking it so wasteful to throw the mash away, decided to feed it to his pigs. When he went back to the pigpen a few hours later, he discovered his pigs staggering around, falling down, with all the symptoms of being drunk. There was nothing to be done but leave them alone. The next day they were a very sick, very tired looking bunch of pigs.

We moved to the Waring place west of Hanna in 1926. Later we lived south of

Waite, retiring to Hanna in 1952. We had moved many times, always looking for something a little better. We had depression, low prices of farm produce, and we too tasted cheese, dry cod, beans and apples sent out by the government.

After we moved to Hanna, Martin built our new house that I now live in. He did carpenter work for several more years. He liked dancing and would manage the floor for most of the dances. He also did some square dance calling. He suffered a stroke in 1962, and passed away in 1967 at the age of seventy-five years.

Our family are all near. Doris, Mrs. A.E. Hutton, lives twelve miles from here. Jim farms at Hanna. Mildred, Mrs. Harold Veno, lives at Sunnynook.

DAVID D. LEICHT — David Leicht was born in 1888. He came to Canada in 1910, and settled in the Olds district, where he married Barbara Morlock in 1911. They came to the Hanna district in March, 1913, and lived on a farm south of Hanna; later they moved north to the Schultz place. They were not there for too many years before they moved into town where he worked in a garage. Dave Leicht retired to Wetaskiwin, where he passed away in 1957.

Fred Elm repairing an early magneto in the Hanna Auto Livery Shop. About 1920.

THE ELM STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Frederick Elm was born on January 8, 1887 and his brother Edward on May 15, 1888, in North Dakota, where their parents had settled after coming from Sweden. Fred and Ed worked in tractor factories in Minneapolis, and in 1912 headed north for Canada. They worked their way west through Saskatchewan, operating the large gasoline tractors of that era, which were used to break the land, seed, and haul grain. In 1913 they arrived in Hanna, bringing with them two of these large tractors built by the Pioneer Tractor Company; they were used for many years for farming, road building and house moving.

Fred and Ed were mechanics, and in 1914 purchased the Ford agency from Jim Parker. They set up shop with Mac McGowan in the building now known as Fano's garage, and named their business the Hanna Auto Livery. They hauled people and freight throughout the area with automobiles and trucks. Fred says that the roads and trails were not so good in those days and punctured tires and repairs on the road were standard routine. As mechanics, they plied their trade wherever there was a demand.

Fred filed on a homestead, the SW 18-32-14, and a pre-emption, the NW 18-32-14, in October, 1914. He sold this land to Thomas Ross in 1919. Also in 1914 he joined the Hanna fire department and became involved in the growing community of Hanna. Ferguson James tells in his book of Fred being deputized by the local policeman for a manhunt involving a deserter from the Canadian army. In 1916 Fred broke land for Hanna Farms Ltd., and operated this farm till 1922. In 1919 he married Anna Pederson and had four children, Clarence, Irene, Clara and Ella.

Fred operated the early projection machines used in the local theatre, and built some of the first radios used in Hanna. He was involved with photography as a hobby in the early 1900s when glass negatives and flash powder were used. He had the reputation of being a first class mechanic, with a vast amount of experience. During the thirties he operated the repair shop for E.A. Laughlin, the local Chevrolet dealer; and in later years for E.E. Holmes, the International dealer. He also operated custom threshing outfits, and built roads in the area.

His son Billie died in 1945. Clarence and Irene served in the R.C.A.F. during World War II. Clarence lives in Hanna, Irene in Calgary, and Clara in Nanaimo, B.C. Fred is living with Clara and enjoys good health at the age of eighty-nine.

Edward Elm enlisted in the Canadian army in 1915 and served overseas as a Motor Transport Driver. In 1919 he returned to Hanna and the following spring filed on a homestead and pre-emption, the east half of 20-32-14, and a Soldier Settlement quarter, the NW 5-33-14. He farmed this land for many years, as well as working as a mechanic, threshing outfit operator and road builder. In the late twenties he bought the Macrapol farm along the Castor road, and operated it until he sold it in 1952. He also operated the ditching machine when the first water and sewer system was installed in Hanna.

In the early years he and one of his neighbors, Martin Dahl, were reputed to have produced some very good moonshine, some of which is still supposed to be buried in the hills north of Hanna. He also enjoyed big game hunting, and had a special interest in the Royal Canadian Legion.

Edward Elm died in February, 1958, and was buried in the Field of Honor in Hanna.

Annie, Cecile, Philip, (cousin) Clara and Bill Brunner.

STEVE BRUNNER JR. and FAMILY, By Cecilia Brunner Schultz — My dad, Steven Brunner, came with his family to Alberta in the spring of 1911. In 1924 he married Katie Neurberger of Moson, Hungary. It was a double wedding; the other couple was mother's brother Frank and his bride, Theresa Weiss, also of Moson.

We lived on the Daniel Barton homestead just east of Dowling Lake. My dad farmed 320 acres, the NE 19-32-14 and the NW 20-32-14. There were eight children born while we lived in Alberta. During the thirties, three of my brothers died when they were quite young. In those days transportation was slow, and some of the better medicines we have today were unknown then. Adeline, my youngest sister, was born in B.C.

I remember my sister and I going to the Wiese school for two years, and after that we attended Antelope Hill. My Dad used to drive us to school often, as we had three and a half miles to go to either one.

Prices for farm products were low. Wheat hit a low of nineteen cents a bushel, and cows were less than one cent a pound. Cream brought as little as fifty cents for a five gallon can. The low prices of grain were complicated by low yields due to

the lack of rainfall during the thirties. In 1938 my dad decided he had had enough, and we made preparations to move to B.C. We had a farm sale and after the bills were paid we had two hundred dollars left. We had sold cows, horses, machinery and some household effects.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brunner

We children really felt badly that we had to leave our Collie, Hans, behind, and my brother Bill shed lots of tears when our colt called King was sold.

When we arrived at Sumas, B.C., we had eighty dollars left. My dad got a job working in a saw mill, and at a dairy farm. Later he and mother opened a small bakery at Haney.

All of our family are married and have children. Cecilia, Anne, Clara, Don and Adeline all live at Maple Ridge, B.C. Bill is retired and lives at Delta.

Steve Brunner, who was born in 1899, was accidentally killed when a truck struck his bicycle in a fog on October 23, 1968. Mrs. Brunner is living at Maple Ridge, B.C.

Levi Kennedy, taken at the 1978 Hand Hill Stampede

MY STORY, By Levi Kennedy — I came to Stettler from the state of Michigan in 1908, with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kennedy, and my brother Jack. My father homesteaded on the west side of Dowling Lake. My brothers Philip and Alden were born on the homestead, and we went to Dowling Lake school. In 1923 the family moved east of Dowling Lake to the Wilcox place, just south of Antelope Hill school. My younger brothers attended school there until 1928, when my parents moved into the town of Hanna.

I rented land up in the hills and

moved there to the NE 17-32-14, which was formerly farmed by Ed Elm, and lived there till 1929.

I married Mabel Paxman in the spring of 1929. After we were married, we went to Kinuso, Alberta, to homestead. We came back to Hanna and to the Meadowlands district in 1932, when we took over the farming of the George Paxman place. George had been sick for a while and passed away that summer. We farmed the place and lived there for ten years. My son George attended school at Meadowlands.

We suffered from drought and grasshoppers along with the rest of the farmers. I hired on the C.N.R. as a machinist in the roundhouse, and we moved to Hanna to live.

I was always fond of cattle, and rodeos. We used to have little rodeos on Sundays when we were kids on the homestead. Living near Clear Lake as a boy, I often took part in any horse riding events that they had at the picnics there. In 1925 I competed in a rodeo at Castor, riding bucking horses and bulls. I attended the very first Hand Hills Stampede in 1917 and have missed very few since then. I have always been pleased to ride in parades and help with the infield events. Rodeos have always been the highlight of the summer for me. When I was younger I competed in events in the Hand Hills too.

After I left the farm, I took up the hobby of wood carving. I have carved replicas of horses, chuckwagons, threshing outfits and steam engines. I have some replicas in the Museum in Hanna.

I enjoyed dancing, and called many a square dance in the old school houses. I am a life member of the Historical Society, and a life member of the Elks' Lodge.

I was laid off the C.N.R. in 1960, due to the increased use of diesel locomotives. At that time we acquired property in Richdale and moved out there. Then I became a cow hand for the K & B Ranch at Richdale.

My wife passed away in July, 1974. I have one son, George, who lives in Richmond, near Vancouver. He and his wife, Fern, have four boys and one girl. I still work for the K & B Ranch and still live in Richdale.

THE RUDOLPH FANO STORY, by Ivan Fano — Rudolph Fano migrated to the Olds district in 1909 with his parents, one brother and one sister, when he was twelve years old. From there they moved on to Hanna by oxen and wagon. The homestead was about nineteen miles south-west of Hanna. The first home the family had was a sod shack, and oxen were used to break the land.

Rudy, as most people knew him, married Clara Schattenseider in 1919. Clara was born in North Dakota and had immigrated with her parents and family to the Dowling Lake district in 1909. Clara recalled the hard times of 1910. The first summer was spent in a tent, and by fall a two-roomed shack was built from lumber hauled from Stettler. Later the tent material was used to make clothes.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano farmed for a brief time south of Hanna, not far from his parents. They then moved to the Sayle Brown place about seven miles north-east of Hanna. Rudolph homesteaded the SE 10-32-14 in 1922, but found it more feasible to live on the rented farm which already had buildings. They lived there for three years. I, the oldest, and my brother Fred and sister Mary were born there.

Grassy Slope area was to be our home for the next three years. The location of the farm was the east half of 22-32-13. I was the only one who went to Grassy Slope school, and then only for about six months.

In 1928 father bought the quarter of land which adjoined his homestead, the NE 10-32-14, so we moved there. This property had a two-roomed shack, a

granary, and a huge barn, large enough for eight horses. I well remember moving day in April, 1928. We started in the dark hours of the spring morning. About all I could do to help was look after my brother and two sisters while everyone else was busy. When we were settled in our new place, I had one and a half miles to go to school at Antelope Hill.

The original site of the school was up on a high hill, but it was later moved a half mile east into a pretty valley. The school was blocked up on large flat rocks, and in the winter it was banked with manure, to keep the cold off the floor. The stove never got the school warm till eleven or twelve o'clock on a cold winter day. Sometimes the ink wells would be frozen all day. I was told by oldtimers that the school was built there when there were only three students able to attend.

About 1930–32 there was a peak attendance of around nineteen pupils. There were not many families, but they were large. There were five in the Gartner family, five in the Gwin family, four of us, four from the Temple family, and Maurice Taylor, who stayed with Mrs. Wirth. Maurice rode a nice pony to school, and we boys really envied him.

Rudolph Fano family taken in 1950

In those days there was no need of a gymnasium for P.T. There were no school buses, so after doing two hours of chores in the morning, we would walk to school, carrying our drinking water in a syrup pail, and lunch in a three-pound Burns Pure Lard pail. We had no need for P.T. We did play ball in the summer time, and sleigh down the hills in winter. When we got home from school, we had another three hours of chores, pumping water for the stock, milking cows, feeding calves and pigs. Then, if there was any time left, we did our homework around a dim coal oil lamp.

I remember a number of teachers, among them Miss Story, Miss King, Miss Maynes and Mr. Harold Ruskin. At the time Mr. Ruskin was teaching he organized a good ball team. He was an outstanding player himself. We also had a young man on the team who worked on a farm. He was Ed Fischer, and was a good pitcher. The teachers really had their hands full trying to cope with so many grades in such crowded conditions, and many of the children were not able to speak English. At one time, grade nine and ten were taught there.

Times were hard when the depression hit. In 1930 we were hailed out, in 19 it was drought, in 1932 we had a good crop, but wheat was only thirty-five cents a bushel. Some people sold it for half that price. The grasshoppers took almost everything in 1933 and 1934. We had turned to milking about fifteen cows and selling the cream. As I remember, three five-gallon cans of cream would bring in only about $2.25 each. This would be about fifty-five cents per week from each cow.

In 1934, many people moved out of the district. We went to Jarvie, about one hundred miles north of Edmonton. This enterprise did not last more than two years. Our stock could not cope with the environment, and died as the feed and grass there lacked the feed value of this area's.

In 1936 we moved into Hanna. We operated a draying and hauling business, and later expanded it into the auto wrecking and car repair business. My parents operated Fano's Rooms for about ten years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano had eight children, five sons and three daughters. I married Caroline Rust and have two daughters and one son. I have been employed by the Hanna Co-op and have lived in Hanna for many years.

Fred married Ruth Quast, and is employed by the Federal government in building maintenance. They have two sons.

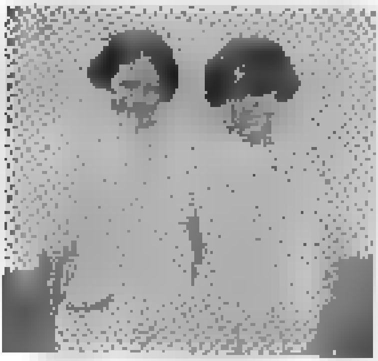
Mary lives in Vancouver. Dave married Joan Carr and lives in Hanna where he operates Fano's Garage. He has three children.

William married Judy Ross. They and their three daughters live in Edmonton where he is employed with the C.N.R.

Kay and her husband, Ralph Resvick, and two sons live in Calgary. Tilly married Don Johnson. She is now a widow, has two daughters and one son, and lives in Vancouver.

Albert lives in Hanna. He has two daughters and one son.

Rudolph Fano passed away in December, 1958, and his wife Clara on Christmas Day, 1976.



Violet Baxter and Annie Schultz.

FRED SCHULTZ, ***By Katie Schultz Parr*** — My parents came from Russia to Canada in 1912. The two younger children were born in Calgary. We moved to a farm north-east of Delia in 1920. The following spring my mother passed away and we moved north of Hanna to the Rickett place.

Our dad remarried late in the year of 1922, to Mrs. Polly Lecht. At that time my oldest sister was already married, and the other older ones left home. The girls went back to Calgary to work, and Charlie went to work on the railroad in Hanna.

In the spring of 1924, we moved to the Lecht place, just east of Dowling Lake. We attended Antelope Hill school, which was two miles from home. Some of the teachers I remember were Violet Holmes, Miss Story and Miss Hart.

I took time from school to work with my step-mother in the cook car during harvest in 1923-24. After threshing was over, I went back to school. An incident still in my memory occurred at that time.

We were to have a Christmas concert that year, and had been practising for it. About a week before Christmas, we had a terrible blizzard. When the storm had cleared off, it was calm, but very cold. Ann and I decided we must go to school for practising and for exams. Father was in Calgary at the time, so we defied our step-mother and left for school.

The trip was terrible. We pulled each other out of drifts in our struggle to get there. When we arrived no one was there, and there was no fire. I lit the fire, which was seen by Philip Kennedy, another pupil who lived about a half mile away, so he came to see what was happening. We got warmed up, but had an awful time getting Ann's shoes back on. Her feet were terribly swollen and frost-bitten. Then came the horrible nightmare of going home. When we finally got home, Ann's feet were so bad, all blistered and so painful she could hardly walk on them for two weeks. Mine were bad too, but I didn't dare complain because I knew what was in store for me when Dad got back.

I left Hanna in 1928. Two sisters have passed away, Mollie Sherman in 1964, and Annie Currie in 1972. Charles married Hilda Hanson and they still live in Calgary. Mrs. Millie Daly lives in Vancouver. Mrs. Mary Herman, (second marriage) lives in Calgary, as I do too. Jack continued to farm until 1957, and he now lives in Calgary.

Fred Schultz passed away in 1946. Mrs. Schultz in 1947.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, By Eva Hart [illegible] — I commenced teaching at Antelope Hill in the fall of 1925. Miss Eva Jagoe of Calgary was my predecessor, having taught there between her University semesters. She later became a very active high school teacher in the city. At this time the country schools were closed during January and February, and open during the summer months.

I had either six or seven grades with an enrolment of thirteen or fourteen pupils, ranging from grades one to seven. The families represented were mostly new Canadians from Central Europe. However, I remember a Philip Kennedy and several Schultz children. In later years a Schultz girl, I can't remember her by name, phoned me in Calgary, and if I remember correctly, she was attending Normal School at the time.

I boarded with Mrs. Temple, whom I frequently meet in Hanna. Her little ones were all under school age at that time. There was a childless couple by the name of Wirth, living across the road from the Temple farm. They had a piano, and out of sheer loneliness I went there to play the piano. Apart from school texts there were no books in the school. My family sent me some books which I used to read to the pupils during noon hour and recesses, and of course some for myself.

The school itself warrants little description. It was the size of two granaries, boasted two windows and the usual school furnishings. Something unique, even at that time, were the double desks. These were condemned as being conducive to cheating and whispering. I believe they were useful in country schools where older and more advanced and capable students helped the younger ones, and that was really desirable in the ungraded school, where sometimes eight or nine grades were represented.

At the time I taught at Antelope Hill, Mr. Lamb was the school board chairman, and Mr. George Haverstock, the inspector.

There were a couple of incidents which I recall that you may find amusing. There was one family which came to school in a horse-drawn vehicle. The children evidently took a short-cut through a farmer's grain field. The irate farmer made a trip to the school for the purpose of telling me that his gates had been left down, and that it was my responsibility to teach them that gates should be closed.

The other incident occurred when, upon investigating a noise in the boys' outhouse, I discovered two lads talking in loud voices. I warned them that only one was allowed in the outhouse at one time. A small boy piped up, "Please, teacher, there are two holes!"

JACOB GARTNER STORY, By Erma Gartner Kalet — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gartner, came to Hanna in November, 1921. Until 1928 they lived south of Hanna, then moved north of Hanna to the Martin Dahl place, SE 17-32-14. My parents were of German descent but came from Roumania.

There were six of us children, Albert, Jack, Annie, Edna, Rudolph and myself. We attended Antelope Hill school. One of my earliest recollections is of my first day at school, and of not being able to speak one word of English.

There are too many memories of those years to put on paper . . . school concerts, summer picnics, and huge gatherings of friends and relatives. No one waited for invitations to visit.

I also remember our first car. It was a Model T. It could only be driven when the sun shone as it had no top.

My mother passed away in January, 1957. My father, who farmed all of his life, died in November, 1975. He had retired just before my mother died, and spent the last years of his life in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wetaskiwin.

Albert and Rudolph are still farming in the Ponoka area. Annie, Edna and Jack live in the town of Ponoka.

My husband and I are retired and live at Spruce Grove.

RONALD FANO, By Martha Fano — Ronald and I were married in 1925. We were living at the Hand Hills when Ronald's dad bought the farm north of Hanna, the north half of 3-32-14 from Frank Harris. We rented our own farm to August Kautz, and moved up there in the fall of 1926 when our son Billie was a small baby, as Ronald's dad insisted it was a better farm. There was only a shack and one outbuilding on the place. The house consisted of a big kitchen, a pantry and a bedroom.

We didn't have much, as we were just starting out. We had two milk cows, a few head of cattle and a few chickens. We sold a little cream. The Harris place had seven wells, but only one with water in it. We had to haul water from Ron's brother's place which was over a mile away.

In 1929 we got hailed out so Ron went to work on the Castor road. The pay was six dollars a day for four horses and a man, nine hours a day. Ron had to leave at four in the morning to get to work some nine miles away. When he got home late in the evening he would have to haul water for the cattle and chickens and household. One evening he came in from hauling water and said that a barrel had fallen on his toes. We phoned Art Gwin who took him in to see the doctor. His foot was all swollen up and he had to go into the hospital for almost a week. Ron's folks came out to help me. On the day that Ron came out of the hospital, I went in. Our daughter Iris was born August 11, 1930.

On August 16, a bad thunder and electrical storm came up. Lightning struck the Engel barn in the Solon district and three men and several horses died. We felt the jolt of that bolt of lightning all the way in to the Hanna hospital. It was terrible!

In 1930 we got very little crop; we got our seed back but little more. Ron took some wheat to the flour mill at Delia to trade it for flour. The trip with team and wagon could not be made in one day so he had to stay overnight.

In the winter we went playing cards with the Gwins, Fortnas, Temples and Forster Lamb. We had good times, poor as we were.

Times really got bad in the dry thirties. The dust storms were terrible and we had to light the coal oil lamp by day. We canned all our meat as we had no other way to preserve it.

Since times were so bad and there was no water on the place, we moved to the Oldham place across from the cemetery, two miles north of Hanna. Pauline was born while we lived there. The crop wasn't too bad that year, but we decided to move back to our place in the Hand Hills. We rented, and later sold, the Harris place to Jake Fortna.

Our youngest daughter, Gladys, was born in 1935.

We are now retired and live in Hanna.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, by Marion Maynes Good — I taught at Antelope Hill for two years beginning September, 1930. The school was situated in an isolated spot surrounded by low hills, about half way between two north and south roads. There was a trail past the school and every two or three weeks a vehicle might pass along the trail. The glass of the windows had been covered with white paint. When I enquired about it the children told me it was there so they would not look out the windows when they should be working. I told them I liked to look out windows. The paint disappeared as if by magic.

The building itself was very poor, plain and unattractive, poorer even than most schools around which were far from elaborate, but that was before we knew anything about today's magnificent, richly equipped structures. A teacher had to be resourceful then to make up for the lack of learning materials. I spent my weekends gathering up books and magazines from friends, and I would have ruined the week for the children if I had turned up Monday morning without a supply of Sunday School papers — Onward, Boy's Life, Girl's Life, Junior and Primary, splendid publications.

Harvesting was in full swing when the school opened that fall and the beautiful weather remained late into autumn. I recall having a Hallowe'en party outdoors and it was like a July day.

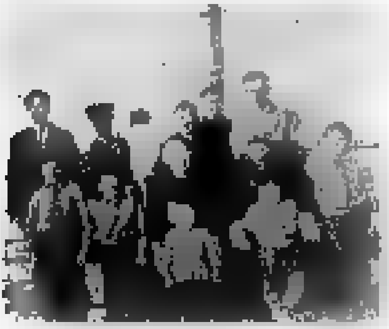
This was my first teaching experience and I probably learned more than the children. I began by making out a time table allotting the correct amount of time to each subject, then wondering how on earth it could possibly be done. During my training I had taught one lesson to one grade from carefully prepared lesson plans, and here sat five grades expecting to be taught simultaneously. Well, somehow it all worked out; we got through each grade and managed time for ball games, classroom decorations, Friday programs, Christmas concert preparations, Valentine making, all very important to children who at that time were pretty well confined to their own district.

The first time I passed around snaps which I had taken of the children, a little girl remained in the school at recess and asked me if she could look at them again. She found the grade one picture and pointed out one child and said, "This looks like me, Miss Maynes."

I assured her that it was and she asked me how I got her on that card. She spent a happy fifteen minutes pointing out each child in the school, and I had to confirm that each picture was indeed that person.

There were seventeen pupils in the school in five grades. There were four Gwins, three Temples, four Fenos, four Gardners, one Taylor and one Schultz. They were enthusiastic and full of energy and very capable in looking after themselves and their horses. I remember how well they got along on the playground; even when I was busy in the school they would organize games, and there never seemed to be any quarreling as often happens in schools. I recall, too, how co-operative the parents in the district were. When any special events were planned at school they helped in any way they could with materials, costumes, and of course lots of food. During the winter we enjoyed social gatherings at many homes in the district and I shall always remember how kind and friendly the women were.

One has to spend a few minutes recalling such a simple quiet period to realize what a changed world it is. The people have all gone now, the school is gone; perhaps there is not even a trace of the place where it sat. An era of western Canadian history ended when all the little white "Antelope Hills" faded from the scene



August Schmidt, G. Schmidt Sr. holding Freda, Mrs. Schmidt, Adolph Kiest, Rudolph Kiest; Grandma and Grandpa Kiest. Schmidt children.

***THE SCHMIDT FAMILY.* By Gotthold Schmidt** — Gottlob Schmidt Sr., his wife Pauline, and children Alexander, age nine; Albert, seven; Gotthold, five; Gottlob, three; and Hugo, age one year, arrived in Hanna from Romania in the spring of 1927.

The first home for the Schmidt family was about nine miles north-east of Hanna, on section 23-32-14. They remained on that farm for seven years, and the children attended Solon school. A daughter Freda was born in 1928, and another, Ida, in 1929. Adam was born in 1931. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in 1933.

In 1934, my dad moved his family to a farm located six miles north of town, on the NW 8-32-14. The family then went to school at Antelope Hill. When I think back to those times, I feel my dad did very well to raise us eight motherless children back in those hard times, by himself. We all learned to take care of ourselves at an early age.

In 1938 the school board at Antelope Hill decided to replace the old school with another in better condition. There was much excitement the day the school arrived. We were all eager and curious to get a look at the school, and the men setting it down. The teacher forbade us to go near it. As soon as school was out, we all ran over there anyway. The teacher seeing this, called us back into the school to line up for a strapping. I was the first to get it, and immediately went back outside. Maurice Taylor had just arrived to pick up the teacher and the Gasper girls to give them a ride home. He seemed surprised that school was not out yet and asked why. I began to tell him what was taking place, but the teacher heard me, and stepped outside to call me back in for 'seconds'. Maurice informed her that if she wanted a ride home, she had better hurry up. I guess she thought twice about that, because she did not bother to whip me again, and dismissed the class as soon as she had finished.

In 1942, my dad married Mrs. Dux. She had five children of her own, Ella, Freda, Anna, Ed and Roland. In 1943 another daughter, Bertha, was born. In the fall of 1945, my dad and stepmother and the younger members of the family moved to a farm at Holden, Alberta.

My oldest brother Alex and I stayed on the farm here. We were in the cattle

business together for several years. In 1956, Alex decided to quit farming and moved to Calgary. I stayed on the farm and am still there today

Both Albert and Gotthold Schmidt served in the Second World War. They both live in Edmonton. Adam lives at Holden. Freda, Ida and Hugo live in B.C.

Gottlieb Schmidt Sr. still lives in Calgary. He is eighty-six years old. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in January, 1977

OTTO MIX, by [illegible] — We came to the Hanna district in 1944. We rented and later bought the Chris Gasper place, the east half of 16-32-14, which is seven miles north of Hanna.

Our neighbors were Jim McCluskey, Gottlieb and Alex Schmidt, and for a short time, John and Leah Yeaman. They moved away and then Harold and Mae Fortna became our neighbors.

The worst part about living in the hills in those days was the lack of roads. After the first snowstorm, the roads were practically impassable till spring. Alvin and Arlene had to ride four miles each way to go to school at Solon. In 1959 the road was built up and gravelled. In 1961 the school bus began to take the children to school in Hanna.

We didn't have a phone in those years, so felt quite isolated. Our neighbor Jim McCluskey had one, but it seemed that every time we had to use it, we would have to drive down the road a few miles to set up the fallen poles.

We had some good crops, and quite a few poor ones. We had the crop completely snow under one year, and hail out a couple of times. We seemed to have survived the bad and the good times and in 1966 we left the farm to Alvin and moved into Hanna, where we still reside.

HAROLD FORTNA — I was born on the homestead, the eldest child of Jacob and Mattie Fortna. Although the farm was originally included in the Antelope Hill school district, we never went to school there, as it was four miles away. By the time I was old enough to go to school, the boundaries had been changed so that we belonged in the Meadowlands school district.

Harold and Mae Fortna

The Fortna Children: Vivian, Marjorie, Doug and Ed.

The classes at Meadowlands were very small when I first started school. Among the pupils attending at that time were Bill Curtis, Harry, Winnifred and Marion Parker, and my sister Ethel. She and I used to walk to the Parker place, a mile from home; then with the Parker children we used to cross the Hudson Bay

land which was unfenced at that time, till we reached the road a mile east, and then continue on to school. We were plagued by mosquitoes on many trips across this native grassland.

As there was not a large attendance at the school, there were occasions when the annual school picnics were held jointly with Antelope Hill school. On one occasion it was held west of the Fortna buildings, and another time it was on the Ronald Fano farm farther north.

After I left school I stayed on the farm, and my younger brother Albert and I farmed with our father.

In 1944, I met Mae Lamb, who had come to Hanna to seek employment. Her home was at Rowley, about forty miles away. We were married in December, 1945, and spent the winter in Drumheller, where I worked in the coal mine. We returned to the farm in the spring. Our daughter Vivian was born while we were on the farm near my folks.

In 1948 we moved on to the Brown place, two miles north of my dad's farm. We lived there for eight years. Transportation and communication were poor in those days, and the heavy snows those next few winters left us quite isolated. At one time we had a barbed wire phone which, when it worked, gave us a sort of communication with my folks. What a boon the snowmobile would have been to us back then!

In 1952, Vivian started school at Solon, with Mabel Hein as her teacher. We drove her to school by car as long as we could, then with the team and cutter. The next year she began to ride the saddle horse, travelling with the Mix children. There was a lot of snow that winter and the children had a lot of trouble getting to school on horses.

Our sons, Ed and Doug, and our daughter Marjorie were born while we lived on the Brown place. In 1957 we moved one half mile west to our present location. The new road was built soon after that, and then it was gravelled. In rapid succession during the next few years came electricity, telephone and the school bus. The children were able to go to school in town for a higher education.

In 1963 there was a bumper crop. After that farming conditions improved. We were able to purchase better machinery, a new house, and make many improvements in our way of living. We are still living on the farm today.

Our family have grown up and gone. Vivian is married to Rod Quaschnick. They live in Hanna with their children Shannon, Jason and Ryan.

Ed has a B.A. from the University of Calgary. He is married to Jean Watson from Airdrie, and they live in Calgary.

Douglas is apprenticing as an electrician. He is married to Carol Haucher from Endiang, and they live in Hanna.

Marjorie is presently living in Red Deer.

THE A.F. GWIN STORY — Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gwin were married July 18, 1918 and came to live in Hanna district the next year. Mr. Gwin had traded property in California for a farm south of Hanna. They lived on that farm until 1922, when they moved to the Oldham place north of Hanna, just east of the cemetery, the south half of 22-31-14. This was a dairy farm; milk was bottled and sold in town. As Mrs. Gwin was a city girl, this was a very difficult adjustment for her. About 1925 they moved four miles further north to the Hamilton place, one half mile east of Antelope Hill school.

There were eight children in the family. They recall that some of their classmates at Antelope Hill were Fanos, Gaspers, Temples, Gertners and Jack Schultz.

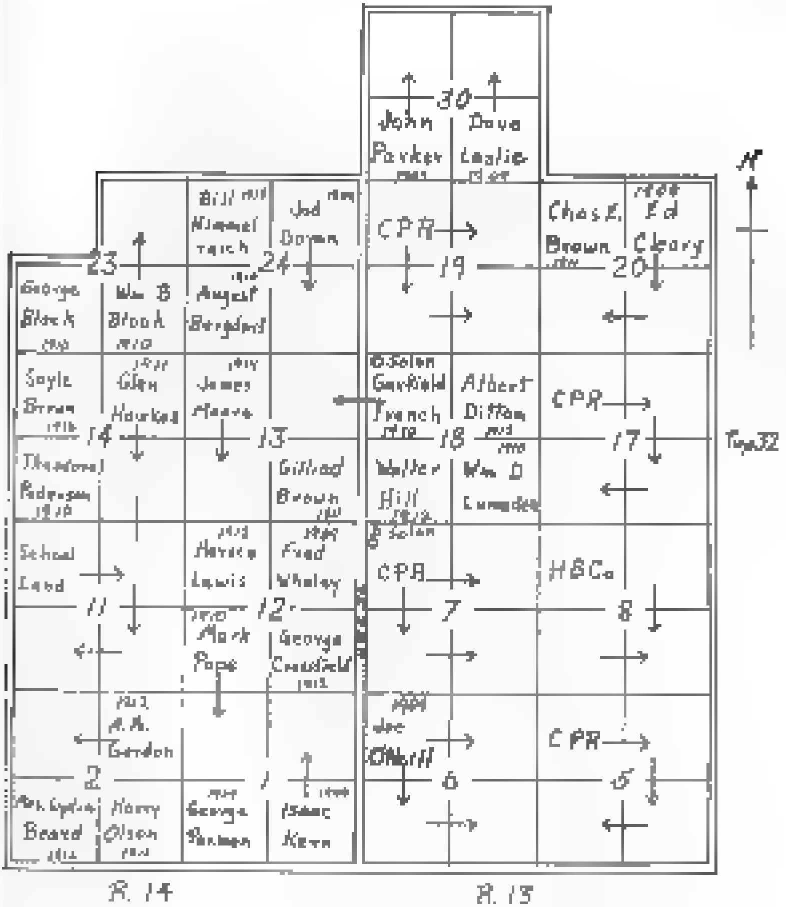
As the drought continued and prices fell, the Gwin family decided, in 1934, to move to Rocky Mountain House. Ernest quit school and helped to provide for the family for a year. Then he and Robert received an invitation to return to California and live with their uncle, Ira Gwin, and continue their education. The next year the rest of the family moved back to southern California, and raised chickens in the Mojave Desert for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Gwin of Beaumont, Married July 18, 1906 in Mattoon, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwin returned to Hanna for a visit at the time of the Hanna Jubilee. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1956. Mrs. Gwin passed away in 1967. Mr. Gwin remarried and returned to Hanna to visit once more in 1972. He passed away in 1973.

Of the eight children, Ernest, Robert, Willard, Eileen, Corrine, Pauline and Iris live in the United States. George lives in Hanna.

SOLON No. 2886



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS SOLON 2886

TWP. 32 R. 13 W 4.

Section 5
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Sr.
Joe Giltner
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

Section 6
J. O'Neill (Script)
G. Readman

Abe Miller
Pete Johnson
Keith Lumsden
W. D. Lumsden
Jeff Lumsden

Section 7
C.P.R.
H. Macropol
W. D. Lumsden

Fred Whaley Sr.

N½ 7 Charlie Whaley

S½ 7 M. and R. Whaley

Section 8
H. B. Co.
W. D. Lumsden
Fred Kautz
N. Banco

A. Banco

Section 17
C.P.R.
Joe Giltner
John Engel
George Hipner Sr.
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 18

S.E. 18
W. D. Lumsden
Jim McCluskey
Harry Lumsden;
Mrs. Martin
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

N.E. 18
Albert Oman
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 18
Garfield French
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Harry Lumsden

S.W. 18
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Ed Loveday
Harry Lumsden

Section 19

W½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Jr.
George Whaley
Marion Wright
Otto Pahl
Reid Wightman
Walter Sneath

E½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wightman
Walter Sneath

Section 20

S½ 20 (Script)
Ed Cleary
Ed. Kautz
Harold Kautz
N.E. 20
Ed Cleary
Ed Kautz
Jurgen Kautz

N.W. 20
Charlie Brown
Ed Cleary
Ed. Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 30

E½ 30 (Script)
Dave Leslie
Leicht Sr.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wightman
Walter Sneath

W½ 30 (Script)
John Dalton Parker
Marion Wright
Charlie Wyatt
Walt Lumsden

TWP. 32 R. 14 W4.

Section 1
E½ 1
Isaac Kern
Bob Hauser
Henry Sheen
Pete Johnson
Walter Kern
Cliff Pasman
Arnold Pahl

S.W. 1
George Pasman
Wm. Pasman estate
N.W. 1
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 2

N½ 2
A. A. Gordon
John Rice
Fredrick Pahl
Ludwig Pahl

S.E. 2
Harry Olsen

Arnold Pahl

S.W. 2
Mrs. Beard
Jake Fortna

Section 11
School Land
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 12

S.E. 12
George Crossfield
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charley Whaley

N.E. 12
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 12
Horace Lewis
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

S.W. 12
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 13

S.E. 13
Clifford Brown
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 13
Garfield French
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

W½ 13
James Moore
W. D. Lumsden

Section 14

E½ 14
Glen Hawkes
Joe Weldon
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
John Yeoman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

N.W. 14
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
John Yeoman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

S.W. 14
Ted Pederson
Fred Berg
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

Section 23

S.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Fales
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Fales
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

S.W. 23
George Block
Adolph Kress
Herb Lilke
Harold Fortna

Section 24

S.E. 24
Jud Doran
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

N. E. 24
Jud Doran
Bob Gordon
Al. Overton
George Hoover Sr.
Elmer Gray
Ken Williams
Berry Lumsden

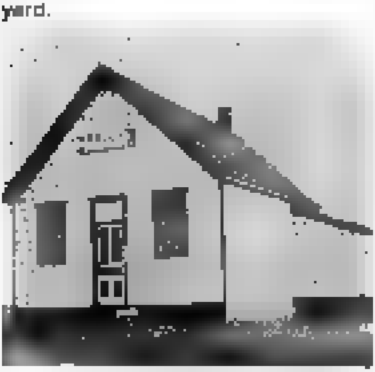
S.W. 24
August Bergdorf
Joe Hogg
W. D. Lumsden

N. W. 24
Bill Hammelrech
W. D. Lumsden

SOLON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. [illegible]

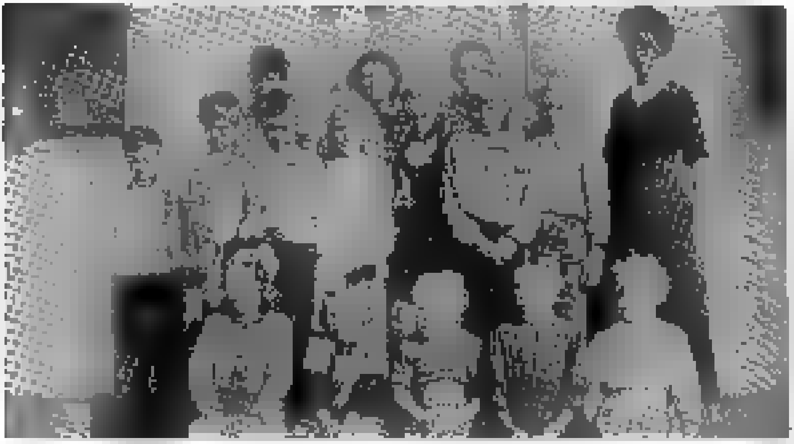
The Solon area, presumably named by Messrs. I. and H. Kern after a siding in Michigan, comprises sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the east half and south-west quarter of 23, township 32, range 14; and sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30 in township 32, range 13. It was sparsely settled until 1909 when the government opened the area for Purchased Homesteads. Within a year or two pioneers of various nationalities took up homesteads and soon a variety of abodes were

inhabited. By 1911 the Solon Post Office was in operation. Freight and mail was transported from Castor by horse-drawn vehicles. This route became known as the Castor Trail, and is still visible in much of the pasture land and in the school yard.



Solon School, 1913

With the influx of homesteaders with families came the demand for a school. Through the perseverance of Mr. Fred Whaley, chairman, and Mr. Joe O'Niel, first secretary of the elected school board, a school was erected by Mr. William Hill. The site chosen was the northwest corner of NW 7-32-13. Lumber and other material for the school was hauled from Castor. The material must have been unloaded off the wagons as they stopped along the road, for until quite recently, the old Castor Trail was quite visible, not twenty feet west of the school door. In time a barn was built and a well dug in the school yard.



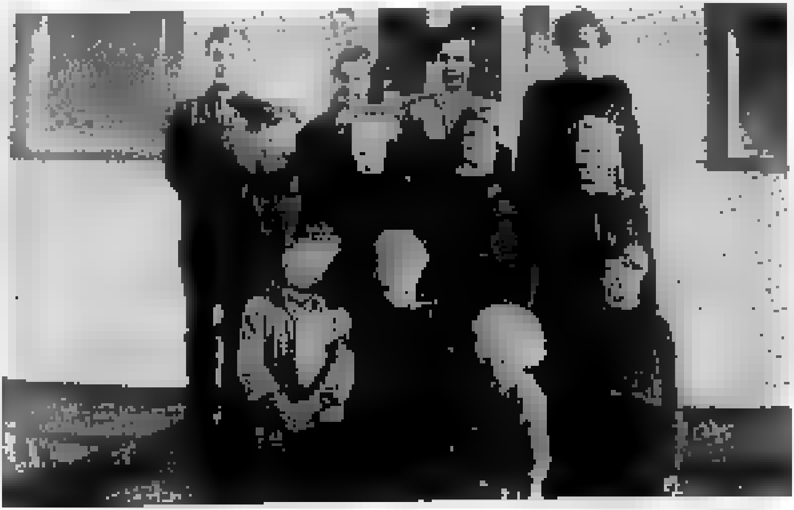
Solon, 1913. Back Row, left to right: Charlie Burns, John Gordon, Vera Thompson, Annie Pederson, Maud Whaley, Miss Laycock. Standing on step: Ford Thompson, Clyde Block, Doris Thompson, Mary Pederson, Lou Pederson, George Whaley. Seated: Zelma Samson, Gertrude Block, Mabel Whaley, Nellie Gordon, Mary Whaley.

By 1912 Solon school was in operation with Miss Gillsanders as teacher. The first families represented were: Block, Burns, Gordon, Pederson, Samson, Thompson and Whaley. Since Solon was one of the first schools, some of these children had to travel five miles or more as their homes were outside the school district. However, within a few years more schools were built, and Solon was the centre of only the four-mile-square block as surveyed by the provincial government.

Solon school was the centre for socials, dances, U.F.A. meetings, and of course always the Christmas concert. What magic times for young and old alike, as whole families always attended, from the smallest baby to the oldest person.

Adults would decorate the interior of the school, set up the stage and hang glistening white sheets to serve as curtains, before the big occasion. Young people of the community participated in the program. Blanche Wright Bryce recalls, "I think the most exciting time of the school year was preparing for and presenting our annual Christmas concert. A friendly rivalry developed between neighboring schools. It was all so much fun."

Solon Students on Arbor Day 1916. Back Row, left to right: Sam Lilke, Maud Whaley, Violet Lumsden, Louis Pederson, Jack Lilke, Mary Pederson, Velma Overton, George Whaley. Centre Group: Nels Pederson, Dan Lilke, Ruby Overton, Mary Whaley, Gertrude Black, Mary Lilke, Charlie Overton, Anna Pederson, Mabel Whaley, Rose Lilke. Front Row: Myrtle Whaley, Blanche Wright, Clyde Black (holding sign), Gladys Overton, John Whaley.

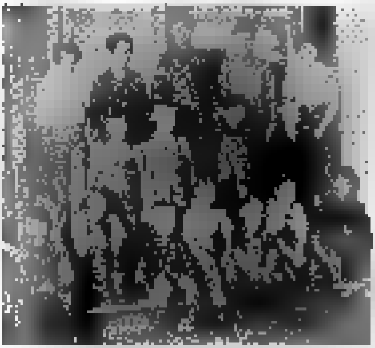


Solon, 1925. Back Row, left to right: John Whaley, Carrie Deary, Gladys Overton, Blanche Wright. Centre Row: Robert Rahill, Dave Rahill, Lucene Overton, Myrtle Whaley. Front Row: Loyal Overton, Charlie Whaley, Ada Whaley, Dorothy Rahill.

Of the social functions, the pie socials are well remembered by all the pioneers. The evening would open with a program of songs, recitations, a play or a

debate by the young people of the community. Pies would be auctioned and a dance would follow. At one such affair, the pies brought $37.00 which was used to buy library books for the school.

School Van, 1937. Marjorie, Wilfred and Keith Lumsden, Jack McLaren and Donnie McLaren.



Solon Students, 1936. Back Row, left to right, Norma Lumsden, Roy Johnson, Otto Pahl, Arnold Kautz, Marjorie Lumsden. Second Row; Keith Lumsden, Albert Bass, Earnest Johnson, Ruby Kautz. Seated: Wilfred Lumsden, Phyllis Johnson, Edwin Kautz, Julia Johnson, Eunice Johnson, Annie Johnson, Harold Kautz.

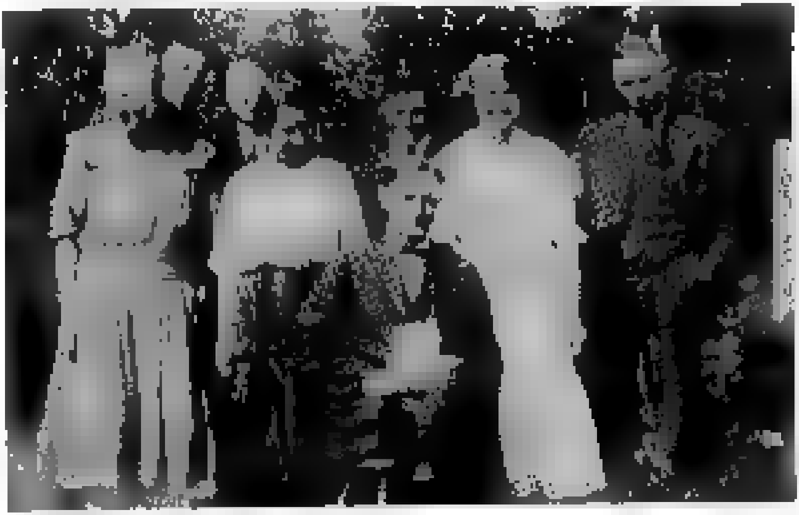
Solon's first teacherage, 1933. Eunice Johnson, Ruby Kautz, Annie Johnson, Julia Johnson, Phyllis Johnson and Frieda Schmidt.

A favorite community gathering during the winter months was house parties. All the families took turns at hosting the parties. There was never an idle Friday night. In the summer months there were baseball and basketball games. A baseball diamond and a basketball court were set up in the north-west corner of 19, just south of the Marion Wright place, where the teams could practice. Both the baseball and basketball teams became quite proficient.

Solon school was also a place of worship. Church and Sunday School were held each Sunday for many, many years with Mr. D. Oke the minister, Mr. M. Wright the Sunday School superintendent, and Mr. J. Faupel the teacher for the Young People's class. The church and Sunday school held an annual picnic, often including neighboring communities.

Little change was made to the school over the years, but methods of teaching

and living quarters for the teachers did. The first teacherage was built in August, 1938. It was a small, one-room, gable-roofed building approximately eight feet by ten feet. It was later moved to the Red Rose district south of Hanna, to replace their teacherage which had burned down. A second teacherage, comprising two rooms, was built in the spring of 1945. It was remodelled and enlarged in the fall of 1950. After the closing of Solon, this four-roomed teacherage was moved to the southern outskirts of Hanna, and became the home for two bachelors.



Solon Young Peoples' Class, 1921. Mabel Whaley, Wesley Oke, Albert Oke, Annie Oke, Mr. J. Faupel (seated), Harold Oke, Mary Whaley, George Whaley.

Church Group at Solon School, 1924. Families represented: J. Taylor, Oke, M. Wright, Loveday, Black, Lumsden, Overton, Whaley, and Faupel.

Church Group at Solon School, 1909: Mrs. Whaley and Mabel; John Whaley family, Alex Wilson family; Blanche Johnston; Ralph Greenway family; N. Greenway family.

Teachers who helped instill some knowledge in the local youth were Miss Gilleanders, Miss Laycock, Mr. Frederick, Miss J. Lewis, Miss E. West, Miss H. Hamilton, Miss A. Oke, Mr. H. Johnson, Miss Hourihan, Miss E. Summers who later taught as Mrs. Bill Lumsden, Miss C. Fitzgerald, Miss M. Smedstead, Miss L. Summers, Miss E. Ross, Miss I. Bigelow, Miss Duckworth, Miss Nan Herring, Mr. Wm. Ferguson, Miss E. Seidel who later taught as Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mrs. M. Williams, Miss A. Ellis, Mrs. M. Hein, Mrs. H. Chidley, Mr. Wm. Smith, Mr. J. Leniuk, and Mrs. P. Jager. These are not necessarily in chronological order. Our apologies for any omissions.

As time went on, settlers moved to other regions. Pupil population dropped. As early as 1938, some schools in neighboring districts closed their doors. Gradually more schools closed as there were not enough pupils to warrant their operation. Once again Solon became the school for children from nearby districts. A 1954 register shows attendance of children from Antelope Hill, Centre Point, Dundee and Grassy Slope districts. With the trend toward centralization, the doors of Solon school were closed in June, 1961, and the thirteen registered students were bussed to Hanna the following September.

The school now stands, not at all forgotten, as it has been renovated to accommodate larger crowds. Most of the material for renovation was trucked from Castor. Power, propane heating and indoor facilities have been installed. It is still the centre of community activities.

THE LAST YEARS OF SOLON

By Mrs. Pearl Jager

During the 1958-59, 59-60, 60-61 school terms it was my pleasure and privilege to teach at Solon.

Since the children were in grades one to nine there was a great difference in ages, but they were an extremely cooperative and nice group, as were the parents.

Those days were not without minor problems, a smoky pot-bellied stove, the

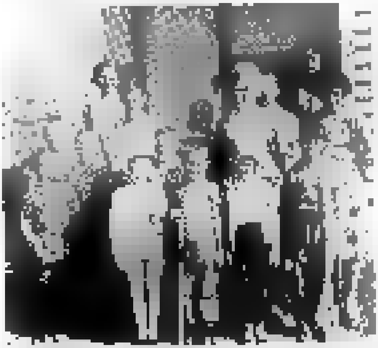
need for shovelling a path to the outdoor bathrooms as well as shovelling out the outdoor bathrooms during the winter months.

I drove from home, and for the most part the eight miles were usually quite passable. I do remember a bad period of snow when Keutz' hill was a one-way strip. I stuck a pole with a red shirt on it near the top, visible from both sides. I held my breath there a few times. But if conditions were too severe, I had been assured of the kind hospitality of the Harry Lumsden home, and this kindness I did accept one night.

Highlights I remember were the fun we had playing softball in which all could participate, the building of snow men, the fun times and sing times. For one Valentine party we toured the Hanna Herald office where each child received a memento from the genial editor. On our agenda also was the creamery, then a skating party at the covered town facility, replete with hot dogs and hot chocolate.

As a group we participated in the Sullivan Lake Art and Drama Festivals. The children did win some laurels. We had a Junior Red Cross group and a 'do' for that. Our Christmas programs were a lot of fun and we always had a packed house.

Salon Concert, 1958. Back Row, left to right: Gerald Whaley, Vivian Fortna, Leslie Lumsden, Arlene Mix, James Whaley. Second Row: Dale Tietz, Rodina Pahl, Edward Fortna, Karen Lumsden, Clayton Whaley. Front Row: Ronnie Banco, Ronda Pahl, Russel Whaley, Marlene Pahl, Douglas Fortna



Last Class at Salon, 1961. Back Row, left to right: Karen Lumsden, Ronda Pahl, Mrs. Jager, Rodina Pahl. Middle Row: Ed Fortna, Dale Tietz, Vivian Fortna, Arlene Mix. Next Row: Garth Miller (visitor), Ron Banco, Doug Fortna, Ross Miller (visitor). Front Row: Cheryl Banco, Larry Pahl, Adeline Pahl and Marlene Pahl

Salon School itself has been lucky. It still remains a landmark and is used as a Community Centre.

And the students? Two of them could have gone into the field of Art, but chose to be happy homemakers. One is a lab technician, two are teachers, one has a degree in the field of Social Work, and one is a banker. All have become worthy citizens of our Alberta. And as Tiny Tim might say, "God bless them, every one."

THE BANCO STORY, By Albert Banco — December 19, 1976. Sunday, blustery and cold, but quite seasonable. I decided it was as good a day as any to talk to my folks about their early day experiences, as today marks their fifty-seventh anniversary.

My parents came to the Hanna district on June 24, 1927, from Bessarabia.

along with their three children, Walter, Lila and Pauline. Dad worked for Rudolph Doering for the summer, and the following winter he worked for Mark Pope.

He bought a half-section of land, the east half of 21-31-14, one mile north of Hanna from W. Riddle, and farmed that from 1928 to 1936. During the rough times of the thirties they could not make a living, and they recalled the dust storms, the grasshoppers, and many other hardships. I was born in November, 1929, while we still lived on the Riddle Place.

When they left that farm, the folks rented a place thirteen miles north-east of Hanna from Mrs. Deers, section 4-32-13, and remained there for two years.

On March 21, 1938, we moved to the Mark Pope farm. (I am still living here now.) The folks rented this farm for five years until they were able to buy it. In 1943 they moved into Hanna and continued to farm from there for six more years.

I stayed on the farm batching for two years. That year Dad built a house in town, and during the next three years built two more houses. They still reside in the last one he built.

On November 14, 1943, Lila was married to Fred Kelm. They had three children, Kenneth, Lynn and Trevor. At present Lila and Fred are residing in Calgary, where Fred is employed with the C.N.R.

Walter was married December 31, 1944 to Ida Jess. They farmed for two years north-east of Hanna, then bought and moved to a farm west of Ponoka. They had four children, Donald, Gordon, Shirley and Caroline. A few years later they sold their farm to Don, who is a teacher, and moved into Ponoka, where they are engaged in the real estate business.

Pauline was married January 7, 1945 to Gus Schielke. She now resides in Vancouver.

I was married May 7, 1950 to Florence Fortna. We have three children, Ron, Cheryl and Audrey. Ron is employed by Plains Western Gas Company in St. Paul, Alberta. Cheryl is on staff at the Treasury Branch in Calgary. Audrey, in her eleventh grade at Hanna High school, is still at home with us.

In 1972 I was unable to continue farming due to a bad back, so now I have the farm land rented out. We run a few yearlings during the summer months. With good luck and good health we hope to be able to remain on the farm.

The K. Banco family: Walter, Lila, Polly and Albert, with Mother and Dad, taken on the day of Albert's wedding, May 7, 1950.

Albert and Florence Banco on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, May 7, 1975, with their family, Cheryl, Ron and Audrey.

REMINISCENCES

By Gertrude Block

I am the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Block. We came to Canada in May 1910, from the state of Washington, where I was born. There were four of us children, George, Bessie (who stayed only a short time, then returned to her older sisters in the U.S.A.), Clyde and I.

My father and George had come on ahead of the rest of us to try to get a house started so we could move into it when we arrived. They met a young man by the name of Albert Wirth, who got a homestead near my brother's and lived with us for a while.

Our homestead was thirty-six miles from Castor, the SE 23–32-14. My oldest brother, George, was a few months under the age to file on land but it was arranged that my father could hold it for him until he reached the required age. Both he and my father each got a pre-emption too. This land all joined.

It seemed to be a long journey from Castor out to the homestead by wagon. There was a stopping house along the way where one could get a night's lodging.

Our land was fairly good black loam, rolling, but with some rocks. There were sloughs with willow and poplar trees around them. We had to start from scratch. We were able to get some livestock near Castor, and acquired four oxen, a team of horses, a cow, one hen of many colors, and a dog. Later we got a setting of eggs for our hen.

Our house was a two-storey dwelling made of lumber, with a large room upstairs and another room below. We had a pantry under the stairway and the first floor was used as kitchen, dining room and living room. There was a lounge in it for sleeping. Our house was not ready at first and we had to live in a tent. We had a cellar under the house and a milk house dug into the side of a hill to keep our milk, eggs, and so on, cool.

The first year we had to build the house and a barn, which had a straw roof. Also we dug a water well, plowed a garden, and plowed a fireguard around our land. We built a sod chicken coop. We were able to have a garden and some baby chicks the first year. One day our dog presented us with twelve puppies. What a time I had playing with them!

Since there were no fences our oxen and horses were hobbled and the cow picketed. We used a rope and a stake in the ground so we could tether the cow for grazing.

The first woman my mother saw after six months was Mrs. Bergdorf. They came to live just east of us on the SW 24-32-14. There were several children, most of them older than us two young ones. They lived in a sod house.

There were no schools when we first arrived. Schools were built as they were needed, when more settlers with families came into the country. Schools were used for many things; we gathered there for church and Sunday school, for dances and ball games.

In the winter time it was very cold and it seemed we were chilled through and through by the time we got to school. We would sit near the stove for a while, then take our seats. We put our lunch pails as near the stove as possible as our lunches would be frozen. Even at that there would be an icy centre in our sandwiches. We ate them anyway, and trusted that they would thaw out as they went down.

The first threshing machine, owned by Mr. Jack Young, was operated by horse power, and I mean horse power. There were several teams of horses hooked up to a bar attached to a gear that operated the threshing machine. The horses walked around in a circle to keep the threshing machine operating. They were the power that made it operate. However, over the years there were many changes in the type of power used for threshing, doing away with the demand for horses. Then they were used only to pull the racks of bundles to the separator, and to haul the grain to the bins.

The first few years we had quite a few prairie fires. Men and teams would turn out to fight the fire. We would have barrels of water and gunny sacks to work with.

When we first started school we rode Daisy, a horse from our team. She neck-reined and we did not need a bridle. When we got to school we tied the halter rope around her neck and she would go home alone to work in the field. She could go home easily as there were no fences to stop her. As I look back I think what wonderful animals those horses were!

We all had to work hard but it did not matter so much in the early years when the crops were good. Later on though, when pests and drought seemed to take over, hard times were everywhere. As we left one place some misfortune would plant itself on our doorstep as we tried to start again. I don't think we would have minded the work so much if something didn't always happen to our crop. Hail, grasshoppers, army worms.

Then there were the tumbleweeds, and those dreadful wind storms when dirt would fly and pile up in places as high as the fence posts. The tumbleweed would come loose and go bounding across the fields, and some would get caught in the fence, and mix in with the dirt and swing on the fence until it would break down. More than once the hayrack on our wagon was picked up by the wind and dumped on the ground.

Before the fences, when men went to Castor for supplies and did not get home before dark, someone would take a lighted lantern up on the hill by our place and hold it up to guide them home.

Mr. Fraser, good friend and neighbor, was digging a well and his neighbors were helping him when he was caught in a cave-in. He was down under the ground and men worked frantically to get him out. We had some moments of fear and his wife was stunned when she heard of the accident. He was finally gotten out, a bit shaken, but he had felt sure the men would not give up until he was safely out.

My brother George and Lillian Lumsden were united in marriage on the first of June, 1916. The wedding took place at her brother Bill's place. In the evening there was a dance at Solon school. They had four children, but my brother died when his oldest child was eight years old.

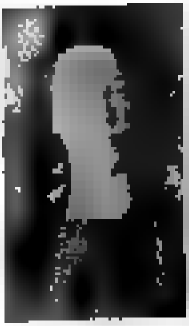
As time went on we came north to Bluffton and started once more on new land. Late in the spring my father died as the result of an accident caused by a runaway team of horses. My mother and I stayed on the place until we got rid of the belongings, then Mother went to my sisters in the States, where she died.

My brother Clyde died in 1972, his youngest daughter a year before that and his wife a year later.

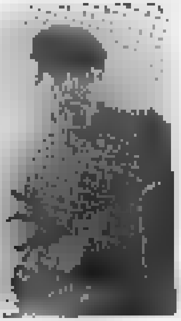
I came to Edmonton and have called it my home for years. Even when I was working elsewhere, I left some of my belongings here and returned time and again. I have worked at various jobs. I taught on Metis colonies. I did office work up north and here in Edmonton. I worked four years in the east. I have kept books in a small hospital and at one time I was made business manager. I was Matron of two Indian schools. Now I am retired and living in Edmonton in a senior citizens' high rise where I have a bachelor suite.

I often think of the old homestead and the folks there, and wish I could see them once more, but I have been told it has changed a great deal.

I am the only one left of our pioneer family and of the early days, and as time goes marching on I, too, must be on my way. So I shall say farewell to all. It has been nice to have known you.



Carrie Cleary, 3



Ralph Cleary

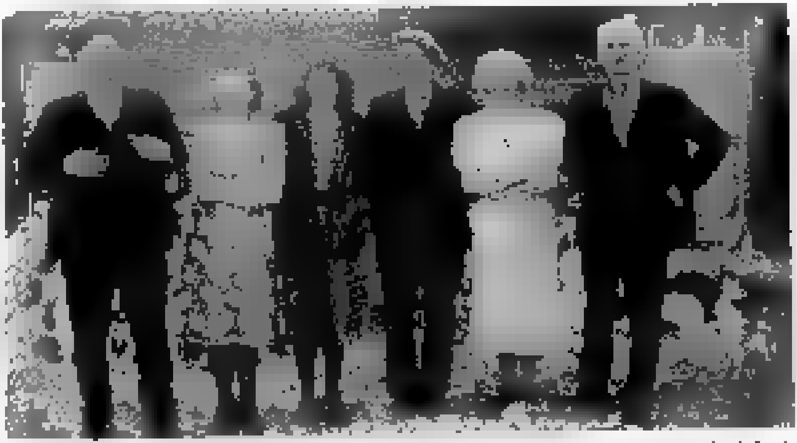
EDWARD ALONZA CLEARY STORY

from information submitted by Carrie Cleary Heaton — In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cleary and their children Ralph, five years old, and Caroline (Carrie), ten days old, came from Hamilton, Ontario to settle in the West. With them they brought horses, farming equipment and furniture.

Accompanying the Cleary family were Walter and Jack Cleary, the Almas family and the Burkholder family, all from Hamilton.

They travelled by train to Stettler. When they arrived there Mrs. Cleary wanted to give baby Carrie a bath. To get enough water for the bath she had to pay fifty cents, which was quite a sum in those days.

From Stettler they travelled across country to their homestead, the east half and the south-west quarter of 20-32-13. Their home was a sod house. Water for the family was carried from a spring a quarter of a mile away.



Christmas at Cleary's, 1939. Left to right: Fred and Blanche Johnson, Ettie and George Crossfield, Carrie and Ed Cleary.

The first year the Cleary family experienced a prairie fire. They lost their horses in this fire and then had to use oxen to do the farm work.

After the fire Mrs. Burns, a neighbor, brought some milk to Mrs. Cleary for baby Carrie. After Mrs. Cleary gave the milk to Carrie, Mrs. Burns told her that it was milk from a horse. Milk from a horse or not, it kept little Carrie alive.

After a few years the Cleary family returned to Hamilton to get more horses and cattle to bring west. They also brought chickens with them. When they left Hamilton on Good Friday the weather was lovely and warm, but when they arrived in Hanna it was about fifteen degrees below zero. They nearly froze getting out to the farm. Unfortunately neither the chickens nor the horses survived the year. Mr. Cleary believed the animals didn't survive due to the difference in altitude and temperature.

That same year a frame house was built on the farm. This house still stands on the old homestead. They drilled for water near the house but it had such a high mineral content that it couldn't be used.

During the early years the Cleary family experienced some hard times. Some crops were lost due to grasshoppers; other crops were lost due to hail. Sometimes they were so poor they didn't have shoes to wear so the men would snare muskrats and tan the hides to make moccasins.

One time Mrs. Cleary took sick. Dr. Mason came to take her to hospital in Hanna. That night there was such a big blizzard that Mr. Cleary, Ralph, Carrie, Mr. Dalos and his brother Louis, were snowed in for two weeks. They didn't know whether Mrs. Cleary was alive or not as there were no telephones then.

In summer the children snared gophers and collected crows' eggs for which the government paid a bounty.

Ralph and Carrie attended school at Solon. They usually walked the three miles to school. They helped milk cows and do chores before leaving for school.

It was not all hard work. They had their fun time, too. The Cleary home seemed to be one of the gathering places for parties as Mr. and Mrs. Cleary enjoyed dancing and card games. They attended socials at nearby schools. At these parties the children would recite poems or take part in plays. Then they would be put to sleep on a pile of coats in the cloak-room. The grownups played cards or danced till daylight before starting home.

One incident Carrie remembers well is a pie social at Alps school. Neighbors would travel together in a big sleigh to the party. This particular time Mrs. Cleary had made her favorite vinegar pie with whipped cream to take to the social. When they got to the school they discovered that Carrie had travelled the whole way with her feet in the pie

In later years when the family went to Hanna for supplies, it was a highlight for Ralph and Carrie to be permitted to go along. A special treat was a lunch at the Chinese restaurant.

In 1928 the Clearys had a barn built on their homestead. To initiate it, a barn dance was held. Friends came from great distances to enjoy the merriment.

Their first car was a 1928 Chev coach. They took out the front seat on the passenger's side to make room for the can of cream which they hauled to Hanna. Mrs. Cleary sat in the back seat by herself. A few years later Mr. Cleary bought an International panel truck, formerly an old milk van, for transporation. They used this as a camper when attending the Calgary Stampede.

It was also a convenient vehicle when they went to pick saskatoons at Nevis and at Nose Hills. Mrs. Cleary is well remembered for her home made wine.

Carrie left the Cleary home in her mid-teens to complete her education in Hamilton. Later she married Arthur Hooton and is still residing in Hamilton. She has three children, Donald, James and Catherine.

Ralph stayed to help his father on the farm during the busy season. During the winter months he often worked in the bush, and also, at one time, worked in a Calgary packing plant. He was a member of the Solon baseball team and is known as a good skater.

Shortly after his mother's death he returned to Ontario. He is married and living at Merr, Ontario.

Mrs. Cleary passed away in 1946, Mr. Cleary in 1952.

ALBERT DITTON — Albert Ditton lived in a very well-built sod house, lined with building paper, on his homestead, northeast of 18-32-13. With him lived his mother, Mrs. Beard, who filed on nearby land, southwest 2-32-14. His sister also lived with him until December 1913 when she married Bill Vowel.

He did breaking for Garfield French and Bill Lumsden.

When World War I broke out he sold his land to Fred Wheasy and returned to the United States and joined the American Army.

TRAGEDY ON SECTION 17 — The John Engel Story as told by Louise Lillo and Fred Engel — In the spring of 1929 Mr. John Engel, his wife, their sons Sam and Otto, and daughters Emma and Dorothy, moved from their residence in the Hand Hills to the SW 17-32-13, which was known as the International farm. The farmhouse and a large gable-roofed barn were located on a high hill.

On August 19, 1930, a tragic accident occurred causing Mr. John Engel, his son Sam, and his son-in-law Alex Derr, to lose their lives. The men were busy harvesting when they noticed an electrical storm approaching. They hurried home to stable the horses. While they were in the barn a bolt of lightning struck it, instantly killing the three men and their two dogs. Since the barn burned to the ground, all the contents, including five horses, a colt, pigs and chickens, were lost. The men were burned beyond recognition.

Otto Engel, who had remained out in the field, saw what happened and hurried home, but was able to save only three of the eight horses that were in the barn.

John Engel Family. Back Row: Louise, Pauline, Jean. Second Row: Emma, Mrs. Engel, Mr. John Engel, Otto. Sam in the chair

THE SIMON FALER STORY, By Florence Faler Hannah — My parents, Simon and Elizabeth Faler, and family moved from near Spokane, Washington to the W. B. Block homestead in August, 1917. There was my half-brother, Bill, my brother David, my sister Glenn and myself. My father had traded our place twenty miles from Spokane to Mr. Block for his homestead, the east half of 23-32-14.

My father and Bill brought our belongings to Hanna in a railroad car of settlers' effects. . . . I suppose he may have gotten the car cheaper than ordinary shipping. Some time later my mother and the rest of the family came by passenger train, the cheapest way possible with no sleeping berths, but it wasn't so bad. I was fifteen then. Glenn was nine and David six.

We brought in four horses, two cows, some chickens and some machinery. We lived in a small lumber house, just one room downstairs and one up. We divided the upstairs into two rooms for us kids and my father built a slant-roofed lean-to for the folks' bedroom. There was a barn of sorts, but we had to build a chicken house.

There was some cultivated land, and we had some wheat, and oats for feed. Of course we didn't have any the first fall as that crop belonged to someone else. We had quite a lot of hay land, and my father hayed with someone else on the lease land, so after that first year we had plenty of feed. The first year we hauled straw from one of the neighbors at one dollar a load.

Ours was a dug well, and we pulled the water up in a bucket for the stock and the house. The water wasn't too good. I guess it had iron in it as it gave all the white clothes a rusty tinge, and in those days girls wore white middy blouses and white skirts. I was never very proud of mine!

There were many neighbors in the area, some being bachelors. Dad often asked the bachelors over to our place for Christmas dinner. North of us lived the McLarens and their sister Effie. I used to be quite friendly with Effie and we had some good times together. One fall we went cooking on the Bertman and Sleen threshing machine, around the Garden Plain district.

My brother Dave and sister Glenn went to Solon School. They rode horseback, double. It was about three miles the way they had to go, and was pretty hard on them in the winter. Later they went to Alpa school.

The winters were quite cold with lots of snow and it would blow into huge drifts. One year, Jack Young, one of the bachelor neighbors, brought us kids a big hand sleigh for Christmas and we all had a lot of fun sliding down the hill just back of our house. We had hard times but we had lots of fun too.

When I got to be seventeen or eighteen I was allowed to go to the country dances at Wiese and Centre Point schools. And of course there was the Hand Hills Stampede. It was always exciting. We would go in groups and the girls would take a picnic lunch. Later on we'd have a hot dog, and were they good! They don't taste half as good now.

We used to get our mail and groceries in Hanna. There were no roads where we were so we had to go about fourteen miles to get to the well-travelled road past the Overton place.

In 1922 my parents and family moved to a rented place near Bentley. I helped them get settled there, then came back to Hanna where I had worked for the past three years. My parents and Glenn and David went back to the U.S.A. in the spring of 1928, travelling in an old Model T Ford. My father passed away in 1930, my mother in 1944. Glenn is married and living in California. David died last April at the age of sixty-five. Bill had returned to the States in 1919. He passed away about thirty-five years ago.

I was married to Carl Hannah on January 16, 1923. Carl was hauling mail

along two rural routes; R.R. No. 1 along the Castor trail is still in operation today. Later we moved to the Peace River country where Carl died in January, 1967.

We had a good life and no regrets. I am now living in a mobile home in Kamloops. I came here in 1970 to be near my three children, two boys and one girl.

GARFIELD FRENCH — In February, 1910, Mr. Garfield French homesteaded on the NW 18-32-13. At the same time he took a pre-emption on the NE 13-32-14. Most of his early farming was done with oxen, though he gradually replaced them with horses.

On November 1, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. French began operating the Solon post office in their home. Mail for the pioneers of the surrounding area was brought to Solon from Castor. On February 2, 1914, Mr. French resigned as postmaster, and Solon post office officially closed on April 15, 1914.

In 1916 Mr. and Mrs. French moved on to their pre-emption and leased the homestead to Mr. Walter Hill. In 1919 Mr. French sold his pre-emption to Mr. Ed Loveday through the Soldier Settlement Board, and soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. French returned to Consecon, Ontario.

Solon Post Office, 1911. Mrs. French, Garfield French, Charlie Brown, Howard Kern, Gilbert Brown.

ARTHUR ALLISON GORDON — A. A. Gordon homesteaded the north half of 2-32-14 in 1912. During his stay in the area he was correspondent for Solon news to the Hanna Herald. In 1913 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Solon School. At the same time he was Publicity Director of the Patriotic Society in Hanna, and sometimes had to miss meetings because of conflicting dates.

A prairie fire swept across his farm in September, 1915 destroying his crop and barn.

He was married and had one son. He left this area in 1917 after selling his farm to John Rice.

ROBERT GLENN HAWKES — In 1911 Glenn Hawkes homesteaded on the east half of 14-32-14. He was the first secretary of the Solon U.F.A. when it was organized in 1913. Neighbors remember the cunning manner in which he hunted the antelope which roamed over the prairies. It is said he enjoyed a good wrestling match with Bill Lumsden, who often helped Glenn with his field work. After they stabled the horses in the sod barn the two men would strip to the waist and have a wrestling match which usually ended in a draw. Mrs. Hawkes was their spectator.

In August, 1916, Glenn Hawkes sold his holdings to Sayle Brown and the Jas. Weldon family moved onto the place.

WALTER HILL — Walter Hill homesteaded southwest of 18-32-13 in 1912. He lived in a sod house on his homestead until the early part of 1916 when he leased Garfield French's homestead. Walter needed better living quarters as his sister, Ada, came to live with him. The fall of 1916, Walter had a beautiful crop of wheat and oats but was unsuccessful in harvesting it as in August a severe frost reduced his yield and his wheat graded number six.

He married Jean Lewis who taught at Solon.

After World War One he sold his homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board and took up residence in Hanna where he became a Life Insurance Agent.

SCOTT JOHNSON, *By Elsie Churchill* — Scott Johnson came to Hanna shortly after the end of the First World War. He acquired the SW 18-32-13 through the Soldier Settlement Board. In 1921 he terminated his contract with the Soldier Settlement Board and moved to Winnipeg.

He married Olive Churchill of Hanna in 1921. They lived in Winnipeg and other points in Manitoba for a number of years. Olive passed away in 1939. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

Scott came back west in the forties, and spent his later years in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. PETER A. JOHNSON, *By Mrs. Vivian Holland* — Pete Johnson, his wife Vivian, and their children, Roy, Earnest, Anne, Phyllis, Julia and Eunice, a baby of one year, moved into the Hanna North area from Youngstown. They spent the winter on the farm of Ed Elm (SW 31-31-13) while he visited in the U.S.A. The two boys attended school at Meadowlands, and in bad weather were taken to school by Harold Fox, who also took his brothers Clifford and Edward to Meadowlands.

Mrs. Johnson sang "The Red Cross Nurse" at the Christmas concert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the song very much.

When Mr. Elm returned in the spring, the Johnson family moved to the Kern farm, and rented the east half of 1-32-14 from Howard Kern, on a half-share basis, all machinery and grain supplied. At that time the Johnson family owned three head of cattle, two brood sows, chickens and turkeys.

The boys were transferred to Solon school. During the summer Mr. Johnson did carpenter work for Kerns, so Mrs. Johnson often rode horseback to the Kerns for supplies while Roy baby sat. Mrs. Emma Kern and Mrs. Vivian Johnson became good friends.

In August of 1933, their neighbor across the road, Abraham Miller, wanted to rent out his place, as was. So the Pete Johnson family moved across the road to section 6-32-13. As there was not much hope of a crop that year, on September 4 Mr. Johnson decided to stook grain. Mrs. Johnson helped with the chore and on September 6 gave birth to a boy, Waldemar, in the farmhouse with Mrs. Kern and Mrs. Hoover in attendance, as Dr. Cross from Hanna was just not able to make it.

On the sixth day Mrs. Kern went to visit Mrs. Johnson and take her some home-made noodle soup, but Mrs. Johnson was out of bed by then and milking five cows.

In September, 1934, Mrs. Johnson went to Hanna with a team and horses to deliver a five-gallon can of cream. While she was picking up the mail the postmaster, W. C. Stirling, asked her if she would like some sheep as he had eleven ewes on the farm. The farmer who was looking after them was moving.

When Mrs. Johnson got home she asked her husband. Mr. Johnson loaded the hay rack on the wagon, went to the farm and brought the sheep home. As there were no corrals for sheep, they were all gone the next morning.

While Mr. Johnson was hauling coal from a local strip mine, Mrs. Johnson went to look for the sheep. She rode bareback. After about half a day's searching she found them lying down on a hillside about three miles from home, just north of Sanco's farm.

To bring the sheep home she had to lead the horse. This she did until she got to Solon school, where she got her son, Earnest, to help her. Soon after this episode another baby, Kenneth, was born in the Hanna hospital with Dr. Argue in attendance.

During the next few years two more children were added to the Johnson family, a girl, Roxie, and a boy, Clarence.

At the beginning of World War II, Roy joined the Air Force as an Aero Engine Mechanic. He was stationed at Rivers, Manitoba, for five years. Earnest joined the army and was transferred to the Medical Corps as an ambulance driver. He was in Debert, N.S. when he met with an accident and was given a medical discharge.

Anna finished high school in Hanna, working as a ward aide at the Hanna hospital during summer holidays. After completing high school she became a Dental Assistant to Dr. Smith.

Phyllis, at the age of eighteen, became cook and general helper for Mrs. Codey, Matron of Cereal hospital. While working there she met and married William Ruppert and took up residence in Youngstown.

Julia took grade ten in Hanna and worked at the Hanna hospital during holidays. Later she went to work in Calgary. Eunice became a waitress in Lee's Cafe in Hanna. She also went to Calgary to work in the Wales Hotel.

In March, 1950, the Johnson family left the farm and moved to Taber. Waldemar started to work for the experimental station and then found employment in Vauxhall. Kenneth worked at a filling station and Roxie and Clarence attended school. Mrs. Johnson worked as a ward aide in the Taber hospital.

In 1964 Mrs. Johnson and Roxie both went to Calgary to take Nursing Aide courses. Clarence lived with his sister at Youngstown, took his grade nine and also worked at a grocery store.

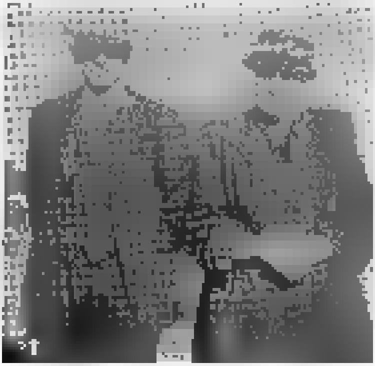
During her training, Mrs. Johnson had one of her hospital postings at Hanna. Mrs. Kern was house mother there at the time and the two had some great visits. Mrs. Johnson was asked to apply for work in the Hanna hospital after her graduation as Aide, but she thought it better to go to Lethbridge.

Roy Johnson passed away in 1968, Earnest in 1970 and Mr. Pete Johnson in 1976.

MR. and MRS. FRED KAUTZ, by Mrs. Harold Kautz — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz and their children Alma, Dan and Arnold emigrated from Leipzig, Romania, to the Hand Hills in May, 1927. They settled on the Oscar Graumann farm where daughter Ruby was born. In 1929 they moved to a farm south of Delia

where Harold and Edwin were born, then in 1932 went to the Golden Hills district. It was while they were there that Bill was born. In 1934 they went to the Red Rose area where Adella was born and their oldest daughter Alma was married.

In the spring of 1937 they moved to section 17 in the Solon district where their youngest child, Fred, was born. This move was made by team and wagon and was a great adventure for the children of the family; they still remember and talk about it. It had been on this farm that lightning struck a barn which was burned to the ground and three men lost their lives. The farmhouse stood on the hill at that time and after the fire the house was moved down the hill to its present site as a safety precaution, as lightning strikes this high point of land quite frequently.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz

Grandmother Kautz's 70th birthday. Dan, Harold, Ed, Bill, Fred Jr. Alma, Mrs. Kautz, Adella, Ruby.

Shortly after moving to the Solon district they purchased their first car, a 1928 Chevrolet. This made the trips to town more comfortable than travelling with a horse and buggy.

In the spring of 1939 a major purchase of new machinery was made . . . a tractor, tiller and seed drill, to make farming easier and more efficient. Needless to say, the boys were happy with these new pieces of equipment. Then in the fall Mr. Kautz purchased a threshing machine, and in addition to threshing their own crops, they would hire out to other farms at harvest time.

In 1949 the Fred Weiss farm was purchased, and Dan and his wife Lena moved to this place on section 18. In 1953 he purchased what was known as the Cleary place, and Eddie and his wife Margaret moved onto this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kautz retired from farming in 1958 and moved to Hanna. Mr. Kautz passed away in 1959 and Mrs. Kautz is still living in Hanna where she maintains her own house and garden.

Alma married Fred Engel of the Red Rose district in 1938. They farmed in the Meadowlands area until retiring to Hanna in 1972. They have five children.

In 1950 Dan married Lena Schaupp of Rieklingshausen, Germany, and farmed until retiring to Hanna in 1975. They have two boys.

Arnold married Elma Faschner in 1946. They farmed in the Golden Hill district until moving to Hanna in 1966. Arnold died in 1967. They had two boys.

Ruby married Alfred Pahl in 1947 and farmed until retiring to Hanna in 1972. They have five daughters.

Harold married Frances Watts of Toronto in 1958. They and their two children are still living and working on the home place.

In 1953 Eddie married Margaret Gullason, and farmed until 1964 when they

moved to Hanna where Eddie works for the Special Areas. They have four children.

Bill married Margaret Berry in 1970, lives in Hanna and works for the C.N.R. They have two girls.

Adella married Harry Altwasser in 1960. They live in Calgary with their three children.

Fred married Margaret Grover in 1969. They and their two children are living in Edmonton.

HAROLD KAUTZ — I was born on June 16, 1929 south of Oyen, and lived there and in the Red Rose district until moving to the Solon area, section 17-32-13. After completing my schooling at Solon, I worked at home and in the Edmonton area until 1952 when I joined the R.C.A.M.C. and was stationed at Camp Borden where I met Frances Watts. After service in Korea, I received my discharge in the spring of 1955, and in December of that year I went to Toronto, where Frances and I were married.

We drove back to Hanna after the wedding, and were caught in a blizzard in the Sunnynook area. One of the tires had gone flat, and when I opened the trunk to get out the spare, the strong wind caught a plastic bag and blew it out of the trunk. It happened that this bag contained Frances' wedding dress. As it was blowing so badly that we couldn't even see, we didn't bother to look for the dress and considered it lost; it was a good thing it had already been used! Eventually, with the help of another traveller on the road at the same time, we were able to make our way to the Sheerness coal mine where we found shelter with the mine manager and his wife. The next day we made it into Hanna and the following day arrived at the farm.

The next spring my brother-in-law, Alfred Pehl, and his family, were on their way to Carolside Dam to do some fishing when they spied a plastic bag lying in the ditch. When they investigated they found Frances' wedding dress inside it. It was still in good condition, undamaged by its winter under the snow.

We lived and farmed with my parents until they retired to Hanna in October of 1956, at which time I took over the farm from Dad. Our daughter, Deborah Ann, was born November 16, 1956, and our son Barry Allen on January 1, 1958.

I purchased section 17 from my Dad's estate and still live there. In time I also bought the Cleary place, the west half of 20-32-13; and also the SE 19-32-13. At the present time, Deborah is in third year Sociology at the University of Calgary, and Barry is apprenticing as a Diesel Mechanic in Edmonton.

Isaac Kern and his team, of one horse and one mule, 1909

THE ISAAC KERN STORY, By Cliff Kern — Isaac Kern was born in Ohio on January 27, 1869. In 1888 he married Myrtle Eckert, and to this marriage six children were born, Howard and his twin sister, Florence, who was stillborn, in 1890; Clifford in 1892; Ruth in 1893; Kenneth in 1895, and Edith in 1902.

Attracted by glowing accounts of the development of the Canadian west, Isaac and his son Clifford left Traverse City, Michigan, in 1907, and entered Canada to investigate the land situation at Stavely, Alberta, but found all the land was taken up. They returned to Traverse

City and in 1908, Isaac and his eldest son, Howard, came back to Alberta, settling at Gadsby.

As he was the proud owner of a team of oxen, Howard was employed in freighting from Stettler to Castor, while Isaac was kept busy building houses in town, as well as one for himself. In the fall of 1908 he sent for the rest of the family and they arrived in Stettler in January, 1909.

Before leaving Traverse City, Clifford had bought enough lumber to build a house sixteen by sixteen, as the household effects they had were not enough to fill the settlers' car which they had purchased. After moving the family, furniture and lumber to Gadsby, Howard hitched his team of oxen to a fringe top surrey which was also brought along in the settlers' car, and proudly displayed it along the streets of town.

Isaac had filed on a homestead, the east half of 1-32-14, seven miles north-east of where the town of Hanna now stands. In the spring of 1909 Isaac, Howard and Clifford freighted the lumber, some household effects and a plow to the homestead, and immediately set to work building a house and plowing the first furrows. On the way down they noticed that they had lost a bundle of shingles. Clifford, who had brought his bicycle along, went back several miles until he located them, and holding the shingles on his shoulder, pedaled back to where his father and Howard were.

Mrs. Kerr stayed in Gadsby so the younger children could go to school, later moving to Edmonton where they were to get a higher education. Ruth became a stenographer and Edith a teacher. At one time she taught Meadowlands school. Kenneth was employed as a furniture salesman in Edmonton, later moving to Vancouver where he went into the insurance business, and where he still resides.

Clifford looked around for a homestead but found nothing suitable, so went back to Calgary where he was hired by the C.P.R. and eventually became a station agent. He was transferred to several stations in Alberta and finally was sent to Glenwood where he still lives on the small farm he bought after being retired.

Howard filed on a homestead next to his dad's, the NE 36-31-14. In 1918, Isaac rented his farm to a Mr. Readwin and returned to the States. He worked at various jobs, one being in the shipyards at San Francisco. He came back to Canada several times over the years to check on his farm and to help his son Howard build a house and a barn. He was a good carpenter.

Ruth passed away in 1918, Edith in 1973, Howard in 1958, Isaac in 1928 and Myrtle in 1936.

DAVE LESLIE STORY — Dave Leslie is remembered as one of the last pioneers to use oxen in the Solon area. He was still using them in 1916.

He settled on the east half of 30-32-13 in 1909. Just south of his frame house ran a small creek. This was a good place to stock fish, he decided, so he hired Joe Overton to build a dam. Joe Overton built the dam, approximately seven feet high and one hundred yards long, all by himself. But to no avail; the dam caused flooding of neighbouring farmland and had to be broken up.

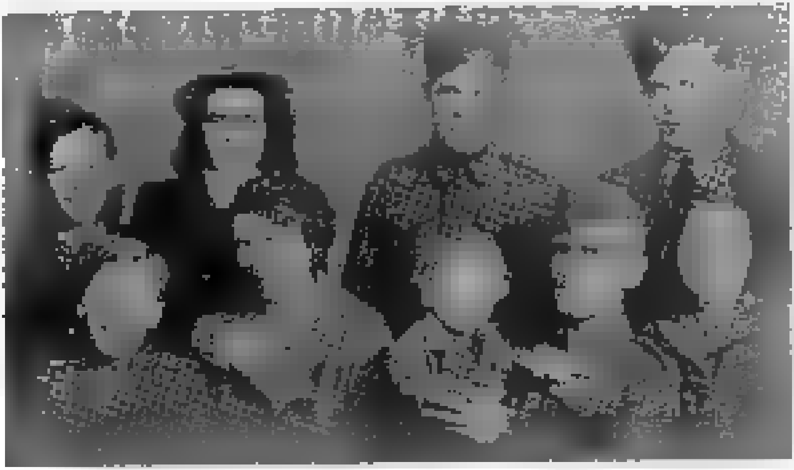
During his few years in the district he was poundkeeper. He was also road foreman for municipal roads. At harvest time he operated a Stanley Jones threshing machine. This was a very unique machine.

After selling his farm to Dave Leicht in 1918 he left this community.

HONEYMOON FARM, By Robert Loveday — Edward James Loveday and wife Eleanor arrived in Hanna in 1919 on their honeymoon, to settle on a Soldier Settlement Board farm later to be known as Honeymoon Farm. Edward, son of a

hotel owner in Norwich, England, had arrived in Cochrane in 1896, at the age of nine. After working in a brickyard, he acquired sufficient funds to buy a horse, and during his teen-age years he became a horse breaker. He was later to drive a stagecoach between Alberta and Montana.

In 1914, Edward enlisted in the army as a cavalry man. At the end of the war in 1918, Edward, who had been stationed in France, went back to England to visit the father he had not seen since he was nine years old, only to discover that he had died just two weeks previously. Edward's mother had died in 1913 in Conrad, Montana.



The Loveday Family: Back Row: Joyce, Bernice, Lionel, Robert. First Row: Ted, Mrs. Eleanor Loveday, Cameron, Mr. Edward Loveday, and Ruth

During this trip he met Eleanor Williamson, daughter of a farmer from Hingham, England, and they were married on August 13, 1918. Eleanor and Edward, aged 23 and 31, respectively, headed for Canada where they would settle on a farm located three miles east and seven miles north of Hanna on Highway 36, the NE 13-32-14.

There was a small house on the land, and a well. During the first years more wells were dug by hand, but to no avail. Eventually a well driller found a plentiful supply of water, although it contained some alkali. The land was broken with a four-horse team and a sulky plow. Rocks were in abundance and were picked by hand and piled near the poplar bluffs. Buffalo beans, crocuses, wild roses, and a wide variety of song birds are well remembered by eldest son Robert.

From 1919 to 1927, Edward and Nellie and their children, Robert, Lionel and Bernice, managed with a straw-roofed barn which leaked when it rained. Edward built a hip-roofed barn in 1927. The neighbors gathered to have a shingling bee, and shingled it in one day, and had a barn dance afterward. Ice cream was provided by Ed and Nellie. When the barn was painted Nellie requested that a large sign, "Honeymoon Farm", be attached to the barn.

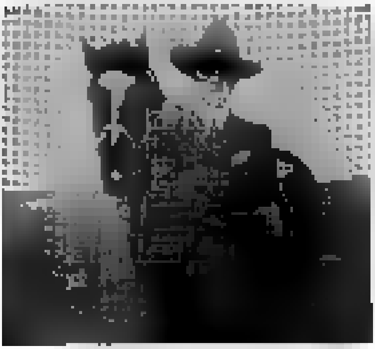
Transportation for the Loveday family was a democrat and a team of horses, which took them back and forth to church, to Solon school, and to deliver cream and eggs to Hanna. As the family grew, demands increased, and Ed started to haul coal from Defoe's mine to Hanna with a four-horse team. Nellie delivered corn and turkeys to the National Hotel, and purchased groceries with the money.

Ed hauled grain with an eight-horse team strung out, two, three and three. Comments were heard that the Loveday's heavily loaded wagons ruined the roads by making deep ruts.

Nellie read teacups, and many of the neighbors would call in to have their fortunes told. She was a member of the Board of Solon school which her five children, Robert, Lionel, Bernice, Joyce and Ruth attended. The youngest boy, Ted, was not old enough to go. In 1937 the Loveday family moved to Calgary where another son, Cameron was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Loveday had seven children, five of whom survive, twenty grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

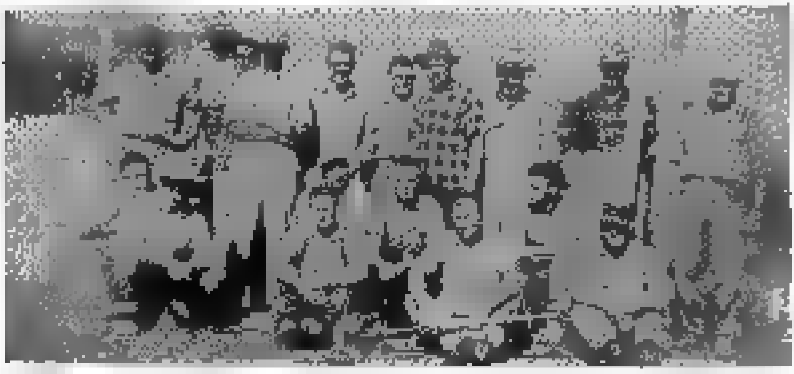
Edward died in 1962. Eleanor, commonly known to people as Nellie, still resides in Calgary.


Harry Lumsden 1919

HARRY JAMES LUMSDEN — Early the morning of March twenty-first, 1916, my mother, two sisters, Lillian and Violet and I arrived in Hanna. We had travelled via C.N.R. from Mount Forest, Ontario.

My brother William (Bill) met the train to take us to his homestead south-east 18-32-13. What a balmy spring day it was! I saw my first gopher as we drove along the Castor Trail in Bill's wagon. Ducks were swimming in abundance on "Mud Lake" as we cut across section seven just east of Solon school. It was quite a pleasant change from the cold blizzardy weather we had left behind just four days previously.

A few days after our arrival my sister Violet and I began attending school at Solon. I attended for two months, as starting in June I herded cattle for O. Overton, the Goodlen brothers, John Parker and for my brother. The herd of over three hundred head roamed over sections seven, eight, nine, five and seventeen; this was all open land.


Cement pouring bee at Harry Lumsden's, 1950. Back Row, left to right: Harold Kautz, John Whaley, Ed Kautz, Fred Johnson Jr., David Whaley, Gerald Whaley, Alfred Pahl, Bob Rehill, Sam Little, Dan Kautz. Front Row: Leslie Lumsden, Harry Lumsden, Carl Rehill, Norman Greenway, Will Lumsden, Otto Pahl, Laurence Lumsden, Charlie Whaley.

To me this was the last of the great prairie wool as I have never seen grass like that again. It must have been the wettest June ever as I can recall only one day we didn't get some precipitation. Every lake, slough and burn-out was full of water. Naturally mosquitoes thrived. Cattle, my horse, as well as myself were continuously covered with mosquitoes. In the evening smoke smudges had to be made to give the animals some relief. It seemed like a long summer and I often wished I were back in Ontario, perhaps because I was rather young and inexperienced for such responsibility or perhaps I was just homesick. At any rate I was glad when fall came and the owners claimed their cattle.

My first winter (1916-17) in the west I helped my brother on his homestead. For the next several years I worked in the Dowling area. Incidents of particular interest to me were: In 1919 while working for Lee Doyle I looked forward to the evenings when I would practice baseball with Louis Doyle, who was a great ballplayer. In 1918, while working for Harold Mansfield, I had the privilege of going with him and Bill Himmelreich to put up two thousand tons of hay, on contract, at Lloydminster for the Lawson brothers.

In 1920, I left this area for the north. After spending three years in the Peace River country, where I took up a homestead ten miles south of Blue Sky, I returned to the Solon area.

The autumn of 1923 I acquired Garfield French's homestead, northwest of 18-32-13. Since my mother lived with me we were welcomed into the community by a surprise "hen" party. Friends of the Solon and Grassy Slope districts each brought nice young hens when they came for a surprise visit one evening.

In 1928 I purchased the southwest of 18-32-13 from the Soldiers' Settlement Board. As well as farming I did maintenance work on Highway thirty-six for twelve years. This work was done with horses.

We worked hard and experienced many hardships, but I would rather recall the many enjoyable times I had during this period, participating in Christmas concerts at Solon, Maunders and Alps schools; also playing baseball and basketball on the Solon team.

As we lived just a half mile from Solon school Mother boarded the teachers until 1937 when due to her ill health, she went to live with my sister Violet in Calgary. She remained there until her death on April the fifth, 1940, at the age of eighty-one.

In 1939 I bought a two ton truck. I was in the trucking business for ten years, at the same time I farmed. My farming was done using horses until 1941 when I bought a Ford Ferguson tractor, which is still in operation. A better or faster means of farming was required as we now owned and farmed five quarters.

Betty Seidel, from Trochu, Alberta, and I were married in 1946. We have three children. Laurence, a senior engineering technician for Alberta Gas Trunk Line; Leslie, assistant manager in Commercial Loans Department for the Royal Bank, in Vancouver. He married Darlene Strong from Fairview, Alberta. They are presently living in Surrey, B.C.; Karen is married to Gary Babcock from Calgary. She is presently a homemaker and residing at Warburg, Alberta.

At the present time Betty and I are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring so we can try our hand for another year of farming.

WILLIAM DUNCAN LUMSDEN, By Jim Lumsden — W. D. Lumsden (Bill) was born at Harriston, Ontario, on July seventh, 1888 coming west to Virden, Manitoba, in the fall of 1908. He came with Vernon Burrows to Coronation where he hauled lumber from Castor to Coronation. He homesteaded in the Kirkpatrick Lake area, but he abandoned his claim, due to sandy soil, and filed a

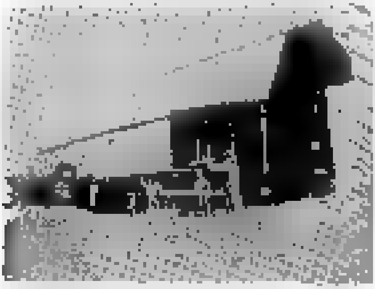
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden, 1923

claim east of Solon: southeast of 16-32-13.

He worked with his oxen in 1912 east of Hanna, when the railroad was built. Bill was very interested in wrestling, and in 1914, he wrestled in the Flemming Hall in Hanna, and won his match. In 1914 he bought his first team from Joe O'Niel for five hundred dollars, and chickens from Corry's. In 1916 his mother, brother Harry, and sisters Violet and Lillian came from Ontario to join him. In 1919 he bought the land (13-32-14) from Bob Moore.

Bill married Evelyn Mary Summers of Calgary in July 1923. In 1924 they bought a pair of foxes for seven hundred and fifty dollars and began to raise foxes. He bought all the old horses in the area for fox meat and also fed the foxes eggs, porridge, and milk. They sold their first pelt for three hundred dollars in London, England. In April 1924 a daughter Marjorie was born, now of Calgary; In December 1925 another daughter Norma, now farming in the Rumsey area. Born in June 1928 a son Keith, now of Carcross Yukon; Wilfred born in April 1930, is now living in the Hanna area. A daughter Merle was born in July 1933, now lives in Brisbane, Australia. James, born in 1936, is now living on the home farm in the Hanna area. In 1928 Bill was appointed as one of the delegates from the Walse local U.F.A. to attend the U.F.A. convention in Calgary. At a meeting on January the twenty-eighth, 1928 everyone enjoyed very much his report on the convention. He was appointed president for that year. In 1918 Bill bought his first car, a four door touring Chevrolet.

W. D. Lumsden family: Keith, Marjorie, Jim, Meryl, Wilfred, Norma, Mr. Bill Lumsden, Mrs. Evelyn Lumsden, grandson Ross Miller.



Moving the barn off "Honeymoon Farm" to Bill Lumsden's farm, 1940

Bill butchered beef, and sold it to the Liberty Cafe and Star Meat Market in Hanna, in the thirties.

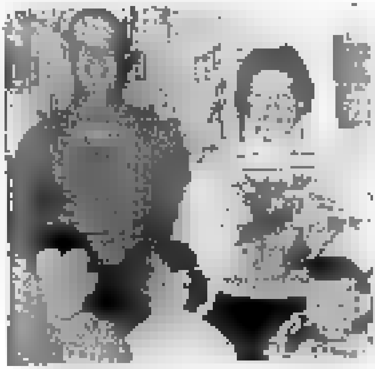
In 1937 he bought the Loveday farm, northeast of 13-32-14 and southeast of 24-32-14. They moved the barn and some other buildings from the Loveday farm in 1940.

He served on a jury in Hanna in 1940. In 1945 they sold all the foxes and raised cattle, chickens, turkeys and a few pigs.

Evelyn taught school at Solon and Bingo. She passed away in Calgary in 1966 at the age of sixty-six.

Bill has spent his last few years with his daughter Marjorie, in the winter months, and likes to take in the wrestling matches on Friday nights. He comes home to the farm and spends the summer with his son Jim and family. He has eighteen grandchildren.

Bill passed away April 13, 1977


Mr and Mrs. Jim Lumsden, Steven, Kathy, and Mykes, 1966

JAMES CLIFFORD LUMSDEN — I was born in Hanna on March 6, 1936, and have lived all my life on the home farm, the NW 13-32-14.

In June of 1939 I was with my brother Wilfred and sister Marie hunting crows and magpies. I got tired so they decided to send me home. I got off the trail and got lost, and they had most of the neighbors out looking for me. Waldemar Bence found me about four miles from home and took me to Ludwig Pehl's place. I remember I really felt big because Ludwig let me ride on the running board of the car when he took me home.

I started school at Solon in 1942, attended Meadowlands in 1950 and 1951, and Hanna in 1951 and 1952. I played ball for Dowling in the fifties.

In March, 1960, I married Shirley Mae Walle of Endiang. In 1960 we had a daughter, Kathleen Marie; a son Steven Barry in 1961; and another son, Mykes, in 1962.

I enjoy curling, fishing and snowmobiling with my family.

WILFRED LUMSDEN — I was born at Hanna on April 17, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden. I attended Solon school for nine years, and then took three years of high school in Hanna. In April, 1948, I joined the Navy, and spent one year at the west coast and two years on the east coast.

In the spring of 1951 I returned to help on my father's farm, and purchased the west half of 20-32-13 from Charlie Wyatt in 1953.

That December Ila Mulgrove and I were married, and we have four children. Diana, married to Leon Paquette, lived in Calgary. Dwane is working in Hanna. Barbara, Mrs. Danny Bauch, is at Campbell River, B.C., and Lois is in Hanna.

In 1957 I started working for Ducks Unlimited, and although we are still living on the farm, we have rented the cultivated land to Ken Rehill since 1975.

ABRAHAM MILLER, ***By Fred Miller*** — Abraham Miller was born on April 5, 1902 at McKluskey, North Dakota. In November of 1909 he came with his parents to Stettler, where they spent the winter. The following spring the family moved to the homestead which his father had filed on, four miles west of the present town of Hanna.

His father bought section 6-32-13 in the Solon district for him, and Abe moved onto this place in 1924. In 1926 he was married to Jean Engel. They had three sons, Albert, Eddie and Norman.

Jean died when Norman was born. Abe stayed on the farm for about two years after his wife died, then moved to Calgary, where he resided until his passing in 1974 at the age of seventy-one years.

THE JOSEPH VINCENT O'NEILL STORY — In 1909 Joe O'Neill took possession of section 6-32-13, a South African Veterans' Scrip. He was a well educated man who had come to Solon area from the United States.

Neighbors remember him as the man with no fingers who was most adept at driving a six-horse team.

In 1912 he reported harvesting six thousand and sixty-two bushels of oats from one hundred and ten acres.

In December, 1915 he left this area to take up residence in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pahl and two sons, Alfred and Otto 1930

***THE FRED PAHL FAMILY**, By Alfred Pahl* — Fred Pahl was born in 1895 in Romania. He served for four years with the Russian army during World War I and was awarded several medals. After the war he was married to Christina Kranck. In 1927 the Pahls were dissatisfied with the political situation in their country, and this was a deciding factor for going to Canada, the land of hope in those years.

In May, 1927, Fred and Christine and their two sons, Alfred, age four, and Otto, age two, arrived in Halifax after a three-week ocean voyage from Leipzig. As was the case with most immigrating families, the Pahls brought few material goods with them, basically only what they were able to carry . . . mainly clothing and cooking utensils. They journeyed by train to Hanna, arriving six days later. This area of settlement had been chosen on the basis of information received from Fred's half-sister, Mrs. Jacob Stern, who was already living in the area.

The Pahls moved to a half-section farm thirteen miles north-east of Hanna. There was a three-roomed house, but it was unfinished. The 2 x 4 studs were still open on the inside and so they papered the walls with newspaper. Besides finding the house in poor condition, Christine was further disheartened to see it snow in June of that year. It was a harsh contrast to the green fields of wheat that they had left behind in Romania. The family could speak no English, and the final blow was the discovery of skunks (unknown in Romania) under the house.

Lack of funds was about the only thing that kept the family from moving on, but as they settled in and more families from Romania settled in the area, things improved. They were able to purchase an old Model T Ford, which still had kerosene lamps for headlights. Church services under the auspices of Rev. Baitch were started in the Garden Plain school, and later, in the thirties, the family joined the Hanna congregation.

Farming in the first years in Canada was on a small scale, basically wheat, and oats for feed for their few cows and horses. In 1930 the Pahls opened a strip coal mine. Neighbors were hired to strip the coal which sold for seventy-five cents a ton; they were paid two tons of coal for an eight-hour work day with a four-horse outfit. Sometimes Mr. Pahl would trade ten tons of coal for a three-year-old steer. Mine workers could be hired for fifteen dollars a month.

Fred served on the school board from 1934 to 1937. Both Alfred and Otto attended Solon school, which meant a three and a half mile walk each day. In later years they rode bicycles.

On one occasion when they were going visiting in their old Model T truck they arrived at their destination and discovered that the boys were missing from the

back of the truck. Going back over the route again, they found Alfred and Otto unharmed. They had been tossed out when the truck hit a hole on the prairie trail.

During the difficult years of the 1930s the whole family had to work extra hard to make ends meet. In 1934-5 Alfred was able to herd cows on the lease land, and while doing this he was free to collect gopher tails. The income from this was often greater than what the family made on milking six cows. By 1939 conditions had improved and Pahls were able to buy their first tractor. This meant that the tractor and scrapers could be used to enlarge the mining operation. In 1941 Fred Pahl purchased a steel-wheeled combine and later bought a self-propelled one. Fred and the boys then did custom combining as well as digging dugouts and making dams.

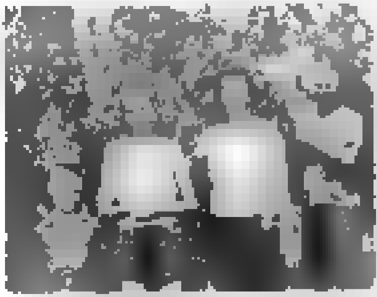
Fred continued to mine and farm until 1952 when he and his wife retired to Hanna. Mrs. Christina Pahl passed away in September, 1966, and Fred in November, 1967.

Both Alfred and Otto were married in April, 1947. Alfred to Ruby Kautz on April 13 and Otto to Laura Karg on April 20. Although they had separate farms, they continued to operate the mine together until 1957 when the advent of gas stoves and stokers made the business no longer profitable to run.

Alfred and Ruby lived on section 22, range 13, which Alfred had purchased in 1943. In their first years they milked several cows, but by the time the mine closed they were farming and ranching, and continued to do so until they sold the farm in 1972. They moved to a new home in Hanna where Alfred worked for the Alberta government as a hail and crop insurance agent and adjuster. During his farming career, Alfred held positions with the U.F.A. and U.G.G.

Ruby and Alfred had five daughters.

After their marriage, Otto and Laura took up farming on the home place. They moved the original farm home closer to No. 36 Highway, where it still stands. Otto participated in the U.F.A. and continued farming and ranching. The couple had one daughter and one son. They sold their farm in 1969 and the family moved into Hanna where Otto was employed. He died in 1972 and was buried in Hanna Cemetery where his mother and father had been laid to rest.



Otto Pahl family: [illegible] Fred, Laura and Otto

OTTO PAHL, By Laura [illegible] — Otto Pahl and I were married in the spring of 1947. My name was Laura Karg and I came from south-west of Hanna. We didn't go on a honeymoon until July as Otto and his brother Alfred had to work in the coal mine. It was very hard work. Otto, Alfred and their dad Fred Pahl put in many a long day digging out coal by hand.

The first year we had no car, so in the winter we either walked or took the horse and stoneboat to visit the neighbors. It seems to me that in those days the weather was much colder and there was a lot more snow. Many a morning we had to find our well before we could water the cattle, as it was halfway down a hill and would be blown over.

Between farming, mining and cattle we were very busy. After the mine closed, Otto worked with an electrician for several years, as well as continuing to farm.

In July, 1949, we lost twin girls, but in June of 1951 we had a ten pound baby

girl, Ronda. She is now married to Raymond Tschriter and has two little girls of her own.

In the spring of 1952 we decided to move our buildings closer to the main road, as we were always blocked in in the winter time, and we had no trees for shelter. So we dug a basement on the SW 19-32-13 behind a nice grove of trees which had been planted years ago. Then the neighbors all came and helped us pour the cement. A mover by the name of Mickey McBride moved the buildings across the fields to the new site, and the Special Areas built a road for us. Then we didn't have to fight the snow and the mud over the two miles to the highway.

In September, 1954, our son Larry was born. He became a licensed carpenter, and married Sandy Scott in 1975.

In October of 1954 we snowed in early and did not get all our crop off.

So the years rolled by, the good and the bad, and in June, 1969, we sold our farm, had a sale and moved to Hanna.

Otto passed away in February, 1972, at the age of forty-seven. I married Hubert Mahoney and am still living in Hanna.

FREDERICK PAHL, By Mrs. L. Pahl — Frederick and Emelia Pahl immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1927. They settled on the NE 2-32-14, and the three oldest children, Alma, Fred and Frieda, went to Solon school. Mr. Pahl raised some cattle and did some grain farming.

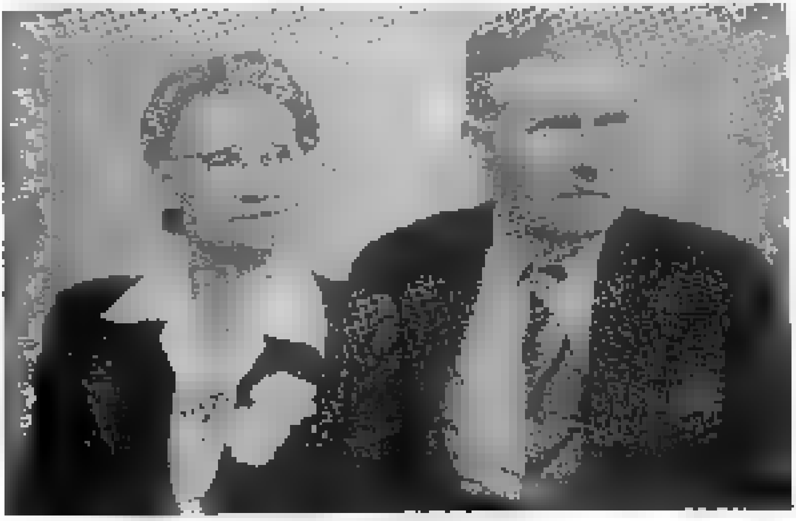
Frederick Pahl Family. Back Row: Art, Alma, Fred Jr., Frieda, Edward. Front Row: Olga, Mrs. Emelia Pahl, Mr. Frederick Pahl, Emma.

In 1934 the family moved to Leedy, Alberta, and in 1937 to Chilliwack, B.C. Mr. Frederick Pahl passed away in December, 1973.

THE PEDERSON STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Theodore Pederson left Trondheim, Norway in February 1898, to join his brother, Iver in North Dakota. One year later they sent for Theodore's fiancee, Bergitte Martinson; their brother, Paul and his wife and two children; and their brother Lawrence. Theodore and Bergitte were married in 1901 at Cooperstown, North Dakota, and the family established a farm some distance from Cooperstown.

In 1907, Theodore and Bergitte with three children, Anna and Mary and Louis, returned to Norway for eighteen months. While there, another child, Nikola was born. They returned to the United States bringing Theodore's Mother and Father, Lorentz with them. In the same year another child, Dorothy was born.

In 1909 Theodore and Bergitte and family, his parents and brothers, Lawrence and Paul with his family came to Canada. The family travelled by train to Castor. While there, Lorentz cut and laid stone for the Castor School and after exploring the country, arrived at the location where Hanna was later built. During the summer and fall of 1910 they lived in a board-walled tent. While waiting for Theodore and the household goods and livestock, Bergitte worked with a Chinese family who operated a restaurant. A house was completed in November 1910 on the homestead and the tent and site were sold, and this later became the location of the first Bank in Hanna.



Theodore and Bergitte Pederson

Theodore Pederson filed on his homestead April 22, 1910, the southeast of 14-32-14; and in 1914 a pre-emption on northwest of 14-32-14. The pre-emption was acquired by S.A. Brown in 1918.

Lawrence Pederson filed on his homestead and pre-emption on the north half 33-31-14 in June 1909. He later returned to North Dakota to farm.

Lorentz Pederson filed on his homestead in June 1910 on the southeast of 33-31-14 and pre-emption the southwest of 34-31-14.

Lorentz died in 1915 and his wife, two years later. They are buried at Hanna.

Bergitte's brother, Elmer Olsen and his wife arrived and filed in June 1910 on the northeast of 34-31-14.

Bergitte (Bertha) who is still living at Mirror, Alberta, recalls travelling with oxen to Castor for supplies, while Hanna was being built up. The return trip took about a week. The local store was at Garden Plain, and the storekeeper travelled, taking orders, and then delivering to his customers. Coal was dug nearby and Bergitte recalls being given coal by the miner's sons. They delivered the winter's supply of coal to the homestead because Theodore and some of the local men were in Saskatchewan harvesting. The first years were very dry, and Bergitte

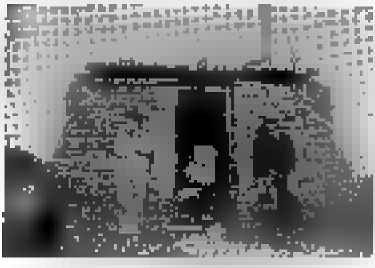
hauled water in barrels and cans on a stone boat to water the garden. She harvested the first crop of flax with a hand sickle, which she still has! The flax was flailed and cleaned by hand, and yielded one-half bushel. The garden, this same year, yielded forty-eight bushels of potatoes and two bushels of carrots.

Theodore travelled to Saskatchewan in the dry years to earn extra money harvesting and this left the operation of the homestead to Bergitte and the children. But with cows producing and cream to sell to the neighbors, the family made out. Theodore and Bertha moved south to the Stirling and Berry farm, now known as the Lorne Harman farm. During 1916 and 1917 Bertha broke cows for Sterling and Berry while Theodore built the dairy barn.

While on the homestead, three of the children, Anna, Mary and Louis attended Solon School. Four more children, Jeanette, Alma, Laura and Helmer were born on the homestead north of Hanna.

Theodore and Bertha sold the homestead in 1918 to S.A. Brown and moved to Camrose and then bought a farm at Lamerton, north of Mirror. They later moved to Mirror, where Theodore died in 1948 at the age of seventy-four years. Bertha still lives at Mirror and is now ninety-seven years of age.

Theodore and Bertha had ten children, nine of them survived and raised families. Six of their children now are living and there are twenty-six grandchildren, seventy-one great grandchildren and thirty-four great great grandchildren.



Mr. Pope's Sod Shack. Bob Samson, Zelma and Mark Pope

MARCUS LAFAYETTE POPE, by Blanche Pope Johnston — My brother Mark left home at a very early age. He was born in 1882 in Catawba County, North Carolina, fourth-born of a large family. He homesteaded in the Dakotas but conditions there weren't to his liking. Hearing reports of this area being opened up for homesteading, he arrived in Stettler in May of 1910. Purchasing a team of oxen, wagon and necessary settlers' effects he left for his homestead which was the SW 12-32-14. He also pre-empted NW 1-32-14 along with his homestead. He got his supplies and mail at Castor for a short while until Garden Plain store and post office opened. Later on he got his mail at the Solon post office.

He lived in a sod shack for a few years until he built his house in 1916.

When the railway grade was being built into Hanna, he sold the oxen, bought a team of horses and worked on this project. He also worked for Bob Sampson and got a few head of cattle as part of his wages. By using good Angus bulls he was able to upgrade his herd substantially.

In the fall of 1917, leaving the homestead in care of an elderly man, he came back to North Carolina. As I was the youngest of the family I had never seen him before. It was arranged that I would come to Alberta and keep house for him. I was also born in Catawba County. After completing my education I started working in a hosiery mill when I was thirteen years old. The wages were low and the days were long.

We left for Canada shortly after my eighteenth birthday in early March of 1918. We came to Buffalo, New York and then to Toronto. The further west we came the more snow became evident. We arrived in Hanna at 6 a.m. on March 16. We certainly were dirty after the long train ride, mostly from ashes sifting into the passenger compartment. After a wash and breakfast at the Seymour Hotel we went uptown. We met the Fortnes at the Stephen's store where it was arranged that they would take us home. Mrs. Fortne drove while I held young Harold. Jake and Mark rode in the back. This was my first sleigh ride.

That summer of 1916 we fenced the school section. It was a very dry year. We had to carry water for many of those post holes. Everyone remarked how straight Mark's fence lines were. This thoroughness in doing a job well was evident throughout his farming year. The crop that year was so short that Mark used his mower to cut what he could. He flailed out about sixty bushels of seed wheat for his efforts.

Mark bought a saddle horse from Jake Fortne with which I could look after the cattle on the school section during the summer months. Many loads of upland hay I helped him to put up. The grass in those days was very tall and anyone walking, especially after a heavy dew was sure to get wet.

Miss Gillanders, Solon's first teacher who boarded at Gordon's, would take a shortcut to school through Mark's pre-emption. He took his mower and cut the grass so that she would have a good path to walk to school on.

Around 1916, he had planted a shelter belt along the north side and one on the west side of his farmstead. I helped him plant the ones to the south, which he had grown from seed.

Mark purchased a Model T car from Esty Holmes which had originally been owned by Harry Macropol of Hellenic Farms. This was located where Otto Stern now lives. Anyway, to get back to the car, a rod burned out of it on the first trip to Hanna. Mark had forgotten to close one of the oil level petcocks on the crankcase. He brought it home and never used it again and as a matter of fact, he couldn't afford to run it.

The Lewis family of Garden Plain stayed at Mark's while they farmed their pre-emption. When they left after a visit, Mr. Lewis would say, "Get in, Mother", and when she was seated in the buggy he would leap for the seat and the buckskin team were off, bucking and jumping till they got to the road.

Mark and Katherine Mowatt were married in 1929. They resided on the farm until Mark's untimely death in 1931. There were no children. Katherine carried on for a year or two with hired help, then had an auction sale and eventually sold the place. Later, she married Don Elliot and resided in Hanna for a number of years until they retired to Victoria, B.C.

IRENE and GUS [illegible], as related by Mrs. Irene [illegible] to Joanne Cody — In 1915, my husband and I came west on our honeymoon to Stanmore, Alberta. We had been married in Guelph, Ontario on February 15, 1915. Arriving at Stanmore, we stayed with my cousin, George Zinter. Two weeks later my brother Alex Schell arrived with a railroad car of supplies that included two horses, two cows, chickens and groceries.

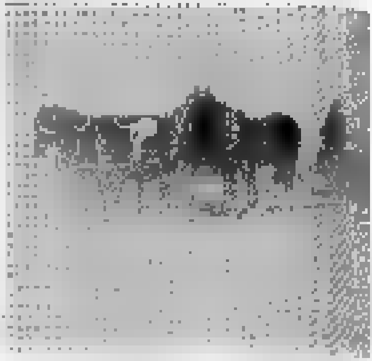
We moved to the Charlie James place which was on the west side of Berry Creek. Our nearest town was Richdale. The farmstead consisted of several shacks, one of which we lived in. We also farmed the land of Joe Schell, another cousin, on the east side of Berry Creek.

One day five of us were returning from Joe's with a hayrack, and had to cross the Berry Creek which was swollen by rains. The high water floated the hayrack off the wagon gear and the five of us floated down the Berry Creek. Luckily the

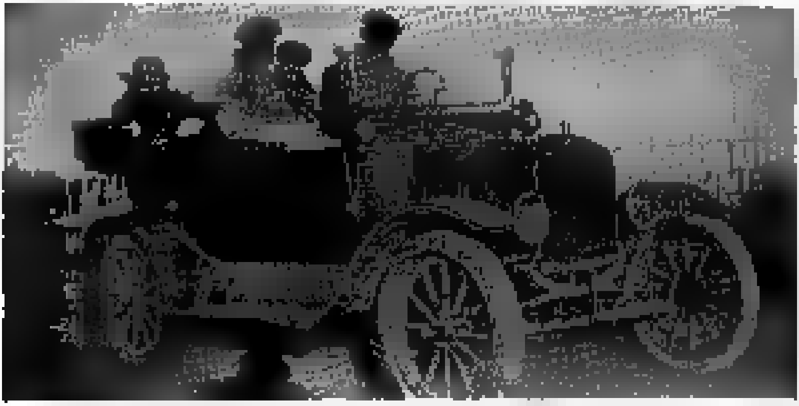
hayrack eventually caught in some bushes as we went around a curve and we got to shore safely. Another time I was taking supper by horseback to the men who were haying at Joe's, and my horse decided to sit down part way across the creek. Supper was not as planned that night.

From Richdale we moved to Joe O'Neil's place, 9-32-13, north of Hanna. This farm was on the east side of the road next to a large slough. Our daughter Madge was born there in 1916. Later on we moved to the Kerr place, the east half of 1-32-14, which we had also purchased. This farm was on the west side of the road

Gus Readwin



Gus Readwin and team, two horses and two oxen



Readwin's first car, 1917. Gus at wheel. Jack Anthony in front. Irene, Madge, and Alex in back seat.

In 1917 we acquired a Model T touring car which I learned to drive. I recall being at Craigmyle at my uncle's place, as his wife was ill and I had gone to help. With the Zinter children in the back I was driving across the prairie to call the men for dinner, when a wheel hit a hole and one of the children bounced out of the back seat. I also recall picking up Mrs. Curtis and little Bill for trips to Hanna in the Ford.

One spring, perhaps in 1918, we made a trip to Little Fish Lake in the Hand Hills with my brother Alex Schell and Mr. and Mrs. John Fox. We gathered five sacks of suckers from the pools in the creek and preserved them by layering the fish with salt in barrels. Gus and I also attended the first Hand Hill Stampede.

One Sunday Gus and I decided to drive by horse to Richdale to see the

Kramers. Coming home the mosquitoes were so bad that we lit a smudge pot to smoke them off. The horse's back was solid black with mosquitoes, they were so thick.

In 1918 we purchased a hundred head of cattle from Mr. Slinn of Hanna, and lacking pasture due to the Greek farm syndicate taking up adjacent land, we moved to a lease on the Battle River, some fifteen miles from Castor. Our son Desmond was born there in 1920.

When we were packing for the move to Castor, I put a bottle of formaldehyde in a box amongst the sheets and pillowcases. The hired man unpacked the box and being fond of a nip, took a long swig from the bottle. He went out the door about the time I was coming in with a couple of pails of warm milk. The man was in agony, and lacking anything else, we poured fresh milk into him until he vomited, and repeated the treatment several times. He got up the next morning with the observation that he was amazed to find that he was still alive.

We moved from Castor to Olds in 1924, and to Calgary in 1949. Madge, who studied designing, worked for the C.P.R. in Calgary. Desmond served in the RCAF during World War II as a radio technician, and after the war became chief engineer with CKXL radio station.

Mr. Readwin passed away in 1956.

Editor's Note: During her years at Olds, Mrs. Readwin became interested in ceramics and pottery. When she moved to Calgary, she was very active with ceramics groups, and her work was widely recognized. In 1958 she judged the arts and crafts entered at the Calgary Stampede. In 1976 the first annual show of the Ceramics Association of Alberta was dedicated to her.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rice

***JOHN and SARAH RICE,* By Blanche Johnston** — John Rice was a volunteer in the Militia that came out west during the Riel Rebellion. John and his wife Sarah were persuaded to leave their native Ontario to move to B.C. when they were both getting along in years. Joe Molton, an Englishman who was supposed to be a partner, also went to B.C. with them. He was much younger than they, and a very smooth talker. However B.C. didn't appeal to them so about 1917 the three of them came to Hanna and bought A.A. Gordon's land. When I arrived in 1918 they were already here. John was a lean and lanky man while Mrs. Rice was short and squatty. Whenever I ran short of flour I would go to Rices' to borrow some. This continued for some time and when it came time to repay them, my brother, Mark, gave them a sack of flour. Mrs. Rice also gave me my first clucking hen and setting of eggs. Shortly after Rices came here Joe Molton bought a Model T, and we bought this car from him in 1926.

Rices, then without a car, bought a new Model T from the local agent. His instructor showed him how to start and stop it. Roads in those days were not good, but even on the prairie trails he drove without care, not heeding safety or speed, and was always getting racked up. After one such ride with him I can tell you we

were glad that trip was over. Mrs. Rice took John's driving as a matter of course, it didn't fizz her one bit. She just kept on talking.

Mrs. Rice's spinster sister, Charlotte Shaw came to live with them about 1927. She was stone deaf, having suffered her affliction by not having proper attention when she had scarlet fever as a child. She was a lip reader and spoke in the manner that totally deaf people do, without tonal change.

About 1928 Rices sold out to Fred Pahl, a brother of the late Ludwig Pahl. They bought a small developed acreage on the north-east outskirts of Hanna from Bert Mott. Frank and Rose Powell live on the place now. They lived here for a few years, all receiving the old age pension. When John had to be taken to an old folks' home the two sisters sold the acreage and rented a suite in town. Mrs. Rice was 84 years old when she passed away in 1939. Miss Shaw, born in 1865, passed away in 1947.

Joe Molton left for Calgary after Rices moved to Hanna and eventually married a widow.

WALTER SMEATH — I was born in Spondin, Alberta, and took my schooling at Gooseberry Lake and Spondin schools, and later moved to Hanna where I was employed at Modern Service and at the Hanna Creamery.

In 1960 I married Vi Keim of Hanna and the following year we moved back to Spondin, taking over my dad's farm there. We lived in the Spondin area from 1961-1972.

In the fall of 1972, after selling our farm, we came to the Solon district and purchased the Weiman farm, southwest quarter of 19-32-13, formerly owned by the late Otto Pahl. Besides the duty of farm life, I have been driving school bus for Rangeland School Division for twelve years.

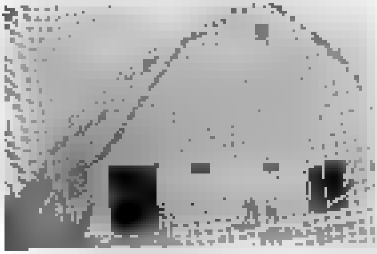
We have four children, Susan (1960), Barry (1962), Connie (1963) and Dale (1964), all presently attending school in Hanna. As a family we enjoy snowmobiling in the winter and do a considerable amount of camping in the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whaley Sr., 1897.

THINGS I REMEMBER ABOUT THE WHALEY FAMILY, By Mary Whaley Henry — When we first came to Solon there was no Solon school, and no Hanna either.

That was May, 1910. My brother John was a baby, scarcely a month old. There were six of us children, Fred, Maud, George, Mary, Mabel and John. We had lived on a homestead in the Clover Bar district, but the earliest memory I have is when we were coming from Castor. Mother and we smaller children were in a wagon which was very crowded. Mr. Gordon took me to sit beside him on a board across the top of the wagon, and Mother was afraid that I would fall off, but Mr. Gordon put his arm around me and held me as he drove the horses. I now feel that Dad and my brother, Fred, were driving the stock.

It seems to me that we stayed at Gordon's place that night. It was two miles north of Dad's land, the NE of 12-32-14. I often went there after I was older as Nellie Gordon was the same age as I was and we were friends for many years.

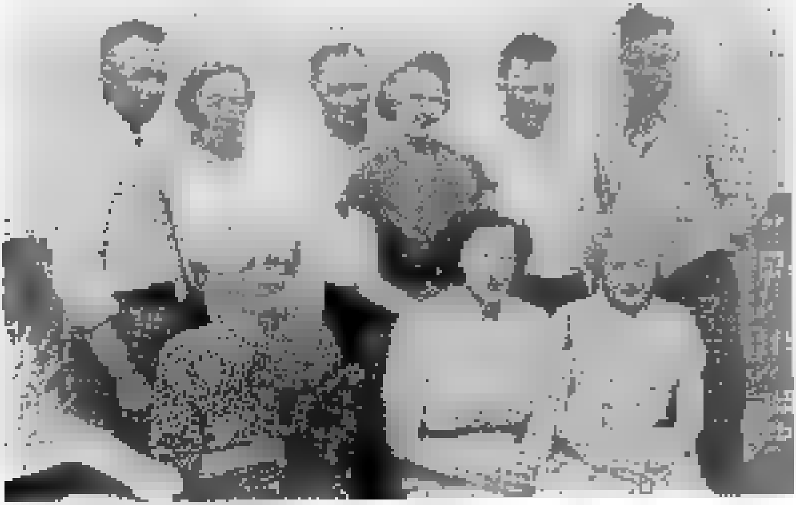


Barn building bee at Whaley's, 1928

I remember living in a tent by the north slough, and Mother heating oats to put around John to keep him warm. While we still lived in the tent that first summer, some horse thieves came and took three horses. Dad spent a long time hunting them, and finally managed to get the horses back. Dad built the first part of the house that summer.

I don't know when Dad started talking about school, but I do remember him arguing about it with some of the neighborhood bachelors. They were not anxious to start a school as their taxes would go up.

However, two years later we were going to school. The first two teachers were Miss Gileanders and Miss Laycock. I do not remember which teacher came first, but I do remember Miss Laycock best, so I suppose that she was the second. A Mr. Fredericks was third. He lived at Garden Plain and drove eleven miles every morning with a horse and buggy. Some of the first kids to go to Solon school were Viva, Ford and Doris Thompson; Zelma Samson; Annie, Mary and Lou Pederson; John and Nellie Gordon; Fred, George, Maud and Mary Whaley. There may have been a couple of Burns boys too.



Grandma Whaley and eight of her ten children. Fred Jr., Maud, George, Mary, John, Charlie, Mrs. Whaley, Viola and Ada

Dad was always very good to us. He used to help Mabel and me dress when Mother was busy with the younger children, or getting breakfast. He often held Mabel and me on his knees and sang to us. Mother always raised a big garden so she taught us to do chores, to help weed the garden and look after the smaller children.

It must have been about 1914 when Dad built the second half of the house. He hired Mr. Peterson, a stone mason, to build the walls of the cellar for the west half of the house, Dad and Fred helping, of course. They must have finished it that fall, as I remember when Charlie was born on February 6, 1916, Mabel and I slept on a quilt by the heater in the west room, and Dad waked us, saying that we had a new brother.

Since my birthday was three days later, I always claimed Charlie as my birthday present.

Somewhere about this time, Dad bought the south quarter of 12-32-14 from George Crossfield, and later moved the shack from there home to the yard for the boys' sleeping quarters.

I don't know just when Dad put the engine and pump in the house. The engine was one and a half horsepower, with a line shaft on which were pulleys, so it ran the cream separator, the churn, the washing machine, and the pump, and we were able to have water in the house.

We always milked a lot of cows, and in the earlier years Mother made a lot of butter. Then Dad got a butter maker. It was about four feet long and maybe three feet wide at one end, and eight inches wide at the other end, with a metal part at the small end. There was a six-sided bar with a metal end which fit into the metal part at the small end of the butter table. It was a bit higher than a chair, and had three legs. By turning the long handle you could squeeze the buttermilk and water from the butter.

Mother also used to spin wool to make clothes. She first started when Fred was small, when Dad worked on the railroad in the mountains. He was out in the cold a great deal, and got sciatica. It was so bad that he was unable to feed himself. The doctor told Mother to put a towel on his back and iron him with a flat iron. Then he told her to make him some real wool underwear.

Dad got better, they moved back to Edmonton in 1900 and Mother got the spinning wheel. From then on, she made all the underwear for Dad and the boys. Later she got a knitting machine, and knitted strips and sewed them together, which was much faster than hand knitting. She also made socks for the whole family. I now have the spinning wheel and Charlie has the knitting machine.

In the winter evenings, Dad would read the newspaper or what story books we had. Mother would spin and we girls would knit, crochet or mend. That was before the days of radio.

I don't know just what year it was that Mr. Ole and Marian Wright started having Church and Sunday School at Solon. Dad and Mother didn't go very often, but always wanted us to go, and we rarely went without collection.

As time passed by, Myrtle, Ada and Viola were added to our family. In spite of the fact that there were a lot of children to feed, both Dad and Mother were very generous, and I never remember anyone coming to our house and going away hungry. I must have been about fifteen when a couple of men came and asked for a meal. Mother gave them dinner and they offered to pay. Dad wouldn't accept anything; he just told them to feed the next man that came to their door.

Dad was a very public-spirited person, and he was active in the United Farmers' Association, and was also a firm backer of the Wheat Pool.

Sometime after Dad had bought the south quarter, he put the bathtub in. Before that the house was too full of children. Later he bought the Dillon quarter, the NE 16-32-13, also a Case threshing machine and a tractor. In the fall of 1925, while Dad, Fred, and George were out threshing, Mother, Mable and I milked twenty-seven cows. John carried the milk to the house. I took cream to town two or

three times a week with the team and wagon, and brought gas back to wherever they were threshing.

That was the fall I met Howard Henry. He came to work for Dad. We were married in June, 1926. We spent that summer on a rented farm at Mayerthorpe, coming to Grande Prairie in April, 1927. Both of us worked around Grande Prairie that first summer. Then we lived in the Bezanson district until we went homesteading in 1931. We moved to the homestead at Goodwin right after our daughter Edith was born in May, 1931. Our son, Bill, was born in November, 1932. We lived there until 1964, when we moved to an acreage east of Debolt and raised pigs.

Since Howard's health was getting bad, we moved to Grande Prairie in December, 1967, and he passed away in November, 1973. I have lived in Aurora Court, a senior citizens' apartment in Grande Prairie, since July 1973.

Edith has been a widow for seventeen years. She has three grown sons of whom we are very proud. Edith works on the local paper.

Bill is a chemical engineer. He is married and has two girls and two boys. They live in Lloydminster.

Dad died in July, 1934, and Mother in March 1960.

JOHN WHALEY'S FAMILY, *By Mrs. Murray Whaley* — I met Mrs. Fred Whaley for the first time in 1940, when her son John and I started keeping company. The Whaley family had come to the Solon district with their beds and belongings in the spring of 1910, when John was a tiny baby. Those were the years when many homesteaders were moving in, and tar paper shacks and soddies were popping up on nearly every quarter section.

John's parents had a fine herd of milk cows, and his mother made many hundred pounds of butter over the years, selling it, after Hanna was established, to Stephens Brothers' Store. John's father was very mechanical, and they jokingly called their house, in later years, the workman's kitchen. They had a small engine which ran a washing machine and churn. They had lots of clear water and theirs was one of the first houses in the country to have running water, inside and out.

John's father passed away during the summer of 1934.

His mother always had a big garden and kept trying to grow her own fruit trees. Many the dishes of strawberries and cream I've enjoyed from her garden. The family kept a small flock of sheep, and often she would work far into the night, spinning the wool. Then they got a knitting machine and made socks and underwear. I have kept one of John's woollen undershirts just to remind me what was done in those early, hard years.

John and I were married in January, 1941, and spent the first year with Grandma, Mabel and Charlie. We got a house built, and while I was in the hospital with our first baby, David, John moved our belongings across the road, which is now No. 36 Highway, and into the house on the SE 7-32-13.

We got busy, the next summer, and made a sod chicken house. We kept up to three hundred laying hens, and one year I was able to hatch, with hens, around five hundred chicks. We milked cows, and added some pigs, and a garden. The family multiplied, and so did the work.

We had picnics and some of the most wonderful Christmas concerts. I recall when Mrs. Hean taught there was standing room only in the school for the concert.

The cream from our cows pretty well had to keep us, and at 43¢ a pound for butterfat, it took a lot of pounds. Cattle prices, too, were not that good. I still keep a stub, to remind me of those times, when we got $7.50 per hundred for steers.

As the children got into high school, we got a small truck and David and James drove into town.

We moved back to the south country in 1960, as the lake was dry, resulting in no grass for the cattle, and no water for us. In March of 1969, Grandma Whaley passed away, and we still miss her so much.

David went to the University of Calgary for two years and then taught at Cessford school. He went to the north country, took summer school courses and returned to Calgary for his final year leading to his Bachelor of Education. He taught at Grande Prairie for some years; now he, his wife Sheila and son Neil, live at Wainwright.

James took a journalism course at SAIT, and is now working in a print shop. He and his wife Debbie were married in 1978.

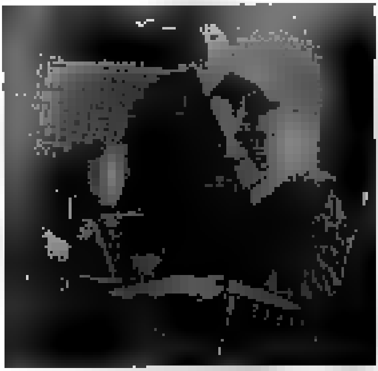
Gerald worked for several years as chainman for a survey crew, then took a surveying course at NAIT. He and his wife Sylvia have two boys, Jonathan and Jason.

Clayton, his wife Ellen and daughters MaryEllen and Michelle, live in Grande Prairie where he is a trucker.

Russell worked with a highway road crew for a year, then was with Alberta Government Telephones for three years. When John passed away in 1975, he quit his job to come home, and now works as a cat operator at the Sheerness mine.

Mary is attending Alberta Bible College in Calgary. I do not know what career she will choose, but I'm sure she will make a success of it.

All their pictures are in the rotunda of Hanna High School, and that has made me very proud.



Mr. and Mrs. Marian Wright and Blanche, 1915

MARIAN WRIGHT FAMILY, By Bea Wright Bryce — Marian and Lona Wright were both born in Illinois in 1881. They had a son, who died at the age of six years, and a daughter, myself, born in Oklahoma. We emigrated from Oklahoma in 1914, entering Canada at Emerson, Manitoba, on August 14. Two of mother's brothers, Albert Overton and his family, and Joseph Overton, emigrated with my father, shipping our combined household effects, livestock and farm machinery by boxcar.

When we arrived at our Canadian home, the house was located on the north quarter of 30-32-13, near a little creek, with a lovely spring well. Later it was moved to the south-west quarter, added to, and remodelled as the years went by, to its present size and appearance.

The Overton family moved into a sod house that year, and stayed for a year or so, but I can't recall its location. E. B. Massey and family, a sister and brother-in-law of mother's, were living on the half-section directly west of us. They bought the farm now known as the Greenway farm, and lived there until their return to Oklahoma. The Overton family then moved to the place vacated by the Masseys, lived there a few years, then moved to the house just south of us, staying there until they went to Oregon. Both of these houses were later torn down.

There were two colorful bachelors living near us. One, Bob, usually visited

each neighbor once a week, and was always available to lend a helping hand. I can't recall the name of the other one, but he owned the coal mine later owned by the Pahl family, I think. He was also a weekly visitor, and had many stories about the country in the early days. I can recall only one that he was fond of telling all newcomers about our wonderful chinooks.

He always started the story by recalling the day he drove the bobsleigh into Hanna. On his way home a chinook arrived, and his horses were soon wading in soft snow, the front bobs were running in water and slushy snow, the back bobs were in water and his dog was swimming behind.

All the home sites on the prairies in the early days had one thing in common, a fire guard all around the buildings, made by plowing ten or twelve furrows, as there was so much uncultivated land in those years, and prairie fires were always a grave danger. We never had any real close, but saw them in the distance several times.

Mack Wright, daughter Blanche and his team of mules, 1910.

In later years, as more and more land was cultivated and summerfallowed, the dust storm era began. I can remember walking home from school with my skirt over my face to enable me to breathe. After each dust storm the house would have to be cleaned. The window sills, floor and furniture were all covered with a thick layer of fine dust. The curtains and bedding nearly always had to be washed. These were very trying years, as there were very poor crops, little pasture land or garden produce. The farmers had to use different methods of farming to try to stop the loss of the rest of their topsoil, but it took many years.

Following this period, most of the old fire guards were planted to trees, supplied by the provincial government. The thinking was that it would help the soil erosion problem, and it certainly made the homes more attractive.

Dad did most of his work with horses and two mules which he had brought with him from Oklahoma, until the mid forties when he purchased his old John Deere tractor. Until the thirties he hauled most of his grain to the Boner elevator, but after that he drove four horses hitched to two grain wagons to Hanna. He bought his Model T Ford in the early twenties. I have many pleasant memories of that car which I learned to drive when I was thirteen years old.

My chores consisted of bringing in the cows from the pasture, and helping mother with the housework, doing as much of the heavier work as time permitted, such as churning, washing clothes, mixing bread and carrying in water. During the harvest season it was my duty to milk the cows and separate the milk.

I think the days that we had the threshers at our place were very special days to all children; they were to me. It was all very exciting to watch the steam engine

pulling the separator, followed by a cook house, a bunk house, water wagon and all the racks, many driven by neighbors, go through the yard and into the field. Later steam engines were replaced by gas engines, then they and the separator and racks all gave way to the combines.

We had a fairly good well beside the house, not too deep, but it supplied the house and livestock until it was spoiled by a company testing for oil. Many wells were spoiled in those years.

I started school at Solon in 1916. I don't remember who my first teacher was, but Annie Oke was a much-loved teacher in our early grades. I attended Alpa school for a few years, finished up to grade nine at Solon, and took my high school at Hanna.

Mother and Dad moved into Hanna but continued to farm the land until they sold it in 1950. They moved to Vernon, B.C., where they spent their remaining years.

Mother loved the Okanagan Valley as it reminded her of her home in Illinois, but Dad longed to farm and was never content living in town.

My daughter Jean has so many happy memories of the summer holidays she spent with her grandparents on the farm. She and her family are living at Chilliwack, B.C.

My husband, Jim, and I have retired and live on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

TO COME OR GO

By Myrtle Whaley Malson

"Spring has sprung" said Mortimer Snurd
And I knew it was true by the voice of the bird
And a misty green hanging o'er the hills
Which my heart with homesick longing fills
For the hills of home and the crocus there
Bursting forth with its perfume rare
And to hear again the killdeer's cry
Ringing across the darkening sky.

But should I to that dear land go
There's something I'd miss, I surely know,
The touch of his hand — a voice so dear
The odor of the spruce in the evening air
The flicker's wild cry and the phoebe's call
Sheep bells ringing — I'd miss them all,
Still more, evening prayers together said
And a goodnight kiss ere we go to bed.

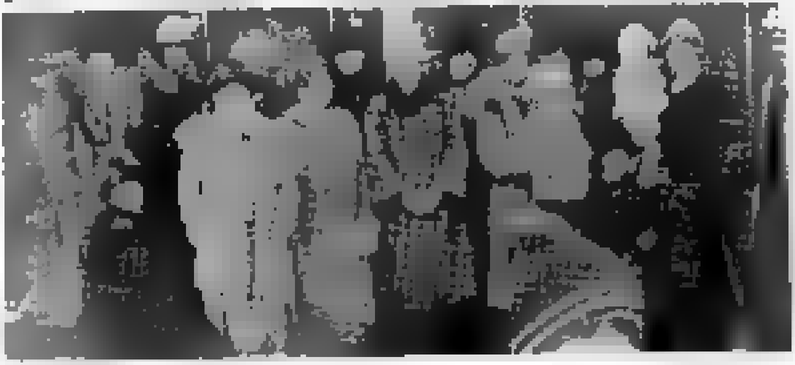
Oh life and love and laughter you see
Are bursting forth in this place for me
Though my heart may long to go
Back home to the land I used to know
Yet in this lovely spot I find
Security and peace of mind
And joy that can with none compare
A voice cries out "your home is here."

Written in the spring of 1944

THE OVERTON FAMILY, ***from information submitted by Velma Overton [illegible] and Lucene Overton [illegible]*** — The Albert Overton family, numbering thirteen including Albert's brother Joe, left Oklahoma for Canada in October, 1914. Mr. Albert Overton accompanied the load of settlers' effects and the livestock, while the rest of the family travelled by passenger train to Hanna.

The first winter the family lived comfortably in a sod house which was warm and cozy but not too water-tight. The following spring they moved to Uncle E.C. Massey's place, SW 6-33-13. While they lived there, four of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie and Gladys attended Alps school. When Mr. Massey sold his place to Mr. R. Greenway, the Overtons took up residence on the NE 24-32-14. Mr. Overton leased this farm from Mr. Bob Gordon, who lived in Hanna.

While residing in the Solon district, Mr. Albert Overton mixed farming and did blacksmith work for himself and friends. His blacksmith shop was a sod shack. Mrs. Overton was a midwife in Hanna. Six of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie, Gladys, Lucene and Lovel attended school and Sunday school at Solon.


Overton's sale (1927). Back Row, left to right: Mrs. ... M. Taylor, Mrs. M. Pope, Mrs. A. Overton, Mrs. W. Gebner, Velma Overton. Front Row: Mrs. J. Rennie, unknown, Mrs. G. Pearson, Gladys Overton, Mrs. E. Crossland and Baby, Mrs. Loveday and Bernice, Mrs. R. Greenway, Dennis and Jean, Mrs. C. Royce.

Lucene recalls both pleasant and trying times during their stay in the area. There was a neighbor who, with Mr. Hugh McLaren, used to love to play cards with her dad. She recollects, "One time Dad and Dave had gone to Hanna. They were late coming home as they had had a few too many drinks. On the way home Dave had thrown his false teeth at a rabbit and couldn't find them. They went back the next day and were successful in finding them."

Lucene remembers the family going to Garden Plain for the Stampede every year, but always had to go home to do the milking and the chores, never getting to stay for the dance. "For other entertainment we would have pie and box socials at Solon and Alps. At Christmas we always had a large program at school. Times were hard. We never went hungry but we sure didn't have any luxuries, grew all our vegetables and everyone worked."

"Hanna was our post office. We got all our supplies in Hanna. Every fall, after we got the wheat money, we would send an order to T. Eaton's for shoes, underclothes and material. Mother made all our clothes."

Mr. and Mrs. Overton remained in the Solon district until 1927 when they sold out and went to Oregon. Mr. Albert Overton passed away in May, 1930, and his wife, America Overton, ten years later in May, 1940. His brother, Joe, died in 1943.

The eldest girl, Goldie Messenger, lives in Oklahoma. She is eighty-six. Clara, who did not accompany the family to Canada but followed later, met and married

Joe Zehner. They operated a coal mine in the Dundee district until moving to Oregon in 1919. Clete passed away in 1972.

Soon after their arrival in Canada, Sylvia was married to Loyal Bates in Hanna in December, 1914. She lived in Oregon until her passing in 1976.

Joe, the oldest boy and his wife Thelma lived at Klamath Falls, Oregon, until his passing in 1969.

Gertrude became an R.N. She took her training in Calgary and nursed for a time in the Hanna hospital. She later married Dr. R. Kines, and at present resides at Forest Grove, Oregon.

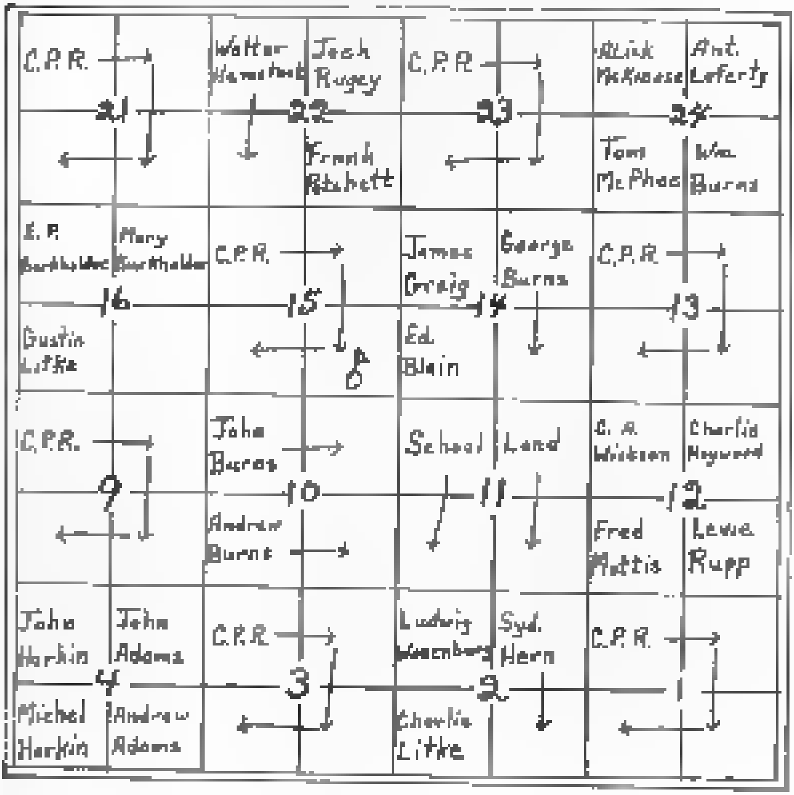
In 1923 Velma was married to Charles Harrison, who was working for the railroad in Hanna. She is now living in Terrace, B.C.

Ruby lives in Sandy, Oregon.

Charlie and his wife, Mabel, lived at Crescent Lake, Oregon, until their passing. Charlie died in January, 1975.

Gladys who at one time was correspondent to the Hanna Herald for the Solon News, and her husband, Ernie, live in Salem, Oregon. Lucene and her husband, Albert, reside in Union, Oregon. Loyal passed away in 1972.

GRASSY SLOPE No. 3669



TWP. 32, R. 16

OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIPS 32 AND 33 RANGE 13

N.W.-1-32-13
Dan Mattis
Belle Morse
Don Morse

N.W.-3-32-13
Burkholder
N.H. Thomas

N.E.-4-32-13
Dearing
Vossler

S.E.-4-32-13
Adams
Wayne Faupel

S.E.-9-32-13
Ed Blain
Alfred Pahl
A. Kautz

N.W.-10-32-13
Jack Noonan
Carl Tetz
George Jess
Ted Jess

E-4-32-13
George Burns
Harvey Wallis
George Malley

N.W. 14-32-13
Walters
Ed Blain

S.W.-14-32-13
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-15-32-13
Bill Knapp
Quast
Jim Bryce
Fred Cook
Alfred Pahl
A. Kautz

N.E.-16-32-13
Burkholder
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

S.W.-16-32-13
Gustave Lithe
B. Howery
Harold Kautz

N.W.-21-32-13
D. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-21-32-13
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

N.E.-21-32-13
A. Crowe
George Thomas
Jim Kennedy
Dan Mattis
Den Mattis

S.E.-21-32-13
D. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

N.W.-22-32-13
Ramsay
Walter Hemstock
Fred Pahl
Alfred Pahl
Ted Jess

N.E.-22-32-13
Jack Raguy
R. Fano
George Thomas
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.E.-22-32-13
Frank Patchell
R. Fano
George Thomas
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-27-32-13
Gengra
A. Crowe
Clyde Block
Elmer Hanglele
R. Rehill
C. Rehill
Ken Rehill

S-28-32-13
Ara Burns
J.J. Rehill
Louise Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-29-32-13
Glover
Clarence Dalpe
Charlie Brown
A. Hemstock
Coal Mines

N.E.-32-32-13
A. Hemstock
Shorty Bossert
Gordon Boyd

N.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
Wm. Glover
Keith Williams
Wes Thomas
Bill Greenwood
Otto Pahl
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.W.-35-32-13
S. Grimes
Sam Dearing
Carl Tetz
Ben Welch

S.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
S. Grimes
Wm. Johnston
George Thomas
Otto Pahl
Leonard Faupel
R. Kautz

N.W.-36-32-13
Jim Dorrasler
Ed Weller
Laverne Heldinger

S.W.-12-33-13
Jim Wilds

N.W.-12-33-13
J.S. Larder
S.W.-2-33-13
B. Aune
Ervin Cox
Benny Weller
Cliff Dorcastler
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.E.-3-33-13
Tom Hoodless

S.E.-4-33-13
W.R. Greenwood
George Callaghan
Ed Weller
Laverne Heldinger

S.E.-4-33-13
Peter Boyd
Elmer Gross
Dan Buckwitz

N.W.-10-33-13
Mike Alie
Jim Culheen

N.E.-10-33-13
Wm. Goldsbury
Dave Temple
Henry Mattis
Art Standing

GRASSY SLOPE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill

The Board of Grassy Slope school district, Messrs Blain, Oke, Mattis, Noonan and Rehill, chose a lovely spot to erect their school in 1922. There was a lot of good green prairie wool in those days; and the school was so named because there was a green slope on the north side of a hill, with a creek at the bottom, and a large grove of trees. It soon became a favorite picnicing area, and people would come for miles to the annual school picnics. One summer they even had a bucking horse contest. Hardball games between local teams or against Hanna or Garden Plain were well attended.

Several political meetings were held in the school building, which was also used as a polling booth on election days. The school closed in 1948.

Teachers at Grassy Slope were: Wes Oke, Elsie Turtle, Gwen Rose, Elma Tingle, Miss Fitzgerald, Thelma Fisher, Dorothy Limpert, Irene Rickett, Betty Davies, Alice Bauer, Mary Hickey, Virginia Thomas, Esther Robinson, Mildred Walker, Eleanor Bauer and Dorothy Dawson.

TEACHING IN COUNTRY SCHOOLS, By Gwen Rose Rehill — I made my first appearance in the Hanna district in the fall of 1926 when I started teaching at the Grassy Slope school, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Blain who lived about two miles from it.

Two incidents while I was there come to mind.

One day when I went up to Mr. George Mattey's to get my cheque signed, Mr. Tom Harley, a garage man from Hanna, had just delivered to Matteys a new Ford coach. He was showing Mr. Mattey how to put the car in the garage when to our surprise the car went right through the end of the garage, heading straight for us at forty miles an hour. Mrs. Mattey ran to get out of the way but was run over by her husband. Luckily there were no bones broken, but she suffered bruises and shock.

Another time a bad storm came up during school hours, so several parents arrived to take the pupils home in sleighs. Along came Mr. Blain on horseback with a rope, to 'lead' me back to my boarding place. Fortunately for me the Rehills took me in their sleigh to their home for the night.

In the fall of 1928 I accepted an offer, with a raise in pay, to teach at Dundee. As the school was not quite completed, the Rehills, where I was to board, offered me their front room as a classroom until the school was completed in October.

Greenwoods moved up from Munson the fall of 1929 and built their house across from the school. Wilbert often lit the fire at the school, and it was nothing to find a mouse either under the bell or in the desk drawer. This was only one of the many pranks that were played on me, all in good fun.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rehill and son Reg

Gwen Rose, teacher at Grassy Slope, 1927.

My next stop was Meadowlands school in the fall of 1930, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Flood. After teaching there a year I was asked to return at a salary of $850 a year, as times were hard. The next February, 1932, the Board asked me to accept a salary of $750 a year for the next five months, due to financial difficulties. This I did.

Mollie McMullen Bury and I were very good friends during those years so in

the fall of 1933 we decided to teach adjoining schools south of Hanna, Mollie at Long Butte boarding with Youngs while I went to Dalkeith and boarded at Harris.

Bill Rahill and I were married in August, 1934, and went to live at Redland where Bill was a buyer for the Searle Grain Company. While we were there, Reg and Don were born. Bill was transferred to the Searle Grain Elevator in Morrin in July, 1938, and our daughter Esme was born in December of that year.

Reg and Sue, living in Edmonton, have two boys and one girl. Don and Joan and their three boys live in Cranbrook. Esme and Jim Schow live in Morrin and have two girls and one boy.

Bill and I are now retired and are living in Morrin.

THE JAMES BURNS FAMILY, By Kenneth Burns — James and Margaret Burns and their eight sons came west to Didsbury in 1901. They lived in a government tent in Didsbury for a month while a house was being built on their farm six miles east of town. They lived there for three years and then moved to a block of six homesteads, eight miles farther east on the Lone Pine Creek. The younger boys finished their schooling there, and in 1912 James Burns, his wife and sons Will, Spencer and Charles, came to the Hanna area where another son, George, had started farming in 1910. They settled on SW 28-32-13 and built the house and farm buildings on the farm now owned by Bob Rahill

Jim Burns and his prize Shorthorn cattle. This is the Burns farm now known as the Rahill home. This was taken in 1918.

Jim Burns was an enthusiastic Shorthorn breeder and in time established a good purebred herd. He sold bulls at the Calgary Spring Sale and in 1915 took the champion ribbon and a silver medal with one of his entries.

The Burns family took an active interest in community affairs and for some time church services were held in their home, conducted by Mr. David Oke, who had been trained in the Methodist ministry. Mr. Oke and his family were neighbors on the next farm south.

In 1917 James Burns bought a McLaughlin car and at age sixty-five he learned to drive it. He never felt too confident behind the wheel so left most of the driving to the boys.

Their son, Will, completed high school, and after attending Normal School, he taught until he and Spencer joined the armed forces. They were still in Calgary

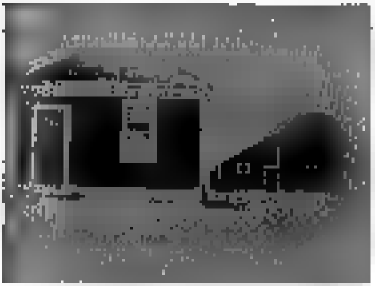
when the 1918 flu broke out. Will took the flu and died very shortly afterwards.

Following the war, Spencer and Charles worked with their father until he sold out. Spencer married Loraine Hartt in 1922 and they farmed for many years in the Watts area. Charles married May Ramsay in 1925, bought land south of Lloydminster and farmed there until Charles died in 1939.

This is a group of people taken after church service, at Jim Burns home, 1917.

James Burns sold his farm in the fall of 1920. He and his wife returned to Didsbury to live. They spent a few winters in Victoria while Grandad was still able to travel. He died in 1929 and his wife in 1930. Their farm was first sold to a man named Clarke and a year later was bought by Bob Rahill's father.

All the sons of James and Margaret Burns are now deceased.



G. Burns first house and barn about 1912.

GEORGE BURNS AT HANNA 1910-1921, By Kenneth Burns — Our Dad, George Burns, drove through the area north of Hanna by team and buggy in 1909. The land was being opened up for settlement, and the Calgary-Saskatoon line of the C.N.R. was being built. It looked like a promising location and he acquired the east half of 14-32-13. I believe this was scrip land, at about three dollars an acre, and he was able to lease another section of school land adjoining it.

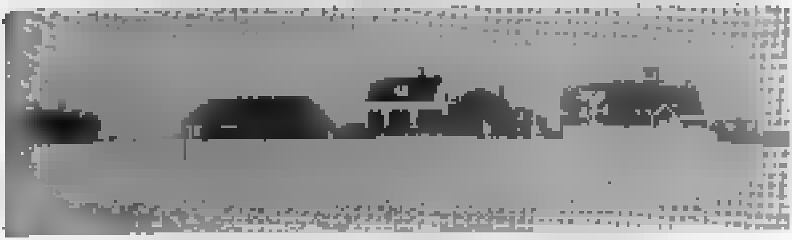
In the spring of 1910 Dad and one of his brothers left Didsbury with a carload of settlers' effects and went to Castor, where they unloaded and hauled their belongings to the new home site, about twelve miles north-east of where the town of Hanna was later built.

They built a sod shack and started to break the land. Dad often told us of the problems of working with oxen, and of the flies and mosquitoes. As the days grew hotter he found it necessary to start work at dawn and stop during the heat of the day, hitching up again when it cooled off, and working till dark.

During the summers of 1910-11-12 he was able to get considerable breaking done, as well as building a 16' x 16' cottage and a small barn. In December, 1912, he went to Didsbury where he and Alice Crowe were married. She had come west in 1906 and taught schools in the areas of Fort Macleod, Carstairs, Didsbury and

Lacombe. Following their wedding, Dad and Mother visited their former homes in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and arrived back in Alberta to settle on the farm in early 1913. The older three of our family, myself, Douglas and Marjorie were born at Hanna. Harold was born later at Didsbury.

The period from 1912-1917 was a time of great farm development in the area. Good crops and high grade wheat were common. The timely rains and excellent harvest of 1915 made it a banner year. Dad had a large acreage in wheat and like many others had difficulty in getting elevator space or cars to move the crop to market. In the fall of 1916, after a very wet season, all sorts of devices were used on binders to get them over the wet ground. Dad, and others around, bought four horsepower Cushman engines and mounted them on the rear of their binders to run the mechanism, so that the horses could pull them through the muddy fields. These engines and other wet field aids were never needed again. Starting in 1917, the seasons were very dry for several years.



This is the D. Rains farm taken in 1918 – It is now owned by Fred Fecho.

Dad bought his first car in 1917, a McLaughlin six touring model. This provided some relief from the long trips by cutter and buggy, though many times when the snow was deep they had to revert back to horse power. There were many hazards to pioneer motoring. Tire punctures and blowouts, broken springs and mudholes marked many trips. For the most part, however, those early cars got people through and occasionally Dad made hurried trips for the doctor for someone before rural phones came in.

I understand that Dad and John Faupel, among others, made trips to Edmonton in 1917 or 1918 to petition the government for rural phones. The first rural phone lines north of Hanna were built in 1919 or 1920.

Dad had a horse shelter on another quarter, a mile from home. A man named Williams was caught in a storm and turned in there just as the roof blew off. It landed on his buggy. Somehow he managed to get on one of his horses and rode into our place just at dusk. Dad and mother took him in and the next day fixed a makeshift bed in the car and took him to the doctor in Hanna. He was found to have an upper leg fracture and was in hospital for many months.

During 1916-17 Dad bought a carload of fir lumber at $17.00 per thousand and built a large Ontario style barn with a driveway up into the hayloft. Grain storage was also built into the loft and a power windmill was put on the roof to run a grain grinder. As well as grain growing, Dad had a fair sized herd of cattle, and all the farm work was done with horses.

Several of Dad's brothers helped him on the farm, as did Mother's brothers, Francis and Aubrey Crowe. Alex McKinnon from Nova Scotia also worked with Dad for three years until he joined the armed forces and went overseas.

Some of my earliest recollections are of many neighbors gathering at our home and singing round the piano, especially at Christmas time. Our mother was a talented pianist and had a fine collection of old favorite music. Box socials,

concerts and dances were an important part of community social life. Sometime during 1917 or 1918, following a community picnic, there was a big barn dance in the loft of our newly completed barn. I remember there were two Negro singers with banjos entertaining before the dance started. Whole families went to these social events. Those who were too young to stay awake were bundled into coats or blankets and left to sleep while the fun went on.

Dad and his brother John had five quarters of land east of Didsbury, which John farmed alone until 1921, when Dad sold out and we came to Didsbury. Harvey Waters of Morrin bought our farm and a year later it was sold to George Mattis. They lived there many years, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fecho, the present owners.

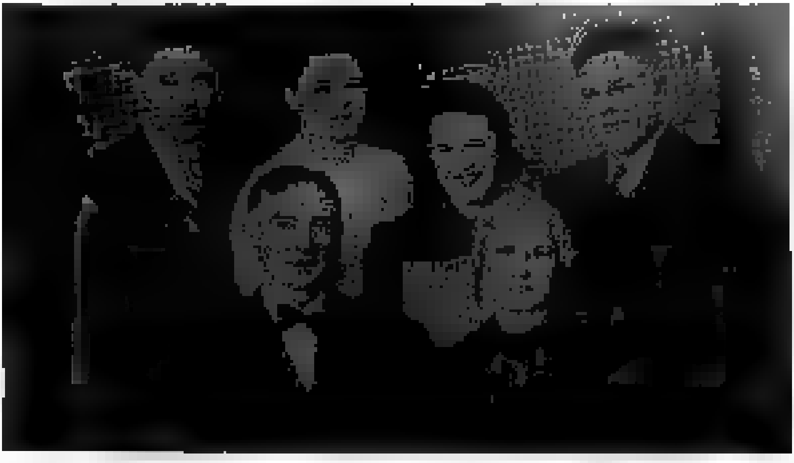
I recall that all of us were very sorry to leave the Hanna district. We had many good friends there, as well as in the town. Dad often spoke of the very fine group of businessmen in Hanna, in particular Herb McCrea and the Hanna Herald which he founded and edited. The Herald was a real booster for Hanna and district.

My brother Doug and I, with my family, still live on the farm we came to in 1921. Marjorie and Harold are both married and live with their families in Didsbury and Edmonton, respectively. Mother died in 1931, and Dad in 1941.

THE JOHN FAUPEL STORY, ***By Freda Faupel Palmer*** — My father came from Ontario in 1910 and filed on his land. He sent a postcard to my mother telling her that when he got to the Land Office at five o'clock in the morning, there were forty-eight men ahead of him. The country was quite wild and dad slept with a revolver under his pillow. I believe Leonard still has it.

The folks moved to Alberta in 1912. Mom stayed at Didsbury and dad came with his 'settlers' effects' to Stettler. He had a team of horses, a cow, a dog, his wagon and machinery and seventy-five dollars in cash.

Luther was born in 1910 in Ontario and I arrived in 1914, right on the homestead. I didn't know until I received my birth certificate that one of my names was 'Alberta'. One of my first recollections was when Leonard was born. Al Sales got Dr. Wade out for the event, and Annie Oke came to help mom for a while. That was in 1918.



Mr. and Mrs. John Faupel and family. Leonard, Freda, Catherine, Luther. Mr. and Mrs. Faupel.

Mom always boarded the teachers and we had a hired man during the summer months. There seemed to be something going on most of the time, what with breaking horses and branding calves and all the chores. In the fall the farmers hauled coal from Brown's mine, and a good number of them stopped at our place. Mom could always find something to eat for them. I don't believe anyone ever left our home hungry.

Dad had a nice team and a top buggy and we used to go places in style. Luther and I sat behind the dash and when the horses switched their tails we were switched too. We used that same buggy minus the top to go to school. It lasted for all of us and must have gone many thousands of miles.

We got most of our education at Maunders and in later years at Grassy Slope. Luther and Kay went to Hanna also.

These were hard times. Mother baked bread for the bachelors, and made butter and sold it for twelve cents a pound to help buy groceries.

We lived through drought. I remember John Bye saying as the clouds rolled by, 'They must be the empties going home.'

Grasshoppers also. The government gave us some poison to mix for them. Dad mixed it and spread it around with his bare hands; he lost all his nails and was lucky not to have lost his fingers also.

And army worms. We dug ditches around the garden and filled them with water. Some worms drowned but others crawled on. At one time the house was a green crawling mass. There were worms everywhere, and when they were gone there was no foliage left. The wheat was far enough advanced that they hadn't damaged the heads.

And hail storms too. We had a nasty one in the thirties. Mr. Jess was helping us with his swather and header. It was hot and the storm came up real fast. One team ran away with the rake but we got behind a stack with the rest. The hailstones were big and where they hit they left welts. Albert Ergezinger was working for us and he had a dandy on his head. Needless to say harvest was over.

When we got home Mom was wading through the slush gathering up half-grown chickens in a washtub. We took them into the kitchen and most of them survived, but the kitchen was a mess, to say the least.

And then there were the dust storms. I think they were the worst of all. It would get so dark around four o'clock that the chickens would go to roost and we would have to light the lamps. There was dust and grime everywhere. We had to put the dishes upside down or wash them again before we could eat.

Dad always had cattle and water was a problem. I remember the wells that he dug. One was right near the house and when we went out in the morning we discovered that a horse had wandered by and fallen in. With a good deal of difficulty and lots of help we managed to pull him out alive. I guess we were lucky that it was another dry hole. Later Dad made a dugout.

In those days it took a whole day to go to town, either Hanna or Richdale, and there was a good deal of excitement when Dad came home. He usually managed to buy us a few candies, and they were a special treat.

My sister Catherine (Kay) was born in 1925. She weighed only four pounds and was a real live doll for all of us. Only Leonard's nose was out of joint. He said, "I don't know why we had to have her, we've enough kids around here now." Kay married Dennis James and lives in Edmonton.

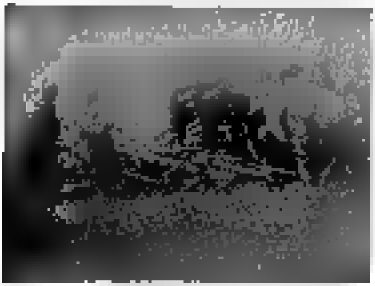
Leonard married Martha Tetz. He lives on the home place and is talking of retiring.

Luther married Tilly Kennedy. He was in the Air force, then built and ran the

Jubilee Service Station. He was Mayor of Hanna for a time. He passed on in 1969 and his wife is deceased also.

I married Arthur Patzer and we farmed his home place for ten years. We sold out and bought the Hanna Garage but in 1951 decided to farm again. We bought at Carbon and were there for fifteen years, and then retired to Okotoks. Arthur died in 1973.

Mom and Dad farmed till 1939 and then retired to Hanna. After a full and eventful life they both passed on, Mom on Christmas Day in 1952, and Dad in the fall of 1953.



Road work in 1926 Norman Oke, Mr. Rehill

THE STORY OF DAVID OKE, By Annie Oke Ramsey — Our parents, David and Nora Oke, farmed in Manitoba until 1913 when they moved to Medicine Hat. Four years later they bought a farm in the Grassy Slope school district, and moved there in the fall of 1917. The family consisted of five boys, Charles, Wesley, Harold, Albert, Norman, and one girl, Annie. The oldest boy, Charles, was serving his country in France during World War I when we moved there.

What a rough, jolting ride it was on the railway from Calgary to Hanna. Our new home was a very humble edifice with none of the modern conveniences, even water for drinking and daily use was hauled some distance. We were careful not to waste water. For fuel, we burned coal, I think lignite, which the farmers hauled from the surface mines not many miles away.

The days of the oxen were over; we used horses for transportation. The first car in the area was owned by James Burns, our near neighbor, who owned the farm later sold to John J. Rehill, now operated by Robert J. Rehill.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Burns was opened for divine worship. Our father, David Oke, worked hard all week, but Sunday to him was the Lord's Day. Mr. and Mrs. Burns shared the same belief, so father preached in their living room to the assembled friends and neighbors.

Later, church and Sunday school services were held in Grassy Slope school. Father also conducted services at Solon school, and I taught school at both Solon and Saunders in 1918 and 1919.

Farming was a precarious existence due to the many years of drought. Many farmers found that raising livestock was more dependable as there was a lot of land that could be leased for grazing.

Near neighbors of ours were Mr. and Mrs. William Ramsey who rented land from Walter Hemstock for a few years. In 1926 I married their son, Henry, and we moved to the United States, residing now in Minneapolis. My brothers, too, are scattered. Charles started farming in Manitoba; Wesley and Albert became school teachers; Harold was agent for International Harvester in Didsbury, and Norman went into the ministry.

Our parents stayed on the farm until 1936. Due to our mother's ill health and father's advancing years, it seemed better for them to retire. Mother passed away in 1943, Father in 1947.

First man not known, Mrs. Mattie and Mr. Mattie

MR. and MRS. GEORGE MATTIE, ***By Bob [illegible]*** — George Mattie batched for a number of years on the east half of 14-32-13. Then he hired a housekeeper from Calgary and a year later they were married.

George was very interested in politics, and formed one of the first Social Credit groups in the district. The members met every month, holding their meetings in the different members' houses.

One spring he decided to buy a Ford car. The salesman, Tom Harley, delivered the car and George decided to take it, and Tom, for a drive. When they returned he decided to put the car right in the garage, which was at one side of the lane. When he got in the garage he yelled, "Whoa, whoa!" but the Ford didn't stop and went right out the other end of the building. George turned the car back down the lane, but his wife and Gwen Rose were standing there watching. He couldn't stop the car and his wife couldn't get out of the way fast enough and he ran over her. By this time Tom had managed to take over the controls and stopped it. George was really upset as he thought he had killed his wife, but she wasn't badly hurt, just two broken ribs and shock. They kept the car.

George farmed until 1940 when he sold the farm to Fred Fecho. Mr. and Mrs. Mattie retired to Calgary where they both passed away.

STORY OF GUSTAVE LITKE, ***By Rose Litke [illegible]*** — Gustave Litke was born in Russia, of German parentage in 1855. He and his wife and four children, Fred, Bertha, Charlie and Asa, immigrated to Canada in 1888 and settled at Steinbeck, Manitoba. Shortly thereafter his wife died and in 1900 he married Katherine Series. They had two sons, John and Sam. In 1903 they moved to Port Hammond, B.C., and two years later a daughter, Mary, arrived.

In 1906 they moved to Leduc, settling on raw, unbroken land. When the brush was cleared the seed was broadcast by hand, cut with a scythe, and flailed to separate the grain from the straw. Two more children, Rose and Dan, were born at Leduc.

In the spring of 1910 we moved to our homestead north-east of Hanna, the SW 28-32-13. Only our most essential belongings were shipped by rail to Castor . . . stoves, dishes, bedding, mother's spinning wheel and father's tools, several head of cattle, two oxen and one horse. We were met in Castor by a neighbor who loaded everything in his wagon and we set out over the rough prairie trails to our new home.

Dad and brother Asa had come on ahead several weeks before to erect a house. It poured rain all the way from Castor so we were glad to hear the neighbor, Mr. Troh, say, "There's your new home."

Fuel was quite a problem. We gathered all the dead trees from the brush patches. Dried buffalo chips were a great help to keep the fires burning.

Our first barn was made of sod, topped with poles and sod for a roof. It was nice and warm during the winter, but an awful mess in wet weather.

Dad broke the land with oxen and a walking plow. We all pitched in and

helped pick rocks and hauled them away on a stone boat. Dad had harness and lines to drive the oxen. The collars were buckled below the neck.

In 1912 another son, James, was born.

We got our mail at Ferbisy Post Office at first, and later on at French's. I think it was near the place where Harry Lumsden lives. We hauled our drinking water in a wooden barrel on a stoneboat from Adams, a mile and a half away.

We attended school at Solon. Mr. Frederickson was my first teacher. Pupils attending then were the Whaleys, Burns, Pedersons and Lilkes. The school term was usually from March first to December 30. We had over two miles to go and during mosquito season it was agony. We wore large brimmed hats with mosquito netting around them for protection for our face and neck, but for us girls there was no protection for our legs, as no lady wore trousers or slacks in those days.

Everyone travelled across country as there were no roads or fences to guide them. Many times in the winter people would get caught in a blizzard and become lost. Generally they depended on their team to find their way home, as a good trail team would not leave the trail and would generally find the way home or to someone else's buildings. My brother Asa and Dad had a horn made out of a cow horn, that they blew on cold or stormy nights. This could be heard for miles and many times people who knew the sound of the horn would follow it and it would guide them home.

In 1914 our sister, Martha, was born, and in 1916 our sister Hannah. When Hannah was only nine months old my Dad passed away at the age of sixty-two years. In 1923 Mother remarried and moved to Crossfield; later moving to Calgary where she died in 1942. Three of her children are also gone. Sam died unmarried in 1946. John died in 1973, leaving his wife and four children. Martha passed away in 1964. She was married to Art Roberts and left four children.

Mary lives at Grand Forks, B.C. Dan, James and Hannah are all married and living at Forestburg. Rose married Howard Howery and they and three of their four sons live in Hanna.

We often pass the old homestead and recall many memories, some good and some not so good. We remember how plentiful and delicious the wild strawberries were . . . and the mushrooms. No one could cook them like my mother did.

We have made several moves since we were married, but always drift back to Hanna. As far as I am concerned, this is home.

MR. and MRS. ED BLAIN, By Bob Rabitt — Mr. and Mrs. Blain homesteaded in the Grassy Slope School district on the SW 14-32-13. He was one of the early settlers.

Mr. Blain served his community as Municipal Councillor and road foreman. When Grassy Slope School was built in 1924 he was secretary of the local school board. He was a member of the rural telephone company and of the Grassy Slope snow plow club. He often acted as Master of Ceremonies for the school Christmas concerts.

Mrs. Blain was an active member of her church and of various ladies' groups. School teachers boarded at the Blain home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blain sold their farm to Alfred Pahl and returned to Barrie, Ontario, where they both passed away.

DAN MATTIE and FAMILY, By Bella Thomas Mattie — Dan was born in Leduc on September 17, 1901. He came to the Hanna area with his parents and three brothers, Albert, Fred and Henry, and sister Martha, and settled in the

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Watts and family: Dolores, Belle, Dan, Miles and Don

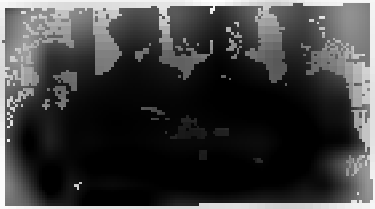
Centre Point district where the boys attended school.

Dan had a farm in the Grassy Slope school district. He lived on the NW 1-32-13. On September 25, 1929, Dan and I were married. We had three children. One son, Miles, passed away in February, 1952 at the age of twenty-one. Dolores married Clarence Raugust of the Red Rose district and has four daughters and one son. Don and his wife have two sons and one daughter; they have taken over the farm now.

The children attended Grassy Slope school until it closed, then went to Maunders. In later years a school bus took them to Spondin.

In the earlier years Dan had a threshing outfit and threshed the neighbors' crops as well as his own. When it began to get hard to find men and teams and wagons to haul bundles, he bought a combine. The thirties were hard years but we all enjoyed the picnics and concerts that were put on.

Dan passed away in October, 1966. I remained on the farm until the fall of 1975 when I moved to Hanna.

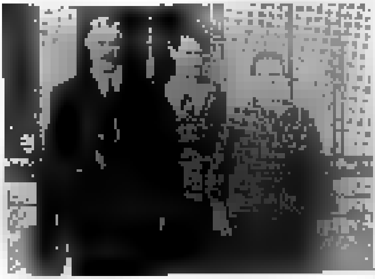


Grassy Slope School Class 1924: Walter Magee, Bob Rehill, Elsie Rehill, Dorothy Rehill

MR. and MRS. JACK NOONAN, By Bob Rehill — Jack Noonan, a World War I veteran, and his wife lived on the north half of 10-32-13 in the Grassy Slope district. They had two daughters, Theresa and Christine.

Mrs. Noonan passed away in the early twenties, and Mr. Noonan hired a housekeeper, Mrs. Magee, a widow with two sons, Walter and George, and a daughter Vera. All the children attended Grassy Slope school.

Several years later Mr. Noonan and Mrs. Magee were married. In the early thirties they sold the farm and retired to the west coast. They have both passed away now.



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz Sr., Martha (Tetz) Faupel.

MR. and MRS. KARL TETZ SR., By Martha Tetz Faupel — In April of 1934 I moved with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz, from Three Hills to the Noonan farm in the Grassy Slope district. I was the youngest of a family of seven and in grade eight. A niece of mine was staying with us to go to school and she was in grade one. It was through Reverend Finkbeiner that we heard of this place, and with the help of Mr. George Jess we were able to get a crop in.

As we lived close to the school we had most of the teachers boarding with us for the next few years, and this helped put food on the table. The teachers were Irene Aicken, Alice Bauer, Eleanor Bauer, Dorothy Dawson and Mary Hickey.

In 1939 we left the farm and moved into Hanna. Mrs. Tetz passed away in 1961 and Mr. Tetz in 1966.

I married Leonard Feupel in 1941 and we still live on his father's homestead. Our son Wayne lives on the original Tetz homestead and our daughter Lynette is in her last year of school.

GEORGE and CAROLINA JESS, *By Ted Jess and Ida Jess Stace* — George (Gotthilf) Jess moved to a homestead near Leader, Saskatchewan with his parents when he was eleven years old. Carolina Tetz and her parents moved into the same area at about the same time. This is where they later met and were married in 1920.

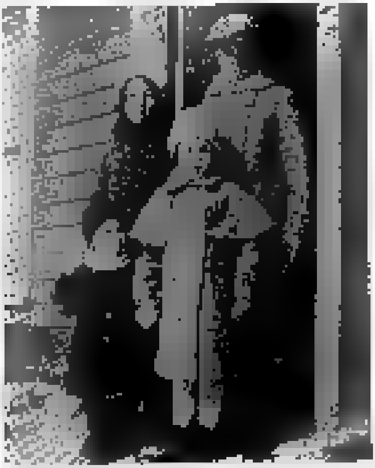
In 1926 the young couple and their two children, Ted and Ida, moved to the Three Hills district, and three years later settled in the Maunders district, north-east of Hanna. By this time another daughter, Clara, had joined the family. Ted and Ida attended Maunders school, where Miss McMullen was the teacher. While they lived on the Sayles place at Maunders, their fourth child, Ella, was born.

In 1934 the Jess family moved to the Grassy Slope district and lived on the Walters farm for many years. Ted and Ida attended Centre Point school for three months, driving a horse and cart. Mr. Evans was the teacher. That fall Grassy Slope school was opened, and then they went there.

George and Carolina used to tell of many experiences they had as children growing up in pioneer days . . . living in sod houses, the absence of schools, prairie fires, walking many miles to bring in livestock which had strayed because there were no fences, the shortage of meat, hauling grain with wagons to the nearest elevator seventy-five miles away, and plowing with oxen and wooden plows. And they often spoke of the years when they, like other young couples, were trying to survive the depression.

In 1949 George and Carolina retired to Hanna, where Carolina still lives. George passed away in 1971.

Geo. Jess family. Mr. Jess, Mrs. Jess, Ida, Ted, Ella and Clara.



Ida Jess, Ted Jess, Ella Jess, Clara Jess, 1934.

Ted, the only son, took over the farm in 1948. He married Irene Heller and they have one daughter Bonnie. She is married to George Kautz and lives on a farm near her parents.

Ida Jess married Walter Banco in 1944. They farmed in the Ponoka area for thirty years; in 1974 they sold the farm to their son Don and moved into the town of Ponoka. They have two sons and two daughters.

Clara Jess married Otto Motz and lives in the Spondin area. They have three sons.

Ella Jess married Elmer Menke; they make their home at Vermilion where Elmer is a C.N.R. agent. They have three sons at home.

Memories are precious things.
Back to mind so much they bring,
Days of childhood with Mom and Dad,
One now gone, which makes us sad.

Mom and Dad different stories told
Of days when they too weren't old
Living in sod houses, no school to attend,
Helping to plow, plant, work to no end.

We kids in our turn had many a chore,
Wood to chop, coal to get, scrub the floor;
Chicks to lock in with old mother hen,
Pigs to slop, cows to milk, no machine then.

Walking across fields on a cold winter's day,
Lost at times as snow swept over the way,
To arrive in time at a prairie school
An education to get, one of life's tools.

Later, horse and buggy racing down the road,
Neighbor kids along to make a big load.
Don't tell Dad or a lecture we'd get
But fun it was, makes us smile even yet.

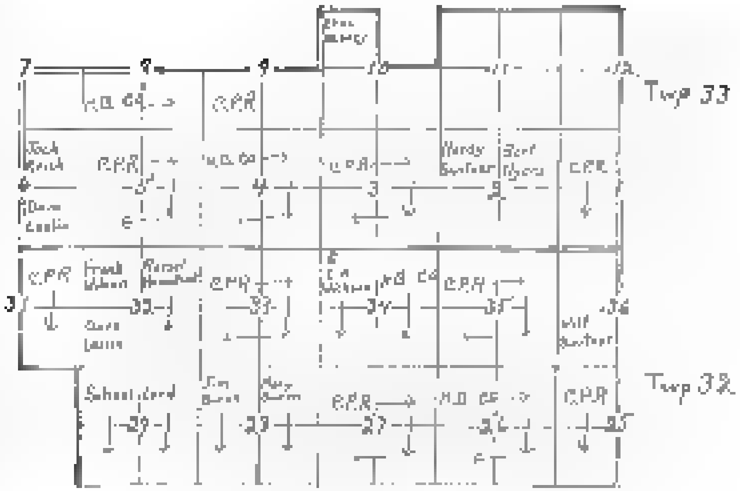
Swimming in dugouts, sliding on ice,
Riding horses to visit friends so nice;
Life then was a much different kind
To what we and our children have in mind.

A header Dad used to reap the grain,
Short crops cut close yield more to gain;
Nice neat stacks all over the place
Waiting for threshers, the weather they'd race.

Now we as adults are scattered far round,
Times again have changed, new ways are found;
But our ancestors' struggles were not in vain,
We appreciate your efforts; it's been our gain.

By Ida Jess Banco

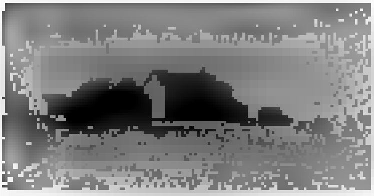
DUNDEE No. 4386



RANGE 13

DUNDEE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill



Dundee School 1930

Dundee school was built in the summer of 1928. Mr. Williams was the carpenter, and Mr. George Taylor and Mr. Jones did the painting.

School board members were Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Crowe, Mr. Rehill and Mr. Grimes. Mrs. Hemstock chose the name for the school, after a city in Scotland.

The building wasn't completed in time for fall classes to be held there, so Rehill's residence was used as a classroom until the school was ready.

Just west of the school in a pasture across from Greenwood's buildings, there was a ball diamond. Softball games were held there every Sunday and Wednesday evenings during the summer, and once in a while both teams and spectators would finish the day with ice cream and lunch at Greenwood's.

Telephone Company annual meetings and municipal elections were held at the school, as well as the usual concerts and dances.

Teachers at Dundee were: Gwen Rose, Hilda Herman, Mrs. Sidney Grimes, Mr. Vic Trenaman, Berne Leggatt, Kathleen Eckeles, Olga Walli, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mrs. Lillian Bye, and Jack McLaren.

Dundee school operated until the early fifties.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hemstock's 50th Anniversary. Back row: Allan and Claire Hemstock, Leo and Margaret Pearce, Alex and Emily Hemstock. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hemstock seated.

RUSSELL HEMSTOCK, By Annie Hemstock — James Russell Hemstock was born in Ontario in 1891. Russell's father owned and operated a mill, but the constant dust there did not agree with Russell, so he finally left home in 1909. He came west to work for his older brother, Walter, who had taken a homestead north-east of Hanna. When Walter decided to go farther north, Russell bought his land, the north-west quarter of 20-32-13. In 1916 he ordered lumber from Vancouver to build a house, and as the crop was good that year, he exchanged a carload of wheat for the load of lumber.

Eventually, he came home to Chatsworth, Ontario, to find a wife. I had just finished my course at University, and decided that homemaking would be much more rewarding than teaching, especially in a new home on a prairie farm. So we were married on June 13, 1916, and had our trip west by C.P.R. as our honeymoon!

The prairie did look very bare for a while, but Russell soon had a few hundred trees growing around the buildings, gifts of the Provincial government. (It wasn't Social Credit then). We named our farm 'Braeside', which means 'on the hill' in Scottish.

One of the advantages of our new district was the abundance of coal, which the farmers sometimes mined for themselves, paying only a minimal sum to the government. Russell operated one such mine. Obtaining water was sometimes a problem, as much of it was very alkaline, but eventually, most farmers found good wells or built cisterns for rain-water.

Another advantage of the district was that Braeside was on a mail route, with delivery once or twice a week. Saturdays were usually our shopping day at Hanna which was sixteen miles away. As far as church was concerned, we usually had at least one service a month from various denominations at a local school.

Our first child, Alex, was born in 1921 in the old Hanna hospital, which consisted of seven or eight small rooms. Margaret was born in 1926 and Allan in 1932 in the new, very modern hospital.

The school problem came up eventually; the nearest one was four and a half miles away. However, just two and a half miles away, were the Rehill children, and Bob Rehill was old enough to drive. So for that year Alex rode a big black saddle horse, Flora, to Rehill's and drove with them in their democrat to school. I thought I had never seen such a small boy on such a big horse as the morning when I waved good-bye to Alex and his lunchpail. There were lessons at home in the winter, and the next year brought a new school, Dundee.

Those were happy years until we realized that neither Alex nor Allan wanted to farm, and Margaret had fallen in love with an engineer. So we sold the farm and moved to Calgary in 1955. Alex had married and was living in the city by that time.

Russell passed away on December 23, 1970, and since that time I have continued living in our home.

MR. and MRS. JAMES DONCASTER, By Elizabeth Doncaster — James Doncaster was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1887. He came to Canada in 1910 and bought a quarter-section of land at Cochrane, but stayed there just a few months before returning to live and work in Calgary and area for seven years.

In the spring of 1918 he travelled by team and rack to Hanna where he bought a half-section of land approximately one mile south of Wild's home. He built a lumber and sod shack about twelve by twelve.

He met Elizabeth Wild; they were married in Calgary on July 23, 1919. They returned to Jim's farm, living in the shack while Jim built their two-storey home. Some years later they added a large kitchen and another bedroom. They had five children: Edna, Leone, Clifford, Evelyn and Shirley.

Jim recalls paying one hundred dollars for one cow in 1919, and in the thirties having to sell six three-year-old steers at fifteen dollars each in order to purchase winter clothes for the children. At another time he paid twelve cents a bushel to have his wheat threshed, and received only eighteen cents a bushel when he sold it.

In 1925, when Elizabeth was in the hospital giving birth to a daughter, Evelyn, there was a prairie fire, and Jim remembers having to leave Edna, Leone and Clifford in the car on the road while he went to help fight the fire. Some years later another fire started in a stack at Grimes' and was not stopped until it went as far south as Feupel's.

The first school Edna and Leone attended was North Berry Creek, three miles east. When Dundee was built two miles west, the family went there. The Dundee school was famous for great Christmas concerts, and crowds came to pack the school to see them. Cliff Doncaster will be remembered for his humorous monologues, which were enjoyed by all.

Jim and Elizabeth sold their farm in 1951 and had their final sale in 1952. They retired to Calgary where they are still living. Jim, at the age of eighty-nine, is still active, planting his own garden as well as those of Evelyn and Shirley. He had been driving his car until this year when he decided not to renew his licence. Elizabeth is realizing her life-long dream by every year taking a trip to a different country.

Edna is presently living at Vegreville, Cliff is in Williams Lake, B.C., and Leone, Evelyn and Shirley live in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WILD, By Elizabeth Wild Doncaster — James Wild came from England to Canada in 1909, first going to Nova Scotia and then to Three Hills, where he worked in a mine. His family joined him in 1911 and the next year they moved to Hanna, travelling by covered wagon and bringing with them three horses and a dog.

They were delayed for two days in Rumsey due to their horses getting away, but found them back at the ferry on the Red Deer River. On the way to the homestead they spent the night at a stopping place owned by the Lewis family.

The second day after arriving at the homestead they went to the Netherby store owned by Tom Watson to get groceries; when they returned home they found that many of their possessions had been stolen.

At that time the land was raw prairie and they lived in a sod shack. The nearest post office was Netherby and the nearest town with a railway was Castor.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Wild moved to Drumheller, where he worked in the mines. In 1917 they returned to the homestead and worked the land for five years. About 1922 they moved back to Drumheller, where they remained until retiring to Calgary.

Mrs. Wild passed away in 1968 at the age of eighty-seven. Mr. Wild died in 1974 at the age of ninety-five.

J. J. REHILL and FAMILY, By Bob Rehill — My folks came from Wawota, Saskatchewan, to Munson in 1914. In the family there were five boys, Bill, Carl, Clarence, Roy and Bob, three girls, Lena, Annie and Elsie, and on January 31, 1915, Dorothy was born. Lena married Joe Lucas and lived on his farm just north of Drumheller; Annie married Wilbert Greenwood and they lived near Munson.

Dad found the land awfully heavy to work and in 1921 he located in the Garden Plain country on 28-32-13. It looked really good at that time. There were only a few settlers and there was an abundance of prairie wool for grazing and to put up for hay. Dad and the boys drove the sleighs loaded with household effects and some feed, and the cattle. The machinery and the remainder of our belongings were shipped by rail. Mother and the younger children came up by train and stayed overnight at the National Hotel. A Mr. Cobb was manager at the time. We paid $1.50 for the room and I think our breakfast was $1.25.

The next day a close neighbor, Mr. Jack Corry, came in and took us out to our new farm. It had been owned by the Jim Burns family, who sold it to Tingle and Wade, and Dad bought it from them.

Mr. and Mrs. John James Rehill, 1936

In order to make ends meet, the family had to milk cows. They had fifteen milk cows at that time and everyone had to pitch in and help. In order to keep the cream sweet they built an ice house in the backyard. In the winter time they would cut ice down in the creek and haul it home by sleigh and fill the ice house for the summer. Besides keeping the cream sweet, the ice house furnished ice for all that good old home-made ice cream.

There was no such thing as cream trucks in those days. Twice a week the folks used to churn all the cream into butter. On Saturday they would drive the team and buggy to Hanna and deliver the butter to private homes which were

regular customers. It was a long day as they left before daylight and it was always late when they got home with the week's supply of groceries. But we kids would always be waiting up to get our weekend treat, candy.

We attended Solon school, five miles away. On Sundays Mr. David Oke held church services there, and Marion Wright taught Sunday school.

On May 24, 1924, Dad purchased a new Model T Ford car. That was Queen Victoria's birthday and there was always a celebration and we got a school holiday. Mr. Campbell was the Ford salesman then; he drove the car out and took us to the sports day in Hanna, and that night Dad drove it home. We were so proud of that car. It served us for four years and it really was a treat for the folks to be able to make their deliveries in town with it.

When we moved up here we had a number of good horses and had an outfit for each one of us to work in the field. We were always in the field by seven o'clock and worked till noon, then from one till six. We always had long evenings and the crops were always seeded in good time.

The crops were cut with binders. One binder usually kept two of us busy stooking. The hours were long and stooking was hard on the back. Neighbors would help each other out with no money involved.

Mr. Dave Harvey owned the first machine to thresh for us. He had a steam outfit, complete with fourteen bundle racks, water wagon, cook car and bunk house. We were really fortunate to have a good well as we pumped water for the steam engine and their teams as well as for our own stock and the house. We had a horse and a half International pump engine which ran all day long.

Then Mr. Fred Elm came in with his one-cylinder Rumley Oil Pull tractor. He used it for two falls until he got a two-cylinder. Most of the bundle racks were supplied by local boys. The outfit was later purchased by Aubrey Crowe who threshed with it until combines came in.

In 1928 Dad purchased his first tractor, a Model D John Deere which was the pride of the farm. The only trouble with it was that it had steel wheels with eight-inch lugs, and when they struck a solid rock it would jolt every bone in your body.

That same spring Dad bought a Dodge Brothers sedan with seats covered with the best of leather. In 1929 brother Bill took it on a trip to Banff. When he had it filled with gas in Calgary, the attendant left the top off the gas tank. Some of the gas spilled out, the car threw sparks when it was climbing some of the mountain roads, and the car caught fire. All the wiring and upholstery was destroyed. Dad had made only the one payment on it, but the dealer had neglected to insure the vehicle, so it was a total loss to us. Later we heard that the company had had it repaired at the Technical School in Calgary for only the cost of materials. After that we had to go back to our old Model T.

In 1929 we purchased a twenty-foot Rumley combine and did straight combining with it. It was a wonderful way to harvest, but we missed having our straw piles for the cattle in the winter time. Then the hungry thirties set in and we were unable to collect some of our custom work fees. Then we couldn't make our payments so had to let the combine go back. Then we had to cut with a binder, and we bought a threshing machine.

Dad passed away September 1, 1944. My brother Carl and I continued to farm the land for my mother.

We used to haul our grain to Boner elevator five miles east of Hanna. In those days, if wheat weighed sixty-four pounds per bushel, it was number one without any dickering. But in those days wheat was on the open market, so you never knew when you went in with a load what the price was going to be.

For a number of years people loaded wheat into boxcars at Altness siding.

seven miles east of Hanna. They would put in an order for a boxcar, the C.N.R. would spot it on the side track, and the farmer had so long to load it before he had to pay demurrage on it. The farmers shovelled the wheat onto sleighs by hand, then hauled it down to the boxcars and shovelled it off by hand. While they were unloading they would feed the horses their oats. Not only did they have to shovel the grain into the cars, they had to get inside them and shovel the grain back.

There were no such things as grain augers. All we had was shovels and Manitoba half-bushel scoops. The scoop was a good thing as long as the bin was full, but when you got down to the bottom it was a back breaker.

Sometimes when the Bonar elevator was filled up we would haul into Hanna. We often got a better grade there as there were more elevators and there was more competition.

In 1929 the C.N.R. built a line from Scapa to Garden Plain and Spondin. The Pioneer elevator at Garden Plain was built in 1932, with Mr. Wilson as the first grain buyer. A few years later the Alberta Wheat Pool built an elevator; Stan Sanderson was the first agent. The C.N.R. suspended operations on that line in the late fifties, and the grain had to be hauled out of the elevators by trucks. In 1968 the Pioneer elevator was moved to Cereal. The truck and transport that the elevator was loaded on had sixty-eight wheels. It was quite a sight to see them turn corners with that outfit with the elevator loaded on it.

In the thirties the government shipped feed in to the Garden Plain siding. You had to get there early in the morning and wait your turn to load, but often there wasn't enough to go around.

Dad was always interested in sports and would go for miles to watch a ball game. Quite often he umpired the games at our own local diamond. He enjoyed the old time dances, and a good game of Five Hundred in cards. He liked working in the garden and always had enough vegetables for ourselves and for anyone else who needed them.

Carl farmed and lived at home. He passed away July 29, 1976. Bob is married and lives on the home place.

All the family is married. Bill lives at Morrin; Clarence at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Roy at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Elsie married Benny Weller and lives in Oyen; Dorothy married Albert Finkbiner and lives in Drumheller.

Mother is still alive and is in the J. Kramer Auxiliary Hospital in Drumheller. She celebrated her ninetieth birthday on June 30, 1976.

THE GEORGE THOMAS FAMILY, ***By Belle Thomas [illegible]*** — My father and mother were married in North Dakota in 1906, and my sister Audrey and I were born there. The family left North Dakota in the late summer of 1909, and came by train to Bassano, bringing with them their machinery, livestock, and household goods. They travelled by wagon as far as the Red Deer River, and spent that winter with Mr. John Smith.

In the spring of 1910 they, and Carl Johnson, moved to their homesteads about fifteen miles south-east of Hanna. The Olive school was about two and a half miles from our place. My two sisters, Olive and Violet, and three brothers, Leo, Ward and Wesley, were born on the homestead. Leo died when he was three weeks old.

My father and mother farmed there until 1926, then moved to the Grassy Slope district to a farm about two miles north of the school, which Ward, Wesley and Olive attended. Later the folks moved to a farm that my father had bought in the Dundee district, and remained there until they retired to Hanna in 1961.

Audrey, who has now passed away, married Lawrence Miller and had one daughter and five sons.

Violet, Mrs. Dale McDermott, has two sons.

Wes married Anne Simm. They have three daughters and one son.

Olive, who married Tom Wigg, passed away in 1954.

Ward married Joan McVicar from London, England. They have two daughters and one son.

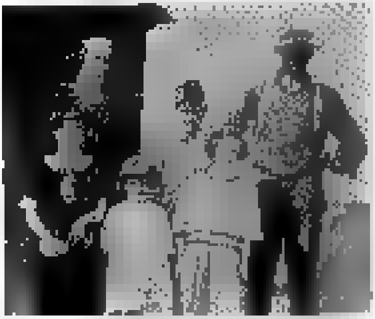
I married Dan Mattis, whose story is also in this book.

Dad died in the fall of 1968 at the age of eighty-six; Mother followed him three years later at the age of eighty-four.

THE WILLIAM GLOVER FAMILY, ***By Frances Glover Ripley and Kathleen Glover Hilyer*** — Our grandfather, William Glover Sr., arrived from Scotland in 1907 and settled on a homestead in the Buchan School District. In his first years there he hauled freight between Stettler and Castor with a team of oxen, and also hauled freight from Castor to the present townsite of Hanna in 1912.

He started raising purebred Hereford cattle, and one of his greatest moments of glory came in 1915 when one of his bulls took first prize at the Calgary Bull Sale. In the winter of 1922-23 a terrible blizzard swept over the prairies; he lost many of his cattle; many of them were found standing in sloughs, frozen solid. Grandfather was a tough old Scotsman and was able to survive this hardship as well as many others, and lived until September, 1944. He is buried in the cemetery at Netherby School.

Grandfather's eldest son, William Glover Jr., who was our father, also came to Canada in 1907. He worked in the Calgary area for a short while, then moved to Vancouver and joined the Police Force. In May, 1914, he married our mother, Margaret McGhee, who had come to Vancouver from Ireland in 1909. A year later our eldest sister Mary, better known as May, was born. She was retarded and was to be a great care to my parents all her life.



Mr. and Mrs. William Glover and family: May, Frances, Bill and Kay.

The mule took them where he wanted to go, not where they wanted to go. Bill and Kathleen Glover, and Katie the mule.

When war broke out our father enlisted in the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles and moved his wife and baby to Victoria before going overseas in October of 1915. Our brother, William John, was born in 1916.

After the war was over my father got a piece of Soldier Settlement land in the Garden Plain area. Kathleen was born in Calgary in 1920 as our parents were on their way to their new home, one mile east and one mile south of Buchan School. It was very poor land, really just a rock pile, and it was very hard to make a living on it.

Frances, the last of the children, was born in 1922. She was born in the old farmhouse with only our dad there to assist. A few weeks later she was baptized at Garden Plain hall where a Catholic priest from Castor used to hold services. Joey Higgins was baptized at the same time.

Our old farmhouse was a two-roomed shack to begin with, but two more rooms were added later. It was very cold in the winter when the snow would blow in the large cracks around the windows and doors.

Saturday night was bath night and a roaring fire was built and lots of water heated in boilers and kettles. The bath tub was the round laundry tub and it was placed very close to the stove. If you were small enough to sit down in the tub you had one knee in each ear, but things got very tricky when you stood up to dry yourself. If you bent over too far you ended up with the word McClary firmly branded on your buttocks . . . a very good identification mark to be sure.

The first one into the tub got the clean water and after that each one just got another kettle of hot water to warm things up. Our dad was always the last one in and by this time the water was quite murky, but no one spoke much about pollution in those days.

The Depression hit in 1929, the year that we moved to the Dundee area. We had very few good crops but by growing a large garden and raising chickens and turkeys and milking cows we managed to survive. It seemed that every fall we had to go on relief to get winter clothing and other necessities, and then the following summer our dad would have to do roadwork to pay back any relief we had received.

Our first teacher at Dundee was Gwen Ross who later became Mrs. Bob Rahill. Next was Mrs. Grimes who was teaching there at the time of her death and whose funeral was the first one I ever attended. It was a very sad day for all of us as we loved her very much.

Discipline was not always easy to maintain in a one-roomed school, for while a teacher was busy with one class, the others would sometimes raise a bit of [illegible]. I (Frances) sat in front of a boy named Jimmie Temple. One day he speared a fly on his pen nib, dipped it in his inkwell, and put it down the back of my neck. I let out a blood-curdling scream which brought the teacher on the run. There sat Jimmie looking very angelic, his halo in place, while I got two straps on each hand for disturbing the school. Afterward I said to Jimmie, "God will get you for this," and sure enough, God has removed all his hair!

Our Phys Ed program at school consisted of doing a few bend and stretch exercises while standing beside our desks every morning. There was one softball and one bat for anywhere from twelve to twenty-four pupils, so most of the time we played Scrub. For a change we would go to Greenwood's farm and get a bucket of water, (there was no well at the school), and off to the fields we would go to drown out gophers.

There was no such thing as Family Life education taught at Dundee or any other school in those days, so most of us grew up thinking the coyotes brought the babies. One day a girl who was a bit older and much wiser than the rest of us decided to tell some of us where we came from. I must say she went into great detail about the birds and the bees, but when she was finished I said, "I don't care what you say, I came from Buchan School!"

We remember with great nostalgia our yearly Christmas concerts. We would begin practising early and when the time came to perform we felt like movie stars. I remember one Christmas in particular when we were very hard up and didn't have a turkey. Our usual roast beef was cooking in the oven when Bob Rahill came along to invite us to their home for dinner. He sat down and had roast beef with us and then we all went to Reilli's for a lovely dinner and an enjoyable evening of cards. Such wonderful people and so eager to share what they had!

Our summer meat was usually chicken; only occasionally when we were in town we would buy whatever meat we could eat in one day, for there was no place to keep it. When the weather turned cold in the fall, my father would butcher a steer, which he cut up and stored in a shed outside. It would usually stay frozen until it was used up, but if a Chinook would blow in and the meat start to thaw, there would be a great rush for sealers and wash boilers to get it canned before it spoiled.

When World War II broke out in 1939, our father was anxious to get back in uniform so he went to Calgary and enlisted in the Veterans' Guard. He was on duty as guard at prisoner-of-war camps till 1946, then he made two trips to England taking prisoners back to Europe. He had a commission by now and was supposed to be saluted, so was very surprised when on his second trip home from England, someone came up behind him and slapped him on the back. He turned around to see Jim Temple, whose first words were, "I'm darned if I'm going to salute you, Bill Glover!", and they both had a good laugh.

Father had held a farm sale when he re-enlisted, and after his discharge from the army, he worked as a fireman for the RCAF until his death in 1956, at the age of seventy-two years.

Our mother and eldest sister May lived in Calgary until mother's death on her seventy-fifth birthday in 1981. At that time May went to the Deerhome in Red Deer where she passed away in February, 1984.

Kathleen, Mrs. Hilyer, lives in Burnaby, B.C.; Frances, Mrs. Art Ripley, resides in Edmonton. Our brother Bill, who was also in the army during the war, passed away in Hamilton, Ontario in 1959 at the age of forty-three years.

Only we two sisters are left of the family of six. As we look back at the hard times we seem to think more of the fun we had than of the things we were deprived of. Being poor wasn't so bad because most people were in the same boat. If we had to do it all over again we wouldn't change a thing, except maybe the seating arrangement at Dundee School.

Sydney and Hilda Grimes

THE GRIMES FAMILY, By Mrs. Hilda Franklin — Sydney Lawrence Grimes was born in Birmingham, England in 1891. After the death of his mother, he moved to Olds, Alberta to live with his brother Bert who operated a dairy farm there. When World War I broke out, he enlisted and served in France. After the war he returned to Alberta and married Nellie Brown.

Under the Veterans' Plan, the couple settled in the Dundee school district on a farm, the NW 36-32-13. Nellie continued her teaching career for many years in this area.

A son, Donald Leonard Grimes, was born in 1921. Ten years later his mother died, and in 1933 Sydney and Hilda Herman were married. Hilda continued to teach at the Dundee school. Their first child, baby Walter, passed away in 1935, and another son, Dennis Sydney Grimes, was born in 1939.

Donald joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 as Flight Sergeant Observer. A photo of him taken standing beside a 'Fairy Battle' aircraft was snapped by a Paramount Pictures cameraman during the filming of "Captains of the Clouds." This photo

appeared on the cover of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan publication, and was used in magazine advertisements for the Victory Bond drives. Donald was killed in aerial action in 1942 and was buried in Lincoln, England on November 11, 1942, with full military honors.

Sydney Grimes passed away in 1943. Hilda and Dennis moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1949. Hilda taught school for fifteen years and attended night and summer schools to obtain her B.Sc. in Education. Dennis became an accountant. After the death of her second husband, Hilda moved to Beaverton.

As I reminisce, many fond memories pass through my mind. First of all I want to express again my gratitude to our many kind neighbors who so willingly helped us when Sydney became too ill to carry on.

Next, I remember how well we managed without all the modern conveniences. We were content with burning coal for heat, riding in a Model T Ford, canning our foods, baking the bread, plowing with a six-horse team, pumping water for livestock by hand, walking to school and patching overalls. I did feel that we had many pleasures and joys that were shared by our neighbors: the softball games, Christmas programs, parties, picnics and the superb home-cooked dinners. I remember our old fashioned telephone, washing machine and treadle sewing machine.

Among many humorous incidents, one stands out in my memory. On Hallowe'en night, which was a few days after Sydney and I were married, we were wakened by a grunting pig slipping on the waxed floor as it ran from room to room, with Sydney chasing it and calling out appropriate expressions while I laughed too much to help. Weeks had passed before we found out that two young men had put the pig through an open window as a prank. Anyway, the owner of the pig just left it with us as a wedding present. That lonely pig often came to rattle at our door for attention, and one day there was that tapping noise again and Syd said, "There's that pig again!"

Can you believe that it was not the pig, but that dignified, serious bachelor, Tom Hoodless? We explained, but he didn't show any response, so we didn't dare laugh until he left. At this point, I must add that Sydney and Donald were gifted with laughs that rang through the house. The high school principal once said that he never chided Don for laughing in class; it was appreciated because it lifted people into a more cheerful mood. So let us, too, keep laughing!

In conclusion, Sydney Grimes, who eked out a living on an arid farm, who served many years as secretary-treasurer of Dundee school board and the rural telephone company, who sang solos, who suffered sorrows in the losses of Nellie and Donald and who experienced disability for three years, remained a true optimist. If only he could have seen what a wonderful son and grandsons he has given to this world!

MY STORY, ***By Bob [illegible]*** — I was born in Elkhorn, Manitoba on April 19, 1912 and moved with my parents to Munson in 1914. It was there that I started school at White Rose. Miss Windell, my first teacher, boarded at our place and drove us kids to school.

It was there that I got the first and only strapping of my school years. One day the teacher wasn't feeling well, and at noon she laid down behind the stove to rest. I was standing on the outside step and told the boys outside that the teacher had a belly ache. They all had a big laugh. I didn't know the teacher was standing behind me, but I soon found out, and the other boys didn't laugh so much when she called us all in. And we all went without recess for two days.

In 1921 we moved to the Hanna area and we attended Solon school. Ross Lake, who also attended Solon, stayed at our place and drove us to school for the first year. Then we got an old pony and a buggy and drove ourselves. We had to leave early in the morning; in the winters it was still quite dark when we left home, for it was a long trip and the old pony was slow. Sometimes we were darn cold when we got there, and had to sit around the stove to get warm. Some mornings the teacher would give us exercises to warm us up, for those old schools took a long time to heat up.

Bob Reid family. Doreen, Kenneth, Bob.

My first teacher was Miss Evelyn Summers, who later married Bill Lumsden. She was a real good teacher and always kept law and order. She was noted for putting on a good Christmas concert. She generally started four weeks ahead of time, for there was a lot of work to it. We had to memorize our recitations and our parts in plays, and make stage decorations and costumes. We each had a recitation, and the pupils gained a lot of confidence by getting up in front of an audience to perform.

The parents spent the evening before the concerts filling candy bags and popping corn. They strung pop corn for tree decorations, and made popcorn balls to put in the candy bags. The morning of the concert they went to the school, decorated it with streamers, put up a large tree and trimmed it. They moved in extra benches for the audience, but the school was usually so packed that the ones at the back could neither see nor hear the program.

There would be recitations, monologues, dialogues, pantomimes, drills, dancing and singing of carols. When Santa arrived there was lots of excitement. He passed out the presents and the treats, and although there were no expensive gifts in those days, everyone appreciated what they got. Afterwards the parents passed treats, coffee and lunch to the audience.

In 1922 Grassy Slope school was built. Mr. Ed Glenn was the secretary and Wesley Oke was our first teacher.

I spent my summer holidays herding cattle on the open land. Norman Oke and I herded our cattle together, and spent a lot of our time snaring gophers for spending money. We also raided all the crows' and magpies' nests. Mr. Wade at the municipal office bought the gopher tails for one cent apiece, and paid one cent apiece for the eggs.

In 1928 another new school district, Dundee, was started north of us. During the summer I helped haul the sand, cement and lumber for it; then that fall I had to go to school there, and that didn't make me very happy.

That same fall I went hauling bundles on a threshing crew for the first time. They gave me a big team and a 9' x 16' rack . . . most of the racks were 8' x 14'. I tried my best to put on a load like the others did. I worked as fast as I could but just couldn't get on a big load and get to the machine in time to hold my turn. Finally the boss told me that I had a much bigger rack, and that it held more bundles than the others. When I started counting how many bundles I had loaded, and how

many the others had on. I didn't feel so bad. I thought I was quite a man when they let me do that job, but boy, was I tired at night!

When I went back to school after harvest, Miss Gwen Rose was my teacher. She taught me two years at Grassy Slope and one year at Dundee, where I took my grade ten and finished my schooling.

I worked on the farm with my father and my brother Bill. We broke a lot of land with our model D John Deere. It involved a lot of work as when the ground was dry the plow shares would get dull. We used to sharpen our own shares and that took a lot of pounding, and the hot forge would sure draw the sweat. When the points would wear off we would take them to town and Mr. Andy McKay would put new points on them.

I did a lot of blacksmith work for the neighbors too. I sharpened plow shares for twenty-five cents each, and that was hard-earned money.

We used to have a lot of house parties for amusement. The girls would all take lunch, and anyone who could play an instrument would supply the music. Benny Weller played guitar. Ward and Wes Thomas played guitars and the violin, and Mr. Thomas helped out too. I played the mouth organ and the violin a bit. We also had card games, '500' parties and whist drives.

The school dances always drew a large crowd. We paid only 35 cents for admission as the music was reasonable. Benny Weller and Walter Jensen used to charge $2.50 each, and they would play from nine in the evening till three or four in the morning. Alex Roessler used to play with them sometimes.

In 1932 I went out to look for harvest work, and found a job at Botha with a family by the name of Bruning. They were real nice people and it was like a second home to me. I worked for them all that fall, and when winter came they told me that if I worked for them I had to curl with them. So I started curling on the two sheet rink at Botha. I had some good times there and met some wonderful people.

In 1936 I purchased a threshing outfit of my own on a bushel basis, paying E. A. Loughran 2 cents a bushel until it was paid for. I paid only $800 for the separator, which doesn't seem much now, but was a lot in those days. I had six bundle teams and a spike pitcher. I did a lot of work with that machine. Our run used to be about thirty days in a good year. We used to sleep in a tent and had a gas lantern for light. The days were long. We used to thresh eleven hours a day and always had lunch in the forenoon and afternoon. When we finished up threshing, I used to put on a free thresherman's dance for all my men and for the district.

In the winter, about March when the ice was fairly deep, we would have an ice-cutting bee. Four or five neighbors would get together and cut ice in a dam or a slough. First we opened up a hole with a crow bar and pick, large enough to put in the ice saw, which was about five feet long with very large teeth. We cut the blocks about twenty inches square. As soon as the block was cut and floating loose, we would pull it out with the ice tongs and load it on the sleigh boxes. Sometimes when the snow on the roads was deep, the heavy loads would cut down on one side and over would go the load. It was a real chore to re-load.

We all had large holes in the ground, about ten feet square and eight feet deep, for ice pits. We covered the ice with straw for insulation, and usually pulled an old granary over the hole. The ice pit served as our summer refrigerator, keeping the milk and cream cold. The cream cans were kept on the ice and when the cream man came on his route, he would go to the ice house to pick them up. We had ice boxes in the house to take the place of a fridge, and always had lots of cream and ice to make ice cream.

The winter months were long as the snow usually came early and blocked in

our roads in November or December. Then our cars were stored away for the winter, and our main means of transportation was a saddle horse or a team and sleigh. When there was a dance a distance away, we would gather up a sleigh load of neighbors, and sometimes if the roads were heavy we would have to change teams half way. The time travelling was spent in singing songs and telling stories. If we got cold we would get out and run behind; sometimes then the driver would speed up the team, and we would have a hard time to catch up. We had lots of fun in those days.

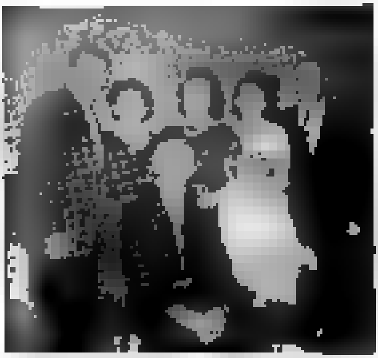
In the spring of 1949 I decided to make some improvements to our old house, so we tore part of it down and started to enlarge the basement. We were using a Ford tractor with a bucket on the back end, and hauled the dirt out a very steep approach. While I was taking a load of dirt out, the front end raised up in the air. It was a borrowed tractor and I was not used to the controls. I went to put in the clutch but instead I stepped on the left wheel brake, the tractor spun round and rolled over the embankment into the basement, and turned upside down. I was pinned under the tractor which luckily did not catch fire.

My brother got a shovel and dug a trench to free me and I crawled out. Some part of the fender or steering wheel had cut my ear almost off and loosened a large part of my scalp. Mother called our neighbor Mr. Hemstock who rushed me to the hospital. Doctor Argue stitched my ear back together and put a number of stitches in my scalp. I was in the hospital for two weeks and then went home and finished my basement, and built a new part on the house.

On July 7, 1950, I married our neighbor's daughter, Doreen Wright. We had a lovely wedding on a nice sunny day, but that evening, just before the dance started, it began to rain and it just poured. The dance was held in the Garden Plain hall with Roy Embree's orchestra, and I don't know how they ever managed to get the floor clean afterward, as there was mud all over everywhere. We went on our honeymoon in a ton truck with a home made camper on the back, to the Calgary Stampede, Banff, and Jasper, and home by way of Edmonton.

We have two sons, both living at home. Ken helps with the farm work and Jack is employed with the U.F.A. farm supply centre in Hanna.

I hope that everyone enjoys life as much as we do. We hope to live in the district for many years yet, as we have a lot of good neighbors and I wouldn't want to leave here. It's Home, Sweet Home.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple's 40 Wedding Anniversary. David, Lily, Elsie, Violet and Jimmy. Mr. and Mrs. Temple.

MR. and MRS. DAVE TEMPLE, By Mrs. Temple — In August, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple and two daughters, Elsie and Lily, moved from Fort Francis to Hanna. In the early spring of 1924 we took over the Chris Gasper farm located seven miles north of Hanna. Two more children were added to our family, Violet and Jimmy. A lot of hard labor and long hours was what it took to get a start.

The children attended Antelope Hill school. Elsie and Lily's first teacher was Miss Eve Hart, others were Norine Maynes and Agnes King. All these teachers boarded with us. One teacher, Mr. Ruskin . . . Old Ruskin, they used to call him . only stayed part of a term. I can remember how the children would slide down a hill near the school on scoop shovels in the winter time.

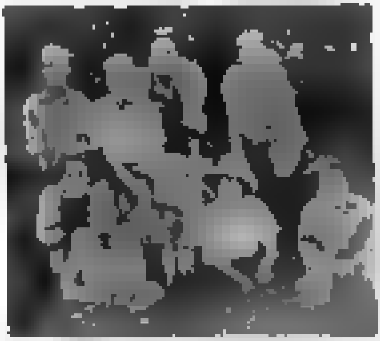
One time lightning hit our barn and another time it ripped our phone off the wall. The most frightening incident occurred when lightning started a prairie fire on our place. It was a dry year and we could see the smoke and fire rolling in real fast. Dave plowed fire guards around the feed stacks and the buildings and we took our most needed belongings and put them in the middle of a plowed field. Neighbors came from far and near to help fight the fire, using wet gunny sacks. After a lot of anxious moments and hours of work, the fire was brought under control and our house was saved. Even the police arrived. We were excited because that was the first time we had seen a policeman.

In 1933 we moved twenty miles north of Hanna to farm the Goldsberry place. These were the days when hard times hit everyone, but we always had enough to eat. The kids would hitch old Foxy to the buggy and haul the cream to Spondin. It would take them all day. They would bring back a few groceries and we gave them each ten cents to spend. The children attended Dundee school.

Mrs. Temple (Katie) was kept busy sewing for the family. Hand-me-downs were altered, and flour sacks came in handy for underclothes. Sometimes Robin Hood was still visible on the garment. The girls wore basketball bloomers for special occasions at picnics.

In winter we would go to dances in the bob sleigh. Foot warmers, rocks heated in the oven, and blankets kept us nice and warm for travelling. When we'd arrive home the house would be chilled and Dave would stoke up the fire and remove the clinkers and add more coal. Often the neighbors would get together for games of Five Hundred, afterward there would be lunch with home made bread and cookies and roasted wheat coffee.

There were long hours of work. Every drop of water had to be carried in and those slop pails were always full. The plow shares would have to be sharpened and the harness for the horses repaired. In the summer the haying was done with mower and rake, and stacked with pitchforks. After harvest a wagon box of grain was hauled to Hanna and groceries brought home; another load of wheat was taken to the mill to be made into flour.



[illegible] Temple, [illegible] Temple, [illegible] Martha Tait, Kathleen Glover, Elsie Temple, Kay [illegible], Ella Gainforth, Thelma Greenwood, Margaret Henschel.

In late winter the ice house was filled. Blocks of ice were chopped out of deep sloughs by hand, loaded on sleighs and hauled to an ice house. Straw was placed over the ice, which kept most of the summer and was used to keep food cool and to make ice cream.

At harvest time, Dave would cut the grain with the horses on a binder, and Katie would be right there to start the stooking. When the children got old enough, they helped too.

With no fancy frills or extras, we spent twelve years on the Goldsberry place. Then it was sold to Henry Mattie and we had to move. We bought the Arnet Olsen farm just four miles north of Hanna. By now the four older children were on their own and David Jr., who was born in 1937, was taking his schooling at Meadowlands. The time came

when farming was getting to be too much for Dave and Katie, so they decided to retire and live in Hanna, where they have resided for the past nineteen years. They are still active and enjoying life.

Their children all are married. Elsie Luft and Violet Milligan live at Olds, Lily Kern is in Hanna, Jimmie and David Jr. are in Calgary. There are sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE ASKE, *By George Aske* — We were married in October, 1920, and in February of the next year we moved from Morrin to our land seventeen miles north-east of Hanna. We came over back roads which were shorter than the main road, and travelled in winter because it was easier by sleigh than by wagon. We brought our furniture, ten or twelve horses, about thirty head of cattle, a few chickens, a pair of geese, one sow and a dog.

It was a long day's drive and we arrived just at dusk. We slept in the grain tank partly filled with hay and covered with a canvas. I was sure we would freeze, but it wasn't long until we had to open the canvas at the top . . . my first experience of pioneering.

There were some buildings on the place, a fairly good small barn, a shed we used as a chicken house, and a shack ten feet by twelve feet. When we put the couch, range, piano, washstand, etc. in there, there wasn't much room. At first, when we opened up the davenport to go to bed, we had to turn the table on its side and set the chairs inside it. Later, my father and brothers came out and helped build another room and shed on the shack. Then it was twelve feet by twenty-four feet, and we had lots of room!

Our hens were Red Leghorns, which weren't inclined to go broody, so when we found a wild duck's nest we took her eggs out and put four hen eggs in. She hatched them all but we found only three chicks. She had taken them nearly a quarter of a mile toward a slough. We raised them in a box and all three lived. The next year we got a 140 egg size incubator.

That first summer Oscar Engen from Morrin moved a half-mile south of us, and George's cousin, Bob Sunde, moved right next us to the west. They stayed only two summers and then left. We stayed one more year and then we went back to Morrin. There was a little better crop that year, but as one neighbor said, we had run out of seed by then. We never got enough hay so sent most of the cattle back to Morrin for the winters.

We dug a well about twenty feet deep with pick and shovel, but only got enough water for the house. We planted trees east of the buildings and hauled water to them in barrels, but I don't think any of them lived.

We got our mail at Garden Plain, and some groceries and coal. One summer, two of our neighbors and I dug our own coal, which helped out, as cash was scarce. We held card parties every two weeks and the prizes were usually groceries. Most of us enjoyed the card parties held at nearby schools, and I often played for the dances after lunch. In summer we had picnics and played ball.

We bought three dairy calves from Mr. Whaley, west of us, for seven dollars each. That got us into a lot of hard work for the rest of our days on the farm as we milked cows until about 1965.

In 1924 we got our homestead back, so returned and farmed there till 1933 when we moved to Rocky Mountain House. We lived there till 1967 when we retired to Vernon, B.C. Our son and daughter and their families live quite close to us so we see the grandchildren fairly often.

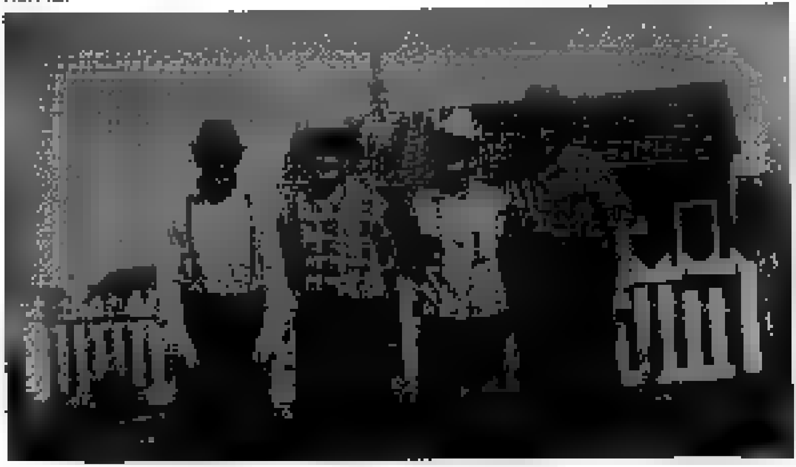
We often think back to our first years in the Hanna district, and have some very pleasant memories of good times and fine neighbors.

Carl Rehill hauling bundles, 1935.

CARL REHILL, *By Bob Rehill* — Carl moved to Hanna with his parents in 1921. He worked at home for a few years, then worked throughout the country as a farm labourer. He liked working with horses and took an interest in keeping them well trimmed. He used to enjoy a game of horse shoes after work. In those days we had the evenings to spend at ball games and horse shoes as the horses had to be turned out to rest.

In 1938, he and Tommy Tarrant took a job at Fort William working in the Searle Grain Company terminal. Help was scarce and they needed men to unload box cars. He worked there for two years, then returned to farming. He leased a half section and farmed on his own; and helped at home. He used to drive a bundle team each fall hauling bundles on the threshing rigs. In the early days he used to play hard ball and took an interest in all sports and country dances.

In 1954 he and a fellow by the name of Jim Kennedy had a grain cleaner and travelled through the country cleaning grain. In 1958 he retired and moved into Hanna.



Four Rehill brothers: Carl, Clarence, Bill, Bob

Later he took the position of caretaker at the Hanna Museum. He took an interest in showing the tourists all the displays, and meeting people from all over. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneer Association and took part in all activities there.

He passed away July 29, 1976.

Building a grade over a slough in 1925: Bill Rehill and Aubrey Crowe

MRS. CROWE and FAMILY — I was born in Toronto, the only child of William and Susanna Johnston. In 1908 we came to Edmonton, where my father was a motorman for the Edmonton Street Railway system. After an accident which left his right arm and hand crippled, we moved to the Endiang area, where my father had previously filed on and proved up on a quarter section on the edge of Sullivan Lake. My mother was not impressed by the prairie and she never did like farming.

I started to work in the Garden Plain store and post office for Mr. and Mrs. Wickson. I was there in the winter of 1918 when the Spanish influenza epidemic swept the country. All public gatherings were banned and each person was required to wear a home-made gauze mask. The store was heated by a large pot-bellied stove, and on it we kept a pan of formaldehyde constantly steaming as a disinfectant. There were a few deaths in the neighborhood, mainly men who contracted the flu but who continued to feed stock and care for animals. It was bitter cold that winter.

My parents bought the Wickson homestead and we moved there about 1919. South of us lived Aubrey Crowe. He had come out to visit his sister, Mrs. George Burns who was living in the area at the time. He worked in the district, then bought three quarters of land and was batching there when I met him. We were married at my parents' home at high noon on December 12, 1924, by Rev. Scallon. After the ceremony we left in our Model T Ford for Hanna and from there by train to Calgary for a short honeymoon. During our absence winter really set in with a fierce blizzard and a heavy snowfall. Our Model T stayed in Hanna until the following spring. Bill Rehill met us at Hanna. He had used two teams of horses in relays to travel the thirteen miles, and we went through the same procedure to return home, changing horses at Giltner's, who lived about halfway. I remember the men walked most of the way and I was bundled up in blankets in the bobsleigh. The snow was up to and in some places over the tops of the fence posts. The winters of the early twenties were bitterly cold with very deep snow, but followed by golden harvests and great promises for the future.

Our children were all born in the Hanna hospital under the care of Drs. Baxendale and Cross. As they grew older the need for a school became pressing. A site was chosen on the north-east corner of the Wickson property, and after many delays Dundee school was built and opened in September of 1929. Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Rehill and my husband Aubrey were the first trustees. Miss Hilda Herman, who later became the second Mrs. Sydney Grimes, was one of the first teachers. Margaret Hemstock, Thelma Greenwood and Gordon Crowe started together in Grade one. I well remember Gordon's first day at school. For some reason known only to small boys, he followed Donald Grimes through the schoolhouse door and out the open window, much to the annoyance of the teacher.

Prairie fires were a matter of deep concern and constant vigilance during the late twenties. East of our farm the open range stretched for miles to the Saskatchewan border. All farm sites were surrounded by a fire-break, a strip of ploughed land always kept free of vegetation. The prairie wool grew short and thick, and the fierce electric storms of those years often ignited the grass when lightning struck. All able-bodied men fought the prairie fires, and the RCMP provided transportation for men from surrounding towns to get to and from the burning areas. The women made gallons of coffee and mounds of sandwiches. I remember arriving at a fire break in our Model T, after bumping over miles of prairie with an eight-gallon cream can of coffee and a tub of sandwiches, to find my husband and several neighbors standing up to their knees in water in a slough beating out the fire in the dry grass and rushes on top of the water. That fire burned close to our farm buildings before it was finally brought under control.

The depression of the thirties came, and with it the drought bringing devastating dust storms and plagues of grasshoppers. The sun looked red through the dust-filled air, but we always hoped that next year would be better. Our men worked on the roads to pay the taxes, and we had splendid roads, but they were little travelled. The school house became the centre of our social activities. Baby sitters were unheard of then. We just took our children with us, and they slept peacefully wrapped in blankets and lying on a pile of coats.

Despite the hail, drought and grasshoppers, we always had some harvest in our area. After threshing we would run some of our best wheat through the fanning mill to clean it of wild oats and weeds and chaff, and take it to the flour mill at Hanna to have it ground. The flour was rather dark, and made slightly heavy, but nutritious bread.

We made our bread dough with dry yeast, mixing it in the evening and placing it in a large covered bowl wrapped in blankets or even coats, and put it in the warmest corner of the kitchen to rise. Next morning it would be kneaded and baked. We would be blessed with lovely golden loaves ready to be sliced and eaten with our home made butter.

We did not lack essential food. Potatoes and root vegetables grew if they were well cared for. Meat was not always on the table because it was scarce and difficult to preserve without refrigeration. I remember that during our years at Endiang my mother often made delicious jackrabbit stew. I'm sure we did not have canned fruit or vegetable juice, but canned tomatoes were always on the grocery list and no doubt supplied our vitamin C.

At one time the government paid a bounty for wild horses picked up off the open range. Some of the young men of the neighborhood became picturesque cowboys during the winter months, with chaps, neckerchiefs, Stetson hats and a lasso draped over the horn of the saddle. These horses were difficult to capture. Often one of the wild horses would be entered in the bronco riding contest at the Garden Plain or Hand Hills stampede, but more often it was the plain old plow horse that did the most bucking and unseated his rider.

During the depression years it was the custom for several neighbors to go together with horses, wagons and picks to the Badlands south of Castor and strip mine for coal, which was two or three feet below the surface. Any pieces of wood, broken whippletrees and such, were saved and piled for fuel. Most farmers applied for a permit to remove rotten and poor ties when they were replaced by railway crews; these made wonderful fuel.

One bitter winter morning my husband was called to investigate a bachelor's shack. No smoke was seen coming from the chimney, and that was always a cause for anxiety for the neighbors. Aubrey found the man unconscious on the floor, with frozen feet and hands. He had left the coal stove burning while he cleaned his stove pipes, and had been almost asphyxiated by the fumes. With the help of a team of horses Aubrey got the car started, and took the man to the Hanna hospital where he made a good recovery.

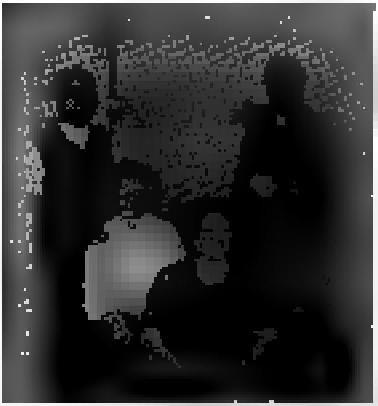
After my husband's death and due to the continued dry weather, I moved with

my children and my parents to a farm south of Vermilion. Bob Rehill helped us move and that experience would fill a book. Our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Welch, had moved to that part of Alberta some time before. We spent two winters there; then in 1938 we took a cow and some chickens and moved onto a small acreage west of Edmonton. That acreage is now a crescent of homes only blocks from where we now live.

Shortly after our move to Edmonton my father died, followed in less than two years by my mother. When my children were well established in school, I started to work for the Federal government and retired twenty-three years later.

My son Gordon has lived in the Grande Prairie district with his wife and family for many years. My three daughters are married and live in Edmonton with their families. I live with my eldest daughter Eileen. The other two, Phyllis and Audrey, live nearby. I have nine grandchildren.

I look back with nostalgia to the years on the prairie. Some call them the dirty thirties, but to me the good friends, good neighbors and sharing the joys and sorrows far outweighed the bad times.



Mr. and Mrs. Benny Weller and family. Standing: Bob Weller, Kenny Weller. Seated: Vera Lockhart, Elsie and Benny

THE BEN WELLERS, By Elsie Weller — Benny and I were married on July 20, 1934 and began our married life on the farm formerly owned by Irvine Cox. Our house was only a one-roomed shack but two more rooms were soon added with the help of my father, John Rehill, my brothers and our neighbors.

Our closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. S. Grimes. When they moved to Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Doering moved in and were still there when we left the farm.

We were blessed with three children. Vera married Ben Lockhart and lives south of Youngstown; Bob married Yvonne Wilson and lives at Androssan; Ken, who is employed in Calgary, is still footloose and fancy free.

After six years of farming and battling the drought and hard times of the Dirty Thirties, we left the farm and Benny went buying grain at Spondin, replacing Newell Jackson. We lived at Spondin one year, then spent two years at Torrington and then moved to Acadia Valley. By this time our packing almost did itself.

After two years we were moved again, this time to Oyen. Benny bought grain for five years there, then became a Civil Servant. He worked for the Special Areas, first as Chief Clerk and then as Fieldman, until he retired in 1975.

We built a home in Oyen, where we are living now.

WILBERT and ANNIE GREENWOOD, as told by Mrs. Greenwood to Mrs. Elle Gowe — My mother was born in Norway, my dad in Ontario. They met and married in Manitoba, and had six children. Mother passed away in Saskatchewan in 1907; Dad later remarried and had three more children. My stepmother is still living, and resides in a nursing home in Drumheller. My father, Jack Rehill, a well-known old timer in the Munson and Hanna districts, passed away in 1946.

Wilbert's folks came from Ontario. They were married in Alberta, but later

moved to North Dakota where Wilbert was born in 1899. They came back from the United States by ox team. Wilbert's folks retired to Vancouver and passed away when they were in their late nineties.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Greenwood on their 60 Wedding Anniversary. Taken in November, 1976.

Wilbert homesteaded in the Munson district where I met and married him, in December of 1916. We remained on the homestead until 1928 when we moved to Hanna.

We had some rough years in the thirties but managed to keep going by milking cows and selling butter. Later life became easier when we started to ship cream.

We had a family of five; they all attended Dundee school. Our eldest son lives in Winnipeg, one daughter lives in British Columbia and the other three are here in Alberta.

We retired to Stettler in the fall of 1964, and bought a nice home. Both of us are enjoying quite good health. We celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary in December, 1976, and enjoyed seeing our many good friends at that time.

Wilbert is still symbolic of the Greenwood boys, wearing his cuffs, cowboy hanky, boots and hat every day. He, as were his brothers, was quite a bronc rider in his day.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Finkbiner and oldest son Bill.

ALBERT FINKBEINER, By Dorothy Rahill Finkbeiner — I am the youngest daughter of Mr. J. Rahill. I was born at Munson on January 21, 1916, and moved with my parents to the farm northeast of Hanna in 1921. I grew up there and took my schooling at Solon, Grassy Slope, and Dundee, and the last year in Mr. F. Harvey's home near Scapa.

On March 6, 1935, I married Al Finkbiner whose father operated an underground coal mine a mile south of Garden Plain hall. We lived there for two years and our eldest son Bill was born there. In the late fall of 1937, owing to the depression, we moved to Val D'Or, Quebec, where Al was employed at hard rock mining in the Siscoe Gold Mines.

That country was all rock, bush and lakes. Mining was the main industry. The first years we lived on a large island; our home was a three-roomed building with wooden walls and a large tent for the roof. There were no windows, and when the wind blew it was really something, as we had a lot of wet snowfall and the canvas froze and banged like thunder. The temperature never reached zero but with the dampness and the winds we found it very cold. Our transportation in the winter was by dog-sled and in summer by boat.

There were a lot of small islands that the Indians lived on and in the summer, after all the ice was gone, they turned all the sleigh dogs loose on one that they

called Dog Island. They fed the dogs by boat. It was a noisy place and there could be no trespassing as those dogs were inclined to be vicious.

The people there had never heard of saskatoons, but blueberries and wild raspberries grew everywhere.

In the early spring of 1940 we decided to try farming at Brockville, Ontario, where our second son Melford was born. We stayed there for the summer but small acreage, milking cows and a two-horse walking plow weren't for us. The electric storms were terrible as there was so much rock and only about six or eight inches of soil covering it, and quite dry.

In the fall of 1940 we moved back to Val D'Or and lived in a suburb called "Little Canada". We made some very good friends there, especially young people from Saskatchewan who had gone east to escape the depression.

Owing to the war, we moved in 1941 to a suburb of Toronto, where Al worked in a munitions factory. The country around Toronto is beautiful, long summers, wet slushy winters and no wind. We did not care for the tree fruits, but really enjoyed their vine crops, as everything was ripened on the vine. We had a 1928 Ford and really made use of it as even the country roads were paved and there was so much to see.

The Ontario people were hard to get to know. As one of our neighbors told us, he guessed the old saying was true, that in the West you were everybody's friend until you proved otherwise, but in the East you were nobody's friend until you proved yourself so.

In the summer of 1943 a call went out for men with mining tickets, and as Al had his the government shipped us back to Drumheller. Our third son Ronald was only fourteen days old and the conductor said he was the youngest passenger he had ever had that travelled so far. It was a long trip as the troops were travelling back and forth and there were no sleepers to be had.

Our fourth son Victor was born in Drumheller in 1946. Al worked in the coal mines until 1949, but the last year he suffered several injuries so decided to call it quits. He took over the taxi business formerly owned by Mr. Griff. At Christmas, 1953, we finally got our daughter, Rose-Marie Holly.

In the spring of 1954 we took over the Twin Hill service station and with taxi, trucking and service station had a busy seven years. In 1961 we sold our other interests but kept the taxi business until April, 1976, when ill health forced Al to retire.

We make our home in Drumheller where our oldest boy Bill and our daughter, both married, live. Mel is in Montreal, Ron in Fox Creek and Vic in Calgary. We have twelve grandchildren, ten of them boys.

I wonder how many couples could match our record? In the first ten years of our married life we lived in twenty-five different homes.

Editor's Note: Albert Finkbiner passed away in the Drumheller hospital on April 22, 1977, at the age of sixty-four.

THE DAFOE STORY, ***By Clarence Dafoe*** — When the Dafoe brothers, Harmon, Will, George and Arthur brought their families to Alberta, they filed on land in township 32, range 9. As each family had one son who was over eighteen and could file on land, they took up a large part of the township.

They came in the spring of 1910 and lived in tents that summer, then some went back to Ontario and brought their families and another car of effects in March, 1911. It took many sixty-five mile trips to bring our effects from Castor, then houses and barns must be built and land broke up. That first summer I broke forty acres with a walking plow.

The mosquitoes were terrible that summer. I had built a house and barn on my homestead, but when I built a smudge to keep the mosquitoes away, a gust of wind shot a flame up the side and burned the roof off, so it had to be done over again. However, as the only material we could afford was sod, all it required was labor to put it back in shape again.

When dry weather and low prices came in the twenties, all of the four brothers left that district. My brother Louis and I took over the Bolon coal mine from W. Grover in 1924. We had a lot of good horses and we used twelve horses on three fresnos during the summer, to strip two thousand ton of coal to be sold in the fall. The farmers came from as far away as the Saskatchewan border, driving four horses on steel-tired wagons, as none of them had trucks at that time.

We sold coal for $2.00 per ton. A lot of it went to Hanna, and many farmers made a few dollars hauling it in for the townspeople. Several of the local boys worked for us. Ed Clary and Ralph, Harry Lumsden, Fred and George Whaley, Will Rahill, Merle Wright, Charlie Overton, Ed Loveday, Bill Adams, Pat and Mike Agnew and many others. It was very hard work and in 1927 I sold out to Charlie Brown and moved back to the homestead, where I farmed with mediocre success until I retired in October of 1959, and my wife and I moved to Hanna.

They were fixing up the hall for the Oldtimers then, and I was asked to head the building committee: for six years I fulfilled this position to the best of my ability.

In 1965 Ferg James and some other interested oldtimers were having trouble getting the Historical Society Museum started. He and Roy Embree came and asked me to give them a few days work to get the fixtures in the building. I went for a few days, which stretched out till the present time. I took over the building operation for several years, then acted as vice-president. Since Ferg is gone I have filled the post of president.

At present my wife Ellen and I have six children, seventeen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

GORDON BOYD'S STORY — We are newcomers to the Hanna North community, coming in 1968 to reside on the NE 32-32-13. This quarter was homesteaded by Russell Hemstock in 1911. In 1918 he built the house we are living in today. He sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. William Bossert in 1965, and we bought it from them.

I grew up on a farm north of Lomond. When I was five, and my sister Verna three, we decided to climb the forty-five foot windmill. Up went Verna with me behind. About half-way up I decided that the ground was a long way down, and stayed there watching Verna climb onto the little platform at the top.

When Mom came out to see where we had got to, Verna called, "Hi Mommy, look at us!" Mother said her heart just stood still. She didn't know how she was going to get us down safely. When we did get safely to the ground, did we catch it! Mom hurt my dignity and lowered my pride.

I rode for fifteen years in the fall round-ups at the Majorville Community Pasture. I've seen cattle go home almost every way but fly . trucks of all shapes and ages, goosenecks trailers, cattleliners. Some chased them on horseback or with bicycles or motorbikes. A few did it the modern way, chasing them with a half-ton or car, and nine times out of ten the husband would be driving and the wife would be on foot with a long club to keep the herd together. Some of those women who had been charging around in a corral of cattle since daylight would make a good cutting horse feel bushed.

I met my future wife at Milo, and we were married there in the spring of 1963.

That fall I contracted polio, and during my stay in hospital in Calgary I met Lloyd Greenslade, knitting wool sweaters, fingers and needles just a-flying. We have two sons, Owen and Robert, and a daughter Pat.

Bob, Pat (Grouter), Owen Boyd, Patsy (Boyd) Kolinchuck, Rockey Kolinchuck, Dorothy and Gordon Boyd.

The first year or two we were here it didn't really seem like home, but now we have made new friends. I'm always glad to hear the first wild geese on their way north in the spring; it means that another winter has become history.

Keith and Thelma Williams.

KEITH WILLIAMS — I was born on my father's homestead near Elnora in 1917. In 1920 our family moved to Calgary and in 1921 to Hanna where my father opened a vulcanizing shop in the garage now operated [illegible] the Hutton boys. In the fall of 1928 we moved to the Alf Larson farm in the Garden Plain district, and remained there till the spring of 1935, when we moved to the Bob Gordon place on the Castor Trail, just two miles north of Solon school.

In the fall of 1939 I rented the quarter of land where the Dundee school was from Mr. Wickson; at the same time I was buying the east half of that section from the Hudson Bay Company for ten dollars an acre, on crop payments. I had a good crop in 1940, but 1941 was a dry year. To make a few dollars I went to Hanna and worked in the C.N.R. shops.

In January 1942, I joined the R.C.A.F. I spent one year in Canada and three years overseas. In the fall of 1946 I returned to my job with the railway.

In July of 1949, Thelma Marjorie Greenwood of the Dundee district and I were married. We raised five children and are still making our home in Hanna.

THE CARL TETZ JR. STORY, ***By Violet Tetz Kern*** — Carl Tetz was born in Russia in 1901 and came to Canada with his parents in 1907, settling in the Leader, Sask., area. In 1922 he moved to Maidstone, Sask., where he married Pauline Rhinehart in 1923. They farmed there for several years and raised four children.

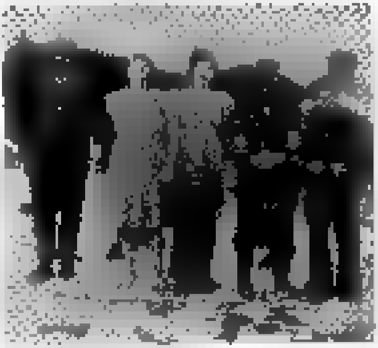
Clarence was born in 1925. He married Hazel Cox and they have nine children. They live in Lloydminster.

Violet, who was born in 1928, married Cliff Kern. They have two children, and live on their farm in the Meadowlands district north-east of Hanna.

Clifford was born in 1932. He married Dorothy Foster and has four children. They make their home in Calgary.

Verna, Mrs. Andy Lozeron, was born in 1939. They have one boy and live at Grande Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz, taken on their wedding day, 1923.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz and family: Carl, Pauline, Violet, Clarence and Hazel, his wife. Verna in front of Violet and Clifford beside Clarence.

In 1946 Carl Tetz moved his family to the Grimes' place in Dundee school district. Dundee school was not open at that time and Clifford and Verna attended North Berry Creek school for a while. Later on Verna received some of her education at Dundee, the rest in Hanna.

When some of their crops here were lost due to drought or hail, they wished that they were back in Saskatchewan where they had always had a good crop. To supplement their income they milked ten to fifteen cows and sold the cream at Spondin, making the twenty-mile round trip to the creamery twice each week, sometimes with a team and sleigh.

They moved into Hanna in 1954, where Dad worked for Fitzsimmons at the Auction Mart as well as on the farm; and lived in the house situated near the Auction Mart.

Mother passed away in 1957, and Dad spent another two or three years here. Then he went to Burstall, Saskatchewan, and in 1962 he married Bertha Hipple. She died in February, 1977, and once more, Dad is alone.

MR. and MRS. MIKE RIIS, ***By Bob Ratliff*** — Mr. and Mrs. Riis lived in the Dundee district on the north-west quarter of 10-33-13. They had two boys and two girls who attended Dundee school.

They left the farm in the thirties and moved to Hanna. Mr. and Mrs. Riis have both passed away.

One son, Kenneth, was killed in action in World War II. Their other son, Harold, lives in Edmonton.

Their daughter Gwen became a nurse, married W. Smith and passed away some years later. Their second daughter, Margaret, lives in Hanna.

Group of girls at a party for Gwen Miller. Marion Taylor, Elsie Rehill, Rosanna Curry, Gwen Miller, Olga Bahlen, Dorothy Rehill, Winnie Lewis, Laura Jensen, Frances Herring, Peggy Taylor, Margaret Rie, Ella Greenwood.

ELMER HONGISTO, By Bob Rehill — Elmer came into the area as a farm laborer. He worked for Russell Hemstock on the farm and in the mine. Later he rented a farm, the south half of 27-32-13, and farmed and batched there until the early forties. Then he moved west of Hanna to Andy McKay's farm. When his health failed he went to a home in Edmonton, where he passed away.

MR. and MRS. CUTHBERT, By Bob Rehill — Mr. Cuthbert homesteaded on the south-west of 14-33-13. He farmed there for a number of years, then moved over to the north-west of 10-33-13. His wife went back to Ontario where she passed away; he kept on farming for a few years, then retired as a pensioner. He loved to play his violin and used to help entertain at Christmas concerts. He was a baker in his early years and still made his own bread when he was batching. When his health became poor he returned to Ontario where he passed away.

TOM HOODLESS, By Bob Rehill — Tom bought the east half of 2-33-13. It was raw land, so he hired Bill Rehill to break up one hundred acres for him. He built a small shack on the land and had a well drilled on it. One evening he was cleaning his stove pipes and was overcome by the stove gas; he got to the door before he passed out, and he lay there over night. It was a cold night and when help got to him his feet were frozen. A neighbor took him to the hospital. He was very fortunate as he lost only some toes.

That spring Tom wasn't able to work his land, so the neighbors got together and worked the breaking down and harrowed it and then sowed the crop. Those were the days when everyone helped each other. The women brought dinner out to the field and served it picnic style.

Tom was unable to farm the land so he let it go back. He moved up to his brother's place north of Netherby, and he stayed there until he retired.

WILLIAM GOLDSBURY, *By Bob Rehill* — Mr. Goldsbury homesteaded in the Halkirk district before coming to the Dundee district. In 1915. He farmed through all the hard years. He had crop failures through drought, hail and grasshoppers. He helped a number of the early settlers who lived around him. He used to have a nice herd of cattle, but due to his eyesight failing him, he was forced to quit farming. Mr. Fitzsimmons conducted a farm auction sale for him and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple took over his farm.

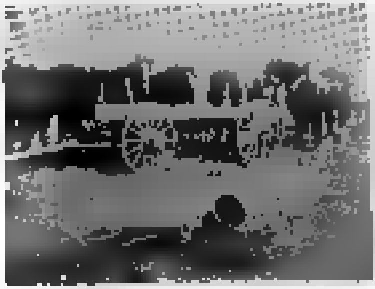
As far as we know he returned to the United States to retire.

DUNDEE RED CROSS

By Mrs. George Standing

During World War II, Mrs. Russell Hemstock organized the Dundee Red Cross. The ladies in the group were Mrs. Russell Hemstock, Mrs. Wilbert Greenwood, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. George Thomas, Mrs. Charlie Noyce, Mrs. Jim Doncaster, Mrs. J.J. Rehill, Mrs. Sid Grimes, Mrs. George Standing, Mrs. Sam Doering and Mrs. Pete Boyd. The meetings were held in their homes.

The ladies were busy knitting and sewing in their homes between meetings. One member, Mrs. D. Temple, learned to knit. After completing a pair of socks she put her name and address in the toe of one of them and received an answer from the pleased recipient. Every hostess supplied the material for one quilt top; the Red Cross supplied the other material and the yarn for knitting. The quilts would be quilted at their meetings. The finished articles were returned to the Red Cross to be sent to the needy. The ladies supplied goodies to be packed into food boxes which were sent to the local boys who were serving in World War Two.



Another day's work, John Diachuck

JOHN DIACHUCK, *By John Diachuck* — I came to Hamilton, Ontario in 1912 as a young lad from Austria. My uncle paid my fare. My first job was in the Rolling Mills. Many single men were laid off when World War I broke out, I being one of them. I got a job working on Mr. Burniston's farm at Aldershot, Ontario. I drove a team for him when they were building the highway from Hamilton to Toronto.

Miss Alton, who was teaching at Aldershot at that time, offered to teach me English. She left to teach at Fitch school near Richdale, Alberta. Knowing my desire to work on the land and drive horses, she gave me the address of her cousin, Chib Wickson, NW-34-32-13. I moved west in the spring of 1915, worked for Wickson two months and quit.

My next job was with Fred Riddle of Red Rose district. I earned enough to buy a team of horses. They were outlaws, always trying to run away. With them I went threshing for Dyke brothers. They owned a George White steamer and threshing machine. They had a very long run that fall. We went as far north as the Corrine district. I also threshed with the Gilmer outfit of Centre Point district. He had a Case steamer and George White thresher. That winter I hauled grain for Charlie James.

In the spring of 1917 I worked for Charlie Wilson at Wildunn Post Office, south

east of Hanna. After three months at Wilson's I went to work for Russell Hemstock. That was the year Russell married, 1919.

After a few months, I went to work for Charlie Brown, stripping coal in his mine. The work was hard. Charlie had two sons, Amos and Ted, and one daughter, Selma. Ted stayed home, Amos joined the navy. Selma worked for George Burns and later married Cecil Veno. Amos died shortly after he came back.

I rented land at Teplow siding in 1918 but it was a dry year. I had a crop failure. Then, I went to work for Jesse Roberts in 1921. He lived near the correction line. My job was to break the many horses that he was raising at that time for sale. He had a Clyde stallion and cayuse mares. A lot of those horses were four and five years old and tough ones to break. Jesse also raised Shorthorn cattle and a few pigs. The pigs had no pen but rooted under granaries for protection. I gave them enough feed to keep them home. Jesse said I was feeding them too much so I quit feeding them. The pigs were never home after that.

I went back to working for Russell Hemstock in the mine. I got married in 1926. We farmed near Alness for awhile. Our daughter went to Centre Point school. Her teacher was Virginia Thomas. Some of her classmates were Dorothy, Ida and Helen Quast and the Mike Lilke children.

In 1943 I moved to Hanna and worked on the rip track. While working for the railroad, I bought three-quarters of land from Zarbuck one and one-half miles north of Hanna. I retired from the railroad in 1960 and went full time farming. Later, I sold my farm to Andy Duff and retired to Hanna. Our daughter, Marie is married and lives in Calgary. She is a school teacher.

I have seen good and not so good times. I have met and worked with many people. I hope I have contributed something worthwhile to my adopted country.

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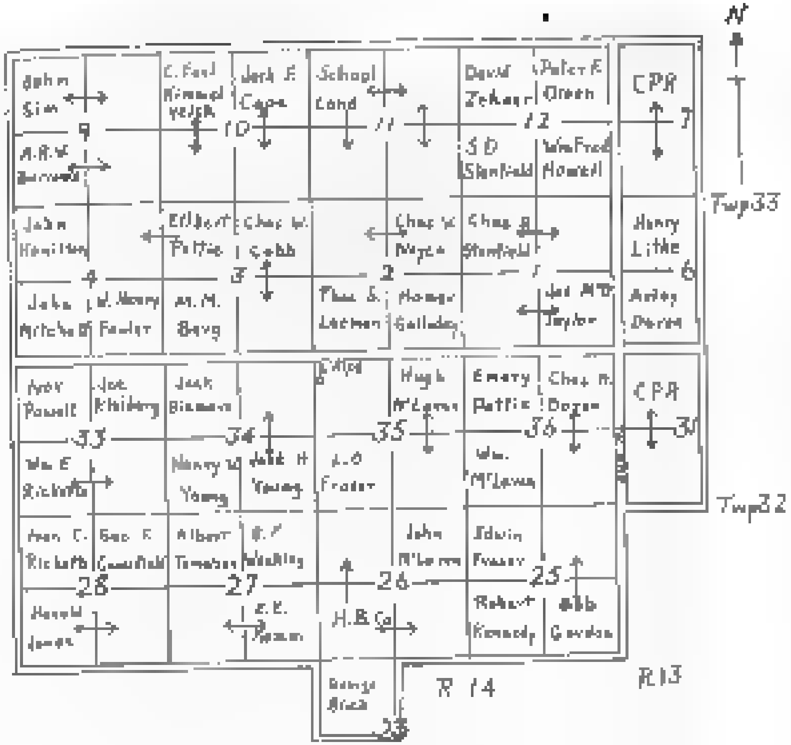


HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — ALPS

Twp. 32-14-4

Section 25
E ½
Robert D. Gordon
Elmer Grey
Ken Williams
Betty Lumsden

NW 25
Edwin Fraser
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 25
Bob Kennedy
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

Section 26
NE 26
John McLaren
Hugh McLaren
Emil Steppert

NW 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SE 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 26
H. B. Co.
George Crossfield
Jim Lumsden

Section 27
NE 27
Geo F. Weakley
Wm. Hiller
Wm. McLaren
Emil Steppert

NW 27
Albert E. Tunelson
Jack Bimmele
Wm. McLaren
Emil Steppert

S ½ 27
E. E. Rauss
Bert Jones
Wm. McLaren
Will Lumsden
Wm. Paulsen

Section 28
NE 28
George Crossfield
Jim McCluskey
Helen Annas

NW 28
Ivan C. Ricketts
John Robertson
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 28
Harold Jones
Bert Jones
Helen and Rudy Annas

Section 33
NE 33
Joe Klinberg
Calton Viste

NW 33
Ivor Powell
J. M. Williams
Calton Viste

S ½ 33
W. E. Ricketts
Fred Shultz
Jim McCluskey
Joe Kleberg
Calton Viste

Section 34
E ½ 34

Jack Young
Calton Viste

NW 34
Jack Bienmore
Joe Kilsberg
Calton Viste

SW 34
Hank Young
Jack Young
Calton Viste

Section 35
E ½ 35
Hugh McLaren
Emil Steppert

NW 35
Wm. McLaren
Emil Steppert

SW 35
L. O. Fraser
Wm. McLaren
Emil Steppert

Section 36
E ½ 36
Charlie Doran
Hugh and Wm. McLaren
Ivan Ricketts
Wm. Hill
David Haaz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

NW 36
Emery Pettie
David Haaz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

SW 36
Wm. McLaren
Rayford Johnston

NE 23
George Block
Adolph Kisel
Herb Litke
Harold Fortna

NW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

SW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.

Jim McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

Twp. 33-14-4

Section 1
S ½
James McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

N ½ 1
Charlie Stanfield
Meryl Hill
Emmett Dormer
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Section 2
N ½ 2
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rudy Aunas
Danny Greendale

SE 2
Umer Galliday
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Otto Miller

SW 2
Thos. Lepman
Robert Crabb
Charlie Noyce
Otto Miller

Section 3
NE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jim McCluskey
Markley Viste

NW 3
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SW 3
M. M. Berg
Joe Slepika
Archie Sloan

Section 4
NE 4
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Emil Miller

NW 4
John Hamilton
John Mitchell
Jack Bienmore
Otto Miller

SE 4
Wm. F. Fowler
Rudolph Fecho
Arnold Fecho

SW 4
John Mitchell
Jack Bienmore
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 9
N ½ 9
John Sim
Bert Sim
Charlie Lohrman
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 9
A. R. W. Burrows
Mrs. Weller
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 10
E ½ 10
Jack Cope
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

W ½ 10
Earl Himmerleich
Jack Temple
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

Section 11
School Land

NE 11
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

NW 11

Jack Cope
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

S ½ 11
Ben Burns
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

Section 12
NE 12
Pete Olson
Carl Wiegle
Fred Medicke
Clyde Block
Norman Greenway

NW 12
Dave Zehner
Pete Olson
Clyde Block
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

SE 12
Fred Howell
Charlie Stanfield
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

SW 12
Sarah Stanfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Twp 33-13-4
Section 1
SW 1
Andy Dower
E. C. Massey
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

NW 8
Henry Litke
Robert Unsworth Sr
George Unsworth
Norman Greenway

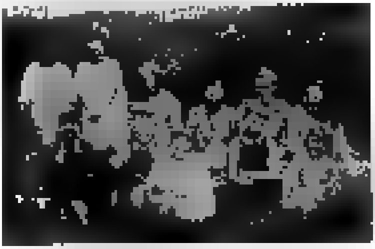
SW 7
C.P.R.
Jim Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Harold Fortna

ALPS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. [illegible]

By Fred Johnston

Early in 1911 the residents of this area petitioned the Department of Education for a school. Jack Young, who had been corresponding with Edmonton, called a general meeting for February 24, 1912. W. F. Howell was elected chairman and Ivan Ricketts, secretary. A resolution, "shall we form a school district?" was put to a recorded vote. Seven were in favor and three opposed. The name, "Highland", was chosen as the name for the school. The election for trustees then followed. Successful candidates were: Ivan Ricketts, secretary-treasurer; E. E. Kamm, chairman and B. F. Weekley as the third trustee.

Alps first teacher: Mary Ellen Mackay 1913.



Alps School, 1927. Back Row, left to right: Margaret Noyce, Mary Hill, Lalla Shultz, Jane Unsworth, Blanche Wright, Nellie Shultz. Front Row: Earl and Murl Cobb, Dennis Taylor, Edward Cobb (behind Dennis), Bella Taylor, George Bunce, Jack Shultz, Ellen Unsworth, Annie Shultz (behind Ellen). (Teacher: S. Emma DeWolfe)

Alps School, Winter 1930. Cold outside, cold inside. Far Row: Ellen Unsworth, Bella Taylor, Margaret Noyce, Dennis Taylor. Near Row: Arthur Noyce, Norman Greenway, Frieda Temple (Teacher: Vic Treneman)

Alps School, 1932. Top Row, left to right: Louis Weller, Bella Taylor, Ellen Unsworth, Margaret Noyce and Arthur Noyce. Middle Row: Freddie Johnston, Tillie Miller, Joan Greenway, Lena Miller, Ruth Noyce, Billie Temple and Billie Crossland. Bottom Row: Emil Miller, Frieda Temple, Alice Weller, Dennis Greenway and Alma Miller (Teacher: Lucy McLaren).

Ivan Ricketts as senior trustee had to call a special meeting for the election of a new trustee, due to the death of E. E. Kamm. On June 14, 1912, Charlie Stanfield was elected to fill the vacancy and he became chairman.

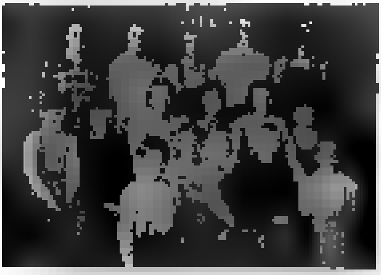
Meanwhile the secretary was notified by the Department that a different name had to be submitted as there was already a Highland school district in the province. Three names, including Alps, were sent to Edmonton.

On March 26, 1912 the Deputy Minister J. T. Ross, notified the secretary that the Alps S. D. 2888 was the official name of the new school. The name, Alps, seemed appropriate as the school was to be situated on a hill in rolling country.

At a special ratepayers meeting held on May 1, a $2,000 debenture by-law was voted on, with eight in favor and seven against. Those opposing said that the by-law debenture was too high. The Department also opposed it stating that it would exceed twenty-five cents per acre of assessable land within the district.

Shortly thereafter the district ratepayers passed a $1400. debenture by-law

with everyone in favour. The Bank of Toronto, Waterloo Branch, bought the debenture, through the Merchants Bank of Castor. The loan was to be repaid in ten equal payments at six percent interest. The debt was cleared off in the required ten years.



Alps School, 1935. Back Row, left to right: Hilda Miller, Jean Greenway, Rayford Johnston, Bill Greenfield, Fred Johnston. Middle Row: Otto Miller, Jackie Temple, Vera Noyce, Eileen Johnston, Ella Miller, Jack McLaren. Bottom Row: Enid Miller, Edna Johnston, Donnie McLaren, Ross Temple, Greta Greenway. (Teacher, Charlott Readey)

Alps School, 1945. Banner won first prize in the VE day Parade. Back Row, left to right: Eileen Johnston, Allan Hemstock, Emma Miller, Greta Greenway, Enid Miller, Mrs. McLaren (teacher), Otto Miller. Front Row: Don McLaren, Ruby Kiesl, Marilyn McLaren, Vera Miller.

The school site was situated in the centre of the district, seven hundred feet south of the north-west corner on the NW-36-32-14. This quarter was part of the estate of T. S. Lehaman who had filed on it. It eventually reverted back to the crown and Bill McLaren purchased it and lived there for many years. Purchase price of the land for the school was ten dollars per acre and through some measuring error 1.82 acres was used instead of the customary two acres.

H. E. Beumer of Castor was the successful bidder for constructing the school. A. L. Worth of Solon hauled all the building materials from Acorn Lumber of Castor. Beumer commenced work on September 3, 1912 and completed the work by the year's end. The school was built on top of a hill with the front door facing west. It was twenty feet wide, thirty feet long and ten feet high. It had a 6' by 6' porch, two windows on the east side, one in the south and six on the north. A 10' by 10' coal shed was attached to the school. Also in the contract were two 4' by 6' outhouses.

Equipment for the school was supplied by Alberta School Supply, Edmonton. These supplies were freighted out from Castor on January 28, 1913. Total audited cost for labour and building supplies was $1,021.35; equipment cost $224.95 for a total of $1,246.30.

Miss Mary E. Mackay from Nova Scotia was the first teacher. She and the trustees opened school on May 5, 1913. Twelve pupils were enrolled that morning: Everett, Vola, Eva and Grace Weakley, Jack and Margaret Howell, Jack and Nellie Gordon, Mildred and Perley Mansfield, Clyde and Gertrude Block. Miss Mackay received a salary of $65.00 per month.

To finance school operations taxes were levied on lands within the district; in 1913 the rate was $4.80 per quarter section. There was also a government grant paid at the rate of so many cents a day for each pupil who attended school.

After World War I, it became difficult to raise the money to keep the school open. People began moving away, leaving those left with all the burden of financing the school's operations. The laws had to be changed and the Alps School Board requisitioned the Dowling Lake Municipality No. 305 for funds to operate. Conditions became worse and in 1938 Sullivan Lake School Division No. 9 was formed. The division then undertook the financing of the school.

In those first ten years the school would be closed during the winter months and then open for the warmer months, with a two week holiday during July. Even in those days a school term consisted of two hundred days.

Some of the families who boarded the teachers were the Noyces, Unsworths, Crossfields, McLarens. Usual boarding fees in the earlier years were from eighteen to twenty dollars a month. A teacherage was moved onto the school grounds in 1938 but was only used for a short time. One year the Alps and Wiese teachers batched together in a vacated house.

The office of secretary-treasurer was held by: Ivan Ricketts, James McD. Taylor, John Sims, C. Himmelreich and F. W. Johnston. Charles Noyce was chairman for many years; Hugh McLaren, Ralph Greenway and Charlie Stanfield also held that position. The school operated for thirty-four years and had twenty-three teachers during that time. The teachers from 1913-1947 inclusive were: Mary E. Mackey, Edith M. Henderson, Lola McLeichie, Nellie Thompson, Lorenzo Fredricks, Nellie Cameron, Edna M. Burrows, Grace Cas Cadden, Emma De Wolfe, Mrs. Edith Williams, Betty Meece, A. W. Poland, M. Skine, L. Coffin, Katherine Van Amburgh, Wm. Bucke, Victor Trengman, Lucy McLaren, Mildred Bender, Wilma Smythe, Elsie Harris, Wm. Ferguson, Charlotte Reavely, Elizabeth Siedel and the last teacher was Lucy B. McLaren.

Emil and Ruby Steppert purchased the school building from the School Division and moved it down the hill to make a garage out of it.

***MR. and MRS. JAMES McDONALD TAYLOR, By Bella Taylor Kerner* —** My father, James McDonald Taylor, better known as Jim Taylor, came to Canada from Scotland in 1906. He worked as a cook for the crew building the Goose Lake rail line.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Ben and Bella.

My mother, Margaret Anderson, came to Canada from Scotland in September 1909. She met five other Scottish lassies on the ship, all coming to Canada to get married. After three weeks of travelling by ship and railway she arrived in Calgary where she was met by her future husband. There they were married on September 22.

After they were married they went to live at the railway camp where Dad worked. When the weather got cold, Mother went to Calgary where she worked for the winter.

In the spring of 1910 they journeyed to Castor to prepare to go to their homestead which was thirty miles south. They loaded up their supplies and belongings on a lumber wagon to make the journey to the homestead. They rested the horses and had their noon meal at Hockett's stopping-house. Full of hope and adventure they arrived home, a small one-roomed shack which Dad had previously built.

All their supplies had to be brought from Castor which was the closest town. Soon there was a store and post office at Garden Plain. Mother often walked the six miles to the post office.

Dad began breaking the sod with oxen and a walking plow. Later he was able to get a team of horses and a plow. To make the shack homelike, Mother made curtains with material brought from Scotland.

Since money was scarce, Dad went back cooking for the railway construction crew, leaving Mother on the homestead for a time. She had quite a few good neighbors so was not too lonely. One time when she was alone, she needed some tea. She walked to the road and saw a team coming. She gave the driver some money and he brought back a pound of tea. She had never seen him before and never saw him again. In those days everyone was trusted.

After a few years my parents moved the shack from its location on the north side of the small lake to where the farmstead now is. The house was added to as the children were born. Margaret was born in 1911, Ben in 1913 and I was born in 1915.

In 1912 the Alps school was built one and a half miles west of us. My Dad was on the first school board, serving on it for many years.

In 1918, when Margaret had just started school, she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. Dr. Mason and Nurse Rock were called and he operated right on the kitchen table, since there was no hospital in Hanna. Nurse German came to look after Margaret but peritonitis set in and she died. As a result of this tragedy, Dad worked very hard with Dr. Mason to establish a hospital in Hanna.

About 1920 a hospital was opened and Dad was elected to the board. He served on the board for twenty-five years, most of these years as chairman. He also served as president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Hospitals for a number of years. The hospital work was close to Dad's heart and he worked hard on its behalf. In May, 1945 he was honored at a banquet for twenty-five years service. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health, presented him with a scroll from the government of Alberta in appreciation of his service.

Dad carried on his farming operations. He won several awards for grain and also in field crop competitions. He was a supporter of the local U.F.A. and served as president of the Garden Plain local.

Dad passed away November 4, 1945 at the age of sixty-four. Mother stayed on the farm until 1950 when she turned over the farm to Ben and moved to Hanna. Here she resided until her death in 1974 at the age of eighty-nine.

In 1958, Ben sold the farm to Rayford Johnston and moved to Sundre. My husband and I are residing in Hanna.

DORAN BROTHERS, *By Fred Johnston* — Arlington C., Charles Henry, and Judson Tyree, better known as Arley, Charlie and Jud Doran, and their seventy-eight year old mother Sarah, pioneered this area in 1909. They had all come from the state of Oregon, U.S.A.

Arley homesteaded the SW 6-33-13, Charlie the east half of 36-32-14 and Jud the NE 24-32-14. It is not known if Arley was married, but on February 12, 1914 Charles and Mary Costello were married by Wm J. Miller at the home of Jud and his mother. Jack Krick, a bachelor neighbor on NE 6-33-13, and Valetta Wagoner supported the bride and groom.

Charlie worked in a Castor mine during the winter of 1911-12. Jud, the oldest of the three, and his mother kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail all the while they were here. When Hugh and Bill McLaren came in 1913 they lived in the dugout in which Charlie had lived when he came here. Charlie built a shack 12' by 18' and then built a two-storey addition to it in 1916. Hugh, Bill and Effie lived here for a while, renting the farm while proving up on their homestead.

The three brothers sold out sometime during World War I, Arley to the [illegible], Charlie to the Hills of Oregon who had purchased the place to keep their sons from being conscripted in the U.S. army, and Jud to the Al. Overton family. The Dorans went back to the States.

ROBERT D. GORDON, *By Fred Johnston* — Bob Gordon was born at Moosomin, Saskatchewan in 1871. He was one of the early pioneers of the future Solon district, coming to homestead in 1909. He and Mrs. Gordon, sons Jack and George and daughter Nellie settled on the east half of 25-32-14. Jack, age thirteen, and Nellie, age eight, were among the first pupils of the newly opened Alps school in 1913.

While proving up, Bob became a well known freighter along the Castor Trail. He had the distinction of having hauled one of the first loads of lumber to the new Hanna townsite in 1912, for J. E. Jones the harness maker. About 1914 he was in an accident which left him partially paralyzed. He had to dispose of his livestock and machinery to seek medical attention at Mayo Brothers Clinic. However they could not relieve his suffering, so on his way back home he stopped at Medicine Hat. There he got some relief and eventually recovered.

Having got his health back, Bob enlisted in the army during World War I and saw active duty overseas. After his discharge in 1919 the Gordons went to Hammond, B.C. to live. Bob came back to Hanna in 1920 where he was employed in the C.N.R. shops, retiring from their service in 1936. While working for the C.N.R. Bob added to his holdings by buying the Jud Doran quarter south of him. About 1930 a prairie fire burned the house on the homestead. He then built a new house from the lumber salvaged from the old house on the Doran quarter. The Elmer Grey family rented the land and were the first people in many years to live on the place.

Bob owned a Whippet car, which he drove, true to its name. When threshing on his place one year he took the crew home for dinner. They were mighty thankful that they arrived back at work in one piece. He remained single for many years after his first wife died, but eventually met and married a widow. He was a loyal Legion member of the Hanna Branch. Bob passed away suddenly on September 12, 1943 of a heart attack. He was 72 years old. Burial was in the Field of Honor, Hanna cemetery.

JACK M. YOUNG, By Fred Johnston — Jack Young was born June 8, 1878 in Clinton, Iowa, U.S.A. He had two brothers, Ed, who stayed on the family farm and Hank. There were two sisters Marie and Gertrude.

Jack and Hank went to Forest, Idaho to work in lumber camps. In late March of 1910, Jack, Hank and a friend left Forest for their homesteads in Alberta. They drove four head of horses on a mountain wagon, loaded with supplies. On April 1, 1910, they were at the customs office at Kingsgate. It was a long drive, but they made it, via Bassano to Jack's homestead, E-34-32-14, in early June. They were greeted next morning with the much talked about snow storm of June 1910! Their friend didn't like the reception, so left, walking back to Bassano then returning home.

The first year the two brothers lived in a dugout. In 1911, both freighted their building supplies from Castor. Groceries and meat were gotten at Kane's at Garden Plain. Fuel was scarce and buffalo chips were burnt. There were no trees because the prairie fires kept them down. Coal was later gotten at Kane's and still later from Brown's and Pahl's mines.

When Hanna became a town, they got their supplies there.

When both brothers got their houses built, they went back for their wives. Hank's came, but Jack's wouldn't. Thereafter Jack was very reserved with women.

There was talk of forming a school district, so Jack handled the correspondence with the Department of Education. He was always fond of children and had their welfare at heart.

Jack and L. O. Frazer, broke sod for those settlers who didn't have horses. From all accounts they had plenty to do.

To upgrade the quality of horses in this country, the Hanna Percheron Horse Company was formed. Jack was one of its shareholders. The syndicate brought in registered stallions and a well known one was "Alpine", a beautiful grey. The company dissolved in 1920 and Alpine was bought by J. E. Hamilton, one of the syndicate's shareholders. Alpine met an untimely death at an early age. However, he left his mark on the horse population. Jack obtained one of Alpine's colts for his own, and he had many grey horses. This horse eventually became blind. When Jack quit farming, he bought minerals for his horses out of his pension cheque. After he died, his few remaining horses were bought by W. E. Fitzsimmons. All were old and had never had a halter on them!

Jack raised Hereford cattle and won many ribbons with them at the Hanna Fair. When cattle prices dipped in the twenties, he disposed of them.

A threshing syndicate was formed in those early years and Jack became one of its shareholders. When it disbanded he bought a 10-20 Titan and wooden International separator for his own use. However, he found it much better to have Bill McLaren do his threshing when Bill got his machine in 1928

Jack quit farming in 1943 and broadcast grass seed on his cultivated land. He had obtained his brother's land in 1913 when Hank had moved back to Paxton, Nebraska, where he farmed until he passed away in 1941.

In 1956 Jack had to have an operation. His doctor sent him to Calgary for it. The growth of the city was so impressive he could scarcely believe his eyes! When he had last visited Calgary it was only a small town.

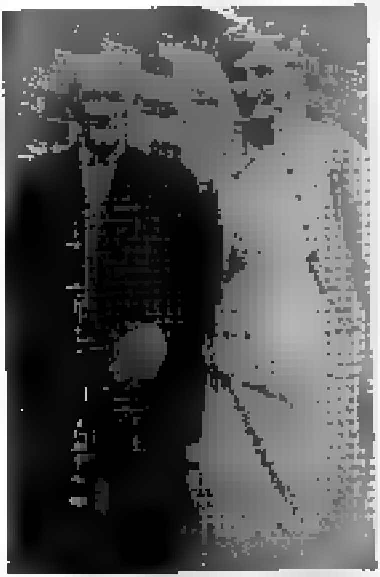
Jack suffered a slight stroke in 1957 and Emil Steppert took him to the hospital. When his condition improved somewhat, he went to the Camrose Nursing Home, where he passed away, October 22, 1961 at the age of 83 years. He is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

J. F. CAPE, *By Doris Peters Theobald* — Jack Cape, a silk buyer for the Hudson's Bay Company, immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1910, going to Calgary where his sister and her family, the Roland Peters, were living. Jack and Roland Peters left Calgary by oxen for their homesteads. The trip was long and arduous, and they nearly lost all their equipment while fording the Red Deer River.

Jack's homestead was the east half of 15-32-14. He lived in a sod shack until he built a house with materials freighted in from Castor. To supplement his income while proving up, he worked during the winter months in either Calgary or Edmonton.

In October of 1918 Jack and Miss Gee of Calgary were married. A [illegible] wedding dance was held in the Garden Plain school. In 1922 Capes rented their farm to Henry Temple and went to Lethbridge where Jack resumed employment with the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1925 they were blessed with twins, Vera and Vernon.

Jack passed away in 1967. Mrs. Cape lives with her daughter, Mrs. Vera Mason of Armstrong, B.C. Vernon and family live in Abbotsford, B.C.



Charlie and Mrs. Stanfield

CHARLES ARTHUR STANFIELD, *By Fred Johnston* — Charlie Stanfield was born April 12, 1874 in Fairmont, Indiana, the oldest of a family of three boys and one girl. He came to the Mount Pleasant district near Lacombe, then the North West Territories, in 1900. His parents Salathiel and Mary Ellen Stanfield, his brother John and family, and his sister Jennie and her husband William Bates, came in 1904 to homestead somewhere near where Stettler is today. Charlie farmed at Mount Pleasant until 1910 when he filed on the north half of 1-33-14 with Garden Plain as his post office address.

He left Stettler for his homestead in 1911 with his horses, farm equipment and supplies. The first few years he lived in a sod shack until a house was built in 1914. His mother Mary Ellen came at that time to keep house for him. She purchased a homestead, the SW 12-33-14, which the original homesteader had let [illegible]. The Howell quarter was purchased in 1916 giving him a section of land to operate. The old stopping house on the Howell place was moved to the building site and converted into a barn. His buildings were near a flowing spring. He and others who rented the place had to pack water up the hill for drinking and washing purposes. No easy task, especially in the winter time.

Charlie, being a progressive minded person, was soon involved in the community's activities. He joined the Garden Plain local of the U.F.A. and when the Hall was built in 1914 he was president of the organization. During the time that the Alps school district was being formed and the school built in 1912, Charlie was elected to fill the vacancy on the board of trustees when the first chairman, E. E. Kemm, passed away.

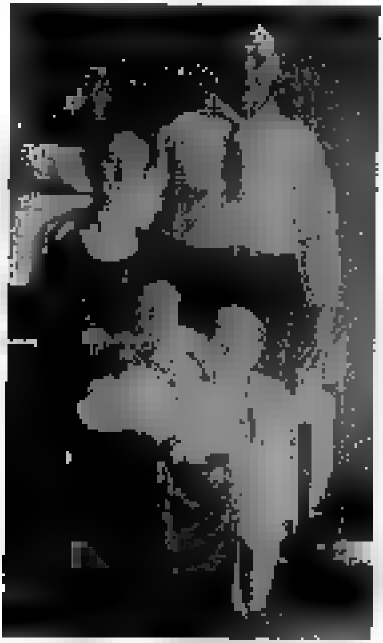
Brother John and family lived with him also for periods of time, and Alvin, the youngest of the family, lived with Charlie and his grandmother when he attended the Alps school in 1917 and 18. Somewhere around 1920 Charlie rented the land to the Meryl Wright family for a few years when he went to work in the mines in B.C.

This is where he met his wife-to-be. He and Mary Ann Anderson from Glasgow, Scotland were married in Wilmer, B.C. in October, 1925. After their marriage they came back to the farm to live. They had a family of three, a boy who died shortly after birth and two daughters, Catherine, born in March 1926, and Margaret, born in June of 1929.

After an auction sale in the spring of 1932 the Stanfields went back to Wilmer to take over the Stoddard farm. The children took grade school at Wilmer and high school at Invermere.

Catherine, widowed and remarried, is Mrs. Higgins and lives in Wycliffe, B.C. She had five children. Margaret, Mrs. Collin, has lived at Westlock since 1946. She has three children.

The Stanfields retired to Cranbrook where Charlie passed away in July 1968, aged 85 years. Mary Ann died in September 1987 in her seventy-ninth year. The Stanfields lived to see all their grandchildren



Mr. and Mrs. George Block, Evelyn and Clifford

GEORGE HARRISON BLOCK — George Block was born in Nebraska in 1893 and came west with his parents to the State of Washington. He and his father left Washington in the spring of 1910 for this area and were among the early pioneers to settle here. Father and son chose section 23-32-14 to file on, but George was not quite old enough to homestead. However, his father was able to hold the land for him until he was eligible. With the preliminaries out of the way they came to the homestead to get settled.

Some three months later, nearing his eighteenth birthday, it was time for George to return to the Land Agency office in Calgary to register his claim. Castor was the nearest railroad so he set out on foot for his destination, a distance of some thirty five miles. He packed his lunch with him for the long trip. Boarding the train for Calgary, he arrived there a day before his eighteenth birthday. When he arrived at the Land Agency office, there was a long line of men waiting ahead of him. They all bedded down for the night right where they were, for to drop out of line meant going to the end of the line and starting all over again. Along in the afternoon of the next day, when George's turn came, he was queried as to his age. He said that he was just 18. After a moment or two of thought the clerk replied, "Better wait another day to be sure." Next day, after another night on the street, he was given access to his homestead. Arriving back in Castor he had to walk home, hitch up the oxen and return for the necessary lumber to build a shack. And so he became another one of the sodbusters.

George participated in the social activities of the community, and being quite sports-minded, was a member of the Solon basketball team. In competition at the Hanna Agricultural Fair in 1916, he won the Canadian Bank of Commerce medal as having shown the best agricultural team in their class.

He and Lillian Lumsden were married on June 1st, 1916 at the home of Lillian's brother Bill. A wedding dance was held in the Solon school. George and Lillian had a family of four children, Clifford, Evelyn, Leonard and Pearl. Clifford and Evelyn began their schooling at the Alps school. Betty Meece was Clifford's first teacher and Albert Poland was Evelyn's.

In the fall of 1926, tragedy struck the Block family and saddened the community when George succumbed to an attack of appendicitis. He was only 33 years old. The community rallied to assist Lillian and her young family by having a bee to harvest their very good crop. Sixteen binders and twenty-five stookers completed the job in a day. The neighbor women came well prepared with food to feed the hungry harvesters.

Lillian later remarried and the family left in 1928 to go north to a better district. She and her husband are retired and live in Wildwood, Alberta.

Harvesting Bee, 1926 at George Blocks

THE HIMMELREICH BROTHERS, *By Fred Johnston* — Earl, Harry and Bill Himmelreich moved to this district from Didsbury. They came originally from Iowa, U.S.A.

Earl was married when he arrived. He homesteaded the west half of 10-33-14. He was secretary-treasurer of the Alps S. D. in the early twenties.

Bill's farm was the N.W. 24-32-14. While in residence here, brother Harry married Nina Wiese.

Earl and Harry played violin and piano for many dances.

Earl and Bill passed away in the States many years ago, leaving no families. Harry and Nina lived at Olds where Harry was a mechanic. They had one daughter, Dolores, Mrs. D. Heinzig. Harry died in 1953 and Nina is now Mrs. Armstrong.

Charlie and Mrs. Hoyce, Ruth, Vera and Arthur

CHARLES and SARAH HOYCE STORY, *By Sarah Hoyce* — I have been asked to tell of my experiences when I first came to Canada from England. It was in July 1911 and I landed in Halifax then to Calgary by train and then on to Cranbrook, B.C.

On July 18, Charles and I were married in Cranbrook where he was employed by the C.P.R. After living there for a short time we came to Alberta to start homesteading. Not knowing anything about it, it was a hard life for a time.

To arrive at our homestead we took the train to Castor. The line had just been extended that far from Stettler. Castor was thirty-five miles from our new "home". We made this trip with the mail-man.

There were a few people homesteading in the area around us. Our nearest neighbor was a bachelor, Charlie Stanfield, who later married. Other neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greenway, Hugh and Bill McLaren, Jack Young, Charlie Cobb and Ben Bunce.

In our early days on the homestead we lived in a tent, but that was only for a few weeks until we were able to get a shack built.

We farmed with oxen until we were able to buy some horses.

By 1912 Hanna was beginning to resemble a small town. The railway had been built making it much easier to get our supplies and mail. We also had obtained groceries at Kane's store at Garden Plain. Our coal was purchased from several mines in our vicinity. It was a great help to have our fuel nearby.

Schools were being built all around us. Our own school, named Alps because it was built on a hill, was erected in 1912. Besides educating our children the building was used for community activities, picnics and church services in the summer.

In the winter the young people would gather at our place and have toboggan parties in the hills west of us. Many a Sunday afternoon and moonlight evenings were spent at this sport. A hearty lunch was always welcome afterwards!

We had two sons, Ernest and Arthur, and three daughters, Margaret, Ruth and Vera. Our sons have both passed away. Margaret was married to Peter Boyd and they had a family of three sons and two daughters. Margaret passed away at the age of forty-nine. Ruth is married to Robert Pinnerty and they have three sons. Vera married James Schumaker and they now live at Victoria, B.C. They have three sons and three daughters.

With the help of our family we retired in 1957 to live in Hanna. Charles passed away in 1971 at the age of eighty-eight years. I am now residing at the Senior Citizen's Lodge in Hanna. My room-mate is Mrs. Greenway, a long time neighbor and friend.

Many of the folks here have pioneered so we have much in common to reminisce about.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows

A. R. W. BURROWS, His Third Family, By Edna Burrows Urquhart — Our late father was born at Holstein, Ontario in 1860, married in 1884 to Minnie Lewis of Glenmorth, and had four children — Arthur, Mabel, Vernon and Minnie. His wife died in 1890. In 1892 he married Janet Walmsley, who died in 1893 leaving a daughter Janet. In 1894 he married Emma Cowan of Holstein, our mother. Their family are Greta, Lorne, Edna, Edwin and Lydia.

In 1901 Dad lost his right arm in a corn shredder.

Dad went on harvesters' excursions to Rosetown, Saskatchewan, then went on to Hanna by way of Castor. Arthur, Vernon and Minnie were living at Hanna by this time. The railroad had not yet reached Hanna, so Vernon and Dad freighted lumber and supplies from Castor to Hanna.

Dad filed on a homestead that someone had given up. This was SW 8-33-14, twelve miles north of Hanna but fourteen miles by the Dowling Lake trail. Later the farmers put a road through the hills, around the sloughs, to Hanna. There was no gravel yet.

There was no house on this land. Dad bought one in Castor and moved it there. It was quite an undertaking considering the roads. I think he had built a barn, too. Our buildings were on the top of a hill.

In 1916 he sold his store in Ontario, ordered a box car for settler's effects, and two horses. Anything the new owner of the store didn't want we boxed up and sent west. Cotton shirting and dress goods sold for twelve and a half cents a yard, so we filled boxes with sewing materials, wallpaper, dried apples and canned fruit. There was also a fur coat which fit no one in the family, but I finally grew into it and rode in it when I started teaching. Dad had to travel in the box car with the horses. He had bought a large galvanized bath tub, re-inforced on the outside by tongue and groove lumber. He used this for feeding and watering his horses on the trip.

We travelled by train on a settlers' excursion. There was no sleeping accommodation and we had to take our own food. The youngest of the family was train sick so we stopped for a day and night in Chicago, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Saskatoon. We had relatives at each stop. When we reached Hanna, we still had the last twelve miles to go in a lumber wagon, which seemed a long, long trip.

Our house was practically a shell but it had possibilities! We could lie in bed and see the stars. There were two rooms downstairs and a large one up. Our first partitions were sheets hung up on wire. The inside of the walls had to have felt paper pasted on and for teenagers that was quite a job. We were more than thankful for the box of wallpaper. Luckily it didn't rain much as it took a while to get the roof repaired.

We had lots of work cut out for us. We needed a lean-to for a kitchen, bathroom and coal shed. We built a shop for Dad who could repair most things if someone would give him a helping hand.

Dad was handicapped, having but one arm. He had an artificial hand with a glove on, also an iron hand that he could threaten us with! He could handle a fork or hoe, and was really good at cracking nuts at Christmas time. He could also drive horses, but it was difficult for him to have to hitch a team or harness them.

The schools at that time were opened from May to November — it depended on the weather. The whole family was home a lot. We had a good well at the foot of the hill, which was inconvenient, as we had to dip the water and carry it uphill. Much later there was a drilled well at the top, nearer the buildings.

Our Post Office was Greystone, two miles north of us, with mail once a week. To people who were used to having a telephone, mail every day, and all of our school chums within yelling distance, it was a real change. There was no contact with anyone, unless you had a horse to ride, or walked. No wonder we girls had the name of being rather aloof. Those who went to school weren't quite so bad but I had been out of school for three years. We had a lot of dry winds. On washday one could hang out the clothes, and by the time one got the last ones out, the first were ready to go in. One day after we had built a henhouse, we had a windstorm. We looked out and our new henhouse was upside down. Mother wasn't anywhere around and we were afraid she had gone out to save her hens, but there was no sign of her. Finally she came up from the basement. It was such a relief!

Christmas at the home of A. H. W. Burrows in 1915. Left to Right: Art Burrows with daughter Charlotte, Lorne Burrows, Mrs. Art Burrows, Fred Portlock, Gretta Burrows, Ernie Burrows, Minnie Burrows Portlock, Edna Burrows, Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows, Mrs. Vern Burrows, (In front of Mrs. V. Burrows) Lydia Burrows, Vern Burrows, Mrs. Yeoman, Mrs. Burrows' mother, Bill Cuthbert and Herb Sherritt

We had had a few mosquitoes in Ontario, but we didn't really know mosquitoes till we came west. The first few years we had to have a smudge for the relief of our stock. You couldn't see your neighbors but you could see the smoke of their smudges. I remember one night we had to smoke out the house before we went to bed. According to one bachelor, the mosquitoes gathered on the screen, and the bigger ones kicked the little ones through!

We had burned wood in Ontario, and knew nothing about coal. We bought our coal east of us (it might have been the Unsworth mine) for three dollars a ton. It came in large slabs but if left outside, it soon broke down.

Every so often there would be a Red Cross dance and Box Social held in the Weiss School or Garden Plain Hall. Our father would be auctioneer, and at midnight we would have a short program. One night we had a blizzard and we had

to stay till morning. Winters were cold, but even though we had snow we would have very little sleighing, as the wind piled it up in some places and left the ground bare in others.

We missed our church and Sunday School after we came west. Eventually, summer services were organized at Alpa School. Mr. M. Wright was appointed Superintendent. We usually had a good turn-out. Sometimes we would have student ministers who came from eastern U.S.A. Very often they would not know what Canada was like, except that it would be cold, so they came all prepared for snow.

Edith Henderson, B.A., was the Alpa teacher. She came from Toronto during the summer to teach school. In 1918 she persuaded me to go back to school. She said she would help me all she could to get my normal entrance. I took grade nine and ten that year, and planned on attending school in Hanna to get my grade eleven. That fall Miss Henderson married Maldwyn Williams and as they were near neighbors I took lessons from her that winter.

At that time Dad became very much interested in forming a farmers Co-op in Hanna. He got a room in Hanna and came home week-ends. By now Lydia was ready to go to high school so Dad rented a small three-roomed house, just a kitchen and two sleeping rooms for him and ourselves. I was taking grade eleven and found it difficult. For one thing, I wasn't used to so many people around when I studied.

As I was the oldest of the class, when our inspector, Mr. Dobson, needed a substitute teacher in the lower grades, he gave me the privilege. When spring came Mr. Dobson asked if I would go to Alpa as permit teacher. I got time off at examination time to review the year's work and write my grade eleven exams. I spent the next two summers teaching. Then I went to London, Ontario to attend Normal School. I received a Second Class Certificate and taught near where my sister Greta lived.

I was married in 1925 to Henry Urquhart, a farmer in the community. We lived there for twenty years and had four sons. In 1945 we came to Lacombe, rented a farm, went back east and sold out there, and moved to Lacombe. Our oldest son had been honorably discharged from the Airforce and advised to go to Alberta for his health. The next two sons are farmers, one near Lacombe, the other west of Wetaskiwin. Our youngest is an orderly in Veterans Department at Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. All are married and have families. I lost my husband nine years ago.

Greta Carroll, the oldest of the Burrows third family has two sons, and two daughters. She lost her husband two years ago. Lorne, the eldest son, bought grain for Alberta Pacific Grain. He married Elizabeth Meece who taught at Alpa School and boarded at Noyce's. Later they went to Innisfail where they tried the hardware business, but after a fire they went to Edmonton, and later bought a motel in Vancouver. In 1964 they retired and still reside in Vancouver. They had one son, Alvin and a daughter, Marjory. Edwin went into the hardware business, first at High River then at Stettler where he married Trena Shirness. They moved to Lacombe where he owned a large department store. In 1951 he sold out and went to Calgary where he had a china shop. He died in 1964, leaving his wife and a daughter. Lydia married Dan Lund. Their daughter died in 1929 but they have two sons, Gordon and Norman. Dad and Mother sold their farm, moved to Stettler, then to Summerland, B.C., then to Hanna where Dad died in 1932. Mother came to Lacombe and died in December 1963.

THE JOHN SIM FAMILY OF GRAYSTONE, By Harry Sim — John Sim, an early homesteader in the Graystone - Garden Plain area, was born in Scotland in 1859. He had trained as a boilermaker and mechanical engineer. In 1884 he married Annie Cuthbert Adam, and after the last of four children: Margaret, Frank, William and Albert was born they decided to emigrate. My father, Albert (Bert) was about six weeks old when they arrived in Canada in 1902.

The family settled in Toronto where it is presumed that John Sim worked at his trade.

About 1910 Annie Sim died and John with his young family decided to come west to Calgary. The following year John Sim filed on the north half of 8-33-14, a homestead and a pre-emption. At this time Margaret was sixteen, Frank fourteen, William twelve and Bert nine.

Shortly after arriving he took an active part in the local government of this area. When the Rural Municipality of Dowling Lake was formed in 1913 John Sim was elected first reeve. One of the many varied jobs he had while reeve was that of overseeing the building of roads and putting in culverts. Inspection and supervising was done from the back of a saddle horse. Later he was appointed secretary of said municipality and moved into Hanna. After his term was up he came back to Graystone where he resided the rest of his life.

The John Sim Family 1917. Margaret, Albert (Bert) John and William (Bill).

In July of 1917 John was elected chairman at the organizational meeting of the Co-operative exchange, a farmer-oriented business which was made up of several U.F.A. locals in the district, one of them being the Mansfield local of which John was a member. Bill Monroe and A. R. W. Burrows, also of Mansfield, were directors. John held the president's office for two years. He spent a great deal of time and effort selling shares in the new venture. The Co-operative exchange was the forerunner of the present day Hanna Co-op Association.

He held the position of secretary-treasurer of the Alps school for the years 1917 and 1918. In the early years John Sim acted as a lay preacher, holding services in homesteaders' shacks, in school houses and at the Church of Christ in [illegible] Keepsakes included some of these early sermons, as well as the poetry he wrote.

The eldest son Frank joined the Army in 1916 and served overseas during World War One. He was discharged in England and apparently stayed for a while to learn a trade, before returning to Canada. After a short while he decided to immigrate to the States, locating I believe in the New Jersey area where his descendants are today. He has one daughter Barbara.

The second son William, the only one of the family who did not have flaming red hair, played the piano with Harry and Earl Himmelreich and other musicians for many dances in the early years. He was also a talented singer. About 1922 he and Chris Gasper went to the States to learn the plumbing trade. He eventually settled in the Portland area where he married and worked at his trade. There were two sons and a daughter in the Bill Sim family, John, Robert and Margaret.

Margaret kept house for the family, and when her father went to Hanna as secretary of the Municipality, she accompanied him and was employed in secretarial work. She and Bill Jones were married in the early twenties. Bill had settled with his folks some ten miles south of Hanna about 1910. He did some cowboying with the Yowells and Frakes and rode bucking horses. He and Margaret went to California where Bill became a preacher. Their descendants live in California. After Margaret left home to go on her own, Bert and his father hired housekeepers. The last one was Mrs. Norah King. She married Fred Marshall in 1936.

Albert, better known as Bert, after completing his schooling at Wiese and Hanna, remained on the homestead with his father. He played baseball with the Scapa team for many years; the battery of Jack Temple to Bert Sim was well known. He could also take over the first baseman's position as well. At one time Bert coached the Wiese Girls' Basketball team. Some of the members of the team were Louise and Viola Baxter, Dolly Stamp and Lydia Burrows. In his younger years Bert rode broncs at the local amateur stampedes. He learned to do blacksmith work and pounded out many a plow share. From 1933 till 1937 he was employed in the Unsworth mine during the winter months. He also owned and operated a 10-20 Titan and Goodison separator for custom. Bert and his dad usually hired the neighbor boys to work for them when Bert was away from home, Pete Ruppert and Hughie Riddle among others.

In 1937 Bert met and married my mother, Bernice Smart. I was born in 1938. Until 1944 my dad worked for the Special Areas. Then he moved the family to Edmonton, where he worked in construction and became a journeyman carpenter. He worked for the Department of Public Works as a project superintendent. He retired in 1968 and died in 1970. Bernice Sim passed away about 1949. Frank, Margaret and Bill are also deceased.

I, Harry Sim started school in Edmonton in 1945. I graduated from the U. of A. in 1961 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. I met and married a native Edmontonian, Lavonne [illegible] who was taking education, in 1959. Our daughter, Leanne was born in 1961 and is presently in grade six at Namao School.

[illegible] McLAREN and [illegible] E. GREENFIELD STORY, by Mrs. [illegible] Greenfield — In 1909 my brother William McLaren and I came out from Scotland to Brandon, Manitoba, where we had relatives. Bill was about seventeen years old then, and some time later we were joined by brother Hugh. In the fall of 1911 they came farther west and filed on their land, Bill on SW 36-32-14, Hugh filed E 35-32-14, which the Thomas W. Herman family had abandoned.

In the spring of 1912, they came back and were joined by Robert Ken-

Ellie and George Crossfield

nedy who hailed from Aberdeen, Scotland. They took a team of horses and other settlers' effects and travelled as far as Alsask. As rail travel further west was uncertain, they unloaded there, hitched up their horses and hit the trail for Hanna. It took them five or six days and they were running short of grub; their last meal was a rabbit cooked in a bucket on their campfire. The rabbit was shot with their last bullet, but unfortunately it wasn't badly hit, so Bill took after it on foot and managed to outrun it! On reaching Hanna, they stopped at the Dominion Rooming house, owned by McLeod and Black.

Bill and Hugh camped part of that summer in a dugout on the Charlie Doran place. Dorans left for the United States that fall so they rented the farm and moved into the house.

Meanwhile, I was still at Brandon and in 1913 I returned to Scotland. While there, the war broke out. I did not get back to Canada till the fall of 1915. By this time the German "U" boats were all around Britain. Many boats were sunk. The first two nights on board no lights were allowed to show, all portholes were blacked out, but it was fun stumbling around on the decks in the dark. On account of the war a lot of women and children were leaving Britain at that time. We landed at Halifax, where I boarded the train for Alberta. Arriving at Hanna early in the morning, I had breakfast at the "Dominion". Hugh and Bill got in with a tank of wheat by noon. There was a heavy crop that year, the grain wagons were lined up at the elevators waiting to get unloaded. We rode home in the grain tank.

Shortly after I arrived, we had some stack threshing to do, mostly feed oats. I believe it was early in November. Mr. Petties' outfit from Castor did the job. We had a hard winter in 1916. As our house wasn't exactly winterized, I got used to cooking frozen potatoes and breaking ice on the water bucket before starting the morning coffee.

By this time homesteads were being taken up and we had lots of neighbors. We did not mind the cold and travelled long distances to dances and parties and just visiting. Hard time dances were good fun. Some of the costumes were really ingenious. There was lots of snow, a big farm sleigh got us anywhere and with straw and hot rocks in the bottom temperatures didn't matter!

We certainly owed a lot to the teachers in those days. They helped to organize dances and card parties, and their Christmas concerts were eagerly looked forward to.

Brother John McLaren came out in 1916 and farmed NE-28-32-14. He passed away in 1918 during the flu epidemic.

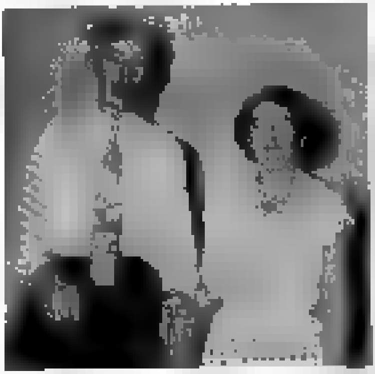
In 1916, brother Bill joined the 175 Battalion and went overseas. George Crossfield, a native of Quebec, was with them. George had come west in 1909 and spent some time with the Albert Strong family at Rose Lynn. He homesteaded SE-12-32-14, near Mr. Fred Whaley at Solon.

When Bill and George returned from France in 1919, they took up farming again.

George Crossfield and I were married in 1923. I have one son, William who makes his home in Vulcan. He started school at Solon when we rented the Marion

wright farm. He finished his schooling at Alpa when we were renting the Charlie Sernfield place.

My husband died suddenly of a heart attack in 1942. My son and I farmed two more years, then sold out in the spring of 1944. At present, Hugh and I are guests in Acadia Lodge at Hanna.



Bill and Lucy McLaren 25th Wedding Anniversary, 1952

THE MEN FROM INVERNESS, THE McLAREN'S, By Lucy (McLaren) Gordon — In 1913 Bill and Hugh McLaren took homesteads in hills north of Hanna. Having come from the Highlands of Scotland, their choice seemed natural. Soon the Alpa School District was organized. The McLarens assisted in the building of "The Little White School House" which, like most country school houses, became the centre of education, church services and social activities. Bill's farming activities were suspended for several years when he joined the armed forces engaged in the First World War. In 1919 he returned to the homestead to continue his farming operations. Soon after his return, he purchased a Model T Ford which was quite a sensation and the source of much pleasure despite the rutty prairie trails. It provided faster transportation to local dances where Bill played the violin, and made it easier for Bill and Johnny Unsworth to take out a popular young lady!

In 1927, Bill married Lucy Summers, a local teacher, who incidentally continued her profession for a number of years at Alpa School. Jack, who is teaching in Edmonton; Don, employed with an oil company in Calgary; Marilyn, Clerk of the Court in Courtenay, and Doris, a happy golfing wife in Comox, were products of this union. Uncle Hugh, who now lived a half a mile away, was the children's hero. He made them candy laced with pinex and ginger for colds, fed them crackers and cheese; took them riding on his stone boat; and played checkers and cards on demand.

In 1930 Bill and Hugh entered samples of wheat in the Agricultural Fair. Bill's sample won him the cup for his prize winning samples of both grains. He then entered his sample of wheat in the Calgary exhibition where it placed fifth. This proved one thing everyone in the area knew — that the district could grow the best grain in Alberta — if we got the rain.

The 1930's proved the wisdom of the McLaren's choice of hills. In the years when some potatoes were as big as marbles and the rest little ones, the valleys and sloughs yielded fair grain returns. The straw stacks were generously given to help less fortunate neighbors feed their cattle. Of course the hills were a hazard to transportation during the long winters. The road was completely unusable. The McLaren brothers built a cumbersome plow, pulled by horses, and made a road through the hills to the Castor Trail. This involved making three trails, one on each side to keep the middle one free of drifting snow.

In the thirties there was an exodus of farmers from the area south of Hanna. Bill purchased a hip roof barn for $80.00. Hugh, George Unsworth and Bill took the barn apart board by board. They salvaged all the shingles and pails of nails. The lumber was transported to Bill's farm where the barn was rebuilt. A shingling bee

soon had the shingles back in place. A barn dance, attended by many people from many communities, was held to celebrate the completion of the new building.

The threshing season was always the highlight of the farming year. In the early days, Bill's ability to run an outfit always found him at the helm of the operation. Later he ran his own engine and separator. Getting good men to pitch bundles was a very necessary factor. Members of his crew came back year after year — Big Pete from Manitoba, Tom and Alan from Saskatchewan. Then there was Roy with his team "Whiskey and Soda". These men worked hard from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. — one year for $3.00 a day. They had five meals a day — breakfast, lunch, dinner, lunch and supper. The farmers' wives were responsible for the food and spent many hours cooking to produce hearty, tasty meals and lunches for the men.

The McLarens also played a role in the school activities. Bill was a trustee on the local school board. Lucy taught the three "R's" for several years. She organized a soft ball team which played friendly games with local schools. The pupils participated in the yearly school fairs and won their share of awards. Of course the highlight was the annual Christmas Concert. Every child participated in the program and practised during recesses, noons and the last half-hour of school. The men in the community transformed the school into a local theatre with a stage, curtains and a beautiful Christmas tree.

The school picnic was also another community effort. The McLarens made gallons of ice cream for this event. The men spent hours freezing the appetizing mixture. The writer recalls Hugh McLaren and George Unsworth yearly competing for the honor of consuming the largest portion of ice-cream.

Life in the Alps District was indeed "the good life" — good neighbors — a bountiful supply of good food, and of course a heavy work load to keep one out of mischief. Being one's own boss, one's choice of work was strictly optional, though essential.

Joe Kleiberg

JOE KLEIBERG, By Mrs. C. Viste, H. Anner and F. Johnston — Joe Kleiberg, born in Norway in 1889, came in 1912 to this area where his cousins the Viste brothers, Chris and Hjalmer, had homesteaded earlier. He homesteaded the NW 33-32-14. Life for him was no different than for the other settlers who had come from a foreign country; there was a language barrier. But Joe took this and the other hardships in his stride, so much so that he could afford a trip back to his native Norway in 1926 and one to the States in 1928. In 1928 he added to his land holdings when he purchased a quarter section from the Bilmore's who went to Saskatchewan to live. Later on he doubled his operations by acquiring the W. E. Pecketts half section. This is where he lived for many years in a spacious house built by the original owners. He farmed with horses for many years until the tractors became more popular, at which time he had his farm work done by others.

"Parcopection", a new word, was unknown to Joe but he exemplified the word in his own particular way. A tireless walker with long striding gait, he covered many miles with ease. It is reported that in the homestead days he would walk to Castor and back in one day, a distance of some seventy miles. Joe liked to visit his neighbors of the pioneer days and Bill McLaren could usually depend on a visit from Joe when he needed a haircut.

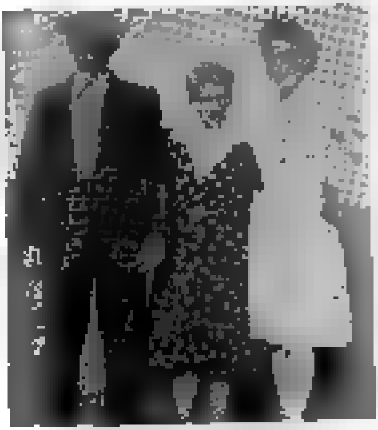
About 1955 he retired to Hanna, still keeping close to his neighbors the Binmores, for he purchased their house.

Joe, a bachelor all his life, passed away in 1958 in his seventieth year and is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

JOSEPH ALBERT JONES, *by Fred Johnston* — When the new townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912 one of the first businesses to be established was that of C. E. Jones, Harness Shop. His wife and two sons Harold and Joseph Albert, better known as Bert, came in August of 1912. The boys had been born in the State of Maine. Harold established a homestead on the south half of 28-32-14 in 1913. He joined the Canadian forces in 1918 and after the war went back to the States.

Bert joined the 196th battalion in 1915 and was posted overseas. Severely wounded, he spent considerable time convalescing in hospitals in England. He was in hospitals in Calgary after he returned. As a result of his wounds one leg was shorter than the other necessitating the use of a leg brace the rest of his life. He also received a Soldier's Pension as well. He came back to the farm which Harold had homesteaded and his mother kept house for him. The barn which had been used by the Joneses in Hanna was moved out on sleighs. Bert got a quarter of Soldier Settlement Board land in 1922. He leased the Kamm place from a mortgage company and did a little farming as well. He used to have hay put up on shares, which brought in a little income. In the early thirties Bert and Edith Hornfeldt were married and they had a son Robert.

In 1958 Bert had an auction sale, sold his land, and retired to a small house in Hanna. He passed away at age 72 in 1964. He was survived by his wife and son of Vancouver, and two brothers Harold and John of the States. There were two more brothers and a sister in the Jones family.


Jack and Mrs. Binmore, Helen Annas

THE BINMORE STORY, *By Mrs. G. Viste, H. Annas and F. Johnston* — Jack Binmore, born in England, was a career soldier in the Imperial Army who had been in active combat during the Boer War. He had immigrated to Ontario at an early date.

Elizabeth, better known as Lala was also born in England. She had lost her mother at an early age and had been placed in a foster home, in Ontario. After she grew up she was in the employ of those who needed special nursing care in their homes. While doing this type of work she met and married Jack.

In the spring of 1913 Jack came west and filed on his homestead the NW-34-32-14. Lala followed in January of

1914. The first year he worked away from home like most homesteaders. He worked for D.A. Wilson of Lonebutte while Lela stayed at home. About 1928 Binmores sold their land to a neighbor Joe Kjelberg and went to Saskatchewan to work. However that didn't work out so they returned and purchased the Tumelson quarter SW 27-32-14. Here they built a new barn. A shortage of water plagued them while living here and so in 1935 they rented John Mitchell's place when he sold out and went back to Scotland to live. They had to return to the Tumelson quarter when Mitchell sold the land. In 1942, while they were gone, a prairie fire went through and burned their barn down.

The Binmores were a proud couple, making do with whatever was at hand. Mrs. Binmore had a sunny infectious disposition while Jack, a bit sombre, was never-the-less outgoing. He was a clever story teller, especially when relating his experiences in the Boer War. Through ups and downs they enjoyed life. A team and wagon was their sole means of transportation. Having no children and few chores they did considerable visiting.

The Binmores retired to live in Hanna where Jack passed away in 1951. Mrs. Binmore continued to reside in Hanna until failing eye sight forced her to move to the C.N.I.B. in Calgary, where she passed away in 1966 at the age of ninety-four. Both are interred in the Hanna Cemetery.

ELBERT and EMERY PETTIE, By Fred Johnston — Elbert and Emery Pettie came down from the Willow Prairie district, south of Castor, to this area to take up land in 1913. Emery's homestead was NW-36-32-14 and Elbert's the NW-3 and the NE-4-33-14. E. L. Pettie Sr., and another brother, Earl, stayed at Willow Prairie.

The Pettie brothers owned a steamer and threshing outfit and did considerable work with them. They threshed in this district in 1915.

Both left in 1916. Emery went to Whiterock, B.C., where he married. Both are dead now.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Unsworth Sr. and their family. Robert Jr., John, George and baby, Jane

THE ROBERT and SARAH UNSWORTH STORY, By Ellen Unsworth Ironside — It was in April 1902 that Robert and Sarah Unsworth, along with their two sons, Bob and John, left Wigan, Lancashire, England to come to Canada. They landed at Mabou, Nova Scotia and Robert secured employment as mine manager at a coal mine there. In 1904 the ocean broke through into the mine and flooded it, so they returned to England.

In September 1905, a third son, George was born and six months later, the Unsworth family again set sail for Canada. This time, they landed at Sidney Mines, Nova Scotia and Robert was employed as pit boss at No. 4 Collieries on Cape Breton Island. Those were happy days with ocean and lakes close for swimming and fishing in the summer and skating and sledding in the winter.

Robert had the desire to go further west. In March 1909, he went to

Lethbridge, Alberta while his wife and family remained in Cape Breton. After working in the mines there for six months, he returned to Cape Breton for the birth of their first daughter, Jane, born September 21, 1909.

Their oldest son Bob was thirteen years old by this time and had secured a job as trapper boy at No. 4 Collieries. His duty was opening and closing doors on the airways. John was in grade four. George at the age of three years had started school, with an Eaton's catalogue tucked underneath his arm so he could cut out pictures!

In the spring of 1910, Robert left Cape Breton again. This time, he took a homestead NW 34-34-14, and a pre-emption at Garden Plain, Alberta. During the next two years he built a six-roomed home. The lumber for this was hauled from Stettler by oxen owned by Frank Walker. He also managed Thomas Kerr's coal mine which was three miles east of his homestead. Mr. Kerr also owned a general store and ran the Garden Plain post office.

In August 1912, Sarah Unsworth and the four children left Cape Breton to come to Garden Plain, Alberta. The journey was long and tiresome. A highlight of their trip out took place when Sarah got off the train to purchase some milk for her children. While she was doing this, the train pulled away without her. An S.O.S. was sent out by the station master. The children were put off at Lacombe. This allowed a worried mother to catch up with them once again. They then resumed their journey to Castor, Alberta. At Castor, Robert met his wife and family and they reunited happily and travelled to their farm at Garden Plain, a distance of twenty-nine miles by horse and wagon. They stopped only once at "Bud" Hackett's "stopping house" to have a meal and feed the horses.

Now, with the family re-united, making a living started in earnest. The furniture that had been shipped by freight had to be hauled home from Castor. This took several trips before normal living was resumed. The farm at this time consisted of one-half section of land, five acres of which was in crop, one horse and one cow. The first harvest was cut by a neighbor's mower. The barley was then put into piles by Robert and his sons. The threshing was done by hand with a wooden instrument called a flail. The first harvest netted one hundred bushels of barley.

The water for the home came from a 34 foot well and was pulled up by a pulley and a bucket on a rope. The water itself ran through an underseam of coal and came up the color of weak tea. This did not affect its use for human consumption but much to Sarah's dismay it turned her sparkling white linens into a sad looking mess!

In 1914 the Garden Plain school was built and it became the centre where joys and sorrows of the pioneers and their families were enacted. To this simple structure pioneer children wended their way — through the cold of winter and the warmth of summer — to gain an education. The teacher was usually young and possessed the amazing ability of teaching grades one to ten with equal skill. On Sundays church was held within its walls to provide food for the soul. To this structure, bareheaded and grief stricken, came the mourners to pay their last respects to loved ones and neighbors. Here at the school, pioneer meetings were held to lend growth to the community as a whole. Here the pioneers relaxed and enjoyed the good fellowship and fun of picnics, card parties and dances, and here the enchantment of the Christmas concerts took place. They were such an integral part of pioneer life, reaching out and warming each soul"

In the fall of 1914 the family moved to Castor for the winter. Robert and son Bob worked in the Keith coal mine, returning in April 1915 to the farm. That summer Bob and John ran the farm and their Dad managed the Cavanagh coal

mine. During this summer a neighbor, Jim Crombie, who farmed west of us, wanted to dig a well. He was tragically overcome by "black damp" and died in the well. Robert and sons and other neighbors worked all night to recover the body.

As Robert and Sarah Unsworth's children grew up their parents discovered that each one of them loved music. They had brought a piano over from England with them. This piano actually accompanied them across the ocean three times. The family had violins, guitars, accordions, mouth organs and jews harps and each one learned to play them. As they grew older, each of them at different times, supplied music in the community, making life much cheerier. It brought us pleasure and togetherness as a family.

Small things brought great delight to these pioneer children! The arrival of the Grain Growers Guide was wonderful, for inside its pages was a comic called the "Doo Dads". This starred "Flannelfoot" the cop, "Roly Poly", "Dr. Saw Bones", "Sand Piper", and "Sleepy Sam". These comics were practically devoured by each child before the paper either went to rest in the "little house" for further use, or was used to clean the chimneys of the coal oil lamps that lighted the pioneer home. Nothing was wasted!

One cold winter day John and George and their dog, Rover set out for the store, three miles distant, to get some groceries and the mail. On the way home, George decided that it was the dog's duty to help carry the purchases home, so taking a piece of binder twine from his pocket, he proceeded with John's help to tie a pound of tea on the dog's back. All went well until the dog saw a rabbit and took off after it. No amount of calling could stop him and during the chase the tea fell off the dog's back! There was no way the boys could return home without the tea, so it took some time hunting over the quarter-section before they found it. From then on, the idea was considered a failure and Rover was never again a pack animal!

In 1916, Robert bought the N.W. of 8-30-13, formerly owned by Mr. Little. This included a mine which he developed. The family moved into a house there and Bob joined the army and went overseas. Prospects were good cropwise that year, so Robert and son John went to Hanna, fourteen miles south and purchased a new McCormick binder. Before they got home with it, a hail storm had taken all the crop. The storm was so severe that it killed young pigs and chickens. The hail went through the west windows of the house, through the open door into the kitchen and broke some east windows also. Sarah, George and Jane were all in the barn milking when the storm hit in all its severity. After it was over, George had to climb out of the hayloft window to shovel the hailstones from the barn door so that his mother and Jane could get out! Needless to say, the binder wasn't used that year.

On October 26 of that year a second daughter, Ellen, was born. Later that same year on Christmas day, a catastrophe occurred when eleven-year-old George was badly hurt in a mine cable accident. Dr. Mason came from Hanna by horse and sleigh to assist him. George spent three months in Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. His only visitor was Johnny Cattanach of Garden Plain, but a nurse, Violet Wagner Wayne, kept in touch with his parents as to his progress. A year later, he was well on the way to recovery, proving it by climbing to the top of Bradford's windmill to locate a horse for his neighbor.

In those days, Mrs. Sauermith was midwife for the community. She had been called upon to assist with the birth of Ellen and a third daughter, Phyllis, who only lived two years.

The years 1917 - 1918 were mostly uneventful with life assuming an even keel. The big excitement of those years was the purchase of a Gray Dort car. John was the proud owner. When he arrived home with it from Hanna, the weather was

cold so he had to drain the radiator to keep it from freezing. The next morning, the car wouldn't start and a frustrated John discovered that he had drained the gas tank instead of the radiator. This, of course, resulted in a frozen radiator and a dry gas tank!

There was rejoicing one day in 1919 when son Bob arrived home from the war. In 1920 Bob married Frances J. Lewis.

John went to the coal mines in Vancouver in 1922. He moved to Nanaimo and married there in 1926. John and his wife, Ida still make their home in Nanaimo, B.C.

Robert Unsworth's health was declining rapidly and in July 1927, he passed away.

In 1929 Jane married Bert Harding and in 1932 George married Freda Summers. They are presently residing in Hanna. In 1935 Ellen married Herb Taylor. Herb passed away in 1945 and in 1946 Ellen married Will Ironside. They now live in Hanna also.

Sarah Unsworth passed away in April 1958.

Robert and Sarah Unsworth, pioneers of Alberta, are survived by three children, eighteen grandchildren, fifty-two great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Grandma Unsworth (c) and daughter Ellen (Unsworth) Ironside and son George

THE ELLEN UNSWORTH STORY, by Ellen Unsworth Ironside — I wasn't born until 1915 so I am not really a pioneer but I lived through the depression and I feel I have a story to tell.

There were three boys and three girls in our family, I was number five. Being twenty-one years younger than my oldest brother Bob, I can't help but feel that there were better things that could have happened that year!

My dad was very musical and my mother could sing, and as a little girl I remember well practising for the Alps concert, my brother George playing a violin accompaniment. I received all my education at the Alps school. I finished Grade ten and that was it — there were no grants or loans available in those days to further education.

Childhood Christmases stand out in my memory. About December first, Dad would send to Eaton's for our winter's supply of jam, raisins, prunes and Christmas candy — lots of it — with a ten pound box of chocolates included! The candy was all kept in the bottom drawer in the living room and it was on our honor that we never opened the bottom drawer. Each evening, from the time the candy arrived, Dad would let us have our choice, then on Christmas Eve all the stockings were hung on chair backs and by Christmas morning Santa had filled every stocking. There were no gifts but I always found a quarter or even fifty cents in mine. Being still little and believing in Santa, I got the money as well as candies and fruit, the others had a lemon or a lump of coal with their goodies. I realize now, the whole excitement was for me. Jane was seven years older so she likely helped to fill the stockings. We always played family games at Christmas. Bob and Frances and

their children came home as well as the bachelors or neighbors who didn't have loved ones near. Mother made mince pies and Christmas pudding. I was an adult and married to Will before I realized that suet was on an animal all year long. I thought you could only get suet at Christmas!

Mother and Dad boarded the school teachers for quite a few years and even after Dad passed in 1927, Mother continued to board the teacher for awhile. Mr. Vic Trenaman stayed with us and owned a bicycle and skis, so he was well equipped to travel back and forth. He travelled out from his home in Hanna after weekends and the Alps hills were ideal for skiing.

Some of our pleasures were skating, tobogganing and house parties. The only skates I ever had were my brother George's size eight, work boots with skates screwed on to the soles. I never became a professional skater, but I still had fun. Taylor's lake was where we spent most of our time. Our choice tobogganing hill was just west of Charlie Noyce's in the Alps district and many a time I walked the two and a half miles there and back after some real thrilling rides. All types of sleighs were there — one or two real toboggans, homemade hand sleighs — bobsleighs and even a fancy Gondola. Hugh McLaren fashioned the Gondola and you could stand up in that. It would hold from four to six people, someone would give the sleigh a push and we were off! There was no way of steering it so each ride was a thriller. One night, Hugh lost his false teeth in one of the spills and we spent quite some time finding them. Mrs. Noyce often made us cocoa and the most beautiful chocolate cake you could wish for!

On Friday nights in winter some good neighbor would invite twenty or thirty of us to his house for dancing and lunch. Music was supplied by those present — my brother George, Bob Rehill, George Gwin, Walter Jensen, Herb and George Taylor — usually just a violin and perhaps a mouth organ or accordion for accompaniment. Those were good times! Mr. Neville Thomas was often called upon to play the bagpipes. I think perhaps he was the only person around who had mastered that art.

In the summer, I loved softball and through school and later in district teams I played twice a week, often riding horseback six miles there and back for a practice.

After my dad passed away Mother and I just stayed on at the farm. I was eleven then, and learned to harness horses, plow, drive a hay rake and a hay buck, run a binder and yes, — stook! George came home to take the crop off and at that time he seemed to run from one row to the next. We surely got the work done! Wheat was worth twenty-six cents a bushel then, we always had such a poor crop we would stack ours before threshing. Stack threshing was three cents a bushel and we saved wherever we could.

Mother and I were on "Mother's Allowance" by this time — nine dollars a month for all our groceries. I carried the cream from one cow one-half mile to Greenways to put on ice. They would take it to Hanna for us on the weekend. That money helped buy our clothes. I still remember that my good dress from Eaton's cost one dollar and seventy-nine cents.

We always had a big garden with strawberries and small fruit trees. It was so dry that George dug two shallow wells and we steadily watered the garden. In the fall we gave lots of vegetables away. I sold cabbages from my "School Fair" garden seed and thought how lucky I was!

Around 1930 the grasshoppers arrived in clouds and at that time Norman Greenway and I joined forces in spreading grasshopper poison, me driving the team and Norman spreading the poison with a sort of spoon from the back of the

democrat. Norman and I spent many days fanning brome grass seed. I can still see the sagebrush seed coming through with the brome!

Prairie fires were another horror in my teens. Everything was so dry, a fire could start so easily and the wind always seemed to be blowing. Then too, the dust storms were terrible. Often, when I rode home from school, the dust would fill the sky and Mother would have the light on at four-thirty.

Winter blizzards were terrifying too. We had a wire from the kitchen door to the "little house" and through the winter we really made use of it. There was no end of snow shovelling to keep paths open. I remember two years when the line fence between Ralph Greenways' was drifted over and their bull came roaring down to our barnyard. It was no wonder I had nightmares.

Now I must tell of our neighbors to the north east of us who had lovely Holstein cows. Every afternoon for about a week those cows were in our crop when I got home from school. I asked the farmer to keep them home but he was short of pasture too. Getting really fed up with it one afternoon, I put the six cows into the barn and milked them, turned them out and chased them up the road. We had a really good cream cheque that week and it was the answer; he kept his cows home after that!

By this time I was going to the dances at Garden Plain some six miles away. I would ride horseback to my brother Bob's place, then after the dance would stay with them till morning. Often George, Freda and I would share the same bed. It was warmer that way. The house would be so cold when we got home!

In 1936 I fell in love and married Herb Taylor. On May 12, 1937 our twin boys were born. This was also the day King George VI and Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne so their birthday was easily remembered for some time. We farmed west of Garden Plain for two years, then bought a store at Fenn, Alberta and moved there in 1938. We met the nicest people there and had a happy year. In September 1939, the Second World War broke out, so we sold our store in Fenn and moved to Drumheller and opened a small grocery there, just north of the bridge. Six months later, we moved to Hayter, Alberta and ran a small grocery there but competition proved too much for us so in 1940 we moved back to Granddad Taylor's farm just west of Garden Plain.

In March 1943 our third son was born and for three years we enjoyed farming. The twins started their education at Netherby school and I was happy to be back at Garden Plain. In May 1946, Herb passed away after only ten days in hospital. Later that spring I held an auction sale and moved to a little house at Garden Plain hamlet.

In 1948, I met and married Will Ironside and moved up to his farm northeast of Buchan school. We had only a barb-wire telephone for the sixteen years we lived there and I still maintain that our greatest asset now is the telephone. We were blessed with one daughter which made our family complete. We continued farming till 1964 when we sold the farm to my nephew, Cyril Unsworth and moved to Hanna.

Our twins now live in Castor, Alberta, where they operate a D-7 Caterpillar and grader under the name of Twin Construction. Delbert and Kay have two girls and a boy; Doug and Dianne have three girls. Jim and Ruby are in Calgary where he does heavy trucking. Judy and Larry are presently living in Cranbrook, B.C. where Larry owns a "convenience" store. They have a baby girl.

Will and I are still living in Hanna, both retired and happy to be near our family and to take part in fishing and in the activities of the Pioneer Association.

CHARLES W. COBB STORY, By Leonard Cobb — Charles W. Cobb was married to Ada May Roop in Minnesota in 1910. In 1912 they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, with their small son Edward. While in Edmonton twin boys, Earl and Mirl were born to them.

About two years later, they moved to Hanna, settling in the Alps district. For awhile, Charles Cobb farmed the old Olsen place (NW-12-33-14), later moving to a farm one and a quarter mile north of Alps school.

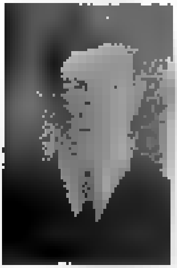
The children attended Alps school, walking the wagon road that wound through the hills. During this time Charles got the contract to build a fence around the school grounds. He was paid $56.00 for labor and supplying materials as well. The next year (1926) he painted the school for $30.00

During the time they were in the Hanna area there were five more children born into the family, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin, Elevon and Lester.

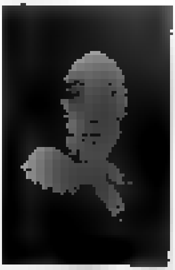
In 1925, when Lester was about six weeks old, Charles moved his family to Toppenish, Washington, in the Yakima Valley. He purchased a farm and later went into the trucking business. Another daughter, Mary Lou, was born in 1928.

He continued in the trucking business until illness forced him to retire in 1963. He passed away in 1969 at the age of eighty-two. His wife, Ada, is still living at Toppenish, Washington.

There are seven sons and two daughters all living in the United States. Edward, Earl, Mirl, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin and Lester, Mrs. Elevon Coleman, and Mrs. Mary Lou Pedro. There are seventeen grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.



Ralph Greenway



Nellie Greenway

RALPH GREENWAY STORY, By Nellie Greenway — Ralph Greenway was born in 1887 in Birmingham, England, the son of William and Elizabeth Greenway. He was one of seven children and when he was just ten years old his mother passed away. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada to get rich quick! This was the dream of many young men in those days. When Ralph arrived in Montreal he did not have a penny as someone had stolen his wallet on the boat. He did odd jobs for awhile, finally landing in Ontario and there worked for some real nice folks. He stayed with them for quite a time. I cannot remember when he filed for his homestead. It was at Prussia, Saskatchewan, later called Leader.

Ralph and I were sweethearts in England so I came out to Canada to marry him, arriving on May 14, 1914. I came from the little village of Kenilworth in Warwickshire. Naturally I felt sad and lonely leaving my loved ones and friends. I got along real well until I started to cross the ocean. Then I wished I were back on land! The only time I went into the dining room was the last morning, coming up the St. Lawrence river. My cabin friend was very kind to me. She told me not to tip the waiter at our table (he hadn't done much waiting on me!) but he came over later to the customs. He spotted me there having no intention of letting me go without giving him a tip! I finally gave him two shillings and sixpence. Standing around in Montreal I could not understand why so many people kept remarking, "she's a long time coming." To my surprise I found out it was the train! I was thinking of some fine lady. It looked such a huge train after the English ones. I had my ticket changed from the Grand Trunk to the C.P.R. so that I could stay with my friends, not realizing that I would lose my berth. I sat up for two nights and days and felt more dead than alive as one could not even doze, for there were some very noisy passengers. The train finally arrived in Winnipeg at 10:30 p.m. and Ralph and his brother Bill met me there. Bill surprised me by saying, "Well, Nellie you are getting married tonight!" Feeling as I was, it was more like a dream. We went to a hotel to clean up quickly, no time for even a cup of tea as the wedding was at 11 p.m. It was at the Methodist church with a very nice pastor. I felt more like resting than talking and Ralph's brother did most of the talking! Next morning we boarded the train for Leader, Saskatchewan.

One of Ralph's neighbors met us at the station with his buggy. He took us home to his place for supper which consisted of fat pork and green tea which I found hard to swallow. I felt very uneasy, as my thoughts were that the folks would think I was one of the fussy kind! However, we got along real well except I did find it hard to talk with them and other neighbors too. It was a German settlement. They were all very kind hearted people but I found it difficult to visit with them because of language problems.

I lost my first baby, but on July 28, 1917, Norman was born at home. There was no hospital at that time. The neighbors were so good to me, sending food every day, real German dishes and we were well looked after. Ralph had built a nice little home but I was not really happy there. The railway had been built through our place, just a quarter of a mile from our house. Many tramps passed through, stopping to ask for food. We had a good crop in 1915 and Ralph decided, for my sake, to move. I felt sorry in a way for he had good land and had worked hard to get it.

In 1917 with six week old baby Norman, we came to the farm north of Hanna; S½-6-33-13-W4. Ralph purchased the farm from Ernest Massie who had decided to return to the U.S. It was nice to meet our new neighbors, the McLaren boys, their sister Effie (later Mrs. George Crossfield), the Noyce's, the Taylor's, the Hemstocks and many more nice folks.

It was not always sunshine as many times we did not have much to go on with.

In May 1920, after being in Canada for six years, I returned to England with Norman to visit my mother and other relatives. Times were hard in England right then. I found many changes, food and fuel were rationed and it had affected the people there. I used to walk about a mile to get Mother's ration of coal, pushing it home in Norman's buggy. In November, Ralph and Bill came over to England and spent the winter with us. In March 1921 they returned to Canada but Norman and I stayed on in England as I was expecting my second baby. Dennis was born in Leamington Spa on September 30, 1921 and it was 1924 before I was able to return to Canada with the two boys. My sister-in-law, Hettie came over with me and makes her home in Orillia, Ontario. It was hard to leave my mother and loved ones over there. I never did go back again!

Ralph had rented the farm and worked for the McLaren boys during the time I was in England so it was good to be back home again. Life was often a struggle financially but we never went hungry for a meal!

On June 17, 1925 our first little daughter, Joan, was born. Gretta was born February 7, 1932, another little sister and our family was complete.

The conditions during the 30's were the worst. We were thankful for the relief we had from the government, the apples, cheese and fish (not so much the fish!). We had much to be thankful for. Social gatherings were common, picnics, pie socials, school parties, Christmas concerts, and in the winter, sleigh riding. The children always seemed to have lots of fun.

Ralph worked for many years as road maintenance man with the Department

of Public Works. Many miles of road were covered with four horses and a drag. Later the department provided him with a small grader which he used until his retirement in 1949. Part of his responsibility was to put in wooden culverts and bridges with the aid of a team, plow and slip. It was hard work but it meant a few extra dollars which were sorely needed.

All the children attended Alps school. Gretta, the youngest, went to high school in Hanna. Dennis and Joan attended Prairie Bible Institute. Dennis finished his high school subjects in Vancouver before leaving as a missionary to India.

Norman served from 1942 - 1946 in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a wireless mechanic. While stationed in Montreal he met his wife and was married in 1943. They have six children. Dennis was married to Lillian Zeplick in 1959, whom he met in India, serving as a missionary there. They have two sons, Timothy and Kenneth. Joan was married to Sheldon Blackhorn and had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Sheldina, who was born a few days after her father died suddenly of a heart attack. Later, in 1960 Joan married John Veres and they have five children, Ronald, Stanley, Kenneth, Keith and Cindy. They make their home in Wimborne, Alberta. Gretta married Floyd Manners of Hanna in 1960 and they have four children, Brenda, Shirley, Douglas and David. They reside at Pollockville, Alberta.

Ralph passed away in 1953 at the age of 66. I moved into Hanna where I lived in my own home until 1969 when I moved into the Senior Citizen's Lodge. I do thank the Lord for the long and full life which He has graciously given to me!

Norman Greenway family 1964

NORMAN GREENWAY STORY — I was born in Leader, Saskatchewan, July 26, 1917. When I was ten weeks old, Dad and Mother moved to our present farm, thirteen miles northeast of Hanna.

In May 1920, Mother and I went to England to visit her mother and other relatives, staying there until 1924. Consequently, I began my schooling there; I also acquired an English accent!

On coming back to Alberta, across the prairies by train, I remember being fascinated by the scores of little animals running around. Mother told me they were gophers. I thought she meant 'golfers'. I couldn't see anyone playing golf!

Dad met the train in Hanna along with Bill McLaren and his Model "T". He drove us home with our suitcases but the trunks and boxes had to be picked up later. Dad drove in with the team and wagon for these and took me with him. It was a real thrill.

Soon after we came back school started for me at the Alps school two miles west of our farm. Dad bought a saddle horse for me to ride but she was too frisky so he traded her for a quieter pony named Tiny. Tiny and I were to share many a mile, travelling to school and going for cows until she succumbed to old age. I remember one morning I was late leaving for school and Tiny was stubbornly trotting along. Kicking her ribs didn't seem to be getting much action so I stopped by a grove of willows to get a switch. While I was doing this, Tiny took off for school without me! Needless to say, I was quite late that morning. School days bring memories of happy experiences and some not so happy. I remember the teasing I got because of my English accent but I soon lost that. Alps school got its name from the surrounding hills and noon hour was our opportunity to adventure among the willow bushes and sloughs close to the school. Winter found us tobogganing; the hill was literally at the door step. All my schooling was taken at Alpe and I went through to Grade ten. I look back with fond memories on those days.

It was 1933 when I quit school. Those were hard years for the farmers with drought, grasshoppers and very little income. I had a desire to finish high school but Dad needed my help so I stayed home and worked for the next few years. I worked occasionally for other farmers as well. In 1937 and 1941 I worked for Russel Hemstock on the farm and at his coal mine. We stripped all the dirt off with plow and fresnos. Russel had very good horses for this job. Mining was difficult for men and horses when the pit got so deep. People came from as far away as Hemaruka to haul coal, mostly with teams and wagons. The coal sold for $1.50 a ton with some top coal selling for $1.00.

In 1941 I was conscripted for basic army training for a period of one month. This took place at Red Deer during January and February. We had marching, rifle drill and bayonet practice. I would have made a poor soldier for I detested it.

In April 1942 I joined the Air Force and took training as a radio mechanic in Calgary. We were posted to Lachine, Quebec from there for more drill training. It was beautiful fall weather and I can remember the abundance of delicious apples in the markets of Lachine! After six weeks of training there we were posted to No. 2 Wireless School on Queen Mary Road in Montreal. It was during my stay in Montreal that I met Myrtle Renshaw who was to become my wife.

After I finished my training in Montreal and graduated as a wireless mechanic, I was posted to Sydney, Nova Scotia in April 1943. In December of that year I was sent to Rockcliffe, Ontario, just outside of Ottawa. In the week's interval between postings, Myrtle and I were married.

We stayed in Ottawa until 1946 when I was discharged. Our first child, Donald, was born in Ottawa in 1945.

Soon after I left the R.C.A.F. we came west and lived with my parents on the farm. In 1947 I rented the farm from Dad and also bought the Unsworth quarter, N.W. 6-33-13, and proceeded to build a small house for my family. We settled down to farming. Myrt was a city girl and didn't know wheat from barley or oats so she had much to learn! We moved into our unfinished house in December of that year. We were anxious to have a home of our own. The crop in 1947 was poor, so with very little money to go on with I decided to go north to Breton to work in the bush. After New Year, I left Myrt and our two-and-a-half year old son on the farm and was away until mid-March. The weather was very good when I left but winter set in with a vengeance in the middle of January and we had one of the worst winters on record! Myrtle had no means of transportation so often walked the half mile to my folks' place for milk, eggs and the mail. Of course, they kept their eye on my family in my absence. When I came back in March the roads were still partially blocked and spring seemed a long way off!

I farmed with horses until 1951, usually driving eight head, four and four. Even though I liked the horses, the chore of harnessing, hitching them together and finally getting out to the field was much too tedious and not efficient. In 1951 I purchased an "L" Case tractor that had been put on rubber. There was quite a bit of whoaing for a few days as I became accustomed to this iron horse! However, it certainly had its advantages and disadvantages too as I found out when I would get stuck in the mud!

In 1952 we moved into my parents' house and they took over our little cottage. By this time we had three boys and another baby on the way. Stephen had been born in 1948, Brian in 1950 and Elizabeth came along in 1952. Eric was born in 1953, so we definitely needed a larger house!

In 1963 Dad passed away and Mother moved to Hanna, where she died April 30, 1977. I bought the home place from her and I also had taken over a lease on N½-11-33-14, the former Jack Temple farm.

The Fifties were fairly hard years. We didn't have too much money and relied on a few milk cows and chickens for grocery money. They were happy years, however, as the children were growing up; always busy, yet there was an appreciation for our home and family. A highlight of those years was a trip by car and trailer to Montreal to visit Myrt's parents. This was in 1958, her first trip home after twelve years on the prairies. It was an experience still treasured and remembered by us all.

In the late Forties and early Fifties we attended church services at country schools. This was during the summer months. In 1950 we had Ferrell Doan stay with us and hold services at a number of points in the community. In 1951 Graham Clark held services at Dundee school on Sunday afternoons and at the Garden Plain Hall in the evenings. These services were well attended. In 1955 we decided to start going regularly to the Alliance church in Hanna for Sunday School and church. We packed (and I do mean packed), our five kids into our 1950 Ford truck and made it in to Hanna every Sunday morning. The family outgrew the Ford truck but we continued our church attendance down through the years. We have never regretted it.

In 1963 I purchased the N½-1-33-14 and S½-12-33-14 from Charlie Noyes. This enabled me to enlarge my cattle herd which has been our chief source of revenue. As the boys grew older they became a big help in farming, milking cows, running a tractor and other machinery.

The children attended Solon and Netherby schools until the rural schools closed and then they were bussed to Hanna. Most of them completed their high school in Hanna. Don, the eldest, took his grade twelve at Prairie High in Three Hills. Danny, our youngest boy is still attending Hanna High.

Don is now a chartered accountant in Edmonton. He is married and has two little girls. Stephen has purchased the farm from us. Brian is an accountant also and works at Red Deer. Elizabeth works for the Royal Bank in Calgary. Eric is married and he and his wife Donna, live and work in Regina. Danny is still at home.

Looking back at the years on the farm brings nostalgic thoughts. There were hard times but we always had the necessities of life. We were happy, though at times it seemed we were almost too busy to enjoy our family and friends. We've always appreciated our neighbors. It was good to know that they were there when we needed them. I have never considered myself a very efficient farmer but if I had my days to live over again I wouldn't want it to be any different!

THE EVERETT DORMAN STORY, ***by Mrs. Everett Dorman*** — Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dorman came to the Hanna district in March 1919 from Pond Creek, Oklahoma. They were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Massie, a former resident. He had previously owned the farm where Ralph Greenway lived.

Everett rented land from Charlie Stanfield N½-1-33-14; S½-12-33-14. He bought cattle, horses and machinery upon his arrival in the district.

They stayed on this farm for four years and then moved back to Oklahoma where they also farmed.

While in the Hanna district a son and daughter were born to them; Forrest Leroy, July 22, 1919 and Pauline Helen, November 21, 1921. Another daughter, Betty Jean, was born in Oklahoma, May 10, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorman bought a half section of wheat land in 1947 and built a

new house. They have rented out the land for fifteen years but still reside on the farm.

Mr. Murl Wright

Mrs. Murl Wright

THE MURL WRIGHT STORY, By Velora Wright — In February 1920 Murl, myself and our fourteen month old son, Emmet left our home in Vandalia, Illinois to come to Canada.

We came to the Garden Plain district of Alberta, settling on a farm owned by Robert Unsworth Sr., N-34-33-13. We were very close to the southern tip of Sullivan Lake. There was a store at Garden Plain, run by C. A. Wickson, where we got our groceries.

We lived there one year and then moved to a farm owned by Ralph Greenway S½-6-33-13. Our daughter Lucille was born there in 1921. While we were living there the first telephone line was put through that part of the country. The men stayed at our house and I cooked for them. We had the first telephone in the neighborhood.

We then moved to the Stanfield farm N.W. 1-33-14 where we stayed until we moved back to Illinois. Our son, Wayne was born in 1923 and in 1925 Cyril was born.

Murl had to haul his grain to Hanna until they built a grain elevator at Scapa. He had four head of horses on a grain wagon. It would take a whole day to go to Hanna and back. Sleighs were used in the winter. Murl had sleigh bells on his horses which he had brought with him from Illinois. I could hear the bells for miles as he was coming home. He was the only one in the neighborhood with bells.

We attended church at Solon school which was about six miles away.

For recreation we attended various picnics and stampedes in the surrounding areas. Murl had a bucking horse that he entered in the stampedes.

In November 1926 we left Alberta and came back to Illinois. In the spring of 1927 we moved to Oklahoma where we stayed until 1947. At this time we came back to Vandalia, Illinois. We had four more children born to us during our time in Oklahoma. These were: Leo, Berniece, Ray and Joe.

Murl died in 1965 and I am living alone in Vandalia. My children are all living. Emmet in Vandalia; Lucille in Dickinson, Texas; Wayne in Wichita, Kansas; Cyril in Enid, Oklahoma; Leo and Berniece in Vandalia; Ray in Columbus, Ohio and Joe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I have nineteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

JACK and AGNES TEMPLE, By Agnes Temple — Jack was born in Kraft, Russia and came to Calgary with his parents in 1912. He had his eighth birthday somewhere out on the Atlantic aboard the "Kaiser - Victoria".

I was born in North Dakota and came to the Fleet district where my father had taken a homestead. Stettler was the end of the steel at that time.

Jack and I were married December 31, 1929. We had our wedding dance in the Scapa Hall early in January. I think it was the first wedding dance in the Scapa Hall. We set up housekeeping on the Bill Wesche (formerly Struder) farm, which Jack had purchased. The house was typical of that era — a two storey building with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs with a narrow stairway at one end. This stairway caused our first problem. The bed springs stuck fast about half way up. In fact they were so stuck that we couldn't get them down either. I think the weather turned very cold and the metal contracted, anyway after a couple of days we did manage to dislodge them. Then Jack got the big idea of taking them through an upstairs window. We had to pry the frame off the window to get enough space, and pull a hayrack under the window, so we could reach. After a real struggle we did manage to hoist the springs through. The window never did fit properly after that.

This farm did have one advantage. There was a high hill beside the house. Our car had to be cranked and when the weather was a bit cool it was impossible to get it started. We parked the car on the hill so we could coast it down and ninety-nine times out of a hundred it started.

The Great Depression and the drought hit about this time. As I look back on those years I can't agree entirely that they were totally "Ten Lost Years". The caring and sharing established friendships which have lasted over half a century. Children who grew up in that decade acquired an unique sense of values, stability and tolerance. Of course the lack of money did create problems. The promise of twenty-five dollars per month by the Aberhart party caught the imagination of many. Each spring our hopes would soar, but those dust storms swept across the land, and very little rain fell. The price of farm produce dropped to unbelievable lows and wages followed the same trend. Jobs were impossible to get.

We tried various ways to economize. The men stripped coal for winter fuel. We milked cows to get that weekly cream cheque of one to two dollars per five gallon can. We made our bread and butter and even soap, canned beef, poultry and vegetables. I often wonder how we ever escaped food-poisoning as we had only that old boiler method of canning. Saskatoons were a popular fruit and dozens of quarts were in the cellars for winter use.

One year the people who were more fortunate than those of us in the dust bowl sent in vegetables and apples to help out. Remember the beans and cheese and fish? We were truly grateful for all. But the fish was a real challenge to every housewife. Many were the suggestions that were passed around as to how best to attack it.

We didn't run our car much for a few years, but used a Bennett Buggy for transportation. Cars were always running out of gas or else the tires were going flat.

Dances and baseball games were the two popular forms of entertainment. Baseball was the summer sport and everyone attended the games and rooted for the home team. The dances were usually held on Friday night because Saturday night was the time to go to town as the stores stayed open that night.

When I think of the twenty-five or fifty cents which the men paid for admission to the dances, it is hard to believe. Of course the ladies brought lunch. The orchestras played for a very small sum, perhaps not as loud as the orchestras of today, but we did enjoy the music. The first dance, supper waltz and Home Sweet Home were special dances and there was always a floor manager. At suppertime the local artists were prevailed upon to perform with song, readings or a step dance. I'd like to mention Art Wigley who always had many humorous songs at his command. The most popular was "The Little Shirt My Mother Made For Me". I recall an amusing incident at a wedding dance, when a performer sang "Bury Me Out on the Lone Prairie". Then there was the orchestra who played "Old Faithful - We've Roamed the Range Together" — for the Ladies' Choice. Bless the many

who gave so freely of their talents to bring a bit of sunshine and laughter into our lives.

Our family was growing. Jack David is the oldest. Rose is the second, then the twins, Kathleen and Marlene. Margaret and Lois complete the family.

Twins were surely popular in our part of the country. At a Christmas Concert at Garden Plain School in the early forties there were seven and a half sets of twins: Edna and Evelyn Smyth, Jerry and Judy Smyth (The Charlie Smyth family lived on the Peter's place across the road from us), Joyce and Jean Cabanach, Robert and Rosanne Wiens, Douglas and Delbert Taylor, Margaret and Marjorie Graham, Kathleen and Marlene Temple, and Margaret Malm. Her twin, Arvid, was in the Services.

When Jack's folks moved to Hanna in 1938, we moved to the home farm. Jackie and Rose attended Alps School.

It was about this time that we got our first radio. We really enjoyed the news and the other programs. The soap serial, Ma Perkins, and the Lux Radio Theatre were our favourites. It was a calamity when the batteries ran down.

In 1939 I started teaching at Garden Plain School. The Second World War had started and a shortage of teachers had developed. My salary was about seventy dollars per month. I stayed until 1949; by that time salaries had doubled.

Better times returned in the forties. The drought seemed to be a thing of the past. Farmers were becoming mechanized and horse-power was behind us.

By this time our boys were in high school and were riding about eight miles to Scapa. When the girls reached grade ten we sent Rose, Marlene and Kathleen to Hanna High School. They stayed at the Dorm. It was quite a chore to get them there as the roads were very poor, so we decided to move nearer a high school.

In 1949 we moved to the Botha district where we still reside on the farm. The children are married. Jackie is at High Prairie, Rose in Stettler, Kathleen, Mrs. Cecil Sorenson, resides in Red Deer, Marlene, Mrs. E. Johnson, lives in Seattle, Margaret, Mrs. Lyle Garvin, lives in Calgary, and Lois, Mrs. Allen Norman, resides in Sherwood Park. We have sixteen grandchildren, eight boys and eight girls.

BENTON B. BUNCE, ***By Fred Johnston*** — Ben Bunce homesteaded the north half of 24-33-14 in 1910. He and his wife, the former Lila Hedge, had come from Saskatchewan. He was a carpenter by trade and soon had a small but comfortable house built on the place. They must have lived in a sod shack for a time as the remains of one can be seen. Ben contracted to build the Garden Plain school and had it finished for the first pupils in July of 1914. He sold the place to Old Man Brooks and son Willis from the U.S.A. They came during the First World War.

Georgina, sister of Mrs. Bunce, came to visit and soon married Nelson Wright. A brother, Sandy, also worked in the area.

The Bunces had a family of two sons, George born in 1918 and Wilfred born in 1920. About 1921 the Bunces purchased the south half of 11-32-14, school land in the Alps district, and erected another small house as well as other buildings. George and Wilf went the one mile to the school until the end of 1926 when the Bunce family sold to Crabbs. They went to live in the United States.

It is believed that the Bunces have passed on but the whereabouts of George and Wilf are unknown. George visited the area a few years ago.

ROBERT G. CRABB, ***By Fred Johnston*** — Robert and Nellie Turner Crab were married in Hamilton, Ontario and moved west to Port Coquitlam, B.C. where Robert was a contractor in the logging industry. Dorothy Elizabeth was born in 1910. In 1918 they shipped out to Hanna, buying the John Watson farm, the site of the Fertility Post Office and store. They did not continue these services for the district. Crabb, as everyone called him, bought a new Case gas tractor and threshing machine soon after he arrived, but soon lost them as he was unable to keep up the payments. He was not a sociable person and brooded a lot. Mrs. Crabb was the very opposite, well-liked by everyone who knew her. She had been a Registered Nurse.

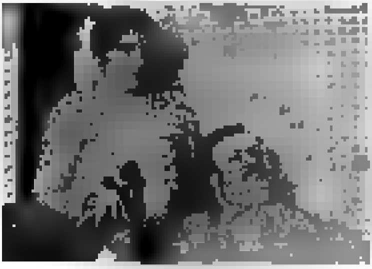
About 1927 Crabbs left the Watson place and bought Ben Bunce's half section in the Alps district. In the early thirties he leased from the municipality the unfenced quarter north of the school for pasture. No matter what time of day on our way to and from school, should you find him and Dorothy fencing he would say, "Why, good morning."

Dorothy went to the Netherby school, then boarded out in Hanna where she finished high school. She was an avid reader as anyone could tell by the reading material and books on hand. Dorothy wrote poetry also and was a very intelligent person. She enjoyed the outdoors a lot and loved the animals and so did most of the chores. During the dry thirties she watered cattle at a spring about a mile east of the house. She rode horseback 2½ miles nearly every mail day for the mail, sometimes delivering the neighbors' as well.

Mrs. Crabb died at home in the late forties and was taken back to Ontario for burial. Crabb and Dorothy continued to farm for a few more years. During these years Dorothy went to Ontario to live with relatives but would not stay. Her heart was on the farm. She had very poor eyesight and went to Calgary to the C.N.I.B. where she worked for a little while. Then she had an operation to remove the cataracts from her eyes and during her time of recuperation stayed with her friends, the Forbes in Hanna. Then she resided in Ponoka for some years. During this time she kept in touch with some of the neighbor ladies who kept her posted on the doings around the Alps and Netherby district. She wrote lovely letters back and they were always a pleasure to read. She worked in Red Deer also for a period of time. Illness struck her and she died in an Edmonton hospital during the mid-sixties at about fifty-five years of age.

Without Dorothy to assist him Mr. Crabb found it impossible to carry on so during the mid-fifties he left the farm and went to Calgary to live. He also had very poor eyesight and was hit by a car, suffering a broken leg in the mishap. Probably on his doctor's advice he moved into a nursing home at this time. He came in contact with Christian workers who brought him to faith in Christ and his whole outlook on life was changed. He became friendly and kindly towards old neighbors and those around him. Mr Crabb passed away in the early sixties and as far as we remember he was in his eighties. He was buried in Calgary.

The R. S. Crabb farm is now owned by Calvin Vine.


Mr. and Mrs. Haaz

DAVID and LYDIA HAAZ STORY, By Irene Haaz Bauer and Herbert Haaz — Our Dad, David Haaz was born in Roumania in 1882 and came to America when he was five or six. Mother was born in North Dakota in 1888. They were married in North Dakota on December 20, 1905. Between 1906 and 1917, seven children were born to them: Irene, Herbert, Elgen, Solomon, George, and Elsie and Edna, the twins. Little Solomon passed away before his first birthday.

We came to Canada, January 1918, arriving in Calgary. Dad had two uncles in Alberta and his uncle in Calgary advised him to try for a farm in the Hanna district. We had brought all our household furniture by train, also five horses and a colt.

The Herrington farm in the Dowling district was where we first settled, northwest of Dowling Lake. We attended Chain Lakes school. In 1919, after one year there, Dad bought 640 acres five miles north and three east of Hanna. We went to Solon school then and some of our neighbors were the Paxmen, Whaley and Adams families. We went to church and Sunday School at Solon as well.

In 1922, we moved again to the W. W. Hill place farther north on highway 36, the present Fred Johnston farm. Five of us children attended Alpa school. Irene had quit school by this time and worked out to help support the family. Our neighbors were the R. Greenway's and Jim Taylor's.

We got all our supplies from Hanna and had our mail delivered by a mail carrier.

During the years we were living there we enjoyed the stampedes, picnics and dances at Garden Plain Hall.

After Herbert quit school he worked for Sid Herring near Netherby school.

The Hasz's: Herb, Irene, Ike, Edna, George and Elsie.

In March 1927 we left the Hill farm and moved to Fleet where we had a larger farm with more rangeland and were able to increase our cattle. The boys were getting to the farming age. Herbert moved to a farm at Federal.

Dad passed away July 9, 1943 and Mother on January 16, 1945. They are survived by five children, twenty-five grandchildren and thirty-three great grandchildren.

Irene married Jacob Bauer in 1931 and they now live at Penticton, B.C., Herbert married Rose Pipple in 1934 and they reside in Coronation. Elsie married Emmanuel Schaber in 1935 and they have retired to Lacombe. Edna married Dave Schockenmaier in 1936 and she is widowed and lives at Sidney, B.C. George and his wife, the former Lois Baker, were residing in California where George passed away in 1967. Elgen, or Ike, as he was called, married Joan Thompson at Nokomis, Saskatchewan in 1951 and they still reside there.

ELSIE HASZ SCHABER STORY, *Compiled by Myrtle Greenway* — "Hello, I'm Elsie. I'm bigger than Edna." Thus Elsie greeted Miss Meece, her grade one teacher at Alpa school. The Hasz children had many adventures relating to their

journeys to and from school. Herb, being the oldest at school, drove the bobsleigh and loved to take the corners sharp, so it was common occurrence to be dumped in the snow.

Ralph Greenway, a close neighbor enjoyed sauerkraut and pork, so when Mom Haaz served it he was often invited down for this German treat. The children took great delight in teaching him the German words and the expression, "sauerkraut und schpek macht die deutsch bise fet." Loosely translated this means, "sauerkraut and pork makes the German people fat!"

On another occasion, Mr. Greenway had a horse that was badly wire cut. He thought the only humane thing to do was to shoot the horse so asked Dad to do the job. Dad said that he could heal the horse so Mr. Greenway gave him the animal. Not only did "Tony" recover but served the Haaz's for many years, especially taking the children to school!

Ike was visiting with neighbors one Good Friday while the rest of the family went to church. He and some of the boys were amusing themselves by shooting gophers. One of the boys handed the gun to Ike and it accidently discharged and shot his horse, Bess. She dropped dead immediately and Ike was shocked and upset. She had been a family pet, especially to the twins, Elsie and Edna. The girls wandered the fields, crying and looking for Bess' body, yet dreading to find it and facing up to the horror that she was actually quite dead.

One time, the twins were riding the horse when they were supposed to be doing chores. Edna accidentally fell off and had her eye hurt quite badly. They couldn't tell Mother how it had happened, so cooked up a story about Elsie pushing Edna from the hayloft. Elsie had a good licking and Edna had her eye cared for. The following day, Edna's eye was still very sore and she was lying listlessly around, so Mother was quite irate with Elsie and said she would give her another whipping. Elsie confessed then that they had been riding Bess and so Mother became cross with Edna as well and threatened to punish her for lying. Elsie begged her not to as she and her twin were so close to one another, when one suffered, the other did too.

Elsie's parents were Christian parents and took the children to church and Sunday School. She remembers attending services at the German United church in Hanna and is thankful for this heritage.

Mom Haaz baked great quantities of doughnuts and cookies. Elsie has preserved the recipe for ammonia cookies, which were left to rise overnight and were baked first thing in the morning. What a pleasant aroma to wake up to; freshly baked cookies. The recipe calls for ten cents worth of ammonia so it is difficult to make them today with our inflationary food costs.

Mom sewing long hours for the family, was a common sight. She didn't need a pattern to turn out attractive garments.

Dad loved to hunt coyotes and often would take Mom along on these outings. He had two or three hounds and often returned with several coyotes. He was a great horseshoe fan and was always ready for a game if he could find someone to play with.

Our days on the farm were happy ones. We didn't have much money but took pleasure in the simple, everyday things which, after all are the most meaningful.

WILLIAM HILLER and FAMILY, ***By Fred Johnston*** — The Hillers were among the many families who immigrated to these parts from the eastern countries of Europe in 1927. They settled on a farm in the Bull Pound area south of Hanna. Due to the drought conditions there they came to the Weakley place.

across the fence and south of Jack Young, in the spring of 1930. To this day it is still called the Hiller place.

Emil the oldest, Alma, Lena and Tillie went the one mile to the school. With only a small amount of land to farm and the persistence of the drought, they trekked to Fawcett, Alberta in the spring of 1934. There were seven girls and three boys in the family and they are living in various parts of Alberta and B.C.

Blanche and Fred Johnston and their family Elner Corry, Fred and Rayford

FRED W. JOHNSTON SR., By Fred Johnston Jr. — On a chilly afternoon in October of 1919, Fred Johnston came out to the farm with Jack Corry on a load of lumber. He had been here earlier with W. C. Sterling, land locator of Hanna, who had shown him around. Dad bought the north half of 24-33-14 from "Old Man Strode," through the Soldier Settlement Board. Six horses, one cow and the machinery were included in the purchase price. This land had been Ben Bunce's homestead.

Dad had served overseas in World War I, with the railway troops. After returning, he and George Forster were guarding military supplies on Vancouver's wharves. Many attempts to be demobilized ended in failure. They were discharged, however, when they professed a keen desire to go farming.

The winter of 1919-1920 was a severe one. Farmers and their livestock suffered many hardships that winter. As the winter wore on the unthreshed crops and the old straw stacks were commanding premium prices. To make matters even worse, cattle prices fell to disastrous lows. Proceeds when the animals were sold didn't pay for their feed.

Spring eventually came and Dad was ready to make his fortune farming. With a lot of free advice, encouragement, and desire on his part, it's not surprising that he got fouled up at the start, but not for long! He had to make four passes at the gate before he got his six horse outfit through it. During his batching days, Sandy and Mrs. Donaldson were very good friends of his. They lived a mile across section 19 and many a meal Dad had with them. Of course he was only one of many bachelors who enjoyed this Scottish couple's hospitality. When Dad and Mom got married in February of 1924, he didn't have the excuse to go there as often as he had before. However, their friendship continued until the Donaldsons passed away.

Mom, who was Blanche Pope, had come from North Carolina in 1918 to keep house for her brother, Mark.

During the early twenties there were very few threshing machines in the country. Dad became a shareholder of a threshing syndicate called Garden Plain Threshers.

After harvest and during the winter months he, along with many other farmers of this area, would haul his grain to Hanna or to Bonar. With the thermometer registering well below zero on many occasions, it was a long cold trip. Well bundled in a fur cap and fur coat, he walked many of those miles behind the

sleigh. These trips were greatly shortened when first Scapa and then Garden Plain acquired elevators.

After he had bought the place he had been warned that there was no water to speak of there. The well drilled by Frank Ruppert yielded about a barrel a day. The slough usually provided enough water for livestock during the summer. However in the winter, what few cattle we had would have to be driven to a well one mile west. Dad then built a well drilling machine. A hole big enough to take a two inch pipe was punched down, all the while flushing the mud out with high pressure water. If you were successful in reaching water, a two inch pipe was pounded down the hole and served the same function as a well casing. Then the well could be developed. During dad's many attempts at drilling for water as many as four seams of coal would be encountered on the way down. Some coal seams would be as much as seven feet thick. In the interim, dad put down a good well at Garden Plain school and another for Billy Wagner.

This same Billy Wagner was helping when dad drilled the last hole on the place. The water used in the pump disappeared down the hole, a sure sign of water. Billy considered himself a good dowser, so taking his forked twig in hand proceeded to find the stream. Both he and dad were elated that a good stream had been found as the twig kept turning. Billy walked around in his stocking feet and the wand was performing miracles. However, when it was developed, the well had no more water in it than the others. In the meantime, water was being hauled by tank at regular intervals from Jensen's. If dad was to continue farming he had to get a place with water on it. In the spring of 1930 he rented from Hills, the farm that we live on today, the NE-35-32-14.

About 1928, the folks bought a DeForest Crosley radio. It kept someone on the road getting the wet battery charged! The squeaks and squeals emitted didn't deter them from enjoying it. People boasted about the programs heard from clear channel on distant stations, especially when weather conditions were right. A close neighbor also owned a radio with which he was constantly experimenting, by adding special gadgets. You knew exactly when his set was turned on because of the interference. Dad always claimed that this amateur had a transmitter instead of a receiver.

While living at the "North Place", Fred Jr., Rayford and Eileen were born. Our sister Edna was born in 1932, but passed away in 1944.

After our move we could keep a few milk cows. Mom also raised a lot of Leghorn chickens and turkeys. The first few years as many as three incubators were used to hatch the eggs. When the roosters were big enough they were butchered and sold as fryers. A lot of eggs were sold to keep things going.

Just before Christmas the turkeys were butchered. As many other people also raised turkeys they would go from place to place killing and plucking them. Dad became very efficient at "sticking" turkeys so that feathers would be easy to pull. Before he acquired the knack of sticking, an experience at Donaldson's convinced him that he was probably as good as those who were trying to do the job. Mrs. Donaldson was scared out of her wits when a supposedly dead bird got up and started walking around inside the house!

The dead birds would be hauled into Hanna, usually by sleigh but sometimes by car if the roads were open. On one of these trips with the model "T", the radiator froze. To help thaw it out Dad covered the radiator with his fur coat. When the steam hit the coat it shrunk it so badly, dad was unable to wear it again!

The first car we owned was this same Model T. Dad in his travels had acquired considerable knowledge of gas engines, which proved valuable through the years. Model T's were temperamental at the best of times but ours never let

him down. In the winter he would jack up one back wheel, pour hot water through the block and give the crank a few spins. Always it would go. Mom learned to drive this car and it always brought her home. She has been driving ever since. Of all the cars Dad owned, his favorite was the Model A.

Dad farmed with horses until 1939 when he acquired an old cross mounted Case 15-27 model, which was his initiation to power farming. That old tractor taxed his mechanical knowledge to the limit. However, he prevailed, and with spare parts he got from Whaleys he used it until he got a better one.

After the threshing syndicate folded several different men threshed his crops. Among them were Bill McLaren, Roy Bammer and Fred Whaley.

There were only two crops in this country, the one in 1925 and next year's. The crop of 1927 was hailed out and Dad had no insurance. Many hail insurance companies went broke that year. He was hailed out a few times after that but was better able to stand the loss.

In 1932 Dad spent most of the summer building a barge. He hired a young lad from Vancouver who had come with Stuart McRae, to operate the barge. Just before the lad left to go back to school, he announced he was going to harness a horse. Thinking he was taking a long time to do the job, dad went to see how he was getting along. He had put the collar on upside down and insisted that was the way it should go.

There was a couple of years when folks around here, including dad, stacked their short crops to cut down on expenses. Dad bought a Case threshing machine in 1940. It was used for many years to thresh ours as well as the neighbors' crops.

Shortly after arriving in this country, dad joined the old U.F.A. From then on he was actively involved in many projects for the betterment of the community. Eventually he became Secretary-treasurer of the Garden Plain Local and served in that capacity for more years than anyone else. Through the sustained efforts of the farmers' movement, the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed, of which he was an original contract signer. In the interim he found time to serve twenty-five years as a director of the Hanna Co-op store and the Hanna Municipal Hospital. He also served as a trustee for both Garden Plain and Alps school districts. When Sullivan Lake Rural Electrical Association was formed in 1952, dad became its first Secretary-Treasurer.

Feeling that it was time to quit and because of failing eyesight, he retired from active participation in most of these organizations, but still showed a keen interest in them. As he was now unable to drive, Mom had to take the wheel, but even at that, Saturday was still his day in town. After doing what business had to be done he would head for the "corner" to meet the boys.

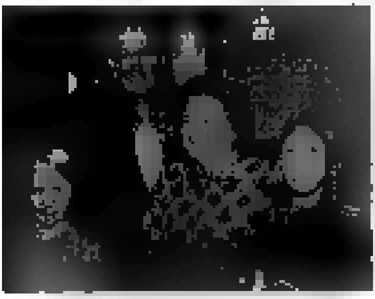
Dad was born in Moneymore, County Down, Ireland in 1884. America was the land of opportunities, to which he immigrated at the age of fifteen. With stops at Philadelphia and Seattle he came to Vancouver, B.C., in 1911. He had many jobs, but the two he spoke about mainly were helping on the grade for the Grand Trunk Railway, forerunner of the C.N.R., and working at the many jobs involved with the forest industry of that province.

After celebrating fifty-one years of married life, he passed away in February, 1975 in his ninety-first year and is interred at the Netherby cemetery.

Mom, with a growing family to care for, didn't get too involved in community affairs. As the family got bigger she and dad would take us to picnics, to dances, to card parties and to Hugh McLaren's.

Having been able to drive for many years, she thinks nothing of going to Drumheller, Brooks and Lacombe. For the past few years Mom has been a

member of the Dundee Women's Institute. She looks forward to the monthly meetings and activities which the organization promotes in the community.



Rayford, Mavis, Shelley and Lee Johnston

RAYFORD JOHNSTON — I was born March 9, 1926 at the Hanna Municipal Hospital. I lived in the Garden Plain district for four years until our family moved south to the Alps district in the spring of 1930. The day we moved it rained cats and dogs.

My schooling began in March 1932 a few days after my sixth birthday. I took all of my schooling at Alps school. There were some good and bad days at school. I had a look at the strap, stood in corners and sat under desks. Some of the things I was in on were burning grass in the toilet holes or in gopher holes, and taking a neighbor girl's cap and putting it under a rock a mile and a half down the road from the school. One afternoon the teacher decided on a nature walk. Half of the kids got ahead of the teacher and I was one of them. Seeing a dust storm approaching, the teacher and those pupils with her turned back. When the storm hit we took shelter in an old shack. We got back to the school at 4:30 and the teacher was waiting for us. For punishment we had to "stay in" for one week's recesses.

We had a terrible road to go to school on. I think it was the worst road in Alberta. It was very hilly and the snow would be belly deep on the horse. My brother and I rode double in the saddle for nearly two years. When my sister started school we went with a two-wheeled cart pulled by the same horse named Brownie. This horse took all four of our family to school from 1931 until the day the last of us quit in 1945.

The hours before and after school were no picnic either. There were always lots of chores but the one I dreaded most was churning. I was also assigned the job of getting in the horses in the morning, giving them a feed of oats and harnessing them while the rest of the family milked the cows, fed the calves and made breakfast.

In the depression years our summer holidays were spent herding turkeys to clean the grasshoppers out of the potato patch, and trapping gophers for their tails. The money we got for their tails we used to buy our fall school supplies. Also we had to weed the trees, which to me seemed acres.

As I got older, I did a lot of stooking for my Dad and the neighbors. When I was fourteen years of age I was given a bundle team to help thresh with Dad's outfit.

I went out working a few times after I quit school. I worked for Bill McLaren off and on for two years. I also worked for Marion Wright, Jim McClusky, Jack Corry and Arley Chidley. I did everything from washing my own underwear to cleaning eggs.

In the spring of 1948 my brother Freddie and I rented Harry Bertman's place. In 1952 Freddie bought land of his own and I rented Harry's place by myself. Next, I purchased a quarter of land from Bill McLaren which was close to my Dad's place. That quarter was Bill's original homestead.

In November 1955 I married Mavis Durand from east of Spondin. We moved my folk's first house from the north place, renovated it and lived in their yard.

We purchased the James McDonald Taylor place from Ben Taylor, built a house and moved there in the spring of 1961.

We have two children, a girl, Shelley and a boy Lee, who attend school in Hanna.

After living here fifty-one years I guess I am getting to be an old timer myself. Life has been good to me and I've enjoyed it.

GROWING UP ON THE FARM, by Fred Johnston — My earliest recollections are of moving from the North Place to where we now live. It was a cold spring day in 1930. Mom, Rayford, Eileen and I came in the Model T. Dad, Fred Bischel and Boy Wagner brought wagons loaded with furniture, chickens and whatever else could be loaded. We brought our cats in the car, but they all went back. We rented and continued to do so until we bought in 1946. There were two good wells and a spring on the new place, something which were totally unavailable on the old one.

As I was approaching school age the folks purchased a saddle horse, Brownie from Lovedays. The very first time I rode him he "wiped me out" going under the clothesline, nor was it to be the last time, for he had a habit of shying unexpectedly and unseated whoever kid or kids were on his back. By the time Rayford, Eileen and Edna were going to school, Brownie was being driven in a two-wheeled cart that Dad had made out of the old car. Yet he continued his bad habit of shying, more so when he met a car. However he was still going strong when the rest of us were through school. We travelled to school in the winter time in a cutter. Some winters the roads were nearly impassable and the school was as cold inside as out. The janitor was usually the teacher. They did the best they could under the circumstances but it seemed it was a losing battle. Except for chilblains, frost bitten noses and fingers, we survived and were healthier for it.

In the spring we used to find Tiger Lilies growing in a number of places, but I haven't seen one for years. Our school sitting on top of a big hill afforded us the opportunity of tobogganing and sledding during the noon hour. Occasionally we could do some skating on nearby sloughs. The usual summer sports such as softball were played by everyone; getting together any semblance of a team forced us to use the best to the poorest players, as our school hasn't too many pupils at any time. One year we got a football. We must have punished ourselves or it too roughly, for the bladder burst and that was the end of that.

I stayed home to help Dad on the farm after I quit school. I never got to drive horses very much but did a lot of work with the old Case tractor. During the war years the opportunity of driving a bundle team was forced upon me. One incident I recall happened in the fall of 1946, when our outfit threshed for Stewart McRae. We were hoping to finish the last run that day, and although the skies clouded over, luckily no rain fell. We did finish by seven that evening and when the lights of the machines were turned off we were literally in the dark. The faint coal oil lamp in Stewart's window showed the general direction of the buildings. What a calamity! Rigs were running into the fences, ripping wire off, but eventually we got out of the field to meet more trouble. A rig or two fell into the creek with the teamsters getting wet feet. We did get to the barn eventually and put our teams away. On the way to the house Hughie Riddle fell in an old dugout in the side of the bank. When we got to the house, Mamie Cattanach who was cooking, as Stewart was not married yet, wondered what all the commotion was about.

In the summer of 1947 Rayford and I purchased a new one-ton Ford truck. Some of the neighbors hired us to haul their wheat to the elevators, coal from Pelf's mine and hogs to Hanna on shipping day.

About 1950 Rayford and I took over as telephone repair linemen for the Truth

Line along the Castor Trail as well as the Garden Plain Mutual (Line 10). There were five and later six lines on portions of thirteen miles to look after, as well as thirteen on line ten. Repairs such as untangling and splicing wires, setting up poles, and telephone box maintenance were part of our job. Trouble with the line frequently happened after a violent wind storm. Electrical storms were most troublesome, especially so after the combination magneto-dial phones were installed. We were forever inserting new carbons in the 98A arrestors or hanging new lead-ins, as the lightning would burn the wires. We always used an ohm meter to test the lines, but occasionally the meter would throw us off completely. When this occurred we had to make a guess as to the cause of the trouble. Sometimes we spent hours on just a little thing. There were no regrets when the underground system was ploughed in.

Eileen married in 1948 and Reyford in 1956. This left me home with the folks. About this time I started to play for dances with Herb Wimmer, Bud Hanson and Jack McLaren. When Jack left to teach in Edmonton, we had several musicians at different times playing with us. Gradually I got interested in the activities of various organizations which Dad belonged to. I have since taken over some of his directorships and added a few of my own. These along with my farming operations keep me occupied.

Mom and I live in a new house which I built in 1973. It is more spacious and comfortable than the old one which started out as Charlie Doran's homestead shack in 1909, with the bigger addition put on in 1913. Through all the years it has been home for several families but especially so the Johnstons. After sixty years it deserves to be turned out to pasture.

FRED MILLER STORY, ***By Emma Miller [illegible]*** — Our parents, Fred and Salome, with five children came from Bessarabia, Roumania in 1927 to the Lone Butte district. In 1936 we moved to the Scapa district. By that time our family had increased to six girls and three boys. In 1937 the last of our family, a girl, was born.

We attended Alps school, with Mrs. Lucy McLaren being one of our first teachers. We remember going to school in the winter in a closed cutter, pulled by a team of horses, and in the spring and fall walking two and a half miles, or riding a horse, especially Katy, our Shetland pony.

Recess and noon hours were very memorable as we did numerous fun things such as tobogganing down the east side of the school hill, skating and playing hockey on a nearby slough, playing fox and goose, prisoner's base, and when the snow went we played scrub until the end of June. Two highlights of the school year consisted of the Christmas concert — putting on a program of plays, singing, Santa Claus and exchanging of gifts — and at the end of the term we always looked forward to a picnic with Netherby and Garden Plain schools.

Our last year of school at Alps there were only seven pupils — Donnie McLaren, Emma Miller, Alan Hemstock, Greta Greenway, Emil Miller, Vera Miller and Marilyn McLaren. We felt very sad when the school closed down, and in 1943 we had to go to Wiese School, which was four miles from our place.

The purchase of something new was usually an exciting and happy event in the family. One such occasion was when we acquired our first tractor, a new 1944 rubber-tired John Deere. We all had to have a turn riding on it, but after a few runs down the road, it refused to go. Not knowing very much about this marvelous invention we tried pushing it and choking it. After much excitement, we discovered it was out of gas.

Harvesting was always a big undertaking. After cutting with horse binders and stooking were all done, along came the threshing crew consisting of a tractor

and separator, with an operator, six or eight men with teams of horses and bundle racks. Preparing meals for them was like feeding an army. They were always very hungry as they worked very hard picking bundles and shovelling grain. The men were put up for the night, sleeping in the hay loft of the barn.

Fred Miller Family Reunion, July 1961. Back Row, left to right: Otto, Cecile, Ella, Alma, Walter, Emma, Emil and Vera. Seated: Lily, Dad, Mom, Hilda

Lily married Dan Feechner. They live at Craigmyle and have four children and five grandchildren.

Cecile married Jack Cunningham and lives in Belleville, Ontario. They have two children.

Alma married George Anderson. They live in Aldergrove, B.C. and have two children.

Walter married Carol Johnston. They had four children. Walter passed away in 1961.

Hilda is married to Alex McMullen. They live in Edmonton. They have five children and one grandchild.

Ella married George Mihoduk. They live in Vancouver and have one daughter.

Otto lives on the home farm at Scapa.

Emil married Rena Lovell. They live in Jasper and have three children.

Emma married Albert Mason. They live in Delia and have three children.

Vera married Jim King. They live in Camrose and have two girls.

Mom and Dad retired and moved to Hanna in 1958. Dad passed away in March, 1963 at the age of 69. Mom passed away in July, 1972 at the age of 77.

ADOLPH KIEST FAMILY — Compiled by Fred Johnston — Adolph, his older brother Rudolph and their parents left Roumania in 1926 for Canada. They came to Alberta and farmed the George Block place. Adolph's sister, Mrs. G. Schmidt, her husband and family arrived here in 1927.

Adolph married Erma Gartner, a neighbour girl, in 1938 and they took over the Block farm when Adolph's parents moved to Hanna.

In 1946 the Kiest family moved to Wetaskiwin where Erma's parents had

resided since 1939. There were five children in the family at this time. Ruby, the eldest, had started school at Alps with Mrs. McLaren as teacher. The other children were Richard, Gary, Rodney and Kathy.

About 1951 the Kiest's moved to a farm at Sangudo where the youngest, Linda, was born. They retired from farming in 1961 and moved to Edmonton, residing there until 1967. Then they moved to Vancouver but rain and strikes forced the Kiest's back to sunny Alberta in 1976.

The children are all grown and married. There are numerous grandchildren. Ruby died in 1972. The Kiests now reside in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

JOE SLEPECKA, By Fred Johnston — A tall muscular man by the name of Joe Slepecka came into this area at the time the Hanna to Warden railway line was being built. He worked on the many fills and grades, using his own outfit of horses. An Estonian by birth, he had originally homesteaded in the Sunnynook area in 1911. Joe fully understood the hardships and privations of trying to eke out a living on his homestead. While living at Sunnynook he bought a well-boring machine and bored many wells. He brought it to this area, drilling a few wells, staying where he was working as long as he could. In one neighbor's well he struck a rock which couldn't be removed. This meant a trip to Drumheller for some dynamite. Joe had it placed as far back in the truck as he could get it, always fearful that it might go off accidentally. Back again at the well-site he was lowered into the well which was a mere twenty-two inches in diameter. With very little room to maneuver, and considering that Joe was no small man, he got the job done. Sometimes he was unsuccessful and had to start over again. He also worked out for others in the neighborhood.

Joe Slepeka's horse drawn well drilling machine. Joe is standing on the right.

About 1958 he bought the Berg homestead, the SW 3-33-14, from a Mortgage company and erected a small shack. It burnt down on him so he had to build another. He bought the Alps teacherage and had it moved onto the place as well. He left some of his horses at Sunnynook until he bought the Berg place. To show the respect that the horses had for him, he trailed most of them in without the benefit of halter or rope.

His pride and joy was his irrigated garden, especially his potatoes. They were always planted when the moon was right. He dug a root cellar in the side of a hill in which he placed all his vegetables. Joe was laughingly known as the "Potato King".

Joe was a withdrawn, lonely man, one who never forgot, and a habitual snuff user. He walked many miles and it was not unusual to see him roaming the country at night. Many times he left at 4 a.m. and would be in Hanna before anyone had gone to work. He usually caught a ride home, bringing such supplies as he needed and a big roll of discarded newspapers which he tried to read. It was known that he could not write. He listened to his radio a lot. In the spring of 1963 he sold his horses and retired to a small house in Hanna. In 1967, after a short illness, he passed away in the Hanna Hospital and was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] — We were married in June 1952. Lonnie was born on October 14, 1956. We farmed the David Rust land eighteen miles south of Hanna in the Pan district until the fall of 1956 when it was sold to the Hutterite Colony. We bought the McLaren land in the spring of 1957.

The McLaren house had been moved to Hanna so we bought the Alps school which was near by. We moved into the school in June 1957. We had an early snow in September that year, it blocked our road for awhile. We finished redoing the basement of the house and moved into it on October 14, 1957. The following summer we had difficulty keeping the rain from getting into the basement because the shell of the house was not yet set up. In 1960 we moved Alps school into our yard and it is now being used as a garage.

Lonnie's first year of school was at Netherby. He completed his education in Hanna and graduated in 1974.

JIM and VERA SCHUMACHER — Vera Noyce and Jim Schumacher were married in Calgary in November of 1946. Vera grew up on her parents' farm and had taken her schooling at Alps, Dundee and Hanna. She was employed in Calgary where she met Jim, who was also employed there. Jim grew up on his parents' farm at Didsbury, and had served in the Navy during World War II. In the spring of 1957, they and their four children loaded up an old International truck and came to take over the farm of Vera's parents, the C. W. Noyce place. They were the first people to have a television set in this area, having brought theirs out from Calgary.

Jim and Vera raised grain, cattle and pigs. They also had a flock of geese. The geese swam on the big slough south of the house. When feeding time came Jim would call and the geese would take to their wings. After a half mile flight they would come circling to an awkward landing right in front of you. It was then that you had to step back or suffer the consequences.

Randy, who had attended school in Calgary, had to walk a mile to catch the bus to go to the new two-roomed Netherby school. It was then that a high grade road was built to accommodate the bus. Catherine, Daryl, and Rhonda went when they became of age. While Schumakers lived here two more children, Allen and Linda were born.

While they were on the farm, the first snow storm of the season would always block their road. Jim said that he was going to a place where he didn't have to shovel snow anymore, just watch it run down the ditch. In the spring of 1963 Jim and Vera had an auction sale. The land was divided three ways and was sold to Rudy Annas, Otto Miller and Norman Greenway. They went to Victoria, B.C. where Jim had been stationed during the war.

Randy and Catherine are married. Daryl and Rhonda are on their own. Allen and Linda are at home.

SMART STORY, By Olga Smart — The Smart family moved to the Hanna area from Oyen in 1933. As our father had been killed in a well accident in 1926, our mother's father, Mr. Harley Bell, came to live with us and moved with us to Hanna. The family consisted of Mother, Mrs. Bernice Smart, and her children, Helen, Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy and Melvin. Our first home was the Stirling place, two miles north of Hanna. Some of the children attended school at Silver Valley.

We used to have get-togethers at the Howard Kerr's dairy farm along with the Parkers, Curtis and the Hanna hospital girls: lots of music and fun. After a time we moved to the Gwin place about six miles north of Hanna, and attended school at Antelope Hill. We moved from the Gwin place to the Henry Brown farm where we attended school at Garden Plain.

Our Mother met Albert Sim in 1937 and they were married in 1938. We moved from the Brown place to the John Sim place which was to be our home for some time. We were soon blessed with a baby brother Harry Sim, born in 1938, bringing the number of children in our family to seven. We went to Scapa school from the Sim place. In 1939 Stanley Sim was born, but he passed away at the age of three months. He was buried in the Netherby Cemetery. We were fortunate to have a lot of good neighbors: Temples, Brunners, Wiens, Gauglers, Millers and Fechoes, the list could go on and on. Our family used to play for local dances held at schools and halls in the Scapa and Hanna area. Helen went to Calgary to work, met Steve Verro and soon became Mrs. Verro. They make their home in Calgary. Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy, Melvin and Harry all worked around home for neighboring farmers. When Glenn was nineteen he joined the armed forces in Calgary and completed his basic training at Camrose and his advanced training in Halifax. After a brief visit home to Hanna on a farm leave he went overseas completing training in Aldershot, England. He was with the troops who disembarked in France on June 6, 1944. He was wounded at Nymegen, Holland on November 27, 1944, spent several months in hospital in Antwerp, Belgium, and rejoined his outfit just as they were moving into Germany. When the war was over, he was stationed in Utrecht, Holland where he met a Dutch girl who soon became his wife. He returned to Canada and was discharged March 19, 1946. Donald married Muriel Stubbs (Dubois) in 1948; Howard married Edith McMillan of Stettler in 1947; Daisy married Ken Smith of Ponoka in 1951; in 1947, Melvin married Christine Arth. In 1960, Harry Sim married Leanne Beverdal.

Our parents had moved to Edmonton while Glenn was overseas, so on his return to Canada he made his home in Edmonton as well. Glenn and wife went to Hanna in 1946, to farm the Sim farm, and he also worked on the railroad for a while. Our son was born in Hanna Hospital in 1947 and in October of that year we moved back to Edmonton, which has been our home since. Four more sons and daughters were born in Edmonton.

CLYDE BLOCK — In 1910 Clyde Block came as a youngster with his parents the W. D. Blocks, his older brother George, and his sister Gertrude from Washington. He attended Alpe and Solon schools.

In 1917 his father traded the homestead for a farm at Spokane, Washington. The Block family lived in the States for a few years, then came back to this area. Clyde, who was married by this time, came as well. He farmed the Hahn place on which the Royalton school was built. He moved to the Aubry Crowe farm in the Dundee district, then about 1934 he farmed the old Pete Olsen place on section 12-33-14. While here they milked cows for a living. They liked to attend the pickup ball games and go to dances, especially the ones at Hugh McLaren's. Clyde was like his brother George, a jovial sort of person.

Their son, Gayle was a small boy at the time, and while Backs were on the Olsen place they had a daughter. They left here later on for a farm farther north in the Bluffton area. Clyde died in 1972, his wife in 1973. Gayle lives in Calgary and the rest of the family are scattered.

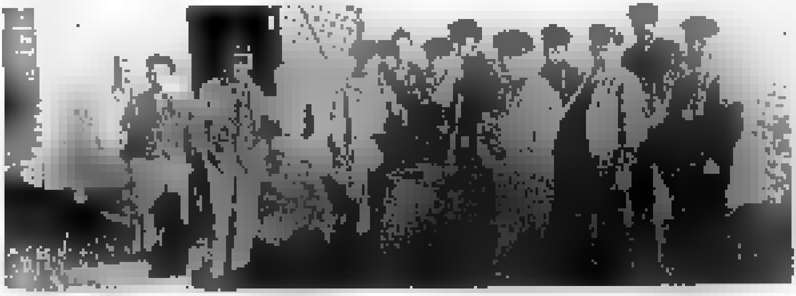
THE FOLLOWING LIVED IN THE DISTRICT, BUT VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM.

BENJAMIN F. WEAKLY — Benjamin Weakley was an early pioneer who came with his wife and family in 1910 to the NE 27-32-14 to homestead. He was one of the first trustees of the newly built Alpe school. Their children were among the first pupils of the school. They moved to the States about 1917.

WILLIAM FRED HOWELL, ***by Helen Jeanne Northey*** — Another of the early pioneers, Fred Howell, accompanied by his family, homesteaded the SE 12-33-14 in 1909. They kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail. The two children, Jack and Margaret were among the first pupils of the Alpe school. The family left in 1914 for the States.

LEVERETT O. FRASER, ***by Fred Johnston*** — L. O. Fraser and family, originally from Prince Edward Island, homesteaded in 1909 across the road from Jack Young on the SW 35-32-14. L. O. and Jack Young broke the prairie sod for some of the early settlers. In 1914 they left for Calgary where L. O. worked for the city's street car system. In 1922 Frasers went to Kamloops, B.C. where L. O. took charge of Pat Burns' slaughter house. Shortly after arrival he, his daughter Olive and son Leverett were accidently drowned in the Thompson River. Mrs. Fraser, the sole survivor, accompanied the bodies back to Prince Edward Island where she remained to live.

WILLIAM E. RICKETTS — William E. Ricketts homesteaded on the south half of 33-32-14 and his son, Ivan C. Ricketts on the NW 28-32-14. They came as homesteaders in 1910. Besides Ivan there was in the family, Ilene, the youngest daughter, who was of school age, and a married sister who lived with her family in Calgary. W. E. built a big house on his place and by sliding a panel out of the way, a large side room could be made. Many dances and parties were held here in the early days. Ivan called the square dances. Often people would dance till daybreak before going home. Sometimes the Ricketts served breakfast for the weary dancers.



W. E. Ricketts threshing outfit, 1916. Left to Right: S. Williams, Earl and Mrs. Himmelreich, Bill Sim, leaning on cook car, Byron Massey, Harry Himmelreich; leaning on barrel, Ivan Ricketts, foreground is Billie Brown, background is L. Hall, W. E. Ricketts, John McLaren and Walter Hill.

Ivan became the first secretary-treasurer of the Alps school. He married Ada, a sister of Walter Hill who lived just north of Sofon school. The young couple moved to the Chas. Doren place vacated by the McLarens. Ivan became pound keeper for the municipality while living here. The Ricketts left these parts during the war, presumably for the States.

M. M. BERG — M. M. Berg homesteaded the SW 3-33-14. He and his wife came from somewhere west of the Red Deer River in 1910. They lived in a small shack. They proved up and then went back where they had come from.

GALLIDAY BROTHERS — The Galliday brothers, Homer and Isaac came in 1910. Homer on the SE 2-33-14 and Isaac the SE 13-33-14. Homer proved up, sold out to Charlie Noyce very early. His shack was moved into Noyce's yard where it sat for many years. Isaac also proved up but the land eventually went to the municipality, as it was a very poor quarter, mostly hardpan. It is now part of a grazing lease.

E. E. KAMM, By Fred Johnston — Edward Erick Kamm and family from the States were early settlers of the area coming in 1909 to homestead the south half of 27-32-14. Ed senior was elected first chairman of the Alps school, but died before it was built. His wife, his two boys Fred and Ed Jr. and daughter Edna, left in 1914 for Auburn, Washington.

ALBERT E. TUMELSON, By Fred Johnston — The Tumelson family were late comers to the district, coming from the States to homestead in 1917. They homesteaded B. F. Weakley's pre-emption which he had failed to prove up, the NW 27-32-14. Obie and Clinton attended the Alps school. Tumelsons stayed here long enough to prove up and then returned to Post Falls, Idaho.

PETER F. OLSEN, By Helen Jensen Hartley — Pete Olsen was another early pioneer coming in 1909 to a South African Scrip, the East half of 30-31-13. He homesteaded the NE 12-33-14 in 1912, and later purchased the quarter west of him. I remember as a small child, that as Olsen came from the Garden Plain Post Office and store he brought news of the declaration of World War I. He and Pete Jensen were very good friends and kept in touch for years. He moved to Nakusp, B.C. where he farmed and died some years ago.

W. H. FOWLER — W. H. Fowler came in 1910 to the SE 4-33-14. A shoemaker by trade, he did not remain long.

EDWIN FRASER — Edwin Fraser homesteaded the NW 25-32-14 in 1911.

THOMAS LEEMAN — Thomas Leeman homesteaded the SW 2-33-14 in the year 1911. He had filed on the NW 35-32-14, the site of the Alps school but he died before he received patent to this land.

IVOR POWELL — Ivor Powell was a bachelor who came in 1915 to NW 33-32-14. He joined the Canadian Army during World War I and went overseas.

JOHN MITCHELL — John Mitchell lived in SW 4-33-14, a short, moustached Scotchman who was very late in homesteading, coming in 1920. He was a distiller by trade in his native land and while here he had a still and made some very good spirits. He lived in a small shack and was very well read. At the time of his sale about 1935, he had many books and papers. John went back to Scotland to live.

BOB KENNEDY — Bob Kennedy homesteaded on the SW 26-32-14. Known as "Little Bob Kennedy", he came from Brandon, Manitoba in 1913 with Hugh and Bill McLaren. He proved up and went back to Manitoba.

Surprise Party at McLarens, 1916. Back Row, left to right: Hugh McLaren, Mr. H. Lewis, Elbert Pattie, Charlie Stanfield, John McLaren, Andy Glover and Bob Kennedy. Middle Row: Francis Lewis, Valletta Wagner, Louise Raulson, Lillian Wagner, Gertie and Velma Overton. Front Row: Ellis McLaren, Joe Zabrus, Lizzie Cattausch, Alice Lewis.

THEY TELL THE STORY . . .

. . . about the homesteader who used to take a short cut through the neighbor lady's land. She resented this very much, and one day when he drove up to the gate, she was barring the way. Harsh words were exchanged.

"Get out of the way, you old Irish devil!" he ordered.

She replied, "I'll have you know, you're not talking to your mother."

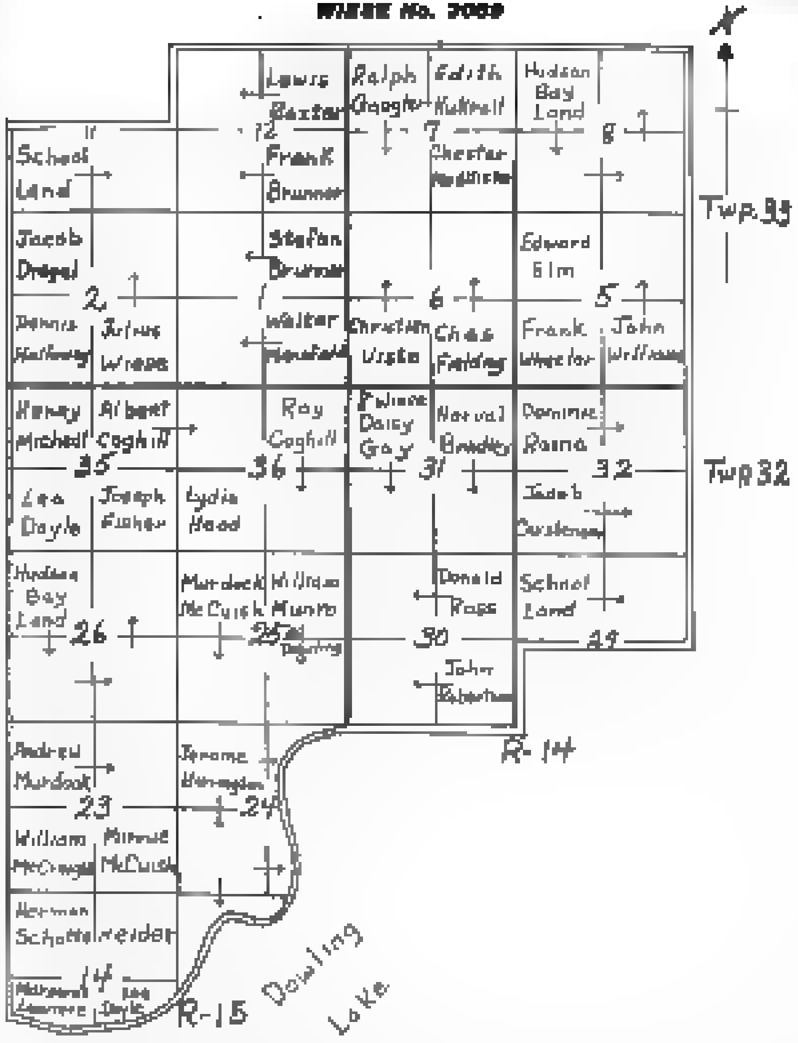
. . . about the Scottish lad who had bought a team, wagon and supplies in Stettler. The owner of the livery stable thought that the lad was taking overly long to harness his team, and enquired what the problem was.

"Is this the way to put the collar on?" the young man asked.

The owner, noting that the collar was on upside down, pushed his hat to the back of his head, thought for a moment, then replied, "Well, some people do."

. . . about the Englishman who rode home from a dance behind the neighbor boy on his motorcycle. Relating the experience later, he said, "Me ears were a-flapping like a piece of tar paper between two boards."

WIESE No. 3089



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — WIESE

Following list is the homesteaders, owners or renters who resided on the land and present owners and renters. Renters *

TOWNSHIP 33-15-4
S ½ 1-33-15
W. Mansfield
Slab*
R. Fecho
A. Fecho
N ½ 1-33-15
S. Brunner
R. Brunner
N ½ 12-33-15
L. Baxter
H. Wiesner
SE ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
Mrs. Lange (estate)
R. Welch*
SW ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
R. Diegel
E. Schroeder*
E. Wedl*
W. Diegel
E ½ 2-33-15
J. Wiese
H. Wiese
W. Wiese
NW ¼ 2-33-15
J. Diegel

W. Diegel

SW ¼ 2-33-16
D. Holloway
W. Wiese

TOWNSHIP 32-15-4
E ½ 36-32-16
R. Coghill
A. Fecho

NW ¼ 36-32-15
A. Coghill
L. Wiens

SW ¼ 36-32-15
L. Hood
A. Brunner
L. Wiens

SE ¼ 35-32-15
J. Fisher
L. Wiens

NE ¼ 35-32-16
A. Coghill
Mrs. Coghill
R. Coghill
L. Wiens

NW ¼ 35-32-16
H. Michael
T. Michael
Fecho & Wiens

SW ¼ 26-32-15
L. Doyle
R. Doyle

E ½ 26-32-15
Hudson Bay
E. Wiens*
F. Bass
Wm. Albright

W ½ 26-32-15
Hudson Bay
Doyle

N ½ 23-32-15
A. Murdoch
J. McBurney
F. Bass*
Wm. Albright

SW ¼ 23-32-15
Wm. McCreight
J. Schultz

SE ¼ 20-32-15
Mrs. McCuish
J. Schultz

N ½ 14-32-15
H. Schottenender
Wm. Schommeholder
L. Diegel*
J. Schultz

S ½ 14-32-15
L. Doyle
J. Schultz

Sec. 24-32-15
J. Harrington
J. Schultz

NE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
D. Johnston
P. Viste
B. Viste*
C. Viste (acreage)

SE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
P. Viste
S. Viste*

W ½ 25-32-15
M. McCuish

Wm. Albright

TOWNSHIP 32-14-4
W ½ 29-32-14
School Land
A. Aenas

S ½ 30-32-14
J. Robertson
A. Fecho

N ½ 30-32-14
D. Ross
M. Viste
P. Viste
S. Viste*

E ½ 31-32-14
N. Bradley
J. Annis
M. Annis

W ½ 31-32-14
Mrs. Gay
D. Ward
P. & S. Viste*

S ½ 32-32-14
J. Carstensen
H. Viste
H. Aenas

N ½ 32-32-14
D. Raine
R. Hassell
N. Aenas

TOWNSHIP 33-14-4
E ½ 5-33-14
J. Williams
E. Woelk*
D. Miller

SW ¼ 5-33-14
F. Wheeler

K. Hassell
E. Hassell
R. Welch*
N. Aenas

NW ¼ 5-33-14
E. Elm
W. Viste
SE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
H. Aenas

SW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
H. Aenas

NW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
P. Viste
S. Viste*

NE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
H. Aenas

W ½ 7-33-14
A. Caughlin
W. Viste

NE ¼ 7-33-14
E. Kulzall
A. Tietze
W. Viste

SE ¼ 7-33-14
C. McAllister
W. Viste

S ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
R. Brunner

N ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
R. Wiens

THE WIESE SCHOOL DISTRICT

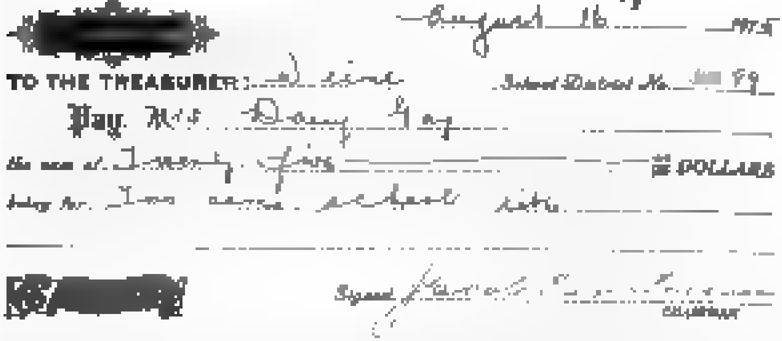
By Freda Viste

The Wiese School as it appears today

The first thing I would like to do is to acknowledge the foresight of the people who preserved the records from the Wiese School. These have been a valuable source of authentic information in the compiling of the district's history. This report in particular could not have been done accurately from memory alone.

Before the school was built, the children in the district attended Alpe and Chain Lakes schools. When there were enough homesteaders with families, they decided to build their own school. The first meeting was held at the Mansfield home on December 26, 1913, with John Robertson acting as chairman. There were thirteen votes cast, all in

favor of building a school. Five trustees were nominated, Jacob Carstensen (chairman), William Munro (Sec.-treas), Louis Baxter, Donald Ross and Julius Wiese.



[redacted]

August 16th 1915

TO THE TREASURER: Wiese School District No. [illegible]89

Pay Mrs. Daisy Gay

the sum of Twenty five 00/100 DOLLARS

being for Two acres school site.

[redacted]

Signed [illegible] Chairman

On January 29, 1914, a trustee meeting was held at Chris Vesle's. At this time they established the district as "Weiss S.D. 3089". The name was chosen the simplest way possible. The family names were all put into a hat, a draw was made, and the slip of paper read Wiese. Somehow when the school was registered and the official seal gotten, it was spelled Weiss. This is the way it appears in all the early records and most of the first teachers and students used this spelling.

The site where the school now stands was selected by the trustees, and they had already made arrangements with Mrs. D. Gay to purchase two acres from her. However when the Department of Education became involved, they wanted the school built on a site recommended by the Inspector, Mr. Buchanan. The wheels turned slowly then, as they usually do when there is government involvement. It took almost a year (December 12, 1914) to get the location established, where the board wanted it in the first place, two hundred yards south from the NW corner of 31-32-14.

Students of the Wiese School, taken in 1925 when Miss Tingle was teaching. Back Row: Avis Arbaugh, Violet Baxter, Emma Schoenfelder, Louise Baxter, Tillie Schoenfelder. Third Row: Elma Barich, Florence Robertson, Rudolph Bohlender. Second Row: Jean Robertson, Phyllis Williams, Gwyneth Williams. First Row: (sitting) Mary Rawa, Evelyn Mansfield, Lucy Barich, John Rawa.

The school was to be a 22' by 32' structure with a coal shed on the east end. The Callum Bros. got the contract for building and painting the school. The total cost of the building material was $500.00

At a special trustee meeting on May 29, 1915 they decided to engage Miss Edith Henderson as the first teacher. She was to start teaching on June 2, at a salary of $60.00 per ordinance month. This wasn't an easy undertaking for a young girl from Toronto. As if teaching out on the prairies wasn't enough of a challenge, she married a local rancher, Maldwyn Williams, brought up a family, and continued teaching at intervals at Alpe and Wiese schools. At the age of 89 years she is still the remarkable person she always was, writing and sending in her own story for this book.

Up until about 1930 the school year wasn't established as it is today. The trustees decided when the school opened or closed, basing their decisions on when a teacher was available, or the money to pay her. Often a severe winter meant closing until spring.

Following is a brief account of some of the highlights from 1916 to 1956.

July 28/16 — decided to build a school barn.

January 24/17 — bought piano for school for $50.00

January 15/18 — set aside $25.00 to be awarded to the children at the end of the term for best attendance, obedience and progress in each grade.

October 19/18 — owing to Spanish influenza through the Hanna district no public gatherings be allowed in the school, notice to be put on door stating same.

October 23/18 — owing to several cases of influenza in the district, the school to be closed indefinitely.

In 1919 the following expenses were recorded: teacher (nine months), $900.00; official's salary, $50.00; building expenses, $150.00; caretaking, $70.00; supplies and stationery, $40.00; and fuel, $30.00; total, $1,240.00.

January, 1923 — moved that the school close with the children to attend Alps and Hudson Bay schools.

January, 1924 — paying tuition to attend other schools not satisfactory so Wiese was to re-open on April 1.

In 1928 there was talk of moving the school but they decided against it. The teaching of grade ten was begun on trial basis and was continued for a number of years.

In 1931 the board began to cut expenses where ever they could. The janitor work was done by the older children in rotation, and the teachers even took their turn. This saved caretaking expenses. The Secretary Treasurer's salary dropped to $5.00 per year and the teacher's salary to $500.00 per year.

1940 — a teacherage was moved in.

February 20/40 — (the last meeting recorded in minute book) One motion read — that the school be repaired and put on a basement and the yard fence be repaired. The next motion read — that we do not agree to the running of a school van to Scapa.

Wiese Students in 1943. Standing, left to right: Martin and Aloys Brunner, Walter and Calton Viste, Frank Lund, John Nelson and Gus Arndt, Phillip Brunner, Alfred Brunner, Freda Gaugler, Marie Bass, Margaret Arndt, Harold Fecho, Charlie Arndt. Sitting: Helen Brunner, Joan Bass, Betty Lund, Alva and Carol Viste, Raymond Brunner.

By the time school started in September of 1955 there was a complete turn of events. With ever-decreasing attendance and difficulties in getting good teachers, pressure was really put on the school board by the Sullivan Lake School Division. There was the promise of a better education in the centralized school system. So it was with heavy hearts, the board consented to have the children bussed to Scapa. A new larger school was built there with the idea that this would be the answer to all problems for the large area it served. This was only a dream, for it wasn't long until the Scapa School felt the same pressures as the one-room schools had, and it also succumbed to the wheels of progress. In 1968, with the same promises of a better education, another change was made and the students were all bussed to Hanna.

The doors of the old Wiese School have remained closed so far as education goes. An occasional passerby enters and jots his name and address on the blackboard, which serves as a guestbook. Even though the foundation is crumbling and it is in much need of repair, those who attended the Wiese School still look at it with pride.

Following is a complete list of the teachers who taught there from 1915 to 1955 — Edith Henderson, Miss Buchanan, Nora Gray, Ruth Hayter, Winnifred Jones, Genevieve Pokotilo, Mr. J.H Johnston, Florence Meadows, Mrs. Williams (nee Henderson), Janet McTaggart, Hilda Carswell, Marie Birch, James Blair, Elma Tingle, Agnes Cameron, Mrs. Agnes Temple (nee Cameron), Margaret Nelson, Audrey Neff, Jean Benedict, Helen Hartl, Georgina Abble, Elsie Peterson, Wilma Smyth, Annette Harvey, Norma Mellom, Phyllis Morton, Paul Crough, Emmeline Stewart, Isobel Andrews, Florence Robertson (supervisor), Anne Damsgard, Lois Bowles, Don Pound, Jack McLaren, Margery Sugden, and Rod Morisset.

These are the men who served faithfully as trustees on the school board throughout the years: Jacob Carstensen, William Munro, Louis Baxter, Donald Ross, Julius Wiese, Dominic Raine, J.H Johnston, John Robertson, Ralph Gaugler, Hjalmer Vista, J.M. Williams, Harold Mansfield, Anton Brunner, Harold Lund, Manly Vista, John Auer, Ed Pound and Harry Wiese.

Matters which were of real concern then, seem humorous to us now. Here are a few examples. Jean Benedict wrote the board — "What does the school board do about plasticine? Do they supply it or are the pupils to bring it? What do they do about paste or glue? Do the pupils bring their own, the school board supply it or is the teacher supposed to make the paste with flour?"

A gentleman who was hired to clean the outdoor privies wrote, "When we tipped the boys' toilet so we could clean it out, the stakes that were holding it down were rotted to such an extent that they couldn't be replaced. The buildings were so rickety that they almost 'collapsed' when I laid them down on the side. If they are not braced they are liable to 'collapse' any time."

A dispute with the Department of Education about paying the teacher below minimum wage, resulted in the board writing the Minister of Education. "We will need the assistance of the government to pay the $500.00 that we have agreed to pay the teacher. Under these circumstances it seems to me that you might save a little money on Mr. McEacheon's salary rather than have him writing useless letters as the one of August 9.

"The teacher is satisfied with salary offered, and I believe it time the government began to worry a little over the plight of the people who are forced to live here and struggle to pay your minimum salary. The condition of the farmers in this part of the province should be well enough known by now without wasting time and money writing to all the school secretaries."

From the Inspector's reports: "Water supply; brought by pupils, occasionally." The next year a well had been dug and the report read "Water supply; Much improved, the well water has a woody taste but it should soon wear off." General Remarks (1920) "The school should be painted outside and kalsomined and brightened up inside. The floor should be painted or oiled. The stable should be painted. The water supply is unsatisfactory. The concrete in the foundation is cracked and should be repaired. Get a flag and flag pole."

A letter of application for a teaching position in 1933, had a recommendation with it from the Principal of Crescent Heights High School, Calgary. He was William E. Aberhart. Another letter of application read, "I am nineteen years of age, have had two years of teaching experience at Spondin School. I ask as salary, $800.00 and high school grant if any high school grades are taught." One teacher trying to collect her wages wrote: "I hope you will not mind me continually asking about it, it really affects my plans so greatly that I hardly know what to do until I am sure. You spoke of the uncertainty of farming. I don't believe it could quite beat this. It's like getting hailed out or expecting an early frost."

Wiese School students 1932. Back Row: Florence and Jean Robertson, Gwyneth and Phyllis Williams, Alma Barsch. Third Row: Annie and Celia Brunner, Lucy Gaugler. Kneeling on left: Fred Fecho. Kneeling on right: Adam Gillies. Sitting in front: Dick Brunner, Willie Gaugler, Frank Brunner, Allan McKimmie, Donald Fecho.

TEACHING WIESE, 1932-33, by Audrey Neff Tourish — I first taught school near Chinook where my parents and sister Dorothy, now Mrs. Henry Beach, lived. When they moved to Hanna I looked for a new school near there. As there was a surplus of teachers in 1932 I was very fortunate to be accepted to teach the Wiese School for the 1932-33 term.

It was a very interesting year as I had most of the grades with a large class in Grade 1 and 2 and also some pupils in High School. The children were all pleasant and well-behaved, and enjoyed outside sports including softball.

One new experience for me in teaching that year was having a large class of beginners with two of them speaking only the German language learned at home. It was a real challenge to help them learn English and later to read. I remember placing lettered cards on the door, desk, windows, etc., to assist in the project. Pictures of objects with printed word often helped. They also learned English from the other children at recess and noon. By the end of the year they could read and passed into Grade II with the others.

The following pupils attended Wiese School that year: Florence and Jean Robertson, Alma Barsch, Gwenyth and Phyllis Williams, Lucy and Willie Gaugler, Frank and Dick Brunner, Fred and Donald Fecho, Annie and Celia Brunner, Adam and Georgina Gillies and Allan McKimmie.

For the Christmas concert I remember we all prepared recitations and plays. We also sang Christmas carols while I played the music on a very old piano, but it served the purpose. The parents and others always enjoyed the efforts of the children at the concert.

I stayed at the friendly home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gaugler, and it was a good place to board. Their two children Lucy and Willie walked to school with me.

a distance of two miles. A daughter, Freda, about four years old, remained at home. When it was very cold with below zero temperatures we got a ride to the school with Mr. Gaugler in a bob sleigh and sometimes a stone boat.

At holiday time and some weekends I could always depend on a car ride with my Dad, Mr. Charles Neff. He travelled throughout the country, working as an agent selling Life Insurance. He usually took me back to the school but sometimes I had a different ride.

Early Monday morning I would catch the Hanna-Warden train going north. After a half hour ride the train crew stopped the train at the railway crossing near the school and I would get off the train. Then I would walk the short distance to the school, arriving there before 9 a.m. That was an exciting trip and I appreciated the kindness of the train crew.

The next year I taught at Handale School, south-east of Hanna. Later I married Lewis Yearick of that district and we moved to the Edmonton area where we operated a general store. We now live in Edmonton.

Editor's Note: Charles Neff, father of Mrs. Yearick, passed away on March 2 at the age of 102 years.

The [illegible] 1934. Standing, left to right: Ronald Fecho, Frank Brunner, Helen Viste, Rudy Annas, Annie and Celia Brunner, Phyllis Williams, Wilma Gaugler, Evan Williams, Jean Robertson, Dick Brunner, Lucy Gaugler, Fred Fecho. Sitting: Joe Brunner, Arnold Fecho.

SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES TEACHING WIESE SCHOOL, by *Jean (Benedict) Payne* — The summer of 1933 I was one of the many young teachers seeking employment. It was a time of surplus teachers, but a dearth of money and positions. Wiese School had advertised for a teacher, so my brother Roland took me by car to Dowling, where Harold Lund directed us to see J.M. Williams, secretary-treasurer. En route to his place, we met him on the trail between his house and the road. The dry prairie wool was my carpet as I stood beside my brother's car and made application to be hired as teacher at the Wiese School. Mr. Williams sat calmly on his wagon seat, holding the lines to his team of horses. As he looked down at me from his vantage point, he seemed to have complete control of the situation. Even though he appeared considerate and kind, I could feel my inexperience as a flashing aura about me. I wonder that I didn't trip on a blade of grass and shatter all my chances.

For his assessment of my qualifications I had to wait for a meeting with the rest of the school board. Prompt action must have been taken, for soon thereafter, to my great delight, I received a letter of acceptance.

During my two years at Wiese, I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lund, which was the rear portion of the Dowling store. They had a kitchen, an entry porch, a living room and one bedroom. Mrs. Lund rented the living room to me. She put a curtain across the doorway that led to their kitchen. When the curtain was open the family had a living room, when it was closed I had a private bedroom.

There was a large closet between the bedroom and my room. Mrs. Lund divided this closet in two with a heavy drape. Lunds had access to one half while I

door from the living room gave me access to the other. My wardrobe trunk was set beside my closet and served as a dresser. The davenport was seating area in the daytime, and opened into my bed at night. The bedding conveniently folded in with the mattress.

Boarding in a living room can present problems. One day I hurried home from school, in through the store where I found Mrs. Lund in charge, alone. I passed on through the kitchen and thence to the living room. Once there I decided to quickly change my dress, but, as Mrs. Lund was the only one around, and she was in the store, I neglected to draw the curtain across the doorway. I had just taken off my school dress when I heard a young man in the store say, "Is Miss Benedict home?" Horrors! No way could I dash around the piano and draw the curtain over the door before he reached it. Alternative? Into the closet and close the door! There was a click and a sickening realization that the catch to the door was on the outside, with no latch inside. I stood motionless until I heard my visitor come into the living room, pause, then go back out to Mrs. Lund, where he told her that Miss Benedict was not in the living room. She was too busy to come in search. What now? I donned a dress — no problem there. Now I had three ways of escape: I could call Mrs. Lund and expose my stupidity, I could wait till the store closed and she came back to the kitchen, or I could duck under the drape that divided the closet and exit through their private bedroom, into the kitchen. I chose the last, and hurried back to the shelter of the living room before my predicament was discovered. Never again would I lock myself in that closet!

Mr. Lund farmed along with operating the store, so six o'clock was not an uncommon rising hour. I enjoyed getting up early and having breakfast with the family. I had a two mile hike to school, so I'd leave about 8 a.m. Sometimes, especially in the spring, I cut across the fields north and east of Dowling. It was a real nature study, starting with the early spring crocuses, to the display of summer and fall plants and flowers.

Plants bring to mind a horticultural experiment we did at school. I had gathered some seeds from Mrs. Lund's date plant, had taken them to school and planted them in a pot. Carefully we cared for them, and beamed good wishes at them. In about two weeks, up came one tiny plant. The loving care continued. When it was about two inches high we proudly showed it to some parents who had come to the school. Mr. Fecho looked carefully at it, then at me. He uttered one smashing word: "stinkweed". I checked our little plant with the ones in the field, and, sure enough, the structure was identical, only ours wasn't as healthy!

With an enrollment of sixteen, I had time to give individual attention. The families who had children in school were: Williams, Robertson, Annas, Viste, Brunner, Fecho, Gaugler, MacKimmie and Hassard.

I went out to play with the children many noons and recesses. One April we had an overnight snowfall that was just right for packing by noon the next day. We all launched into the construction of a giant snowman. The balls grew so easily and so large that piling one on top of the other was a major task. We rolled such a big ball for the head we could hardly lift it, and we just couldn't reach to get it up on the shoulders. The teacher's chair was brought out, and because I was the tallest it became my job to heave that head up and pack it. There he stood, our snowman, nine feet tall. I recorded the happy group surrounding their creation with my Brownie camera.

A beaming sun and vigorous Chinook wind seemed determined to destroy our snowman, and he slowly became thinner and began to lean. Soon after recess there was a slump and collapse. In four hours we had seen the rise and fall of a noble snowman.

I started a diary of some of the interesting events that happened each day, in a big book. Pictures and a little story of each student were also put in. At the end of the year each child was allowed to put his best composition in the book, in his finest handwriting. Each week they all tried to improve their own creation to give them a choice composition for the book.

Christmas concert time was exciting, with everyone getting involved with the making of props and furniture out of cardboard, apple boxes and brown paper. One year, for an Indian Dance drill we made pant and jacket costumes out of gunny sacks. During the performance, from my position as pianist behind curtains, I heard a burst of unexpected laughter from the audience. Only later did I learn that, as Evan Williams stomped his feet in dance, the belt of his gunny sack pants failed. Disgusted, but still in march time, he kicked off the capricious pants and continued his pow wow. Fortunately he had kept on his dress pants. Those Christmas concert audiences were the greatest. Every child got a big round of applause, making him feel just a little taller.

It was not always easy to get someone to play Santa. One year Harold Lund obliged. He tried to change his voice, but as soon as he set foot inside the door and shouted "Merry Christmas", his four year old son Frank, eagerly shouted back "Daddy, Daddy". To all the rest of the children he was Santa, and their faces shone happily as he greeted each one and handed out treats.

During the winter we had a social evening every second week. There were amateur programs, contests, debates and pie socials, often followed by games such as whist, five hundred or cootie. Young and old were all involved and no children were left home with a baby sitter. The evenings ended with lunch and friendly chatter.

Going back to my boarding place and walking to school. I paid $15.00 per month board, and had few other expenses. I made my cotton dresses, knit my sweaters and wore lisle stockings. My shoes came from Simpson's mail order house and were priced at $3.00 to $4.00 a pair. Out of my $50.00 per month salary I was able to put some money in the bank. It seems incredible to me now.

I wouldn't have taken any fashion awards walking the two miles to school in cold stormy weather. I had a muskrat fur coat that had been my grandmother's, high overshoes, leather outer mitts, wool inner mitts, a wool tam and a warm mohair scarf. Only once when I tried to outrun a sudden sleet storm, instead of protecting my face, did I suffer frost bite, and it was just superficial. Sometimes on stormy days Jack Robertson or Steve Brunner took their children to school with the team and sleigh. I was grateful to be able to ride with them.

I met friendliness in all the community. Mr. and Mrs. Lund must have had many moments of frustration, with a boarder in their living room for ten months of the year. Never during the time I spent there did they let me feel that my presence was causing inconvenience.

The parents invited me to their homes to spend evenings with them and frequently I stayed overnight, walking to school with the children in the morning. Following are some of the memories I have of those visits. Walking home with Lucy and Willie Gaugler, with Willie a step or two ahead of us all the way, no matter how fast Lucy and I walked. The next morning I found all the Gauglers present for breakfast except Willie. His Mother apologized for him, saying he had eaten breakfast early and left for school. He had told her, "That teacher walks too fast." I thought you were setting the pace, Willie?

Visits with the Ernest Hassards, with all the good food, guitar music and happy singing and talking. The privilege of sleeping between two beautiful feather ticks, at the Senior Steve Brunners. An experience in warmth not to be forgotten.

I was asked to take family pictures with my Brownie camera, at one home. After all were dressed in their best and we were about to proceed with the picture taking, one lad refused to budge from a chair behind the table. Upon questioning him the Father discovered his pants wouldn't stay up when he made an attempt to get up. Father knew he had provided the necessary belt for one of the boys and suspenders for the other, but one of them had luxuriated and worn both. Sharing remedied matters and the picture taking went ahead.

One spring, after a visit to my home in the Hand Hills, my brother Roland agreed to take me back to Dowling in his car. It was muddy and we got about two miles east in a coulee, where we got stranded and had to walk home. My second brother Don then said he would take me in the morning (Monday) with his team and buggy.

We left about six o'clock in the morning with Don driving Scout and Smokey, a lively team. He kept them at a quick trotting pace, but it still became a race with time. At ten to nine we reached the Dowling corner. The horses were hot and tired, so I got out to walk-run the rest of the way to school and Don went into Dowling to rest his horses. When I reached the school it was after nine o'clock. There were no sounds, no indication of life. With guilty feelings I wondered if the children had all come and gone. I stepped inside the school. To my astonishment they were all in their places doing their rapid calculation. Gwyneth Williams was teacher, she had her calculations done too. Impish grins on every face flashed happily back at me. Sheepishly I tip-toed to the cloak room, left my coat and went to the front of the room. Late I was, but I had a fine memory of beautiful children to cherish for always.

On my last day at Wiese School, we had a community school picnic. I recall softball games, races, jumping, good fun and heaps of good food. Best of all was the vibrant feelings of good fellowship, a whole community of wholesome friendship. I am glad that Mr. Williams, two years earlier, had found my application acceptable. I am glad to have had the privilege of teaching at Wiese.

THE MALDWYN WILLIAMS FAMILY, by Edith Williams with excerpts by Phyllis (Williams) Jones — John Maldwyn Williams came to the Hanton district from Wales in 1910 to land that his father had bought for him. Here the farmers were plagued by early frosts so he sold this land, and in 1914 went overland by wagon, with all his possessions to Hanna. He got a half section homestead that someone else had given up, about thirteen miles north of Hanna. He built a two-roomed shack with two very small bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. His sister Agnes had also come from Wales to keep house for him.

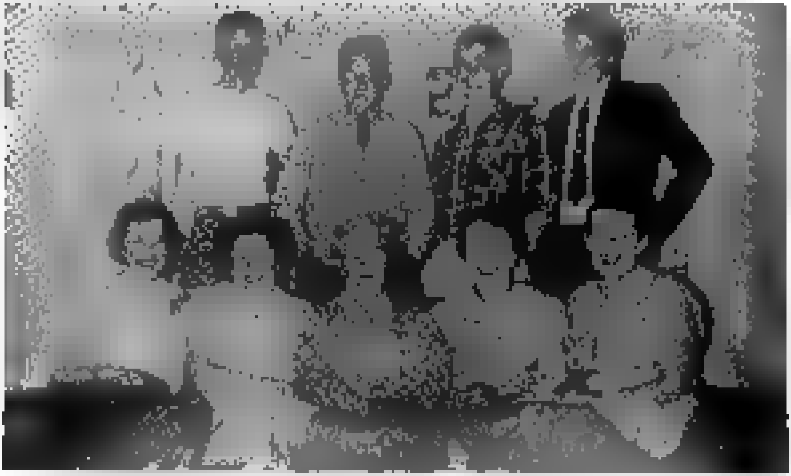
I (Edith Henderson) graduated from Victoria University, Toronto, in 1913, with a B.A. degree. Frank Buchanan, a fellow student, became inspector of schools in the Hanna area. Teaching jobs were scarce, so he offered me a position at the Alpa School, and I accepted. I boarded with the Al Bergs who lived a few miles west of the school. My quarters were behind a floor rug tacked up to a rafter in a one-room shack. Years after, I heard from Mrs. Berg who was in Hawaii. Her daughter (a small baby when I was there) was head librarian there.

When Wiese School was built I was offered the job of being the first teacher. William Munro was on the school board there and he had become friendly with Agnes Williams. So, through him, I went to board with Agnes and Maldwyn while teaching at Wiese. My two and a half mile walk to school took me past Rains's, Fielding's and Chris and Hjalmar Viste's land. The people that lived nearest to us had the largest sod house I'd ever seen and the mother lived in the smallest one, but I can't remember their names. (*Editor's Note*: this would be the Ed Wheelers.) I taught Wiese for four years, and I taught again at Alps after Maldwyn Williams and I were married. We were married in November of 1918, in the middle of the flu epidemic. There were no public gatherings allowed, so we had no choice but to go right out to the farm with the horse and buggy.

At first we got our supplies from Hanna, over a road that went up and down hills and wound around sloughs. When the railway came through we got our mail and some of our needs in Dowling. We were often short of money, but never short of food. We had pigs and cattle and I canned and cured meat. I had a well-to-do sister in Toronto who helped out with clothes. We both had growing children.

I remember one time we got a soccer team organized at Wiese. There were men in the district who were from the old country and had played soccer before. Among them were John Robertson and his neighbor Don Ross. We played a team that they rounded up in Hanna, and defeated them.

Finally taxes and poor cattle prices drove us out. My son has a bill, that I saved when we shipped six head of yearling steers, good Angus breeding, and got $27.60. The trucker got more than we did. The government was paying three-quarters of a cent a pound for cows.



The Williams family. Back Row: Glen, Mr. Williams, Bob, Evan. Front Row: Edith, Gwyneth, Mrs. Williams, Grace and Phyllis.

William Munro had married Agnes Williams and moved to land near Vulcan. Through him we had the opportunity to rent land there too, so in 1935 the Williams family left the Hanna district. We couldn't sell our cattle so Maldwyn went with them by freight. The family headed out by car, but the roads were blocked by snow and we had to do considerable shovelling before we reached Hanna. The snow continued and by the time we reached Drumheller we had to give up and stay there. We took the train out a couple of days later, and so I landed at the Kirkcaldy station with six children and no one there to meet me.

Maldwyn's dream of having a farm with a creek running through it was realized when he bought land on the Little Bow River. He farmed here with the help of his boys until he passed away in 1958. We had a son, Glen, born in Vulcan and he is on the farm. Our daughter, Mrs. Gwyneth Poersch, lives in Nanton. Phyllis, Mrs. Ira Jones, is in Kelowna, B.C. Evan and his family farm about three miles south of where Glen is. His eldest son is a doctor of medicine and is interning in

Hamilton. I'm very proud of him. Bob is in Calgary and has a nice home and family. Edith married Hubert Warren and they farm at Chinook in the grain belt. Grace trained as a nurse. She married a Calgary lawyer, Don MacLeod. I have been residing in the Peter Dawson Lodge in Vulcan for a number of years.

SOME MEMORIES OF THE DAYS AT WIESE, *by Phyllis Jones* — Blizzards were a constant fear as we walked over two miles to school. I remember one in particular. Dad was going to Calgary to the Fall Livestock Show so Manly Viste took him to Hanna to catch the train. Mother went along. The blizzard struck before they got back home so he and mother stayed at Vetes, thankful to get that far. Children were caught at school. Mr. Fecho walked over to the school to be sure no one left unaccompanied. He took Evan and me to his home, where we spent the night. In early morning Manly took Mother home, where Gwyneth was holding fort with the younger children. They had no way of knowing what had happened to Evan and me until Mr. Fecho drove us home later in the day. No wonder Mother's hair turned white at an early age.

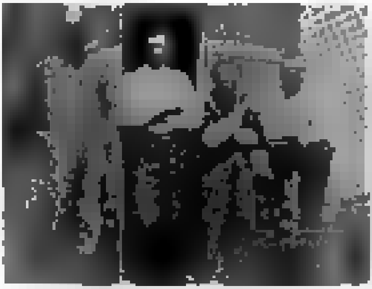
Another grim winter was when Dad was hospitalized for several months, including Christmas. During this time Mother depended on kind neighbors to get her to the hospital to visit him. He became critically ill, and Mrs. Simmons was looking after us while Mother was gone to be with Dad. One day I found Mrs. Simmons in the bedroom, praying. She told us to pray for Dad's recovery as she did, every day. Our prayers were answered and I remember the happy day when he returned to the little house on the hill.

Dad was a stockman at heart and earned many cups and ribbons with his prize Aberdeen Angus cattle and Yorkshire swine which he took to the Calgary Show. Gwyneth went with him a few times and entered animals in the children's events.

One of our favorite teachers was Jean Benedict. She was great for planning parties and made the school a real social centre. She also taught Sunday School and after school gave piano lessons.

Gwyneth and I used to enjoy walking the four miles over to Dowling for the mail and shopping at Alpaugh's store. He was a friend of the kids since there was always an extra treat for them shoved in with the groceries.

We see many changes when we go back to visit. It is nice to see the trees that our family helped plant and maintain still surrounding the school yard.



Allan Wiese, H. Viste, Don Ross, C. Viste. In front of Dora Viste's last shack

DONALD and ANNIE ROSS, *compiled from information given by Annie Ross and their neighbors* — Donald Ross came, as a young man, to Alberta from his home in Alness, Scotland. He homesteaded north of Hanna in 1909, and as nearly as can be determined, he was the first one to actually live in the Wiese School district. Like most of the early settlers, he hauled his lumber from Stettler with horses.

In 1918 he married Annie Fulton of Victoria, B.C. They had four children, one son and three daughters.

Don Ross rented his land out for awhile. Then in 1927 he sold his holdings to Manly Viste. The Ross family moved to Victoria. Don passed away July 16, 1968.

Mrs. Ross is still at Victoria and the rest of the family are all residing in B.C.

Mrs. Ross related a little story to the Bill McKenzies, of the confusion there was in the neighborhood one day when some of them got mixed up as to which day of the week it was. Dan left home under the impression that it was Sunday. He was going to get the mail at Dowling and when he got over that way he was surprised to see people working at McCulsh's, digging a well. None of them ever worked on Sundays. When he asked them about it, they said it wasn't Sunday. Then he wasn't sure who it was that was mixed up, him or them. So he set out asking different people what day it was, and if anything got more confused. Mrs. Ross doesn't remember how many people he had to ask, but eventually he found out that he was right all along. It was Sunday.

SEVEN YEARS AT DOWLING, By William Moore — In the fall of 1910 I was at my desk in the office of Dunnett & Co. where I was employed as book-keeper when a young man named Dan Ross came into the office. His home in Scotland had been at Alness, three miles from my home town of Invergordon, thus meeting thousands of miles from home, we soon became friends. Dan and Jack Robertson had homesteaded at Dowling two years earlier and they made the trip from Calgary to Dowling with a team and wagon. Some fifty odd years later when Mrs. Ross and Dan were riding to Calgary with me after celebrating the 50th anniversary of the town of Hanna, Dan showed me the spot where they had camped overnight in the Drumheller Valley.

I did not realize that Dan's visit to Dunnett's office would change the whole course of my life, but such was the case. He suggested that I was wasting my time in the office when I could get 320 acres of land from the government for the nominal sum of $20.00. He told me there was a half section open for homesteading just west of his place, and so it was that I filed on my homestead that afternoon.

In the spring of 1911 I travelled by rail to Castor which at that time was the nearest jumping-off place. While there I purchased enough lumber to build a shack 10 by 14 and somehow got myself and lumber out to my new location. Andy Murdoch, who was a carpenter, just happened to be staying at his sister's farm (Mrs. McCreight) and he was kind enough to take time to help me build and he did a good job. The shack had a shingle roof, one ply of shiplap on the walls with tar paper on the outside and building paper on the inside, two windows and one door. This was my home summer and winter for seven years.

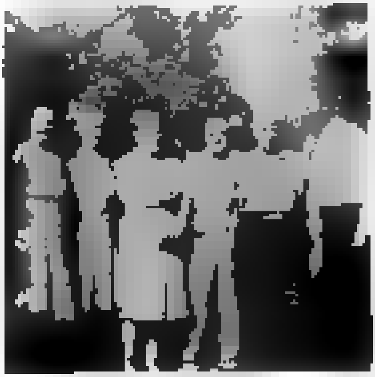
My next concern was farming machinery and horses. These I managed to acquire and I was now a farmer, although there was still lots for me to learn. My first barn was built of sods and I was proud of the fact that I did it myself.

As time went on, Dan, Jack and I spent many hours together and I am indebted to both of them for advice in solving many of my farm problems. Conditions in those days were somewhat crude, no T.V., no radio, no telephone, no hot or cold running water, no electricity, no cars, in fact you might say no NOTHING. Jack did get a washing machine that worked by turning a handle and got kidded plenty about his MODERN IDEAS. There was plenty of work but there was also some time for play. We had our picnics and ball games, and after the [illegible] school was built there were box socials, dances, concerts and Sunday School, and all were well attended. Everyone had the mat out for visitors and no matter where you went there was always plenty to eat and all were welcome.

Humorous incidents were not quite absent either, like when the heel flies caused Bradley's oxen to head for the nearest slough taking Mr. Bradley and his plough along. Then Fischer trying to get water from the well with a rope on a wheel. He took hold of the end of the rope and walked backwards until the pail of water came up and hit the wheel. Then he asked me, "Now, how you get the water, Mister?"

In 1919 I got the title to my land and sold to Dave Johnston as I had purchased a farm in the Garden Plain District. About this time I married Miss Agnes Williams and the same year her brother Meldwyn Williams married Miss Edith Henderson who taught school at Wiese.

Nearly sixty years have gone by but such names as Ross, Robertson, Doyle boys, Harrington, McCreight, Fischer, Wiese, Mansfield, Viste, Gasper, Burroughs, Mrs. Gay and Nellie, Barton and Williams, I still remember well. In 1925 I moved south to the Vulcan district and now live in the city of Calgary, but these happy carefree days spent in the Dowling District will always remain fresh in my memory.



Left to right: [illegible] Carrie Robertson, Leona Pound and their husbands Ed Pound, John Robertson, [illegible]

ROBERTSON STORY, *by Florence (Robertson) [illegible]* — John R. Robertson came west to Alberta from Bright, Ontario in 1905. He filed on land, sight unseen, in the land office in Calgary, in what is now known as the Dowling Lake District. He then decided to go to Banff and drove bus tours for Brewsters for two years. Coming back to Calgary he and the land agent drove by horse and buggy to the land site. They stayed with surveyors in a tent on the land that was soon homesteaded by Dan Barton. It got pretty cold that winter so he again went west to Morley and worked on the Stoney Indian Reserve. Finally in 1909 he settled on the homestead where he lived for the next forty years.

Many challenges were met in those first years. The closest Post Office and Store was at Stettler and had to be reached by horseback or a stiff hike. The settlers took turns going and as it was a break in routine it was made a social event, calling at each home along the way. Many nights were spent outdoors with only the stars for a blanket and the wail of the coyotes for a lullaby. "Jack" as he was known to most of the pioneers, told of finding the body of a man on one of these trips. He buried the body in a shallow grave and notified the police in Stettler when he reached there. One of the first women he met was Mrs. McCuish, and he told how all the bachelors used the flimsiest of excuses to gather there for a home cooked meal. Sourdough pancakes got a bit monotonous.

In 1915 Jack joined the Canadian Army with a Battalion from Calgary and went overseas almost immediately. He spent the next four years overseas, returning in 1919. During that time he was seriously wounded once and received a medal for bravery. Returning to his homestead he found neighbours with green fields and great improvements on their land and he found he really had to push to catch up. In 1921 he married an Ontario girl, Carrie May Zinn and settled down in earnest. Two foster daughters Florence and Jean came to make their home with them.

In the early twenties the C.N.R. surveyed the track from Hanna to Warden. Part of this track ran through Robertson land along the edge of the lake. During those years Mrs. Robertson boarded surveyors and men building the tracks. This section was all built by mule teams. One old grey mule came back after the crews moved on and lived out his years along the side of the railroad north of where the hamlet of Dowling sprang up.

The coming of the small store and Post Office was a great convenience and of course the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator meant no more long trips to Hanna with loads of grain.

When the telephone Company was taken over by the farmers and became a Mutual Company, Jack served as troubleshooter, lineman and secretary. I recall climbing poles with homemade spurs, particularly the one at the south C.N.R. crossing. This pole was high to cross the tracks and was spliced by the workmen, which gave it a real sway, at least enough to give me a real scare! Jean became quite proficient at climbing and reporting trouble. All the equipment was homemade and at times pretty crude. However the line was kept in service most of the time with the help of all the neighbors.

John Robertson was a very interested participant in the raising of livestock and many a time was off to help try to save some sick animal. The closest veterinarian then was a friend of his in Edmonton and he enjoyed helping in any way he could treating the animals.

Carrie Robertson specialized in the growing of poultry and many a table in the town of Hanna was graced with one of her birds at Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years. Coyotes again were the enemy, stealing, killing or crippling any that happened to be left unguarded for a few minutes. They could wipe out a sizeable flock in one raid.

The family returned to Bright, Ontario in 1949. Florence married Elmer Meidinger that year and they live in Calgary, they have one daughter Lynnda. Jean married Wilf Parker and they live in Woodstock, Ontario; they have four children. John and Carrie had a large garden in Bright and remained very active in all the social events. John died in 1963 and Carrie in 1970. John Robertson loved the West and remained very loyal to it, and interested in the lives of the early pioneers, until his death.

MRS. DAISY GAY — Mrs. Daisy Gay came to the Tees area in 1900. She returned to the U.S. in 1903, coming back to Alberta in 1910 to file on the west half of 31-32-14, north of Hanna. This was the land that the Wiese School was later built on. Daisy and her daughter Nellie lived on the same quarter. They did most of the farming, with the help of the occasional hired man.

Sometime during the mid-twenties she married Al Wirth and moved to the Wirth homestead in the Antelope Hill District. In 1928 Al Wirth became ill and passed away. After that the half section of land at Wiese was rented out. When Mrs. Wirth passed away, her daughter Nellie Gasper inherited the land. She continued to rent it out, and at her passing it was handed down one more generation to her daughter, Dorothy Ward.

Two rather interesting news items appeared in the "Greystone" news column in 1914 — Feb. 5, Mrs. Daisy Gay left on Monday for Tees where she will reside with her father for the remainder of the winter.

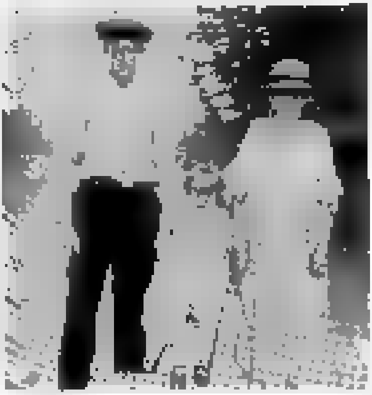
April 30, Miss Nellie Gay returned last Friday on the Castor stage from Tees, where she had been visiting with her grandfather.

THE MANSFIELD FAMILY, By Perley Mansfield — Mr. Walter Mansfield, his wife Una, and his three children, Harold, Mildred and Perley, came to the Wiese District in April, 1912. Mr. Mansfield and Harold arrived first, bringing a wagon and

two horses from Calgary. They stayed with a neighbor, Mr. Chris Viste. Mrs. Mansfield, Mildred and Perley came by train from Stowe, Vermont, U.S.A., to Castor, Alberta in May of 1912, then drove by democrat to the Viste farm. The family stayed there until their house was built. The Mansfield farm was section 1, Township 33, range 15, west of the 4th meridian.

That first winter on the bald snow-drifted prairie was quite a change from the mild climate and golden trees of Stowe, Vermont.

In the spring of 1913, land was ploughed and seeded to wheat. By 1915 the family rejoiced in a bumper wheat harvest.


Perley Mansfield with his niece and mother, Una Mansfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mansfield and daughter Evelyn.

December 8, 1915, Mr. Walter Mansfield was killed in a most unfortunate accident in the Brown coal mine. This coal mine was an open pit mine located 6 miles east of the Mansfield farm and was used by farmers of the district for their winter coal supplies. On December 8, the snow was deep and the ground frozen, so Mr. Mansfield dug under the frozen overhang, and as he was bringing out his last load the overhang collapsed and killed him.

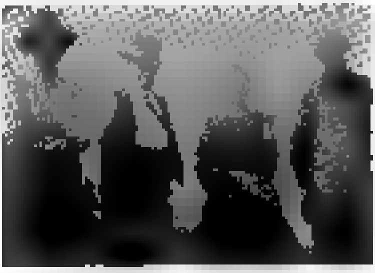
The family carried on with Harold running the farm. Mildred and Perley attended the Alpa School, a four mile trip on horseback twice every day, winter and summer. Later Mildred continued her education in Hanna and Perley attended the new Wiese School just 300 yards from their home.

Harold and his wife Laurena Glover took over the farm and Mrs. Una Mansfield, with Mildred and Perley moved to Calgary. Perley and Mildred both completed their education there, with Perley graduating from the Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering. He worked in this field until 1934 when he opened his own business, "Radio Crafts Ltd." This involved selling and servicing radios and electrical appliances. This very successful business was run by Perley until he retired. Mildred worked for the Federal Government. She married Joe Mawhinney. They had a daughter Madeline, who is the wife of Dr. A.G. Storey, and resides in Calgary.

Harold Mansfield moved to the Grande Prairie district about 1936, farming there for many years. The homestead was rented first to Mr. Sieb then later to Rudolf Fecho. He rented for some time and then purchased it.

Now in 1977 all the original Mansfield family is deceased except Perley, who with his wife Florence resides in Calgary. Harold's daughter Evelyn Brink, who attended both Wiese and Silver Valley Schools is living in Terrace, B.C.

JACOB CARSTENSEN — Jacob Carstensen homesteaded one and a half miles from Wiese school in 1910. Being a brother to Mrs. Julius Wiese, he was involved in their coming to the district the following year. He was a handy man with a hammer and saw, and helped neighbors with some of their building. Although he was a bachelor, he took a keen interest in the formation of the Wiese School district and the building of the school. He was elected Chairman of the Board at the first meeting and held that position until 1917. Shortly after that he sold his holdings to H. Viets and moved to Langley Prairie, B.C.



Left to right: Jake Carstensen, N.E. Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wiese.

THE JULIUS WIESE STORY, by Nina (Wiese) Armstrong — Julius Wiese came from Illinois in 1911 to homestead north of Dowling Lake on SE 2-33-18. The first spring he and his son Harry came up in a box car with most of the family belongings, and two horses. They broke about fifty acres with oxen and also got a house partly built by the time the rest of the family came up in May. Mrs. Lena Wiese, and the three girls, Vena, Lucy and Nina, came to Castor by train, and then to the homestead by wagon. Lena's brother, Jake Carstensen was the one who met them in Castor and drove them down. It was an endurance test for the women, taking from early morning until late at night, with hordes of mosquitoes everywhere. They were very bad the entire summer.

The water was hauled from a dug well with a stone boat and barrels. The cattle were driven to a slough about a mile away for water.

Our Post Office was Garden Plain; that was also the store. We went to Chain Lakes School for awhile, but this was quite a walk. The Wieses, along with some of the other settlers in the area, soon realized the need for a school, and set out to form a school board and build the 'Wiese School'. We went to school there, and the teachers I remember were Miss Pokabio, Miss Henderson and Florence Meadows, who married Pete Kennedy.

There wasn't much money but we always had a lot of pleasure, visiting with our friends and neighbors. Our home was always open to company and we had lots of good times. Other entertainment was dances, and summer picnics at Garden Plain and later at Clear Lake.

I married Harry Himmelreich in 1928 and moved to Olds. He passed away in 1953. I still live at Olds, I remarried, and am now Nina Armstrong. Vena married William Grantham, and still lives on the farm with her son in the Chain Lakes district. Lucy married Cyril Doyle. They farmed locally for awhile and then moved to Langley Prairie, B.C. She passed away about six years ago. There was also a step-sister who taught school in the Hand Hills. She married William Becker, but they moved to California and spent most of their time in the States. She died at an early age. Harry stayed on the farm with his parents, and when they moved to B.C. he took over.

Lena Wiese passed away February 14, 1946. Julius stayed at his daughter Lucy's place, where he passed away on January 18, 1949.

HARRY and MARGARET WIESE and FAMILY, by Walter Wiese — Harry Wiese served with the first Depot Battalion in Calgary in 1918. He then returned

home to help his Dad on the farm. For a number of years he worked with Chris Gasper and Cyril Doyle, running a threshing outfit. In later years he had his own machine and did custom threshing.

About the time everyone thought Harry was a confirmed bachelor, he married Margaret Crosby. They spent their married life together on the Wiese homestead. A son, Walter, was the first addition to the family, followed by two daughters, Margaret and Joanne. Margaret and her husband, Otto Glubrecht and family live at Fort McMurray. Joanne married Bob Owens. They reside at Olds, with their family.

Harry kept up an active interest in school and community affairs. It came as a shock to everyone when he lost his life in a tragic accident while haying, on July 25, 1955. This left Walter in charge of the farming operation. He stayed on the farm with his mother, and in the mid-sixties they moved to Hanna. After being in and out of hospitals, and several major operations, Mrs. Wiese passed away in 1971. Walter still works the family farm, as well as being an employee of the Special Areas.

NORVEL BRADLEY, ***as told by Rudy Annas*** — Mr. N.E. Bradley came from Wisconsin to homestead the east half of 31-32-14 in 1910. He had his own oxen and did his own breaking with them. After farming for a while he decided to go back to Hillsboro, Wis., to operate the hotel he owned there. This was around 1927. He rented his land to the Ruhls. In 1933 John Annas rented his farm and lived on it with his family. Some years later he came back to the farm and built a barn. His eyesight had been failing, and when he was painting the barn while in the bright sun, he went almost completely blind. Mr. Bradley never recovered from this, so he returned to the States by train, leaving his car impounded in Canada. He passed away there in the early forties.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SCHOTTENEDER and FAMILY, ***by Bill Schotteneder*** — Mr. and Mrs. Schotteneder came to Canada in 1909, from North Dakota, with a family of four daughters and one son. They took up their homestead on the north side of Dowling Lake the same year. Two daughters were born in Canada.

The oldest, Clara, married Rudolph Fano. They lived in Hanna. Rudolph passed away in 1969, and Clara passed away in December 1976, after a lengthy stay in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna.

Mary suffered a crippling illness in her teens and spent the rest of her life confined to a wheelchair. She passed away in 1962.

Rosie married Gottfried Albright of the Hand Hills, they retired to Drumheller, where he passed away in 1952, and Rosie still resides.

Annie married Henry McDermott and moved to Manning, Alberta. Henry passed away in 1948. Annie lived there until her passing in 1975.

William married Rose Albright and remained on the homestead until 1969. Due to poor health, the farm was sold to a nephew, Jim Schultz, and Bill and Rose retired to Hanna.

Emma married Fred Bass, and they live in Grand Forks, B.C.

Tillie married Ervin Schultz and they too have retired to Hanna.

The family all attended Wiese School. Herman Schotteneder passed away in 1931, and his wife Barbara passed away in 1961.

Living next to the lake had advantages, but it also had disadvantages. During the winter it was a nice smooth shortcut across the lake to Hanna. In 1927, Bill went out with the horses and sleigh to see if the ice was frozen thick enough to

start going across it, as he intended to haul some pigs to town the next day. The horses broke through the ice into about three and a half feet of water. It was a very cold day, and he soon realized there was no hope of getting them out alive, so he walked home, got the gun and shot them. They managed to get the harness off the horses, and got the sleigh out. The loss of a good faithful team of horses was felt for a long time.

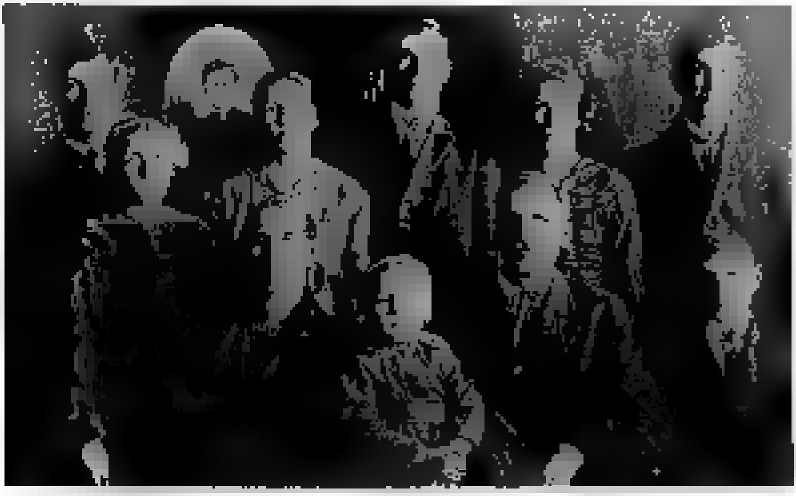
Something else the Schottenelders won't forget is the dry years, when the alkali blew out of the lake bottom in white clouds. It literally covered everything. Since 1945 there has always been enough run-off to keep the water level up to where the alkali doesn't blow very much. In 1945 the deer could walk across the lake anywhere.

HOMESTEAD MEMORIES, By Emma (Schottenelder) Bass — When Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schottenelder came to Canada by train, in 1909, they landed at Stettler. The rest of the trip was made by wagon. They set up a tent by a spring, near Dowling Lake. A neighbor had told them about the spring. They ploughed the land and seeded oats and barley and a garden. Then they started hauling supplies from Stettler to build a house. It was one large room. Mr. Schottenelder also hauled freight for the Hanna Trading Store before the railway was built. He had brought a car load of horses and farm equipment, and also household needs along up from the States. This helped them get started right away with the farming.

The crops were all threshed with a threshing machine. The first one was put through by hand.

The neighbors always helped one another and had good times together.

STEPHEN BRUNNER SR. FAMILY, By Clara Frank — Stefan Brunner Sr., my Grandfather, was born in Dorog, Hungary in 1866. He worked in the coal mines till he and his family came to Drake, North Dakota, in the spring of 1910. His oldest son Frank had arrived a year earlier and was working there. His family consisted of my grandma, Anna, and nine children, Clara, Frank, Stephen, Elizabeth, John, Marie, Katie, Tony and Annie.



The Stefan Brunners: Standing, left to right: Frank, Marie, Clara (in circle) Elizabeth, John, Katie, Steve. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Brunner with Clara's child Clara Zigliaski, Anthony (Tony) on right.

In the summer of 1910 he and Uncle Frank journeyed to Castor. His niece, Louise Kriese, lived about four miles east of where he took out his homestead on the north half of 1-33-15. On September 10, 1910 he filed on his homestead in Calgary, and then went back to North Dakota and spent the winter with his family. Their youngest daughter, Annie, died that winter at the age of six months.

The Brunners in their farm yard taken in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner are on the wagon, Steve on the binder and other family members in background.

Group of young people at the Brunner home. Left to right: Paul Tiesen, Steve Brunner Jr., Bill Kading, Marie Brunner, Katie Brunner. Tall man in hat unidentified, small girl is Clara Ziglinski.

In early spring the family left for the homestead in Alberta, arriving in early May. They had brought a large tent to live in. The first night they lived in the tent it snowed. During the summer a sod house was built and they lived in it until their house was built in 1918.

In 1911 their eldest daughter, Clara Brunner, was married to Fred Ziglinski of Lake Thelma. The most tragic event of my life was that my mother (Clara) died when I was born in 1914. I was named after her. My older brother, John, and I were cared for by my grandparents until I was seven years old.

We sometimes had church services in our home on Sundays. The priest would come and say mass and the neighbors would join in. We often had large gatherings on Sundays.

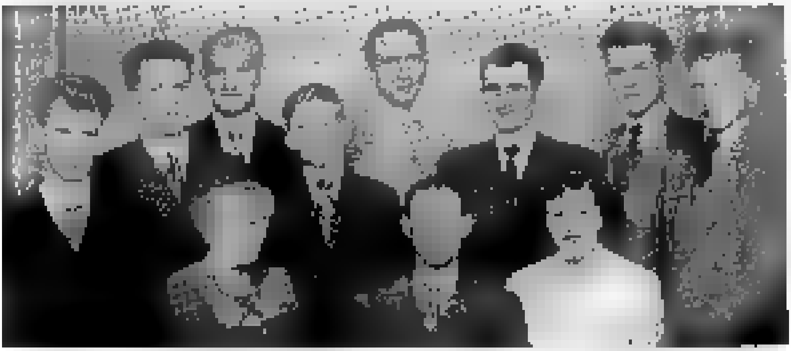
I remember that my grandfather had a lot of horses. We would go to town in a wagon and grandmother would sell butter and eggs. I used to visit with the Bader children.

My father, Fred Zigenski, went to Oregon in 1921 and bought a home. My grandparents went to visit him and took my brother and me with them. They stayed a couple of months and then went back to Alberta. John and I stayed in Oregon.

On January 24, 1938 my grandparents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They had many friends and neighbors in for the occasion. My grandfather passed away on December 24, 1948, and my grandmother on January 14, 1951.

The Frank, Steve Jr. and Anton Brunner family stories are included in this book. John Brunner passed away at a fairly early age. Elizabeth married John Samodel of Sublimity, Oregon. She is still living there. Kate and her husband John Hummel farmed at Castor for many years. They sold out in the early fifties and moved to Vancouver. Katie passed away in January 1984. Her husband predeceased her. Mary married John Fehr and they lived in Hanna. She died in 1972, not many years after her husband passed away.

MR. and MRS. FRANK BRUNNER and FAMILY, By Richard Brunner — Frank Brunner, (my Dad) was born in Dorog, Hungary. He spent a number of years working in the coal mines with his father, prior to coming to North America. In 1909, at the age of eighteen he arrived in Quebec. He then travelled to North Dakota and worked for an Uncle, Michael Brunner. In the summer of 1910 his parents and seven brothers and sisters also came to North Dakota from Hungary. In August my Dad and Granddad headed for Castor. A cousin of Dad's, Mrs. Louise Kries, daughter of Michael Brunner, was already in the Castor-Garden Plain area. In September 1910 they went to Calgary and filed on homesteads. Dad filed on the south half of 12-39-16. He stayed in Calgary and worked for $35.00 per month, while Granddad went back to his family in North Dakota.

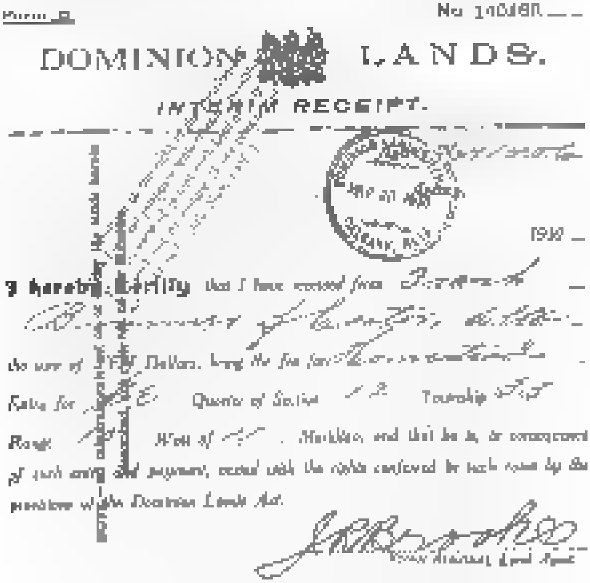


Frank Brunner family: Aloys, Martin, Raymond, Frank Jr., Joseph, Alfred, Richard. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner seated in front, with Helen on right.

In the spring of 1911 Dad moved out to his homestead. The rest of the family came to Alberta too. They worked together, breaking the land with three oxen.

One hot day in the summer of 1911, when my grand parents were still living in the tent, one of the oxen walked into the tent to get away from the flies and mosquitoes. In all the excitement he turned around with his back end up against the table and of course the inevitable happened. Three years later they bought

their first horse. Later on in 1914 they took out a $700.00 loan and bought more horses. They cost from two to four hundred dollars per team.



Form B

No. 140180

DOMINION LANDS.

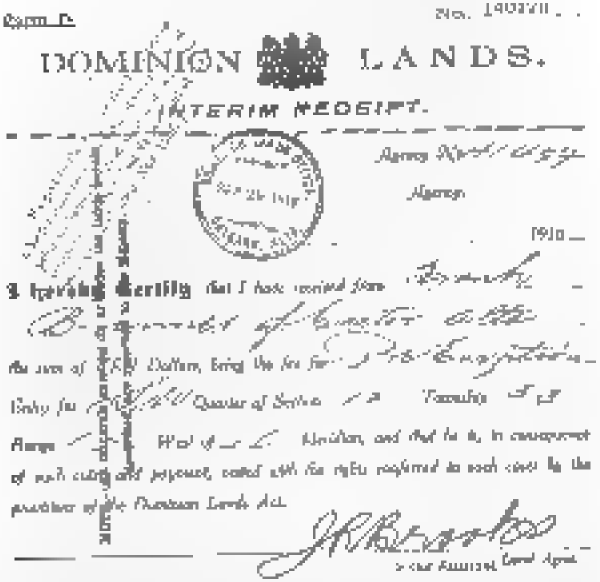
INTERIM RECEIPT.

[illegible]

1910

I hereby Certify that I have received from [illegible] the sum of [illegible] Dollars, being the fee for [illegible] Entry for [illegible] Quarter of Section [illegible] Township [illegible] Range [illegible] West of [illegible] Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

Local Agent



Form B

No. 140270

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

Agency [illegible]

Agency.

1910

I hereby Certify that I have received from [illegible] the sum of [illegible] Dollars, being the fee for [illegible] Entry for [illegible] Quarter of Section [illegible] Township [illegible] Range [illegible] West of [illegible] Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

Local Agent

Frank Brunner married Theresa Weiss of Moson, Hungary in 1924. Their home was a 12' by 14' building which they lived in until the house was built in 1925. They had nine children, eight boys and one girl, so there were lots of mouths to feed during the depression. One evening Dad came home with about two hundred

pounds of relief apples. It was chore time and I was to get the cows, so I grabbed an apple and away I went. I sure enjoyed it, as they were quite scarce around our household at that time. The next apple I ate I noticed had a worm in it, and so did the ones I ate after that, and they all had a tunnel or two to the core. I often wondered how much meat I had eaten with that first apple!

Our early education was at the Wiese School. When my brother Frank and I started, we could only speak the German language, so in grade one we had to learn to speak English, as well as learning to read and write. One summer in the thirties there were a lot of gophers around the school yard, so some of us decided to bring some traps and catch them. They were afraid to come out of their holes during the noon hour or recess because there were all the kids running around. So we'd set our traps and then spend the time we were supposed to be doing school work, wondering if we caught a gopher. Soon a hand would be raised and a request made to "leave the room", so the traps could be checked. So many requests were made to go to the outhouse, that the teacher caught on to the fact that we were up to something. Our gopher trapping came to an end.

Like a lot of large families in those days, the older members of the family had to forego an education to work and help support the family. When I was fifteen years old (1942) I worked on a ranch near Richdale, for ten dollars a month. About the end of April I left the ranch and a friend, Don Smart, and I decided to go to Calgary to give city life a try. We had twenty dollars between the two of us. Bus fare was $8.20, so we had to find a job in a hurry. Don had a sister in Calgary so we had room and board for a couple of weeks. We both got jobs in pop factories. I worked for Coca Cola, at a starting salary of $10.00 per week. We couldn't resist visits to the pool hall and theatres, so we'd end up short of money for meals. Sometimes dinner was a twenty-five cent cake bought at the corner store.

In February, 1945 my brother Frank and I joined the Army. We joined up in Calgary, taking our basic training in Wetaskiwin. After V.E. day, I joined the Pacific Volunteers and took my advanced training at Sarcee and Currie Barracks in Calgary. After that I was sent to Vernon, B.C. After the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, the war ended rather suddenly. A government order came through shortly afterward, stating that anyone still eighteen years old on V.J. day couldn't be kept in the army, so in October 1945 I received my discharge.

The Brunner family is scattered throughout Alberta. All are married and have families of their own. Mrs. Brunner has a total of thirty six grandchildren. Frank and Raymond live in Red Deer, Joseph is at Elk Point, Martin at Lacombe, Aloys and Lawrence in Calgary. Alfred is at St. Albert. Helen married Jess Standing. They live on a farm near Hanna. Richard, his wife Dorothy and family are on the original homestead. Frank Brunner, Sr. passed away in April, 1971. Mrs. Brunner resides in Hanna in the home that they bought, when they retired from farming in 1949.

ANTHONY BRUNNER FAMILY, ***by Anthony (Tony Brunner)*** — I am the youngest of the Stefan Brunner family, pioneers of the Wiese District. I attended Wiese School from 1916 to 1921, reaching grade seven, a fair education in those days. I remember in 1919 we had a picnic at Wiese and we had a stunt plane there. He also took passengers up for rides for five dollars. His landing strip was a level spot in Chris Vista's pasture. There were lots of dances held at the school, and in the summer, ball games.

During my teenage years I spent a lot of time breaking horses, and at rodeo work. Len and Philip Kennedy were good friends of mine, and we used to go to rodeos together. Sometimes we rode horseback to such places as Castor, Rowe

Lynn and the Hand Hills. We'd break broncs on the way there and back, and ride in the stampede events while there. I won first prize one year at Rose Lynn in the steer riding. We rode bucking horses at get-togethers at Garden Plain and Clear Lake. Most of my rodeo days were during the twenties.

I got married in 1930 and built a home on a quarter section of land that I got from my Dad. Later I bought more land from Joe Fisher and Coghills. I had to haul water for two years before I got water on the place. In 1935 I drilled my first well.

In 1934 I had a hired man under the relief plan. The government paid him five dollars a month, and I got five dollars a month to keep him. Like a lot of the others around, we made a Bennett Buggy out of our old Model T Ford and used horses on it.

After our family of four sons and two daughters were pretty well grown up, I sold the farm to Leo Wiens and moved to Red Deer where I worked for Travelaire Trailer Co. The family is as follows:

Phil joined the R.C.M.P. when he was twenty. He spent twelve years with them, and one of his experiences was to be aboard the R.C.M.P. ship St. Rocque on its last voyage.

Ella was a hard worker, doing a lot of work at home as well as working in stores. She is married to John Leniuk. They live in Calgary with their two children.

Edward is married and has two children. He spent most of his time on the railroad at Crows Nest Pass, as telegraph operator.

Bernard spent more time than the rest getting an education. He is teaching school in Edmonton, is married and has three children.

Jack worked at different farms mostly in the Red Deer area. His favorite sport was ball, and he played quite a bit. He is in Calgary now, working for X L Yards.

Annie has been with me in Red Deer most of the time. She works for the Travelaire Trailer Company.

ANDREW MURDOCH, By Elsie McCreight — Andy Murdoch was born in Northern Ireland and came to Canada in 1900. He volunteered in the Canadian Army, and spent two years in South Africa during the Boer War.

He returned to Canada and worked in Montreal for about a year. He then came west to Alberta and worked in Calgary and also on a survey crew as instrument man when the land was being surveyed.

In 1910 he took up a homestead and pre-emption on the north half of 23-32-15 at the same time that his brother-in-law Wm. McCreight homesteaded the south half of that section. This later became part of the Wiese School District. He farmed for a number of years and sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney in 1916.

After selling his farm, Andy Murdoch made his headquarters with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCulloh of the St. George School District, while he built a number of houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He usually spent the winters in Vancouver or Calgary. After 1920, Andy lived in Calgary for twenty-five years before moving to Victoria. In 1963 he and his wife returned to Ireland where he passed away in 1974. They had no family and his widow resides in Ireland.

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]", By Jean L. ([illegible]) Payne — Mr. Joe Fisher was a cultured man from Germany. He was a good pianist at one time and had known a much finer life than he found near Dowling during the dry years of the thirties. West of Dowling he had some land, somewhat rocky, but rains failed, crops were short, grasshoppers ate voraciously of what dared to grow. Winds blew viciously, moving crop land to roadside ditches or to other fields. Only the rocks remained.

One came to think that possibly the value of the land should be determined by the rocks.

Mr. Fisher was disturbed by all these pressures. Sometimes he felt there were voices speaking to him from the air. Sometimes, he would shoot at these voices.

One day he appeared at the Dowling store. He was carrying his gun, which was unusual. He was fondling it, rubbing his hand along the barrel. That, too, was strange. He walked to the counter and started listing groceries and goods that he needed. Mrs. Lund, alone in the store, was frightened. He had his gun, was he dangerous? She would not refuse him groceries or in any way arouse his anger. Coffee, sugar, cheese, tobacco, matches. Mrs. Lund packed up his groceries for him, wondering all the while if that gun was loaded. Cautiously she moved the groceries toward him. Slowly, he pushed the gun across the counter towards her. He raised his eyes to hers and said: "Voices very bad today, Missus. I hat no money to pay, Missus. I gif you my gun, she shoot goot."

Joe Fisher, as this story indicates, did find the pressures of homesteading on the prairies more than he could cope with. In those days no one suggested psychiatric treatment, instead he bore the brunt of many jokes and was mistreated by some. If treated with understanding he was usually quiet and very polite. He spent a lot of time with Tony Brunner and his family. Tony rented Joe's land and eventually bought it. Joe was taken to an institution and passed away there during the fifties. As far as anyone knew, there were no relatives.

THE LEWIS BAXTER STORY, ***By Violet Baxter Olsen*** — My parents Lewis Baxter and Martha Good were both born in West Virginia, U.S.A. They were married there in 1900. Two children were born while they lived there, a son Lovel and a daughter Owena. About 1907 they moved to North Dakota for approximately three years, where they had another daughter Louise. From there they went to Clarkston, Washington for a short stay, and then on to Alberta, Canada. A son Eldred was born in Washington in 1911, and he was just a baby when they came to Castor in February of 1912. That was as far as the railroad came at that time, so the family stayed there temporarily until Dad could get a place ready on the homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter taken during the twenties, in a wheat field

Owena, Eldred, Louise, Lovel and Violet Baxter, 1929

The homestead was the north half of 12-38-15. He built a sod house on the north-east corner and moved his family down from Castor. Our first barn, chicken house and even the much needed "out house" were all made of sod. The sod

houses were white-washed inside and were nice and cool in the summer, yet warm in the winter. I (Violet) was born in that sod house the year after my folks moved into it, with Mrs. Sexsmith in attendance. There weren't any doctors within miles so people depended on mid-wives for assistance. The Sexsmiths were our closest neighbors so it was no problem getting her to come over.

We lived in the sod house for four years. Then a frame house was built near by, but the folks used the other sod buildings for quite some time after we abandoned the house. Brunners lived to the south of us and of course it was all open range then, with no fences. They had cattle that used to like to come up and rub on the sod buildings and there was a good chance they could have knocked them down. Lovel was eleven then and he was supposed to chase them away as Dad was working in a coal mine at Garden Plain. There was one mean old cow they called "Herschel" that chased everyone. One day the cattle came when Dad was home so he went to chase them away. She took after him and got him down underneath her. The only thing he had was a knife, so he took it and went to work on her belly. She left him alone and never bothered him again.

Our first Post Office was Greystone about two miles east and a mile north of us. This was operated by Mr. English, in his house. We got our mail there until the Englishes left suddenly during the night, leaving all the household furnishings behind. He never returned to get them and they were still there when we left in [illegible]. After that we got our mail in Hanna. In the winter the neighbors took turns going to get the mail and necessary supplies. Sometime in the twenties they started a mail route from Hanna which went east, then came over our way on the return trip. The mailman stopped over at our place to have dinner and feed and rest his horses. It was a long cold trip for him and his horses with lots of snowdrifts to get through. Carl Hannah and Mr. Evans were two of our mail men.

When the railroad finally came through from [illegible] to Hanna, the town of Scapa started to build up. Mr. [illegible] was the first to start a store. His wife was so excited about the railroad coming through but she didn't get to see it reach Scapa. She passed away just shortly before. J.D. [illegible] moved into Scapa from his farm and started up a post office. We got our mail from Scapa after that. The mail carriers from there were the Hills, James, Earl and Chester. Sometimes Mr. Hill would haul the mail too. They used our place for their noon stop-over too. Chester was still mail man when we left.

It was an exciting time when the railroad was being put through. The right of way cut through the middle of our place, and we used to enjoy watching them work. They used mules on the dump carts to build the grades and big steam shovels to cut down the hills. My sister Louise, Mary Brunner and I had the thrill of riding in the engine of the work train one day.

Before the [illegible] School was built Lovel and [illegible] went to Hudson Bay. As soon as [illegible] opened we all went there. In 1931 when Florence [illegible] was teaching, all five of us were going to school. My last teacher was Agnes Temple, a good friend of ours both before and after she taught our school. Some years there were so many blizzards and so much cold weather that the school closed for a month or two. [illegible] and Louise went to Hudson Bay one year when there weren't enough children to keep [illegible] open. I was too small to go that far so I had to wait until [illegible] opened again.

At Christmas time all the schools put on a concert, so there was usually one every night for a week before Christmas. One year Clear Lake and [illegible] worked together so there would be enough pupils to put on a program. It was held in [illegible] since it was the biggest of the two schools. It turned out to be a big success. Another year we were going to do the same thing with Antelope Hill. We practised together and were all set for the big night but a bad blizzard came up and it had to be called off. The weather stayed so bad there was no school until the end of January.

A dance held at the school always got us all excited too. We'd pack all our books away in the big cupboard in the corner, and shove all the desks over along the walls. The teachers were very patient with us as we goofed around while we were doing it. After a few halls were built there weren't as many dances held in the schools. Garden Plain Hall was one of the first around. Some of the musicians who played for these dances were the Applegate Bros., Roy Embree, George Unsworth and his sister Jane and Bill Sim. Charles Lohrmann and Herman Siemp were often floor managers, with Herman calling square dances. Ben Sim also called square dances.

Another popular place for dances was in barn lofts, especially when a new barn was built. The grand opening was usually a barn dance. Doyle's used their large barn for numerous dances and I can remember them hauling the piano from the Wiese School up to the loft with the hay slings. Harvey Burt and Herman Siemp had dances in their new barns, and I think Brunners did too. Everyone had a wonderful time at these "barn warmings".

In the summer we had the local picnics at Garden Plain, Clear Lake, Endiang and Scapa. The men always ended the day with a tug of war. Sometimes there was a nail driving contest for the women and the ones I can recall taking part in that were Kate Siemp, Christie Lohrmann, Mrs. Kammerle and Dolly Dahlgren. There were others too of course. Kate Siemp and Mrs. Kammerle were often tied in the women's races. Our family was always competitive in the races and high jumping. Our winnings were spending money for the picnic. Eldred and Billie Storch were nearly always the winners of the three-legged races, as well as the foot races. The day rounded out with a big dance.

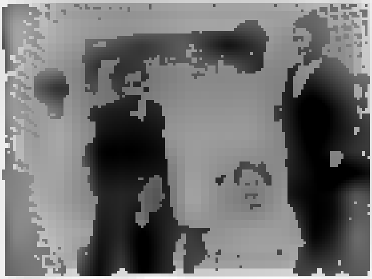
We had our fun in the winter time too. There was sleigh riding down hills with homemade toboggans and sleds. We had a dandy hill on our place for that and lots of company to join in the fun, also sloughs to skate on. If there was snow we had to clean the ice off with shovels. One year a bunch of people from Scapa and districts around cleaned off a rink on Sullivan Lake. There was always a big bonfire to keep warm. Another place we used was east of us on English's slough. There was hockey and skating there several winters.

There were years when things were pretty grim, and the going was rough. Everyone seemed to help each other during those times. There was a lot of visiting back and forth, doing things for fun that didn't involve much expense.

I remember when Ralph Gaugler, our bachelor neighbor got married and a bunch were going to chivaree him and his bride. They sneaked up after dark with all kinds of noise making articles and proceeded to make a big racket around the house. There was no response so they went on in and found the house empty. Ralph had out-smarted them and was hiding outside, taking in all the fun. He was a good friend of the family until he and Dad had some disagreement that I never did understand. They never did resolve their differences.

There were some tragic accidents that brought shock and sadness to the community. I remember so well the fatal accident that Dan Ruhl had, not far from our place; Johnny Steinbrecker losing his life when he fell from a load of hay and was run over; Chester Hill spending many months in the hospital, after he'd been accidentally shot in the leg by another hunter. He ended up with an artificial leg, but I always remember him being very cheerful. Dad was working at the coal mine at the time George Unsworth was badly hurt, leaving him crippled for the rest of his life. It didn't stop him from being a sport and joining in the fun.

We left the Wiese district, moving north to Fort Assiniboine in October, 1939. Lovel married Wilma Smyth, a Wiese teacher. He was elevator agent in Scapa and for awhile he had a farm south of Scapa. They are presently in Kelowna, B.C. Owena's husband John Cartwright, died in 1975. She resides in Barrhead and has a son who is still at home. Louise passed away in July 1967. Eldred and his wife Zelthe live in Hinton. My husband Ray and I live at Fort Assiniboine. We have one son at home. Mother passed away in 1942 and Dad in April, 1961.

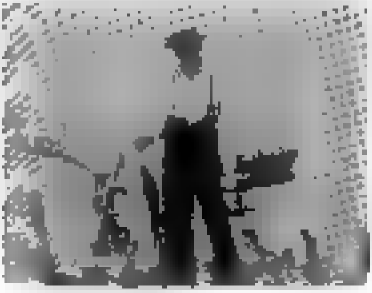


The Ladies Aid Club when they met at the Baxter home in 1921. Left to right: Jane Sleep, Mrs. Mate, Mrs. Farrell, Velma Bridges, Mrs. McKenzie. Seated: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Baxter.

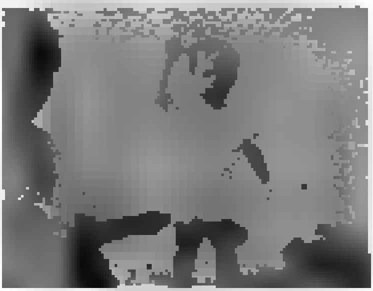
When Hanna celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, my sisters Owena, Louise and I attended. We had a wonderful time meeting old friends and there seemed no end of them. Ten years later Owena, Ray and I (Louise had passed away) went again for the sixtieth anniversary celebration. We met a lot of friends again, but there were some who had passed on during the ten years. I can't begin to name everybody we saw as I might leave someone out, but it was wonderful meeting them all. Each and everyone of our old friends would be welcome to visit us at any time.

THE CHARLES FIELDINGS, by Carolyn [illegible] [illegible] — This is the story of the days I spent on the Fielding farm, as I remember them.

My mother and I came to Hanna, Alta., in 1916, when I was six years old. Mother was to take up housekeeping duties for Charlie Fielding, who had a homestead about twelve miles north of Hanna. A Mr. Burrows met us at the train, and took us to the Fielding farm. Upon arriving at the farm, we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wheeler for our first meal. They lived directly across the road from the Fielding farm, in a sod house. Grandma Wheeler lived just a little to the east of her son's place, in her own shack. I spent a lot of my childhood days with the Wheelers, often doing dishes for Grandma Wheeler. Early one morning we saw smoke just over the hill. Her shack had burned down, and we were saddened to find that she had lost her life in the fire. After that the Ed Wheelers left for the U.S.A., and Charlie Fielding bought their farm.



Charlie Fielding, taken during the forties



Mrs. Fielding and daughter Ada

I started school in 1919. We lived a mile east of the Wiese school, so I walked most of the time. We were very poor, and I had very few warm clothes. I had to pass the home of Chris Viste, where I used to stop and get warmed up. Mandy and

Hjalmer lived there with their brother Chris, and they had a housekeeper most of the time, so I would get a hot cup of cocoa and a cookie. I was quite a moocher, going from there to the Mansfield farm where I'd get another handout from Grandma Mansfield. From there I went to school.

In the winter the school was usually cold. The pot belly heater just couldn't put out enough heat. The teacher would let us snuggle up around it to keep warm, and do our school work. In the summer time we enjoyed ourselves to no end, playing all sorts of games like tag, duck and the rock, or kick the can. Then there were always some boys like Eldred Baxter and Tony Brunner, who snared gophers and chased the girls all over the school yard.

We had some wonderful Christmas concerts, after the hours and hours of practising. Every one went home happy with a big bag of candy and oranges, and so excited after seeing Santa Claus. There were also pie socials and box socials. If the girls had a favorite beau, they'd mark their box or pie so he would know which one to bid on.

I went to the Alps school for a while, when Wiese was closed because there weren't enough children to make it worth while having a teacher. Mrs. Williams was my teacher at the Alps School. I would walk across the Wheeler farm and catch a ride to school with her. She was a wonderful person, I realize now, but at the time I thought she was being awful strict with me. Sometimes I was late getting to her place, and after this happened a few times, she didn't wait for me anymore. So I would 'shank's pony' off to school, stopping to visit Mr. and Mrs. Elsmore along the way, and always arriving late for school. Mrs. Williams never took that 'late for school' business lightly.

My Mother married Mr. Fielding in 1923. They had six children, Charlie, Nellie, Jim, Jessie, Ada and Thelma.

Mother grew a very large garden, and we usually had vegetables to spare. I can remember people coming to get produce, the McKenzies, Symingtons, Sexsmiths, and Baxters were some of them. One year we had so many spuds, Dad sold half a sleigh box to Gibb, Brown and Odell Store. He hauled them loose in the sleigh box, with some heated rocks in the bottom to keep them from freezing. When he got to town he went to the elevator to have them weighed. He didn't say anything about the rocks in the bottom, so they got weighed along with the spuds. Those were the heaviest potatoes he ever sold.

Dad built a large pig pen on the Wheeler farm, and raised purebred Yorkshire pigs. Every fall fair day my brother Charlie and I would get out the scrub pail, brush and soap, and scrub the pig we were entering in the fair. The pigs seemed to love having their backs scrubbed.

While on the subject of the fall fair, I will tell about another of my Dad's stunts. He wasn't a very good farmer, he never seemed to get his crop in, or off, on time. Our farm bordered Ralph Gaugler's to the north, and he had a lovely crop of wheat. Dad had been eyeing this for some time, hoping Ralph wouldn't cut it before fair time. He was in luck, so he sneaked into the field and gathered himself a bundle of wheat, entered it in the fair and won first prize. Ralph had entered a bundle of wheat too, but he didn't win a prize. Dad laughed many times over that, but us kids were really scared everytime we saw Ralph. Then shortly after that a Mountie stopped at the house, and we were sure he was after Dad for stealing the wheat. It turned out he was out to visit a girl that lived nearby, and wanted to know how to get there.

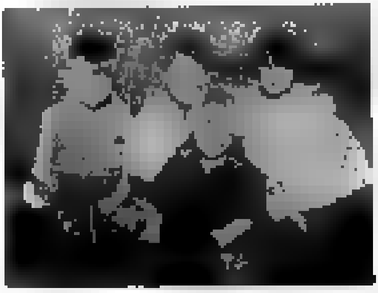
I used to ride a pony to Dowling twice a week for the mail and groceries. A man by the name of Fred German worked for Mrs. Wirth. He lived in a small shack across from Chris Viste's. I would stop and ask him if he needed anything from the store. It was always "a can of snuff". After doing this small favor for him a couple of summers, Fred gave me a gold wrist watch for my kindness. I still have the watch, and after forty-nine years, it still runs perfectly

When the railroad was being built, I used to deliver milk to the work camp every night. My mother gave me half of the money she made from the milk. I bought myself some new clothes for school, the first new clothes I ever had.

After Hjalmer Viste married I called on them frequently. When Helen was born, I would care for her while her mother did some chores and cooked supper. Mrs. Viste always sent something home with me for helping.

The folks sold the land to Chris Viste, but continued to live there for about a year. Then they moved to Hanna. Charles Fielding passed away in 1963, and Lydia Fielding in June of 1971, at the age of 85.

I married Dick Crowle, a blacksmith, and we lived in Hanna. Of our sixteen children, two died as infants, one at the age of one, and a fourteen year old boy drowned in a dug-out near Sheerness. Some of our family have scattered to different parts of the province, but most of them are still in the Hanna area. Dick passed away in 1967. I enjoy my grandchildren, and all the rest who know me as Grandma Crowle.



Fielding children — Left to right: Jim, Charlie, Jessie, Nellie holding Ada. Taken in 1927.

Charlie and Jim Fielding both served in World War II. In August, 1944, Charlie was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding exploits during fighting in Europe. Charlie is now living at High Level, where he works in a garage. He has four children. Jim is employed as a carpenter. He and his wife Victoria (Crego) reside in Calgary. They have a family of five.

Nellie married Jim Bond, and they are also in Calgary. They have three boys. Jessie, now Mrs. McElroy, lives at Hussar, and has three children. Ada and her husband, Don Benedict, farm in the Hand Hills. Thelma married Lawrence Maetche, and they reside in Calgary. Both Ada and Thelma have five children.

Mrs. Laura Coghill

THE COGHILLS, MRS. LAURA, ALBERT and ROY, By Pearl Viste — My mother, Mrs. Oscar (Caroline) Norby was the oldest of the Sidney Coghill children. She had two sisters and two brothers. The Coghills had come from England to Ontario, then to the Red Deer district in Alberta to farm. In 1905 Mr. Coghill passed away. All the girls were married by this time.

In 1912 Grandma Coghill and the boys Albert and Fredrick Roy went to homestead the east half 36-32-15 and NE 35-32-15, about fourteen miles north of Hanna. They made the one hundred and fifty mile move with horses and wagons.

Uncle Albert enlisted in the army and went overseas in 1916. He never returned. Uncle Roy and Grandma continued to farm. I came from the Burnt Lake district, where my folks lived, in the fall of 1924 to stay with them. I worked for Grandma for $15.00 a month until I was married in 1928. During that time I took a trip to the coast and my sister Mae stayed at the Coghills for six months.

Daisy Cay seated on tractor, Nellie Cay and Roy Coghill standing beside. Take note of the mother hen and chicks in the right hand corner

Uncle Roy was married shortly after I was, so Grandma went to live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norby. Roy farmed until his health failed and he passed away in August 1943. All his family live in the Edmonton area. They are Jessie, Laura and Dorothy and a son Ernie. The farm was sold to Tony Brunner.

CHRISTIAN VISTE — Chris Viste came to Alberta from Ada, Minnesota in the fall of 1906, travelling with L. Viste. They found work in the Didsbury district.

In the spring of 1909 Chris borrowed a saddle horse and rode over to the Bowling Lake district to speculate on a homestead. He was interested in a piece of land that bordered Nick Lund's holdings. Nick was discouraging anyone from filing near him, since he liked the open range for his cattle. This turned out to be an advantage for Chris. He was sent further east, where he filed on the west half of 8-33-14. This proved to be the best gumbo land in the whole area, producing the best crop around year after year.

Chris went back and worked at Didsbury until 1910. He bought a team of horses for $50.00 and headed out to the homestead to break some of his land. He got an outfit with a big gas tractor and eight-bottom plow to come in and plow 53 acres for him. While they worked for Chris, he started cooking for them, and cooked most of the summer as they went from place to place breaking land.

The Chris Viste home was well known for its hospitality. Many a newcomer to the district spent his first day or so at his place. After his brothers Manly and Hjalmer came to stay with him, they became extravagant and hired a housekeeper. Some of their housekeepers were reported to be nice looking, and it kept the rest of the bachelors busy, keeping track of who the Viste Brothers had working for them.

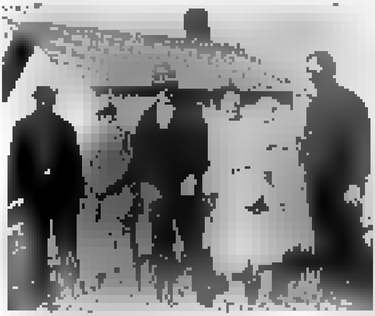
Many an all-night session of Norwegian Whist took place there, and many a box of Copenhagen was chewed. Often there was quite a competition to see who could spit in the coal pail or the open heater door the most accurately. Martin Dahl

became well known for his "bull's eye" aim. Chris also opened his home to meetings. A number of the early Wiese School meetings were held at his home and he gave the school his full support.

Chris put a lot of thought into his farming operation. He always seemed to know exactly the right time to plant and the right time to do everything else. Until he passed away one couldn't find a spear of wild oats on his property, because he had walked around his fields and picked it into a bag. A bag was always carried along on the binder or tractor at harvest time to pick any suspicious looking heads.

Chris Viste at the wheel of their first car. Hjalmer is back right. The other passenger is unidentified.

For years he complained about having the "Blinkin Grippe". Consequently no one paid much attention when about 1950 he started to complain more than usual. Actually he was seriously ill. It wasn't until shortly before he passed away that he was hospitalized. This was in May of 1967. Few men were held in greater esteem by the neighbors than Chris Viste.



Chris Viste, Sven Kesak, Gerhard Viste, Clara Viste holding Helen and Hjalmer Viste.

THE HJALMER VISTE FAMILY, as told by Clara and Helen — Hjalmer was anxious to get up to Canada to join his brother Chris. In 1910 he turned eighteen, and that was when he took the seven dollars he had to his name, left his home in Minnesota, and headed for Canada. He went as far as the Birch Hills in Saskatchewan where he got work cutting wood in an area that had been burned over.

By the spring of 1911 he had enough money to come to Alberta. He filed on NW 34-32-16, two and a half miles west of Chris' homestead. The land was a complete opposite of his brother's gumbo. The plow turned up rock upon rock and it was a big day's work to get ten acres plowed. At the end of the day his fingers were bleeding from picking rocks.

Hjalmer worked here and there when a job was available, to make a little spending money. Between jobs he stayed with Chris. He used to walk to Craigmyle to work for Brassets, often walking behind the harrows all day after his early morning hike getting there. Another project he worked on was the digging of the

National Hotel basement. When the steel was being laid for the railroad west of Hanna, he got a job on that crew.

Working conditions there were far from good. He was plagued by lice and ever so often he'd have to get a new change of clothes. The old ones were buried in the ground to get rid of the lice, if there was such a thing possible. During the hot summers months, food storage was a real problem. The meat was pulled up to the top of a high pole with a rope and pulley, in hopes that it would be cooler and escape the flies. This wasn't always the case and the condition of the meat was often questionable. Conditions, plus cooks who didn't make the best of what they did have, took care of any weight-watchers problem on the crew.

In 1916 he bought Jens Carstensen's land, the south half of 32-32-14, for $30.00 per acre. Soon another brother Manly joined Chris and Hjalmer. They all worked together, living at Chris's. Sometime during the early twenties they bought their own threshing machine, so they could thresh for themselves. Manly was separator man, Hjalmer hauled the grain and Chris pitched bundles with the extra hired help.

Hjalmer was the first to break away from the ranks of being a bachelor. In 1925 he made a trip back to Minnesota, where he married Clara Bjuland. They lived with Chris for three years when they were first married. A daughter Helen was born in 1927. In 1926 Hjalmer had a car load of lumber shipped into Dowling from B.C. This was the only car load of lumber ever shipped into Dowling. With it they built a house, barn and other buildings on the Carstensen place. As soon as they could, they moved to their own home with their year-old daughter.

The dirty thirties were soon upon them, affecting them as it did all the other farmers, each year getting worse than the last. The one they remember most vividly was 1937. The bumper crop that fall yielded a total of 37 bushels. What was called a "poverty box" was put on the binder to cut the crop. Helen sat in it and pushed the Russian thistles through the end gate. The thistles were what the cows got to eat that winter. Some relief feed was shipped into Dowling by the Government. As a climax for that already eventful year, Helen was stricken with appendicitis and had an operation, followed by complications.

Hjalmer was a man with more patience than enough, around his livestock and barns. Anyone working with him became frustrated by the way he fussed with everything. Clara pitched in, cooking and washing for her own family as well as a multitude of bachelor relatives and friends. Her ties with her family back in Minnesota remained strong, and she always looked forward to visiting them.

In June 1949, Helen married Rudy Annas. They farmed with Helen's parents for a few years. In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Viste retired to Hanna. Rudy and Helen were blessed with the arrival of a son Kenneth in December, 1953. The farm was their home until 1975, when they built a house in Hanna. They have lived there since, but continue to farm and still have cattle. Ken is married and living in Hanna. He is employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Hjalmer passed away October, 1981. Clara resides in a new home, next door to Rudy and Helen.

THE MANLY VISTE FAMILY, By Pearl Viste — John Manly Viste came to Hanna, Alberta, from Minnesota in 1921 to live with his brothers, Chris and Hjalmer on Chris's homestead. He worked with them for several years and then about 1927 he bought Don Ross's farm, the north half of 30-32-14.

I (Pearl Norby) came from the Markerville district, west of Red Deer to stay with my Grandmother, Mrs. Coghill. That is where I met Manly in 1928. We were

married in December of 1929, starting out our married life at the onset of the depression years.

The crop in 1928 was very good, however an early frost lowered the grade, taking the profit away for that year. We struggled along through the dust storms, poor prices and all the other hardships that came during those years.

Our milk cows always provided us with lots of milk, butter and cream, even if they didn't bring in much money when cream sold for only $1.50 for a five gallon can. We stuck with milking cows through the years, sometimes as many as twelve. For a few years it was hard to get up enough feed and most of what we did have was Russian Thistles. We had a Bennet Buggy to go to Hanna for groceries and to do the little bit of visiting we did in the neighborhood. We also used it to go to church at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, a sixteen mile round trip. Manly served on the church council there for a number of years.

Manly Viste family. Carol, Alva, Georgina, Dwight, Callen, Walter. Seated: Stanley, Mrs. Viste, Mr. Viste.

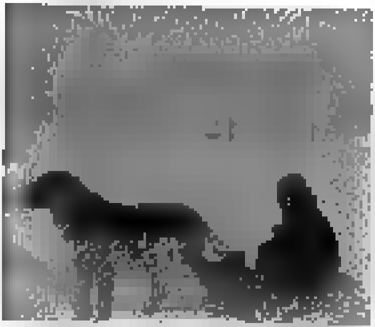
By the end of the thirties, the weather improved and life took a change for the better. Our problem of getting a good water supply didn't change though. It didn't matter where we drilled or dug, or how deep we went, it was always the same thing "quicksand". Manly finally got disgusted with having to haul water for pigs and cattle, so he had a well drilled one half mile west of where we lived. This was a much nicer location along the Hanna-Scapa road. When the well looked fairly promising, we started to build a new house. This was in 1948. Over the next two years we gradually moved to the new house and new location. The one thing we hated to leave behind was the shelterbelt with its row of nice healthy evergreen trees. We had to start all over again, planting and caring for small trees.

There was a gravel pit on the Ross farm when Manly bought it. A couple more were opened up and they were used extensively down through the years. There used to be wagon load after wagon load of gravel hauled out for basements and foundations. A lot of it went to Hanna for sidewalks and buildings. At one time part of Highway 36 was gravelled out of these pits, and the Special Areas crushed and hauled for their road work.

We farmed with horses until we got a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor. Our family always went with us at haying and harvest times. Everyone old enough to help, stooked and helped with the hay. There were several threshing outfits in the district, the Visle Bros. having their own.

We had a family of four sons and four daughters, (one daughter died in infancy in 1934). All of them attended Wiese School, a distance of about one mile across country from our first home. When Walter started he walked in the summer and drove a German Shepherd dog on a sled in the winter. The next year when Calton started to school the dog pulled both of them to and from school. After the girls went to school we got a pony.

There were many good times at the school, the picnics at the end of the term with all the homemade ice cream, and visiting with the neighbors; the concerts at Christmas time with all the children taking part, and Santa arriving to make everyone happy.



Walter Visle enroute to school on a sled pulled by Buster, a German Shepherd. How does this compare with a big yellow school bus?

"Danny Boy", with a full load. Left to right; Stanley Visle, Margaret Talmage, Dwight and Jean Visle

Walter married Freda Gaugler and they farmed locally. Calton married Susan Turner. They live across the road from the home place with their three children. Calton is also a farmer. Carol and her husband Lou Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district. They have two daughters, one married and one at home. Alva is married to Dr. John Kaster. They live in Hanna with their four daughters. Georgina (Jean) and husband Garry Burns live in Sherwood Park. Jean is a long time employee of A.G.T. working in the Edmonton office. Gary and Jean have two daughters. Dwight is employed by an oil company in Calgary. He and his wife Dorothy McCullough have one son and one daughter. Stanley, the youngest of the family farms the homeplace. He married Shirley Sauder. They have two girls.

Marty passed away in December, 1988, a few days before his seventieth birthday. I keep busy on the farm, with chores and grandchildren. I have always enjoyed outdoor work and it is where I still like to be.

THE RALPH GAUGLER FAMILY, ***By Lucy (Gaugler) Scott*** — Ralph Gaugler was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1895. Being the oldest one in a large, hard working, rural family wasn't an easy life, so at the tender age of fourteen he left home. His search for a better life took him through most of the U.S. and many parts of Canada, finally ending in Alberta in 1910. His means of transportation was "riding the rods". His youth was to his advantage at times. The odd seasoned bum felt sorry for him and was willing to teach him a few tricks of the trade, but most of the time it was learning the hard way, with no room for

Ralph [illegible] and Beatrice Moench on their wedding day Oct. 5, 1923

measles. During this time he picked up whatever jobs he could get, for whatever pay he could get. We spent many a long winter evening, sitting in the dull light of the old coal–oil lamp, listening to stories of Dad's interesting experiences. It would take a good T.V. or radio program to compete with his stories for entertainment.

While he was working at different jobs, he was speculating on a homestead waiting to become of age to file. In 1912 he took up the west half of 7-33-14. He still worked while proving up his homestead. In the summer of 1912 and 13 he walked to Bassano to work on the aqueduct, walking back home again towards fall.

All the while his family in Pennsylvania didn't have a clue as to where he was. He was called into the army in 1918 and through his naming his sister as his beneficiary, they found out he was in Canada. It wasn't until the late twenties that they located him in Alberta. After the war he came back to the homestead, with its hardships and hard work. It was like starting all over again.

The humorous incidents that happened now and then made the adversities just a little easier to bear, like the winter Dad decided to snitch a little milk for himself from Saxsmith's milk cow. He'd sneak over late at night, milk the cow and sneak back home. Things went great for awhile and then for a few nights the cow was dry. One night he went over a little earlier and there was someone else with the same idea he had, milking the cow. Startled, the fellow ran out of the barn, leaving his pail behind. Dad took it along home and after a few days he went for a little walk to the neighbors that he was sure owned the pail, saying he had come to return it. After a few embarrassing explanations from both of them, they came to an agreement to visit Saxsmith's barn on alternate nights. It was several years before they let out what they had done and everyone had a good laugh.

It was lonely being a bachelor and Dad ended that in 1923, when he married Beatrice Moench, a girl from a pioneer family of the Hand Hills district. The Moench family history can be found in the "Hand Hills Heritage". We kids can remember a few trips to the Hand Hills in the old buggy to visit. Grandma Moench's house had 2½' thick sod walls, plastered on the inside and outside and no matter how hot a day it was, her house was always refreshingly cool.

To start their married life Dad and Mother lived in the two room bachelor shack. When the family started arriving, Mother was very fortunate to have Mrs. Saxsmith living so close by. She was a mid-wife, very devoted to her work and a kind thoughtful lady. I (Lucy) was the first one she delivered in 1924. By the time a son William was born in 1926, my parents had built a new house and had just moved into it. Dad was away from home so Mother was to put a white flag on a pole in the yard so Mrs. Saxsmith would know when to come over. Either Mrs. Saxsmith didn't notice it right away or Bill got in too much of a hurry — he had made his arrival before she got there. Freda was born in 1929 to complete the family.

While we were growing up, Dad kept working at different jobs to supplement the meagre farm income. One year he ended up around Big Valley on rail-

The Gaugler family, Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler, Bill, Lucy, Freda

way construction. It was getting on towards harvest time, so he walked home across country. The whole crew was infested with lice, so instead of having a bubble bath when he got home, he asked for the kerosene can, and headed for the barn. There he had a wash with kerosene and his clothes were buried in the field.

Mother had the responsibility of looking after us and the chores, by herself a lot of the time. After the new house was built, the Wiese school teachers often boarded with us. This made extra work for her, but she really enjoyed their company. Dad had a lengthy threshing career, something like fifty years, with one year's absence when he was in the army. He started out helping to run a steam outfit when he was sixteen. After he got a few years of experience he got his own outfit.

This always took him away from home in the fall. Sometimes it was close to Christmas by the time threshing wound up. He set a deadline of September first to have his own threshing done, and then he would head out with tractor, machine and a canvas-covered sleeping car on a wagon. This slept eight men, and as one of them once said "Sleeping in there sure separates the men from the boys." The only means of taking the chill off the bunk wagon was a kerosene lantern.

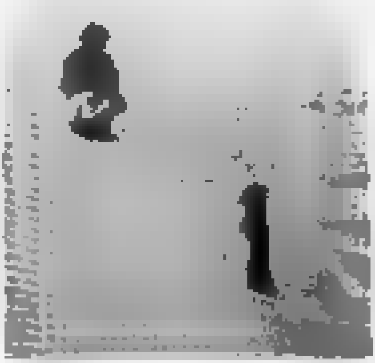
In the late twenties a man by the name of Frank Larocque came to work for us. He stayed with us for fourteen years and got to be Dad's right arm around the threshing crew. He took it upon himself to keep the crew lined up, and it didn't bother him in the least if they were all mad at him. He constantly chewed plug tobacco. Whenever they saw "Old Frank" chewing and spitting harder than usual, they knew he was mad and someone was about to get it. We kids got a few stingers on the backside once in a while too, and so did some of our little friends. On the other hand he was very good to us and spoiled us. He didn't have any relatives, so we were the ones he remembered at Christmas and Easter. He used to walk to Dowling for tobacco and he always brought us candy, but that wasn't enough, we'd steal them out of his coat pockets.

Dad spent a lot of time working in his blacksmith shop, and it was there he met with an accident in 1935. A fragment of steel went through his eye, narrowly missing his brain. As a result he lost his eye. The steel was never removed because of the delicate position it was in. Fortunately with time it moved away from his brain. While he was recuperating he made his first trip back to Pennsylvania to see his family. They didn't have any idea he was coming, so it was overwhelming for all of them to see a long-lost son and brother. A sister was born after he left, so she was 25 years old when he saw her the first time.

We all worked together on the farm for quite a few years. Then I went to Hanna to work. Freda married Walter Viste in 1952, and Bill had his own land by then, (the Cap Barton farm) so he moved the Ekles house up from land he owned along Dowling Lake. He fixed it up and went batching in 1953. It must have agreed with him because it wasn't long until he put a sign on his gate "No women allowed". He's still batching there. Freda and Walter lived in Hanna the first winter and then moved to the A.A. Hutton farm, where they worked for two years. By this time the folks had decided it was time to start taking it easy, so they rented the farm to Walter, and they moved to Hanna. Walter eventually bought it. [illegible] and Walter farmed and worked together throughout the years.

Lucy married Perley Scott in 1953. They make their home in Hanna. Their daughters, Sharon and Sandy are married, living in Calgary and Hanna respectively. Freda and Walter have three children, Douglas working as a machinist in Hanna, Donald, employed by the Special Areas and helping on the farm, and Cathy Lynn in High School.

One of the highlights in Mother and Dad's life, after they retired, was the invitation that they received in 1959 to attend a luncheon in honor of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in Edmonton. It was sent by Premier Manning, and the festivities took place on the lawns of the Legislative Buildings. They acted nonchalant, but it was obvious they were pretty excited.



Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler in their driveway on Easter Day, 1951. Mr. Gaugler is standing upright in a hole dug in the snow. It was May before they could use the driveway.

Dad devoted a lot of time to community work, serving on the executive of numerous committees and organizations. He was an ambitious man, expecting everyone else to keep their noses on the grind-stone. This applied to his horses and other farm animals too. If they didn't shape up to his liking they received some pretty brutal treatment. His life was too short to do all the things he planned, so when he passed away in 1967 there were lots of unfulfilled dreams. He kept active up until the last month and a half of his life, which he spent in a Calgary hospital.

Mother has been a resident in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna since January 1977. Prior to this she had never spent a day of her life in a hospital or institution, an indication of the good health she was fortunate enough to have. She always said "Good hard work never hurt anyone" and it was certainly true for her.

THE RAINA FAMILY, *By Mary (Raina) Rodgers and Clare (Raina) Flanagan* — Our father, Dominic Anthony Raina, was born in Susco, Italy, on November 11, 1888. On completing his education he set sail for South America to seek his fortune growing bananas. This venture was short-lived as he was soon recalled to Italy for the settling of his father's estate. After collecting his modest share of the inheritance he immigrated to Canada in 1913. He settled on a homestead in Alberta on NW 32-32-14, located ten miles north and one mile west of Hanna. For six years father remained a bachelor while working hard to break the sod and establish a thriving farm of wheat, oats, barley and some cattle.

In those early years men greatly outnumbered women on the prairies and many a lonely young swain was doomed to eternal bachelorhood. Father was fortunate to meet his future bride, Elizabeth Hepp of Castor, Alberta, through a mutual friend. Mother was born in Hungary on September 9, 1900, and with her parents, brothers, and sisters immigrated to Canada in 1904. Her pioneer family homesteaded near Castor, Alberta, and did much to tame the wilderness in the settling of the West. Perhaps this accounted for her unfailing optimism and her utter suitability to the role of a homesteader's wife. Our parents were married at Castor, Alberta on November 4, 1919.

Mother's first duty as a 19-year-old bride was to resurrect and restore about 20 pairs of soiled and tattered overalls, and at least as many pairs of socks, which were salvaged from the attic of the house. During her first weeks on the new homestead she learned more and more about the husband whom she had seen only a few times before her wedding. For instance, through patience and observation she finally unravelled the mystery of his frequent and stealthy trips to the cellar from which he would later emerge with a smug and contented look on his face, and from which an abominable odor always seemed to emanate. Father was addicted to a foul-smelling limburger cheese which he had cached away in great quantities in the lower regions of the house! Out of deference to his young bride he agreed to forego that weakness with its accompanying vile smell.

Our parents had their first six children in Alberta: John (1921); Mary (1922); Ralph (1924); Clara (1928); Louis (1930) and George (1932).

We children retain many cherished memories of our early years on the prairies. From our parents we inherited a great love of nature. Among our most treasured recollections is that of our mother gently rousing us from sleep one night with the words, "I want you to see something beautiful". She carried us to the window, one by one, so that our eyes might be opened to the majesty of vivid northern lights dancing across the skies. A mother who would take the time to share the beauty of nature with her children in the middle of the night after a hard day of milking cows, helping with the haying, baking bread and perhaps doing a laundry on the scrub board with water heated on a coal stove, is indeed of the stuff of which pioneers were made.

Mrs. Raina with Johnny, Mary and Ralph

Raina's pony and sled. Clara Raina and Frieda Hasspel on sled. John and Ralph Raina standing.

Our home stood on a little hill which commanded a gorgeous view of the surrounding countryside and this compensated for the fact that it stood unprotected from the prairie winds. Father found his homestead rather bare and because he usually planted a tree wherever he lived, he now proceeded to obtain a variety of cuttings through the government. Among them were enough poplars, about the diameter of a lead pencil, to border a lengthy laneway running from the public road to the house. While working on that legacy for the future he endured much good-natured teasing from his neighbors who suggested that he set up a saw-mill to cut his lumber. The trees thrived and today they stand majestically on the prairies providing a pleasing sight for miles around.

Father played an active part in community affairs while farming in Alberta. He served terms as Secretary of the School Board, Secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, Municipal Councillor and Game Warden. He also served as local correspondent for the Hanna Herald for a number of years.

Mother recalls one particular incident during father's term as councillor when the matter of road construction between Dowling and Scapa was discussed. Father favored a straight road but met with opposition on the grounds that this was impossible because it would require traversing a water filled slough. Father was confident that a friend and neighbor, Ralph Gaugler, a most efficient road foreman, could accomplish that feat. His faith in Ralph's ability proved well-founded and a straight road went through.

The West during our formative years was indeed a wondrous place to learn and grow. We attended the Wiese School and many were the Christmas concerts, ball games and meetings of friends and neighbors which took place there. The homestead was a place where crocuses grew in lush abundance and where one could hear milk pails rattling for miles around. It was a place where children could dream of making their first million through the sale of gopher tails and crows' eggs for which the government offered a modest bounty when crops became endangered through these inhabitants of the prairies. It was a place where coyotes howled in the night, where prairie chickens and partridges provided delicious meals, and where ducks swam gracefully on the sloughs. It was a place where countless grasshoppers could be made to spit tobacco, and where threshing crews gathered in the fall with all the excitement that entailed — trips to the grain elevator on a load of freshly-threshed wheat, the thrill of sneaking all the leftover coffee from not-quite-empty cups when the threshers had finished eating, and drinking it behind our mother's back. Those were just some of the things we enjoyed — and survived — in Alberta. There was also the thrill of riding bareback to Dowling where we received our mail and could buy a few groceries. We took a shortcut through Manley Vote's property and were always greeted with a few cheery words from those friendly neighbors.

The Hepperles on our right were immigrants from Germany. We recall spending a particularly exciting New Year's Eve with those fun-loving friends and experiencing great awe when on the stroke of midnight Ernest strode purposefully out of the door carrying a shotgun in his hands so that he might usher out the Old Year and hurry in the New One by firing two shots into the air!

Our introduction to the elements was dramatic on the prairies — the raging of the blizzards followed by the comfort of the chinooks; the futility of the hailstones showering destruction on the crops followed by the renewed hope inspired by glorious sunsets, and the terror of a prairie fire followed by the peace of its extinction.

We laugh with a little bit of shame as we remember entering uninvited through the open door of Chris Vote's bachelor home on our way from school one day with some wee friends and discovering there a pan of well-risen bread dough ready for shaping into loaves. Into that tempting mass we kneaded raisins, cereal, sugar, salt, spices, and anything we could find in the cupboards as we contemplated with malicious delight the surprise of the owner when he returned from the field to discover the senseless destruction of his culinary efforts. The penalty for that offence was a severe lecture from our parents and no dessert for a week!

The settlers in our community comprised many different ethnic groups and each retained a wee touch of home. This was displayed in father's case when he registered his purebred boar under the name of Mussolini. We have never been sure whether this was intended as a compliment or as an insult to that notorious Italian statesman.

Times became very hard in the early thirties when the drought hit our region of Alberta. Eggs were selling at five cents a dozen so many of them were fed back to the hens, who promptly reciprocated by laying still more eggs to be sold at five

cents a dozen. A vicious circle! We ate omelets and custards until they nearly came out of our ears, blissfully unaware that "cholesterol" would one day become a dirty word and that we were lining our arteries with the forbidden stuff through the consumption of all those eggs.

Finally came the day when my parents decided to throw in the sponge. All our goods were auctioned off as our tears mingled with those of our staunch and loyal friends as we prepared to leave the West. On November 23, 1932, we left Alberta to take up residence in the province of Quebec, and so unknowingly step from the frying pan into the fire. But that is yet another story!

A seventh child, Dominic Jr., was born in Quebec. The Raine family endured unbelievable adversity and injustice in the province of Quebec and eventually moved to Ottawa, Ontario, in April of 1937. There the last three children, James, William and Anne, were born.

Father later bought a farm near Kemptville, Ontario, thirty-five miles south of Ottawa. John, the eldest of the Raine children, died at the age of 18 years, and William at the age of four years. Father passed away in April, 1952.

The surviving Raine children eventually married and have families of their own. Mary married Ronald Rodgers and lives in Ottawa with her husband and three children. Ralph is married and resides in Kemptville, Ontario, with his wife and son. He has been successful in business as well as local politics, being mayor of Kemptville for several years. He is owner-operator of a mall composed of a clothing store and apartment building. Clara married Harry Flannigan and also lives in Kemptville with her husband and one son. Louis was a navigator with the R.C.A.F. He recently retired and resides in Red Deer, Alberta, with his wife and four children. George has one daughter. He is a widower and resides in Ottawa where he is in the watch repair business. Dominic Jr. also resides in Ottawa where he has been a salesman for aluminum doors and windows. He and his wife have two children. James lives near Ottawa with his wife and four children. He owns and operates a retail drapery business. Anne married Tim McGahey. They have two children and reside in Ottawa.

Mother also resides in Kemptville in one of Ralph's apartment units. Our wonderful mother, who laughed her way through the good times and the bad, today at 76 years of age is in excellent health. She enjoys her many grandchildren as much as she always enjoyed her own children before them. She returns West every two or three years to visit her son at Red Deer, her relatives at Castor, and her cherished and never-forgotten friends who still remain at Hanna and Scapa. The only thing to mar the perfection of those visits is the absence of the Williams family, dear friends and neighbors of the old days, who left the Hanna district shortly after we did. Many of mother's early hopes and dreams were shared with those dear friends during her first days at Hanna.

JOSEPH and [illegible] McBURNEY, by Stan McCreight — Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney originally farmed in Manitoba. They sold out and moved to an acreage on the west coast in the Greater Vancouver area.

They later became acquainted with Andy Murdoch, who owned a farm in the Dowling district. Joe McBurney traded his acreage in B.C. to Andy Murdoch for the north half of 23-32-15-W4 at Dowling. In the spring of 1918 Mr. and Mrs. McBurney moved to their farm in time to put a crop in that year, then built a house and barn and all the granaries and buildings required for a half-section farm.

The McBurneys had no family and did all their own work. About two or three years before they retired, the McBurneys were honored by the Hanna and District Board of Trade for a neat and well-kept farm and good farming practices. This was well-deserved as Mr. McBurney was a very progressive farmer and his yields were usually among the highest in the district. Mrs. McBurney always grew a very good garden and lots of flowers.

Mr. McBurney did all his farming with six head of horses. The team he did his hauling with were a well-matched pair of mares with very keen ears. He called one Nancy and the other one Fancy.

After farming in the Dowling district for twelve years, Mr. and Mrs. McBurney sold their farm to Mrs. Muri McCuish, who owned the other half of the same section. They had an auction sale that spring and moved to Haney, B.C., a small town thirty miles east of Vancouver, where they resided until their passing. Mr. McBurney died in the middle 1930's and Mrs. McBurney about ten years later.

The McBurney farm was sold to Mrs. M. McCuish in 1926, and they farmed it for a number of years. Fred Bass rented it after that until it was sold to Bill Albright in 1947.

RUDOLF and OLGA FECHO and FAMILY, by The Fecho Family — Rudolf Fecho and Olga Wesch were married in Antonowka, Poland on May 1, 1923. By the time they immigrated to Canada, on April 22, 1927, they had two sons, Frederick and Donald. They embarked from Danzig, Poland to Southampton, England and thence on the ship Ausonia to Halifax, N.S. Travelling by train, the family arrived in Hanna, where they were met by Olga's brother Carl, for whom Rudolf worked on the farm for three years.

In the early thirties, the Fechos settled on a rented farm, six miles south of Scapa, owned by H. Mansfield. They later purchased this land and it became the Fecho's "Home Place". Two more sons, Arnold and Harold, were added to the family, both born at home. The task of raising four growing boys was difficult in those hard times. Mrs. Fecho sewed all the boys' clothing, and shoes were something that were worn to church only. Rudolf saw to it that his family attended St. Peter's Church at Scapa faithfully, by sleigh in winter and buggy in summer. The original house had a clay floor in the back porch, and the older boys have memories of lying in bed in the upstairs, looking at the stars through the cracks in the roof. Sometimes they awoke to see their breath and even found wisps of snow on the big handmade quilt that covered them. In the summer dust storms darkened the house, and the dust sifted into everything. The house was remodelled by degrees over the years, as money wasn't available to do it all at one time.

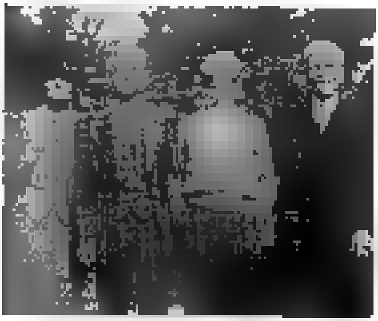
The boys were very fortunate to have the Wiese School just kittycorner from the farm. They all attended this one room school, and often looked after the fires and carried water. At the end of the day the leftover water wasn't left in the pails to freeze; instead it was carried alongside the school to make a giant slide, where the children spent many happy hours at recess and noon hour. They used to line up from the youngest to the oldest, run and slide and then go back to the end of the line to await their turn again. Only one misfortune resulted from this favorite pastime, when one of the girls broke her wrist. The highlight of the year was the end-of-the-term picnic for the students and their families, with lots of homemade ice cream.

Some other not-to-be-forgotten events were, the summer the family chased the cattle home, ankle deep in hailstones, "barefoot". Mrs. Fecho, staying up all night baking bread and preparing food for a nine or ten man threshing crew. The boys helped pitch bundles along with the crew. Horses were valuable in the thirties, and the mainstay of the farming operation. Horses also provided transportation for the family, with many a trip being made to the General Store and Post

Office at Dowling, situated one and a half miles to the south. Harold Lund ran the store for many years, followed by Auers, Pounds, Talmadges, and Taskers. Sometimes it took three head of cattle to make up the purchase price of a horse. Steers were sold at around $8.00 per head. Not only were cattle prices low, grain was selling one year for about 27 cents per bushel.

The farms in the area were fairly close together, with Brunners and Gauglers to the north, Chris Viste to the east, Wieses to the west, and Manly Viste to the south. Difficulties or ill health forced many homesteaders such as Raines, Williams and Fieldings, to leave the district and move elsewhere. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Fecho retired to Hanna and in early 1953, Mrs. Fecho passed away. Mr. Fecho carried on by himself until 1964 when he married Mrs. Christine Krause. He passed away in the Hanna Hospital in April, 1975.

Their sons remain in the area: Frederick and his wife Freda (Litke) and their daughter reside in Hanna while continuing to farm east of town. Donald and LaWana (Tillack) with their five children live in Hanna where Don trucks. They also have farming interests. Harold and Patricia (Oliver) and their two children reside in Hanna, where Harold is a conductor on the C.N.R. Arnold spent a short period of time working for the C.N.R. but decided to return to the farm after he got married. Arnold and Verlene (Pfahl) have lived on the old "Home Place" since then, modernizing it with a new house in 1964. They have one son, Wayne, who is now married and living in Hanna. He still enjoys helping out on the farm during the busy season.


Left to right: Currie Johnston, Julie Johnston, Jim (Currie's son), Dave Johnston in 1943.

DAVE JOHNSTON, By Hartley Johnston — Dave came from New Brunswick to homestead southwest of Hanna. Around 1910 he had a mail route from Hanna south, a trip of forty miles by horse and buggy or sleigh. He had suffered the loss of an arm, but this didn't seem to interfere with his activities very much.

Dave sold his homestead, and bought land from William Munro in the Dowling district in 1916. He had property in B.C. as well, and moved back and forth a few times. He liked harvest on the prairies and came out a couple of times to harvest with Ralph Gaugler. In 1930 he came back to Dowling and stayed until 1937. His nephew, Hartley Johnston came with him, staying until 1933.

Another nephew, Henry, stayed with him from 1931 to 1937. Henry also came back to Alberta for harvest for several years. He enlisted with the Princess Pats and went overseas in 1939, for a ten year period. He lives in Vancouver now.

Hartley stayed in B.C. where he worked as a motor mechanic and service station operator. He is retired at Peachland, B.C.

J.H. (Henry) Johnston, another of Dave's nephews taught Wiese School in 1920. He moved to California shortly afterward and still resides there.

Dave stayed with his brother Currie and his family at Aldergrove, B.C. until his passing in January, 1956.

THE JOHN ANNAS FAMILY, as told by Pauline and Rudy Annas — John and Pauline Annas and their two sons, Rudy and Nelson, came to Alberta from

Sweden in the spring of 1930. They spent the next three years in the Scapa area, residing on the farm of Pauline's brother, Mr. G. Glubright. During this time John worked for Fred Lyson. In 1933 they moved to the Watts district where they rented the N.E. Bradley farm. For the first season there, they lived in a granary.

The Annas family suffered considerable hardship in Europe from political upheaval at the time of the revolution. Coming to Canada during the depression kept them struggling to survive. Mrs. Annas had learned the art of weaving baskets and she went to work doing this. In January she walked the fields and gathered willow branches. These were boiled and peeled and then she spent hours weaving them into baskets of all sizes. They were usually left the natural color of the wood with a colored border or two running around them. The large ones were used as laundry baskets or bassinets and many a baby slept in a basket made by Mrs. Annas. The fine twigs were made into whisk brooms. These baskets and brooms were sold in Hanna as well as around the district.

It was always their policy to be practical so when the need arose for a new chicken house they used what nature provided to build it. A mixture of mud, straw and water along with a few rocks was put into forms to make the walls. They built it in 1938, and it still stands, none the worse for wear, serving as a blacksmith shop.

Three more sons and a daughter were added to the family over the years. They were John, Gustav, Charles and Martha.

Mr. and Mrs. Annas farmed in the district until 1963. At that time they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Annas still resides. Mr. Annas passed away in July of 1965. Nelson remained on the family farm with his wife Lois and family. Rudy married Helen Vass; they farmed and presently live in Hanna. John, Gus and Charlie are all married and living in Hanna; all are employed by the C.N.R. Martha married E.J. (Red) Robinson. They reside in Hanna where Red is an engineer with the C.N.R. He also has farming interests in the Watts district and Martha has become well known for her talent as a florist.

THE HASSELS, KARL, OTTO and RUDOLPH, as told by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hassel — Karl was the first one of the Hassels to leave Germany and come to Alberta. He bought the NE 6-33-14 and SW 5-33-14. With the help of Chris Gasper he built a small house and a few other buildings on the latter quarter. That was in 1928.

In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hassel with their two-year-old son Fredie, their brothers Otto and Rudolf came to join Karl in Canada. The closer they got to their destination, the less they liked what they saw out of the train windows. When they saw all the hills between Hanna and Dowling they really thought they had come to "No Man's Land", rather than the land of milk and honey that they had heard about!

It was April 13, at 9:15 a.m. when they stepped off the train in Dowling. Karl looked like a stranger to them in his Canadian made coveralls, something they'd never seen before. On the way to Karl's they passed through the yard of Marty Viste and were invited in for a nice big breakfast, the Hassel's first meal on the prairies. The Vistes hadn't been married very long at the time. Badly needed was an interpreter, since the Hassels spoke German, Marty spoke Norwegian and English, while his wife spoke only English. However they managed, and soon learned they had more Norwegian-speaking neighbors they would have to learn to communicate with. It wasn't long until they could get along reasonably well.

The first summer the four brothers were around the district most of the time. Otto worked in Calgary and McLeod as a baker, a trade he had learned in Germany. Karl and Otto had natural instincts towards hunting and trapping and

became well known for their ability to hunt. That is partly why the north country attracted them.

Karl and Rudolf were the first to go to the Peace River country in the winter of 29-30. Otto went up in the spring, but none of them stayed. Karl came back to Dowling to put his crop in and Otto worked for Chris Viste. Karl had visions of harvesting a bumper crop that year but it turned out a real disappointment. So in the fall of 1930, he packed up and went north again, this time to the Hay River district, where he took up trapping and farming. Here he built up a farming operation which he still maintains. Karl married and had two children, Harvey and Gloria.

Otto worked at different jobs, cooking, baking and carpenter work, for three years. Then he went north again too. He spent some time running a pool hall in Fort Vermilion, but his main interest was trapping. He had a typical trapper's cabin and six sled dogs that he used to check his trap line. In 1942 he came back to Scapa district, where Ernest now lived and helped build a garage. After a few years he started his own carpenter business in Hanna. In 1950 he went to Germany, bringing a bride back with him when he returned. Otto and his wife Hildegard stayed in Hanna for about ten years and then they moved to the west coast where they still reside. They have two adopted daughters.

Ernest stayed in the Wiese district, on the farm that had been Karl's, until 1934. That spring they moved one mile east of Scapa to the Jack Leitch farm. The crop was poor that year and what little there was fed the hungry grasshoppers. In December of the same year, they moved two miles south of Scapa to the original Lohmann farm. When they moved to the Scapa district they hauled their belongings up through the chain of little lakes that jut down from the south end of Sullivan Lake. At the time there was a well-travelled trail there.

During 1935 the main source of income was from rabbits, shot and skinned during the winter. A hide brought about ten cents. When the Hessel's coal supply got low that winter and they had no money to get coal off the car that came into Dowling, Ernest went out one morning and shot forty-two rabbits before breakfast. He took them to town and sold them to Chris German, getting enough funds to buy a load of coal in Dowling.

That same year Mrs. Hessel had quite a session in the hospital, undergoing major surgery. In order to pay the doctor, Ernest sold hay to the government for relief feed and the doctor in turn collected from the government. At Christmas time the threat of having to stay in the hospital hung heavy over Mrs. Hessel and she was really feeling low. She talked the doctor into releasing her but she still had a big problem, no money and no way home. It was then that Dr. Cross did one of the kindest things that anyone could have done for her. He gave her $1.00, which was more than ample to buy a train ticket to Dowling, and she was able to go home to her family.

One of their fond memories is of Monty Viste coming to their place for a haircut, the day after his first son Walter was born. He was so happy, they could hear him singing in the buggy when he was still a mile away, and ever so often he'd shout, "It's a boy! It's a boy!"

Another incident that they have had a lot of laughs over, happened after they moved to the Scapa district. [illegible], who lived to the south, had raised a young bull that kept wandering across the fence into Hessel's herd. He had lots of crossbreeding in him, but Ernest used a lot of names besides "Exotic" to describe him. He was hardly what they wanted for a herd sire, so when it became evident that he wasn't going to stay home, Ernest thought of an alternative. One Sunday morning he took a rope along when he went out to the cattle. He caught him, and as the saying goes, he went home "a bull no more". This however was not the end of the story. There wasn't anything said for awhile, then one day John Sauersmith asked Ralph Gaugler and John Robertson to come up in the evening and help him castrate a young bull. It was fairly late when they went and not very light any more. They chased him around for a long time, before they finally caught him and found the job already done!

Farming conditions slowly improved after they moved to the Lohmann farm. They built up a farmstead that is a tribute to their hard work. When Friedel was old enough to do quite a bit of the farm work, Ernest went into livestock trucking and buying as well as general trucking. He gave this up after they enlarged their holdings and went into more cattle.

Friedel married Irene Steinbrecher in 1950 and moved to a farm east of the home farm. They purchased this farm from Bill Burt. Mr. and Mrs. Haessel lived on their farm until 1975, when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Sig Jabs. They retired to the new home they built in Hanna.

THE RUDOLF HAESSEL FAMILY, By Rudolf Haessel — I was born in Niedermohr, Germany in 1901 and immigrated to Canada in 1929, arriving in Hanna on April 12 with my brothers Otto and Ernest and Ernest's family. From Hanna we went to Dowling, where we were met by our brother Karl, who had come over the year before. We went to Karl's home by team and wagon and I was there until I began working for Frank Ruppert. I did field work and helped drill water wells that summer. During harvest I worked for Dominic Reine.

That winter Karl and I went to the Peace River country to take up homesteads. We located land between Pouce Coupe and Spirit River. As the land hadn't been surveyed yet, we squatted. We built a small shack on each quarter and cleared some land. Living in isolation was not for me, so in the spring we returned to Edmonton. I got a job working for a farmer at Fort Saskatchewan until fall. Then I returned to Dowling and worked for Dominic Reine during the winter. In the spring Reines sold out and went east. I rented the farm, north half of 32-32-14.

The crops during those years were poor and when there was a little bit grown it wasn't worth very much. In 1938 there was a good crop. After harvest that year I returned to Germany where I was married to Hedwig Kiehr. We returned to the farm in Alberta in the spring. We had two children, a daughter Annabelle and a son Walter.

In the spring of 1944 I bought the Sandy Donaldson farm, (NW 20-33-13) one mile west of the Netherby school. Since the house there was terribly large and cold we began building a new one in 1945, finishing it the next year. The children attended Netherby School. After completing her education, Annabelle spent a few years in Calgary working in a bank. She returned to Hanna where she was employed at the Royal Bank until her marriage to Herb Wimmer in 1954. They farm in the Scapa district and have two children, Brian and Karen.

Walter finished high school in Hanna, going to University in Calgary and Edmonton. He married Ann McFee in 1964. He then went on to receive his Doctors degree in Economics at the University in Ames, Iowa. They spent three years in Accura, Ghana, where Walter taught at the University. On their return to Canada he taught in London, Ontario for two years. They now make their home in State College, Pennsylvania where Walter is Professor of Economics at the University there. Walter and Ann have two sons, Dale and Roger.

Hedwig passed away on January 2, 1963. I farmed until 1968 when I retired. I rented my farm for several years and then sold it. I have made my home in Hanna since then.

THE FRED BASS STORY, ***By Emma Bass*** — Fred Bass was married to Emma Schottenaider in December, 1931. They went to farm in the Dowling Lake School District, then moved to a farm east of Hanna. Later they came back to farm about two miles south-west of Dowling, near the lake. This was a real hardship in more ways than one. They were five miles from school, and the trip to school and back wasn't always a pleasant one for their two daughters, Marie and Joan. The old white horse they rode was as stout of heart as they were, and many a frosty morning horse and riders would have passed for "Frosty the Snowman" by the time they got to school. They also had problems getting a good water supply so they got some Hudson Bay land one-half mile east of Dowling. Here they drilled a well and moved in a house from the Clear Lake district.

They farmed there until 1965, when they sold out because Mr. Bass was afflicted with poor health. By this time the Bass had a set of twins, Leonard and Esther, who were of school age. The older girls were on their own by then. Mr. and Mrs. Bass and the twins moved to Grand Forks, B.C., where they still reside.

Marie married Mike Kindret and lives at West Bank, B.C. with her family. Joan and her husband Mike Sawchuck and three children live in Edmonton. Esther is divorced, has one daughter and works in Winfield as a bookkeeper. Leonard is a carpenter and he and his wife Violet live near his folks.

ERICH WOELK, ***By Erich Woelk*** — I had the opportunity to come to this country from Germany in 1930 at the age of nineteen years, through my cousin Fritz Lange who returned to Germany to get married after being in Canada for three years.

My cousin, his wife, and myself were met at the Dowling railway station by Mr. Bohlander from the Dowling district in March of the same year. He was driving a Model T Ford which had been converted into a truck without a top. By the time we had all our luggage and trunks loaded on it there was very little seating space left but we managed somehow.

My first impressions after we started for our final destination were "what a road, what a country". We stayed with the Bohlander family for a week while waiting for Fritz Lange's stove and furniture to come. He had bought it in the Eaton's store in Winnipeg.

A few days later I got a job at the Robert Lange farm, a relative to Fritz. I stayed there for two years. I learned many different ways of doing things that were so different to the way I had done things in the old country. The first job I was assigned to do for Mr. Lange was to milk four cows, something I had never done in my life before. I willingly went out to do the chores. After I had spent two hours in the barn my boss was getting a bit worried about me and came out to check. I was still trying to milk the first cow. After a few more attempts I learned how it was done.

Something I shall never forget are the sand and dust storms in 1930. I could not believe that the clouds could be so dark and not have a drop of rain in them.

In the fall other farmers and I had to drive for miles with horses and wagons or sleds to get our winter supply of coal, to keep ourselves warm during the bitter cold weather. Many times I had to pitch in and do some of the mining myself in order to speed things up so I could start on my homeward journey. Whenever there was a slack time that winter I'd spend it rabbit hunting.

I couldn't speak a word of English when I came to this country, and had a very good opportunity to learn the language that first winter while I was driving Ernest Lange back and forth to the Hudson Bay School every day. But I thought I was too

old to have to go back to school again after having my full education in the old country, so I learned it the hard way.

In 1932 I went to Craigmyle and worked for Mrs. Fred Diegel on the farm. That's where I bought my first car, a 1926 Model T Ford for $35.00. I drove it for two years. On steep hills the clutch slipped in low gear. So I'd turn around and back up the hills.

I worked with Francis Porter, the present mayor of Drumheller, there, and it was from him that I got further education in the English language. In return I loaned him my Model T to use when he got married.

I came back to the Dowling district in the fall of 1935, and rented the Wickens farm. I bought a stack of oat bundles, which was supposed to be the feed supply for my horses during spring work. There was an over population of rabbits that winter. When the rabbits had the feed stack looking like a mushroom I decided it was time to declare war on them, so I organized a rabbit shoot with some of the neighbors.

In my spare time I used to attend several house parties and dances. In those days they were quite popular and one didn't think too much of the miles one had to drive with horses and cutter to get to a dance. I used to play cards in the evenings with friends and neighbors too.

That same winter my courting days started. I took advantage of the mail carrier who used a closed-in cutter and two horses to make his mail deliveries in the district. Every two weeks on Friday noon I hopped in his cutter and drove along with him to within a mile of the Glubrecht home, walking the rest of the way, to spend the weekend with the family. I took in the occasional dance with Martha and her brothers and on Monday morning I would get a ride home again with the mail man.

In 1937 Martha and I were married and rented the farm Mr. Bohlender had been previously farming. We stayed there for three years, then moved to the John Kellerman place north-west of Dowling, which we had rented for three years too. Then we lived in the Hand Hills for four years. We bought a farm at Innisfail but we were not too happy there so we sold out and bought a farm at Endiang, and lived there for twenty-six years.

We had four children. Our only daughter passed away in 1950 at the age of eleven.

Our oldest son, Alfred, is married and living in Calgary. Jerry is also living in Calgary and still single. Bruce, and his wife and family are living on the farm at Endiang.

Martha and I have retired to Hanna and are enjoying town life.

THE ALPAUGH STORY, By Margaret Alpaugh [illegible] — Our father, Andrew Alpaugh was born in Fergus, Ontario in 1880. His family moved to Strathcona, Alberta about 1890. Next they moved to a place called Conjuring Creek. Dad said their diet used to be bread and milk for breakfast, milk and bread for dinner and bread and milk for supper. It seems people had to do without a lot of things when they came west.

At the age of fourteen, Dad and a friend left home, walking to Calgary. When they got hungry and there was no place to buy a meal, they remembered someone telling them that a duck rolled in mud and baked over a campfire was good. The feathers would peel off with the mud. The results were not quite what they expected — it seems ducks baked with their innards in are not very tasty.

Some way the boys made a living. At one ranch before Dad learned to ride, he was hired to stay with the rancher's wife, who was expecting a baby any time.

Margaret and Avis Alsough on their school pony

He said he was glad when that job was over. On April 25, 1902 he joined the Fifth Canadian Rifles and went to the South African war.

Upon his return he spent some time with Nick Lund. He also took up a homestead four or five miles south of Clear Lake. During this time he traveled around on horse back and worked with and knew fellows like Dr. Mason (before he became a doctor), Pat Burns, John Ware and many others. In 1912 he and our mother, Pearl Hunter were married and lived on the homestead.

When I was about four and my sister Avis was a baby we moved to Craigmyle, where Dad had a butcher shop and an ice cream parlor. From there we moved to Hanna where Dad had another butcher shop. That's where we were during the flu epidemic of 1918. Dad nearly died, but Mother's heroic efforts at nursing saved him. My memory of this is sketchy but I can recall a boy bringing something from the store and throwing it on the porch. How the furnace was kept going and how we managed in other ways when we were all so sick, I don't know.

Next we moved to Delia and when mother became ill we moved to Peachland, B.C. for her health. In 1924 we moved back to the prairies. A two-month-old baby sister, Joan, was killed in a bad accident we had at Elko. She was buried at Fernie.

Dad built the store in Dowling in 1926. At that time the steel was being laid for the railroad. Big gangs of foreigners were brought in to work on the railroad. A big machine laid the rails. The boss of this job was a big happy fellow, an Italian, called Joe Mazzarobe. My parents liked him and he and Dad became great friends. Mother cooked for the engineers and crews from the work trains. This was a crazy time, as we had them coming at all hours of the day or night.

Looking back, our days around Dowling were great. One remembers old school chums and neighbors with affection. We enjoyed our school days at Wiese, the school picnics and concerts to which everyone came. One I can remember vividly. I was the janitor at the time and what I knew about building fires was little. The concert was held in the afternoon, so the teacher asked me to bank the fire so it would last during the program. I went out to the coal bin and there in the corner was a nice pile of slack coal. This looked like good stuff to bank a fire with, so I put a big scuttle full in the stove and closed all the drafts. Just as the kids were drawing the curtains open . . . "BOOM" You couldn't see across the room. All the lids and doors flew off the heater. When the dust settled, you should have seen the mess. Everyone's faces were dirty as could be. It would have been nice to find somewhere to hide. Anyway, after a clean-up, it was on with the "Show". We had an active Junior Red Cross at the school and I can remember the candy sales we had at dances.

Jim Gaetz and I were married October 23, 1928. We have a son and a daughter, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

My sister Avis married John McCalman in 1934. They are living in Big Valley. Their two girls and one boy are also married with families of their own.

Mother and Dad stayed in Dowling until 1931 when they sold the store to Harold Lund. I wonder if anyone remembers the delicious ice cream mother used

to make to sell in the store? She used to make it to take to Clear Lake to sell in the booth too. It was very popular.

Dad bought a herd of purebred Angus cattle and went farming in the Halkirk district. He had rented land, purchasing one quarter to build on later. However things changed rapidly. In the spring of 1937 Dad was killed taking a bull to market in Gadsby. This was a dreadful shock. He was only 51 years old. He is buried at Gadsby.

Mother remarried twelve years later. She became Mrs. Chas. Lawrence and lived in Edmonton. She passed away in 1961.

Jim and I have moved about extensively. We have both been actively involved with Credit Unions in central Alberta, in both organization and management. We were living in Sylvan Lake but spent the winter at Creston, B.C.

It is sad to look at the place where our store stood. There is not a sign to show we ever lived there. We like to keep in touch with the old friends that are still around. This is the most important of all!

THE WILLIAM ALBRIGHT FAMILY — Bill and Emma Albright were married in 1957. The first two years Bill worked in the coal mines in Drumheller during the winter. In the summer they lived on the old McBurney farm.

In 1958 they bought a farm from Harold Lund, one half mile west of Dowling. They moved to this place, and have made their home there ever since. The old house was replaced with a new one a number of years ago. Bill and his family are well known for the abundance of poultry they always have on the place. They have provided a turkey, duck or goose for many a Christmas dinner.

The Albrights have a son Wilfred who is working in the Co-op Store in Hanna, and a daughter Angela still attending school. Besides their own family, they have had one or two foster children staying with them for the past seven years.

THE JIM FOSTERS, By Vi Foster — Jim and I and our eight-month-old son Ian, moved to Dowling in June, 1950, Jim being agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator there. Our house consisted of two rooms built off the office. While we were there they built on a new kitchen. We were very pleased to have the extra room.

We remember a lot of good times when the young people gathered at our house for cards, and in the winter we went sleigh riding and skiing.

The winter of 1950-51 was very severe with lots of snow. The railway track was covered with fifteen feet of snow. During that winter Ian and I had spent a few days at my folks in Oyen. Jim and Walter Vass met us at the train in Hanna when we returned home. On the way out to Dowling we got stuck in some snow drifts and had to leave the truck. We walked home a good two miles, with Jim and Walter carrying Ian through the deep snow. We were a tired group and happy to see the elevator that night.

Since leaving Dowling we had three daughters. Our youngest, Andrea passed away in 1963 at four years of age. Diane is married and lives in Calgary. Phyllis is completing her fourth year at University majoring in Education. Ian is married and also lives in Calgary. Jim and I reside in Hanna.

THE ED SCHWENDERS — Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schwender and their son Rudy moved from the Craigmyle district to the farm that had been occupied by Reinhold Diegel, in 1927. Mrs. Schwender was the former Lena Diegel.

The half section farm had one quarter in the Hudson Bay district and one in Wiese. The house sat on the line fence, with the bedrooms in Hudson Bay and the rest of the house in Wiese. Which district did they belong in? Officially it turned out to be Wiese since that's where the eating and living quarters were. So Rudy went to Wiese School where he was the only boy among thirteen girls for a good part of his school days. He tried Hudson Bay for a week, but he said they didn't want him there so he went back to Wiese and his thirteen girls.

In 1934 the Bohlenders moved west of Rimbey. Mr. Bohlender passed away in 1960 and his wife in 1966. Rudy and his family reside in Rimbey.

EARLY DOWLING HISTORY 1925-19[illegible]

By Avis (Alpaugh) McColeman

Andrew Alpaugh, better known as Andy, purchased land and built a store in the new townsite of Dowling in 1925. With the help of friends and relatives the store and living quarters were ready to move into by Thanksgiving. At that time the grade was built for the Hanna Warden railroad, but the rails weren't laid, so that meant hauling supplies for the store from Hanna, over roads that were usually in poor condition.

Dowling store shortly after it was built by Andy Alpaugh

The spring of 1926 brought the crews that laid the ties and rails. These were mostly foreigners. After that came many more crews to finish the tracks and build the station, section house, bunk house, stock yards, etc. When the track was finished a mixed train, consisting of freight cars, a passenger coach and baggage car, had a steady run. This carried mail, passengers, freight and express north on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Alpaughs had the post office along with the store and Andy was Postmaster.

The Wheat Pool elevator under construction at Dowling in 1926.

The Pool elevator was built in 1926, with Mr. Charles Lewis as first elevator man. That fall a Mr. Gauthier was buying grain and loading cars with a track-side loader for Richardsons Ltd., Calgary. He was there until March, 1928. It was about this time the Alpaughs added a flour

shed to the store and built an ice house, also a barn and chicken house to accommodate their chickens, cow and school pony.

In the fall of 1927 or spring of 1928 there was a train wreck on the curve around the north side of Dowling Lake. Shortly after this Mr. Grilles was stationed at Dowling as section foreman and later brought his wife and six children, Dora, Charlie, Billie, Georgina, Adam and Jeanie to live in Dowling. Ed Foster became elevator agent in 1928.

The highlight of 1928 was when McCulches brought the first combine to the district to combine their fields west of Dowling. The spring of 1929 was very dry and several prairie fires resulted in the district. One that affected Dowling the most, came from the north on the west side of the track, and threatened to jump the track several times. It burned McCulch's stubble fields and was finally put out between the lake and railroad. The crops were pretty poor that year.

Andy Alspaugh sold the store to Harold Lund in 1931 and on July first it changed hands.

Dowling 1931-1944

By Frank Lund

The great depression had begun. Dowling Lake dried up and the south winds blew white clouds of alkali up over Dowling. Crops were poor, prices were poor. Surrounding farmers brought eggs to the store packed in pails of oats to keep them from breaking. Lunds cleaned them and transferred them to thirty-dozen capacity crates for shipping. They also delivered some of them to restaurants in Hanna where they usually brought a few cents a dozen more, so customers at Dowling could receive a little more to buy necessities at the store. One Christmas a customer had a cow he didn't have room for in his barn, and also he was short of cash, so my Father took the cow in trade for $15.00.

The section crews moved out and even the elevator closed for a time. "Relief feed" was brought in by rail, Government "relief" food such as apples, cheese and dried cod were hauled out from Hanna by my father, Harold Lund, and distributed to those who needed it.

Near the end of the thirties tractors began to replace horses and so the store began to sell and deliver more oil products.

Annual telephone meetings usually took place in the store where apple boxes and nail kegs served as seats.

In April 1944, Lunds sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. John Auer and moved back to their farm.

Editor's Note: As long as the Lunds had the store in Dowling, the students of the Wiese School were treated to a bottle of pop at the annual picnic by Mr. Lund. How we all enjoyed that pop since it was the only soft drink most of us got from picnic to picnic.

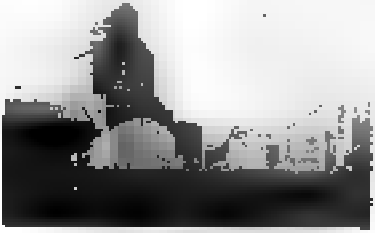
Mr. and Mrs. Auer had the store and post office for about a year. They had a school-age daughter, Lorraine. Mr. Auer had a back injury and found the store work too strenuous, so they sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound of Altex. The Auers went back to Drumheller.

MR. and MRS. ED POUND

By Don Pound

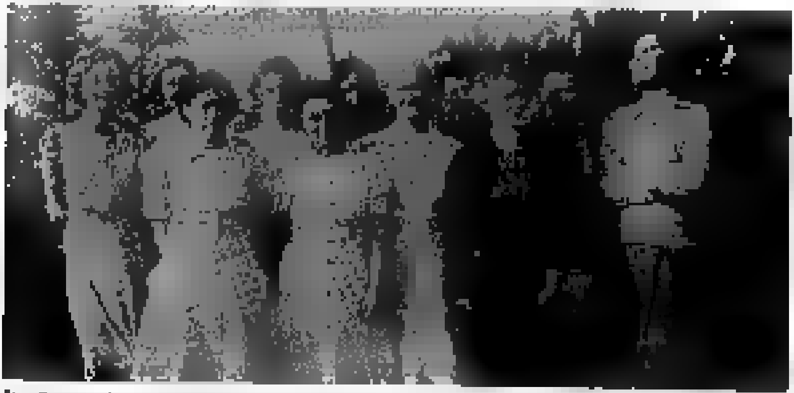
Mr. Ed Pound and his wife Leone Pound purchased the store in Dowling in 1945. They had two sons, Delmar and Donald who were in Brooks and Calgary respectively at the time of the purchase. Mr. and Mrs. Pound resided in Dowling until 1949, when they sold the store there and purchased the store in Scapa.

Mr. Pound died in 1964. Mrs. Pound sold the Scapa store in 1966 and moved to Brooks. She now resides in Medicine Hat. The eldest son, Delmar, now lives in Winnipeg. The younger son, Donald, taught in the Wiese School for one term, 1948-49. He also taught in the Scapa School from 1951 until 1956. He was married to Marie Lawlor in 1954. In 1956 Marie and Don moved to Medicine Hat, where Don furthered his teaching career. They still reside there.


Main Street, Dowling in 1950

Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Talmage came from Edmonton to take over the store from Pounds in July of 1949. They owned and operated the store for one and a half years, selling to Jim Tasker in 1951. Rodger and Hazel had a small daughter, Margaret. They moved into Hanna when they left Dowling.

Mr. and Mrs. Tasker were an elderly couple when they bought the store. About this time business in the small towns was generally poor, so the inevitable happened. In 1952 the post office closed, followed by the closure of the store. Regular train service to Dowling ended shortly thereafter. Taskers lived in the living quarters in the back of the store until the summer of 1959, when Jim tore the whole building down. The lumber he salvaged was used to build a house in Hanna. Jim passed away a number of years ago. Mrs. Tasker is in the Palliser Nursing Home.


The Dowling Red Cross Group, active during World War II. Left to right: Edan Viste, Mrs. Grantham, Florence Robertson, Inez Newfield, Jean Robertson, Mrs. M. Viste, Mrs. Robertson, Edna Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Doyle, Mary Lund. Missing from the picture were: Mrs. H. Viste, Mavis Schultz, Mrs. Bert Jones, Mrs. Harold Lund.

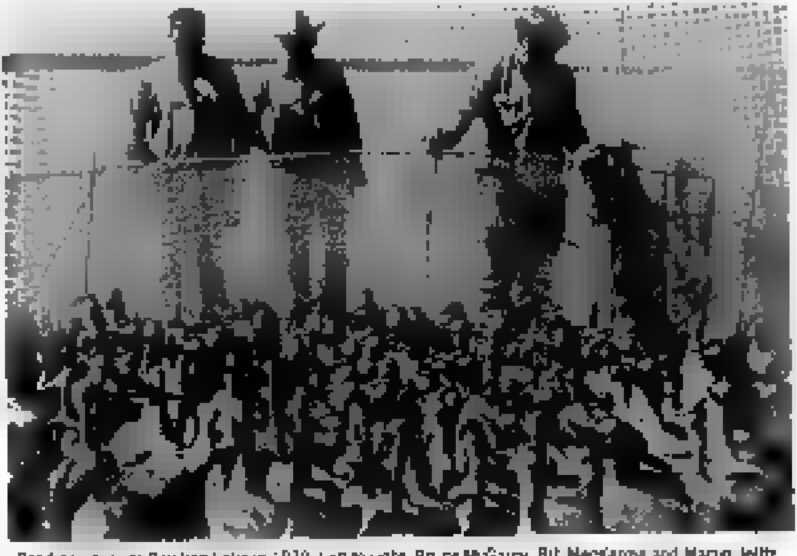
Once the store was gone, everything but the elevator and small elevator house was removed or torn down. The elevator stayed in operation until 1975. It is just a matter of time until it too disappears from the prairie skyline. Then there will be only memories left of the village of Dowling.

Dowling was never a centre for social activities since there was no school or hall there. The local schools and Clear Lake were centres of entertainment for people in the district. There were several U.F.A. locals formed that were active for awhile and then faded away. The ladies did their thing during World War II by

getting organized into a Red Cross group. They sewed and knitted and sent parcels overseas. In 1950 the women formed a local W.I. organization. They were active for several years within the community, then dissolved for lack of members and support.

There was a Dowling ball team during the fifties and early sixties. They were members of the Chain Lake Baseball League for a number of years and sponsored a ball tournament and sports day each summer from 1957 to 1962. The ball diamond was located south of Dowling, overlooking the lake.

Of a different nature, but still of interest to local residents was the research project on the island in Dowling Lake from 1967-1977. It was carried out by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the University of Alberta and the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division. Basically it was a study of the breeding and nesting habits of the Giant Canada Goose. A thirty foot observation tower with a small room on top was constructed to give full view of all the island. The men entered the tower before daylight and remained there until after dark, taking pictures and notes. On the average year they counted between ninety and one hundred nests, with a hatch of roughly four hundred goslings. They caught as many of these as they could in July and put wide yellow numbered bands on their necks.



Banding geese at Dowling Lake in 1970. Left to right: Bruce McGuire, Bill MacFarlane and Martin Jeltz.

Following is a brief history of the Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator at Dowling. This was kindly submitted to us by the Public Relations Department of the Pool Office in Calgary.

Alberta Wheat Pool's Dowling Elevator is a 37,000 bushel capacity facility built in 1928 by Ross Brothers Construction. A 30,000 bushel balloon annex was erected in 1940 at the site. In September, 1976 the balloon annex was sold and now the elevator is the only structure at Dowling.

Grain deliveries to the Pool's Dowling Elevator from 1932 to 1975 totalled 2,969,905 bushels. The highest grain handling recorded was 120,054 bushels in 1972 to 1973, the lowest handling occurred in 1936 to 1937 when the elevator only received 9,256 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Dowling Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: C. Lewis, Aug 1920 to July 1928; E. Foster, Nov 16/28 to Dec 7/31; G. Wahl, Dec 7/31 to Aug 17/32; T.W. MacKimmie, Aug 17/32 to May 3/35; L.M. Johnson, May 3/35 to Sep 9/35; M. Colbert, Sep 9/35 to Mar 1/37; G.W. Gibson, Mar 1/37 to Jun 18/37; P.L. Newman, Aug 6/38 to Jul 15/43; P. Ellergodt, Aug 3/43 to Jul 3/48; T.W. Pierce, Jul 3/48 to Jun 17/50; J. Foster, Jun 17/50 to Dec 1/51; P.J. Moran, Jan 1/52 to Feb 14/52; C.W. Shipton, Feb 14/52 to Sep 1/55; R.A. Sheets, Sep 1/55 to Jan 14/57; L.R. Gilbert, Jan 14/57 to Aug 24/59; G.D. McCarthy, Aug 24/59 to Sep 1/60; W.R. McGillivray, Sep 1/60 to Nov 24/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; Stapley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66 to Mar 31/75.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July, 1915 there was a plebiscite held to determine whether people wanted prohibition. It was the big issue of that particular time, receiving a lot of publicity. You had a choice to vote "Wet" or "Dry". Following are the results from some of the local polls. "Wet" votes are indicated in ().

Hanna — 102 (47); Centre Point — 10 (3); Watts — 18 (4); Maunders — 16 (6); Solon — 14 (3); Alpa — 20 (6); Dowling Lake — 6 (2); Greystone — 20 (2).

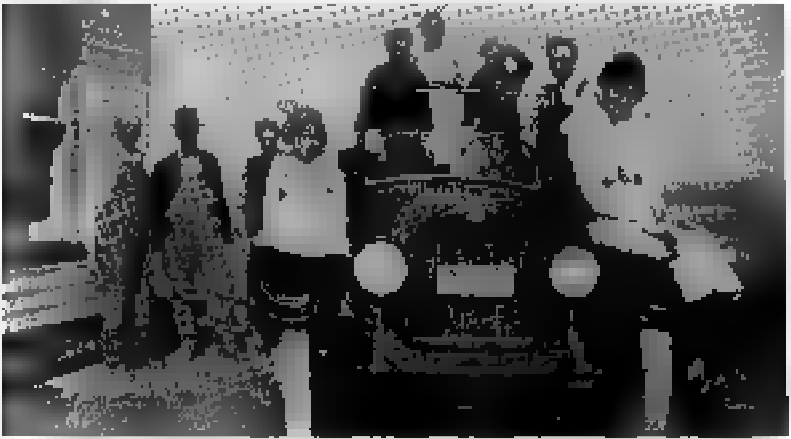
That telephone operators were known as "Hello Girls"?

These people lived in the district briefly, but we were unable to get much information about them: Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, homesteaders. In February 1916, this item appeared in the Hanna Herald, "Mr. Ed Wheeler intends to erect a blacksmith shop on his place this spring and follow his trade."

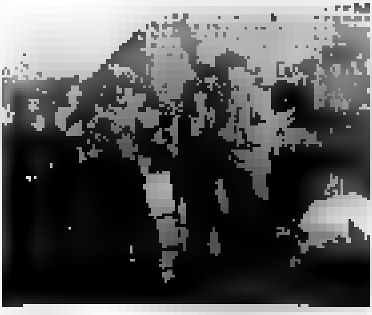
A Mr. Sieb who rented the Mansfield farm for a few years. He had a daughter Annie.

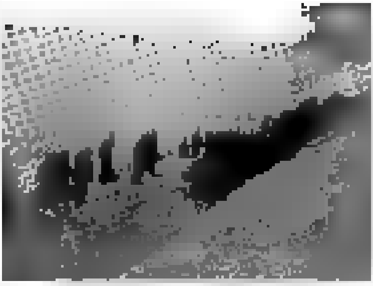
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Welch and their children, Louie, Bertel and Katie. They came from Castor and went to B.C. when they left.

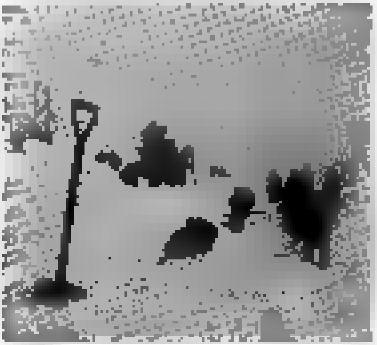
Albert Tietze and a relative or two. What little was heard of him indicated his activities were often questionable, like being convicted in Castor of shooting someone's horse.



Casper Bartch's Overland car, taken at Wiese's in 1917. Standing beside the house are: Mr. Wiese, Mr. Barter, Joe Nieberg. Standing in back seat: Mrs. Barter, Mrs. Wiese, Mrs. Bartch. In front seat: Bill Wallihan, Cap Bartch holding Elma. Harry Wiese standing on the right. Seated on fenders: Violet Bartel, left, Lucy Wiese, right.


The threshing crew on the Gaugler outfit having their afternoon coffee. The two gentlemen nearest the camera are George Haeusler and Rudolf Fecho.


The snowplow trying to push its way through the drifts in the cut on the north side of Dowling Lake after the big blizzard on Feb. 28, 1948. It was ten days after the storm before the train got through.


Men and shovels were the most effective means of clearing the track.

Rabbit hunt in 1936. Left to right: Eric Woolk, Ernest Haessel, Rudolph Haessel, Fritz Lange, Otto Haessel.

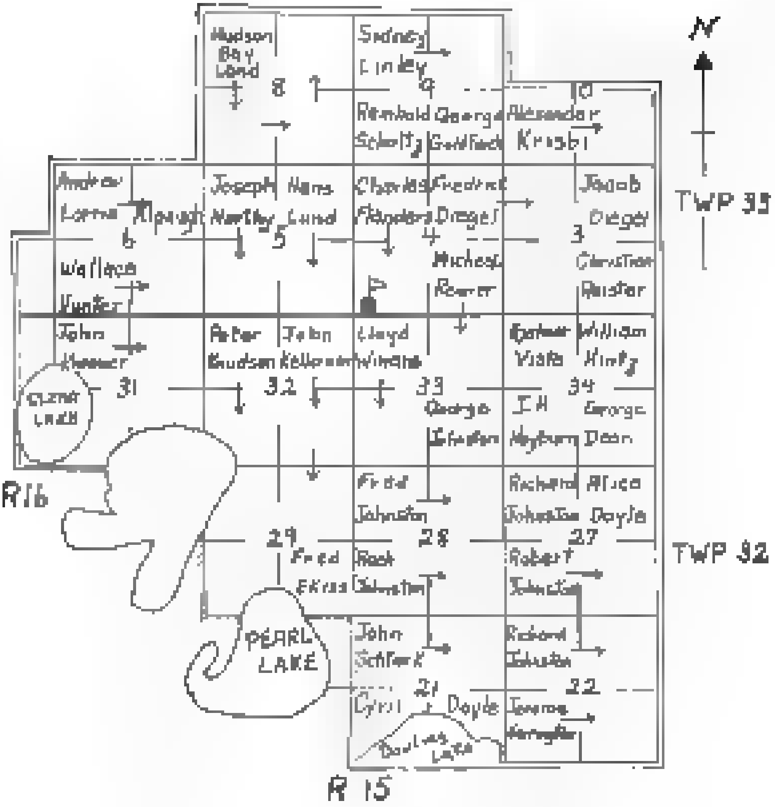
The following are all items taken from Hanna Herald files. Greystone, Feb. 5/1914. N.E. Bradley left last week for Calgary where he secured a position for the winter. H. Viste is in charge of his ranch and cattle for the winter.

Greystone — March 16/1916. J.L. Zehner and R. Gaugler have leased H. Bittke's farm and coal mine and are preparing to have coal on hand at all times. April 9/1914. A.E. English of Greystone purchased four heifers from Hunt Bros. of Endiang last week. May 14/1914. Mr. and Mrs. S. Brunner have returned from Castor after the burial of their daughter who died at Lake Thelma.

Wiese — Aug. 1916. Greystone was well represented at the Hanna Fair last week, and its representatives were successful in carrying home a number of prizes. The Greystone football team assisted by some Garden Plain players, played a match with the Hanna boys. Greystone won over Hanna, three to two. Jan. 11/1923 Chas. Fielding who resides north of Hanna received a shipment of registered Yorkshire pigs, of the bacon type, from a well known breeder at Unity, Sask. Jan. 18/1923. The irrigation surveyors seem to have disappeared from our view for the winter. We are informed that it is found that Sullivan Lake elevation is about 98 feet higher than Buffalo Lake. July 1926. C. Viste and John Kileberg are back from Camrose where they attended a Norwegian Convention.

To make an error can be annoying, but to learn you are so insignificant that no one even noticed it — that's down right humiliating!

CHAIN LAKES No. 3363



OWNERS AND RENTERS OF TOWNSHIPS 32 and 33, RANGE 15

NW 19-32-15
Henry Cook
Linda Bramfield

NE 19-32-15
James McGuire
Ross McGuire
Linda Bramfield

SE 19-32-15
Herman Sloan
Bennie Vista

SW 19-32-15
Herman Steen
Linda Bramfield

NW 20-32-15
A E Stephens
Pat Schultz

NE 20-32-15
S H Holloway
Pat Schultz

SW 20-32-15
Louis Vista
Pat Schultz

SE 20-32-15
Louis Vista
Irwen Schultz

NW 21-32-15
John Schtork
Wm. Gaugler

NE 21-32-15
John Schtork
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 21-32-15
Louis W. Doyle
Wm. & Betty Doyle

N ½ 22-32-15
Richard Johnson
Fred Ekiss
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 22-32-15
Jerome Harrington
Wm. & Betty Doyle

SW 30-32-15
Sydney Crandle
Alder Cranton

NE 29-32-15
John A. Kellerman
Wm. Diegel

SE 29-32-15
Fred Ekiss
Dave Schmidt

W ½ 29-32-15
Louis Grantham
Betty Grantham

N ½ 28-32-15
Fred Johnson

S ½ 28-32-15
Mrs. R. Johnson
S A Berg
Bob Holloway
Fred Trober
Pat Schultz

NW 27-32-15
Richard Johnson

Roger & Wilma Doyle
NE 27-32-15
Alice Doyle
Roger & Wilma Doyle
SW 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger & Wilma Doyle
SE 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger Doyle
N ½ 31-32-15
Lake (fraction)
John Kramer
Elida Bramfield
W ½ 32-32-15
Peter Knudson
Albert Miller
Wm. Fecho
E ½ 32-32-15
John Halverson
W. Diegel
W ½ 33-32-15
L.A. Winan
Fred Troller
Louis Grantham
F.C.F. Company
NE 33-32-15
Michael Reiner
Pat Schultz

SE 33-32-15
George Johnson
W. Diegel
NW 34-32-15
Hjalmer Viste
Pat Schultz
NE 34-32-15
William Hentz
Walter Wiess
SW 34-32-15
J.H. Hayman
Roger Doyle
SE 34-32-15
George Dean
Roger Doyle
W ½ 4-33-15
Charles Flanders
George Smith
Louis Welch
H. and M. Hall
SE 4-33-15
Fred Diegel
Dan Welch
SW 4-33-15
Michael Renner
Pat Schultz
NW 3-33-15
Fred Diegel
Lester Diegel

NE 3-33-15
Jacob Diegel
Lester Diegel
SW 3-33-15
Gotleib Renner
Charlie Renner
Pat Sloan
SE 3-33-15
Christian Reisler
Lester Diegel
E ½ 6-33-15
Wallace Hunter
Clyde Coons
Albert Ludlow
Hicks Cole
Wallace Hunter
Bill Fecho
S ½ 10-33-15
Alexander Kilsby
D. and L. Welch
SE 8-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert
SW 8-33-15
George Banner
Stanley Fecho
Harold Lund
Dan Welch
N ½ 8-33-15

Lida
Helmut & Ruby
N ½ 6-33-15
Nels Manson
Wallace Hunter
L.A. Winans
Tad Robinson
Martin Johnson
Harold Lund
Dan Welch
N ½ 9-33-15
Sydney Linley
Rudolph Welch
Dan Welch
SW 9-33-15
Reinhold Schultz
Dan Welch
SE 9-33-15
George Gundlach
Lester Diegel
W ½ 5-33-15
Joe Northey
Tom McLelland
Ben Zeamer
Stanley Fecho
Erwin Bossert
E ½ 5-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert

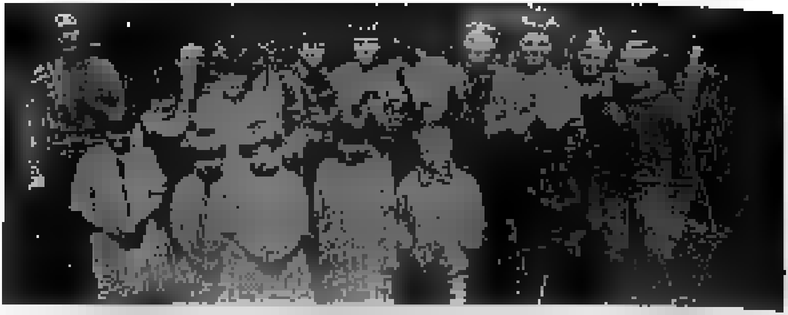
THE CHAIN LAKE DISTRICT

The Chain Lakes school district contains high hills which offer a sweeping view of the surrounding country, and which slope down to a shallow valley dotted with small lakes. To the south-east is Dowling Lake, to the north-west is Farrell Lake, and between are numerous small bodies of water divided by narrow strips of land; hence the name, Chain Lakes.

One of the deepest of these smaller lakes was Clear Lake, spring-fed, and without the alkali of the others. It was a popular spot for swimming, and many community picnics were held there. In the early twenties the Clear Lake Community Club was formed; the committee included Hicks Cole, Hans, Harold and Dan Lund, George Banner, Bob Holloway, Lee and Cyril Doyle, with Mrs. George Banner acting as secretary. About 1924 they had two bath houses built on the shore of the lake, so that bathers could change in privacy. In 1927 a hall was built; dances were held there every week during its heyday.

Andy Alpaugh built the first motor boat to run on the lake, a small stern-wheeler powered by a Model T motor. Andy also operated the refreshment booth; but after some of the patrons questioned the quality of his apple cider, he gave up his concession, and Harry Poon took it over.

One summer an all-negro baseball team met the local players, who were no match for them, even after they pulled all their fielders. After the game the visitors, who were very musical, got out their instruments and put on an impromptu concert in the hall. The music was peppy, and some of the young people began to dance. George Banner put a stop to that; for it was a Sunday, and dancing was not considered a suitable activity for the Sabbath day.



Chain Lakes School 1926-27. Back Row, left to right: Mr. McPherson, Harry Johnson, Casper Johnson, Helen Trottier, Henry Trotter, Ted Elses. Middle Row: Connie Hoplonstal, Mary Trotter, Willie Diegel, Charlie Johnson, Adolph Leippi, Richard Zeamer, Ewing Smith. Front Row: Louise Johnson, Violet Johnson, Mary Diegel, Esther Michael, Walter Hoplonstal, Gordon Elses, Bernard Zeamer

At one picnic Tom Samson, one of the first people to swim across Clear Lake, won an inner tube as prize for the best swimmer of the day. Unfortunately, he didn't own a car.

To provide shade for the picnickers, the committee arranged to have trees planted. They grew quite well for a year or two, but in the early thirties the lake dried up and the alkali blowing off it smothered both trees and grass. One of the bath houses blew away, the hall was sold and removed, and the pier leading to the diving platform fell into ruins. Although there has been considerable water in Clear Lake in recent years, it has never regained its popularity as a summer resort, but many oldtimers like to remember it as the place where they saw their first boxing match and had their first airplane ride.

Chain Lakes school was built in 1912, on the line between Hans Lund's and Joe Northey's property. It was named Knudson, after a homesteading family, and the first trustees were Mr. Knudson, Mr. Flanders and Mr. N. Lund. Later, when school district boundaries were changed, the building was moved a mile east and renamed Chain Lakes.

The first teacher at this school was Miss Marian Lowe, who came straight from high school at Red Deer and taught on a special permit. She later became Mrs. Joe Northey. Other teachers, not necessarily in the order in which they taught were Marjorie Newcombe, Laura Deming (a niece of the Wieners), Miss Bryden, Mrs. Evan McCandless, Ella Stambaugh, Lydia Lemmle, Lenore Knopp, Miss Whittle, Bill McLaughlin, Lorne Clapperton, Bessie Armstrong, Florence Robertson, Francis Glazier (Mrs. R. McGuire), Francis Harvey (Mrs. C. Johnson), Mrs. Cook, Marion Slater, John Lenuik, Bert Griffin, also Olga Fleck.

Mrs. Hans Lund wrote the following article, published in the Hanna Herald of August 25, 1955:

"In the early days the schoolhouse was the centre of such activities as the customary Christmas parties, dances, card parties, U.F.A. meetings and telephone and political meetings. It was also the centre for religious services; Anglican, Lutheran, United and Roman Catholic services were held there, each given equal rights, tolerance being the motto of the early settlers. An air of easy informality existed at church services, so much so that on one occasion one homesteader lit up his pipe during the afternoon service. The minister made no comment, but some of the women scowled."

After Chain Lakes school was closed, the building was moved to the Louis Welch farm where it was used as a shop.

TEACHING AT CHAIN LAKES, By Marion Northey — In the spring of 1912 I, then Marion Lowe, went out to a school about fourteen miles north of Craigmyle to teach. This was a new school built on two acres; one acre donated by Joe Northey and one acre by Hans Lund. They had gone out there in 1908. This was my first school; I taught grades one, two, three and eight. There were four nationalities represented, a happy experience, and wonderful children. Even in 1912, the eighth graders had to write exams from the Department of Education in Edmonton. School was from June the first to December twentieth. We had church services once a month on Sunday, after the first year. So much for the school.

Chain Lakes School. First Row, left to right: Mrs. Northey (Teacher), Lucy Wiess, Anna Lund, Ruth Cob, Reinhold Diegel, 4 unknown (believed Renners), Paul Knudson. Second Row: Marion Knudson, Alice Knudson, two Renner girls, Gladys Knudson, Ida Banner, Dan Lund

Mrs. Banner, Mrs. Wiess, Mrs. Northey

At the end of my second year, Joe Northey and I were married.

The whole country was planted to wheat. Many had their own flour after the flour mill was opened in Hanna. They would make a trip for that alone. Most of the time our wheat was hauled to Craigmyle. At this time most of the farmers had one half their acreage sowed to wheat and the other half summer fallowed for next year's crop.

Near us was a Chain of Lakes stretching from north to south, but as they were alkaline they were not much use for pleasure. In the fall it was easy to shoot the mallards as they flew from grainfields to the lakes.

Although we were some distance from town we drove all over to dances and entertainments: in the summer and fall in buggies and in the winter in sleighs. Some of the dances were interesting as newly arrived Scotch people were clever dancers.

As I am eighty-four years old I cannot remember many names. We left the ranch in 1920, went to Red Deer and in 1922 came down to the States.

THE KNUDSONS, By Marian Knudson Kelerith and Gladys Knudson Schumacker — Peter Christian Knudson was born in Denmark in 1856. With his wife Mary, and six children, he left Ellendale, North Dakota in 1910 to come to Alberta. We had heard so much about sunny Alberta. We travelled by train, stopping at North Portal to have everything checked before we crossed the line; then went on to Gadsby where we rented a house to spend the winter and to go to school. Art, the oldest son, worked at a hardware store; John, Alice and Marian went to school; Gladys was too young.

The first week in May we left by wagon for the homestead. It was snowing and we got as far as Mr. Shalberg's and spent the night there, continuing our journey in the morning. We lived in two tents while Joe Northey and Hans Lund built our house. The lumber had to be hauled from Gadsby. My father bought four oxen to cultivate the land.

We got our mail at Townsend's, four miles away, but later Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Winans had a sort of sub-post office in their home . . . anyone who was at the main post office brought all the neighbors' mail and left it there . . . and that was within walking distance of our place. How we used to look forward to the big rolls of funny papers which our aunt in the States sent to us!

A school named Knudson was built across the road from our place, so close that we could go home for lunch. Later it was moved about a mile east, and renamed Chain Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Knudson (second wife)

Mother died in 1912, and we had housekeepers until Dad married Euphemia Currie in 1917.

Arthur joined the army in 1914, served overseas for four years and was wounded. After his return he worked in coal mines and settled in Canmore where he was pit boss. He married and had five children; both he and his wife are now deceased.

John joined the American army, served six years, married and had two children. He still lives in Washington.

Paul is in Ponoka.

Marian married Alex Kelerith and lived in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler. They had five children. Marian is now widowed.

Alice was a dressmaker in Calgary for many years. She married Alfred Hart and they have two daughters.

Gladys became a school teacher and taught in ungraded country schools for eight years before marrying Louis Schumacker of Drumheller. They have three children.

Peter Knudson moved to Calgary where he died in 1933.

The Knudson Family. Back Row, left to right: Art, John, Paul. Middle Row: Marian, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Knudson, Alice and Gladys.

HANS C. LUND, *By Mary Lund Gelski* — My Father, Hans C. Lund, was born in Jels, Denmark in 1882. He immigrated to Red Deer, Alberta in 1901 to the home of his uncle, Hans Lund, who was the father of Nick Lund, a pioneer of the Hanna district. His first winter in Canada he worked in a lumber camp near Red Deer and with the help of his cousins learned the English language — which he learned almost perfectly.

Back Row, left to right: Hawley Goldfinch, Mrs. George Banner, George Banner, Hans Lund, Sydney Linker, Mrs. Bill Banner, Bill Banner, Ida Banner. Front Row: Leonard Melden, Myrtle Melden in front and Lillian Banner

Then he took up his trade as a carpenter, which he had learned in the old country. He worked for various contractors and built houses in Red Deer, Pine Lake, Innisfail and Edmonton and area.

In 1908 he homesteaded in what was to become the Chain Lakes District. In 1910 he helped build the Chain Lakes School, but at that time it was located between his homestead and that of Joe Northey. In the year 1912 it was moved about a half mile east of his homestead.

Hans returned to Denmark three times, in 1909, 1910 and 1921.

On March the fourteenth, 1922, he married Edna Peake in Swinton, Lancashire, England.

I was born June twenty-sixth, 1923 in the Hanna Hospital and my sister, Edna was born November the eighteenth, 1924. I started school in 1929. Mrs. M.D. Cook was my first teacher.

Hans and Edna Lund were always active in community affairs. They belonged to the Alberta Wheat Pool, the U.F.A. and took part in all endeavours for the Chain Lakes area. My Father was also one of the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club helping with the building of the Hall, bath houses, etc. With the help of George Banner he always ran the water sports at the Clear Lake picnic.

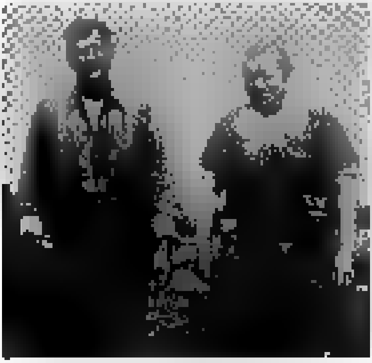
Many of our Christmases were spent at the home of the George Banners and there was always a house full. We certainly had some wonderful times there. We went through some very hard times in the thirties but I never remember being unhappy; we had so many good neighbors and everyone was always willing to help one another.

My Father sold the farm in the early fifties to Ervin Bossert, a fine young man, who has made the old homestead a lovely farm.

My parents bought a home in Hanna and became active in affairs in Hanna. My Father resumed his trade as a carpenter, took up curling and various activities in town.

My Mother was on the Hanna Hospital Board for many years. She also belonged to the Eastern Star, Hospital Auxiliary and took a keen interest in community affairs.

My Father passed away December seventeenth, 1963 and my Mother on February twenty-sixth, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson

THE CHARLEY and THERESA JOHNSON FAMILY, By Louise Johnson Cook — In 1916, my father, Charley Johnson came from Washburn, North Dakota to the Chain Lakes District, where he bought the farm of Gottlieb Rennet. My mother and six children followed later. When mother arrived she moved into a small sod house where it rained inside as much as outside. She would tell how she kept the light on all night because the bed bugs were so bad. On May the twenty-fifth, 1916, shortly after their arrival, Charles (Chuck) was born in the sod house. A midwife, Mrs. Sexsmith, attended the birth.

My father had a house built that summer by Tom Symington, an early settler in the Scapa district. The lumber for the house was hauled by wagon from Craigmyle, a distance of about eighteen miles. The original house is still much as it was then and was occupied until last year.

In 1918, "I" (Louise) was born and in 1920 Violet was born. This brought the

family to nine. Mrs. Sexsmith attended at the births. We all attended Chain Lakes School. Six of us received all our education there. Mrs. M.D. Cook taught for eight years. She was a dedicated teacher. Many times during the thirties she would not be paid for months at a time and the salary was very little. She taught every grade from beginners to grade eleven.

The school served many purposes. During the summer months church was held there. A United Church student minister held services and conducted Sunday School. He travelled on horseback and also held services in Endiang, Scapa and Chain Lakes. The Reverend H.E. Scatton, an Anglican Missionary Minister, also held services and Holy Communion when he travelled through the community. He travelled by team in a top buggy. He was very impressive in his black robe and black beard. I remember my mother telling of the Reverend Scatton baptizing Charlie. That was in 1917.

Church picnic at Clear Lake. Back Row, left to right: Bob Holloway, Edie Smith, George Banner, Vera Smith, Mrs. George Smith, Sid Holloway, Mrs. G. Banner. Front Row: Mrs. Charley Johnson, Louise Johnson, Ida Banner.

The school also served as a community centre, where meetings and dances were held. Louis and Harry played for dances in the schools and community halls throughout the district. Louis played the violin and Harry the guitar.

My father served on the school board in the twenties with George Smith and Fred Ekiss. In later years he was on the board with Hans Lund and Louis Doyle.

In February 1941 Martin and Charlie volunteered their services in the Canadian Army. Martin served in Canada. Charlie served on Active Duty with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He served overseas from September 1941 until his return home in November 1945.

Father passed away in 1947 at the age of seventy-one and mother in 1972 at the age of eighty-six.

Mother's great pride was her family. She lived to see twenty-five grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

Louis was married to **Bessie Robinson**. He is a widower, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C.

Edna married **Elmer Tillotson** of Delia, Alberta. They had two sons and three daughters. Edna passed away in 1970.

Martin married Lillian Morris and has two sons. They live in Medicine Hat.

Mabel passed away in 1932.

Harry was married to Eleanor Grandham. They had two sons and three daughters. He passed away in 1969.

Casper was married to Lila Staub who died in 1961. They had three sons. He has re-married and now resides in Mission, B.C.

Charlie (Chuck) married Frances Harvey. They have five sons and one daughter. They make their home in Hanna.

Louise married Fred Cook. They have one daughter and live in Hanna.

Violet was married to Henry Trottier. They had two sons and two daughters. She is now Mrs. Frank Dobrosky and lives in Oyen, Alberta.

Some of the Michael Family, Fred, Clarence, Mr. Michael, Ted, Mrs. Michael, Esther.

THE HENRY MICHAEL FAMILY, *By Ruby Heuscher* — Mrs. Henry Michael was a sister of Mrs. Steinbrecker, and the two ladies worked in a cigar factory in Stettler before coming to this area. They had come to Canada from Colorado in 1912; the Michael family homesteaded in the Wiese district and later moved to the Chain Lakes area.

There were six children in the family; Ted lives in Vancouver. He was married to Elizabeth Morasch and had one daughter, Marie.

Fred married Anne Hagen and had one son. Clarence married and had two daughters and one son.

Molly died in the sixties. She married Mike Kary of Hemaruka and had two girls and one boy.

Marie, who married Sig Hoffman, had two sons and a daughter. She was killed in an accident at Three Hills.

Esther, Mrs. Fraser, has two sons. She lives in Edmonton.

The family left this district and moved to Stettler, where Mr. Michael died. Mrs. Michael then went to Donalda where she worked on a farm. She died in 1947.

THE DOYLE FAMILY, *By Bill Doyle* — No history of the area would be complete without mention of the Doyles — Cyril, Lea and Lou, who were early residents of the Dowling District. My father, Lou, the youngest of a family of six, was born in Tignish, P.E.I. Mrs. Doyle, who had been widowed shortly before Lou was born, moved her young family to Rumford Falls, Maine, where she taught school and raised her family. It was in Maine that Lou learned his basics of baseball, a sport in which he excelled in later years.

In his late teens, Lou immigrated to Canada to join his uncle Jerome Herrington, who had come west to raise horses on the north shore of Dowling Lake. He was followed afterward by his brothers, Cyril and Lea.

The First World War interrupted the lives of many of the young men in the district. Lou, while still in his teens, joined the Canadian Forces. He served with distinction, overseas on the Western Front, with the First Battalion — Royal Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He was followed to service by Cyril and Lea.

After the Armistice, the Doyles returned to Dowling district where they took up a homestead, bought Hudson's Bay land and began farming and ranching.

They were joined briefly during the early twenties by their mother and three sisters — Mercedes, Bernadette and Kathleen. The West, however proved too

much for the ladies and they returned to the United States, where they made their home at Boston.

As the district settled into the roaring twenties, the Doyle boys played an important role in community life. Lee took an active part in the Clear Lake Community Association, helping to turn the barren prairie lake into a popular sporting and resort area. Baseball rivalry hit its peak at this time as Craigmyle, Hanna, Drumheller and farther points vied to have the top ball club. What echoes of the cheers can be heard by the old timers! — and the names come back over the years — George Murray, Dodger Lewis, Lou Doyle, Bill McCoy, Homer Butts. How good were they? Well, we'll never know, but Dodger Lewis and Lou Doyle were invited to training camp with the old Brooklyn Dodgers, and more than one old timer can recall Lou's great home-run hitting. To quote one, "Lou tore a hell of a lot of shingles off the old club house at Clear Lake."

But life was more than baseball; there was the business of farming, community and family life. While Lee remained the eligible bachelor, cutting a handsome figure with his hair chaperrals, sporty saddle and fine riding horses, Cyril and Lou chose marriage and family.

As the community became more settled, the Doyles took an active role in the development of the Chain Lakes School District, the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company and the United Farmers of Alberta.

During the late thirties Cyril, who had married the former Lucy Wiess, sold his holdings and moved to Fort Langley, B.C. Lou and Lee remained in the Dowling district until their deaths, proud of their community and their Irish heritage.

Lee Doyle, Edna Lund, George Banner, Mary Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Banner, Ida Grosse

LEE DOYLE — Lee Doyle was born in Prince Edward Island, and came to Alberta to take up a homestead in 1914. He was one of the first trustees of Chain Lakes school, and was always interested in the development of his community. He acted as road foreman when Andy Hanson was councillor, and often drove twelve head of horses on the road grader. He tried to achieve a higher standard of development for the area in which he lived, and gave fully of himself in every way possible to attain these objectives. He was among the group who decided to erect a community hall at Clear Lake, and was convener of the horse races at the picnics there.

With true pioneer courage he managed to build up his farming operations, even when drought meant that yields were low. He built a shack when he first came to the homestead, later building a larger house. When he and Andy Hanson were digging the basement for the new house, they were hampered by a large rock which was in their way. Mr. Hanson suggested that they put a stick of dynamite on top of it; Lee thought it would do more good underneath. They lit the fuse, and up came the rock, landing on the chicken coop. The chicken house repaired and the basement dug, up went the new house; but Lee always laughed about how he should have listened to Andy Hanson.

Lee's mother, Mrs. Alice Doyle, kept house for him; and as the road to Dowling went right through their yard, many people stopped to visit this friendly and charming lady. When she left, Joe Fischer became almost a fixture at Lee's

He was supposed to be the cook, and that was when the fun and the frustration started. In farewell, Joe would always say, "I wish you lots of pleasure."

Lee Doyle was missed by young and old alike when he passed away in 1946.

CYRIL DOYLE — Cyril Doyle homesteaded in the Chain Lakes district in 1914 at the same time as his older brother Lee and his younger brother, Lou. He served in the army during World War I and after he returned to the district he married Lucy Wiese.

U.F.A. Picnic at Clear Lake. Cyril Doyle standing at left. George Banner. Lucy Doyle in front of George Banner.

Back Row, left to right: unknown, Nina Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Lucy Doyle, Ila Banner, Mrs. Banner, Miss Cameron. Second Row: Gordon and Norman Lund, Mrs. Ben Zoumer, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Johnson. Front Row: unknown, Leona Zoumer, Mary Lund, Edna Lund.

The couple managed to achieve a good living by milking cows and raising chickens. Lucy was noted for her hospitality and was a very good cook; a visitor always got a good meal at their table. They both gave freely of themselves to help their neighbors or the community. They were one of the first in the country to have a 1928 Essex car, and were very proud of it.

Cyril was an outstanding pitcher for the Clear Lake Community Ball Club; with Andy Hanson on first base, batters were put out in short order.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were blessed with three children while they lived in Alberta. In 1936 they had a sale and moved to Langley, B.C. where they were in the dairy business for several years. Later they retired there, where Lucy passed away in 1967. Cyril continued to make his home there, and every year travelled to Stony Plain to visit his daughter, Lucille Cox. It was during one of these visits that he passed away very suddenly in February, 1977.

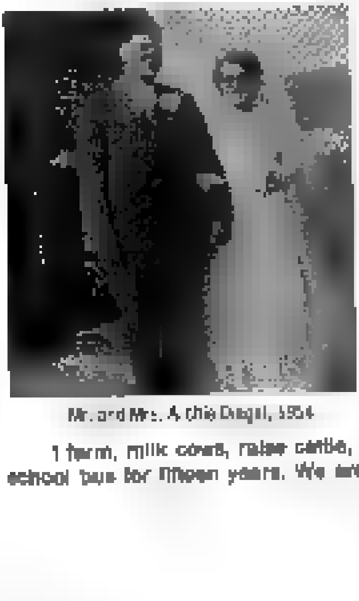
Clarence, their oldest son, resides in B.C. Their second Boy, Leslie, was killed in a truck accident in 1963.

LLOYD A. WINANS, ***By Austin Ludlow*** — L.A. Winans came with his wife from California and homesteaded the west half of 33-32-15. They farmed for many years, and had a threshing outfit in partnership with George Banner.

One time during the early years they were coming home with groceries during the winter when they were caught in a blizzard. Unable to travel further, they turned the horses loose, turned the sleigh box upside down, and spent the hours until the storm subsided underneath it. When the storm abated they righted the sleigh box, found the horses close by, hitched them up and continued on their way home.

As a convenience for the neighbors, they operated a sort of sub post office; any neighbor who happened to be at the post office at Watts brought out the mail for everyone in the area, and left it at the Winans' home. They were the only family to have a telephone after the majority of rural lines were removed during the depression years.

In 1934 the Winans returned to California, where they both passed away



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Diegel, 1954

ARCHIE DIEGEL — I was born June 17, 1930 and grew up on my parents' farm five miles north-west of Dowling and six miles south-west of Scapa. I attended Chain Lakes school for nine years, then worked on my parents' farm. In 1951 they bought a house in Hanna and I batched until 1954 when I married Edna Dowling. We lived on the farm for one year, then moved south-west of Hanna, but continued to farm the old place until I rented it to Lester Diegel in 1965. In 1968 I sold the land to Lester and bought land in the Hand Hills.

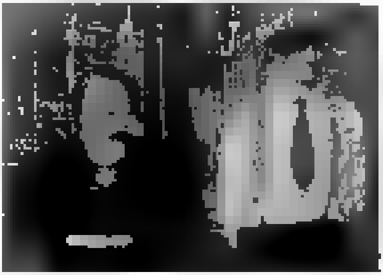
We have three children. Deborah who is working for AGT at Calgary. Bryne and Myles at home.

I farm, milk cows, raise cattle, chickens and hogs and have been driving a school bus for fifteen years. We are quite happy to be on the farm.

MR. and MRS. JACOB DIEGEL, By Marie Diegel Rosin — Dad was born March 14, 1894. My mother, Eva Schafer, was born May 7, 1894. They were married in South Dakota in 1916.

They had four sons and three daughters. Arvert and Esther are deceased.

Relatives and neighbors, gathering at Jacob and Eva Diegel in 1930's.



25th Wedding Anniversary 1941 Jacob and Eva Diegel

Willard married Hilda Ost. Their children are Lester, Charlotte, Gary and Glenda.

Marie Elizabeth married Anton Stotz. Their children were Shirley and Gerald. She was widowed in 1960 and is now Mrs. Rosin. Samuel married Marion Ost and had three children, Marvin, Stanley and Dwayne.

Irene married Walter Sieppert. Their children are Gloria, Darlene, Dale and Kathy.

Archie married Edna Doering. Their children are Deborah, Brynn and Myles.

Mom died in October, 1955, and Dad in September, 1959.

GEORGE SMITH, By Mrs. Grace Smith Drury — Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in Toronto in 1905, and came to Innisfail, Alberta the same year with a freight car of farm implements, livestock and household furniture. From there they came to the Craigmyle district and freighted their possessions down from Innisfail. While moving, the driver of one wagon fell asleep. The horses ran away and the mirrors of Mrs. Smith's sideboard were broken. After arriving in Craigmyle district, the children attended Orlando School. Later they moved to the Chain Lakes district one mile north of the school. In 1931 they retired and moved to Calgary.

Back Row, left to right: George Banner, Mrs. Smith, George Smith, Ida Banner. Front Row: Ruth Smith, Edith Smith, Irene Smith, Ewing Smith, Lillian Banner.

Mr. Smith who was born in Wales in 1876, passed away in 1968. Mrs. Smith was born in Scotland in 1874 and passed away in 1962. They were survived by four daughters, Grace Drury of Toronto, Edith Rodburne of Calgary, Ruth Wild of Ponoka, Irene Robbins of Calgary, and one son, Ewing of Blind Bay, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Symington, Sarah, Marion, Margaret (Baby)

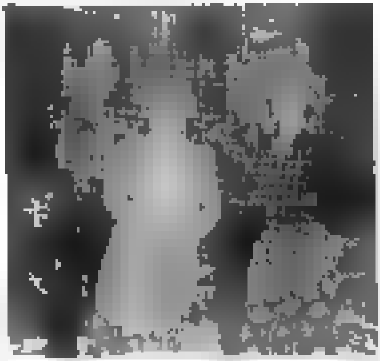
MR. and MRS. SYDNEY LINLEY, from information supplied by Ida Graves and Mrs. A.B. Hansen — Sydney Linley had served with the Imperial Army in campaigns in India, the Sudan and South Africa before he and his wife emigrated from Lancashire, England, to homestead the NW 8-33-15. They built a barn and a fairly large house there. Mrs. Linley, who always wore a little dust cap, was very fond of chickens and always managed to keep them laying during the winter, and the neighbors came to depend on her for their winter egg supply.

Anyone who liked a nice cup of tea or a glass of rhubarb or dandelion wine were welcome whenever they dropped in. Mrs. Linley always kept the wine under the bed while it worked, then stored it in the basement for three years before serving it. Those who tasted it said that it was of the highest quality.

Sydney joined the Canadian army during the first World War, and while he was away she carried on at home, looking after her cows and chickens. Harold Lund and Reinhold Schultz helped her with the field work. She used to sit on an apple box on the stoneboat and drive a single horse about four miles to get the mail - she would be so disappointed when there was no letter from her husband.

When Sydney returned from overseas they planted a long row of pines and a shelter belt of other trees, which have grown into a wonderful memorial for them.

In 1937 the Linleys moved to Calgary, and after renting the land to Arnold Arndt for a couple of years, sold it to Rudolph Welch. It is now owned by Dan Welch.



Ben Zeamer, Mrs. Zeamer, Bernhard, Leona, 1940

THE BEN ZEAMER FAMILY, by Richard Zeamer — My parents and I came to Calgary from Missouri in 1918, but only stayed a few months and then went back to the States. In May 1918 my brother Bernhard was born, and later that year we moved to the Craigmyle district where we stayed for five years. My sister Leona was born there in 1922.

In 1923 we moved to the Keen farm, my dad farmed and hauled rocks. In harvest time he would ride a mule down to the Ekles place and pitch bundles all day, ride back at night to milk the cow, and the next morning would be away again, riding bareback.

In 1924 we moved to the Northey farm about four miles south and that fall my

brother and I started school at Chain Lakes. We got our mail and supplies at Hanna, went to picnics at Clear Lake, and walked with Cappie Johnson to dances at Annesheim.

My parents, brother and sister moved to Parson, B.C. in the fall of 1935. Leona married Walter Larsen and has three children. Bernhard, who works on the C.P.R. in Calgary, is married and has two girls. I live in Hanna.

MR. and MRS. JOHN KELLERMANN, By Ernie Lange — John Kellermann was born in Germany in 1874. Since he was handicapped from birth by not having full use of his right arm and leg, his parents decided that he should become a tailor following his school years. He worked at this in Germany until 1906 when he emigrated to London, England where he spent one year. In 1907 he came to Edmonton where he followed his trade until 1911. In 1911 he moved to Stettler and from there to Dowling Lake where he took a homestead.

John Kellermann

Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann

In 1912 he hauled lumber from Castor with a team of oxen for some of the first buildings in the new town of Hanna.

Miss Agatha Geisler came to Alberta in 1912 to join her sister Mrs. Robert Lange. Later the same year she met and was married to John Kellermann, the wedding taking place in Lange's sod house.

The couple spent one winter in Hanna where Mr. Kellermann opened a small tailor shop. This however proved unsuccessful since there was not enough business in the small community for them to exist. They then settled down on the farm where they lived until Mr. Kellermann's death in 1934.

Mrs. Kellermann continued to reside on the farm until 1935 when she married George Kroll in the Watts district. They lived on his farm until 1938 when they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Kellermann passed away in 1950.

OTTO GEISLER — Since Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann were not blessed with children they decided to bring Mrs. Kellermann's nephew over from Germany. Otto Geisler arrived in 1928 and worked on the farm with his uncle. This venture was short lived since Otto met and married Miss Elsie Welch one year later. The couple then moved to Hanna where Otto worked for the C.N.R. The marriage, however, soon ended in divorce. Otto spent most of his years in Saskatchewan doing any work that was available, as well as riding freight trains during the years of the depression. Following the death of his father in 1936 his mother paid his fare back to Germany, where he took over his father's store.

HENRY GLUESING — In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann once more tried to add a relative to their family. This time they turned to Mr. Kellermann's nephew and in July 1928 sixteen-year-old Henry Gluesing came to live with them. He worked faithfully with his uncle until 1933 when he decided to go north to trap. This proved to be the end of his farming days with the Kellermanns. When trapping didn't prove to be too successful he turned first to mining and then to oil exploration and eventually worked his way up to the position of Diamond Driller at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

PAULINE ENGEL — Pauline Engel came to Alberta from Europe with her parents in 1925. In 1928 she came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann. She was a member of the Kellermann home and attended Chain Lakes School until 1931, when she rejoined her family in the Endiang district.

WALLACE HUNTER, By Austin Ludlow — Wallace Hunter homesteaded about 1910 on 6-33-15. He was a hard worker and never set stakes to strike out a land; he figured it all had to be plowed. I remember one of his horses wading across a dry lake in the mud with what was left of his harness. That was before his horses found out they were supposed to stay on the job.

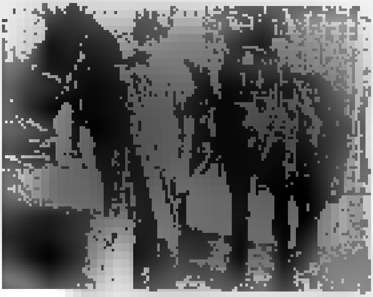
We Ludlows moved in with Uncle Wallace the summer of 1914. He had lots of room. His house was ten feet by fourteen feet. There were just five of us, including the dog. I think that was the summer Dad started working for J.A. Borel and Jim Smith. He travelled a Percheron Stallion imported from France. He rode a horse he called Wee Donald. Once Mother cooked a kettle of figs and set them out on a shelf to cool. Wee Donald ate them.

That winter Dad and Clyde Wooden worked in Kirkeby's coal mine. They drove a big gray horse on a stone boat. Clyde and I would put on the boxing gloves and box. Clyde would be on his knees, as I was only five years old.

In 1915 we moved to our homestead. We spent several years there, good and bad, accumulating experience.

Back Row, left to right: Albert Smith, Hazel Smith, Austin Ludlow, June Smith, Margy Smith. Front Row: Cheryl Smith, Mrs. Ludlow, Susan Smith.

In 1930, Uncle Wallace wanted to go to the bush so we moved back to his place. By that time we had two of my sister's little girls, Hazel and June Coons, living with us. They started their education at Chain Lakes school. Their teacher was Mrs. Cook. She was Chain Lakes' teacher for several years in the thirties, some of the time without wages, just to keep the school going.

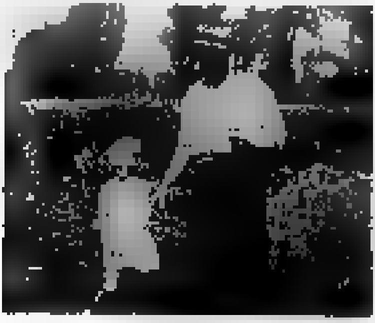


Bert Ludlow, his team and dog

In 1937 we moved north of Rimbey. In 1942 we came back to Halkirk for two years, then went to Erskine. The girls still live at Erskine. Hazel is Mrs. Dewey Smith and June is Mrs. Ray Smith. Dad left us in 1951 and Mother passed on in 1970.

I sold my place in Erskine and came back to Craigmyle to complete the circle. Wherever we lived we found good friends and neighbors but it's nice to be back home.

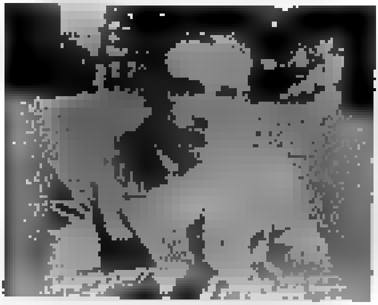
Wallace Hunter came back to his homestead in the early forties. He farmed with horses until 1966, when he rented his land to Lester Diegel. Wallace Hunter died in 1972.



Bob Holloway

ROBERT DENNIS HOLLOWAY, By Ida Greene — Robert Holloway came out from England in 1912. He homesteaded in the Wiese district and worked out for several years, later selling his homestead. He joined the army in 1918. After the war he bought three quarter sections of land, two miles south of Chain Lakes School. After farming for several years he sold his holdings to Fred Trotter.

A confirmed bachelor, he was secretary of the Clear Lake Community Club for many years, he held a position with the Soldier Settlement Board for a few years, later moving to Montreal, where he and his younger brother operated an animal hospital. He passed away at the age of sixty-nine in Montreal.



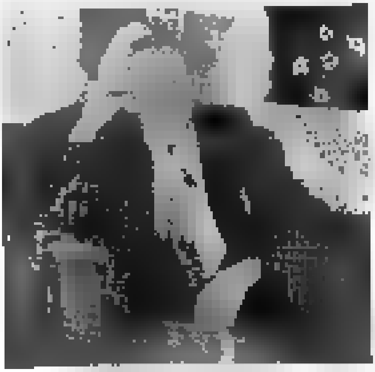
Syd Holloway at Guelph College

SYDNEY HAWTREY HOLLOWAY, By Ida Greene — Sydney Holloway came out from an orphan's home in England in the year 1922 and made his home with his brother Robert and with Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He learned a bit about farming and worked for Mr. Fred Ekiss and Rufus McCuish, also worked with horses and a scraper building the railway through Dowling.

He went to Olds Agriculture College in 1924-1925; graduating from there he won a scholarship to Columbus, Ohio.

After graduating as a veterinarian he opened up his own business in Montreal with his brother Bob.

At the age of forty-three he decided to become a medical doctor. After leaving the east, he came to Didsbury to practise, later moving to Calgary where he now resides. He is married and has two daughters.


Fred Trottier Christmas 1957

FRED TROTTIER, *By Helen Trottier Hogg* — Fred Trottier was born in Quebec on December the twelfth, 1885. As a young man he joined the thousands of Eastern Canadians who were going west to open up the country. In the early 1900's he and his wife Jenny resided in Edmonton. They had a family of three children, all born in Edmonton; Henry Trottier who now lives in Calgary, Mary Miller also in Calgary and Helen Hogg of Stettler.

In 1912 Fred and his family took up a homestead in the Scapa district. It was here that his wife Jenny passed away in 1924. He then moved to the Dowling Lake district and purchased the Bob Holloway farm where he resided for many years before retiring to Hanna as a resident of the Hanna Senior Citizen Lodge. He passed away January nineteenth, 1970.

Mr. Trottier was a man with a great sense of humor. Anyone who came to his home never left hungry as he became a very good bachelor cook and his home was open to all.

STAN PEAKE, *By Mary Lund [illegible]* — Stanley immigrated to Canada from Lancashire, England in 1924, to the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Hans and Edna Lund. He worked for Nick Lund on the farm and also in the store at Watts.

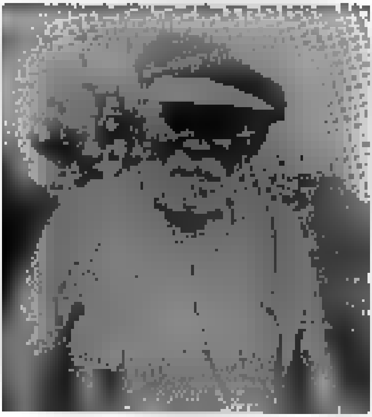
He bought what was the Joe Northey place and farmed until the late fifties, selling the place to Ervin Bossert and retiring in Hanna.

Stan has always been very active in the Masons and Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Royal Canadian Legion and has enjoyed curling for many years.

REINHOLD SCHULTZ, *By Mary Lund [illegible]* — Reinhold Schultz came to Canada in 1910 to his uncle, Hans Lund. He stayed with my father and Nick Lund. He took up a homestead. He worked for various people, and also worked for a couple of winters in the C.N.R. shops in Hanna.

In 1918 he became seriously ill with pneumonia but thanks to the nursing of Ada Lund he recovered. In 1919, after the war, he returned to Denmark and married a girl there. Reiny and Karen had two children, Jens Carl and Inga. He owned a small shop which he operated until 1965. Reiny passed away in 1973 at the age of seventy-seven.

THE TRETTIN FAMILY, *By Mrs. [illegible] Trettin* — In 1910 the Trettin family of Stettin, Germany decided to immigrate to Canada. Grandfather (Paul Sr.) accompanied by Robert Lange came first, filing on homesteads in the Scapa district. Grandfather's homestead quarter was southwest 18-33-15 and his pre-



Paul Trettin Sr

emption was the quarter north of it. Mr. Lange homesteaded the quarter east of Grandfather's. Having worked in a furniture factory in Germany, Mr. Trettin was able to build his own furniture to furnish his one roomed shack.

By 1912 some of the rest of the family were able to come. Paul Jr. (my husband) who had been delivering milk and cream, and his mother, who ran a store, sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax in 1912. Bill Kading also came along. Somewhere on the trip across the ocean, their ship collided with a lumber ship, making it necessary for the passengers to be transferred to another boat. The combination of seasickness and the second hand aroma of sausage, heavily seasoned with garlic, which a lot of the passengers were so fond of, turned my husband against garlic, so he never liked me to use it in anything.

Emil, Paul's older brother, would have liked to come too, but his trip had to be postponed because the German government required young men of twenty to take army training, and Emil being nineteen at the time, had to remain in Germany. Because of the war he didn't hear from his parents until 1919. Emil was finally able to join his family in 1927. He stayed here a while, then went to Vancouver and Tacoma, where he spent the rest of his life at his trade of tailoring. Emil died in 1975 at the age of eighty-two. He was a nice man, a good uncle and brother to us.

Mrs. P. Trettin Sr. Homestead shack

Back here in the Chain Lakes district Paul was having the usual troubles of young men from foreign countries. He went to school a couple of winters at Hudson Bay and Chain Lakes schools to improve his English a little. One of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook.

Having no land of his own then, he and his father did some railroad work between Hanna and Nanton; they lived partly on rabbits for a change of diet. Once Paul caught a ride with Mr. Lange to Castor, looking for work. He went to Stettler, and being unable to find a job, he walked home, sleeping in strawstacks and dining on bird eggs and slough water. Being very shy and not so good at English, he knocked on one door to ask for a drink and when the lady opened the door he turned and went on his way. He stopped at Alex Kalenith's and rested. Alex was batching then.

Paul bought his own farm northeast 17-33-16 on October fourteenth 1921. He made the deal with William C. Stirling and Cyril N. Tingle. He paid two thousand dollars, some of it on time at seven per cent interest. Both Paul and his dad farmed with horses.

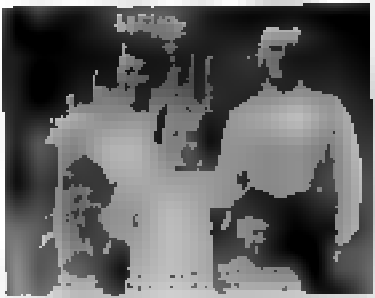
In 1930 Grandma Trettin passed away.

My folks came from Romania to settle in North Dakota in 1909, where I was

born in 1909 at a town called Butte. When the family first arrived, they lived under a wagon box for a month or so, while they were getting their sod shack made. That first winter the snow got very deep, and once a neighbor came to visit on horseback and rode right on the roof of the house. Someone hollered at him from the inside to get off.

We then moved to South Dakota for a while, then to Montana where Guy, the youngest one, was born in 1914. My father's name was Jacob Stotz and the sons and daughters names were Adam, Christ, Henry, Kate, John and Tom (identical twins), Susanne and Marie (identical twins) and Guy. When I started to school we walked a half mile to catch a horse-drawn covered wagon which had seats around the inside of the box. There were about ten passengers and we had six miles to go.

In 1927 we moved to Trochu and farmed for a year, then in 1928 we moved to Craigmyle district to a farm one mile south of Princeton school. My father died in 1931 and mother in 1945 and are both buried in Craigmyle.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tredin, Edward, Gertrude, Arnold.

On June seventh, 1931 Paul and I were married. My name was Susanne Stotz. The marriage license was got in Craigmyle and we were married at my brother Chris Stotz's place north of town, the Reverend Wenzel officiating. Our attendants were Dave Schmidt and John Stotz, Pauline Suelze and Marie Stotz.

Paul's father lived with us until his passing in 1940. Our first car was a Model T Ford bought sometime in the thirties, the next one was a Model A. Our three children were born in Hanna. Gertie, Mrs. Alder Cranston, who lives eight miles southwest in the Craigmyle area, was born in 1933. Edward, now in Edmonton was born in 1936, and Arnold, living at home with me, was born in 1938.

Paul made his first trip to visit Emil in 1950; he went by train and stayed a month. In 1960 I went too and we went by bus. In 1965 Edward and his wife took him to the States in their car, and in 1969 Earnest Lange took us for one more visit.

Over the years there were six wells on our land, five were dug by hand. For years we had a straw barn. The walls were wooden forms filled with straw, and the roof was made by laying branches on the walls and covering them with straw. This burned down in 1966, taking with it a couple of granaries, our chickens and lots of small things. The neighbors helped us build a new barn that same fall.

Paul suffered with heart trouble the last few years, and in December, 1969 he died in the Hanna Hospital, after having a heart attack, three days after his seventy-third birthday.

I am the only one of the Stotz family left now. I have lived on this place for forty-five years. In 1974 Arnold and I got a mobile home, so we are more comfortable. In 1975, Uncle Emil died and we drove to Tacoma to the funeral, passing through Montana near where we used to live. I have six grandchildren, all living in different parts of Alberta.

McLELLAN and IRONSIDE STORY, by Isabel McLellan Ironside — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Mary McLellan left Ontario in 1912 and lived at Lethbridge, Cassford and Hanna before we moved to the Northey farm north of Watts. While there we met Scottie, now known to all as Bill Ironside. We lived there four years, then moved to Alhambra, and then nearer to Rocky Mountain House.

Bill Ironside left Scotland when he was a boy of twelve years, and lived at Watts where he worked for Wallace, Dan and Norman Hunter. They used to thresh for different farmers. After four or five years he went to work at Cluny hauling grain for Hank Willard: one of the men who drove a chuck wagon at the Calgary Stampede. Then he got itchy feet and went to Penticton B.C. for a few years, and then came back to Calgary where I met him again.

We were married in June, 1938. We have lived on this farm south of Rocky Mountain House for over twenty-eight years now. We have four children. Our three boys all live near Rocky Mountain House; they are married with families. Our only girl and her husband and daughter live in Edmonton.

THE *McGUIRE FAMILY,* *By Frances McGuire* — James Lenor McGuire homesteaded the northeast of 19-32-15 in July 1911, and claimed adjoining quarter to the south as a pre-emption. While proving up on the land, he often rode horseback from Calgary where his wife and young family resided. In 1914 he joined the Canadian Army and served overseas with the Tenth Battalion, taking part in the battles at Ypres and Vimy Ridge. After the war he returned to the Craigmyle district with his wife Mary, daughter Pat and sons Ross and Lee. They lived temporarily at the Tingle place. Lee died at an early age and is buried at Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Jim hauled lumber by team from Hallkirk to build a barn on the homestead. For two years following its completion, community dances were held in this building. The family lived in a granary until the house was completed in 1921.

Jim McGuire played ball for the Clear Lake and Craigmyle teams and served as a trustee for Dowling Lake School. His brother Bruce and sister Zella came from Ontario and remained in the area for some time before going back to the east. Bruce worked in the neighborhood and Zella McGuire was the first teacher at Princeton School. Frances McGuire, Ross's wife, was Princeton's last teacher.

Jim and his family moved to Calgary in 1924. Jim's wife Mary, and the two children Pat and Ross returned to the farm in 1932, remaining for two years. Pat married at this time and had a son, who is now a lawyer in Edmonton.

James McGuire died in the Keith Sanitorium on February twenty-eighth, 1946, after battling tuberculosis for many years. His wife Mary made her home with Pat and her husband. She passed away in Calgary on December the twenty-first, 1956.

Pat and her second husband, Ted Fitch and daughter Patricia Anne moved to the United States in 1967. Pat died in Layfayette, California in July 1966. Her daughter still resides in California.

In 1938 Ross began farming his father's homestead. In 1944 he married Frances Glazier, who had been teaching at Chain Lakes School and prior to that at St. George. Frances continued teaching at Annesheim, Lillico and Princeton before joining the staff of the Craigmyle School.

Ross and Frances had three children: their two sons are married and farming in the Craigmyle area. James and Marlene have one son and Keith and Marj have two daughters. Their daughter Lorraine is married to Douglas Reiter and presently resides in Edmonton.

The homestead was sold to the late John Bramfield.

J. R. HEPBURN, *By Austin Ludlow* — Mr. Hepburn homesteaded on SW 34-32-15 in 1912. The same year he and Alfred Kirkeby were digging a well. They had gone down about sixteen feet when they stopped for dinner, leaving the pick and shovel in the well. After dinner Alfred lowered Mr. Hepburn into the well to get the

tools. Mr. Hepburn called to Alfred to hurry and pull him up as there was gas down there. Alfred got him nearly to the top when Mr. Hepburn passed out, lost his grip, fell and broke his neck.

WILLIAM FECHO, By May Welch Fecho — William Fecho was born in Poland and came to Canada as a young man. He and I, the former May Welch, were married in 1932 and rented the place known as the Michael farm from F.A. Methe. We had very little machinery, and didn't get very good crops because of the drought and dust storms, but we always managed to get by.

In 1939 we rented the farm where Millers used to live, and bought our first steel-wheeled tractor. We also got more and better machinery, which made a great improvement in our farming. We raised our own vegetables, and milked a lot of cows to earn enough money for the food and other things we had to buy.

Our children attended Chain Lakes school, driving in the winter time, but having to walk the three miles in the spring, summer and fall because the horses were needed on the farm. The people of the Chain Lakes district were fortunate that their school never had to close because of lack of teachers; if a teacher was not available, a supervisor was hired and correspondence lessons were used.

We had eight children, six boys and two girls. One of our sons was killed by a horse when he was nine years old.

Reinhold, the oldest, married Frieda Hill. They have six children and live at Sherwood Park.

Alfred and his son Mark are living in Hanna.

Lloyd and his wife Rose live in Edmonton.

Lillian married Dan Welch. They have four children, and farm in the Scapa district.

Ben and Maxine, nee Johnson, live in Hanna. They have two children.

Lawrence married Donna Regner. They and their three children live in Hanna.

Marlene married Bart Bye. They have two children and are living in Jasper.

Bill and I are semi-retired, and have been living in Hanna for a number of years.

ERWIN SCHULTZ — I was born in Michigan in 1910, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz. I grew up in the Annasheim district and attended school there; then worked in the Kirkaby and Edwards coal mines, and in mines in Drumheller.

In 1942 I married Tillie Schottenaider. I worked on the section at Scapa, Hanna and Anaconda until 1943 when I bought a farm at Byemoor. In 1946 we bought the store at Leo and my family and I operated it until 1955 when I bought the Charlie Johnson farm in the Chain Lakes district. We farmed there for twenty years, then retired to Hanna.

We had three children. Pat, born in 1947, farms the home place. Jim lives on the Schotteneider farm, he was born in 1945. Our only daughter, Dorothy, was born in 1956. She lives at Entwistle.

THE DAN WELCH FAMILY, By Lillian Fecho Welch — Dan came to the Scapa district as a young boy, and took all his schooling at the Springwater school north of Delia. He and I were married in 1955 and lived in the same yard as Dan's folks for a number of years, doing most of the farming. We bought the farm in 1965 and Dan's parents moved to Calgary. We have four children, Gloria, who lives in Calgary, and Bryan, Rick and Bonnie at home.

Our children take their schooling in Hanna. A bus picks them up at the gate and there are days when they complain about having to ride a bus. I remember

when my brothers and I were going to school, we walked and ran the three miles each way, and sometimes had a race to see who could get home first. My brother Benny was usually in the lead. Occasionally a neighbor who was going that way would stop his horses and give us a ride in his lumber wagon.

So I would like to say to those who are tired of riding a school bus, "Try running; it's good for you."

That's what our folks used to tell us.

JOHN STEPHEN KRAMER — was a homesteader and carpenter. He helped build Knudson's first house.

NILS MATSON — came to Canada from Sweden. He bought the north half of 8-33-15 from Andy Alpaugh, and farmed for a few years.

CHARLES R. FLANDERS — came to the Chain Lakes district in the early years. He was very active in church work and used to teach Sunday school to the children. He had one son, Gene.

SYDNEY FREEMONT CRANDLE — homesteaded and built a nice little house with a sign on the door, 'Crandle Lodge'. It was a place for young people to gather, as he loved boxing and they joined in. After proving up he moved to B.C. The house was sold to Viales and Crantons bought the land.

MITCHELL RENNER — homesteaded the farm that Charlie Johnson eventually bought. They had a fairly large sod house and their children attended Chain Lakes school.

Sod house of family of Renners. Lutheran Church services were often held here before a church was built.

HERMAN STEEN — homesteaded the south half of 18-32-15. He was a married man with a family. One little girl died of gopher poison and is buried in the corner of their land. Little else is known about them.

JEROME HARRINGTON — filed on a homestead and scrip in 1908. He came from Prince Edward Island and was a brother of Mrs. Alice Doyle. He was a great lover of horses and raised Percherons. He died in Calgary in 1922.

CHRIST SCHMIDT, [illegible] ***Helen Schmidt*** — Christ Schmidt was born February 7, 1907, at Butte, North Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Simon and Maria Schmidt, in 1910. They took a homestead north of Watts in the Dowling Lake area.

Christ went to Dowling Lake School whenever the school was in operation. E.K. Nett was one of the teachers. Some of the other children attending Dowling Lake at that time were Pauline, Martin and Bertha Steele; Phillip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartl and Antonie Hoffman.

In 1930 he married Lilly Graumann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Graumann, early settlers of the Hanna area. They farmed for several years on what was known as the Elias place in the Dowling area. They were not making much at farming so they had an auction sale and moved to Hanna in 1950. Christ was employed by the C.N.R. until he retired.

They had six children. Allan of Duchess, Raymond of Ponoka, Freda Knauft of Cereal, Ernie was killed in 1970; Elmer and Norman of Calgary.

Christ passed away in August, 1973. Lilly lives in a nursing home at Ponoka.

Pete Ruppel with friends Willard and [illegible] Diegel

THE WILLARD DIEGEL FAMILY, ***By Hilda Ost Diegel*** — I was born in Romania in 1921. I came to Hanna in October, 1927 with my parents. When we arrived in Hanna by C.N.R., the Lutheran Church minister, Pastor Bietsch, met us and took us to his home until we found a place to stay. We then went to Grandpa Boesserts' where Albert Sass' farm is now. We stayed with them for a short while, then moved south on the Staub's place for about a year.

In 1929, dad rented the Burrow place north of Hanna on the snake trail; we lived here till 1936. Here I attended my first school, Silver Valley. The only teachers I can recall are: Faye Tillotson, Amanda Wall and Minnie Wise. I remember the hardships my mother and dad experienced while on the farm; dust storms, drought, water problems, crops were poor, we lost one cow after another; grasshoppers and sawflies. Mother was sick and was hospitalized and I missed a lot of school.

In 1936 we moved west to the Steeves farm. My brother Chris and I went out working wherever we were needed. In 1941 my parents moved south to the Reessler farm. Three of us girls, Maria, Emma and I were confirmed in the German United Church at Hanna in August, 1941. The Lutheran Church also had a class getting confirmed at the same time. Here I met Irene Diegel and her brother Willard. Romance soon began and we were married November 2, 1942.

Willard was born at Dowling on January 16, 1917. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Diegel of Dowling. We were married by Reverend Haur in a sod house on the farm south of Watts where my folks lived. Willard, known as Bill had rented some land north of Dowling called the Boltzander place, here we made our home. I joined the Lutheran Church, St. Peter's, Scapa.

We lived on this farm for about a year, then rented the Kellermann place near Chain Lakes School, where my husband had gone to school. We bought this farm from Ernest Lange in 1958. There was a strong spring on this place when we first

rented the farm. It finally dried up and we had to drill two wells. Two years ago, after being dry for eighteen years, the spring started to run again.

We built a new house on this farm in 1964.

Willard and I were blessed with four children; two sons and two daughters. Lester born in 1944, Scharlotte in 1949, Gerry in 1951 and Glenda in 1953.

Lester married Debborah Robinson of Gadsby in 1969. They have two sons, Kelvin and Wylie, and are residing on the home farm north of Watts.

Scharlotte married Terry Robinson of Gadsby. They have two boys, Mark and Craig. They live on a farm. She is a nursing aide, employed at the Stettler Hospital.

Gerry married Amy Fuson of Hanna. They have a wee son Cory and live at Sheerness where he is employed at the coal mine.

Glenda, Mrs. Art Reuteman, is employed by Hanna Data Tax, and lives in Hanna.

My husband was not only a farmer, also was a great coyote hunter in his younger days, until he lost his trigger finger in a post pounder.

In 1971 I was asked by Pastor Conrad Knoch to organize a choir to sing at the fiftieth anniversary of St. Peter's at Scapa. I managed to get quite a few of the younger generation; some couldn't speak or read German but with a bit of courage and practise we managed very well. I stayed with the singing group for a couple of years, then we decided to ask Mrs. Cyril Unsworth to conduct and lead the choir as she was more capable. I still carried on with the German. At Christmas and Easter we sang at the Hanna Nursing Home and the Senior Citizen Lodge. Everyone enjoyed this singing immensely.

In 1972 we moved to Hanna, where I work at the Palliser Nursing Home. Bill still helps out at the farm.

The Ervin Bossert Family. Patti, Thelma, Todd Ervin and Kevin

ERVIN BOSSERT, ***By Ervin Bossert*** — I was born in Hanna and lived with my folks in the Annesheim district. I attended Annesheim School until I finished grade nine, then helped Dad on the farm. In 1954 I rented a quarter of land from Chris Townsend, which I farmed for three years. In 1956 I bought three quarters, the east half of section 5 and the southeast of section 8-33-15 from Hans Lund. He homesteaded this land in 1909. In 1964 I bought the west half of section 5 from Stanley Peake.

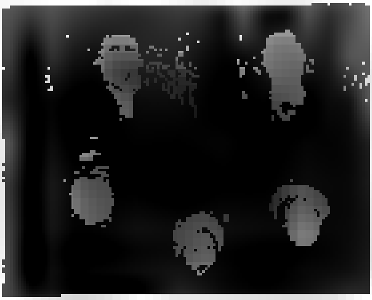
In November of 1964 I married Thelma Clark from Rosebud. We built a new home on the southeast section 5 that summer. In 1968 we bought a section of land from Walter Stulberg.

We have three children: Patti Lynn was born September 13, 1966; Kevin James was born December 22, 1968 and Todd Ryan was born May 10, 1972. The children attend school in Hanna.

THE MILLER FAMILY, ***By Austin Ludlow*** — The Miller family came to the Knudson place in 1927. They were a very hard working family. Once in a while Mrs. Miller would send a jar of dilled cucumbers or tomatoes to the school for everyone to share.

The children were Lena, Emma, Robert, Otto, Albert, Edna and Oscar. We knew Emma and Albert best as they would come to our place and help in the garden and field.

The thirties didn't treat the Millers very well, and in 1938 they moved to Calgary.



George Goldfinch and wife, Bill, Betty, Kay

GEORGE GOLDFINCH, By Ida Graves — George Goldfinch, a brother of Mrs. George Banner, came from England to homestead the SE 9-33-15. He brought his wife and three little children with him, and they lived on the homestead for a year. He went to work in a butcher shop in Hanna, and later worked for the C.N.R. there. He was transferred to Chilliwack, B.C., where he eventually retired. Both Mr. and Mrs. Goldfinch have passed away.

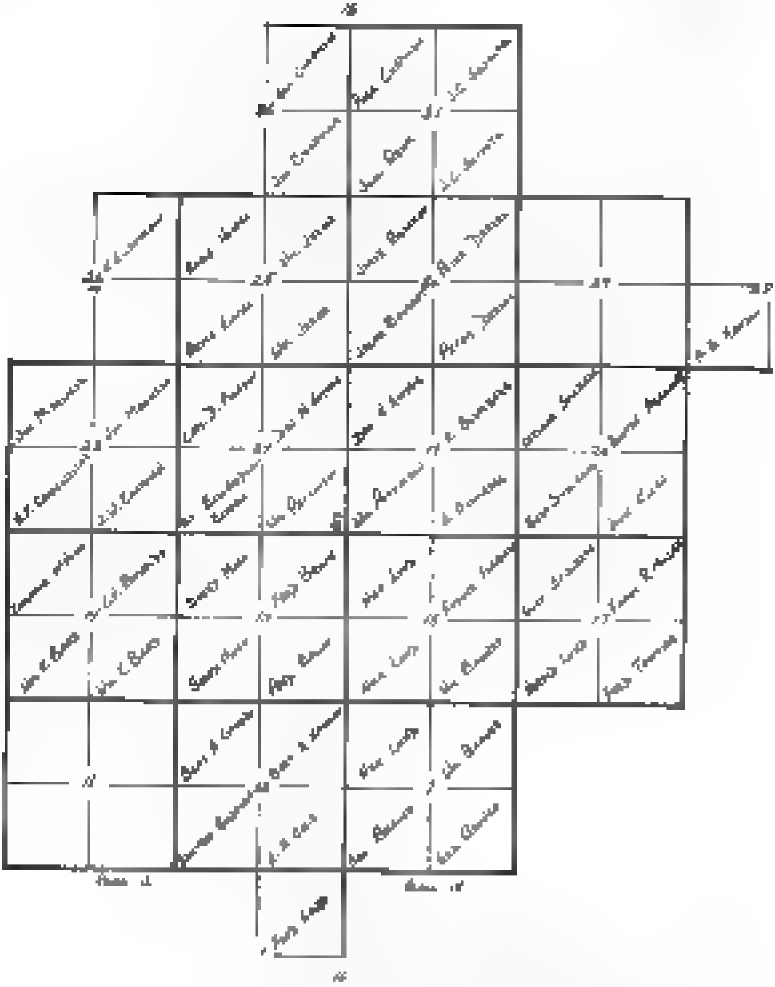
Their children were Betty, who died in 1975, Edward who was accidentally killed, Bill of Vancouver, Kay of Chilliwack, Dick of Hope, Arthur at Sardis and Nora of White Rock.

MR. and MRS. PERCY ALLISON, By Mrs. A.B. Hansen — Mr. and Mrs. Allison lived just north of Dowling Lake, eight miles straight north of Watts. Mr. Allison was a carpenter who built a number of barns in the area, for Leo Doyle, Aubrey McCuish, and Mr. Kelsey. Their home was a two-storey, two-roomed building, with a lean-to for a kitchen.

In 1914 the family moved to Craigmyle so that the daughters, Marie and Laura, would be closer to school. While they lived there Mr. Allison built a brick school at Craigmyle.

In 1919 the Allisons moved to Calgary where they lived for three years before returning to Portland, Oregon. The land was purchased by Mr. E. Schultz.

[illegible] SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 5047



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS & OWNERS

SE ¼ 7-33-15
Geo. Banner
Harold Lund
Dan Welch

NW ¼ 7-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 17-33-15
Fred Trettler
Ruhl Bros.
Alfred Ulke
Herb Ulke

NW ¼ 17-33-15
Gust Stalberg
Walter Stalberg
Ervin Bossert

SE ¼ 18-33-15
Bill Banner
Max Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 18-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

SW ¼ 7-33-16
Geo. Banner
Harvey Goldfinch
E.H. Dahl
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NE ¼ 7-33-15
Bill Banner
Max Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SW ¼ 17-33-15
Harold Lund
Alfred Lund
Herb Eller

NE ¼ 17-33-15
Frank R. Miller
Paul Trettin
Arnold Trettin

SW ¼ 18-33-16
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 18-33-15
Eugene Flanders
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 19-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 19-33-15
Dan Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 20-33-16
John Keeton
Gust Stulberg
Jack Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert
NW ¼ 20-33-15
Karoline Stulberg
August Hein
Martin Baas
Albert Baas

SW ¼ 28-33-15
Andrew B. Hanson
Russell Hanson

SE ¼ 29-33-15
(School section)
Svend Moen
Kuhl Bros.
Willard Diegel

NW ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Christ Hill
Fred Hill

SW ¼ 19-33-15
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 19-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baas
Albert Baas

SW ¼ 20-33-15
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

NE ¼ 20-33-15
Gustav Abram
August Hein
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

SW ¼ 29-33-16
Sven Moen
Fred Lyszen
Christ Hill
Fred Hill

NE ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Fred Lyszen
Christ Hill
Fred Hill

SE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Drasel
Gustav Abram
Christ Hill
Fred Hill

NW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baas
Albert Baas

SE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baas

NW ¼ 31-33-15
Robert Chapman
George Chapman
Robert Chapman
Phyllis M. Johnson

NE ¼ 1-33-16
Fred Gladd
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

E ½ 11-33-16
(School section)
Geo. Moldon
Gus Kelm
Ted Warick
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baas
Albert Baas

NE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Drasel
Gustav Abram
Christ Hill
Fred Hill

SW ¼ 31-33-15
John Rein
Julius Schultz
Albert Baas

NE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baas

W ½ 11-33-16
Geo. Molden
Gus Kelm
Ted Warick
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 12-33-16
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 12-33-16
Harry Goldbeck
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 12-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Stulberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NE ¼ 13-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Stulberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SE ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NW ¼ 14-33-16
Archie McVeigh
Catherine McVeigh
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NE ¼ 14-33-16
C.V. Reynolds
George Moldon
Gus Kelm
Ted Warick
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 23-33-16
John W. Chapman
Paul Schultz
George Jones

SW ¼ 23-33-16
Henry F. Grosswiller
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gottfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gottfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 24-33-16
Wm. Pattinson
Jack Stulberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 24-33-16
Ole Bernhardson-Braaten
Sam Hoffman
Reinhold Boehlke
Jack Schultz
Gottfried Glubrecht
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 24-33-16
Chas. D. Pierson
Hans Hanson
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 24-33-16

Dan N. Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes
SW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper

Alex Kalenith
Hans Hanson
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper
Alex Kalenith
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund

Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SE ¼ 26-33-16
Hudson Ray
Joe Van Sickle
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 26-33-16
Henry Gilbertson
Geo. Chapman
Robert Chapman

Doug Johnson

SE ¼ 36-33-16
James Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

NE ¼ 36-33-16
Geo. W. Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

ANNASHEIM SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3047

By Tom Pattinson

Annasheim School 1914, SE ¼ 24-33-16

Minutes of a meeting held September 24, 1913, ran as follows: "Pursuant to and in accordance with notice regularly posted, a meeting was held at the residence of N.H. Lund for the purpose of organizing a school district. B.A. Kirkeby was elected chairman and D.N. Guthrie secretary. Polls were duly opened at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. chairman announced the vote favorable to the formation of a school district and declared polls closed. Chairman called for nominations for the office of trustee. B.A. Kirkeby, D. N. Guthrie and N. H. Lund were accordingly nominated and elected."

By June 10, 1914, the following tenders had been accepted: Empire Lumber Co., Craigmyle, $626. Chas. D. Pierson for hauling lumber, $30. H.C. Lund, for erecting school and chimney and two toilets, $180. Wm. Pattinson, for foundation for school building, $22.

When tenders were called for, two local men, Hans Lund and William Pattinson, had agreed to each submit tenders, with the understanding that the unsuccessful bidder would work for the other at an agreed amount per hour.

There is an interesting tale told about the naming of the school. Anna Lund, daughter of trustee Nick Lund, was home on a visit from Red Deer where she had been attending school. When her Danish Grandfather Lund who was also visiting the family at the time, heard how homesick she had been, he made the sympathetic remark that 'There was no place like Annasheim . . . Anne's home.' The name Annasheim was submitted to the Department of Education with several others, and was selected and approved.

On August 6, 1914, a meeting was held in the completed school house to let the contract for painting and to order school supplies. Miss Edith Trenholm was hired as the first teacher, with school to start in September. Another meeting in December of that year paid the amounts previously mentioned, as well as the following: Stanley Bros. for hardware, $18; H. Lund, hauling furniture, $6; digging vaults (toilet holes) and cleaning grounds, $5; Findlay for fire insurance, $26; lumber for coal shed, $37.66; William Pattinson, for painting the buildings, building the coal house and fastening the desks on strips of board, $48; Ole Bernhardson for hauling 2½ tons coal, $5; Anna Lund for two months janitor work, $10; Edith Trenholm, one month's salary, $70; Wm. Pattinson, two acres of land,

$50; N.H. Lund, secretary-treasurer's salary, $50; Alberta School Supplies for school equipment, $185.70.

Margaret McVeigh Kester while teaching Annasheim school in 1918

The second teacher at Annasheim was Madge Paul, followed by Emma Clauson. The next teacher, Mrs. Margaret McVeigh Kester, recalls, "In 1918 Miss Margaret McVeigh came to teach on the first of May. Miss Grace Guthrie, who was a teacher but not teaching at that time, held the school until Miss McVeigh got out of Normal the last day of April. Miss McVeigh taught May and June. After the summer holidays school opened in September but the RCMP came out from Hanna on October 18 to close the school because of the Spanish flu epidemic that fall. The school was officially closed till after New Year, 1919. While teaching at Annasheim Miss McVeigh batched in the Fred Brown shack owned by Jack Shelberg."

Other teachers at Annasheim were Stewart McLeod, Mr. Crandall, Miss Cameron, Miss Duke, Gladys Knudson, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. Wm. Pattinson, Grace Smith, Jim Nichol, Mrs. Henry Blair, Blanche Crawford, Elizabeth Webber, May Schultz, Kathleen MacDonald, Robert Fitzpatrick, Laura McEwen, Vernal Martin, Byron Moore, Gordon Saunders, Mrs. Willie McLeod, Mrs. Frances McGuire, Margaret Lamb, Mrs. Pollington, Edna Moen, Don Campbell, Estelle Lynch, John Lenuik, Mrs. Berger Aaserud.

Annasheim School about 1943. Albert Baes, Henry Hill, Ida Bossert, Pauline Hein, Freida Baes, Mrs. MacLeod (teacher), Edward Baes, Donnie MacLeod, Alvin Hill, Erwin Bossert, Ruby Bossert, Fred Hill, Gordon Schultz, John Baes, Freida Hill, Margaret Schultz, Dennis Schultz, Elmer Hill

Annesheim School in the mid-twenties. Back Row, left to right: Erven Schultz, Mabel Kirkeby, Caroline Stulberg, Teacher. Centre Row: Effie Kirkeby, John Bossert, Herman Schultz, Stella Kirkeby, Pauline Stulberg. Front Row: Hubert Cole, Myrtle Schultz, Martha Stulberg, Eddie Kirkeby

In 1938 the Annesheim School District was consolidated into the Drumheller School Division. By the beginning of the 1945-46 school term it was transferred to the Sullivan Lake School Division.

Annesheim had the distinction of being the last one-room country school to be holding regular classes in any of the nearby school divisions, and in all probability, was one of the last in Central Alberta. It had served as a community centre where dances, concerts, church services and meetings of all kinds were held, but after forty-eight consecutive years of operation, it closed at the end of June, 1962. Mrs. Joy Aaserud was the last teacher.

Annesheim School Pupils, 1959. Back Row: Betty Bossert, Lonnie Schultz, Betty Schultz, Joan Schultz, Ruby Litke, Maggie Glubrecht, Sadie Glubrecht, Serge Aaserud, Mrs. (Joy) Aaserud (teacher), Wayne Aaserud. Centre Row: Gerald Glubrecht, Shirley Bossert, Ken Robertson, Ervin Bossert, Herb Litke, Tom Pattinson. Front Row: Herb Bossert, Melvin Litke, Judy Schultz, Cathy Schultz, Ruth Robertson, Linda Litke, Gordon Robertson, Paul Schultz.

DR. CHARLES McVEIGH, By Margaret McVeigh Kester — My uncle, Dr. Charles McVeigh, homesteaded in the Orlando district. He was a government veterinarian, sent to western Canada in 1905 to enforce the regulations regarding the dipping of cattle for mange. Rounding up the cattle and building dipping vats entailed a great deal of work, and the ranchers were reluctant to obey the law. As a last resort the federal government had Dr. McVeigh commissioned as an officer of the RCMP; the ranchers, recognizing the authority of the police force, agreed to dip their cattle.

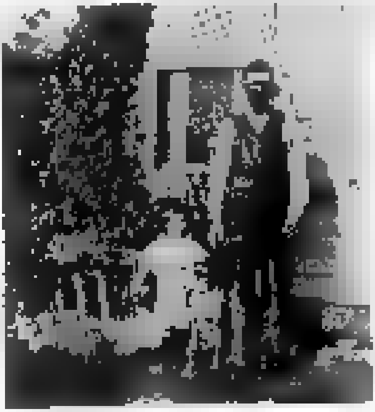
Dr. McVeigh was responsible for the health of animals in a large area, the

whole of southern Alberta from the B.C. boundary to the Saskatchewan border, north as far as Stettler. He travelled his territory in a rubber tired buggy pulled by a team of sorrels, often going as far as Regina. For this work the federal government paid him a wage plus mileage and travelling expenses. He held the position until his death in the late twenties, but during the last few years he exchanged his team for a Ford roadster.

His wife, Catherine McVeigh, filed on a homestead in the Annasheim district, which eventually became part of the Galarneau holdings now owned by Ken Brower.

The couple had two sons; Donald, who was killed in a flying accident during World War II, and Norman who served in the RAF and RCAF and who now lives in Vancouver.

Mrs. McVeigh died about 1951.



Jack Shelberg and Lillian Barner, taken in front of the Wm. Barner home

JOHN SHELBERG — John Shelberg was a Wyoming rancher who came to Canada because the open range in the United States was being taken up by homesteaders. About 1902 he squatted on land west of the lakes, on the present Frank Bates farm, where William Pattinson later built a house and hip-roofed barn for him.

When William Pattinson went overseas, Shelberg bought his homestead, and also the homestead and pre-emption belonging to Fred Brown. He moved into Brown's house, and brought his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Art Clayton, from the United States to live on his former location. Because of limited range land, he farmed and raised Percheron horses.

About 1930, Harold Huson built a new house for Jack Shelberg; part of this building is now incorporated into the Ken Halverson home. The old house was moved to Gadsby on wagons by Mr. Matchett, who was married to Dorothy Clayton.

Jack Shelberg had strong likes and dislikes, but he was a very fair man. After a lengthy illness, he died in 1933, and was buried in Craigmyle cemetery. His daughter sold his land to Carl Schultz.

NICHOLAS H. and ADA LUND FAMILY, By Dan Lund — In 1902 Nicholas Lund and his wife Ada came to Olds from Iowa with their children Harold and Anna. In 1903 I, Dan was born. In 1905 the family went to Kansas for a few months where Harold remained to stay with his grandparents Guthrie to attend school. The rest returned to Alberta and in 1906, they moved to the district later known as Dowling Lake. Nicholas Lund came there in September in a wagon; Mother, my sister and myself went with Andy Alpaugh by democrat and forded the Red Deer River at Tolman Crossing, where the horses had to swim.

We moved into a sod house dug into the side of a hill, this was sixty-five miles south and east of Stettler, which was our closest town. Our closest neighbors were

John Shelburg, seven miles to the north and Rufus McCulsh eight miles south-east. It was about a five-day trip to go to town. There were no schools or recreation. The land was not surveyed until 1907-08 and settlers started coming in then.

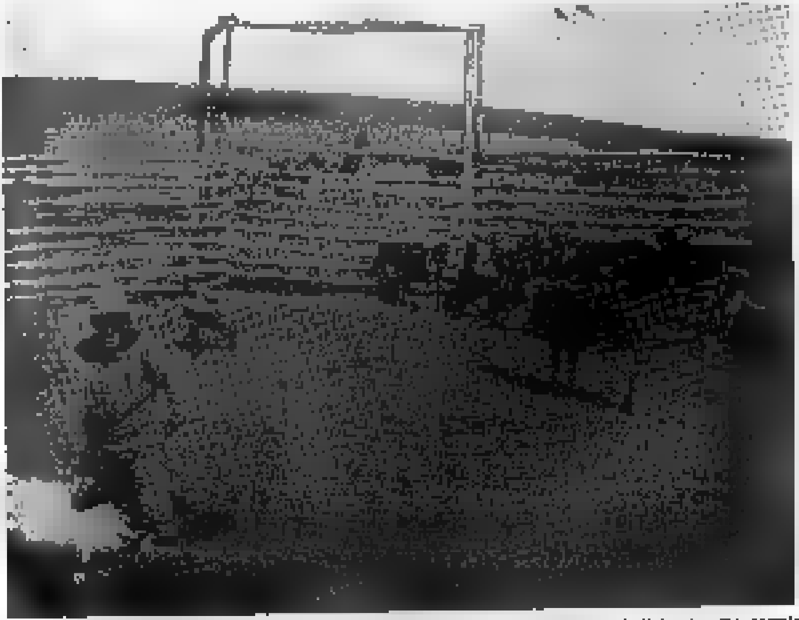
Ada, Mrs. Nick Lund, took and developed these pictures, and sent them back to Kansas to show her people what their ranch was like. This was their house, dug out of a side hill with poles supporting the sods which formed the roof

This was the feedlot and shed. The Settler Trail is just visible above the shed.

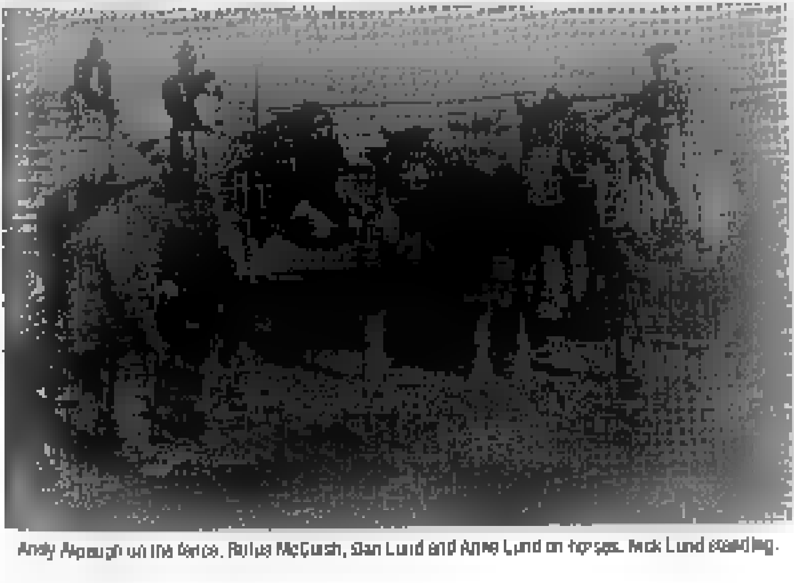
When settlers began moving in, the Lunds filed on two quarter sections. They had to live for six months of the year on each quarter to "prove up" on them. Mrs. Nicholas Lund — Ada — drove "quarter stakes" for the surveyors. She was an ardent horsewoman, and even though a tiny person, could ride hard on the cattle most successfully.

In the fall of 1907 we went to Red Deer by wagon and democrat and stayed the winter. In the spring of 1908 we brought back cattle, which took us over a week, travelling by covered wagon and using a tent. In 1909 the railway went east

from Stettler, and Halkirk was our closest town, thirty-three miles away. We moved five miles from the old ranch, which belonged to Andy Alpaugh, and built a frame house and barn.



Young Dan Lund with his rope on a calf, and Alex Alpaugh in the foreground. Poles for the corrals were hauled from the Hand Hills.



Andy Alpaugh on the fence, Rufus McCush, Dan Lund and Anne Lund on horses, Nick Lund standing.

Nick Lund family, 1915. (Lady and boy on left unknown) Left to right: Dan Lund (holding dog), Nick Lund, Harold Lund, Ada Lund, Anna Lund

In 1911 my grandparents (Guthrie) came up from Kansas with my brother Harold and lived one and a half miles north of us. I went to my first school in the fall of 1912, in Endiang where my aunt, Mrs. Grace Parkinson (nee Guthrie) was teaching. Armesheim school was built in 1914. My parents moved to Watts in 1923.

I married Lydia Burrows in 1925 and we stayed on the home place with our two sons, Gordon and Norman, until 1934 when we moved to Nevis, then in 1942 to Lacombe, in 1962 to Penticton, B.C., then to Summerland, B.C. in 1973. Nick Lund died in 1950. Ada Lund in 1968 and Harold in 1967.

Our oldest boy Gordon has Red Deer Motors in Red Deer and Norman is with Atco Homes in Calgary. Each of them has two sons.

Harold Lund

THE HAROLD LUND FAMILY, by Frank Lund — The Nicholas Lund family moved into the Hanna North Country before the land was surveyed, running cattle around the Chain Lakes, where they found that Clear Lake was the only lake from which the cattle would drink. They had previously homesteaded in the Red Deer area.

They had two sons, Harold and Daniel, and a daughter Anna. My father, Harold, the eldest, stayed in Kansas with his grandparents to attend school, and helped with farm chores and field work, as his grandfather was ill a considerable amount of the time. When he came to Canada, he attended Chain Lakes School, for a short time. Dad attended Olds Agricultural College in 1916-17.

In 1924 he was fortunate to obtain a job assessing land, which he did using a saddle horse. He always said they hired him to do the job again in 1936 because he did such a poor job the first time! In 1936 he used a pick-up truck with a canvas over the box, a cot and "canned heat" stove, staying out in the field on week days, returning home on weekends.

Dad had filed on a homestead one mile from that of his parents. On April 7, 1928, he married Phoebe Ann Robinson, from west of Hanna. That first summer, while their new farmstead was being built two miles away, Mother cooked on a small bachelor stove, in a one room shack. A granary pulled up beside it provided accommodation for the carpenters and well drillers. Dad farmed in this area, except for a couple of interruptions, until 1959.

In 1930, a twister came through and took the roof off the barn, and lifted the garage off their Essex car, without leaving a scratch on it, but scattering the broken remains of the building for a half-mile. Before they finished putting a new roof on the barn, the wind blew it off again! The third time they didn't build it as high as before! One day, while Dad was changing the barn roof, and Mother was at a U.F.W.A. meeting, the neighbor's bull came to visit. He knocked down the ladder, leaving Dad stranded on the barn roof until Mother returned home that evening!

In 1931, a doctor advised Dad to quit farming, so he rented the farm out and bought the store at Dowling, eight miles south-east of home. However, after a few short years, the love of the land got the best of him and he was back farming, bigger than ever, while together he and Mother ran the store and post office.

In the spring of 1944, Dad sold the Dowling store and moved back to the farm, staying only until fall when we all moved to Hanna where he purchased the Ideal Grocery and Dry Goods in January, 1945. He sold it in August 1948, and bought the A.W. Stubbs New and Used Furniture, keeping this business until 1954. Dad and I were involved in Insurance and Real Estate in 1954-55, while Dad also did some farming until his health forced his retirement in 1959. While in Hanna, Dad was involved as Town Councillor, worked long and hard for the covered arena, the curling rink and the artificial ice plant. He was always a sports enthusiast and booster and participated whole heartedly in baseball, boxing, hockey, tennis and curling.

Mother always worked at Dad's side, whether on the farm, or in one of the stores. She was actively involved in the Order of the Eastern Star, and served faithfully in many capacities in First United Church.

Dad passed away in September, 1967 leaving his wife, a son Frank of Hanna and a daughter, Mrs. Betty Howery of Spruce Grove, as well as four grandchildren, Daryll Howery, Alan, Patricia and Jeffrey Lund.

Fred Brown

J. FRED BROWN — Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16, later selling his land to Jack Shelberg. He was a boyhood chum of William Pattinson, and the two men had attended school, apprenticed and come to Canada together. They worked as carpenters on many jobs in southern Alberta, and built the Annesheim school barn.

During World War I they went together to the recruiting depot in Calgary to enlist, but Fred was turned down because he had flat feet, and the two men never met again. When Will returned from overseas in the spring of 1919 Fred was on his way back to England, and their boats passed somewhere on the Atlantic. They kept in touch with each other by letter until Fred died quite suddenly of a heart attack about 1933.

EUGENE FLANDERS — Gene Flanders was the son of Charles Flanders from Illinois who homesteaded in the Chain Lakes school district. He made his home with a number of different families in the district, principally the Nick Lund family. He helped with the farm work and also worked in the coal mine operated by Clyde Wooden on the NW 16-33-15.

He filed on the NE 16-33-15 as a homestead, but when war was declared in 1914 he was one of the first to enlist, and served overseas with the 175th Battalion.

When last heard of, Gene was on the Police Force in Vancouver.

WILLIAM PATTINSON STORY, By Tom Pattinson — My father, the oldest boy in a family of nine children, was born June 16, 1882 at Newcastle-on-Tyne in northern England. To help support the family, he left school at the age of twelve to work in a factory about ten miles from his home. Each morning he walked three miles to catch a train which got him to work by seven o'clock. after an hour for lunch he worked till six o'clock in the afternoon. His wages were a penny (two cents) an hour. After four years he had received increases amounting to fifty per cent, and now earned three cents per hour. Somehow he managed to save enough money to buy a bicycle, and was able to ride back and forth from the train.

William Pattinson

Grace Gilroy Pattinson

During his years at the factory he began attending classes at night school, and in 1898 he became "apprentice to F. Reid Ferens and Co. of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, Electrical Engineers, to learn their art and with them after the manner of an apprentice to serve from the 28th day of November, 1898 unto the full end and term of three years from thence . . ."

At that time industrial and domestic uses of electricity were pretty much in the developmental stage; electrical engineering involved planning and blueprinting a project, and estimating the cost of it. The company to which Will, as he was known, was apprenticed, was involved with telegraph communications, installation of lights and motors, and lightning protection for factory chimneys and church steeples. As the telephone was still somewhat of a novelty in England, and there was little private demand for electrical installations, most of the work was done in factories, mines and government institutions.

Will enjoyed his job and the opportunities it gave him to travel and see

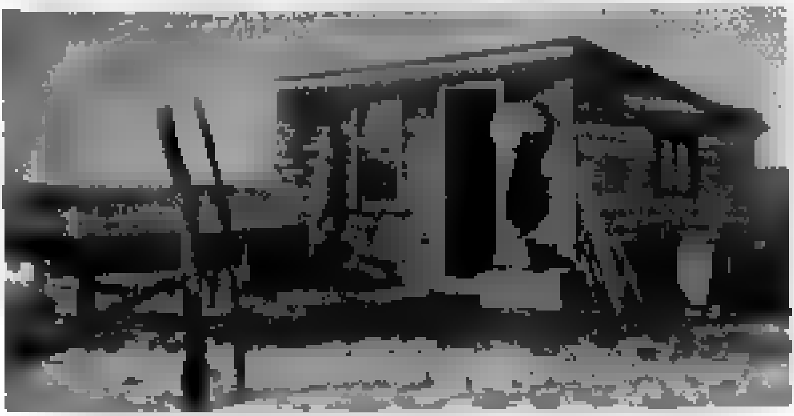
something of the world. He became interested in stamp collecting, and in military history, and in collecting campaign and service medals. He was an active member of the Anglican church, and sang in the choir. He took violin lessons for a short time, although in later life he played mostly by ear.

My father remained with Reid Ferens and Co. for nine years, then he and a boyhood chum, Fred Brown, decided to see the world. They were young, in good health, with no responsibilities, and had a good trade; they planned to work in Canada for a time, then go on to Australia and New Zealand. In the spring of 1907, when Will was twenty-five, they arrived at Cardston. There was little demand for electrical engineers, but an unlimited demand for carpenters, and for the next nine years both men worked part time at this trade.

There were many facets of the great homestead conglomerate. Landseekers came from every imaginable background and with many and varied motives. Homesteading appealed to Will and Fred from a speculative point of view. They could file on a homestead and pre-emption, build a shack, hire the necessary field work done, put in their six months on the claim in the winter when the building trade was slack anyway. At the end of three years they would have proved up and each would own a half-section of land, which no doubt could be sold for a substantial profit. But Fate had a way of interfering to change their plans.

In 1906 Will and Fred travelled from Cardston to Stettler, and on December 10 travelled southeast to look at vacant land which was available for homesteading. They met and made their headquarters with Jack Shelberg.

Shelberg was a typical example of the old time western cattleman who had been displaced by homesteaders in his native Wyoming, and who had come to Alberta shortly after the turn of the century seeking open range for his cattle. Now the Homestead Act had been passed in Canada, the land had been surveyed and the homesteaders were moving in. The rancher was about to be crowded out again, but this time there was no place to go. 'If you can't beat them, join them' became the strategy of men like Jack Shelberg; he was anxious to help two green Englishmen select homesteads and pre-emptions, land which he expected to buy from them as soon as they proved up and gained title to it.



William Pattinson's homestead shack built in December 1906 on SE 24-33-16

Returning to Stettler December 21, 1906, Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16 as his homestead and pre-emption. Will Pattinson filed on the SE 24-33-16 for his homestead and the SW 19-33-15 for a pre-emption. They bought lumber

and supplies, picked up their tool chests which they had left in Stettler, and returned to the homesteads. By the New Year they were living in their respective shacks, one on each side of the coulee which separated the two homestead quarters.

Many humorous stories have been told, and many condescending references made to 'green Englishmen'. Some of them were well deserved. As my father related in later years There was, for example, the time he set out to ride his mare, Mabel by name, to the Lloyd Winans homestead where he had been invited for Sunday dinner During the five mile trip, Mabel was sluggish and even lay down on the trail twice. Will was a bit concerned about her; she had never acted like that before That evening when he went out to the Winans' barn to saddle Mabel for the return trip, she had a dandy colt beside her Named Major, the horse later became the property of Syd Linley who refused to sell him along with the other horses at his sale. He had Major destroyed rather than see him owned by anyone else.

In many cases an attitude of superior tolerance was maintained toward green Englishmen by settlers with a farm or ranch background, but occasionally the newcomers got their own back Coyotes were numerous those first years, no doubt as a result of the abundant food supply provided by the winter of 1906-07 They roamed the country in sufficient numbers to represent a serious threat to the cattlemen. As a result, Jack Shelberg with tongue in cheek offered Will Paterson ten dollars for every dead coyote he could deliver before calving time next spring Will got a supply of ammunition for his Model 94 Winchester 25-35 carbine and obtained permission from Shelberg to drag a critter, dead from natural causes, home to his shack, the inference being that he was short of fresh meat The carcass, together with offal he was able to acquire from other settlers, and drag home with his saddle horse, provided enough bait to lure coyotes to his shack continually all winter He could sit in his shack on a bright clear moonlight night and shoot coyotes through the open window

My father told me how ravenous the coyotes were, and how he had counted twenty or more around the bait at one time, and how ridiculously easy it was to shoot them. I have no idea how many he shot, but Jack Shelberg told me about this incident when I was a boy, and said, "If your dad had held me to my offer that next spring, he would have been the rancher and I would have been looking for a homestead."

Out of these early associations was to develop an attitude of mutual respect and admiration and a friendship between my father and Jack Shelberg that was to last the balance of a lifetime "Shelberg," as Will always called him, "was one of the finest men I have ever known."

In January, 1910, Will Paterson sold his homestead to Jack Shelberg according to plan, but kept his pre-emption. It was against his better judgement to burn his bridges behind him, and by now there was beginning to be a possibility that he just might want to live on that land some day Possibly this point of view was influenced by the fact that he was keeping company with the school-marm daughter of the homesteader on the quarter immediately north of him

In January, 1916, Will enlisted in the Army in Calgary and because of his early training, was posted to the Canadian Engineers, Signal Corps Within a year he was at the Front in France War for him held no romantic illusions, it was not an adventure but a patriotic duty and a job that had to be done. It was seldom and then with reluctance that he discussed his active service. His pay book shows that he was qualified as a high lineman which entitled him to an extra ten cents a day in addition to the regular one dollar a day. Men in the Signal Corps were required to establish and maintain telegraph communication lines. "A man at the top of a

forty foot pole makes a very attractive target for enemy snipers. You don't set any speed records going up those poles but you learn to come down in a hurry."

After a severe attack of pneumonia after the influenza epidemic in the winter of 1918, Will returned home in April, 1919. By midsummer of 1920, he had built the house in which we now live on his pre-emption. Lloyd Winans helped him with the rafters, but with this exception the work including the basement, foundation and chimney was done single handed. A man from Vancouver by the name of [illegible], out on the prairie for his health, did the plastering.

William Pattinson and Grace Guthrie were married August 2, 1920.

Grace Guthrie had begun her teaching career in Kansas at the age of seventeen. When she came to Canada in 1911, she taught first at the old Endiang school. After a term at Camrose Normal School she taught at Success school in the Leo district and again at Endiang. After her marriage she taught one full term and several shorter periods at Annesheim school, the last being in 1946-48. Throughout the years she kept in contact with her former pupils until many of them predeceased her.

Among my most pleasant recollections are those of the house full of people on a Sunday. After a fried chicken dinner they would gather around Mother at the organ and my father with his violin, to sing what are still to me the old favorites.

The twenties were good years for Will and Grace Pattinson, in spite of hail storms in 1923, 1925 and 1928. In 1923 the Alberta Government Rural Telephone was installed in the area, and my folks got their first car — a brand new Model T Ford! In 1925 the Hanna-Warden branch of the C.N.R. went through, so that they were only nine miles from the railway at Endiang, instead of the fourteen or sixteen they had previously to go to Waby or Craigmyle. In 1928 service was begun on Rural Route 2 out of Endiang, a route which is still in operation.

The severe hailstorms of 1931 seemed to usher in a series of hardships and bad luck. Poor crops, drought, grasshoppers, low prices, dust storms, sick horses, horses with sore shoulders, horses with wire cuts too often fatal and no money to replace them, dull plough shares past the point of resharpening, short pastures, no money for posts, short crops, too short to tie, and no money for twine anyway. On and on it went until 1936 when there was a ray of light and things began to improve. Through those hard years the philosophy seemed to be that things had never yet been so bad that they couldn't be worse.

In 1946 my father's health began to fail, and it was found that he had diabetes. With the help of insulin and a strict diet he continued on as usual until April 25, 1951, when he died near home with his boots on, as he would have fervently wished, just forty-four years from the day he first came to Alberta.

Mother moved into the Senior Citizens Lodge in Drumheller in 1960, and two years later moved to Acadia Lodge in Hanna, where she played the piano for church services and sing songs as she had done in so many communities through the years. After a prolonged illness, she died in the Hanna hospital on September 6, 1974, three weeks past her ninetieth birthday.

Will and Grace Pattinson had one son, Tom, who married Kay Black of Hanna. They have three daughters, Gail of Calgary, Jean of Hanna, and Nancy at home. Tom and Kay live on the home place.

TOM PATTINSON — I was born at Hanna in September, 1926. While Mother was in the hospital, a girl had been hired to cook for the men. The day after I was born the hired girl fell downstairs and hurt her knee so that she could not walk. My dad ended up cooking for himself, the hired man and the hired girl, and running the binder.

The Tom Patterson family: Jean, Tom, Gail, Nancy, Kay

I attended Annasheim school, which was across the road from our place, until I finished grade nine. I took grade ten at Endiang, where my teacher was Miss Jean Funk, who became Mrs. Cliff James that term. Some twenty years later our two daughters Gail and Jean also had the privilege of having Mrs. James for their teacher at Endiang.

In 1945 and 1946 I attended high school at Drumheller, staying at the dormitory and driving home weekends when weather permitted. In the fall of 1948 I hired on with the CNR at Hanna as a locomotive fireman. One month later, on October 30, Kay Stock and I were married at the Anglican Church in Hanna.

Kay is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stock, residents of Hanna since 1919. Kay was born in England in January of 1929 while her mother was on a trip to the Old Country. Kay worked in the Royal Bank in Hanna.

By the spring of 1950 I had been cut from the spare board to the emergency board, and work was scarce, so I went to work on a farm in the Verdant Valley district north-east of Drumheller. It was owned by James Gaschnitz whose father managed the Stubblefield Farm.

Our first daughter, Tona, was born in Drumheller on October 6, 1950, during an early wet snowstorm many people will remember. She died in July, 1967, after a short illness.

In the spring of 1951 we moved to the home place where we still live. Our second daughter, Gail, was born in Hanna in 1953, Jean in 1956, and Nancy was born in Castor in 1969.

Gail attended Annasheim school until it closed in 1962, then went to Endiang and Byemoor schools. She graduated from the Hanna high school in 1971. After four years with the Calgeth Credit Union in Calgary she took a business course and now works for Alberta Energy Company. In May, 1976, she married Louis Pouns of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, who is an accountant with Joyce Construction of Calgary.

Jean attended school at Endiang, Byemoor and Hanna. During her high

school years she worked part time for Hanna Farm Equipment, and since her graduation in 1976, has been employed there full time.

Nancy goes to school in Endiang.

I belonged to D Company of the Calgary Highlanders in Hanna from the time it was formed in 1955 until the fall of 1962. I was also lineman and troubleshooter for Line 3 of the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company from 1960 until the underground line was put in in 1974.

THE DANIEL GUTHRIE FAMILY, By Tom [illegible] — Dan Guthrie was born at Vernon, Wisconsin, on May 30, 1852. On March 3, 1875, he married a distant cousin, Adelle N. Guthrie of Leicester, New York, and took up residence on a farm near Le Mars, Iowa, where he had taught school for a short time before his marriage. Their first child, Ada, was born June 7, 1877.

In 1881 he became a partner in and operator of the Okoboji Flour Mill at Milford, Iowa. The mill was water-powered whenever there was a sufficient flow of water to turn the water wheel, the rest of the year it was powered by a coal-fired stationary steam engine.

A second daughter, Edna, died in infancy. Grace, the youngest daughter, who later became my mother, was born August 17, 1884. In 1894 Ada married Nick Lund.

D.N Guthrie

Mrs. D.N. Guthrie

In 1888 Dan Guthrie was elected for a four-year term as County Treasurer, a position equivalent to that of Municipal secretary in this country. When his term of office expired, he sold his flour mill, and farmed and ranched in southeastern Kansas until 1908. Then he bought a general store, and Grace, who had been teaching since 1901, came home to help with it.

Although my grandfather was the local agent for a land development project in Saskatchewan, he decided to homestead in Alberta. His decision was probably influenced by the fact that his daughter Ada and her husband had located in the Olds-Didsbury district in 1902, and later moved to the Dowling Lake area. He chose land north of where the Lunds were, homesteading the NW 19-33-15, and taking NE 24-33-16 as a pre-emption. After fulfilling homestead duties for six months in 1909, and again in 1910, he sold his store in the spring of 1911 and moved his family to the homestead. The train journey with two carloads of settlers' effects ended at Halkirk, the trip thirty-five miles south to the homestead was made by team and wagon.

Grace often spoke of her first impressions of the country, gained on that trip from Halkirk. How fresh and green everything was, the potholes and sloughs full of water with the ducks swimming on them, the meadowlarks, redwing blackbirds, killdeers, and of course the swarms of mosquitoes! The newcomers were seeing Central Alberta at its best. Grace loved the country then and she still did sixty-three years later, in spite of the long cold trips she made by saddle horse to the schools where she taught for the next eight years.

As the result of an accident in his flour mill, my grandfather had lost the index finger on his right hand, and the hand itself was badly mutilated, resulting in poor circulation. This was always a handicap to him in the Canadian winters, especially while driving horses. He was a keen horseman, and insisted on driving lively horses that were right up on the bit at all times. There was none of this walking behind the sleigh to get warm, as I did for so many miles in later years.

One of the first projects the Guthries undertook on the homestead was to set out a shelterbelt of trees from the Forestry Branch Nursery Station at Indian Head. Although the young trees were severely set back by hail storms on two occasions, the grove stands today as a fitting monument to my grandparents, and a testimony to the hours of hoeing and cultivating that were necessary to keep the grass and weeds out of the rows of cuttings.

Dan Guthrie was active in the community. He was the first president of the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local, the first secretary-treasurer of the Annasheim school district, and served in that capacity for many years. He was local agent for the Great Northern Insurance Company, and for the Farmers' Fire and Hail Insurance Company. He was also a Commissioner to administer Oaths, and assisted people in the preparation of simple legal documents such as leases, wills, agreements of sale, affidavits, etc. This was a popular service in a comparatively isolated area when travel was slow and roads were poor.

I have been told of local dances in those early years when my grandfather's violin was the only music. Other times Grace would accompany him on piano or organ, if one was available.

On June 1, 1916, Dan Guthrie suffered a stroke which affected his right side and left him quite weak. Later that summer, against the strict advice of his doctor and in spite of the concerned admonitions of family and friends, he was mowing hay. He always said, "It is better to wear out than to rust out." At any rate, he was injured in an accident typical of many which happened in the days of horse-drawn implements, and described it as follows in a letter to his brother:

"I was mowing three weeks ago yesterday, had brought the mower to the barn to unhitch, had the team all unhitched, lines unsnapped and done up, but failed to unhitch the off tug on the off horse. The team was not hitched together in any way. The finger bar of the mower was standing up. When I started the team, the horse with the one tug hitched became wild. I was rather between the two and near their heads. The only thing I had to stop him with was the bridle rein, and that broke, and I was run over by the mower, and as the tongue was down and the finger bar very low I was dragged and rolled over the ground quite a distance and knew but little about what happened for a time. Dell (Mrs. Guthrie) and Grace got to me as soon as possible and got me to the house in some way. There were no bones broken but my legs were both run over and the right one is just getting so I can use it a little. I think I shall be able to do some work in a few days."

Grace married William Pattinson on August 7, 1920.

In the fall of 1921 my grandfather had an auction sale, rented his land to William Pattinson and moved back to the United States: but by the spring of 1922 they were back in Alberta on the home place. Dan Guthrie died there on March 5 1923. In the words of his obituary he "came to Alberta in 1911, where though advanced in years he faced the hardships attendant upon building up a home in a new country with dauntless courage, energy and optimism. His integrity, kindly consideration for all, loyalty to friends and selfless devotion to his family were outstanding characteristics. He was ever ready to assist with intelligent interest and effort whatever tended toward the welfare of the community, as long as health and strength permitted. These failed rapidly during the last two years, and the last illness was of short duration."

About 1914 my grandmother's unmarried sister Mary came from Moscow, New York, to make her home with the Guthrie family. Aunt Mary was very deaf as the result of scarlet fever in childhood. Sometime during the First World War a barbed-wire telephone was installed between the Guthrie farm and the Nick Lund place a mile and a half south: at this time it was discovered that Aunt Mary could hear ordinary telephone conversation quite clearly. It was also a source of wonder and amazement that it was no effort for her to hear normal conversation while riding in a car.

Although her constitution was frail, Aunt Mary was bright and energetic. She made the care of the chickens her responsibility, and she and my grandmother gained a wide reputation for the large vegetable and flower gardens they raised each year.

After my grandfather died in the spring of 1923, Grandma Guthrie and Aunt Mary continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1932 when Aunt Mary died quite suddenly of a heart attack. Grandma was persuaded, much against her will, to come to live with her daughter, Grace.

Grandma had a stove in her room, which she polished periodically with a paste of black lead mixed with water, which was allowed to dry and then polished with a stiff brush. On October 18, 1935, she used a new type of liquid polish which had only to be applied and let dry. There was no warning on the bottle that the polish was very volatile, and the fumes highly explosive and inflammable; sometime later that afternoon, when she struck a match to light her kerosene lamp, the explosion occurred. Instantly the curtains, tablecloth, papers and magazines on the table, the bedding, and Grandma's clothing and hair, were ablaze and burning furiously.

My father had just returned from taking a load of wheat to Endiang, and was at the back door. Because of his prompt action in the use of one of the fire extinguishers which were kept in the house, the flames did not spread; but Grandma was terribly burned and died two days later. She was buried beside her husband at Craigmyle.

It is appropriate to end this story of my grandparents with a word about their Christian faith. Although they were staunch Presbyterians, they were sympathetic and eager to assist any cause based upon true Christian principles, regardless of denomination. Their faith and trust in God, together with a Scotch sense of humor, enabled them to face pioneer life in this land with assurance and a confident sense of purpose.

HENRY GILBERTSON, By Phyllis Gilbertson Johnson — Henry Gilbertson was of Swedish descent. He was strong in health and character; a quiet man who liked company and enjoyed a game of cards.

Mr. Gilbertson came from Minnesota to Alberta, and filed on the NE 28-33-15

In 1909. He took the SE 35-33-16 as his pre-emption. Usually sods for houses were cut with a plow, but Gilbertson cut his with a shovel. He dug a shallow well by hand and cribbed it with rocks from the prairie. He dug a garden spot with his shovel, and had good gardens and was generous with his produce.

He acquired a horse and an ox. The latter happened to be a cow, which he milked for his own use. His usual mode of transportation was on foot. He was a good carpenter, and eventually built a house, which is still standing, and a barn, part of which was dug into the hillside.

In 1916 he sold his land to George and Fred Chapman. It is now owned by the former's grandson, Doug Johnson. Mr. Gilbertson bought land near Craigmyle, and lived there until he sold to Martin Suelzle in 1928. After a brief holiday in California, he went homesteading again, this time in the Peace River country. After a few years he sold that land and retired to Craigmyle where he died.

Mr. and Mrs. George Banner and Ida.

GEORGE BANNER, By Ida Banner Grasse — My father, after selling his butcher business in Kent, England, decided he would like some of the opportunities of Western Canada. My parents came to Magrath in 1908 to visit my Dad's cousin, E.J. Wood who was president of the Mormon Church in Cardston at that time.

In June, 1910, they started their long journey from Cardston to what is known as the Annasheim district, in a wagon with four head of horses, a milk cow, and a saddle horse with a baby colt, which my mother said added considerable pleasure to the trip. It was quite an experience for a city girl with no experience of cooking or hard labor, who also had a wee daughter of two years. They farmed their homestead for years and went through many hardships as everyone did, but always had a cup of tea and a smile for everyone who dropped in.

Never complaining, my mother gave music lessons to quite a few children for next to nothing, often times for a few vegetables, which were very acceptable, as very few had good gardens at that time. She played the organ for all the local concerts at schools and churches, and also at the little Lutheran Church at Scapa, where two services were held, the first in German, and the second in English. In 1913 the first U.F.A. local was formed at Chain Lakes. My mother was secretary for many years. She was also a director of the Acadia Constituency for a good number of years. My parents were among the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club which was formed in the early twenties. Mother was also secretary of this group. They enjoyed their life on their farm and their friends and neighbors.

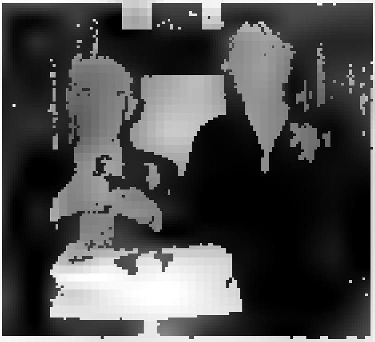
Mr. Banner passed away on his farm in 1942, and Mrs. Banner passed away in Drumheller in 1976.

JOSEPH BANNER, By Ida Grasse — Joseph, a younger brother of George and Bill Banner, came from England in 1906 to Cardston. When George and his wife came out from England they lived with him for several months, until they got their own home. He was a very talented musician and owned the only piano in

Cardston, which was a very small town at that time. For a time he made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He played the organ at the church and Mum sang in the choir.

On April 26, 1910, he filed on a homestead, the southwest quarter 24-33-16, but returned to Cardston the same year. He continued with his music lessons and he also played the organ in the Mormon Temple there for many years. Not being a Mormon, this was very unusual, but at that time he was the only one that had the ability. He played for all the weddings and funerals also. It wasn't a very fat living, but he carried on for a number of years. He was married while in Cardston, and had three daughters. Later on he and his family moved to St. Thomas, Ontario, where he bought a beautiful old house. He carried on with his music lessons, played for church and weddings and concerts.

He passed away in the early forties. His wife died several years later. They are both buried in St. Thomas.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Banner, 1954

WILLIAM BANNER, By Iris Banner Grosse — William Banner and his wife came from England to homestead in 1912. They built a two-room shack, and there their daughters, Lillian and Maggie, were born.

He had been a stable boss in England, and was very fond of horses. He always had the manes and tails of his horses braided, and had good harness on them. He was quite an actor and comedian, telling jokes and singing humorous songs at concerts; and at school house dances he called the square dances. He was also a very good swimmer.

In 1923 he sold out and returned to England, where he worked for his brother on a farm. In 1968 George and I visited them, and he passed away that night. His wife died about 1972.

Hawtrey Goldfinch 137th Battalion World War I

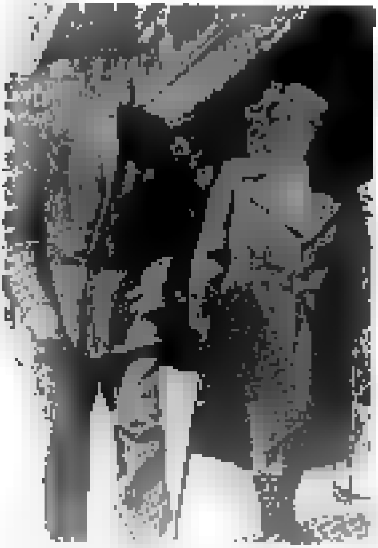
HAWTREY GOLDFINCH, By Iris Grosse and T. Pattinson — Hawtrey Goldfinch came from England to Canada as a very young boy, and made his home with his sister, Mrs. George Banner. He was the only man we knew who never ate meat.

In May 1914, he homesteaded the southwest 12-33-16; joined the army shortly after war was declared, and was severely wounded in action overseas. He proved up on his homestead after his discharge.

In 1922 he married Mrs. Dick Van Slyke, nee Anne Lund, whose first husband died as a result of a kick from a horse. She had a little boy, Jim Van Slyke, and later another son, Jack Goldfinch was born.

In 1928 he began to work for the Soldier Settlement Board, and remained with them until 1958 when his health started to fail, then retired to Victoria where they both enjoyed gardening. Their son Jack was killed in World War II, while serving with the RCAF, and Jim also passed away at an early age as the result of rheumatic fever contracted during military service.

Hawtrey Goldfinch died in Victoria, and Mrs. Goldfinch is now living in Peace River.



Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman

THE CHAPMANS, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman, and my brother Bob emigrated from England to Calgary in 1906. My dad, a fireman by trade, worked out of Calgary on the C.P.R. Calgary-Lacombe run. My uncles, Jim and Fred Chapman, also came to Calgary, in 1906. Uncle Jim had been a 'Bobby' on the police force in England, and worked with the force in Calgary. Uncle Fred worked as fireman on the C.P.R. Crows Nest Pass run. They worked at these jobs until homesteading in 1910.

My dad's homestead was the NW 36-33-16; Uncle Jim's the SW 36-33-16 and Uncle Fred's the NW 35-33-16. Another uncle whom I did not know, Robert Chapman, came to Canada in 1911, and homesteaded the NW 31-33-15. He worked locally until his untimely death in 1915. None of my uncles ever married.

Mother, Dad and my brother Bob came from Calgary to Gadsby by train, and were met at the station by Mr. E.B. Donald with his team and wagon. My dad had a team and a wagon, a colt and a cow, and other settlers' effects. The cow was tied behind the wagon and Mr. Donald led the way to the homestead. My uncles, Jim and Fred, came a few weeks later.

The time was mid-October. It was almost a three-day trip from Gadsby, but there were stopping places along the way where food and a night's lodging could be obtained. That year had been extremely dry, and the homesteaders along the way refused water for the animals, saying that their wells were shallow and almost dry. However, my parents knew that when they arrived at their destination there would be plenty of water, as Uncle Fred's homestead had springs on it.

When they arrived at the homestead, cold and tired, they pitched a tent, which was home to them until sufficient sods were plowed to build a shack. Winter set in with a vengeance in early November of that year. They had no idea of the hardships they would be called upon to face. Supplies and mail and coal were hard to get; they burned dry wood for the first year, later getting coal from the Garden Plain country. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat in winter, ducks in summer. The winters were long and cold, with deep snow; and in the summer of 1912, they made their first acquaintance with an Alberta hail storm.

As time went by supplies became a little easier to obtain. Hanna had made its

appearance on the map, even though it was almost a twenty-four hour trip by team. Craigmyle was next, and was our main town for the next fourteen years. Post offices came closer. Our address was Dowling Lake P.O., Via Craigmyle, Alberta, Canada, North West Territories.

In 1912 two farm houses were built, one for my uncles and one for Dad and family. My parents' house was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1914, everything was lost, including Mother's piano, her violin, her music diplomas and trunks full of music. Kind neighbors came to their aid and housed them for the winter months. In the spring Dad bought a half-section of land from Mr. Henry Gilbertson with buildings on it. Mr. Gilbertson moved into the Craigmyle district.

In 1916 there was another fierce hail storm. After struggling three more years with Nature's ups and downs, the present house was completed. Somewhere along the line I made my appearance.

Endiang Cairn left to right: Glen Tucker, Jean Ferguson, Wilma Hunt, 1975

As I grew older I often asked those pioneers if they would go through it again, and they replied that though times were tough, it was a free life, the air was pure and Nature was out in all her glory. Our homesteaders are gone now. Uncle Fred passed away in 1953, Uncle Jim in 1956, my dad in 1960, Mother in 1968, and my brother Bob in 1971.

In August of 1975 the Endiang community held a sixty-fifth anniversary homecoming, and over two thousand people, including many pioneers, came home. A beautiful stone cairn, constructed of native rock, was built by George Smith, son of the first section foreman of Endiang, assisted by Doug Donald and other descendants of pioneer families in the district. Inscribed on the plaque of the cairn are these words: "To honor the courageous men and women who homesteaded in this area and the pioneer businessmen who built the hamlet of Endiang, and to Commemorate the opening of the first Endiang Post Office in 1910, and the establishment of the town on its present site in 1925, the people of the Endiang district dedicate this cairn, August 2, 1975. Our Home."

God bless our pioneers who sacrificed so much for us. May they rest in peace.

Gunnar Johnson in leather blacksmith's apron. Endiang Blacksmith's Shop 1937

MR. and MRS. GUNNAR JOHNSON, ***By Phyllis Chapman Johnson*** — I was born on the farm in what is known as the old Gilbertson house, which is still standing. I attended Summerhill, Annesheim and Endiang schools, and took three years of correspondence courses. In 1941 I married Gunner Johnson in Calgary, where we lived for ten years.

Gunner had come to Canada from Sweden in 1927. He was a man who could turn his hand to many trades. He worked as a gold miner and a lumberman in British Columbia, as a brakeman on the C.P.R. between Lacombe and Coronation, then did farming, blacksmithing and welding with the Kelbel Brothers of Endiang. He was also John Deere agent in Endiang. In 1942 he joined the army as an Armament Artificer. Realizing that city life was not for us, we came back to the farm in 1950. We rented my uncles' land and in 1967 bought the Alex Kelsmith place one half mile south of Endiang.

Gunner passed away suddenly on June 20, 1973.

Our older son, Doug, his wife and three children live in their own home on the Kelsmith place. Our younger son, Donald, and his wife Blanche live and farm on the original farm of George Chapman. I am still living on the farm.

As I think back to earlier years I remember many things . . . the horseback rides, bareback, to the Dowling Lake post office, eighteen miles the round trip, sometimes with two flour sacks of mail slung over the horse's neck, for we picked up our mail only once every four or six weeks. I soon saved my pennies for a saddle.

The postmaster at Dowling Lake was a Mr. Stanley Price who was always chewing tobacco. The mailboxes were on the inside wall facing the wicket; he loved cats and I counted thirty-nine mailboxes, with a yellow cat in each one. We soon changed our Post Office.

I also remember the long cold and windy democrat rides, and the sleigh rides with upset cutters and runaway horses, the barn dances in the barn lofts. I have seen men fall down the feed chutes and into the mangers below, and live to tell the story, (they had smelled too much home brew); the local picnics, schoolhouse dances and concerts; the fall threshing with Dad's Rumley outfit with bunk car, cook car and twenty-five or thirty men to cook for. Who could forget nineteen cent wheat, fat cattle that didn't bring enough to pay the freight, gathering crows' eggs and gopher tails for a cent apiece?

But most of all I remember the happy times we had with music in the home. Mother was an accomplished pianist and my brother Bob played trumpet and saxophone, and I played whatever instrument was handy. We were known as the Chapman orchestra, and we played for many dances.

J. J. BRUCE HOOPER, ***By Phyllis Chapman Johnson*** — J.J. Bruce Hooper came from Bruce County, Ontario, to Erskine in 1906-1907. He worked on farms until November, 1910, when he filed on a homestead on the NW 25-33-16. He did

his homestead duties during the summers and worked out during the winters.

In the fall of 1916 he married my aunt, Dora Edmonson, who had come from England to Calgary in 1907. In the fall of 1917 they moved to Lulu Island, B.C., where they had a fruit farm. They are both now deceased.

Uncle Bruce rented his land to Alex Kalenith, and later it was purchased by Hans and John Hansen. It is now owned by Herb Bossert.

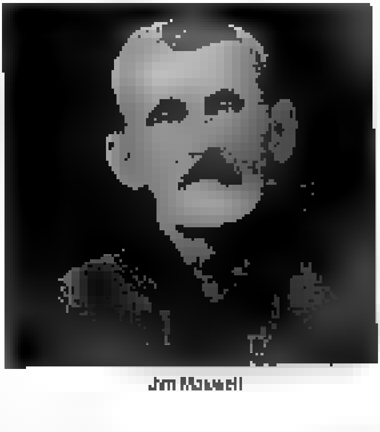
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hooper in the potato patch about 1916

CHARLES O. PIERSON — In 1910 Charles Pierson came from the United States to homestead the NW 24-33-16. He was married when he came here and had one daughter, Rena, who operated a millinery shop in Endiang for a time. Rena married Louis Ruppel, a trapper from B.C. who had tremendous physical stamina; it was said that he could run the seven miles to Endiang without stopping.

Mrs. Pierson died in the mid twenties. In 1928, Mr. Pierson sold his land to Hans Hansen and moved to Clearwater, B.C. where his daughter and her husband lived. He took out another homestead there, but died before he was able to prove up on it.

JIM MAXWELL — Jim Maxwell was a bachelor who homesteaded the NE 23-33-16 and took the north west quarter of the same section as his pre-emption. He came to Alberta from the United States, and kept quite a number of cattle until 1924 when he sold them and rented his land out. He continued to live on his farm until his death in the early thirties.

Neighbors remember him as a man who never owned a lamp, but always used a lantern in the house. He took a great interest in his community, was a U.F.A. member, and was a trustee of Annesheim school for several years.



Jim Maxwell

BERT A. KIRKEBY — Bert Kirkeby was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1877. As a boy he came with his family to Minnesota; he later married Mary Moen, a sister of Svend Moen, in North Dakota. In 1910 he homesteaded the NE 12-33-16, and the following spring pre-empted the north-west quarter of the same section. Bert Kirkeby was the first chairman of the Annasheim school board and served as such for many years.

During the first war the Kirkebys built a large hip-roofed barn which was to become a landmark in the district. It was the scene of many barn dances and public meetings. Meetings to organize the Alberta Wheat Pool were held there; one of these was addressed by Henry Wise-Wood.

When a dance was to be held, the organ or piano was lifted into the loft with hay slings. It could not be left there between dances as the turkeys would roost on it. The barn, still standing plumb and true, was dismantled in 1978.

In the early twenties, Bert sold his farm to Dan Lund and started a coal mine in the Princeton district. In 1934 he opened a strip mine near his original location but removing the dirt proved too costly, so he sank a vertical shaft to the coal seam and built a tipple. The coal was good and Kirkeby's mine was known far and wide. Countless numbers of two-ton loads were hauled from there by team and wagon or sleigh. 'Going for coal' meant leaving home at three or four o'clock in the morning to get a place near the front of the line-up, and sometimes there was a long wait even then.

In 1941 the Kirkebys closed the mine and moved to Drumheller. Bert died in 1951 and Mrs. Kirkeby in 1978. There were seven children, Mabel, Lulu, Stella, Eddy, Jim, Gordon and Leonard.

Svend Moen, right, and his brother Chris

SVEND MOEN — Svend Pederson Moen was the son of Peder Hansen and his wife Marit Hansen. As was the custom in Norway at that time, the boy's second name was his father's name with 'son' added, and his surname was the name of the farm where the family lived. Svend was born in 1875.

About 1900, Svend's older brother, Hans, immigrated to North Dakota, and worked until he had saved enough money to bring another member of the family to America. Eventually nearly all his brothers and sisters, and his mother, settled in North Dakota, and in 1911 Svend took a homestead and pre-emption on the west half of 13-33-16. His brother Theodore and his mother lived with him on the homestead.

About 1914 Svend walked up behind a horse in the pasture. It kicked him in the face, and Ole Braaten took him to Gadsby in the back of a democrat, to get medical aid. The face was so badly swollen that there was little that could be done for him, and the bones were allowed to heal without being set, so that the left side of his face was badly deformed. In a later accident a telephone pole being used as a pry to move a granary slipped, striking him in the face.

For a number of years Svend leased a school section, 28-33-16. He put a

cedar fence around the entire section and raised cattle there. In the days of stack threshing, Svend had the reputation of being able to build perfectly symmetrical bundle stacks. He had a grinder connected to a windmill with an unusually large wheel, where he crushed his own grain for feed.

After Svend retired from farming he made his home with his nephew, Ben Mohn, for several years, and then moved to Hanna where he died in December, 1958. He is buried in Craigmyle cemetery.

PALMER MOEN — Palmer Moen was born September 10, 1910, the second oldest of the eleven children of Chris Moen. In the fall of 1929 he left the family home in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, to live and work in the Annesheim district with his uncle, Svend Moen.

On December 21, 1935, Palmer and Jean Marnoch were married. The couple had three children: Gerald, Isabel and Parry.

Palmer enjoyed hunting, and for seventeen years was the pitcher on the Endiang ball team.

In the fall of 1947 the land was sold to Carl Schultz, and the Moen family moved to a farm at Rimbey. Palmer and Jean are now retired and living at Drayton Valley.

Ole Bernhardson-Braaten with his violin

OLE BERNHARDSON BRAATEN, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — Ole Bernhardson was born in Norway, moved to Minnesota and then to Birch Hills, Saskatchewan. In 1911 he filed on the SW 24-33-16, which Joe Benner had filed on but given up. The land was very level but quite sandy.

Unlike many homesteaders who arrived almost penniless, Ole did have some money. He lived with a neighbor and helped out on his farm while he was building a house on his own land. Ole never worked fast, but was a very steady man, and whatever he did was well done.

As time went by he accumulated the usual implements and four big dapple grey horses. He always kept his animals in top condition and never overworked them. He milked a cow and made his own butter

Ole had a beautiful bay mare that he drove on the buggy; he called her Daisy. She was a little high strung but could certainly cover the ground. When my Dad's outfit was threshing for Ole, I, as a young girl, was thrilled to be allowed to drive Daisy to Craigmyle for supplies, or to take lunch to the threshing crew. The single buggy was always kept in a shed to protect it from the weather, and Ole's single cutter was also kept in top shape

Ole played the violin; the tone he could get out of it was something to be heard. It was certainly not a cheap violin, and Ole was really offended if anyone called it a fiddle. He enjoyed playing an old fashioned waltz, but liked classical

music, and could play it, too. He played for dances and gave lessons to a few of the younger people.

Ole was always well dressed; even his large moustache was always neatly trimmed. In the late twenties he changed his name from Bernhardson to Bresten.

In the early thirties Ole sold his land and bought another farm north-east of Endiang, where he lived for a few years and then moved back to Birch Hills. He farmed the land which had belonged to his half-brother, Ole Johnson, and later bought a farm in the Waitville district. When he grew older and found the work harder, he retired to the Lutheran Old Folks' Home at Domremy, where he spent his remaining years.

It is believed that he still has a nephew living in the Birch Hills area.

My thanks to Ben Mohn for supplying some of this information.

THE JOHN RENK FAMILY — John Renk homesteaded the SW 31-33-15 on December 15, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Renk had two children, a son who lived in the States and a daughter who was married to George Herr. Because the son's wife had died, the Renks made a home for his daughter, Magdalena.

Mr. and Mrs. Herr and their family lived in Craigmyle for a time, and then moved to the homestead to live with Mrs. Herr's parents.

Magdalena Renk married Sam Hoffman. George Herr moved to Hanna, and about 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Renk and their daughter and her family returned to the United States. Julius Schultz farmed the land.

JACK CHAPMAN — John William Chapman homesteaded the SE 23-33-16 on February 6, 1911. Known as 'The Lion Tamer' because he had once worked in a circus, he was one of the first in the district to have a radio. He bought parts and assembled, sold and serviced radios.

He married while he lived in the district, and had one son, Edward Arthur (Teddy). Teddy became a tinsmith and also operated an electrical service shop in Brooks for a time. He was an enthusiastic ham radio operator, and his call letters are still listed, showing that he resides at Entwistle.

Jack Chapman was a staunch Social Crediter. He was secretary of Annsheim school district for several years.

About 1937 the Chapmans sold their land, had an auction sale, and moved to a chicken farm near Midnapore. A couple of years later they moved to Calgary where they died.

JULIUS SCHULTZ FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Schultz arrived in Canada from Michigan in 1910, with their first four children, Paul, Carl, Mabel, and Ervin. They settled in Gadsby where Mr. Schultz ran a blacksmith shop, and where Herman was born. In 1911 they moved to the homestead at Endiang. Here they had six more children, Myrtle, Martha, Henry, Edna, Violet and Herbert.

The little brown house on the hill was always filled to capacity with friends and neighbors. Mum Schultz was known far and wide for her cordial hospitality and her delicious meals, that were ready for anyone at any time. It was not unusual to serve Sunday dinner to fifty people. In the early years during hunting season, not only was the house full, but there were beds in the haylofts and granaries. Salesmen who travelled the country made it a point to arrive at the Schultz home at mealtimes.

Not only was she Mum to her eleven children, but also to most of their friends. Because of the distance to hospital and modes of transportation, Mum was called on, very often in the middle of the night, to act as midwife. Many children of the community could say that she was the first person to pat their bottoms

Dad Schultz was one of the founders and builders of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He acted on its council for a number of years. He was also an active member in different capacities on the Municipal council. In the early years he was the weed inspector for a wide area. In 1931, while he was Secretary-Treasurer for the school board, Annesheim needed a new teacher. There were so many applications that they jam-packed a hundred pound flour sack.

When the country was new, J.C., as he was commonly known, did a lot of blacksmithing. The old forge belched out the heat and the huge anvil resounded with the banging of plow shares. Hundreds of horses walked out of the yard with new shoes. He also did a good deal of carpenter work in the neighborhood. He built one of the first schools in the area, Summerhill, which is still standing on the original site.

Julius and Emma Schultz with their family on their 50th anniversary. The tree cake in the foreground is a replica of their original wedding cake which is baked on a spit over an open fire.

In 1929, while still retaining the homestead, the family moved to Edgewater, B.C. Here they ran a lumber mill and ranched in the vicinity. After two or three years the bottom fell out of the lumber business so they came back to the prairie.

For many years they had one of the big threshing machines in the area. Paul, covered with grease, ran the huge Case engine, and Carl operated the 28" White separator. It took eight hard working men and teams, and a couple of spike pitchers, to feed the brute. Many a neighbor's field was cleaned in jig time.

In 1948 the old homestead was sold and the family moved to Endiang. It wasn't for Mum to retire. Whenever a work crew was looking for a place to board, they somehow found their way to Mum's table.

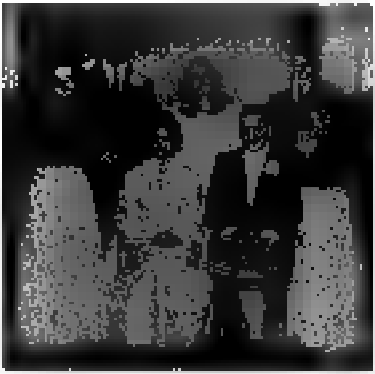
In November, 1956, J.C. was hit by a car in Calgary, and passed away in January, 1958. Mum staunchly carried on until 1961 when a stroke took her. Paul died in 1960, Mabel in 1967, Martha in 1973 and Violet in 1976.

The rest of the family are living within 150 miles of home. Each year since 1966 we have held a family reunion. We can boast of over a hundred direct descendants. Julius and Emma Schultz will not be soon forgotten.

THE PAUL SCHULTZ FAMILY, ***By Connie Schultz*** — Paul Schultz, the oldest child in the Julius Schultz family, moved to the Annesheim district with his parents in 1911, and spent the rest of his life in the area. In 1932 he married Connie Heptonstall; the young couple lived on the Heptonstall homestead for a time, and also lived on the Gus Abram farm and the Van Sickle place before buying the Jack Chapman land in 1938.

Paul and Connie Schultz had seven children. Walter died in infancy; Gordon operates a motel at Brooks; Margaret Jones lives on the home place. Dennis and Ray reside in Calgary. Joan Mohl, who works at the Royal Bank in Hanna, lives south of Hanna. Judy married Albert Ryckman of Hanna and they live at Wetaskiwin.

Paul died suddenly in 1960. Connie is now retired and makes her home in Calgary.



The George Jones family. Left to right: Brenda, Dean, Margaret, Lynn, George, Wesley, Tracey

GEORGE JONES, ***By Margaret Jones*** — George Jones was born in Gadsby in 1925, and moved to the Byemoor district the following year. He was the seventh child in the family of John Jones, Sr. I was born in 1935, the second child in the Paul Schultz family. George and I were married at the Scapa Lutheran Church on September 11, 1953. We lived north of Byemoor, and in the Craigmyle area, until the spring of 1961, when we took over my mother's farm after my dad passed away.

George was a carpenter and worked for people all over the country. He passed away very suddenly on February 28, 1976.

We had five children. Dean operates the UFA bulk station in Byemoor; Lynn is married to Jim Graham and lives in Calgary. Wesley, Brenda and Tracey are still at home and attend school in Hanna.

I still live on and operate the farm.

THE CARL SCHULTZ FAMILY — Carl Schultz is the second child in the Julius Schultz family. As a young man he worked at home on the family farm, operated a well-drilling machine, and installed lightning rods on many buildings. He also worked on the construction of the Scapa-Spondin CNR rail line.

In April, 1942, he married Ida Meyers, and they moved to the Jack Shelberg farm which Carl had purchased from Shelberg's daughter, Mrs. Art Clayton, several years previously. Carl did a great deal of custom combining in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz had two daughters, Betty born in 1943 and Cathy born in 1956. In the fall of 1967, Carl, Ida and Cathy moved to Calgary.

Betty married Ken Halvorsen in 1960. Ken did commercial trucking for several years, and has been a member of the Country Drifters orchestra since its inception. The Halvorsens have three daughters, Debbie, Vicky and Tammy, all attending school in Hanna. They are now operating the farm and live on the home place.

Carl and Ida Schultz with Cathy holding the cat.

The Ken Halvorsen family: Vicky, Debbie, Betty, Tammy and Ken

The Jacob Bossert family: Mr. and Mrs. Bossert, Albert, Bertha and Johnny

JACOB BOSSERT, ***By The Grandchildren*** — Jacob Bossert was born in Bessarabia in 1873. Not much is known of his youth. He married a widow, Louise Hager (nee Flaig) who was born in Beresina, Bessarabia in 1873. She had a daughter Marie, who was born in 1897.

A daughter Bertha was born to Jacob and Louise in Bessarabia in 1902. They immigrated to North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1903. Twins were born to them on May 23, 1906, in Jud, North Dakota, a son Albert survived. From the United States they moved to Mayton, Alberta, where they lived until 1911. On May 30, 1911 they filed on a homestead on the southwest 30-33-15 and a pre-emption on the northeast 30-33-15, located in what was later known as the Annesheim district. A son Johnny was adopted when he was only a few years old. He helped on the farm and later took a job with the C.N.R. on the Section Crew.

Mr. and Mrs. Bossert farmed until November 1939, when they retired to Hanna.

Louise passed away at her home in Hanna on November 7, 1947, and Jacob spent his last few years in a nursing home in Calgary. He passed away in 1957.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT BOSSERT, ***By Ervin Bossert and Ruby Robinson*** — Albert Bossert, son of Jacob and Louise Bossert, was born on May 23, 1906, at Jud, North Dakota. He was baptized December 7, 1906 in the town of Alfred, North Dakota. His parents and their family moved to Mayton, Alberta, then took up a homestead at Endiang in May, 1911. Albert got his education at a country school called Annesheim. He was confirmed in Hanna on April 9, 1922 by Pastor Jacob Kiesle.

On November 14, 1929 he married Wilhelmina Bessler. She was born June

25, 1909 and emigrated with her parents from Leipz. Bessarabia in May, 1927. When they were first married, they lived with Dad's parents and helped them farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bossert, 1936

Their first child, a daughter Ida, was born on September 18, 1930. The next year they moved to a two-room house a few miles from Dad's parents' place. Dad still continued to farm with his father. On February 24, 1932 a son Ervin was born. In the fall of 1932 Dad rented a farm in the Garden Plain district which was formerly owned by Henry Pahl. A daughter Ruby was born on February 13, 1934.

In the thirties it was dry and the crops were poor so in the fall of 1934 we moved to the Peace River country. Dad rented a farm one mile from North Pine Village. Dad also hauled some freight to make extra money. In the spring of 1936 Dad and Mother again packed up their family and came back south. Dad rented the Chester Bartman place near Scapa. Ida and Ervin attended school at Scapa.

In the spring of 1938 Dad finally bought his own farm, the northeast 7-33-15, from Mack Sobolewski. William Banner had homesteaded this place in 1911. In 1939, a daughter Doreen was born on January 8. In the spring Dad bought a 1932 Ford car. Summer brought an epidemic of sleeping sickness to the area and a lot of our horses died so Dad bought his first tractor. That fall Dad and Mother used this tractor and a horse binder to cut George Banner's crop.

On March 2, 1941 Dad hitched two horses in front of the Ford car and went as far as the McCulah place, then he was able to drive the rest of the way to Hanna with the car to take Mother to the hospital where Shirley was born.

The next two years went on much the same, but Mother found things a little easier when she got her washing machine with a gas motor and they also remodelled the house. On July 13, 1943 Dad had to make another rush trip to town. Betty was born in the Hanna Hospital.

By this time the crops were somewhat better and life was getting a bit easier. Dad had better machinery and also owned a better car. Their last son, Herbert, was born on February 1, 1949. All we children attended Annesheim School until we finished grade nine.

Ida married Robert Dumont who works for the C.N.R. in Edmonton. They have two children, Janice and Kenny. Janice married Brian Waltze in 1976.

Ervin married Thelma Clark and farms in the Chain Lakes district. They have three children: Paul, Kevin and Todd.

Ruby married Wesley Robinson; they farm near Hanna. They have two children: Blake and Sherrie.

Doreen married Rex Beach, a teacher in Edmonton. They have two sons, Barrie and Sherman.

Shirley married John Aitken, a dentist. They live in Calgary and have four children; Kathy, Michelle, Scott and Steven.

Betty married Dave Wake, a teacher at S.A.I.T. They live in Calgary and have two children, Colin and Carla.

Herbert married Betty Hickle and lives on the home place.

Albert Bossert passed away on January 23, 1969. Wilhelmena died on November 26, 1969. Both are buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bass, Sam Biegenwalder

THE MARTIN BASS STORY, By Albert Bass — Martin Bass was born in Bessarabia in 1899. He came with his parents, three older sisters and a younger brother to South Dakota in 1907. In the spring of 1913 the family left South Dakota and moved to Calgary; during the summer his father homesteaded in the Hand Hills. It was in the Hand Hills that Martin spent most of his early years working for established ranchers and farmers until he acquired sufficient capital to begin farming for himself.

On April 2, 1923 he was united in marriage to Bertha Bossert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert of the Dowling Lake district. They lived and farmed in the Hand Hills until 1929 when they moved to the Sayle Brown farm north of Hanna. They lived here during the depression and the dry thirties, suffering the same hardships as a lot of other people in the same circumstances.

In the fall of 1939 our grandparents, the Jacob Bosserts, decided to retire to Hanna, so we moved to their farm south of Endiang in the Annesheim district. Mother and Dad lived here till 1961 when they moved to Hanna; but Dad continued to help on the farm as he didn't like town life.

There were four children in the family. Albert still lives on the farm at Endiang. Freda is a Nursing Aide at the Dr. Ross Nursing Home in Drumheller. She is married to Stan Wasslewski, a C.N.R. employee. Edward works for Ace Construction in Calgary. John is married to Elvina Doering of Kindersley, and they have two daughters, Dallas and Dixie. John works for Kenron Homes in Calgary.

Mother passed away April 23, 1972 after a lengthy illness. Dad passed away suddenly on March 6, 1973. They are both resting in the Hanna cemetery.

THE JOHN BOSSERT STORY — John Meyers, a younger brother of Fred, was born in 1912. When his mother died the Jacob Bossert family adopted him, he took their name, and lived with them until they sold their farm in the fall of 1939. In the spring of 1940 he moved to the A. Blomberg place where he farmed for four years.

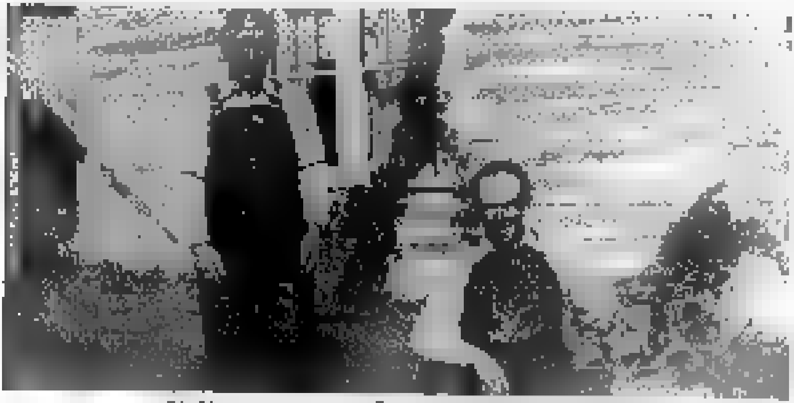
In the spring of 1944 he married Esther Metzger of Carbon. The newlyweds moved to the Emil Kammerle place, which they rented until 1947 when John went to work on the section at Endiang. He was transferred to Delacour and Nightingale, worked for a time on a turkey farm at Beiseker and in the Linden Machine Works. He is now retired and living at Linden.

Esther died in the fall of 1973. They had four children; Orvin who is at Medicine Hat, Philip working on a farm near Drumheller, Lucy and Laura who live in Drumheller.

PHILIP FRED MEYERS — Fred Meyers was one of a family of five children. His father was a section man at Watts, and when his mother died the family was split up. Fred was raised by the Henry Wiebe family of Watts, and he worked on the section there for a time before coming to the Annesheim district. He stayed with

the Julius Schultz family for a short while, and then made his home with the Gus Stulberg family.

He was quite mechanically inclined. He had a Model T Ford Coupe with a Ruckstell rear end, of which he was very proud. Jack Stulberg recalls his mother and father leaving for Hanna one spring in Fred's Model T, after it had been on blocks for the winter. All they had was one gallon of gas. They coasted down all the hills with the ignition turned off and made it all the way to Hanna on that one gallon of gas.



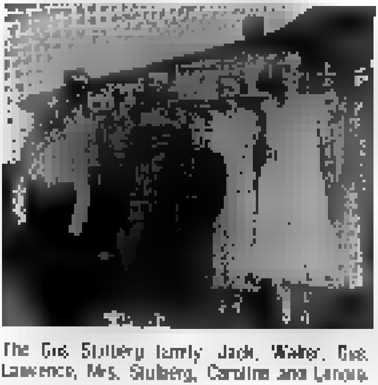
P. F. Mayer with his father. Fred is on the right petting the dog.

Fred traded his Model T to Austin Ludlow for a Titan 10-20 tractor. In the winters he and his brother, Johnny Bossert, who owned a grinder, formed a partnership and did custom grinding.

Fred was very fond of dogs, and every dog in the country knew him and would not bark when he came to visit.

In the fall of 1937 Fred left the Anneheim district with the Mac Sobolewski family, to locate near Stony Plain where he bought a farm, built a house and worked in a garage part time.

Fred was last known to be living in Vancouver with his sister.



The Gus Stulberg family: Jack, Walter, Gus, Lawrence, Mrs. Stulberg, Caroline and Lenore. Missing are Pauline and Martha who were married by then.

THE STULBERG FAMILY, *By Jack Stulberg* — Gus Stulberg was born in Germany on February 16, 1891, to John and Carolina Stulberg. In the early 1900's, his widowed mother brought her four children, Louise, Gus, Gottlieb and Frenda, to the state of Washington. Louise married J. Geissler and settled on a farm in southern Saskatchewan; Gus became a baker, but in 1912 he decided that he would like to homestead in Canada.

He travelled to what is now the Scapa-Endiang district to select a homestead quarter. While in the area, Gus stayed at Jacob Bossert's, (today the Albert Sass farm), and Mr. Bossert as-

sisted him in locating a homestead, advising him of the importance of a good water supply. The quarter he chose had a good spring, but was hilly and rocky.

Gus returned to the States. On June 25, 1912, in Spokane, Washington, he married Emma Krause, who had been born in Germany on July 31, 1894, and had come to the States with her parents and sister and three brothers.

In the spring of 1913 Gus and Emma homesteaded the SW 20-33-15. Gus' mother and sister Freida filed on the north-west quarter of the same section, and his brother Gottlieb homesteaded nearby on the SW 21-33-15. A cousin G. Glubrecht also filed on land in the area.

The Stulbergs had arrived in Stettler by train, then journeyed southwards to their homesteads. They stayed with the Bossert family until a sod shack could be built on Gus' land. Gus and Emma's first child, Caroline, was born on June 30, 1913.

Mrs. Stulberg Sr., Mrs. Gus Stulberg, Caroline (baby), Freda (Mrs. August Hein)

A few acres were broken the first year and their one cow provided the much-needed milk, cream and cheese. The first years were the hardest. There were no towns nearby, so if supplies were needed, a trip had to be made to Hanna. In later years their mail came to Scapa and Endiang.

In 1915 they decided that a move to the north end of Sullivan Lake might prove successful. Here Gus rented a farm and mined coal along the lake. While they lived there they got their mail at Cornucopia post office. In 1916 they returned to the homestead, built a wooden house and continued their farming operations. Emma took the quarter south of the homestead as a pre-emption. In later years they rented the Koehn quarter and purchased the Church quarter.

As the years passed their family grew to eight children: Caroline, 1913; Pauline, 1915; Martha, 1916; Lenore, 1918; Walter, 1919; Lillian, 1922; Jack, 1925; and Lawrence, 1927. Lillian died in 1924.

Gus and Emma were hard-working people, and in the winter of 1917-18 Gus took on the feeding of some of Pat Burns' cattle. While he hauled out the feed, she would water the cattle. The pail was on a long rope that she would let down the well, then pull up, hand over hand. It was very hard work and often her clothes would be covered with ice from the water which splashed and froze on them.

During the twenties it was a struggle to raise a large family and at the same time try to build up the farm, so very little could be set aside for a rainy day. When the depression came, things went from bad to worse. To supplement the family income, Gus worked out part time. He worked many years for Emil Kobi, Sr. of Endiang. The Kobis were good friends and the families visited each other for years.

Gus also operated a coal mine east of Scapa for several years. Partners in this venture, for a time, were Robert Keibel and Gottlieb Weber. Gus worked off his taxes by doing road work with horses and fresno, and was often called upon to do veterinary work.

All the children attended Anneheim school, which was one mile west of the homestead. The boys did janitor work at the school, and Emma was on the school board. Good times were had at picnics, dances, and Christmas concerts at Anneheim.

Every Sunday the Stulberg family would join their neighbors and friends in worship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Many families from both Endiang and Scapa attended. Quite often after church, friends would come to Stulberg's for dinner and to spend the afternoon.

Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Emma were among the original founding members of the church. Gus helped with the reconstruction of the building. The children were baptized and confirmed in the little church in the hills. Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Lillian, are buried in the cemetery at St. Peter's.

Gus' brother Gottlieb, known to many as Joe, sold his homestead and moved to Hanna where he was employed by the C.N.R. and the town of Hanna until the time of his passing. His sister Frieda married August Hein, and they farmed at Scapa. They had three daughters, Ester, Pauline, who died in 1973, and Louise, who died in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Hein reside in Hanna. Gus' mother, Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, lived on the farm until her death in 1946. She was in her ninetieth year.

Prior to the coming of the railroad in 1925, grain had to be hauled to Craigmyle, usually by team and sleigh during the winter months. When the railroad came through, cream no longer had to be hauled to Hanna by team and buggy, as there was regular train service. The much-welcomed towns of Scapa and Endiang meant no more long trips for supplies and a shorter distance to haul grain.

The Stulbergs always planted a large garden, and when it didn't rain, packed water to it by hand. The main fruit was saskatoons and rhubarb, and for a change it was rhubarb and saskatoons. In years when local saskatoons were not available, the family would go to Battle River to pick them. In the winter Gus and Gottlieb Weber would travel to Buffalo Lake and bring home a wagon box of fish.

In 1944 Gus bought the Kirkeby farm south of Endiang. The family moved there in 1947 and farmed there until Gus and Emma retired to Hanna in 1951. Gus worked for a time for the Town of Hanna. In 1962 this pioneer couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Gus passed away on March 18, 1963, at the age of seventy-two. Emma later moved to Calgary, where at the age of eighty-two she still looks after her own home and garden.

The children remained in the Endiang-Scapa area for many years, but have since scattered.

Caroline, who is a licensed chef, was employed for many years in Hanna. She now resides in Calgary.

Pauline married Herman Zimmer in 1935. They farmed for many years north-west of Scapa. In 1967 they sold their land to Lou Lohrmann and bought a smaller place at Mayerthorpe, Alberta, where they are semi-retired.

Martha was united in marriage to Ben Keibel of Endiang in 1936. They had three daughters, Margaret, Shirley and Donna. They farmed in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler in 1960. Later they moved to Calgary, where Ben passed away in 1965. Martha and her daughters live in Calgary.

Lenore was married to Reinhold Oswald in 1947. They lived in Hanna for many years, where they raised their two sons, Gordon and Clarence. They also lived briefly at Delia and Endiang; at present they are in Calgary.

Walter, who married Bernice Adams Robertson in 1955, farmed the home place until moving to Hanna where he was employed at the National Hotel. There were three children, Ken, Gordon and Ruth Robertson. Walter and Bernice are now retired and living in Calgary.

The farm was later sold to Erwin and Herb Bossert.

Jack worked as a hired man for several years. In 1950 he lost his right arm in a combine accident. The following year he bought the former Joiner farm at Endiang, and in 1952 married Carol Paxman of Hanna. They have two sons, Lee and Larry.

Lawrence married Marthe Lizotte in 1959. He worked in Hanna and farmed at Endiang for a few years, then moved to Edmonton where he is a painter in an auto body shop. They have four children, Sherry, Lauri, Kerri and Cory.

Elfrieda and August Hein, Louise Hein 1 year old

THE AUGUST HEIN STORY, By *Esther Hein Marlock* — August Hein was born in Poland, November twenty-ninth, 1894. In 1914, Dad immigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal, after seventeen days of ocean travel. On May 9, 1914 he arrived at Edmonton where he worked till harvest was completed that year.

Dad and his brother Bill went to Castor. From here they walked to the Scapa district, and stayed with a friend Carl Welch, until he found some work with Bert Smyth of Craigmyle. Dad remained here for the winter, hauling hay which was the daily routine.

Dad was fortunate that he had good horses to drive on long hauls. He would tie the lines to the peg and walk behind the load to keep his feet from freezing, as his only footwear was leather shoes. These were far from adequate in twenty below zero conditions.

After that winter he left and worked for a farmer, Sam Leith of Endiang.

After a number of years Dad and his brother decided to go farming on their own. Their first years were not very successful, as a result of severe frost in July. Not one kernel was harvested, so it was out to work again.

Dad's bachelorhood was soon to come to an end. His faithful church going rewarded him because it was here that he met Elfreida Stulberg. They were married in Calgary during December of 1921.

Mother, Elfreida Stulberg was born in southern Russia on November thirteen, 1902. In 1910 she, her mother, sister, two brothers and family immigrated to Canada, arriving in Mazenod, Saskatchewan in 1910. In December of that year grandma, mother, brothers Gus and Joe moved to Spokane, Washington where they remained until May of 1913.

With homesteads available, they returned to Alberta. They all pitched in to build brother Gus's new sod shack, which they lived in for that winter. They stayed there until Grandma proved up their homestead. They broke up ten acres of land, then got the title for that. There was no school until Annesheim was built. Mother attended Annesheim school at the same time as Albert and Bertha Bossert, Anna and Dan Lund, who were good friends of mother's.

In those days entertainment was what they made themselves, meeting at different people's places; mother with her mouth organ, another young lad on the accordion, which made for a most enjoyable time. The Clear Lake Hall annual picnics were a stellar attraction in that area. Mother and Bertha Bossert went in the foot races, for the prize for winning was spending money for the day.

The thirties created terrific hardships which were quite general. Russian thistles were gathered on the green side for feed. Cows were sold for ten dollars a head, yearlings for two dollars each. Somehow they survived the depression; as the climate improved, things got better. Since there were no boys in the family, Dad decided to sell the farm, and moved to Hanna in 1947. Dad was employed with the town of Hanna for nineteen years, after which he retired.

Dad and Mother had a family which consisted of three girls, Louise, Esther and Pauline. Louise, the oldest, died as a young girl in 1925. Esther, Mrs. Edgar Morlock residing at Delia, had three children, Darryl, Kenneth and Heather. Pauline, Mrs. Ben Morlock, had two children, Craig of Hanna and Rhonda of Delia. Pauline passed away December nineteenth, 1973.

THE FRED GIEDD STORY, By Austin Ludlow — Fred Giedd was a big, good-natured German who homesteaded and took a pre-emption on the east half of 1-33-16 in 1912. Although these were both fractional quarters, and his farm was small and crowded into the east side of Mud Lake, I never heard him complain.

Fred (Fritz) Giedd

In those days, horses were almost as important as homesteaders, and Fred had a team of white faced Clydes named Blutch and Schnapps. He also had a wagon and an old surrey. If Fred got in a hurry, we would hear him coming, the team on the run, and Fred standing up in the bounding, bouncing surrey.

He liked young folks, and the candy he bought for us was never cheap, but good chocolates.

Fred Giedd left the district about 1920.

PETER DRAXEL — Peter Draxel, who was born in Russia in 1867, emmigrated to Spokane, Washington, and in 1912 filed on the east half of 30-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. He married Sophie Rausch and they had three children, two of whom died in infancy. Their surviving son, Emil, had a lifetime career in the services, and died in New Zealand in 1972. His daughter, Mrs. Patsy Juocanis, lives at Cranbrook, B.C.

Mrs. Draxel died in 1923. Pete sold his farm to Gus Abram in 1928 and moved to Calgary where he worked as a barber for many years. He suffered a stroke in 1951 and after his discharge from hospital he stayed for a time with his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Glubrecht. He then made his home with his niece, Mrs. Erich Woelk, and her family, and remained there until his death in 1957. He was buried in St. Peter's Lutheran Church cemetery at Scapa.

GUSTAV ABRAM — Gus Abram came to Canada from the part of Russia now known as Romania with his uncle, Ed Abram, in January, 1915. He homesteaded the NE 20-33-15. A few years later he married Ida Rausch, a sister of Mrs. Pete Draxel. The women were cousins of Mr. Gottlieb Glubrecht.

Mr. Abram donated a corner of his homestead quarter to the Lutheran congregation in 1921. It was on this land that St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the cemetery were located.

In 1928 the Abrams moved to the Pete Draxel place. There were eleven children in the family; their oldest child and only daughter died as the result of a ruptured appendix in 1932.

In 1934 the family moved to Rosewear north of Edmonton, and in the early forties they went to Ontario.

In the early twenties Gus Abram brought his parents, his sister Emma and his brother Otto to Canada. Emma married a man named Wendel from the Youngstown area. Otto moved north of Edmonton. Gus' parents lived with him till about 1934 when they went to live on the E. Kammerle farm. His mother died in 1936 and his father a year or two later. Both are buried in St. Peter's cemetery.

MR. and MRS. ERIC HICKS COLE, By Phyllis Cole Murdock — Hicks Cole was born on April 28, 1891, in Fillmore, Illinois. One of ten children, he resented having an older sister as his school teacher, and ran away from home, coming to Canada with Earl and Roy Darnell. The Darnells settled in the Horseshoe south of Castor, and Hicks worked for them until he homesteaded the SE 12-33-16 on April 24, 1913. He obtained a shack from Darnells, loaded it on a sleigh, and pulled it to his homestead where it served as his house.

In August, 1916, Hicks married Ruth Hartwell Townsend, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Townsend, who had homesteaded in 1910. They had two children, Hubert and Phyllis.

Hicks took an active part in community life. He was a good dancer and usually acted as floor manager at dances, auctioned pies at pie socials, and played his violin and banjo to entertain his neighbors. He was catcher for the Clear Lake ball club, and when he was no longer able to play ball he acted as coach and manager for various teams. He was on the executive of the Clear Lake Community

Club, Chairman of the Anneshelm school board, and Councillor for Lampson Municipality until it became part of the Special Areas.

Hicks was very acrobatic. Tom Pattinson remembers that as a small boy he was asked to pull the lucky ticket at a community gathering. The tickets had been put in Hicks' hat, and as Tom reached in, Hicks said to him, "You pull my ticket now." Tom did, and was astonished and delighted to see Hicks put the hat upside down on the floor, and stand on his head in it.

In the early thirties the Cole family lived for about two years on the Jack Shelberg place, where there was a new house, good water, and the children were close to school. Mr. Shelberg was ill at the time, and when he died the Coles returned to their own place. In October of 1954 Mr. and Mrs. Cole were checking bins on land some five miles from home. It was a windy day and when they returned home they discovered that their house had burned down. Nothing was saved. As well as losing all their personal belongings and household furnishings, other valuables were destroyed.

The Coles had been in the habit of saving silver coins, and had several cocoa tins full of them. Although one might assume that the silver would melt into a lump, no trace of it was ever found. Hicks loved to write, over the years he had been in the habit of writing long letters to his parents, and possibly as a result of this, he began to write the story of his life. He called it 'Three Strikes Till Sundown'. The manuscript was destroyed in the fire, and Hicks never re-wrote it.

After the fire, Mr. and Mrs. Cole moved to Endiang, where she operated a restaurant and he drove a rural mail route. Hicks loved to play smear, and in the winter or on rainy days in the summer, he and his cronies would play at a table in the corner of the restaurant.

Hicks died in January, 1958. Mrs. Cole continued to live in Endiang for a few years, then moved to Kelowna, B.C. where at the age of seventy-eight she is well and active.

Hubert became a mechanic, and works in Cessford. He and his wife, the former Mary Mossop, have two children, and make their home in Craigmyle.

Phyllis married Bill Morlock, and they live at Gadsby. They had two sons and two daughters. One son, Keith, was killed in a traffic accident in 1976.

JOE VAN SICKLE — Joe Van Sickle came from eastern Canada. In 1917 he married Effie Wade from Washington, and lived in a one-roomed house on William Pattinson's pre-emption while he was overseas during World War 1. Later Joe bought the south half of 26-33-16 from the Hudson Bay Company and moved a good sized house on to the place.

While the family lived on the farm, Joe did trucking; at one time he had a butcher shop in Craigmyle, and ran a meat wagon during the summers and sold fish in the winters. In the early thirties they moved to Loома, Alberta, where they operated a store for many years

They had a family of eight children, Agnes, Verna, Violet, Lawrence, Lester, Ray, William and James. Lawrence served overseas during World War II and brought a wife home with him. All the children are married and live close to Looma.

Joe Van Sickle died in 1968.

WILLIAM JARVIS FAMILY — The William Jarvis family came from England to file on the SE 25-33-16 on September 7, 1915. In 1917 they acquired the north-east quarter of the same section as a pre-emption.

There were two children, Lucy and Jessie. The family moved to Calgary about

1923, and shortly afterward Mr. Jarvis was killed when he fell down an elevator shaft during the course of his work.

Dan and Nick Lund rented the land for a time, and in 1942 Mrs. Jarvis sold it to Martin Boss.

Jessie Jarvis

Lucy Jarvis

THE JOHN KEHN STORY, By Rose Kehn Massey — John Kehn was born in the southern part of Russia in 1877. His wife, Rosalie Sass, was born in the same village in 1879. They and their children, Olga, Mary and Elmelia, came to the U.S.A. in 1907. Three more children were born while they lived in Colorado, Elma, Rose and John.

Dad came to Canada in 1917, we followed in March of 1919. I was only eight years old at the time, so do not remember the details. Dad had taken out a homestead, and also a coal mine in the Princeton district. We came to Craigmyle by train, then out to the coal mine by sleigh.

We received our mail at a small store run by Mr. Tasker. The address was Dowling, but it was not the same location as Dowling is now. I believe the groceries and other supplies came from Craigmyle.

We spent the winters at the mine and went to the Princeton school. The summers were spent on the homestead and we went to Annasheim school. Mrs. Pattinson was our teacher.

We got our water from a well about half a mile from our two-roomed house. There was no pump; we hauled the water in a barrel on a stoneboat, after we had dipped it out of the well with a pail on a rope and pulley, and by the time we got home, half the water had splashed out.

Our land was quite hilly and had a lot of sloughs. Our main meat was wild ducks, prairie chickens and rabbits.

The neighbor to our west was Gus Stolberg; across the road to the east was Joe Stolberg, who lived in a one-roomed sod house.

Mother was in this district for only three or four years, then she left for the Bullpound area, taking Elma, Rose and John Jr. with her. She stayed there for a year or two, then moved to Hanna where she remained until her death at the age of eighty-one.

Dad rented out the mine and stayed on the homestead until his death at the result of a car accident in 1929. Then the land was rented and later sold for taxes; I do not know who bought it.

Olga married Louis Traber in Colorado before coming to Canada. She is now a widow and is in a nursing home in Calgary.

Mary married Alfred Donald, a homesteader of the Endiang district. They are retired and living in Lacombe.

Elmella married Mr. Welch. She lives in California.

Elma married Jim Eagleson. He was accidently killed while working for the C.N.R. She is also in a nursing home in Calgary.

John married Nellie Pearson. He worked for the C.N.R. until he retired, and now lives in Calgary.

I married Nell Massey of Lethbridge. When he joined the army in 1940, I came back to Hanna. He died in 1941 and I am still living in Hanna.

The Hans Hansen family: Jerry, Hans, Martha, Jeanette, Mary and Carol, 1967.

HANS HANSEN — My Dad and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hansen, and their seven children, emigrated from Denmark in 1907, and lived on a farm in the Olds area for two years. Two more children were born in Alberta, Nelsine and Thomas.

In 1909 my Dad filed on a homestead in the Victor district, the west half of 1-33-17, and in 1910 he moved the family out. We left Olds with four oxen, two saddle ponies, some cows, two pigs and a few chickens in a crate. It took us a week to make the trip. Dad farmed that land until 1944 when he sold it to Ross McGuire and retired to Craigmyle. He passed away in 1951 at the age of eighty-one; Mother died in 1963 at the age of eighty-three.

My brother John and I bought the west half of 25-33-16 from Alex Kalgnith in 1920. We farmed together there until the dry thirties when my brother left. In 1938 the dry years ended, and that fall I married Martha Schultz. We farmed there until 1972, when Martha passed away from cancer. We had four children.

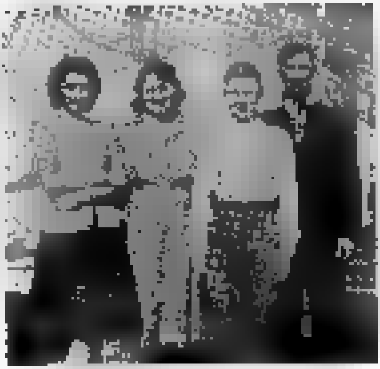
Jeanette, Mrs. Arnie Grindle, lives in Calgary; she has three children. Jerry lives in Hanna. Carol, Mrs. Pat Tailleur, has five children and lives in Calgary as does Mary, Mrs. Ray Riddle.

In 1972 I sold my farm to Herb Boettert and retired to Hanna.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SOBOLEWSKI, By John Moldon — My Father, Michael "Mac" Sobolewski was born in Rodymno, Poland, May 1, 1892 and immigrated to Canada in May 1911. He worked as a hired hand on farms, and in a coal mine in the Craigmyle district from 1912 to 1928. Some of the people he worked for were Bert Kirkeby, George Moldon and Philip Kesler.

In 1918, Margaret Louise Moldon came to Canada from her birthplace of Southampton, England, to keep house for her brother, George Moldon, whose wife had died, and to care for the family. George Moldon farmed in the Craigmyle district.

In 1922 "Mac" who was working for George at the time, married Margaret Moldon in 1923 and moved to the northeast 7-33-16, the Bill Benner farm, twenty-two miles northwest of Hanna and remained there until 1937. Due to poor



Mr. and Mrs. Mack Sobolewski, John and Marjorie

crops because of drought, Mac worked for several winters in the Kirkeby mine.

Mac always drove good horses, and kept his harness in fine condition. He had a reputation of plowing the straightest furrow in the community.

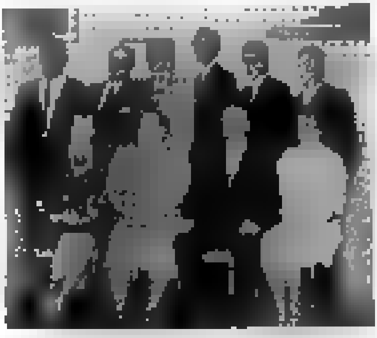
After three consecutive years of drought and being plagued by grasshoppers, Russian thistle and drifting soil, Mac decided, in 1937, to move his family and equipment to a farm in the Stony Plain district, thirty miles southwest of Edmonton. Much of the land had to be cleared of large trees but this was accomplished by bulldozers. It is very fertile soil and grows very heavy crops and hay. Mac and his family farmed at Stony Plain until his death in June 1967 at the age of seventy-five years. He was relatively successful farming at Stony Plain as he did not experience a crop failure in thirty years of operation.

Margaret Sobolewski passed away in December 1974 at th age of eighty-two years.

Michael and Margaret had two children, Marjorie and John, born in 1923 and 1929 respectively. They attended the Annesheim school prior to moving to Stony Plain.

Marjorie, Mrs. Robert Laing has two children and is living at Spruce Grove, Alberta.

John is married, has two children, and is living at Calgary.



The Chris Nill family. Back Row, left to right: Edward, Oscar, Herbert, Elmer, Henry and Fred. Front Row: Ida, Mrs. Nill, Mr. Nill and Frieda. Taken in 1964.

THE NILL STORY — Christian Nill was born February 28, 1902, in Beresina, Bessarabia. Ottilie Fehling was born December 22, 1906, in Klostitz, Bessarabia. They were married on May 8, 1923, and farmed and raised fruit until the fall of 1927 when they realized there was no future for them in Romania. They and their son Oscar, born September 23, 1926, arrived in Hanna in October, 1927. They were met there by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert, who told them of a neighbor of theirs who wanted to sell out.

The next day they bought the SW 30-33-15 from Frank Maihe, and the machinery and horses from Mike Wegner who had been farming the land. They also rented the NW 29-33-15, which was school land. Now they were Canadian farmers, and as they were not afraid of hard work, they got along fine. Language caused some problems at first but they soon overcame that.

On September 22, 1928, their second son Edward was born. In order to make ends meet they milked a dozen cows, shipped cream, and traded butter for groceries. They raised their own pigs and the smoke house was always full of

hams, sausages and bacon. Chicken and beef were canned in sealers. I'm sure that we actually ate better in the twenties and thirties than we do today. Of course there was always the forty-five gallon barrel of sauer kraut. The folks always hoped that their English neighbors would not visit until the sauer kraut had finished fermenting and no longer gave off a kind of cesspool smell.

Another son, Henry, arrived February 25, 1930. Things were getting a little rough and many a year they threshed only enough for next year's seed, and a little chicken feed. Dad usually worked off the threshing bill by hauling bundles on either the Andy Hanson or the Julius Schultz outfit.

When things got really bad about 1933 Dad built a hide-tanning machine and tanned hides to bring in a few dollars. He also made many sets of harness from tanned cow hides. He also made light driving harness with Yankee-style breeching. He braided many a blacksnake whip and made moccasins and shoe laces. Many a rawhide halter, lines and tugs went to the Harold Hunt ranch.

By this time Oscar and Edward had started school at Crow Hill. Those were the days of cold rides and frozen lunches. Oscar remembers one day grabbing the wrong Shamrock Lard pail as he left for school, and discovering that he had his mother's pail of lard for lunch. But Harvey Burt, Roland Kalmbach, Leo Anderson and Lou Lohmann all chipped in and he soon had lots for lunch.

Another son, Fred, was born November 29, 1931, so that meant we had to milk another cow, or so it seemed. The bigger the family got, the more cows we milked. By 1936 Oscar remembers milking twenty cows.

Dad always raised and broke his own horses. He had spent three years in the Romanian army working with horses, and was an outstanding horseman.

On June 13, 1933, another son, Herbert, was born, another mouth to feed but still very welcome.

In the fall of 1935 Dad bought the east half of 30-33-15 from Frank Mathe. The Gust Abram family had been living there. It had been the Drazel homestead. We moved from the Wagner place to the Drazel land in the spring of 1936. Dad now had four quarters to farm with horses, but we were a little closer to Scapa than to Endiang so it took a little less time to haul the grain to market. Also we were now just one mile from the little Lutheran Church, so hardly ever missed a Sunday. We always had someone in for dinner after church. If it wasn't the Kalmbach family then it would be the Schweitzers or Gottlieb Webers or Dan Matthews, the John or Alex Engels or the Jacob Buchwitz family.

On January 10, 1936, our first girl, Frieda Joanna, arrived. For a while it was a novelty having a baby girl in the family, but that soon wore off. By this time Oscar, Ed and Henry were attending Annesheim school, which was a little closer than Crow Hill. Times were still plenty rough; Dad was still tanning hides.

The neighbors and Dad used to get together and strip their own coal and haul it home. This would take a week or ten days every fall. It meant hard, backbreaking work, sleeping and cooking out under the sky, with the weatherman plenty mean sometimes.

On September 25, 1937, a boy, Elmer, was born, so we made room in the house for him, and room in the barn for yet another milk cow, and we got along. Never will we forget the dust storms of those years, black as night in the middle of the day, and scared the house would take off at any minute. Come haying time we would just put up another stack of Russian thistle, which made good feed if it was put up early when the plant was still tender.

On November 9, 1939, a daughter Ida was born to complete the family. By this time things were getting a little better and we were getting a few rains. With everyone working together life became easier and we soon had a few dollars. We

bought the A.E. Lyszen place, which gave us nine quarters altogether, and got a tractor which made the work easier and gave the horses a much-needed rest.

In the fall of 1948 we bought six quarters of land north of Delia, again from Frank Mathe, and Oscar and Ed started farming on their own. When Edward went to diesel mechanic school, Oscar and Henry farmed the Delia place.

In 1959 Dad and Mother built a house in Hanna and semi-retired. But Dad's health was failing, and after several major operations he passed away on April 7, 1969. Mother is still living in Hanna where she does her own gardening and snow shovelling, and has her house full of plants in bloom the year round.

After the war Mother had her orphan nephew, Paul Sauch, come to Canada. He has done very well, he and his wife live in Hanna where they raised their family. Dad's mother also came over for a visit after the war but she did not like it here, and returned to Germany.

Oscar married Isobel Ing of Craigmyle in 1950. They live on the Delia farm. Their children are Duane, Daryl, Brian, Darlene, Deanna, and Brenda. Their son Barry died as the result of a very tragic farm accident on October 1, 1974, at the age of eleven years.

Edward married Maxine Dove of Hanna, where they and their children, Roxane, James and Myles, now reside.

Henry married Frieda Engel of Endiang. They had three daughters, Debra, Dixie and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Fred married Ivy Bedingfield of Hanna. They and their children, Reid, Kathryn and Trent, live on the home place.

Herbert, his wife, the former Ellen Hogan of Oyen, and their children, Blake, Craig and Angela, live in Hanna.

Frieda married Reinhold Fecho of Hanna. They now reside at Sherwood Park with their family, Larry, Linda, Glenda, Garry, Terry and Kathy.

Elmer married Irene Sward of Sheerness. They are in Hanna.

Ida, Mrs. Kelly Grantham, is the youngest of the Hill family. She and Kelly have three children, Lana, Terry and Doug. They also live in Hanna.

GOTTFRIED GLUBRECHT STORY — The first three years that I farmed in the Annesheim district I leased the Ole Breslen quarter, the SW 24-33-16, from Starland Municipality, and worked the land while I was living on the home place at Scapa. In the spring of 1942 I bought the farm previously owned by Jim Maxwell, the north half of 23-33-16. In 1943 and 44 I built a house and barn and other smaller buildings.

Gottfried, Maggie, and Gerald Glubrecht, 1946

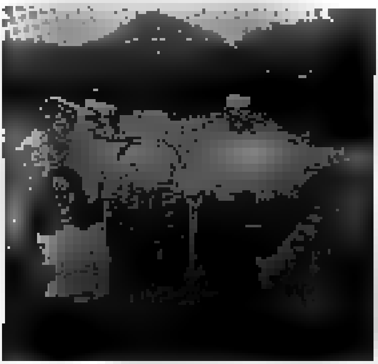
My first tractor was a 1930 12-20 Wallis-Massey-Harris which I bought from Chris Townsend. I used it until repairs became hard to get, then set it back in a fence corner, where it sat until a couple of years ago. Then some of my close neighbors put it back into running order and made a fine job of it. It is now an antique as there are very few of these tractors left in the country. It is now stored in a shop on the farm of Ken Halvorsen.

In 1946 Maggie Bowers, of the Golden Hill district south of Hanna, and I were

married. We have one son, Gerald, who married Mary-Ann Kelly of Drumheller. They have one son, Travis.

In 1967 I leased the farm to our son, who farmed there for three years and then went into the trucking business, and is now located at Sundre. My wife and I moved to Hanna where I worked as caretaker at the Hanna High School. After renting the farm to Tom Pattinson for several years, I decided to sell it to him.

We have many pleasant memories of our days in the Annesheim district. I enjoyed playing for dances and musical sessions at country schools and community centres. For some time my brother Shorty and I teamed up as a two-piece orchestra, and played together until he moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. I used to paint signs for the people living in the area, and still do some of this type of work.



The Herb Litke family: Ruby, Ronnie, Herb, Linda and Melvin

MR. and MRS. HERB LITKE, by Ruby Litke — Herb Litke, son of Michael and Marie Litke, started farming the Adolf Keiss place, the west half of 23-32-14 in 1949. In 1950, Herb married Ruby Peterson, daughter of Gustave and Anna Peterson, pioneer farmers in the Rose Lynn district. We made our home here until 1956 when we moved to the Harold Lund farm, the north half of 8-33-15.

We were blessed with four children: Diane Marie was born March 25, 1952, but our joy was short as Our Lord called her home after a few hours. On January 16, 1954 Linda arrived, to be followed by Melvin on April 24, 1956, and Ronnie on June 22, 1958.

The two miles from the Keiss buildings to the highway presented problems. About five-thirty one evening in January 1956, when we were coming home from town, using the tractor to pull the truck the last two miles in thirty below zero weather, the steering on the tractor broke when we were about a mile and a half from home. Herb walked to Bill Lumsden's and phoned Harry Lumsden, who came with a tractor with a front-end loader on it. Because of the deep snow in the hilly area, the weight of the farm-hand made the tractor wheels spin. We never got home until one-thirty in the morning and found the water pail frozen. We were glad to move from that place, where no one has lived since, to the Harold Lund farm the north half of 8-33-15.

In the spring of 1957, Linda was interested in Easter Bunnies. One evening Linda noticed a jack rabbit running, so over the hill she went to catch the Easter bunny. When she got out of sight of the buildings she became lost, and as it was getting dark she got so frightened and started to cry. We noticed Linda missing so we started to look for her and finally we heard her crying. It was a blessing that we found her. There was a lot of water in the dam and sloughs at the time; we were so worried that she might have fallen in the water.

Both Linda and Melvin graduated from grade twelve in Hanna. Linda did well in secretarial work and later took a hair dressing course in Vernon, B.C.

We had a sale in 1974, rented the farm to a neighbor, and moved to Vernon. We lived there for a couple of years but Herb found it hard to get work so we returned to Hanna where Herb is employed with C.C.I.L.

Melvin had a serious motorcycle accident in 1974 from which he has not yet fully recovered. He lives in Vernon.

Linda married Jerry Vriend in 1978 and they live in Calgary. Ronnie is attending school in Hanna.

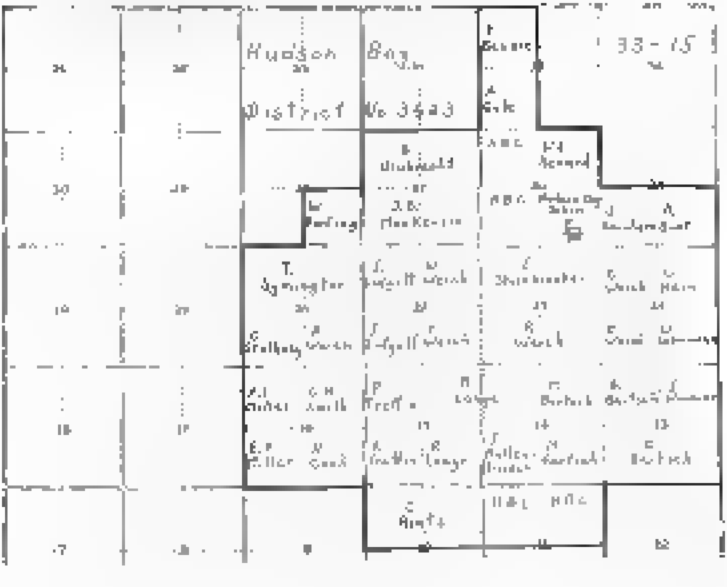
Moving the A. Blomberg house to the Jacob Bessel farm. George Chapman's Rumley Oil Pull and Titan tractors, 1928

ANDREW BLOMBERG — Andrew Blomberg came to Alberta from the mid-west portion of the United States, where he had worked in a brewery. On December 4, 1914 he filed on the east half of 19-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg had four children, Stanley, Arthur, Dorinda and Caroline.

Mr. Blomberg loved to hunt and fish. During the winters he would catch fish at Buffalo and other lakes and sell them throughout the area. He had a Waterloo Boy tractor, did custom breaking and plowing, and also had a threshing outfit. He owned one of the first one-ton trucks in the district.

Mr. Blomberg served as chairman of the Annasheim school board for many years. In the mid twenties the family moved to Fife in the Flat Lake district near St. Paul.

HUDSON BAY DISTRICT No. 3823



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — HUDSON BAY

The following is a list of some of the owners and renters in the Hudson Bay School District No. 3823 since the homesteaders. The last name is the present owner or renter.

NE 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
O. Litke
L. Diegel

NW 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
A. Litke
L. Diegel

NE 11-33-15
F. Lange
R. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 11-33-15
F. Diegel
A. Welch
E. Bolander
C. Hintz
W. Diegel
E. Lange
W. Diegel

S 13-33-15
C. Welch
F. Cook
W. Baugler

NE 13-33-15
H. Wimmer

NW 13-33-15
C. Welch
R. Hassel
J. Wimmer
H. Wilcox

SE 14-33-15
F. Lange
R. Welch
R. F. Welch

SW 14-33-15
R. Lange
E. Lange
O. Erion

NW 14-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

NE 14-33-15
C. Welch
F. Welch

E 15-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

W 15-33-15
P. Trettin, Jr.
A. Trettin

SE 16-33-15
D. Welch

SW 16-33-15
R. Welch
D. Welch

NE 16-33-15
H. Cook
D. Welch

NW 16-33-15
A. Welch
L. Welch
D. Hall

SE 21-33-15
L. Welch
G. Hall

SW 21-33-15
A. Welch
L. Welch
D. Hall

N 21-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
H. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

SE 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
O. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

SW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
O. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

NE 22-33-15
E. Welch
B. Miller

NW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
O. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

S 23-33-15
F. Welch

N 23-33-15
G. Steinbrecker

SE 24-33-15
E. Hassel
H. Wimmer

NE 24-33-15
C. Welch
F. Welch

W 24-33-15
F. Welch

SE 25-33-15
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Welch
R. F. Welch

SW 25-33-15
H. Burt
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Welch
R. F. Welch

SE 26-33-15
Hudson Bay School
J. Steinbrecker
S. Steinbrecker

SW 26-33-15
A. Hehn
G. Glubrecht
E. Welch
B. Miller

NE 26-33-15
F. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 26-33-15
G. Glubrecht
F. Lange
R. F. Welch

S 27-33-15
J. B. MacKenzie
E. Erion
O. Erion

N 27-33-15
E. Welch
B. Miller

SE 28-33-15
H. Keding
E. Welch
B. Miller

SW 35-33-15
F. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 35-33-15
C. Lohmann
L. Lohmann

HUDSON BAY SCHOOL

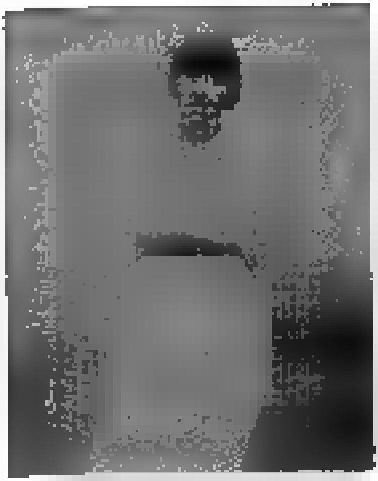
By Gottfried Glubrecht

The Hudson Bay School District was formed about 1917 or 1918. The school was built in the fall of 1918, on Hudson Bay land on the SE of 26-33-15; that quarter was later bought by John Steinbrecker.

The first teacher was Hazel Horn; during the following years there were many others: Helen Hamilton, Mary Orde, Mrs. Harry Cook, Anna Copp, Miss Kerr, Mary Allen, Janet McTaggart, Mae Stamp, Erica Lundrigan, Ruth Mayhew, Edna Hamilton, Doris Randall, Mildred Wood, John Kelly, Mrs. Wilma Baxter, Miss Burt, Florence Robertson, and Richard Williams.

The school board was made up of several farmers in the district. Some of the trustees were Carl Welch, Harvey Burt, G. Glubrecht, James Mackenzie, Emanuel Erion, Joe Lidgett and Henry Ruhl acted as secretary-treasurer at different times. George Haverstock was the school inspector.

When the school was taken into the large Sullivan Lake school division, William Storch Sr. was the official trustee. After the school was closed, and the

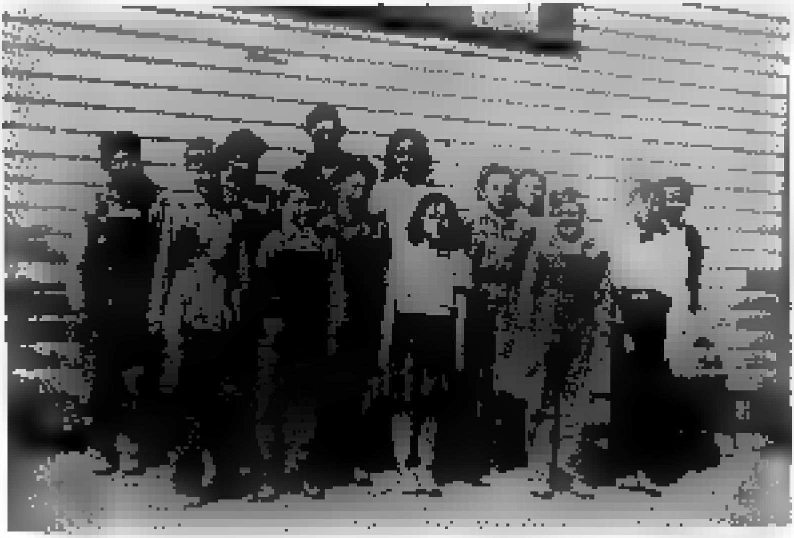


Miss Hamilton, Hudson Bay teacher, 1970

students transferred to Scapa, the building was moved to Youngstown where it was used as a public library.

In the early years the school served as a community centre. Many church services were held there, as well as pie and box socials and dances. It also served as a polling both during elections.

The people of the district were fortunate to have a very talented musician, Enos Lundrigan, as teacher. He could play many different instruments, which he had hanging on the walls of the school room. He taught his pupils to play them, and their performance and ability as an orchestra surprised and pleased the school inspector. Many young people in the district would never have been able to develop their musical talents if it had not been for this teacher.



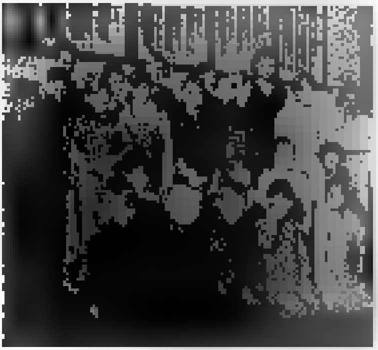
Hudson Bay Pupils, 1942. Herbert Welch, Victor Erion, Douglas Bury, Emanuel Erion, Albert Erion, Fred Glubrecht, Otto Erion, Kate Steinbrecker, Emma Erion, Ruth Welch, Emma Glubrecht, Otto Glubrecht, Herbert Wheeler and Katie Glubrecht.

Some of the settlers in Hudson Bay district at the time the school was opened were the families of Harvey Burt, Ernest Fletcher, G. Glubrecht, August Hein, William Hein, Andy Hanson, the Lohrmanns and the Leichts, Robert Lange, Joe Lidgett, the William, Adolf, Fred and Carl Welchs, John Steinbrecker, Tom Symington, James Mackenzie, and John Bodemann and his parents.

Hudson Bay School 1928. Back Row, left to right: Benny Schielke, Lena Welch, Rudy Hein, Lydia Ruhl, Gottfried Glubrecht, Ida Welch, Vernon Glenn, Hedwig Hein, Otto Pahl, Mayta Welch. Second Row: first two unknown, Ernest Lange, Lydia Welch, Edward Glubrecht, Lily Schielke, Herbert Hein, Olga Welch, Bertha Welch. Third Row: Kathleen Fennell, David Ruhl, Freda Welch, Ernest Welch, Emma Pahl, Arthur Welch, Martha Glubrecht, Gust Schielke, Arthur Carl Welch. Front Row: Ruby Fennell, Reinhardt Welch, Alvina Welch, Margaret Malm, Arvid Malm, Gottlieb Glubrecht, Walter Hein, Annie Welch, Fred Welch, Ronald Hein.

REMINISCENCES OF A COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

By E. G. Lundrigan



Hudson Bay School 1936. Standing left to right: John Erion, Conrad Welch, Harry Welch, Fred Glubrecht, George Steinbrecker, Sam Steinbrecker, Mary Erion, Ted Hintz, Alvina Erion, Emil Glubrecht, Mandy Welch, Esther Hein and Ruby Steinbrecker. Kneeling: Back Row: Irene Steinbrecker, Pauline Hein, Emma Glubrecht, Alma Welch, Lenard Geisler. Front Row: Sam Hintz, Christ Hintz, Reinhold Hintz, Emanuel Erion and Alma Glubrecht.

From September 1933 to June 1936 I taught at the Hudson Bay School, about two and a half miles southwest of Scapa. It was a typical one-room cottage school for grades one to eight, situated on an open plot, without a tree or shrub but with the customary two out houses and a barn. Those were the dirty thirties, the summer winds howled in the shingles and rattled the windows; dust sifted into the school and over everything and everybody. In the winter it was almost impossible to keep the school warm enough: on cold mornings we often huddled around the small stove or marched around the room to keep warm. However, I don't remember anyone complaining about it — perhaps we had too many other problems to think about.

Times were hard for everyone. My salary was $600.00 — later $500.00 per year and I considered myself to be one of the lucky ones for I was paid in full each year. When I considered the financial problems of some of the families in the district I felt a twinge of guilt for having been paid so much. Of course there were many compensations. Very good room and board cost $15.00 per month; the usual charge at weekend dances was 25¢ if you brought your own lunch.

School attendance was in the low thirties. Space will not permit listing all of their names; however I still remember all of them with considerable affection. Families represented included the Welch's (three families), Steinbreckers, Glubrechts, Ruhls, Hintz, Heins, Lidgetts, Erions, Pahls, Bartschs. They were a healthy, energetic group and needed to be kept busy so we all worked hard in the classroom and played hard at recesses and noon. Everyone seemed to enjoy playing ball and we played it with an enthusiasm that left little time for mischief or quarreling. As might be expected, they developed one of the best teams in the area.

Most of them loved music and, particularly during the winter months, spent many hours learning to play whatever instruments they were able to buy or borrow for the purpose. Just about everyone had at least a part ownership in some instrument and I can still hear the din of guitars, violins, banjos, mandolins etc. as they practised scales, chords and melodies. Soon we were able to form them into an 'orchestra' so that at least most of them were playing the same tune. My own musical ability was somewhat limited but with their natural talent and by helping one another they soon began to play quite well, made some public appearances and even divided into senior and junior groups.

In those years one of the main events of the year was the Christmas concert which was held in each school in the latter part of December and which the public for miles around were welcome to attend. November and December were largely devoted to preparation for the event and normal activities and even studies were temporarily suspended in an all out effort to produce the best possible program. The event certainly played havoc with our school schedules but I have often thought that it gave the pupils a wealth of experience in the fields of dramatics, music, deportment, team work and enjoyment which they would otherwise have missed. I never think of these concerts without remembering our first program. When I reached to pull the curtain I tripped and fell flat on the stage to the merriment of all — except me.

The three years at Hudson Bay went by all too quickly; when I moved to a new location I hoped that I had been a beneficial influence on the lives of those whom I had been privileged to teach. I knew that I had derived a wealth of memories and friendships that would last me for the rest of my life.

In September 1938 I commenced teaching grades 1 - 8 at Scape. Although originally a one-room school it had a basement which had been modified to provide a small high school room. Of course there was no adequate sound proofing between the floors and the noise from our elementary room must have been almost unbearable for the high school. However I don't remember any complaints.

I doubt that I can recall the names of all who attended the school during my two and a half years at Scape but the family names included Graham, Riddle, Hein, Heuther, Hassell, Lohrmann, Smart, Arndt, Camp, Cattanach, Hitchen, Panchuk, Oslund, Schielke, Ostapowich. As at Hudson Bay, most of our extra curricular activities involved music and playing ball. In the former department we were fortunate to have students who were able to play the piano and, as the Scape Community Hall had a piano, our music took on a better sound and, in addition to Christmas Concerts, our orchestras made a few other appearances.

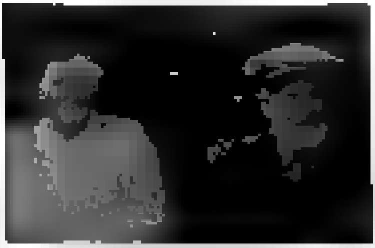
We also decided to take a try at dramatics and entered two items in a festival in Hanna. We must have done everything wrong for we certainly didn't win any prizes but we had an enjoyable time and it was a good experience for all of us. As a special treat for us a friend had donated enough money to buy dinner for everyone. So at noon I took them all to the Club Cafe and they ordered their meals. Before they had finished I remembered something that must be done at the festival and went off to attend to it. I had gone about a block before I remembered that I had not paid for the meals so I turned back, only to meet a waitress rushing after me, bill in hand.

There is another incident which I remember with a certain amount of embarrassment. In my spare time I had been studying electronics and had designed and constructed a tiny radio transmitter which put out a weak signal just above broadcast band but tuneable on most home radios. I had some doubts about the legality of such a transmitter, but when I inquired of an acquaintance who had a similar unit, he assured me that it was permissible so long as it did not reach more than fifty miles and did not interfere with the broadcast band. I was naive enough to believe him and for a few months we had a grand time with impromptu programs, conversations, dedications, etc. Eventually word of our activities must have reached the authorities for they suddenly appeared on the scene and we went off the air permanently.

On another occasion the children in the junior grades had been studying Gulliver's Travels and were fascinated with the story of the Lilliputians. As a recess game they persuaded me to lie on the ground so that they could swarm all over me like Lilliputians. At a given signal I had to try to get up. It was quite a struggle but I always made it. One day in the midst of this fun a car drove up and the school inspector got out. I believe he thought that I was being murdered. When I explained what was going on he laughed and enjoyed the joke; that day I received my best inspector's report.

During these years the hard times seemed to get harder. Crops were dried out, blown out, hailed out, cleared out by grasshoppers or worms and many of the farmers began to give up hope of ever having a good crop. Some sold everything and moved away to what appeared to be greener fields. One winter the community received boxcars loaded with green feed for the cattle, apples, beans, fish, etc. for the families; these were gifts from families in more fortunate circumstances. But through all their hardships these people never seemed to lose their sense of humour, cheerfulness and neighborliness; confident that good times were just around the corner. And so they were. But it is in time of adversity that people display their true strength of character. For these rural people I developed a respect and admiration that I will never forget. In December 1938 I left Scapa to teach in a rural high school, thus ending my career as a public school teacher.

The days of the rural school teacher are now long gone and the one room schools are rapidly disappearing from the landscape. Of course the consolidated schools can provide much better academic training and more efficient transportation for the pupils of today. Yet I never see an abandoned rural school without a feeling of sadness for what was once the heart and social centre for the community whose children it once served and where education was in the hands of a teacher who lived there, was part of the community and had a stake in the future of each and every child.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bartsch

THE MARTIN BARTSCH's, By Helen Bartsch Thompson — Martin and Barbara Bartsch arrived in what is now the Scapa district in 1910 from Washburn, North Dakota. They came by rail to Castor and from there to the homestead, the S.E. quarter 14-33-15, with horses and wagon and all their belongings.

They had to go to Castor for groceries and mail until the railroad arrived in Hanna in 1912. They endured many hardships, one of which was carrying all their water from a spring half a mile away.

To their new home they brought their family of five: Theresa, the oldest, later became Mrs. Charles Johnson and settled in the Dowling district. She had a family of nine. Charles and Theresa Johnson have both passed away.

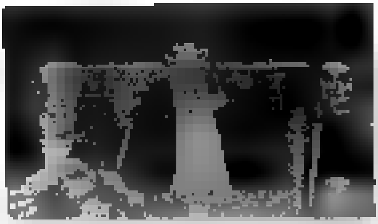
George, the oldest son, married Catherine Schaffner and homesteaded the N.W. quarter 13-33-15, and after a year moved to Castor. They had a family of six. George passed away in 1940. Catherine still resides at Paintearth Lodge in Castor.

Casper, the second son, homesteaded the S.W. quarter 13-33-15 and later married Marie Lohrmann. They had a family of five. They resided at Scapa for a number of years, then moved to Stony Plain. Both Casper and Marie have passed on.

Marie married Don Cameron and after he passed away she moved to Vancouver where she still lives.

Rochus, the youngest son, left home at an early age and has not been heard from since.

Grandma Bartsch passed away in 1928 and Grampa moved to Castor where he stayed till his demise in 1940.


Mrs. Johnson, Casper and Marie Bartsch, Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1966

CASPER (1891 - 1974) and MARIE (1897 - 1987) BARTSCH, *By Elma (Bartsch) Burnham* — Cap Bartsch came from Washburn, North Dakota, to the area north of Hanna with his parents, Martin and Barbara Bartsch, in 1910.

Marie came from Minnesota about a year later with her parents, William and Maria Lohrmann.

They married in 1916 and had five children: Elma Burnham of Wabamun, Lucy Thompson of Edmonton, Eileen Harlum of Stony Plain, Dick Bartsch of Calgary, and Phyllis Connors of Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1913 Cap homesteaded section 13-33-15 north of Hanna. When the grasshoppers came in 1934 they moved to a farm four miles west of Stony Plain. Gone were the days of the big steam threshing machines like Chris Lohrmann had or the smaller ones Charley Lohrmann had. That year the grain was too short to tie. A box was rigged on the binder and the grain dumped in piles. It was then stacked. In less than an hour it was threshed and the machine gone.

After eight years they sold out and went to the coal mines in Cadomin and Luscar till they were shut down in 1952. From there they went to pipeline work in Alberta and Saskatchewan. They retired to a small home in Wabamun in 1960.

As the years passed their memories often went back to their many friends and relations, the good times and the bad times while living in the Hanna - Scapa area. It was always home.

LEO ERION'S STORY — Leo Erion is the youngest son of Emmanuel and Maria Erion. Leo's preschool years were spent on the family's farm two miles south and two miles west of Scapa. He attended school at Scapa up to grade five.

At the age of ten, Leo, along with his folks and his younger sister, Florence, and older brother, Emile, moved to Creston, B.C. There he lived for eight years during which time he finished his schooling, along with picking fruit, or should I say eating it.

After graduating he returned to Scapa. The next few years he spent on the home farm in the summers and working out at various jobs during the winter.

In 1970 he married Shirley Kenzler from Big Valley. The couple lived on the family farm, which was owned by Otto Enon, for five years.

In 1976 Leo, Shirley and their two-year-old son, Mark, moved to the farm location N.E. 25-33-15 which is just southwest of Scapa. The farmsite, better known as the George Hausher farm, was purchased from Karl and Beryl Friedenberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cook

MR. and MRS. HENRY TROWBRIDGE COOK, By Ida Grosse — Harry Cook came to Canada as a boy of eighteen, and filed on a homestead seven miles southwest of Scapa, the SE 16-33-15, on June 14, 1912. He more or less made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner, until he found a job, and worked for local farmers until he had enough money to build a little shack on his land. He worked for Mr. Farrell, and his name and the date, 1916, can still be seen in the cement of the basement wall of that house. He also worked for Mr. Molden, and ran a custom plowing outfit for Andy Hanson in 1915.

He was talented in many ways. He was a very good skier, he made his first pair of skis, and came over almost every Sunday for dinner. Later he bought a pair of skis from Eaton's, for two dollars, I think it was. They were slightly curved up at the front, and he was so proud of them. One night when he came over I sneaked out to try them out; I went down the hill and cracked one of the skis. I hurried into the house and went to bed, but the next day when I got home from school he was there. I got a good talking-to from him and my dad, and that was when I learned to leave other people's things alone.

Harry was the only man I knew who cut his own hair, and made a good job of it too. He cut my dad's hair for years.

He made one of the first radios in the country, the first one we had heard. Later he made one for my dad and he and I used to have one earphone each to listen to it.

He had a wonderful shop, very small, but with a lot of tools. He had a sign above the door, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." He even swept the dirt floor of that place with a broom.

He lived a very lonely life, but he enjoyed reading, was a beautiful writer, and mailed no end of letters to England. Later on we knew why. One day about 1922 I rode over to Harry's on my pony, and everything in the shack was outside.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"Spring cleaning," he replied.

I went home and told my dad, who thought it was very unusual because the place was always clean. I mentioned the boots and overshoes and clothes that had come out from under the bed, and dad joked that maybe the love bug had bitten him. Sure enough, a few days later he brought his bride over to introduce her to us.

Dorothy Marion O'Neil had come out from England in 1920. She was a nurse who had been in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, during the war, and had worked in hospitals looking after the wounded. She had also taught school in England. She had been married to a friend of Harry's, and after her husband died, continued to correspond with him. Her parents and Harry's were friends. After the war, she went to Calgary and attended Normal school, then taught for a year at Didsbury.

She had a wonderful sense of humor. When she was hired to teach a rural school some distance from her home, the local school board member tried to find a suitable place for her to stay. There was an empty house across the road, not in very good shape, but the trustee told her that it had a very good chimney.

"Mr. Storch," she replied, "I shall not be living in the chimney."

After they were married for a few years, they built another room on their house. Harry washed every rock for the foundation.

Many were the evenings they spent at our home. Mrs. Cook would say, "We shall now have a song from Cookie." It wasn't hard to get him to sing and he had a beautiful tenor voice. Often Stanley Pease would come over too, and with mother playing the organ we would all have a very enjoyable sing-song. Mr. Cook's favorite song was "Thora" and he sang it very well indeed.

Mrs. Cook taught at many rural schools, Orlando, Annesheim, Scapa, Chain Lakes, Hudson Bay, Wells, Corinne and Buchan. She was made a life member of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Mr. Cook had walked over a rock in his farm yard for years, but one time when he struck it with his foot it sounded hollow. He dug it up and discovered it was an Indian skull. He named it Pocahontas.

In 1952 Harry had the misfortune to fall off his windcharger and injure his back. When he recovered he decided to sell the farm to Dan Welch. He had a sale and bought a home in Hanna. He had a little shop in his basement where he sharpened saws and built up quite a business. He also made stools and walkers for the hospital, his name is stamped on the bottom of some of them which are still in use.

Both were active members of All Saints Anglican church. Harry sang in the choir and Dorothy held the office of secretary of the Anglican Church Women.

Eventually they moved to the Acadia Lodge where Harry passed away in 1965 at the age of seventy-one. Mrs. Cook died in 1974. Both were cremated and their ashes scattered over their farm.

E. ERION and FAMILY, By O. Erion — Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Erion arrived in Canada May 16, 1927 from Bessarabia, Romania with their five children, Lena, Arnold, Alvina, Mary and John. They bought a half section of land three and a half miles southwest of Scapa from the Soldier Settlement Board.

After they had settled in their new home, on August 1, 1927, Mrs. Erion passed away. She was Rosina Pahl before marriage. Later Emanuel married Maria Pahl, sister to his first wife.

In 1929 they decided to move the buildings to a better location on the farm. Using two C. N. rails and some wagons they moved the three-roomed house one-half mile across the field with twelve horses. Here it was placed on a full cement basement, making more space for the family to live. A granary was also used to sleep in through the summer.

In the thirties they experienced a depression because of the drought, dust storms, grasshoppers and poor grain prices. In 1936, after things got better, Mr.

Erion and O. Pahl bought a threshing machine which they used to thresh their own crops and those of other nearby farmers for ten years.

In 1941, six more rooms were built on the house, increasing it from three to nine rooms. Two years later a hip roofed barn was bought seven miles south of the farm. It was moved home on skids behind two caterpillar tractors, and put on a cement floor. A light plant was also installed on the farm and served as power till the line came through in 1952.

In the mid-fifties Mr. and Mrs. Erion moved to Creston, B.C. with some of the family. There they worked until Mrs. Erion passed away in April, 1966. Mr. Erion married again to Anne Woltrum and retired to Victoria.

Lena, who is Mrs. Carl Weber, is living in Stettler, Alberta where she and her husband are both employed at the Stettler Hospital. Arnold was in the army from 1942 to 1946, in the Lord Strathcona Horse. He served as tank driver in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. After the war Arnold and his wife, who was Freda Mix, farmed in the New Norway district until they moved to Calgary a few years ago. There Freda became ill and passed away. Arnold is now married again. Alvina, Mrs. Nat Buckwitz, lives in the Endiang district where they have ranched for many years. Mary and her husband, Helmut Riemer, live in Kamloops, B.C. John married Lucille Frey. He farms and raises cattle.

Born in Canada as half-brothers and sisters were: Emanuel who lives at Leduc. Emanuel has been a plumber since school days, later taking on gas fitting as well. He is now starting a dairy farm. Otto has been on the farm at home since his folks left for Creston, B.C. He farms with Leo and also hauls gravel. Victor, with his wife who was Violet Graumann, moved to Brooks from Calgary in 1975. He works as maintenance man at the Hospital. Violet drives a school bus. Albert and his wife, who was Tina Thessen, are in Ethiopia Africa, under the Sudan Interior Mission. Albert works at a radio station and Tina is teaching. Emma and her husband Ken Flug live in Calgary. Walter and his wife who was Diane Leinert live at New Sarepta, Alberta. Walter is Pastor of one of the churches there. Roland and his wife were at Hinton, Alberta. Roland lost his life in a mine accident there in December, 1975. His wife is now in Red Deer. Ernie and wife live in Camrose where Ernie is a welder. Florence and her husband Terry Murphy live in Calgary. Leo and his wife live near Scapa.

THE GOTTLIEB GLUBRECHT FAMILY, *by Gottfried Glubrecht* — Gottlieb Glubrecht and his wife Caroline were married in 1909 at Kerschetsky, near the Dnieper River in the Ukraine, Russia. They immigrated to North Dakota and farmed near Hebron, where their oldest son, Gottfried, was born in 1910.

They lived in Spokane, Washington for a time until they moved to Canada and took a homestead two miles west of the present hamlet of Scapa, in 1914.

My father had filed on the NE 27-33-15 in 1913, and built a sod house. One hot day he and his brother-in-law, Pete Dressel, were digging the cellar for the house. The lumber for the roof was piled up nearby. As they were busy digging, they thought that they could smell smoke. Looking up, they discovered that the air was quite thick with smoke. Hurriedly they scrambled out of the hole and found that a large prairie fire coming from the south was almost upon them. At that time the prairie was covered with a heavy growth of dry grass. Immediately they became concerned about the lumber lying in the grass, and started putting it down in the cellar hole. Fortunately they got it all down before the fire swept across, blackening everything in its path.

How far north it went or where it stopped I don't remember. A homesteader by the name of Mike Schaffner, who lived about two miles north of our place, had

gone to the Castor district that day. His car-roof shack was built up about two feet off the ground on several large rocks. The grass was quite heavy around that building too, but luckily the fire swept through underneath the house and left it undamaged.

The Gottlieb Glubrecht family, 1935. Standing: Edward, Fred, Gottlieb (Shorty), Emil, Martha and Gottfried. Seated: Mr. Glubrecht, Katherine, Otto, Emma and Mrs. Glubrecht.

There were eleven children born into the Glubrecht family. Bertha and John died as infants. Gottfried, Edward, and Martha live in Hanna. Gottlieb Jr. (Shorty) is in North Battleford, Saskatchewan; Emil, Fred and Emma (Pat) are in Calgary; Katherine is living at Victoria and Otto is at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Our parents remained on the farm until Father's passing in February, 1966. Mother and Edward moved into Hanna that summer, and Mother died in November of the same year.

Sam Hintz, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hintz.

CHRISTIAN HINTZ FAMILY, By the Hintz Brothers — Dad was born in Romania, February 17, 1887; the son of Samuel and Susan Hintz. In 1904 at the age of 17, he left his home and went to South America. He lived and worked in Brazil and Argentina until moving to the Dakotas in the U.S.A. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada; taking a homestead in the Dowling Lake district; the north half of 10-33-15. He was one of the founding members of the Dowling Lake Lutheran Church; also an active board member for many years. In 1938 he moved to the Endiang district where he resided on his farm until his passing, on June 20, 1971 at the age of 84 years.

Our mother was born in Odessa, Russia on September 22, 1891. She was the daughter of Jacob and Karoline Schmiedge. In 1912 she immigrated to Canada with her mother and her younger brother. They settled in the Regina area of Saskatchewan. Mother married Carl Leippi on October 12, 1916; he died a year later in the flu epidemic. There was one son, Adolph, from this marriage. Adolph and his wife Anne are retired in Stettler. They have a son, Carl, who is married and lives at the coast where he operates his own firm.

German Hintz ploughing virgin prairie.

Our parents were married June 8, 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan. They took up residence on Dad's homestead. Several months later our Grandmother Schmiedge came to live with us until her passing on April 21, 1922.

Their union was blessed with four sons and one daughter. They are as follows: Theodore, who is married. He and his wife Dorothy are retired in Penticton, B.C. They have a son and a daughter.

Samuel, Christian and Reinhold live on the home farm, section 15-35-15. They are still engaged in farming and ranching.

Regina is married to Keith Marshall and resides in Rimbey. They have a son, Martin in the Air Force and a daughter, Elaine in school.

Dad's cousin William Hintz also immigrated to Canada, taking up a homestead in this area, the N.E. of 34-32-15. He returned to the U.S. for military duty in World War I. Later on he took a position with Union Pacific Railways as an electrical engineer. He held this position until his retirement. In 1959 he sold his land to the late Mrs. Margaret Wiese and her son Walter. He passed away December 27, 1972 in Portland, Oregon.

Other pioneers of the area and neighbors were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Trettin and their son Paul, Mr. Henry Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lindley, and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Renner. These people were some of the nearest neighbors in the pioneer days.

The Lutheran Church services were held in the Renner home for some time in the early days. Rev. Julius Zeitschky was the founder and organizer of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Dowling Lake.

Oxen were the beasts of burden in those early days. We recall interesting tales about how slow and headstrong they were at times. Dad got horses as soon as he was able to make the change.

One other interesting feature about our home was that we had a flowing well in our yard. The amount of water was limitless and the quality second to none. The road allowance north of us was not passable so everyone came through our yard where a traveller refreshed his horses and himself at the well.

In the early days considerable trading was done in Castor. However, Hanna was the main shopping town. Most of the grain was hauled to Hanna, or sometimes to Watts. We got our mail from Hanna.

We recall the dirty thirties. A cloud of dust would darken the heavens, so that it was almost like night time. Speaking about events which we will never forget: in the spring of 1929, a prairie fire rolled down on us from the northwest. We can still see it rolling along in the prairie wool. We plowed furrows about one rod apart and our helpful neighbors came and we were able to save our yard. Another event was the hoppers in 1934. They were just everywhere. We used to haul a mixture of sawdust and poison. This was all to no avail. The story was, if your poison killed one hopper, a hundred would come to its funeral.

The first school we attended was called Chain Lakes. It most likely got the name from several small lakes in the area. After a few years we were transferred to Hudson Bay School. As near as we can recall it was on land which was owned at one time by the Hudson Bay Land Company.

In 1938 after we moved to our present farm at Endiang, we attended Leith Hill School. The main reason for the move was the distance to school. To Chain Lakes and Hudson Bay, our former schools, we had almost four miles to go, while Leith Hill was less than a mile. I might add here, our new school was named after Mr. Sam Leith, a pioneer of this area.

One year we were threshing for our neighbor, Mr. Cook. After serving us supper, Mrs. Cook told us that everyone on the crew, excepting the owners, had been her pupils at one time or another. After considerable discussion, she proved her statement correct. Mrs. Cook had taught in various schools in the area for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Cook finally retired to Hanna. Both have passed away. However, she will be remembered by many of her students for years to come. Just another example of the true pioneer spirit.

In early pioneer days the biggest and best gathering was at our church. We, along with most of our neighbors embraced the Lutheran heritage. So in 1921, a church was founded and built. It still stands there till this day, over 50 years later, known far and wide by many as the St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. Our Dad was very active both in founding and getting it built. He served on the board for many years.

Our parents were very dedicated to their faith. Naturally we were all raised in a home where our church and religion played a prominent part. The country was new, everything was hard; this held people more towards one goal in life, with their faith playing a very important role.

Through the years we had a long list of ministers serving us. The founding minister of St. Peter's Dowling Lake was Rev. Zastechky. He travelled many a mile in his buggy. Later on at St. Peter's Lutheran at Scapa, some of our ministers were Rev. E. Bertsch, followed by Rev. S. Menz, Rev. R. Wulff, Rev. J. C. Abe, Rev. H. Brandt, Rev. I. Holm, just to mention a few of them.

We always had a school concert; this was a big event. The school would be jammed with people to see us pupils do our part. We also would have a nice Christmas Concert at the church. All the Christmas Carols and recitations as well as the story of our Saviour's birth in Bethlehem were presented.

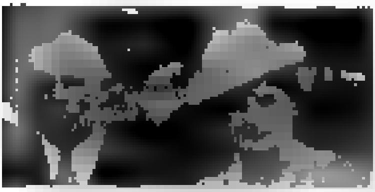
In the summer we had a big day at the end of the school term, a school picnic, with races for all ages, ball games, etc. Clear Lake was used as a summer resort. It

had dances in the hall, booths on the grounds; ball games and swimming and bathing in the lake.

We do complain about prices of beef and grain at present. In those days one cent per pound of beef; a double-deck box on a wagon, full of wheat around eleven dollars. How would we like these prices? Now consider the hard labour in those days, compared to the present day farming, in order to produce the beef and grain. How many of us would do it? There was no government assistance, no Wheat Board. The farmer was at the mercy of everything, including the severe drought.

Most pioneers had sod shacks for their first home. We recall Mr. Henry Cook's sod shack very vividly. It was the last one in the neighborhood.

The foregoing is a brief description of events, conditions and times of the pioneer days. This is how our pioneers worked, played, struggled and prospered. Their goal was to build a life for themselves and their families in a raw and untamed country. Their hardships and suffering gave us, their children, the opportunity to enjoy our modern day life style.



Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Lange.

MR. and MRS. FRITZ LANGE, by E. Lange — Fritz Lange left his native Germany in 1927 and came to Craigmyle, Alberta, where he worked on a large grain farm. In 1928 he acquired the east half of 11-33-15 in the Scapa district. Since the land was all virgin prairie, that summer Mr. Lange broke 150 acres with a Fordson tractor, pulling a two bottom plow. He also built a small house and a garage.

In the fall of 1929 he went back to Germany and in February the following year he was united in marriage with Miss Hedwig Werner. The couple then returned to Canada arriving at the farm March 20, 1930. They were obliged to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bohlender until their stove, which they had purchased in Winnipeg, was shipped to Scapa.

Mr. and Mrs. Lange, who were not afraid of hard work, toiled from early morning until late at night milking cows, raising chickens and tilling the fields. Their first chicken house was built of sod, possibly one of the last sod buildings to be in use on the prairies.

With hard work and good management they survived the depression years and when better crops returned Mr. Lange purchased an additional two quarters of land.

They farmed until 1952 and while they were still fairly young in years they disposed of their livestock and machinery and moved to the city of Calgary to retire. In 1958 they made a trip to Germany to visit with relatives and friends. This was to be the last time Mr. Lange saw his homeland because in October of 1968 he was called from this life. Mrs. Lange continued to reside in Calgary until January of 1977 when she too followed her husband in death. The couple was not blessed with children.

THE ROBERT LANGE FAMILY, by Ernest Lange — Robert Lange left Germany in 1896 and came to Minnesota in the United States. In 1905 he came to Nanton, Alberta where he worked for a time on the Bar U Ranch. Later he acquired his own farm in the Nanton area. In 1910 he disposed of his property in Nanton

and made a trip to Germany. In August of 1910 he returned to Canada bringing with him Miss Franziska Gesser whom he married in Calgary the same month. The couple resided in the village of Nanton during the winter of 1910-1911.

In the spring of 1911 they shipped all their belongings by rail to Castor from where they hauled them by horses and wagon to the homestead on N.W. 14-33-16 where Mr. Lange had built temporary shelter consisting of an eight by eight shack and a small barn. Later they obtained the east half of 15-33-16 on which they built a sod house where they spent the winter months. It was necessary to do this in order to "prove up" the homestead.

There were no trees in the area so during the summer they used buffalo chips in the cook stove. For fence posts the men had to drive to Castor and cut trees during the night because the land was all privately owned. In the spring of 1911 Mr. Lange broke up forty acres of virgin prairie which he seeded to grain. Since none of the land was fenced, cattle belonging to local ranchers roamed freely. It was Mrs. Lange's daily chore to drive these cattle away from the grain with a horse and buggy.

They got their first mail at Lillico Post Office and then at Kane's store at Garden Plains. The first grain had to be hauled to Castor, one of these trips usually took 3 days or longer. When Hanna came into existence in 1912 they thought they were in heaven — they could make the entire trip in one day!

The experience of which Mrs. Lange spoke most frequently was her first trip to the homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Lange left Castor early one morning in March with a team of horses and a wagon with a triple box loaded high with a bed, stove, furniture, groceries, etc. When darkness fell they attempted to cross a small creek somewhere east of the present hamlet of Scapa. The heavily loaded wagon sank down in the deep snow which still lay in the creek, and the horses, played out from the long journey on muddy trails, were unable to pull the load out. Mr. and Mrs. Lange were therefore obliged to spend the night beside the wagon with only a mattress leaned against the wagon for shelter from the cold March wind.

During the night they could hear a dog barking so they presumed that a farmyard could not be too far away. When daylight came they set out on foot and arrived at the Heusher farm, then occupied by George Heusher's father and mother. After having breakfast with the Heushers Mr. Lange returned to his horses and wagon. No sooner had he reached the wagon than a Mr. Renner arrived with a team of oxen. The horses were unhitched and the oxen pulled the load out with ease. Mr. Lange then resumed his journey, picked up Mrs. Lange at Heusher's and they arrived at the Martin Gerlach farm in time for dinner. They were now within a half mile of home.

When they set up housekeeping on their homestead Mr. and Mrs. Lange had to sleep in the barn while Paul Treftin Sr., who stayed with them, slept on a bunk in the eight by eight shack. Mrs. Lange cooked the meals on a small stove in the shack but since there was no room for a table they had to sit outside and eat. Mr. Lange and Mr. Treftin were at this time building a two room house which they were able to occupy in a few weeks.

As more settlers arrived there was much visiting. Playing cards was the main pastime. Every Sunday people could be seen travelling to the Lange's farm home on foot, by saddle horse or horse and buggy for a visit and to enjoy one of Mrs. Lange's delicious meals. Nobody ever left her home without having a lunch or a meal. Thus they spent their life on the farm enduring hail storms, poor prices and finally the drought and dust storms of the depression. Robert Lange passed away in August of 1938. Mrs. Lange continued to reside on the farm until 1948 when she moved to Hanna where she passed away in 1971.

***ERNEST LANGE,* By Ernest Lange** — Ernest Lange was born on the family farm in September of 1916. Because doctors were few and far between, Mrs. Sexsmith, a local midwife, assisted with his birth. He received his education at Hudson Bay School and worked on the farm with his father. Following his father's death he and his mother continued to operate the farm until 1948. From 1948 until 1951 Ernest worked at the Ideal Grocers in Hanna. In 1951 he resumed farming until 1957. Being troubled with allergies all his life, he was forced to give up farming permanently then. Following the death of his mother in 1971 he moved to Osoyoos, British Columbia for four years. In February of 1976 he returned to Hanna to make his home.

ROBERT BRUCE MILLER — I was born and raised at Hanna. After I finished school, I worked at home on the family farm for a while, then worked for Harold Black of Standard at his ranch in the Sunnynook area.

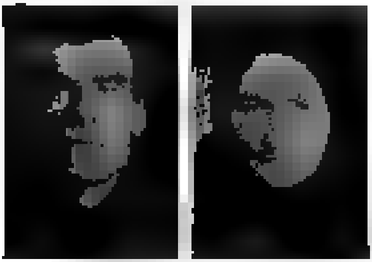
In 1965 I was married to June Hale of Bassano, and in 1968 our son, Clinton Bruce, arrived. In the spring of 1974 I bought the Ernest Welch holdings in the Scapa district.

THE MILLER BROTHERS — There were three brothers, all bachelors, who proved up their homesteads, then sold their farms and moved back to the United States.

A. L. Miller homesteaded the N.W. 16-33-15 and later sold it to A. Welch.

E. A. Miller homesteaded the S.W. 16-33-15, which went back to the government for taxes. D. Welch now has the land leased.

F. R. Miller homesteaded the N.E. 17-33-15 which he sold to a Mr. Tingle who later sold it to P. Trattin. The Trattin family still make their home there.



Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl

***FRIDICH PAHL and FAMILY,* By Otto Pahl** — Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl and family (Marie, Loui, Julia, Otto and Emma), arrived in Canada from Bessarabia, Romania on October 22, 1927. We travelled via a Swedish ship, Polonia, which docked at Halifax. From there we travelled C.N.R. to Hanna, arriving on October 27.

Some time in November of the same year, Dad and Mother settled on a farm south of Scapa, the S.E. 25-33-15 which Dad bought from Mr. Harvey Burt, Senior. We moved in with the Harvey Burt family. There were seven of them and seven of us, and how all fourteen managed in that house I don't recall. They couldn't understand German and we didn't know a word of English, but somehow we got along. The Burts moved to their farm west of Scapa and we tried to get adjusted to our new surroundings. We were happy for our parents because most of the neighbors were German and they could visit with them. Carl Welch, John Steinbrecker, Fred Welch, William Hein and George Hausher were some of them.

Sister Emma and I started school shortly after we were settled. There were lots of youngsters that could understand German, so it wasn't too hard to get started. Mr. Mac Stemp was our first teacher. We had to talk to him through an interpreter; Rudy Hein was my go-between and sometimes I wondered if he was

telling us what was said. It worked out okay and it didn't take too long until we could understand a bit of English.

The years of 1928 to 1930 were pretty good for us. In 1931 we were hailed out one hundred per cent and never got anything. Then in 1932 the price of wheat dropped to seventeen cents per bushel. Then came the lean years of 1934 when grasshoppers took most of our crop. Those were hard days. Crops we didn't have and cattle prices were down to nothing. Cows brought five to six dollars a head. Dad bought one bull from Mr. Jack Bossert for eleven dollars and sold it for nine dollars. Eggs were four cents a dozen. Dad sold ten hogs in 1934 for four dollars each, and we had to buy the feed to feed them first. Those were the good old days when we made most of our living from milking cows. We made six or seven dollars a week from cream. After 1938, things started to get better and we managed to pull ourselves out of the debts we had on the farm.

Our eldest brother and three of our older sisters came to Canada before we did. Fred, the eldest, came to Canada early in the spring of 1927. He resided seven miles northeast of Hanna, until 1934, when he moved to Lavoy, Alberta. In 1937 he moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where he lived until he passed away on the last day of 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Pahl, Richard and David.

Rosina, our oldest sister, Mrs. Emanuel Erion, came to the Scapa district in the spring of 1927, but only enjoyed a few months of her life in Canada. She passed away in August of the same year. Later Emanuel Erion married our sister Marie and they resided on the farm south and west of Scapa. Marie passed away in April, 1968.

Caroline, Mrs. Daniel Matthes, who resided in the district west of Scapa, passed away in 1972.

One of our brothers, August, was not able to come to Canada with us because he was of age for military service, and had to remain behind, alone. He came over to Canada after World War II, lived in the Spondin area for a number of years, moved to Hanna, and now is living in Linden, Alberta.

In the spring of 1937, Loui got married, living seven miles north east of Hanna. Julia married Jack Mix of Castor, who passed away in 1970. Emma married Otto Mix of Castor and is now residing in Hanna.

In November 1939, I was married to Emma Doering from the Handhills district. We had two boys, Richard and David. Both of the boys are ordained ministers in the Evangelical Church of Canada. Richard is married to Lorraine Vlate. They are serving the church at Lipton, Saskatchewan. They have two boys. David is married to Agatha Berg. David and Agatha are serving the churches at Leader and Burstal, Saskatchewan. They also have two boys.

Our father, Fridich Pahl, passed away in 1941, and Mother in 1958.

My wife, Emma, the mother of Richard and David, passed away in 1972. I married Elizabeth Sackman and we are living in the good little town of Hanna.

THE HENRY RUHL FAMILY, *By Dave Ruhl* — My father, Henry Ruhl, was born in 1878 in Kraft, Russia, a German enclave located on the Volga River. From 1897 to 1902 he was in the Russian army of Czar Nicholas II. In 1903 he married Mary Katharin Schaeffer. They were to have three children while in the Old Country: Daniel, Pauline and Henry.

In 1913 the family left Russia and came to Calgary, where Lydia was born the same year. Father was employed with Patrick Burns until leaving Calgary in 1919 to start farming on the J. B. Johnston farm south of Wells, where in 1920 I, David, was born. The cost of Father's first two horses, with only a halter on each, was $500.00, this put a big hole in the $1500.00 the folks had saved to go farming.

The Henry Ruhl family. Standing: Lydia, Pauline, Daniel, Henry. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruhl and David.

In 1922, with seven cows, four calves and four horses, we moved to the S.E. 22-33-15. Part of the agreement of sale of this quarter was to be three wells, but all of them proved to be dry holes; therefore, water had to be hauled from Rudolf Welch's, which was a mile away. Most of the time this task was done with a horse and stoneboat by Henry, helped at times by Pauline. Often when they were enroute home with a barrel of water the stoneboat would jiggle over a small stone which would cause the barrel to upset. This meant that they had to turn around and get a refill. After one or two of these incidents, a smoother road was taken. Water hauling was done this way, winter and summer, until 1925 when Father and Mother had a well drilled by Frank Ruppert.

The struggle to make ends meet was not easy. The milk cows had to be taken to pasture three and one half miles every morning and brought home each evening, rain or shine, with Henry doing most of the herding, as well as working the farm. Father and Daniel worked for other farmers much of the time and Pauline worked for A. E. Laughlin at Hanna. All the wages they made were pooled to build up the resources.

Hanna, which was twenty-one miles away, was the centre for the post office, supplies and grain delivery. I recall very vividly my mother and father telling of a time in the winter of 1925-26 when they made a trip to Hanna with a sleigh and horses. People going to town from that part of the country took a shortcut across Dowling Lake. The trail hit the lake just a little east of the Schortzmeider farm and came out east of the McKenzie's. They finished shopping by early evening and left for home via the shortcut. While they were crossing the lake a blizzard came up. The visibility became nil after darkness had fallen. They became lost somewhere in the middle of Dowling Lake. After several hours of wandering they realized they were going along a side hill and that they had to be off the lake, but because of the storm they didn't know where. Completely lost, Father put down fences hoping to find some shelter, farmers or buildings — anything! Sometime after midnight the horses stopped at another wire fence. This time when Dad went to their heads an outline of some buildings appeared. It turned out to be the Mansfield farm which was rented by Rennert Sieb at that time. This is where they stayed the rest of the night. This experience was never forgotten. It is interesting to note that it was the same $800.00 team of horses mentioned earlier that fought out the ordeal for my parents.

Dan died in 1927 as a result of an accident on a threshing rig.

The years of 1929 to 1936 were rather grim — no rain, so nothing much would grow. The dust storms of 1929 and the thirties were something to behold. At times one would only see an outline of the sun. The alkali of Dowling Lake would rise thousands of feet high! The price of wheat went down to nineteen cents per bushel, oats were seven cents, eggs were worth practically nothing. Butter was the same, many farmers using it to grease their machinery. In 1930 Dad sold two three-year-old steers for $7.50. Nevertheless, through those trying times Mother and Father stayed off the relief rolls.

Winters were cold and very hard on our stock as feed was not plentiful. I remember walking to Hudson Bay School, which was the school Henry, Lydia and I attended, and seeing a farmer's horses down on the road allowance unable to get up. I told the owners and the horses were put out of their misery. One thing about Hudson Bay School (which was built, I believe, in 1910) was that it was air conditioned -- always the same temperature inside and out.

In 1929 we moved to the north half of 21-33-15 which Father had purchased in 1929 from Tom Symington. Lydia and I then went to Crow Hill School which was blessed with the same quality of air conditioning. In 1932 my folks sent me back to Hudson Bay School where I had one of my finest teachers, Enos Lundrigan. All of us kids did well under him. I also admired him for his musical talents and learned to play a banjo and my basic guitar. In fact, Gottlieb (Shorty) Giebrecht turned out to be a very accomplished banjo player through Lundrigan's tutelage.

In 1938 Father purchased the west half of 22-33-15 from the Soldier's Settlement Board, that was previously owned by Joe Lidgett.

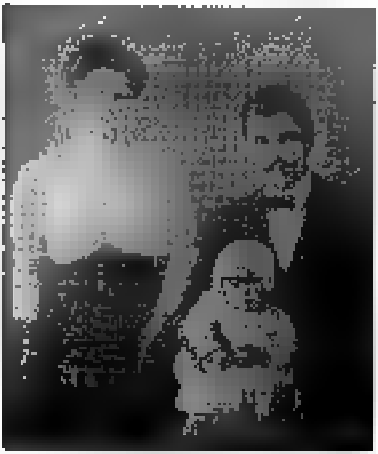
Mother and Father retired in 1943 and lived in Calgary, where Mother passed away in 1946. Father passed away in 1963 in Camrose where Pauline was living at that time.

Pauline was married to Carl Andersen who was the manager of the Hanna Creamery. In 1928 he moved to a farm west of Scapa. Later he and his wife moved to New Norway where they operated a grocery store. They retired in Camrose where Carl passed away in 1963. Pauline now makes her home in Calgary.

Lydia married Svend Ditmer in 1934 and has one daughter. She makes her home in Calgary.

Henry married Edna Miller in 1945 and lived on the home place until moving to Calgary where he was employed with the Calgary Board of Education.

I live in Calgary, where I was a professional wrestler.



Mr. and Mrs. John Steinbrecker and first son, John.

THE JOHN STEINBRECKER FAMILY, *By Ruby Steinbrecker Hawker* — John and Mary Steinbrecker came to Canada from Colorado in 1910. They settled in Stettler, where Mary worked in a cigar factory while John came to the Scapa area to take up a homestead. They built a small two-roomed shack and moved their entire possessions out in a wagon.

Farming was a slow but rewarding way of life then, although there were many hardships to be faced, such as prairie fires, and isolation. Mary's first child was born while she was alone at home.

Horses were very expensive and the only means of doing the farming. On one occasion when a team ran away, one of the horses was badly cut. It was part of the day's work to sew up the cut and nurse the horse back to health; just as it was all in the day's work to walk several miles to get the milk cows in the days before there were many fences.

In the spring of 1928, the family was coming home from town with the team and buggy when they saw flames shooting out of the house. Mac Slemp, who was teaching at Hudson Bay school at the time, brought his class down to see if they could be of any help, but it was too late to salvage much from the building. One excited person ran into the kitchen, brought out the pan of bread dough which had been left to rise, and carried it across the garden before setting it down. There had been a beautiful large clock beside the dough, but that was not saved. The family lived in a granary until fall, when a large new house was completed.

Hudson Bay school was built on John's land, and he was one of the original members of the board. As the school was only a quarter of a mile from the homestead, many of the teachers boarded with them.

Mary acted as midwife for many women in the area, as the nearest hospital was at Craigmyle, and often there was not time to go that far or to get a doctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker farmed until 1955, when they retired to Hanna. Mary passed away in 1964, John in 1965

They had eight children. George lived for a few years in Hanna, then moved to Edgewater, B.C. He married Jean Taylor and had one son, Wes. George died in 1968

Sam, who now lives on the home place, married Pat Smith. They have six children and two grandchildren.

Ruby married Ervin Haugher and they reside at Endiang. They had three children, Lloyd, Carol, and Cheryl, who lost her life in a car accident in 1973. They have two grandchildren.

Irene married Friedel Hummel and they farmed at Scapa until they moved to Hanna. They have two sons and one daughter.

The four older Steinbrecker children passed away in early life. Willie was killed by a runaway team when he was eighteen years old, he and two other children and their grandmother Hinter are buried on the homestead. A boy who died after an appendectomy is buried in Hanna.

THOMAS SYMINGTON, ***By Sarah Symington Ryckman*** — Thomas Symington was born in February, 1885, in Carluke, Scotland. He was married to Sarah Denholm at Glasgow, Scotland on January 24, 1912. They sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax from where they took the train to Calgary. In 1914 Dad took up a homestead eleven miles north of the town of Watts, N.W. 21-33-15. The trip out to the homestead was made by horse and sleigh. Six children were born of the union: Sarah, Marian, Thomas, Margaret, and Jessie. A daughter Agnes died at the age of three years.

Our first post office was Watts and it was to here we came for our mail and supplies. While Dad was on the farm, he was a councillor for the Dowling Lake Municipality and later was reeve. He drove to Hanna once a month to attend these meetings.

The first school we attended was Hudson Bay. The teachers' names were Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Kerr. After a few years this school became overcrowded and we then went to Crow Hill School. By this time I was old enough to drive the horse, so I took the horse and buggy to school, picking up Mildred and Russell Hanson on the way.

In 1925 Dad sold his farm to Henry Ruhl, and moved to Endiang where my folks operated a restaurant for a year or more. Then Dad went back to his own trade, that of carpenter. He helped build the town of Endiang where we stayed for five years. In the spring of 1930 we moved to Hanna where Dad continued in his trade. In the late thirties Dad and Mother went to Vancouver to reside. Mother passed away there in August 1949, and Dad a few years later in February, 1954

I was married to Edward Ryckman in December, 1931. Ed passed away in July, 1985. We were blessed with three children: James, Jessie and Albert. I still make my home in Hanna.

ADOLPH and CHRISTINA WEICH, By Louis Weich — Adolph Weich was born in Russia on October 6, 1882. Christina Dechert was also born in Russia, on October 5, 1886. They were married on April 3, 1906, and had three children, Louis, Elsa, and another child who died in infancy.

Dad made a couple of trips to the United States in search of a better way of life. The second time he got a job in Michigan in a foundry. He contracted typhoid fever, and after a long bout of illness, found that he was unable to work at his former job. In the later part of 1911 he went to Edmonton, travelled down to what is

now known as the Scapa area, filed on a homestead and returned to Edmonton where he worked in a foundry until 1913, when Mother, Elsie and myself joined him. We had come over from Russia with Uncle Bill Welch's family, Uncle Rudolf's fiancee, Bertha Dechert, and Uncle Fred Welch. We were all met at the station by my dad, Uncle Rudolf and Uncle William. They were so black from the work they had been doing that when they came to greet us, we children were frightened at the black men and hid behind our mothers' skirts.

The Adolf Welch family, 1917. Albert, Louie, Adolf, Lydia, Bertha, Mrs. Christina, Alvena, Elsie and May.

About Christmas time of 1913 we all came out to Uncle Carl's homestead, (now known as the Fred Welch Jr. place) and spent the winter with him. In the spring of 1914 Dad built a twelve by fourteen shack on his homestead and this was our first home in Canada. This is also where my sisters and brother were born.

By this time the money from his previous job in Edmonton was getting low and again Dad had to go out to work. This time he got a farm job in the Botha area which paid him thirty-five dollars a month. Of course transportation then wasn't like it is now and if you weren't fortunate enough to catch a ride with someone who had a team and buggy, you had to walk. Dad worked on this farm at Botha for two months before coming home for the first time. When he did come to see us he brought with him a fifty-pound sack of flour. He had gotten a ride for a short distance from the farm where he worked, and walked the remainder of the way with that big sack of flour on his back.

After three months' work he came home and bought our first cow from a neighbor, Mr. Bartsch, who had settled in the area about 1910. Cows were expensive in those days: this one cost Dad about $350, part cash and the rest on time. About that same time Dad added a sod kitchen to our shack and also built a sod barn for the cow. Uncle Carl broke the ground for our sods and also an area for our garden. In 1915 he also broke ten acres for us which he put into crop in 1916 on a third share basis. To our great misfortune the crop hailed out and we had no insurance.

It was also our first experience of a hail storm, and a frightening experience to say the least, especially for us younger folk. At the time Dad was working for Mr. Bertsch, who was cutting our hay crop for us when the storm hit. He came to the house for shelter and stood just inside the door where he could hold onto his team of horses. He had an awful time trying to keep them from running off; they didn't like the hail beating on their bodies any more than we would have. However, he did manage to hang onto them until the storm passed. You can well imagine there was no more hay to be cut; it was a total loss.

In the winter of 1916 Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Dressel and bought another team from Alex Kosmrik in 1917. That spring he bought a new seed drill and a wagon and started farming for himself. Uncle Carl cut our crop that fall; we stooked it and put it in four stacks, which were threshed by Chris Lohrmann. We harvested nearly four hundred bushels of wheat from this crop. While our stacks were being threshed, the horses hauling the bundle racks had to be fed, so they ate from the oats that we had. After the threshing was done and the workers had gone home, Dad gathered up what few oats remained on the ground where the horses had eaten, and sowed them the following spring. Unfortunately the crop didn't yield much, as the seed had been sown on spring-broke ground, which does not produce very good crops the first year.

However, we had sown another crop as well which turned out not too badly. In fact, Dad built a new house that year before threshing time, and we moved into it right away, and used the old shack to store the grain that we harvested that fall.

Mother always had a good garden. Even after the hail storms she managed to salvage lots of potatoes, carrots, turnips and cabbage to see us through the long winter months and on into summer until the next garden was ready.

By the fall of 1918 we had five head of cattle and four horses. Also that fall Hudson Bay school was opened and my sister Elsie and I started our education. We could not speak English, for our family always spoke German at home, but we made our grade one by the end of the school term. The following year Dad bought a pony for us to ride to school. We were very grateful, as previous to that we had to walk, and it seemed an awfully long trip, especially in the winter.

Dad did a lot of blacksmith work, and about this time he decided to get a new forge and anvil. He ordered them from Eaton's, along with some other tools he needed for the cutting down of big wagon wheels, a job he did very well. He made quite a name for himself as a blacksmith and wheelwright. Farmers from all over the country brought him plough shares to be sharpened and wagon wheels to be repaired and cut down. He also built a lot of cutters in those days, and running gear for cutters. The smithy business got to be quite big and he carried on with it until his retirement.

This trade also had its drawbacks. Dad had built a shop in 1928 which was big enough to hold his democrat and car when no blacksmithing was being done. One cold winter night Rudolf Fecho came over to get Dad to build him a sleigh. The car was moved out of the shop so there would be enough room to work on the project. During the process of heating and shaping the metal for the sleigh, a piece of red-hot metal flew out of Dad's tongs. Although they searched for it, they could not find it. Later on, when the sleigh was completed, the car put back in the shop, and Mr. Fecho had gone home, Dad searched again for the missing piece of metal, but was not able to find it. He finally decided that by now the metal would have cooled and that there was no danger, so retired for the night. About three o'clock in the morning we awakened to find the shop on fire.

My sister Bertha wrapped a warm blanket around herself and ran to the neighbour's for help. Our closest neighbour, Joe Lidgett, lived over half a mile from our place and came as soon as they could. Without realizing it at the time, Berta had run all the way to Lidgett's without any shoes on, and in the bitter cold had frozen her feet quite badly. Meanwhile we salvaged what we could from the shop; the car and most of the democrat and the shop and the rest of the contents burned to the ground.

Dad built another shop, bought more tools, reestablished himself in the smithy business and continued where he had left off prior to the fire, sharpening plow shares, shrinking wagon wheels, making over wagons, etc. I later carried on this blacksmith business on my farm until my retirement, and now my oldest son, Ron, who has a machine shop in Three Hills, is in the process of building an even larger plant. So this blacksmith business has been passed down from generation to generation, you might say it is an inborn trait.

Along with the farm work and blacksmith business, Dad also worked for Andy Hansen as a separator man on his threshing outfit. Andy Hansen, who was a great asset to our community, used to do the threshing for neighbors miles around the country for a good many years.

In 1949 Dad and Mother retired to Hanna, where they resided until their passing, Dad on November 28, 1959, and Mother on January 2, 1978. They were both active members of the Lutheran Church, first at St. Peter's at Scapa and later at Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna.

There were two boys and seven girls in the family. Louis, Bert and May Fache live in Hanna. Elsie McHugh and Berta Keall live in Vancouver, B.C. Alvina Sorenson is in Oliver, B.C.; Aileen Smith in Seattle, Washington; Lydia Marron in Camrose and Mandy Schrader in Edmonton.

5 Generations: Lawrence Schmidt (father), Louis Welch (great grandfather), Helen Schmidt (grandmother), holding Michael Schmidt and Mrs. Adolf Welch (great great grandmother).

LOUIS WELCH, By Louis Welch — Louis R. Welch: Born January 15, 1907, in Valenian, Russia, immigrated to Canada with mother Christina Welch and sister Elsie in the fall of 1913. We joined my father, Adolph Welch in Edmonton, Alberta, and journeyed on to what is now known as the Scapa area where we spent our first winter in Canada at the home of my father's brother, Carl Welch.

In the spring of 1914 we moved onto dad's homestead, two miles west of Uncle Carl's farm, where we built our first home, a 12' x 14' shack. During the summer we added a sod kitchen to our home. During this period Dad was working out in the area, earning approximately ten dollars a month, in order to look after the family.

In the spring of 1916, with the help of neighbors as we had no machinery of our own yet, we sowed our first crop, which we lost due to a severe hail storm. In the fall of the same year Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Drevel and another team from Alex Kalenith. In 1918, Hudson Bay School was built and my sister Elsie and I began our

schooling that fall. Our only means of getting to school was to walk the three and a quarter miles, always taking the shortest route possible, of course. The following year Dad bought our fifth horse, a pony, which we were able to ride to and from school, for which we were most grateful.

I continued my schooling until the age of fifteen years, during which time I worked with Dad on the homestead and also for neighbors when I could help out.

During the spring of 1923 all the young men in our area who were able went job hunting in the more southern areas where they heard jobs were more plentiful. My name was brought to the attention of a farmer, Mr. George Grieves, who owned a farm in the Bassano area, and who was looking for hired help at the time. Mr. Grieves contacted me about working for him; the reply was "yes" of course. Mother packed me a lunch, I caught a train at Watts, journeyed to Calgary where I caught another train to Bassano, where I contacted a blacksmith who was a friend of Mr. Grieves and who took me out to the Grieves farm in an old Model T Ford car. This was my first job away from my home area. I worked for Mr. Grieves for approximately three months at forty-five dollars per month which was quite an improvement over the fifty cents a day I had been receiving closer to home. This, as I recall, turned out to be one of the best years for farming in the history of the country. Pretty well all of the farmers harvested fifty bushels to the acre that fall.

In 1925 I worked with Dad on a share basis and with good fortune, from my share of the crop which was $400.00, I was able to purchase my first car, a Model T Ford for $350.00. Of course my Dad was not too happy about this but I was sure proud of that car.

The following year I was working for local farmers again and also had a job on a road construction crew in the area. One day in mid summer on my way home from road work I ran into the biggest hail storm that ever hit the country. This storm covered an area from the south side of Sullivan Lake to the northern end of Dowling Lake. It was storming so badly I had to stop my car and crouch up on the seat to shelter myself under the car roof in order to save my hide from being battered by the hail stones.

In the fall of 1927 I rented what was then known as the Gulseth place, in the Dowling district, and began farming on my own. In November of the same year I married Lenore Mable Halverson who joined me on the farm where our first three children, Helen, Agnes and Hilda, were born.

My first crop on the Gulseth place was hailed out in 1928. Luckily my crop was insured, and with the insurance money I was able to begin buying my own machinery, adding to the four horses, a drill, a plough and an old binder which I previously owned. In 1929 I bought my first tractor, a John Deere with steel wheels, a rough old thing to ride but very modern as far as I was concerned, and a power binder. I was the first person in the area to run my tractor from the binder, operating both at the same time.

In the fall of 1931 we moved from the Gulseth place to the Wade farm south of Hanna, which was mostly ranching, sheep and cattle. Another child, Edwin, was born to us there, whom we later lost at the age of seven due to suffocation. We remained on the Wade farm until the fall of 1935 at which time I had a streak of bad luck and lost everything but my family. We spent that winter living with friends of ours, the Paul Treffers, who lived about two miles from Dad's homestead.

In 1936 I rented what was then known as the George Smith farm, situated approximately three miles north of Dowling Lake. The remainder of my family, Bob, Gordon, George, Harold and Florence, were born on this farm. I started all over again at this time with only three horses and five cows. My brother-in-law, Bill Fecho, had a farm about three miles from mine; he also owned three horses and

for the next two years we did our farming together. I also took odd jobs in the area and did a lot of grade work for the Special Areas, which helped me get re-established.

In the winter of 1942 I joined the armed forces and remained with them until the fall of 1945 at which time the war was over and I was able to rejoin my family on the farm. While in the army I had the opportunity of learning a trade, blacksmithing, which was a necessity to farming for repairing machinery, building farm equipment, etc., and with this experience and ability to put it to use I became known as the community handy man.

During my teenage years and while my children were growing up there was a lot of hard work to do but we also had our good times. Our main source of entertainment was local talent and every winter brought to each community the Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by young and old alike. There were also box socials, dances, chivarees for the newly married couples, picnics and ball games in the summer as well as many family gatherings which were enjoyed by all.

My wife Lenora passed away in 1969 in a Calgary Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

Helen married David Schmidt and they live on his father's homestead in the Wells area. They have four sons.

Reinhart married Diane Verstrepen. They live at Three Hills where he runs a machine shop. They have five children.

Hilda married Clifford Paxman and lived on the Paxman homestead. Clifford passed away in May of 1976. They have two daughters and two sons.

Edwin was born in 1934. He passed away in 1941.

Robert married Jeanette Cust. They live at Port Coquitlam, B.C., where he works for B.C. Utilities. They have four daughters and three sons.

Gordon married Lena Cust. They live at Bellis, Alberta on a small farm. They have three daughters.

George married Betty Banwell. They also live at Three Hills where he works for Ron at the machine shop. They have two sons.

Harold married Mary Steinbrecker. They live in Calgary where Harry works for an oil company.

Florence married Frank Koteles but they are now separated. She lives at Red Deer. They had two sons.

I also have four great grandchildren, Michael and Kari-Ann Schmidt, Jody Hoffman, and April Paxman.

I remained on my farm north of Dowling Lake until the spring of 1974 when I retired, taking many fond memories with me, and proud of having been a member of that particular community.

CARL and LOUISE WEICH and FAMILY, By Art Weich — Carl Weich was born in Wolhinien, Russia in 1865 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1906, where he spent the next four years. Then he decided to move to Canada, where there was land available for homesteading. The city of Edmonton was his destination and on his arrival there, he bought a tent in which he lived until he was able to earn enough money to build himself a small shack. During this time Mr. Weich worked as a carpenter. It was in this shack in Edmonton that he accommodated various relatives including the Kelbels, who also immigrated to Alberta.

While in Edmonton he checked with the government and was informed there was land available for homesteading northwest of Hanna. He filed on a homestead

and a pre-emption and spent most of his life farming until he retired to Hanna in 1943. A son Fred now owns the original half section and still farms it.

Mr. Weich tells of the many experiences and hardships endured in the process of homesteading. After leaving Edmonton he moved to Stettler and worked there for some time. He decided to walk to the homestead across country, which was around sixty miles. He carried a bag with some groceries, sixty pounds of carpenter tools and clothing. The first day he walked twenty-some miles and when darkness came he dug a hole in a hay stack and spent the night. The stay wasn't too comfortable as it was winter. The next day he arrived at a neighbor's near the homestead and made arrangements to have a load of lumber and supplies delivered, so he could build a farmstead, which was his pride for so many years.

The Carl Weich family. Back Row: Donald, Anne, Fred, Arthur, Freda and Alma. Front Row: Carl, Ruth and Louise.

After he built his small home his brothers and sisters emigrated from Russia one by one and lived with him until they were able to build their own homes. The relatives that lived with him were brothers William, Adolf, Rudolf and Fred, a sister Mrs. Marie Hein, a sister-in-law Matilda Weich and numerous others. In 1915 he married Miss Louise Petsch and raised a family of seven: Freda, Arthur, Anne, Fred, Donald, Alma and Ruth. One son, Harvey, died as an infant.

In 1920 a group of people in the area formed a Lutheran congregation, bought a church in Wetaskiwin, dismantled it and moved it to its present site, four

miles west of Scapa. On many occasions when a minister was not available, Mr. Welch would conduct the services.

During the depression when money was very scarce, Carl Welch would build coffins for people who could not afford to buy one. He spent many years on the school board and as municipal councillor.

This is just a short resume of one pioneer family who contributed so much to the future of this province. Carl Welch died on July 20, 1978, three months short of 90 years of age. Mrs. Louise Welch still lives in Calgary and is in good spirits and health.

Freda is married to Sam Doering. Arthur is married to Adalene Doering. Donald is married to Mae Delker. Fred is married to Irene Otterstatter. Alma is married Jim Verrin. They all live in Calgary. Annie is married to Ben Sistafe and lives in Parksville, B.C. Ruth is married to Tony Brohman and lives in Port Alberni, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Welch, Richard and Audrey.

MR. and MRS. FRED WELCH, by Irene Welch — On February 4, 1946, Frederick William Welch and Irene Otterstatter of Craigmyle were united in marriage in St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

We took over the Carl Welch homestead and over the years saw many advances, from coal oil and gas lamps to six and thirty-two volt light plants to Hydro in 1952; from crank telephones to dial phones; from country schools to school vans.

Fred drove the school route in 1952-58, with the car in the summer and a bobsled in winter. He took over the mail route from Mr. G. Glubrecht and delivered mail by car in summer and by closed-in, horse-drawn cutter in winter.

We put up with a few hard winters when we were drifted in with high snow banks, and didn't get out for some time. Also a few hard years, but there were always a few extra dollars to be made with garden vegetables, fryers, eggs and cream.

We had two children. Our son Richard, born May 9, 1946, met his death in a tragic highway accident south of Medicine Hat on October 21, 1970.

Our daughter Audrey, born July 16, 1947, is married to Dennis Hoynick. They live on a farm near Daysland and have three sons and one daughter.

In 1959 we bought a house in Calgary, and moved there at the end of June. In 1968 we built a new home at 1832 - 47 Street S.E., and live there in winter. We spend our summers on the farm.

THE FREDRICH WELCH FAMILY, by Reinhardt Welch — Fredrich Welch was born in Lutz, Poland of German parents. He was conscripted into the Russian Army. He was assigned to the military band and played the clarinet.

He came to Edmonton in 1911. When he arrived there everything he owned was stolen except for $5.00 he had in his pocket. His clothes, his music, and his clarinet were all gone.

He worked in an iron factory along with his brother Rudolf. They decided to try for some other form of employment. Fred and Rudolf walked to Stettler, where they found work on a farm. Fred came to this area and took up a homestead on SE 22-33-15. He sold this homestead to H. Ruhl and moved to a half section purchased from Bosemans, which is still the home place occupied by Reinhardt.

In 1917 Fred married Florentine Schulz of Bashaw. Florentine was born at Steinbach, Manitoba. Of this union three sons were born, Arthur, Reinhardt and Henry, and two daughters who passed away in infancy.

Arthur married Edna Boehlke. They had two daughters Arleen and Elaine. Edna passed away in 1967. Several years later Arthur married Emily Kaminski.

Reinhardt married Edna Graham. They have two sons and three daughters, Gerald, Beverly, Judy, Stanley and Shelley.

Henry married Margaret Gould. They had three sons and two daughters, Alan, Douglas, Kenneth, Peggy and Betty.

Fred passed away in March 1941 and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Scapa. When he became ill the roads were passable only with a team and sleigh. He was warmly wrapped in blankets and his son Arthur and his wife Flora started the trip to the hospital in Hanna. At Rudolf Fecho's they changed teams and continued on into Hanna.

Flora is still living and resides at the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. Arthur lives in Calgary, Henry at Red Deer and Reinhardt farms the home farm at Scapa.

In the early years teachers and travelling missionaries often boarded with us.

MR. and MRS. RUDOLF [illegible] — Our original birthplace was Kolk, Russia. As a single young man I landed in New York City in 1909 and found work in the railroad shop, grinding brakes. The future looked brighter in Michigan where I worked as a moulder in a Stove Foundry — piece work which meant hard work for six to eight dollars a day. I drifted from here to Wisconsin to a logging camp — piling lumber on a steamer.

My brother Carl, who had already come to Canada, encouraged me to come to Canada. In 1911 I arrived in Edmonton. I had not seen my brother Carl for about two years. I was such a grown-up man that Carl did not recognize me. He walked back and forth for a length of time and then gave up, thinking that his brother hadn't come. I then made our reacquaintance with tears of joy and laughter. I found work in Edmonton at Edmonton Iron Works at forty cents per hour. During this time, 1911, I filed for my homestead in Scapa, the S.E. 23-33-15, the southwest quarter was my pre-emption. The land was rolling with many many rocks which we cleared by hand. Transportation was only with horse and wagon and of course there were no roads.

My wife Bertha, along with Mrs. Adolf Wesch and Mrs. Bill Wesch, arrived in Edmonton in 1913. On November 14, 1913, we were united in marriage. During this time I had learned some English but did not have the opportunity for school as there was no money. My wife, of course, did not know any English. She could only go to the store and show the clerk what we wanted to buy, or I would do the buying. We moved to the Scapa district, as there were no buildings on our homestead we lived with Carl. Our first home was started in 1914, two rooms, 12 feet by 24 feet, made of wood. We depended on our gardens and milk so we purchased a roan cow from Godfried Hinder near Delia. As we slowly progressed we were able to get five horses, a walking plough and later a sulky plough and wagon from Stettler.

To prove our Title for Homestead we broke thirty acres of land. We dug a well in the slough for water and later a well by the house. As years advanced we had a

well dug by Henry Pregitzer. Our coal supply came from Garden Plain where there was also a store and post office. Our food consisted of homemade bread, sauerkraut, potato soup, prairie chicken and wild duck.

We well remember September, 1914, when our home was blessed with our first child. At the same time we had a very heavy snowfall but winter did not set in; after the snow disappeared we dug up soil ready for our garden in the spring. Besides farming I worked off and on in Stettler for a few years. My wife would attend to the home duties; she had much fear alone because she did not know the English language and could speak only German.

In 1918 there was a flu epidemic and much sorrow came to us when our second child Millie passed away — there was no way of getting any medical help or medicine. Two years later another baby girl passed away. The graves of Millie and Ida are on the homestead on the southwest corner of the southwest quarter, beside the fence. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange have a child buried on their land too.

Our first farm tragedy occurred when lightning killed two of our horses as well as a colt. We saw it happen but couldn't do anything. In 1922 our nice two-roomed house was destroyed by fire. We were visiting the Steinbrecker family and suddenly we saw the house go up in flames. We were so thankful that we had our children with us. The neighbors rushed to help fight the fire, but all we saved was a black cast iron frying pan which we still use today. We started to build anew in 1923, a five-roomed house with a full basement. Brothers Carl and Fred and Mr. Steinbrecker, maybe others which we can't remember at this age, helped us build our house.

With much courage we worked on and soon we were able to buy our first dozen chickens from Steinbreckers. Later we raised at least one hundred of our own, and turkeys and geese every year. We had much hail. One time we were hailed out completely and also lost about thirty of our turkeys. By then we were milking about eight cows and selling the cream for what we could get, about three to five dollars for a five gallon can.

My first overshoes were gunny sacks wrapped around the shoes. I poured water over them to freeze the sacks, so my feet would not get cold when I set out with horses and sleigh for Hanna or Stettler.

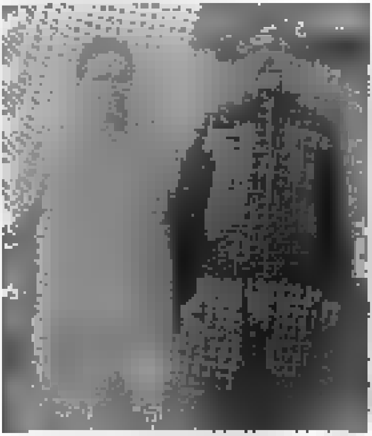
Garden Plain had a Stampede in 1920 or 1921. Charlie Lohrmann asked if I would loan a horse for a bucking contest. I did. The horse won first prize and we got a valuable ten dollars.

About 1918 Hudson Bay School opened for students. Our son Walter says that in 1925 an itch epidemic was in the school and Dad went to the pasture and picked white sage for medicine. We bathed and steamed in it; results were no itch — something did the trick.

Our home was blessed with three boys and six girls. Two of the girls died as infants. Our eldest child Mary is living in Okotoks, Walter in Calgary, Helen in Calgary, Emma at Carbon; Dan is farming in the Dowling district, Ben is farming in the Spondin district and Doreen is in Calgary.

We left the homestead about the year 1926 and moved to Delia where we took up a farm with a section of land. We thought we would make a better living with grain and animal farming, but in 1932 wheat was only eighteen cents per bushel. In 1940 we moved back to the Dowling district, where a son Dan is now farming. We have now retired to Calgary. A few years ago we celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary, with sixty-two of the family in attendance. We are happy living in Calgary but still keep a soft spot in our hearts for the life on the farm, remembering the many friends and kindnesses shown us there, and the good times as well as the bad.

We now see the coming generation living in their comfortable homes. May they continue to prosper and make Canada a great nation. Good luck . . .


Mr. and Mrs. William Weich

WILLIAM WEICH, ***By Matilde Weich*** — William (Bill) Weich was born in Valenian, Russia, on August 1, 1880. He was the oldest of a family of five boys and three girls.

In 1910 he married Matilde Fecho, also of Valenian.

In 1912 he immigrated to Canada, arriving in Edmonton. There he worked with some of his brothers for the summer and then later came to Castor. He filed on a homestead west of Scapa, the N.E. 22-33-15, building on it a sod house for a home.

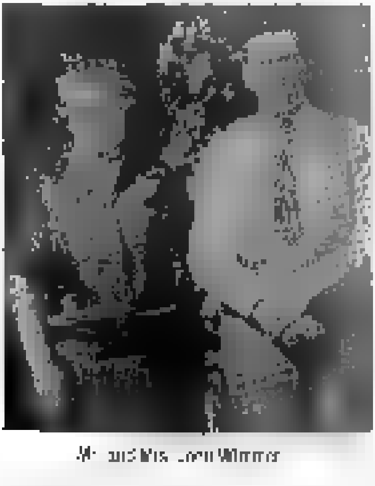
In 1913 his wife and two children, Rudolph and Ida, came to Canada. On the journey over two-year-old Rudolph became ill and died. He was buried at sea.

They lived in a sod house for three years and then built a frame house.

There were three more children born in Canada, Christine, Ernest and Herbert.

Bill Weich passed away in 1944, and Matilde is now living in Hanna.

Ida Gordula had nine children and now lives in Calgary. Christine Mansell had a family of six and is living in Red Deer. Ernest married, farmed the home place until selling to Bruce Miller in 1975. They now live in Hanna. Herbert is married and has three boys and also lives in Hanna.


Mr. and Mrs. John Wimmer

JOHN WIMMER, ***By Herbert Wimmer*** — John Wimmer was born in Hungary in 1884 and immigrated to Canada with his parents in the spring of 1905, arriving in Regina. Three months later, after purchasing two horses, a wagon, stove, beds and other household supplies, they travelled by trail to Lacombe. From there they travelled by covered wagon to their homestead in the district of what now is Castor. Machinery and supplies were purchased in Stettler and freighted to the homestead by horse and wagon until 1909, when the C.P.R. constructed the railway from Stettler to Castor.

John was at home with his parents until he was about fourteen years old, and then had various jobs, one of which was firing a steam engine breaking land in the area. He also spent some time working for the C.P.R. in the roundhouse at Castor.

In April of 1912 he filed on a homestead, the N.E. 13-33-15, near the Graystone Post Office. For the next three years he worked at homestead duties in the winter and at various other jobs in the summer. In 1916 he started to break some of the land, and the following year he moved to the homestead permanently. The lumber and all other supplies were hauled from Castor by team and wagon.

In 1918 he bought a new Model T Ford car for less than $800.00. As it was one of the first cars in the district, it was used on various occasions to take someone who was sick or injured to a doctor.

The fall of 1919 being wet, and winter coming early, threshing was not completed. The bundles were then hauled onto stacks to be threshed in the spring. After seeding in 1920, he worked as a fireman for Chris Lohrmann, threshing the stacks. Mr. Lohrmann was the separator man; he hired the water man and fireman and the farmer supplied the coal and bundle pitchers. Some days two or three farms were threshed this way. They started in the area just east of Scapa and finished north of Garden Plain on the first of July.

During these years the winter's supply of coal was usually purchased from the Kane or Bradshaw coal mines in the Garden Plain district. When the depression years of the thirties came and money was very scarce, some farmers would mine their own coal on the George Wright farm. The soil was stripped with a team and fresno or slip, and then the coal was broken loose with a walking plow. Then it was loaded into a wagon and hauled home

In November, 1928, John Wimmer was married to Anna Podetz, who had come to Canada from Hungary in the spring of the same year. They had one son, Herbert, born in 1931.

In later years more land was purchased and they continued to live on this farm until they retired to Hanna in 1964. Anna Wimmer passed away in 1973 and John still resides at his home in Hanna.

HERBERT WIMMER — I was born in Hanna in 1931. I attended Hudson Bay school until grade five, then transferred to Scapa where I remained until grade ten. My main means of transportation to school was a bicycle. After finishing school I remained home with my parents to help Dad with the farming.

As I was fond of old time music, I played the accordion with the Scapa orchestra for about fifteen years.

In 1964 I was married to Annabelle Hessel who was employed at the Royal Bank in Hanna. My parents then retired to Hanna, and we built a new home on the original homestead, which we still operate.

We have two children, Brian and Karen, who are attending school in Hanna.

THE H. A. BURT FAMILY, By Olive Burt Boehlke and Earl Burt — Harvey Burt was born at Marshfield, Missouri in 1884. In 1909 he married Rebecca Kennedy at St. Paul, Kansas, where she had been born in 1883. For a time they operated the dining room of a hotel, with Dad doing the cooking and Mother waiting on tables. Then Dad found a job running an elevator in Apache, Oklahoma, and worked there until he came to Canada.

Like many others, Dad had read literature which seemed to promise homesteaders a fortune within a few years. Many people who came planned to spend only a short time in Canada and then return, but instead, circumstances forced them to stay.

In the spring of 1912 our parents came to Canada, along with the Jackson families who settled north of Castor. They told of reaching Calgary on a cold and snowy day. Mother had worn a sweater when she left the heat of Oklahoma, never thinking she would need the coat packed away in her trunk. They went to Delburne and spent a few weeks with Mother's aunt and uncle, the Tom Stair family, and then went on to Castor where they lived with the Jacksons. They also spent some time with the Slemp family of Fleet, who had come up from Oklahoma some time earlier.

By September of 1912, Dad had filed on a homestead in the Garden Plain area, eighteen miles north of Hanna. Mother tells of living in a tent the next spring until the sod shack was completed. Tragedy almost struck when Dad, burning the grass for a fire guard, lost control of it and almost burned the tent and all their belongings.

The next three years were spent between Castor and the homestead. Each time they moved to Castor to work, they took all their possessions by team and wagon, with a cow tied behind. In the spring and fall Dad worked for Lewis Fuller north of Castor. He was able to get more work out of Fuller's big Rumley than anyone else, and could tell stories about threshing as many as sixty days a year, sometimes in thirty below zero weather.

The Harvey Burt family, 1942. Harvey Sr., Augusta, Bill, Mrs. Burt, Earl, Olive, Harvey Jr., Jim Boehlke and Gilbert Tucker. Sitting: Agnes and Elsie.

Dad worked one winter at Kane's mine near Garden Plain. Mr. Kane provided a house for the family and Mother cooked for the miners who lived upstairs. Anyone coming along could have a meal; breakfast was 25¢, dinner 30¢ and supper 35¢. I am sure that there were pancakes and baking powder biscuits for breakfast, as that is a memory from when we were small. Mother's pancakes were the best anyone ever tasted.

The first crop was seeded by hand. Perhaps Dad had help as the E. E. Slemp family lived with us from April, 1914, until their sod shack was completed. By this time, Dad had added a frame room onto our sod shack, but it must have been crowded, with Jane, Edgar and Fred sleeping in the kitchen, and Mother, Dad, Agnes and Olive sleeping in the other room.

The Burts and the Slemps remained the best of friends all through their lives. These two families, along with a close neighbor, the Bodenmons, hayed together for a number of years with a buck and hay slide. Young Bill Burt thought the slide was for other things besides haying, only to find out differently when he picked up a four-inch sliver one Sunday afternoon.

In the early days, mail was hauled from Castor to Garden Plain. Someone from our district would pick it up there and leave the neighbors' mail at Stamp's. The Burts would send Olive and Bill to get their mail and Mother would wonder if they would ever get back home with it.

The money Dad had made by working out was used to buy cattle, horses and chickens. We milked cows, and Mother often drove a wild team of horses eighteen miles down the old "Snake Trail" to Hanna, to sell butter and eggs. The family record book notes that on March 16, 1916, she sold forty-four pounds of butter at 45c a pound to Gibb, Brown and Odell, "where service tells".

By 1918, we had added another room to our house, and as there always seemed to be room for one more, Miss Hoar, the teacher at Hudson Bay school, boarded with us for a while.

In the spring of 1923, the farm was rented for a year, and we moved to Hanna. Dad ran the Terwilliger elevator, and Mother went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for an operation. Before she returned to Hanna, she visited with her family in St. Paul, Kansas.

By 1925, the C.N.R. line was built from Hanna to Warden, and the new town of Scapa was born. The UGG built an elevator and hired Dad to operate it. He stayed on with that company until 1943. Elis Malm built the first store. J. B. Mackenzie operated the post office, the Schneckes had a garage with a dance hall above it, Mr. Orten had a blacksmith shop and Art Clark put up a large general store.

About 1926, more was added to the Burt house and a new barn was built. Two dances were held in the big loft. In 1927, the farm was sold to Pahls, who had just arrived from Romania. Later Henry Welch purchased it and now the buildings are vacant.

We moved to a two-roomed house on the Chris Dunkle farm, west of Scapa. That winter we spent three months visiting relatives in Kansas and Oklahoma. What a thrill it was to travel by train. Only now can we realize the extra work our relatives had, feeding and making up beds for the seven of us, for most of the homes we visited had families of the same size. We brought back many happy memories of family reunions and so much kindness. Back home the next spring, a new nine-roomed house was built.

In the spring of 1929, a community committee was formed in Scapa, and by May of that year, lumber was unloaded to construct a community hall. Mother was on the first committee and both Mother and Dad gave many hours of volunteer work to keep things going.

Scapa enjoyed many picnics and sports days, and a baseball team was organized. Dad was a great sportsman, enjoying baseball, hunting ducks and geese, basketball and hockey, in that order. Dad had played ball in Kansas, and became a coach for the Scapa team, which made a name for itself throughout the area. Even though times were hard in the thirties, the coach made sure that there was occasionally a new ball and bat in the bag, and that there was transportation available for the players. After Dad's death, the family thought it fitting that a Harvey Burt Memorial Trophy be awarded in the area.

The thirties were the years of depression, of sand storms and no rain. Nevertheless, Mother managed to grow a garden which not only fed the family, but supplied treats for the neighbors. The government shipped in car loads of apples, dried fish, canned herring and clothing that Dad distributed from the elevator in Scapa. The supplies probably came from people no better off than ourselves, but

they had a surplus of these goods, and we appreciated them. Cold and hungry people forget about language barriers!

Although Dad did not have many years of formal schooling, he felt it was important that his family have the chance of an education. Even though times were hard, Olive and Bill attended Olds Agricultural School in the thirties. The family still wonders about Dad: how could he figure out those hard fractions in his head?

The elevator closed in the winter of 1934 so Dad bought grain near Fort Saskatchewan and returned home in the spring. His cheque was seventy-five dollars a month, which was very good at that time. He always managed to help a neighbor or two with his generosity. One man returned the money he had been loaned nearly twenty years later, and was still grateful for the favor.

Before this time, Dad had farmed with the help of many hired men, but now there were three boys growing up in the family, so more farm land was rented and bought. It seemed as though more grain was put in than was taken off, but we continued to farm. We built a new barn and bought a Massey Harris tractor from J. B. Mackenzie. By the late thirties, crops were better and we bought a threshing machine. Earl and Emil Kammerle ran the outfit, and some day Earl will write a book entitled "Experiences with Emil", the best entertainer of any day.

The forties brought a lot of changes to the family. The war took Earl overseas. Agnes, Olive and Bill married and had families of their own. Harvey took over the farm and Mother and Dad operated the store in Scapa. They sold it to Lysters, and retired to Edmonton in 1948. Mother passed away in 1951, after many operations. She had had many years of sickness but was always cheerful. Dad died in Lacombe in 1962.

Like many other homesteaders, Mother and Dad came to this country with dreams of making a fortune and returning home. However, this land became their home and the other hardy homesteaders took the place of the family they had left behind. They had their ups and downs with hail and poor crops, but they always provided well for their own family. As Dad was a carpenter, blacksmith and businessman, his extra income helped out on the farm. Mother and Dad were strong community workers, serving on the school board and on other committees. They were good neighbors who kept their door open for hospitality or help. Old friends will remember the many hours spent playing cards.

Throughout the years, Dad liked to take the whole family travelling. One of our biggest adventures was a two-week trip to Banff and Lake Louise in the new 1928 touring Chev. After Dad's retirement, the folks travelled through the States many times.

Harvey and Rebecca had seven children. One baby girl was buried in St. Paul, Kansas, and Ruby, age one month, was buried on the homestead in 1917.

In 1929 Agnes married Gilbert Tucker, who died in 1948. Later she married Otto Thiel and they live at Ponoka. She had three children from her first marriage, Harvey, Jean and Frank.

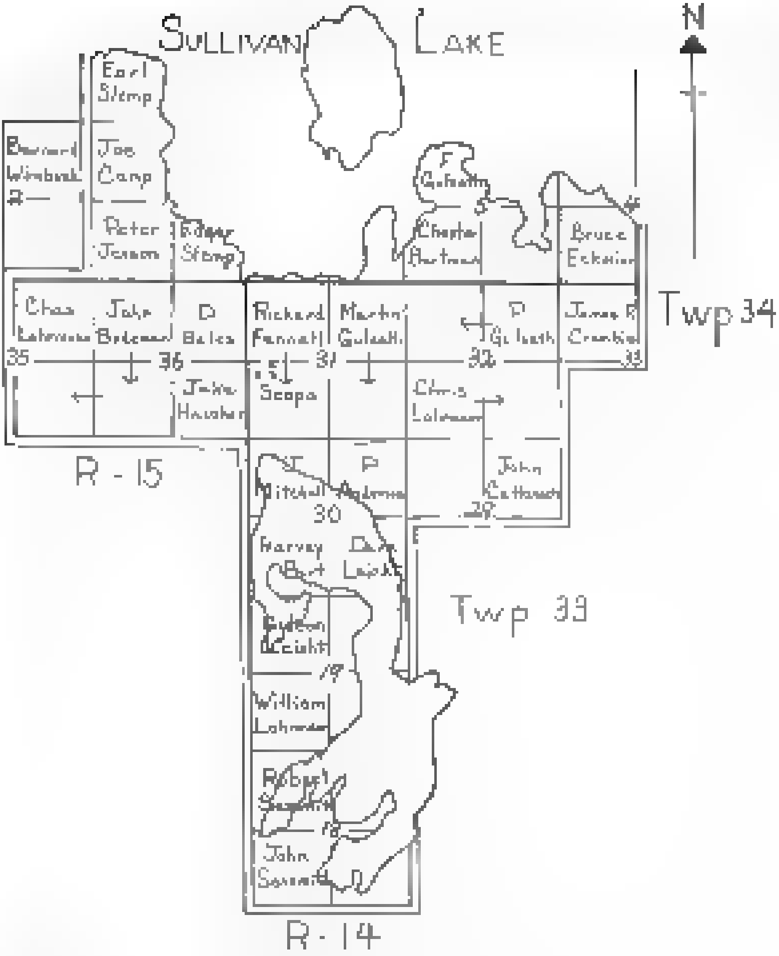
Olive married Jim Boehlke in 1936. They farmed at Endiang and later he became an engineer on the C.N.R. They retired to Kelowna where Jim passed away in 1969, and where Olive still resides. Verna and Velma are their children.

Bill married Augusta Boehlke in 1937, farmed at Scapa and then retired to Balfour, B.C. They have one son, Bob.

Harvey married Gladys Kalenith in 1944. They farmed at Scapa, then moved to Edmonton and are now living in Red Deer. They have three children, Mary, Larry and Carol.

Earl married Elsie Dusschneck in 1942. Their children are Sheila, Garry and Diane. They still farm at Craigmyle.

SCAPA No. 4457



HOMESTEADER	ONE TIME OWNER OR RENTER WHO LIVED ON THE LAND	PRESENT OWNER OCCUPANT
SE ¼ 1-34-15 Edgar Stemp Jake Haucher	George Haucher Carl Smith	Gus Matthais Leo Erion
SW ¼ 19-33-14 William Lohmann	Ernest Hassel	S. Jabs (Acreage)
SW ¼ 32-33-14 Chris Lohmann	Jack Leicht	Hugh Riddle
NE ¼ 32-33-14 P. Galseth	John Cattanach	David Cattanach
NW 31-33-14 Richard Fennell		Arthur A. Walch

SCAPA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4287

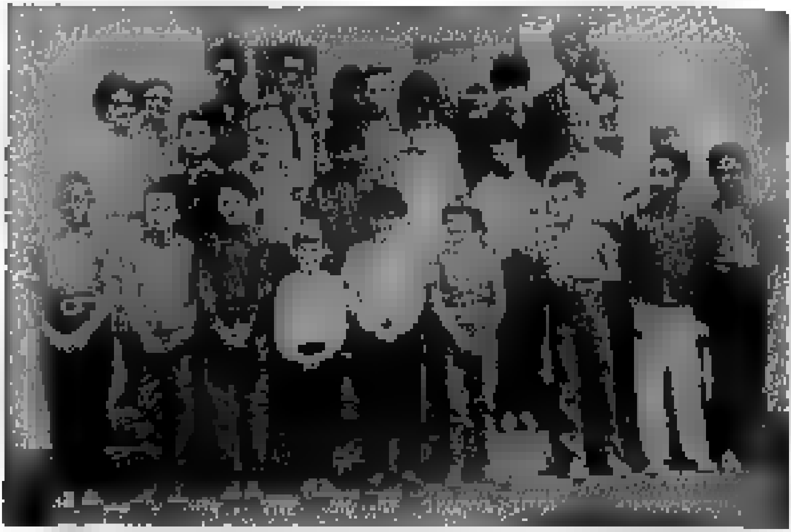
By Edna Welch

The Scapa school district was organized on January 12, 1929. Trustees were Eli Malm, Chairman; E.E. Stemp, Secretary, and Bill Hein. The first classes were held in Malm's warehouse; Helen Jensen taught til the end of June and Mrs. Malm did the janitor work.

The contract to build the school was awarded to Askren and McArthur of Hanna. Mr. Malm paid for the land the school was to be built on, and was later repaid. The new building was completed for the fall term of 1929. Miss Colleen Cameron was hired to teach for the ensuing year at a salary of one thousand dollars per year. Rudy Hein did the janitor work for eight dollars a month

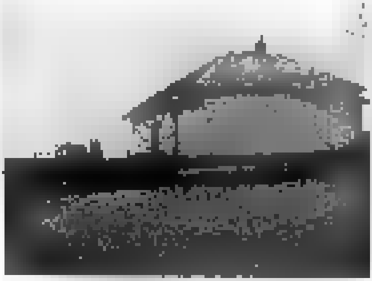
First Year of School, Spring 1929, held in Malm's warehouse. Back Row, left to right: Horace Hill, Lavina Hein, Helen Jensen, Hedwig Hein. Second Row: Arvid Malm, Margaret Malm, Ossie Schielke, Haskell Hill, Kathleen Fennell, Ruby Fennell. Third Row: Arthur Kemp, Mona Kemp, Teddy Leicht, Billy Leicht. Others unknown

Scapa School 1929 (Fall). First Row, left to right are Marg Malm, Ronald Hein, Gus Schielke, Arvid Malm, Ted Leicht. Second Row: Ed Hein, Kathleen Fennell, Bill Leicht, Ruby Fennell. Third Row: Lillian Schielke, Hedwig Hein.



Scapa School 1968 (last year of school). Back Row, left to right: Wayne Festo, Alan Steinbrecker, Joe Annas, Judy Welch, Vernon Steinbrecker, Aileen Welch, Rhonda Sauer, Barry Harvey, Wayne Johnston. Second Row: Mrs. McQuarry, Rob Allan, Doug Veale, Elsie Wolfart, Elaine Welch, Adele Allan, Barry Annas, Susan Schumann. Front Row: Wilfred Albright, Donald Veale, Gary Chidley, Laurie Brunner, Debbie Chidley, Lynne Veale, Tim Annas, Robert Steinbrecker, Stan Welch.

Lou Schumann, school bus



Moving Scapa teacherage to Youngstown to be used as a teacherage

As the depression deepened, teachers' salaries decreased to five hundred dollars a year. Money became so scarce it was feared that the school would have to close; but somehow enough became available to pay the teacher's salary.

In 1937 the schools in the area amalgamated to form Sullivan Lake School Division No. 9. Because of declining population and decreased enrollments, Corrine, Garden Plain, Wiese, Crow Hill, Hudson Bay, Annesheim and Chain Lakes were forced to close. Some children from the eastern school districts were bussed to Netherby, some from the west went to Endiang, and the remainder attended Scapa, where grades one to twelve were taught. The basement of the school was converted for use as a high school room.

To accommodate the larger enrollment, a new three-roomed school was built at Scapa in 1955. The original school became a teacherage. But by 1968

enrollment had again declined and to cut costs the school was closed and the children bussed to Hanna. George Burns and Friedel Haessel drove the two busses for many years.

One of the highlights of the school year was the annual Christmas concert, attended by people from far and near. The children waited excitedly for Santa Claus, while the adults tried to guess who was playing the part. Another popular event was the year-end picnic and sports day. It was in the country schools that the children learned the basics of baseball and hockey; possibly the closing of the small schools helped to bring about the decline of these sports, and the end of the good games we used to enjoy watching every Sunday. It seems that with the closing of the schools the community loses much of the feeling of togetherness which binds it.

School bus driven by George Burns 1967-68.

Some of the teachers at Scapa were Helen Jensen, Colleen Cameron, Louise Wade, Vic Trueman, Caroline Reid, Elizabeth Bardseth, Annie Murell, Charlie Mills, Enos Lundgren, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Mrs. Ethel Tangyes, Mabel Anderson, Doreen Lynden, Jo McCullough, Edna J. Welch, Larry Schulthess, Wayne Johnson, Roger Humbke, Shirley Golby, Mrs. McQuarry, Mrs. Davidson, Ralph Ringdahl, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mr. C.O. Tuttle, Blanche Coutts, Miss Ambury, Don Pound, Jack McClaren and J. Meehan.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY LINES

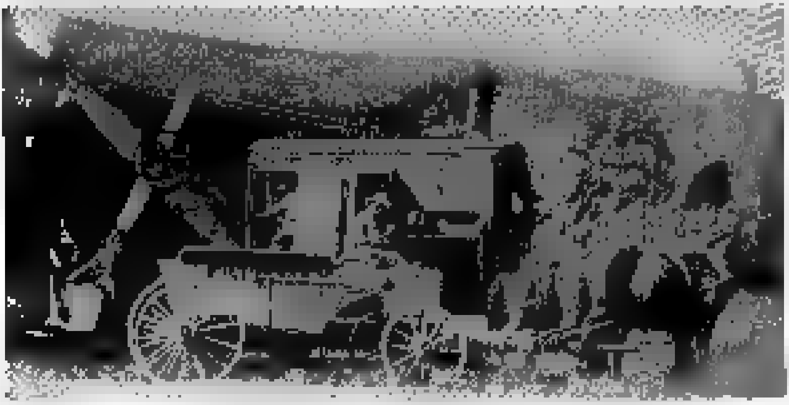
By Edna Welch

In the early twenties there were rumors of a railway to be built from Hanna to Warden. Finally, in 1924, approval was given for the construction of the line and the contract was awarded to Bryson and Sons. Construction began in 1925 and proceeded from Warden to Hanna. When the line came close to Scapa, Mrs. Harvey Burt contracted to cook for the small camp of workers, and began in June, 1925.

By October 8, 1925, the Jackson grading outfit had prepared the road bed as far as Endiang, and by the end of the year steel had been laid as far as Scapa, and for the first time farmers were able to ship their grain by rail.

Railroad Camp

Crew building railway west of Hanna. Hjalmar and Chris Wase are in the third row back, towards the right, wearing wide brimmed hats.



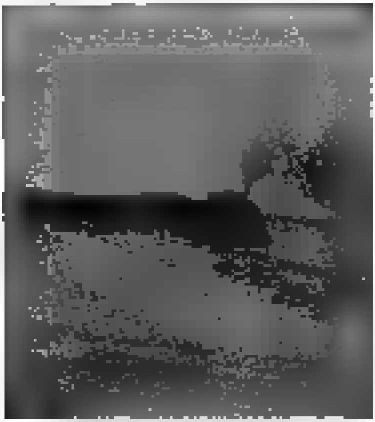
C.N.R. Construction, Dowling, Sid Holloway

Railway Building Crew

Building Spondin Sub

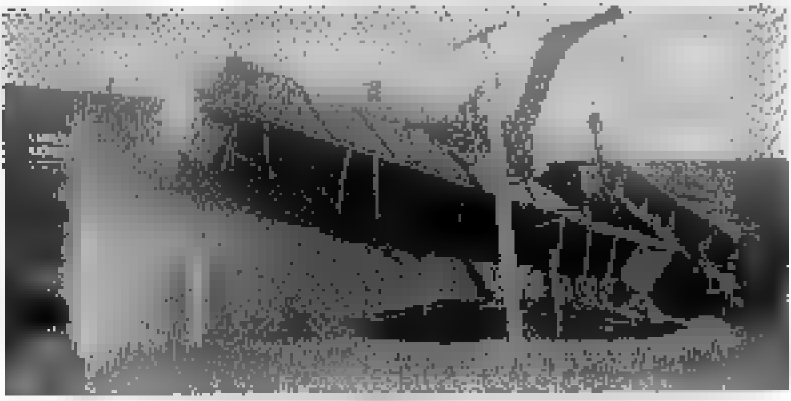
On November 23, 1926, the last spike was driven on the Hanna-Warden line. The crew on the first train were Engineer, Mr. Bigelow; Fireman, H.D. Scott; Conductor, Mark Canning, and Brakemen, Ross McLean and James Curry. Effective January 2, 1927, tri-weekly service began from Mirror to Hanna and back. With the coming of the railway, small townsites were laid out along the line: In the area covered by this book, were Scapa and Dowling.

The year 1929 saw the start of construction on the Scapa-Spondin sub. Steel was stockpiled on Mrs. Fennell's farm in August, 1929. Mr. Bridges came as manager of the material yard in 1930. Mr. Morrison, a railway contractor, moved his outfit in to work on the grade in May. The previous year a railroad grading outfit owned by a Mr. Owens from Ohio had completed one mile of grade.

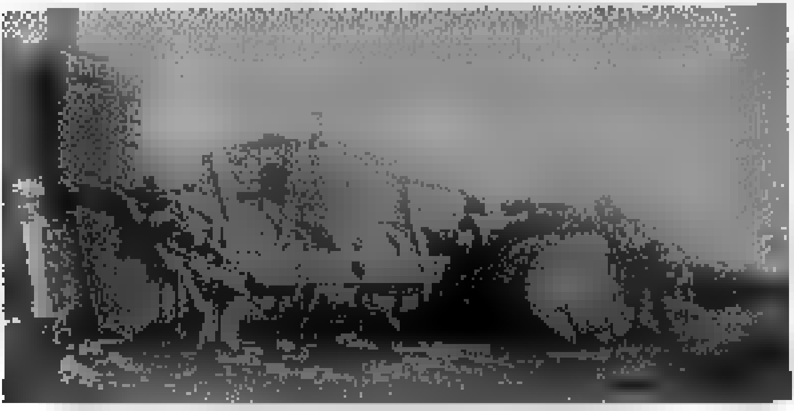


Steam Engine Tarna, Warden Line, 1949

The original station. Joe Cusp, telegraph operator on right, and Dan MacKenzie



Train Wreck — August 1949, three miles south of Scapa



Train Wreck — 1950, two or three miles north of Hanna

In November, 1930, preparation to lay steel east began, with E.W. Graham in charge. Many local men earned extra money by hiring on with the various contractors and later by working as section men. The laying of the steel was completed by February, 1931. According to a news item in the Hanna Herald, 'Miss Larson of Hemaruka drove the golden spike.'

The telegraph line to Hemaruka was completed June 11, 1931. J.M. Culp acted as telegraph operator for a short while. Mrs. Marie Lenore operated the cook car for the construction workers, and no doubt the men appreciated her wonderful cooking.

The villages along the Scapa-Spondin sub were Garden Plain, Spondin and Hemaruka. Garden Plain boasted a store, two elevators and a few homes. Spondin, a little larger, had a store, elevators, a school, a creamery and a dance hall, and in later years a curling rink. Hemaruka was the only village along the line to have a hotel. Once in a while the section crews stopped there and returned home a little worse for it.

The plan of the railroad company had been to operate trains from Hanna through Scapa to Hemaruka, and eventually extend the line into Saskatchewan, but the depression put an end to that idea. However, trains did run quite regularly to haul grain from the elevators.

The right-of-way had not been fenced off so that farmers could pasture it. So two men would ride the cow catcher on the engine to open the gates between the fields, and the speeder would follow the train to close them again. Some farmers living along the line resented the track running through their property, and made things difficult. One time the section crew discovered that a rail had been removed from the track. Another time they found a coyote chained to a rail. Ties were often stolen; and if a section crew travelled the line to open gates before the train was due, someone would close them before the train arrived.

Both the east and north lines had section foremen and four or five section men stationed at Scapa and Dowling.

The Spondin sub was abandoned some time ago; the steel and ties were removed in 1976. It is rumored that the Hanna-Warden line will also be abandoned. The building of these branch lines meant the end of isolation and long hauls to town for the pioneers; those who remember the excitement of the railway coming through feel that their abandonment is a breach of faith with our forefathers. Is this progress?

SCAPA

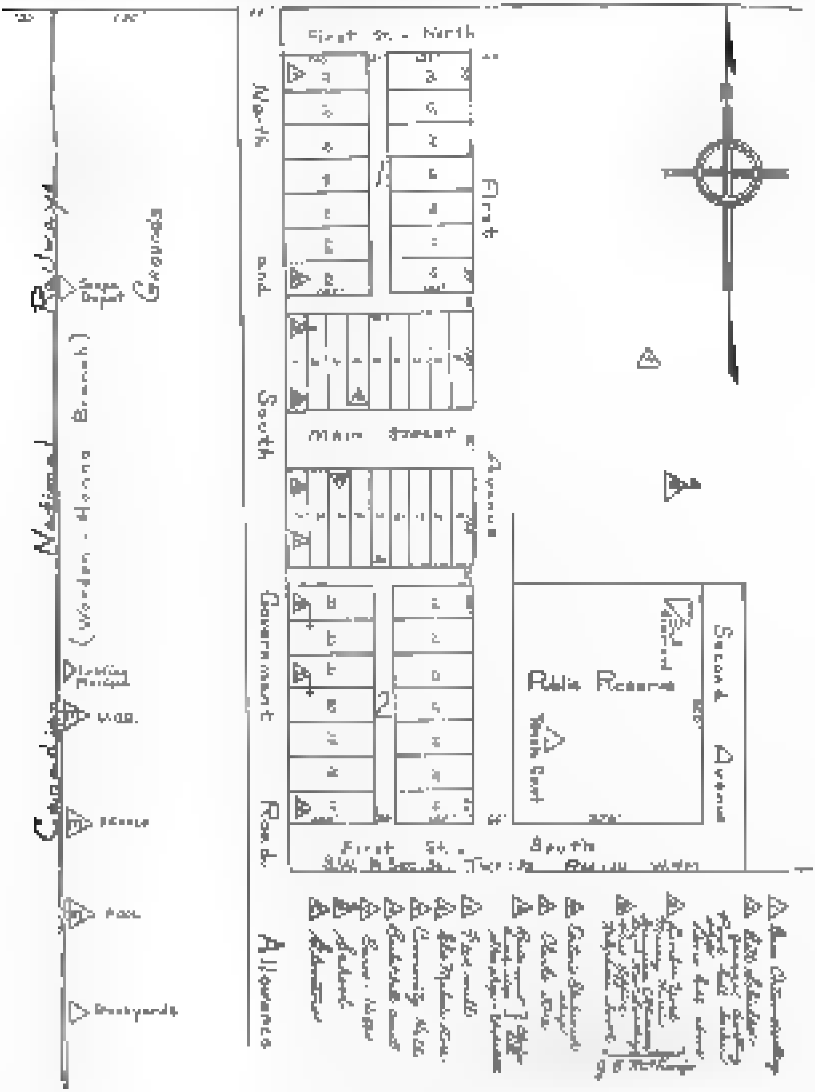
By Edna Welch

With the coming of the railroad in 1926, four lots and the sites for three elevators were surveyed in the hamlet of Scapa. Construction of the U.G.G. elevator began in November of that year and by the end of December Harvey Burt was loading grain to be shipped out. The Home elevator, later Searle, was built in 1928 and in operation by September of that year. Newspaper reports indicate that Joe Camp hauled rock and W.P. Glenn supplied gravel for the foundation of the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator which opened in 1928, with Mr. Louis Schumacher as agent.

Other men who bought grain at the three elevators over the years were Lyd Newman, George Wahl, Lovell Baxter, Mr. Wilson, Ray Bell, Art Welch, Herman Stamp, Richard Zeamer, George Burns, Bernie Wade, Vern Schmetz, Don Leahy; the present operator is Fred Harvey.

Ellis Malm opened the first store in Scapa on August 13, 1926, and operated it until his death in 1933. His wife Thyra, with the help of her two children, spent long

hours delivering gas and oil to farmers, picking up supplies, and working in the store and the house. The business was a general store in every way; it carried a stock which met most of the needs of the people in the surrounding area.



Scope — 1925 - 1930

Mrs. Malm sold the store in 1942, and since then it has had many owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound, Mr. and Mrs. George Burns, and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer.

Malm's General Store 1927. Art Wigley in doorway.

Scapa spring thaw, 1920

Malm Store 1931.

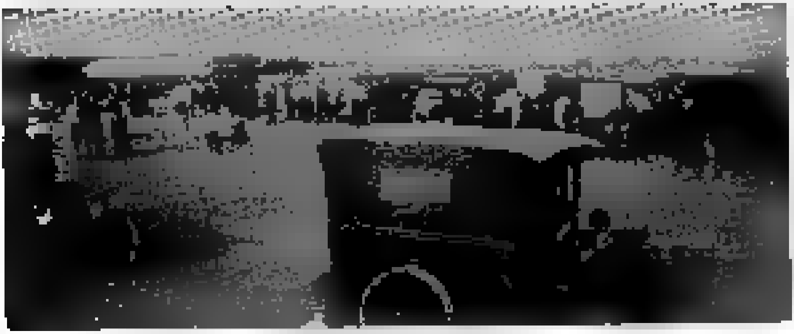
Scapa Store 1976

Mr. and Mrs. George Burns operated the store longer than anyone else; they also drove a school bus, had a trucking business, and did janitor work at the school. In addition George acted as Searle grain buyer for a time.

By December, 1920, J.B. Mackenzie had erected a store building with living quarters for his family, who helped him as he was also still farming. He operated the post office and also had a lumber yard, a machine agency and a saddlery. It was Mr. Mackenzie who suggested the name, Scapa, for the post office; originally the hamlet had been known as Fennellsville.

Scapa — Moving out in the 1930's

Scapa taken by Art Rains at night



Scapa First Annual Picnic 1925

There were two rural mail routes out of Scapa. One which went east to the Garden Plain area had sixty mail boxes. Service began November 1, 1926, with Jesse Hill as mailman. The other route ran west and south to the Wiese area.

In 1928 Mr. Dave Orton built a blacksmith shop. The next year William

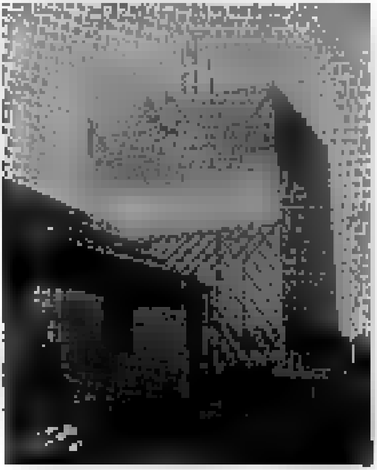
Schielke erected a large building which housed a garage, pool room, barber shop, and living quarters for the family. The top floor was used as a dance hall. In 1928 Mr. Schielke installed a gasoline-powered generator to supply electricity for the building.

A second general store was built by a Mr. Clark in 1926, and later purchased by Mr. Glenn. Subsequent owners were Albert Shaben, Bud Brooker and Harvey Burt. The building was eventually moved to Hanna and became a bowling alley.

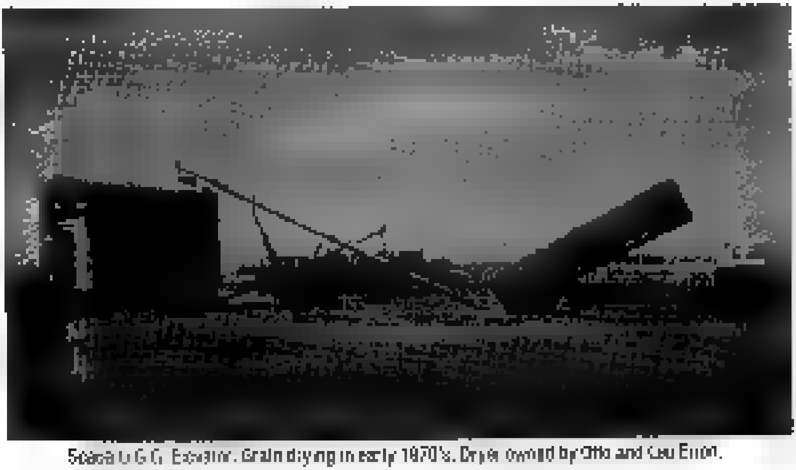
A restaurant was built in 1927 and operated by Charlie Hill and his family. When Jim and Olive Boehlke bought it they operated it as a restaurant and general store.

In 1929 Mr. Propokuk opened a butcher shop. The community hall was completed the same year. Mr. C.A. Coughlin addressed the gathering at the opening dance held on June 26, 1929.

Sidewalk superintendents, overseeing the addition to the Post Office: Mrs. Jack Leicht, Beulah Glenn, Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Knudson.



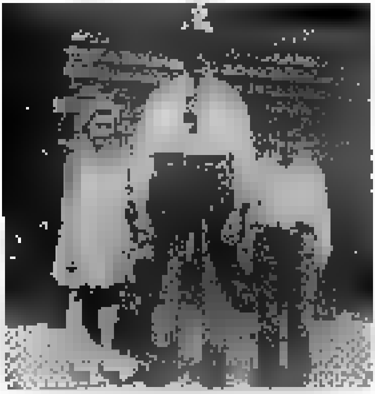
Constructing U.G.G. elevator at Scapa in 1925



Scapa U.G.G. Elevator. Grain drying in early 1970's. Dryer owned by Otto and Lou Erion.

At one time the little village of Scapa was a thriving community of two stores, a restaurant, a post office, garage, pool hall, blacksmith shop, barber shop, three elevators, and two schools. There were stock yards and tennis courts. There were teacherages and homes for the section crews. Now the population has dwindled to twelve; there is a store, the U.G.G. elevator, and the post office run by Fred and Elsie Harvey who took over from Mr. Mackenzie.

Scapa had various community organizations; the U.F.A. local was organized in 1929, with A.B. Hanson as president, C.A. Hill vice-president, and J.B. Mackenzie the secretary-treasurer. There was a Ladies' Aid and a Hall Committee. The only groups active today are the Ladies' Aid and the Athletic Association.


Elis Malm, Margaret and Arvid

ELIS MALM STORY, *By Margaret Malm Riddle* — Elis Malm emigrated from Sweden as a young man; he homesteaded six miles northwest of Scapa in 1912. From there he worked in the Endiang district; being a carpenter by trade he built many homes and schools. On November 27, 1920 he married Annie Williams, a Welsh lass. In 1922, a set of twins Margaret and Arvid were born at the Campbell farm. At that time my dad operated a general store just east of Endiang. When the railroad came through in 1925, Elis Malm opened up the first general store in Scapa, the Red & White. He also sold gas and oil and had a trucking business.

In 1932, my dad built a square box that fit on a two ton truck. In this day and age it would be called a camper or a motor home. Eight of us, four children and four adults, travelled out to Langley, B.C. camping along the way. Harvey Burt was in charge of the store for six weeks or more while we were gone.

Elis was an ardent sports fan and also had a lot to do with getting a new school built, as well as the community hall. The first school, known as the flour house or a warehouse, was used from January 22, 1929 until the end of June, with the former Helen Jensen being the first teacher.

In 1925, my mother died, leaving my dad to take care of the twins. In 1928 he married a Swedish girl, Thyra Ostlund. They were married only five years when my dad passed away suddenly. My mother continued to operate the store until 1942, when she sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Burk. Since then the store has changed hands many times; other owners were Mr. Harvey Burt, Mr. Lyssen, Mr. Pound, George Burns and Bob and Pat Fizer.

In 1941, Margaret married Bill Riddle. They had four children and live in Hanna.

Arvid married an English war bride, Eileen Greggains. They had two girls and live at Lake Louise where he is the post master.

My mother still lives at Riverside, California.

THE BURNS FAMILY — We arrived in Scapa from Nisku, Alberta in August, 1953, with our two boys, Garry and Pat. We took over as agent for the Searle Grain Company. When the new three-roomed school was built in 1954, we

Muller Trucking George Bros Truck

were janitors for awhile. We also started to drive the school bus bringing children to Scapa from surrounding areas where the smaller schools were closed due to small enrollments.

In 1960 we purchased the Scapa store from Mrs. L. Pound. About the time the Searle Grain Company sold their elevator, so we started general trucking. In 1964 the Pioneer Grain Company asked us to look after their elevators at Garden Plain and Spondin. The C.N.R. had discontinued service of the Scapa-Hemaruka line, and all grain from the elevators at Spondin and Garden Plain had to be trucked out; we took the contract for this work. In 1968 the Pioneer Grain Company moved their elevators by truck to Cereal. The Pool elevator at Garden Plain remained in operation until 1972, when it was torn down.

In 1974 we sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer. We lived on the Gaubrecht place for about six months and then moved to Hanna for a year. We continued to drive the school bus until 1976, when we retired after twenty-two years' service, and moved to Stettler.

In 1960 Garry married a local girl, Gene Viste. They and their two girls live in Sherwood Park. Pat married Verna Stenstand in 1968. They and their two children live in Hanna.

We enjoyed our years at Scapa and will never forget our friends there.

Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie, Scapa Post Office

J. B. MacKenzie, By Catherine Graham — In May 1914, Mrs. J.B. MacKenzie and her family of four, Catherine, Grace, Donald, and Nancy, left their home in Scotland to come to Canada to join Mr. MacKenzie in Calgary where he had built a new home for his family. He had sailed to Canada two years previous. We had crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the S.S. "Hesperian" which was later sunk during the War of 1914-1918. After a long trip on the train from Montreal we arrived in Calgary, which we liked very much. However, when the Great War broke out in August, work in the building trade had slackened off so much that it was hard to find enough work to survive on, so they looked into the idea that was being promoted at that time, settlers to open up the farmlands of Alberta. They were given a free homestead of 160 acres and they pre-empted another quarter of a section. The original farm, called "Willow Hill Farm", was two miles west of what is now the town of Scapa, and is now the property of Mr Erion.

Coming to Craigmyle by train on the C.N.R. from Calgary, Mrs. MacKenzie and her children were driven out by Mr. Tom Symington, her brother-in-law, with a team of horses and wagon he had purchased in Craigmyle on this trip. It was

pouring rain most of the way and the children were in the back of the wagon on a mattress with covers over them. We stopped at a farm then occupied by a family by the name of McCuish and they gave us more covers and my uncle a raincoat. We had not reached my uncle's home before nightfall and we were lost, and the horses being new ones didn't know their way home either. So we slept out on the prairie our first night, just over the hill, as it turned out in the morning, from my uncle's home which was later the Henry Ruhl place near where the little Lutheran Church west of Scapa was later built. Mackenzie built the pulpit used in the church when it was opened.

Other settlers in that area at that time were Andy Hansons, Steinbrekers, Welch, and Linkeys, the Glubrechts who used to bring milk to us and Mr. Glubrecht built a sod barn on my uncle's farm. Some of the bachelors were Joe Lidgett, Ernie Fletcher and Harry Cook, all of whom married later.

We stayed with our uncle as Mrs. Symington, Mrs. MacKenzie's sister, was away on a trip to Scotland. On her return about Christmas time we had to find a place to stay where we would be able to go to school, so we moved over to the Orlando School District on the other side of the Chain Lakes, where we rented a home near the school and boarded the school teacher, Miss Mayhew. By this time Mr. MacKenzie had joined the Army in which he served overseas for three years.

The brother of the man who owned the house we were living in at Orlando decided to marry the teacher boarding with us, and wanted the house to live in, so we had to move again. We went to live at Mr. Knudson's at Chain Lakes, where we went to school with his family and Mrs. MacKenzie kept house for us all. Later Mr. MacKenzie's sister came out from Toronto to marry Mr. Knudson and look after his family.

About 1917 Mrs. MacKenzie had Mr. Symington put a house on our own homestead, as they were planning to build the Hudson Bay school. Miss Hoare from Calgary was the first teacher in this school, others following were Miss Hamilton, Miss McLaughlin, Miss McTaggart, Mrs. McNeil, who later became Mrs. Harry Cook, Mary Orde, Mac Stemp, and Miss Woods. We had to go in all kinds of weather during the winters to attend school; there were no busses picking us up and no cars at that time.

The schools were also the centers of entertainment, with dances, box socials, and Christmas concerts being the order of the day with the local musicians providing the music on whatever instruments they could play, to the best of their ability. Church was also held in the schools during the summer months when student ministers would hold services. Later when the towns started up these affairs were held in the local halls.

As there was no doctors handy during these early days Mrs. MacKenzie assisted at the birth of a number of the children born around there about that time. Some coming to mind are Mildred Hanson and Edward Glubrecht.

We had one cow at this time, but in 1918 when the war was over, Mr MacKenzie came home, and started farming in earnest. That was the winter when Spanish influenza struck, and in some cases whole families were down with it and many lost their lives.

In 1925 Mr. MacKenzie opened the post office in Scapa, and we all had our turn at helping to carry on at home as he was still operating the farm. He also had a lumber yard and a machine agency.

Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie made their last move when he retired, going to Vancouver to live out their years. All the members of the family married and moved to different parts of the country.

Catherine taught school for a number of years around Hanna, then joined the

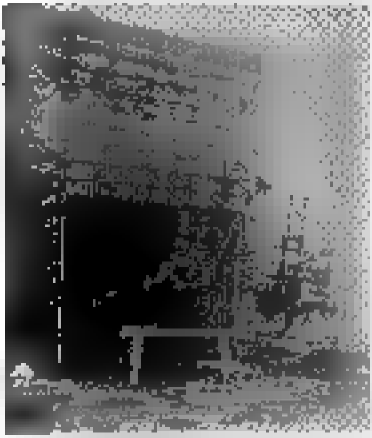
C.P.R. Princess boats on the west coast, and worked there for a number of years. She married the late Mr. E.W. Graham and now lives in Kelowna, B.C.

Grace married Dick "Duckie" Holmes of Endiang, where he operated a lumber yard, later moving to Black Diamond and Turner Valley, where Grace lost her life as the result of a gas explosion in their home. Dick is living now in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donald is living in Vancouver and Nancy, Mrs. George Scott, lives in Calgary.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

By E.R. Burt



Mr. Orion's Blacksmith Shop at Scapa

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Orion with their son Mervin came from their homestead south of Bassano to the village of Scapa in the spring of 1928. They built the first house in Scapa and the blacksmith shop.

Dave had apprenticed in Ontario and came west in the early 1900's. He worked in a shop at High River before taking up his homestead.

In those days the plow was an important implement. Dave was kept busy from early morning till late night hammering out plow shares, setting wagon wheels, etc. Winter was horse shoeing time. Blacksmithing is now a lost art and to watch Dave with a hot iron and a hammer was something else. I remember seeing Dave forge a piece of steel into cylinder teeth for a threshing machine. It came out looking like new. There were years when money was scarce and new repairs were out of the question, Dave came to the farmers' rescue.

The blacksmith shop was also a place to replay yesterday's ball game and catch up on all the unprintable news. The milk man usually got a political discussion going, many times almost missing his dinner.

With changing times the blacksmith shop was no longer needed and in the late thirties the Orion family moved to Hanna. Mrs. Orion was a great supporter of community activities and before the cafe opened many a weary traveller was sure to get a good meal at her home.

The Orion family have all passed away but are not forgotten. I am sure anyone who knew the spot where the blacksmith shop stood can still hear the hammer and anvil ringing. Some of Dave's tools can be seen today in the Hanna Museum.

WILLIAM P. GLENN GENERAL STORE

By Earl Burt

W.P. Glenn came to Scapa in 1927, with his wife and family, Beulah and Vernon. Beulah helped her dad with the store, while Vernon was still attending school. Some will remember the gas pump out front. It was antique even in those days, with the pump having to be cranked up and then down each time to bring up a gallon of gas.

Mr. Glenn took his share of eggs, butter, hides, etc. in trade for supplies and

groceries. Did you ever stop to think where all the butter and eggs went? I am sure that a lot of store keepers of the day, threw them out the back door! They could not refuse the old customer when times were bad.

Mr. Glenn kept a big black team of horses. This team was used for dragging and hauling coal from Garden Plain. Vernon was on his way home with a load of coal when the team got thirsty. They walked off the road, down to the creek and turned over the wagon and coal in the creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn were good community supporters. For health reasons, he moved out to New Westminster in the mid-thirties. He sold to Albert Shaben from Endiang.

Mr. Glenn passed away in 1965, and Vernon in 1975. Beulah married Shorty Warwick of Hanna and operates Warwick Ladies Wear. Her mother resides in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna.

CLARK STORE

By Earl Burt

Moving the Glenn Clark Store to Hanna to use as a bowling alley

Alf Clark and family came to Scapa in 1926 and built a General Store with living quarters in the rear. Alf had homesteaded in the Parr district south of Hanna, and had operated a furniture business in Hanna before coming to Scapa.

Alf did not stay long, but he left his mark in the district. He was a good businessman and a great supporter of new developments in the community. Alf also bought cattle and shipped them out by rail.

Clarks sold the store to their friend and neighbor from homestead days, W.P. Glenn. After leaving Scapa, they took up residence in Dawson Creek and went into the real estate business. Alf was also mayor of Dawson Creek for several years.

Mr. Clark has passed on, and Mrs. Clark resides in Vernon, B.C. Gerald is a prominent psychiatrist in Philadelphia and Shirley lives in Prince George, B.C.

SCAPA FEED MILL

By Earl Burt

In this modern day of skillfully prepared feeds, one would wonder how cattle and horses survived in years gone by.

Interestingly enough, even Scapa had a "Feed Mill" a few years ago. Charlie Hill and boys had an I.H.C. 10-inch grain grinder and a "Mogul" one-cylinder tractor. Tuesday was the day the farmers of the area brought grain into the village. The grain had to be shovelled into the hopper and then gravity-fed to the mill. With no elevator or augers, the shovel came to use. With only a west and north wall around the mill, one was glad to be kept working!

Things went well in the summer as the "Mogul" was a willing worker in warm weather. Winter time brought a lot of action though. The night before grinding, water was carried to fill tubs on a big cook stove. The next morning this was

heated until boiling, at which time it was hustled out to the 10 to 15 gallon tank of the Mogul. Horse blankets were laid on and the whole procedure halted until the oil and cast block warmed up. Armed with a two-foot long crank, the boys would attempt to turn it over. About an hour later, (with the advice from the natives!) a fire had been built around and under the tractor and it finally started. Once running, it never missed — how could it with only one cylinder?

Charlie operated the restaurant at the same time so he brought in a brisk business. His feed mill operation stopped one cold day in February though. After the water and fire treatment on the 'Mogul', a native came up with a can of ether which blew the head off! What a sad death for a faithful tractor that had done so much for the country in the beginning.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM SCHIELKE, By Hilda Schielke Talmage — William Schielke and his wife Mary were both born in Roumania. When Bill was five years old he came with his parents, seven brothers and two sisters, to North Dakota. At the age of seventeen, off to Canada he went. He did most of his travelling on a saddle horse; he loved horses and took great pride in keeping his team decorated with tassels and bells. When Bill came to Canada he took up a homestead near Hardisty.

In 1912 he married Mary Turigan, who had come to Canada with her mother and brother. They spent a winter honeymoon in North Dakota with his parents, then came back and settled in the Palmearth district near Galahad, north-west of Castor. They went through lots of hard times: the first house was made of logs and mud, and when the roof leaked, table oilcloth was put over the bed to keep it dry. They began raising cattle, and Mary became a great hunter. She would shoot beaver and sell the pelts to make money. She loved horse back riding and outdoor work, was very fond of gardening, and I always said she could make a weed bloom.

1929 Scapa Ladies' Aid including Mrs. Dick Hanssel, Mrs. Camp, Mrs. E. Stemp, Harry Scott, barber, Mrs. Catarach, Mrs. Malm

They had a family of four, well planned, a boy, a girl, a boy, a girl. They had their good times. Mrs. Schielke said that harvesting was a lot of work, early hours and late hours; but all the women helped each other, which made it so much easier. As well as working, the women played their share of pranks on the men.

In 1927 they decided to move to Scapa. They sold all the cattle and bought a big building at Richdale, which Bill tore down and began to rebuild in Scapa. He

built a huge building, fifty feet square. He divided it in half and one part was a garage. The two boys were very good mechanics and along with their Dad they made many democrats out of the old running gear of cars.

In another part of the building he had a pool room and barber shop run by Harry Scott. The upstairs of the building became a dance hall, which saw a lot of good old dancing, and it probably swayed with the music. Bill must have been a good carpenter, for the building never collapsed under the weight of the big circles of square dancers. There was also a room for the wee ones to sleep, for there were no baby sitters in those days

To help with the finances, Bill went to work on the C.N.R. section crew for twenty-five cents an hour, and worked hard laying ties and driving spikes. Pay day was a big day to look forward to; that meant a trip to Endiang and maybe a beer or two in the bar.

Mr. Schielke and his friend, W. P. Glenn, who had a general store at Scapa, liked to play tricks. One night when a bunch were going to a dance, they cut up onions and put them in the sleigh box under the blankets. Everyone wore the same cologne that night.

Another time some of the men got into the apple cider at the store. It had aged and turned into "kick-a-poo" juice. One man in particular had too much and lost his false teeth in a load of oats on the way home.

In 1956, after all the family had grown up and were leaving home, Bill decided to tear down the garage and built three houses out of the lumber, and moved them away. They lived in one of them in Hanna for a short while. About 1959 they moved the house that the son had lived in, in Scapa, to Castor, and took up residence there. In the summer of 1967 Mr. Schielke suffered a stroke which left one side paralyzed. He was a patient in the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary hospital in Stettler until his death on October 12, 1970.

In September, 1976, Mrs. Schielke had a stroke which left her unable to walk or speak. She is still a patient in the Castor hospital.

The family all live in Alberta. Bennie at Turner Valley; Lillian, Mrs. Stan Burkett, in Edmonton: Gus at Big Valley and Hilda, Mrs. Roger Talmage, at Hanna.

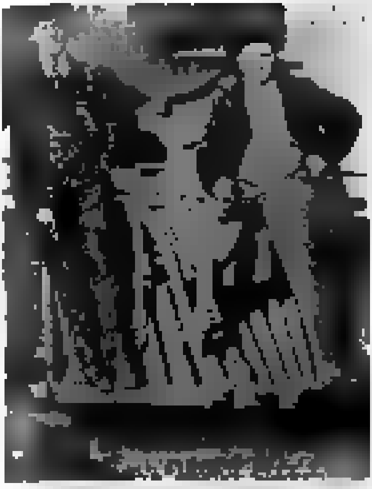
Mary and Bill Schielke had five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They were a well-respected couple and enjoyed many happy years with their family. Mrs. Schielke was a quiet person, but both she and her husband had a fine sense of humor. Life never offered them many holidays, nor any trips abroad, but I am sure they would enjoy living their years over again.

LOUIS SCHUMACHER — I was born in 1906 in North Dakota, and moved with my family to the Bassano area when I was one year old. In 1925 I set out on my own, moving to Sunnynook to work in a grain elevator and learn the business.

In 1928 I took charge of the elevator at Scapa. It started out to be a very good growing year, but a hailstorm in August wiped out half the crop in the entire area. Crops were poorer after that, and farmers' incomes were depleted as the depression intensified.

In 1932 I left Scapa and joined an elevator painting crew. That same year I married Gladys Knudson, whose family resided in the Chain Lake area. We had three children. Our son, Stanely, is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Palliser constituency. Our daughter June is a teacher and her twin, Jean, is a nurse

I tried many different jobs after I left Scapa; buying grain, trucking, operating an implement business, moving buildings and homesteading in Northern Alberta. My wife and I now make our home in Drumheller.



E. W. Graham [illegible] material checker on C.N.R. construction at Bowell, Scapa and on the Spondin [illegible] line, and [illegible] was section foreman from [illegible] to Farrow.

E. W. GRAHAM, By Edna Graham Welch — Edward Graham came from a railroading family. His father and five of his six brothers worked for the C.N.R., and his two sons, Gordon and Richard, followed the family tradition, Gordon in Montreal and Richard at Jasper.

Edward Graham came to the Scapa district as a material checker for the construction department of the C.N.R., working in the yard on the Spondin Sub. When the depression started he was made section foreman of the Spondin Sub. and remained there until 1948 when he was sent to the Drumheller Valley to work on flood control of the Red Deer River. He was transferred to Biggar, Saskatchewan, as Roadmaster and later worked at Edmonton, Prince George, B.C., and Brandon, Manitoba. He retired to Vancouver and then moved to Kelowna where he died in August 1974.

His wife was the former Ruth Riddle of Crystal Falls, Quebec. They had two sons, Gordon and Richard, and four daughters: Margaret Irving of Milwaukee, Marjorie St. Louis of Calgary, Edna Welch of Scapa and Mary Anne Smiley of Spruce Grove. His wife passed away in April, 1946 and he later married Catherine MacKenzie, who still resides at Kelowna.

Eddie, as he was known, was an ardent sports fan and coached baseball and hockey teams. He umpired many a ball game, and if anyone argued a call, out of his back pocket came the rule book to end the dispute.

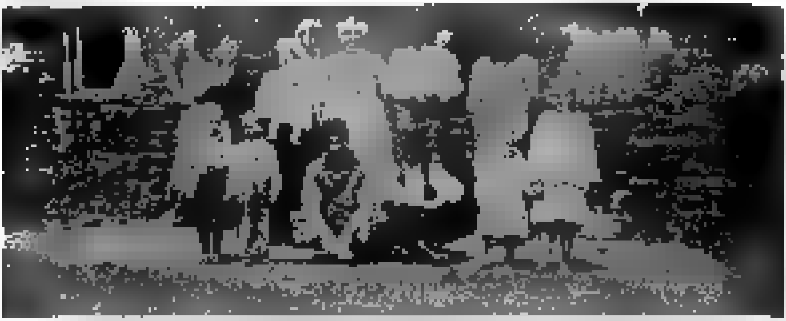
During the winter months he and his friends, Ernest Hessel, Harvey Burt, Ele Malm, Johnny Catherson, Milton Stuart and Don Cameron, had weekly bridge sessions, starting at seven in the evening and sometimes lasting until seven in the morning. That was the one night of the week when the family expected to be seen but not heard, and woe betide the child who made a noise! The bridge sessions were held at the men's homes, and it was just after the weekly game at his office in the store that Mr. Malm was found sitting in his chair, dead of a heart attack.

THE EDGAR SLEMP STORY, By Mrs. Edgar Slemp — Edgar and Jane Slemp were true pioneers of the Scapa community. Born near Verden, Oklahoma in [illegible], Edgar was the oldest of a family of nine boys and three girls. In 1911 he married Frances Jane Vinyard. Their only son Fred was born October 23, 1912.

In 1913 Edgar came to what is now the Scapa community. One year later his wife and son joined him there on their homestead on section 1-34-16 at the south end of Sullivan Lake.

Their first house was built of sod with a shingled roof which was held in position by a heavy stone suspended from each corner. Inside the house there was building paper on the walls and floor was made of boards. While this house was being built they lived with Harvey Burt and family. This was their dwelling until 1917 when they built a frame house 24' x 24' and also a frame barn. A chicken house built of sod served them for a number of years.

Edgar's two brothers, Herman and Earl, lived with them much of the time for three years while proving up on their own two homesteads. Each settler was permitted to apply for one quarter, 160 acres, of homestead (crown) land, and in order to get his patent or title, he was required to pay the sum of $10.00 and live on the land at least six months of each year, and clear and break at least ten "homestead" acres each year for three years. Edgar dug their own well and cribbed it with framework and boards. The water was drawn in a pail with a rope and pulley.



1915 — Sod house, Edgar Slemp Farm. H. Slemp, Mrs. E. Slemp, Mrs. H. Burt, H. Burt holding Bill, Edgar Slemp, Mrs. Hill holding Hazel, Earl Hill, Chester Hill, Earl Slemp, Charlie Hill, Olive Burt, Agnes Burt.

Coal was easily available at Garden Plain some six miles distant. The area was bare prairie except for some brush and trees in the low spots. Their early plowing was done with three horses and a walking plow. Half the cultivated area was summerfallowed each year, often resulting in good crops, some as much as forty bushels of wheat per acre. Wheat was hauled to Hanna during the winter, a distance of eighteen miles. One of the good years Edgar made thirty-seven trips using three horses and a wagon.

In 1924 the railway was built from Hanna to Warden. It cut directly through the Slemp's building site and made it necessary for them to move their buildings to another higher location, also to dig a new well. The new town site of Scapa was less than a mile away. Mail that had been brought from Castor twice a week by team to Garden Plain some six miles away was now delivered to the new post office at Scapa. The first postmaster was William MacKenzie.

In 1919 neighbors cooperated to build a school, to be named Crow Hill. It was three miles from the Slemp farmstead. Mrs. Slemp boarded the first teacher, Miss Christina Campbell, and with the opening of school son Fred and the new teacher drove with a single horse and buggy or cutter in winter. Mrs. Slemp fondly recalls the white horse whose name was "Chalk". She also recalls boarding the teacher at a rate of fifteen dollars per month. Fred later attended school by way of saddle horse. All his schooling as far as Grade ten was at Crow Hill and he was able to board out and complete high school at Fleet. Edgar was a member of the board of trustees at Crow Hill for many years.

Early in the 1940's neighbors built their own telephone line and their mutual company became part of the Hanna exchange.

For social life parties were held alternately at neighbor's homes, and there were frequent dances at Scapa Hall. Weekly church services were held each summer in Scapa Hall with a student minister serving as pastor. Early in the 1920's, Mrs. Slemp and three of her neighbors organized a ladies group known as the "Ladies' Aid".

Edgar and Jennie experienced some rough years. There was an extreme drought the years 1917 to 1922. At least one crop that of 1919 was plowed under. They survived all these as well as the general hard times of the thirties. They were both victims of the "flu" in February 1919, being ill and bedfast while Fred, who was seven years of age, tended the household duties and neighbors did the outside chores.

Fred married Hazel Kennedy, of the same district, in 1935. They had one daughter Faye and one son Norman. They lived in Hanna where Fred was supervisor in P.F.A.A. until the time of his death in 1964.

Edgar and Jennie sold their farm at Scapa and retired to Fleet in 1949, living there for six years before moving to Lacombe.

Edgar passed away August 10, 1970 and Jennie lives in their home in Lacombe.

Lily and Dick Fennell, Kathleen and Ruby

RICHARD (DICK) FENNELL, By Kathleen Holland — Richard (Dick) Fennell, born in southern Ireland, was one of the very first settlers in the Scapa district. He arrived here in 1908 to homestead, and filed claim to a quarter section of land. He was a real pioneer, as his first home was a sod shack located near the site of Hill's barn in the town of Scapa. At that time there was no town of Hanna, and he had to walk all the way to Stettler to buy groceries and other supplies, staying overnight at "Stopping houses" along the way.

In 1914 Dick Fennell enlisted in the thirty-first Battalion in Calgary, and served overseas in France. After discharge he lived for a while in England, where he met his future wife, the former Lily Reade. They were married in 1919; he returned to Canada in 1920 to his original homestead, while his wife travelled to Ireland to visit her sister-in-law. Their first daughter, Kathleen, was born there, and Mrs. Fennell emigrated the following year with her six month old baby. In the meantime, her husband had built a frame house on the farm. A second daughter, Ruby, was born in 1922.

In 1925 the C.N.R. line from Hanna to Warden was built, and land was purchased from the Fennell's for the site of a town. For a short while it was called "Fennellville" until Mr. James MacKenzie, the first postmaster, submitted the name of "Scapa" for the new village. The name was derived from the large harbor, Scapa Flow, in Scotland, which was the principal naval base of the British fleet in the first World War and again in the second War.

During the 1920's Sullivan Lake was larger than it now is because of wetter seasons, and many people had to travel through the Fennell Farm to bypass the lake.

The C.N.R. railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka was begun in 1929, and the first train began service in 1930.

Dick Fennell died in January, 1929, and was buried in the Hanna cemetery. His wife continued on the farm with the help of a hired man. But farming in the depression, drought-ridden years of the 1930's was tough enough for a man and, after six years of trying to make a go of it, Mrs. Fennell and her daughters left the

farm and moved to Calgary. Fred Welch bought their land, and his son, Arthur, farmed it.

Mrs. Lily Fennell died in 1970 at the age of eighty-six. Her daughter, Kathleen, is married to John Holland; they live in Calgary, and have three daughters and one son. Her younger daughter, Ruby, married George Stark, and they also live in Calgary.

THE CAMP STORY, By Hilda Camp — Joe Camp took his homestead and a pre-emption in 1906. Eight or nine people came with him from Dakota at that time but Joe was the only one who stayed. Besides farming he worked in the coal mines at Drumheller and Halkirk and hauled coal also.

Joe joined the army in 1916 and went overseas. He contracted the flu and was sent home in 1918. Before he joined the army he felt he might not come back and gave up his pre-emption to Earl Stemp.

In 1920 he married Hilda English who was working for people in the Endiang district by the name of Loomer. They had three children Mona, Arthur and Pauline. Mona lives in B.C. Pauline married Bill Pexman and now resides in Hanna. Arthur works for Pool construction.

We went through the ups and downs of the early years. In 1929 we were able to buy back the pre-emption.

I recall Joe telling about being able to help his neighbors during 1919 outbreak of flu as he had already had it.

Joe passed away in December 1975. Mrs. Camp still resides at her home in Hanna.

B.S. Wimbush

MR. WIMBUSH, as told by Mrs. Camp — Mr. Wimbush was a remittance man from England and had a pre-emption across the road from our homestead. He must have been in the Canadian Army during the 1914-1918 war as he received a seventy-five dollar a month pension. He travelled home to England for a time, also went to visit his brother in Australia. In 1923 he went completely blind. We looked after him. In 1925 he moved into a one-room shack on our farm. In 1944 he became very ill and passed away in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary and is buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

THE BODEMAN FAMILY, By Agnes Burt Thiel — Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman and their son John left Switzerland about 1880 and went to Oklahoma. They came to Canada about 1906 and in time they took up homesteads at the south end of Sullivan Lake. The parents' homestead was south and west of John's. After they proved up they sold their land to Fred Welch and moved in with John, who had a larger house, a barn, and well-kept farmyard. His buildings and garden fence were always kept painted.

He had two teams of mules which he worked with his horses, and had one team of mules which were good trotters; they were used as a driving team and made many trips to Hanna.

Mr. Bodeman did lovely embroidery, and Mrs. Bodeman often walked the mile to visit her neighbor, Mrs. Edgar Stemp. Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman always had an extra good garden and always had treats for us when we went there. The Bodemans, Stemps and Burts worked together at haying time.

In 1918 John took the flu and passed away. I can remember a minister named Rev. Day coming with the mules and a stone boat to give us the sad news. My dad often wondered how Mr. Bodeman and the minister had harnessed and hooked up the mules, as neither one knew which end of the mule to start on.

John's goods and livestock were sold, and his parents remained on the farm for a few years. Then they sold the land to William Hein and moved to Hanna, where they both passed away during the twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Schweikert

THE SCHWEIKERT STORY — Christian Schweikert was born December 22, 1894 in Bessarabia. Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert was born November 6, 1894. They were married November 18, 1918. In the fall of 1929 they came to Canada from Bessarabia. They bought out F. Bochsbuch. They farmed on this place till December of 1947, when on account of his health they moved to Calgary. They sold the land to Mr. Devereaux of Hanna in 1954.

Mr. Schweikert spent eleven months in the T.B. Sanitarium; after a few months rest at home he began to work for the city. He retired from that job in 1965. In November 1968 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert passed away on October 10, 1974. Mr. Schweikert remains in good health and lives in Calgary. They have no family.

THE WILLIAM HEIN FAMILY, By Elsie Hein Harvey — Our father and mother, William and Marie Hein, and young son Rudy came to Canada in 1914 from Russia. They arrived in Castor, where they were met by mother's brother Carl Wach, and came by team and wagon on a load of lumber to Uncle Carl's farm four miles southwest of the present site of Scapa. They lived with him for two years and then took up a homestead on the northeast of 24-33-15. Their neighbors then were the Harvey Burt family. Dad had to go to work so they could buy horses, a plow and some cows. Mother went out and stooked; her wages sometimes were only one quart of milk a day.

Later they moved to a farm, the NW 26-33-15 and had the Glubrecht family for neighbors. In 1926 they bought the Bodeman farm, the west half of 26-33-15 which was home for many years. The 1930's were rough years, they had to have relief food for the children. Mother bought a spinning wheel and would buy raw wool from the neighbors. Then she would wash it, card it, and she would spin it into wool which was knit into sweaters, socks and mitts for the children. Many years the crops were very poor. The farming was all done with horses, the first tractor was bought in 1946.

Dad was sick for many years so the boys had to help with most of the chores.

He died in 1938, and mother was left with thirteen children to raise. At that time our neighbors were Heushers, Pahls, F. Welch, Lohmanns, Herman Siemps and Edgar Siemps, who were very helpful in many ways. The children had to go out to work to help with expenses at home.

The older children went to school at Hudson Bay and later when Scapa started they all went to school there; usually there were seven lunches to make. Baking bread was a big chore, usually three times a week and from ten to fifteen loaves at a time. The washing was done with a board until the first gas washing machine was bought in 1940. The ironing was all done with sad irons which had to be heated on the coal stove, so on those days there had to be extra wood which sometimes was scarce, until we got some ties from the Railroad.

In 1942 three of the boys, Rudy, Walter and Edwin enlisted and went to war, they never came home until 1946. Ranold also left for some army training during those years. In 1953 Benny joined the Air Force and was in for over two years, some of this time overseas. During these years Mother and Freddie, who was fourteen years old at that time, did the farming. By this time prices for grain and cattle were getting a bit better. Mother remained on the farm until 1950 when Ranold and Edwin took over, then in 1966 she sold the farm to a son-in-law, Fred Harvey.

Hein Family. Elmer, Bennie, Fred, Edwin, Walter, Ranold, Rudy. Gordon, Hilda, Hedwig, Mrs. Hein, Lavina, Elsie

There were fifteen children born to William and Marie Hein. The oldest, Rudy, married Mabel Anderson. They have two daughters and live south of Hanna. Then there was Olga who died at the age of two weeks. Hedvig married Earl Ness and they had six children and live in Hanna. Lavina married Ken Ferguson; they had two children and she died in a car accident on September thirteenth, 1956.

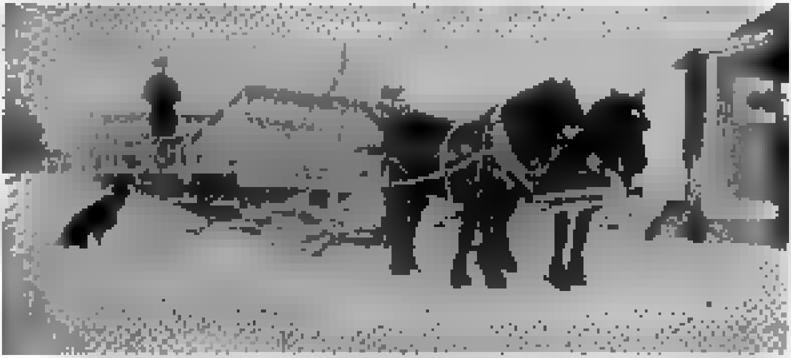
Herbert the next son died from a car accident on the farm in 1929. Ranold married Sarah Anders and has five children. He lives in Hanna. Walter married Mary Moench, they have six children and live in Hanna. Edwin married Elsie Litke. They have three children and live in Calgary. Elsie married Fred Harvey. They have three children and live in Scapa.

Violet married Dan Stewart and had one daughter; they live in New Sarepta.

Fred married Mary Reed and had four children, they live in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Hilda married Bill Spencer, they have two children and live in Edmonton. Doreen married Ed Saar, had four children and lives in Calgary. Bernie lived in Hanna and Elmer the youngest died in 1956.

Mother has thirty-seven grandchildren and thirty-seven great grandchildren. On October the twenty-fifth, 1975 she celebrated her eighty-third birthday in her home in Hanna where she still does her own housework and gardening. She is also a member of the Lutheran Church in Hanna and still attends meetings and Church regularly.

OUR STORY by MR. and MRS. HAUSHER — I, George Hausher, came to Stettler from Uirk, Washington in the fall of 1909. We stayed with friends over the winter and in the spring of 1910 we moved to the homestead, one half mile south of what is now Scapa. There was mother and dad, my sister Annie and myself. We went by wagon with a cow tied behind, a crate of chickens and my dog that we brought along from Washington. The prairie was green as far as you could see. There was a big prairie fire the year before. We lived in a one-room frame house. Our first visitor was Chris Viese. Our closest neighbor was a bachelor named Anderson.



George Hausher, Gladys and Ervin

George Hausher plowing, Scapa in the background

We had to get our mail and groceries from Garden Plain store. My dog and I used to walk over to get it. There was open range and one day a herd of cattle came our way. Dad was out getting hay; they started to chase him, the dog was with him and chased the cattle, that was what saved him.

I was alone a lot because my mother was in the Castor hospital and my sister

would help out at the neighbors. One stormy night the Kelbel boys came by with loads of coal and stayed overnight. We cooked rice; our first pot was too small, so we put it in a bigger pot and added more water. By the time the rice was soft enough to eat we had several pots full. In 1912, Hanna got started; by this time my sister was married to Jake Frank. I remember going to the first Hanna Stampede. When I was thirteen, we moved north of Castor. I worked at various farms till I got married. Then we started farming on our own in the winter of 1926, and we moved south again to the same place. By this time Scapa was started — a store, post office, lumber yard and elevators. My brother-in-law and I moved things down with two bobsleighs. We used to cross the Sullivan Lake. One time it got dark before we got across. We didn't know if we were going the right direction, then we heard the elevator motor going, and knew that we were near Scapa.

MRS. HAUSHER'S MEMORIES — We had bought a two room house west of Scapa and moved it on the place. I remember the day we moved to Scapa very well. We started out at eight-thirty, on a nice morning of March the tenth, from my folks' place north of Castor with the bobsleigh. We had Gladys and Ervin who was seven months old. We put the cradle in the sleigh and put Ervin in it. The cradle was made for me by my dad when I was a baby. We stopped for dinner south of Castor with Schnitters and arrived at our new home at six o'clock. There was only a kitchen and a bedroom, but we were happy. That was our first own home. I was lonesome at first; missed the folks at Castor and waited for the snow to go away so we could go back to see them. Harvey Burts were our closest neighbors. They lived three-quarters of a mile south of us. Marie and Cap Bertsch came to see us, and we became good friends.

In 1927 we started a foundation to build a new house. Then we got our first hail storm; after that we didn't do anything more on the house. We started again in the spring of 1928, had it already to move in at the end of July, and on August eleventh we had our second hail storm. After that we lost count of the hail storms.

Then came the thirties. We had a lot of dry weather. We had dust storms, many times we would light the lamp in the afternoon. There were hard times in the thirties; one dollar and fifty cents for a can of cream, four cents for a dozen eggs; we used to beat them up and feed them to the calves. I remember selling a cow for eighty-eight dollars, but we could get a pound of coffee for twenty-five cents. Everybody had pigs and in the fall the neighbors would get together and help each other butcher them. There would be three or four couples and we would cut up the lard and meat and make different kinds of sausages. Most of our entertainment was house parties.

Ken and Louise were born in the thirties. By 1953 and 1954 Gladys and Ervin were married. Ken and Louise were working. At present Gladys lives in Calgary, Ervin at Endiang, Ken at Drayton Valley and Louise at Tofield. Their families are growing up and starting to leave home; some are married.

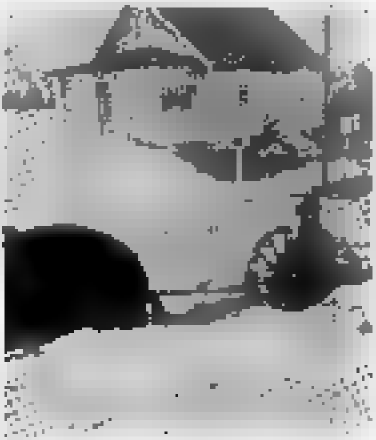
We farmed till 1964. After being hailed out three years in succession, we thought that was enough. We sold out and moved to Stettler. We are sorry that we didn't do it sooner.

MR. and MRS. CARL SMITH — Carl and Lucy Smith moved to the Scapa area in 1963, and purchased the George Hausher farm. In 1974 they moved to Hanna where they still reside. Carl rents land in this area and Lucy is employed in Hanna.

THE SEXSMITH FAMILY, By Pete [illegible] — Robert Saxsmith, his wife Sara Jane and son John came from Napanee, Ontario in 1912. They homesteaded NW 18-33-14 and John took up the south half of 18-33-14. They were of Irish descent, but I wasn't aware of this for a long time, because John always accused me of being an "Irishman" whenever I did something stupid.

They brought all their old dark, heavy furniture, fine china and dishes and beautiful silverware, also an Edison phonograph. Us kids used to play it by the hour. The old folks would sing along with it, and they sure could sing. Mrs. Saxsmith was a midwife, and delivered a lot of the babies in a ten mile radius of their farm. This may not sound like a very big area, but don't forget there was someone living on pretty well every half section. She brought my brother Bill and me into the world, however the rest of her record was good! She said that she never lost a patient. Not many doctors could say that. She always kept her black bag handy, and as kids we were curious about what was in it. It was kept locked at all times.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saxsmith.



John Saxsmith as he often travelled during spring breakup, without a box on his wagon.

When they first came out west they locked everything, even the pump. I guess where they came from they had to do this. That however was gradually forgotten. One time a threshing crew moved in, and one fellow was known for stealing things. He found everything locked up, except for a lump of coal that wouldn't go in the shed, so he stole that and took off for home.

In 1925 or 1926 they bought a 1923 Ford Sedan, at the M. Gulseth auction sale, for $300.00. The doors were behind the driver and front passenger's seat, which made it awkward getting in and out of the front seat. The rear window was an oval shaped affair, and the side windows were huge. All of them were equipped with blinds. The windows were fastened with leather straps that had holes in for adjustment. It had a self starter that was famous for not working, so driving it was somewhat of a two-man job. One day when I was in Hanna with John, it conked out in the middle of an intersection. I cranked until I was too tired to swear. Then I jumped on the running-board and it took off on its own. As for the swearing, John managed very well for both of us. The car was always kept washed and polished and in the shed. It was so high and top heavy, that it wasn't safe to be out in a strong wind with it. However it gave them a lot of years of service, well up into the

forties. I can't remember that it ever let them down on the road, and it sure could plow snow and mud.

One summer I plowed 75 acres for them, with two horses and a sixteen inch walking plow, averaging about two acres a day. It was a good thing that it was a long summer. I was just a young kid then and probably not much good for anything else, so the few dollars I made were sure welcome. Sexsmiths never did get a tractor, so when the time came to farm with them, they hired some work done, or rented the land out.

Roy Coghill had a Rumley Oil Pull, and he did some work for them.

Mrs. Sexsmith was a great lover of cats, and they sure had them. They were every size, shape and color, and they multiplied like rats. I worked there one winter, and I used to shoot them on the sly. I was up to eighty before they noticed there were less cats, and they still had lots left.

In her younger days, Mrs. Sexsmith was a wonderful cook and if you were near their place at meal time and didn't stop in you had a fight on your hands. She put up enough preserves to keep an army, so there were bound to be some loose lids and fermentation would set in. The old folks were teetotalers, but that fruit seemed to go over good. Later on Bill and I would help the odd jar develop a loose lid, and then let nature take its course. I don't think any of the neighbors will forget her tea. It would float a horse-shoe with the horse attached.

They used to love to play cards, their favorite game being "smear". The winter I was there we played cards every night from nine to twelve. It got to be like work after a while but there wasn't much else to do. You can only read one book so many times, and newspapers were far and few between.

I left the country to join the army when the war broke out. I never saw Robert again, and I saw Mrs. Sexsmith only once in 1946. John lived alone after they passed away, but I saw him only a few times too.

THE SEXSMITHS, *continued by Bill [illegible]* — The Sexsmiths remained loyal to Ontario, and everything that came from there was the best. I remember once when John got some apples from Ontario, he was really in his glory.

In his later years Mr. Sexsmith became disabled and when he couldn't get up and down stairs anymore, he stayed upstairs. Once he got his head stuck between the rungs of the headboard and it took John all afternoon to get him out. I recall being there when the cats got the best of him. He'd take his cane and bang on the floor and holler and pretty soon they'd come down three deep. The staircase was steep and narrow, so before they hit bottom they were somersaulting over each other. Mrs. Sexsmith devoted a lot of time to looking after him. He passed away in the early forties.

In February of 1946 their house burned down and they lost everything with it, including most of their cats. Mrs. Sexsmith was in her seventies by then, and it was a real shock for her. John bought the old Baxter house from John Wimmer, and the neighbors all helped move it and fix it up. Mrs. Sexsmith and John stayed with the folks until the house was ready. When the men were working on the house they saw to it that there were only two old pet tom cats left, and they didn't reproduce. Mrs. Sexsmith tried very hard to look after the house and herself, but she just wasn't up to it any more. In the fall of 1947, John took her to the hospital and she died shortly after.

After his mother passed away, John had more time to socialize, and because of his sense of humor he was popular with the young people. He always had company or was being taken somewhere. He had his land rented out, but he was still living on the farm when he died in 1966.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOHRMANN, By Pauline Lohrmann Leicht — My parents emigrated from Garrison, North Dakota, on March 26, 1910, and arrived at Castor on April 6. The children who were all born in the United States, were Lena, Chris, John, Charles, Minnie, Pauline and Marie. Some of the family remained in the States, but Chris, Charles, Marie and I came to Canada with our parents.

In 1910 Father filed on the homestead, the SW 18-33-14, and took a preemption across the road. We had six horses, four cows and some chickens as well as other settlers' effects.

Mr. Kane operated a mine, and a store and post office. Marie Bartsch (Mrs. Don Cameron) worked there for a long time. Our first school was Wetherby and the first cemetery was on the same grounds. Mail was delivered twice a week from Castor to Garden Plain.

In 1926 Father and Mother moved to Victoria, B.C. and later went to Langley Prairie. Father died March 9, 1931. Mother died at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton February 20, 1939. Both are buried in Ocean View cemetery, New Westminster, B.C.

DAVID LEICHT SR., By Christina Leicht Lohrmann — David Leicht was born of German parents in South Russia on December 16, 1856. Until he was twenty-one he helped his parents on the farm. Then he was drafted into the Russian army and spent four years training.

Katharina Kettering was also born of German parents in South Russia December 3, 1863. They were married on February 15, 1884. They left for America in the fall, arriving December 30, 1884, and pioneering and farming in North and South Dakota for eighteen years. By this time they had four children, David Jr., Katharina (Kate), Gideon (Jack), and Christina.

David and family moved to Quincy, Washington, July 1902. They farmed there for eight years. By this time Kate was married to John Weitz. As the country had turned into a dust bowl, David and family, also John and Kate, moved to Olds, Alberta in March 1910.

After farming rented land and running a threshing outfit in the Olds district for three years, David decided to move to Hanna. By this time David Jr. was married to Barbara Morlock and living at Trochu.

Jack and David Jr. had been out to Hanna and made arrangements with a Mr. Brown, to rent his place four miles straight east of Hanna. David Jr. bought a lot in Hanna where he later built a 18' x 24' two-roomed car roof house.

Jack and Dad loaded all machinery, household effects, cattle, and horses into a freight car and shipped out to Castor in March 1913, Jack going with the freight car to take care of the stock. Dad, mother and I drove out to Castor with a team and democrat. Road conditions were far from good but we got to Castor in about three days.

The Leicht Family: Dave, Christina, Kathy, Jack.

Mother and I went to Hanna with a livery team that happened to be going that

way. We stayed at a boarding house while David Jr. moved his family to Hanna from Trochu. Mother stayed with Barbara while David Jr. and I took his team and wagon and went to Castor. Dad and Jack had the car unloaded by this time. After loading the wagons and getting everything ready we only got six miles out the first day, stopping at Peddrie for the night.

The next day was hard on horses and cows. It was my lot to drive the cattle, four cows and five or six young stock. They got so tired walking and so did the pony. We arrived about two o'clock in the morning. The poor cows could hardly move for three days, they were so foot sore. I had not done any riding for a long time and I was mighty stiff myself. When I think back now I don't know how we did it.

As it turned out there was no pasture on the place and we had no feed. Dad went out and bought some oats for the horses. The cows we could run on the quarter just south as it was open prairie. We only stayed long enough to put in the crop for Mr. Brown.

In the meantime Dad rented Mr. Dave Lesley's place which was seven miles north. This place had pasture, a good well and cultivated land. There was also an open quarter to the east which had cutbanks down the centre. When the pasture got short we turned the cows out there. One night I went for the cows and one was missing, I started the ones I found for home, and started looking for the missing one. As I walked along the edge of the cutbank I could see her down in the bottom of the flat.

I discovered she had fallen into a "soap" hole, not quite big enough for all her body to go down. I went home for help. Dad and Jack got her out safe and sound. A "soap" hole is very deceiving and dangerous. They vary in size, the soil around the edge is firm and natural. The hole is level full of a thin soapy mud, which looks dry and firm, and is bottomless. That was our first and last experience with a "soap" hole.

By this time homesteads were hard to find. Dad finally got one just north of Wilhelm Lohrmann's, the NW 19-33-14. Dad and Jack then started breaking land and getting it ready to seed, and also built a barn and did some fencing, working this all in while farming the Lesley place too. Dad also built a 12' x 20' car roof granary on skids, which was later moved to the homestead and served as a house while putting in the crop.

We moved to the homestead in March 1915. After seeding that summer Dad, Jack and David Jr. added another 12' x 20' to the granary, and raised it to a storey and a half making four rooms.

As part of the land was lake it made us short of hay land. There was a Hudson Bay section about two miles north west of us, so Dad went to Hanna and got a three or four year haying lease on it. Come haying time Dad happened to notice someone putting up hay on it, so he drove over and visited with them for a while. Then he said, "I hope you boys put a good top on that stack as I would not like my hay to spoil." You can imagine what a shock that was. Dad told them if they would finish what they had cut he would pay them for their work, which they did.

There were a lot of good times as the years went by, picnics, ballgames. The First of July at Garden Plain was always a big day, and there were dances at the different schools, and church services.

In 1917 a hail storm came through and flattened all the crops. Mother had quite a flock of ducks, they were all in the slough when it hit. After it was over, the duck flock looked like a battle field, some were killed, some had broken wings, some had broken legs, one had both legs broken. mother set them the best she poued and bandaged them, and in a surprisingly short time even the ones with the broken legs were on their way to the slough.

David Leicht Sr. Passed away February 14, 1922. Mother stayed with David Jr. for a time, then she married Fred Schultz October 4, 1922.

Fred Schultz passed away May 8, 1946.

Mother passed away March 24, 1947.

THE RIDDLE STORY, *By William Riddle* — James Ernest Riddle was born in Glenbrooke, Nevada in 1884. His parents were Canadian citizens living temporarily in Nevada where his father was employed at a sawmill. They returned to their home farm at Crystal Falls, Quebec, and it was there that James and his four sisters, Myrtle, Ruth, Bertha and Iona, were raised.

At the outbreak of World War I James enlisted in the 224th Battalion and later transferred to the Forestry Corps. On February 13, 1918, he was married to Susan Burge in Newton Abbot, Devonshire, England. After the war they returned to Canada, landing at St. John, New Brunswick on April 20, 1919. Their first child, William, was born two days' previously aboard the S.S. Grampian on the Atlantic Ocean.

William and Susan Riddle took up farming at Crystal Falls and there two more sons and three daughters were added to the family. In the fall of 1927 James came west to work in the construction department of Canadian National Railways, and the following year his wife and family joined him at Cameo, Saskatchewan. The next few years were spent at various railway construction jobs in Saskatchewan.

When construction on the Scapa-Spondin line was started, James was moved to Scapa, and in May of 1931 he moved his family here by car, a 1927 two-door Chev sedan which he had purchased from T. Harley. At first the family lived in the old Anderson farm buildings south-east of Scapa; later they moved to the Gutseth house now owned by Art Welch. In 1934 they purchased the Jack Leicht farm one mile east of Scapa.

The family consisted of three sons and five daughters. William, born in 1919, married Margaret Malm in 1940, and resides in Hanna. Their family is mentioned in the Malm story.

Hugh, born 1921, now owns the home farm at Scapa. He married Helen Pinkham of Hanna and has one son, Terry, and a daughter, Annette.

Ernie, born 1922, married Irene Dobie and lives in Hanna. Their family consists of daughters Gladys, Gerry, Mary Irene, Harlene and son Bruce.

Margaret, born 1923, married E.G. Pedersen. They and family Rick, Greg and Susan live in Calgary.

Dorothy, born 1925, is now Mrs. W. Hopkins. She has two daughters, Lori Anne and Wendy, and lives in Calgary.

Winnifred, born 1927, is Mrs. A. Carlson. Her children are Doug, Ron, Kevin, Judy, Dorothy, Dena and Paddy.

Iona was born in Hanna in 1935. She married Arthur Stark and they and their daughters, Debbie, Amanda and Cindy, reside in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Mary Jane was born in Hanna on December 3, 1936, and her mother, Susan, passed away two days later, at the age of forty-one years.

James was pensioned from the C.N.R. in August, 1949, and resided with his son Bill and his family until the time of his passing in the Col. Belcher hospital in Calgary on March 16, 1962, at the age of seventy-eight years.

HUGHIE RIDDLE, By Hughie Riddle — I came with my parents and the rest of the family to the Chris Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district in 1931. I attended the Scapa school.

During the summer of 1934, when I was fourteen, I went to work for Rudolph Hessel for two and a half months during the summer holidays. As wages I received a cow which started me in the cattle business. That winter and the following summer, I went after school to help Mrs. Fennell with her chores, receiving a heifer calf. The next year Bert Sim, on his way home from Scapa, would take me and sometimes Ernie to help with the chores on weekends or after school. I worked for Bert and his dad off and on for years after that.

By 1936 I was through school and was hired by George Wright and Wilfred Smith to help put in the crop and summerfallow. That fall and the following year I worked for Jack Temple.

In the spring of 1938 Don Cameron asked me to work for him. During the time I was there we put in the Caragana shelter belt. We dug the trees out of Kane's grove and hauled them by team and wagon. The five-foot trees were then placed in holes which had been dug beforehand. The holes were filled with rotted manure and thoroughly wetted down. The trees survived and can be still seen, much higher and thicker, where Erbin and Winnie Grove live today.

At Don's I drove horses while Don drove the 10-20 Advance Rumley, which he had purchased from Harry Bartman. Don also got a combine from Harry at the same time.

After working at Camerons, I came home to stay, farming with horses. I got horses to break from a relative of my dad's, Pollock of Pollockville. I would ride to Pollocks and drive back, usually four head. The rest of the summer was spent in breaking them. The saddle horse I had at that time was named King. He was brought in from Bassano by Ironsides. They sold him to Ken Williams and I bought him from the Williams auction sale. He was a tough little horse with plenty of stamina. He had five brands on one hip and one on the other. King eventually died of old age.

The winter of 1941-42, I was training with the Army at Camrose.

By 1950 I got my first tractor and eventually disposed of the horses, keeping only cattle. When George Burns came to Scapa and started trucking, I helped him whenever he needed me.

For the past two years I have been operator of the breaker pit at the Sheerness coal mine.

In December 1978, Helen Sieverson and I were married. Our children, Terry and Annette, are bussed to the Hanna School.

CHESTER R. BARTMAN, from information supplied by Harry Bartman and John Grove — Chester Bartman, one of four brothers who came to this area at different times, was born in Tobermorey, Ontario in 1888. He came west in 1909 to file on his homestead, the SW 5-34-14. He lived in a sod shack until a cottage-type house was built in 1918. Brother Harry, who had been working in Edmonton, drove down in a Regal car to visit Chester and helped him build a sod pig house.

Chester worked for Gulseths, who had come from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, to homestead. He and Marian Gulseth were married, but she died a year or so later and her folks had her body sent back to Devil's Lake for burial.

The big hipped-roofed barn which could be seen for miles, was built about 1927 or 1928. Chester built up a herd of good Shorthorn cows, many of which were excellent milkers. By selling cream and raising pigs he made a modest living. He owned one of the last Model T's ever built, a green coupe.

He had an auction sale in the spring of 1936 and went back to Ontario to live. He rented the place out, but soon returned to live there and to work at doing odd jobs for others. He passed away a few years ago.

ALEXANDER F. (BRUCE) EICKMEIER, *from information supplied by Harry Sorensen and John Grove* — Bruce Eickmier homesteaded the SW 4-34-14 in 1910. He hailed originally from Hanover, Bruce County, Ontario, hence the nickname. He was employed in Nackel's Furniture Factory, and in the winter of 1911 or 1912 he worked as Castor's dog catcher, at a dollar a head. He had a good thing going for him, or so the townspeople of Castor thought. They kept turning out the impounded dogs, so Bruce quit that job.

While on the homestead he lived in a partial dugout, with part of the walls and the roof above ground level. In one of the early years he received slight hail damage to his crop, but he knew the damage was too little for him to make a claim for damages, so taking his oxen and a length of barbed wire, he dragged the remaining crop down. He collected a good claim.

Bruce built a well drilling machine and drilled many wells in this country. He stated that he started building the machine with nine dollars to his name, and that when it was completed he still had three dollars left. Bruce was an accomplished violinist, and had the gift of gab.

He departed here for Hanna where he bought and ran a second hand store. Then he moved to Drumheller where he was in the same business. Tiring of these ventures, he left for an isolated bush farm in the interior of B.C. However, civilization caught up to him again, and in later years he retired to a small holding at Surrey, B.C., where he has since passed away.

MRS. HARRY COOK (DOROTHY), *By Blanche Coutts* — Mrs. Dorothy Cook, master teacher, war nurse, Scapa pioneer and wife of homesteader Harry Cook, contributed so much to the Sullivan Lake area.

After training as an elementary school teacher in England, she volunteered as a nurse during World War I and served in soldiers' hospitals in her homeland. Emigrating after the war, she came to Scapa where she met again Harry Cook, whom she had known in the Thames Mouth, her English home. Harry, who had expected to enter the British navy, as generations of his family had done, was prevented from doing so by his stuttering. At an early age he took a homestead south-west of Scapa where he spent his life until ill health forced him into retirement in Hanna.

Scapa teachers about 1940. Blanche Coutts, Dorothy Cook

Dorothy and Harry were married, and then Dorothy attended Calgary Normal School. Because of her exceptional ability as a teacher she was offered a position in the Normal Practice School. Instead of accepting she returned home to spend her life teaching in neighboring rural schools. Getting home weekends in good weather and bad often made great demands on her energy. Yet she taught with immense enthusiasm. Pupils remembered her well. She knew them individually and could meet their needs.

I first knew Dorothy Cook when she and I taught in the two-roomed school at Scapa during World War II and lived together in the basement of the elementary school. Gas rationing was in. Once in Scapa a teacher stayed put or walked. Dorothy, an indefatigable English walker, led me around the district despite my protests. Occasionally we walked four or five miles to visit another teacher.

Dorothy could sew and instruct in sewing, something I could not do at all. Since needlework was on the program of my classroom (grades seven to eleven), Dorothy would painstakingly demonstrate sewing and button-holing at night so I could carry on in class next day. She gave much time out of school to altering patterns and cutting out materials while I looked on.

One remembers her continued cheerfulness, her sense of humour, her energy, her joy in teaching, and her concern for the welfare of her pupils. Hundreds of students and many teachers of the Sullivan Lake area can testify to that.

I REMEMBER

By Agnes Burt Thiel

. . . Kane's Mine. The mine house had three rooms, two down and one up. The miners slept upstairs and we slept and ate and served meals in the one downstairs, because the other was too cold. Mother cooked and dad helped serve dinners for 35 cents, breakfasts and suppers for 25 cents. Many two- and four-horse sleighs came from up to thirty miles away for coal; some were driven by children in their early teens. There was a hand-made pump to take water out of the mine, made of four one-by-fours nailed together; the valve had been fashioned of a block of wood and leather. There was a hand bar to push down on the rod to release the valve to let in the water, and a spring board fastened into the bank of dirt lifted the water up.

. . . Mr. Anderson lining his well with stone; most wells had wooden cribbing and the water tasted of the wood for a long time.

. . . Dad going to help fight a prairie fire, and the red glow in the sky at night that meant that it was still burning, and him getting home at three in the morning, tired and hungry and black with burnt grass.

. . . the hillsides covered with crocus in the spring, and later the yellow buffalo beans blooming.

. . . going to a picnic at Wiese school in 1920 and seeing my first airplane.

. . . so much water in Sullivan Lake that it came under the fence line and almost to the Y of the C.N. tracks at Scapa.

. . . meeting a tall Englishman named Mr. Burley at Fort St. John in 1958. In 1910 he had been a range rider and travelled from Calgary across the Hand Hills and up the east side of Sullivan Lake to Castor. He wanted to know what had happened to the three-storey house which used to be on the east side of the lake near Castor; I learned later that the lumber had never been paid for so the house was dismantled and sold.

. . . telling two ladies from England who were visiting the Edmonton Museum that I had once lived in a sod house, and one of them saying, "Will you shake hands with me? I've always wanted to meet someone who lived in one of those houses."

. . . seeing Mrs. Bill Welch carry a wooden cradle on her back for two miles, so that Mrs. Bill Hein could use it for her new baby.

. . . not having much schooling, but gaining knowledge; how to handle cattle and horses, and do blacksmithing, milk cows and teach calves to drink; and learning that many a baby was kept alive with mare's milk.

SOME MEMORIES OF WARTIME SCAPA 1941-44

By Blanche Coulter

1. As their war effort the pupils collected salvage–rubber tires, lead scrap and tooth paste tubes. I still remember the ants that scurried about in the old tires stacked in the anteroom.

2. Daylight saving came with the war. When the new time system began in late winter I set out in the dark that first morning to build the fire in my classroom. Returning to check later I discovered that while shaking the grates of the little coal heater I had dislodged the stove pipe so that the smoke had poured into the closed room for most of an hour. What a scrubbing job we had. One pupil remarked at the end of the day that we all smelled like cured hams.

3. The high school girls knitted a beautiful baby layette for the Red Cross and put the school's name in it, hoping to hear from the family receiving it. Of course, we never did.

4. There were many delightful cups of tea at the post office with Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie.

5. The social activities were community-centered — Christmas concerts in the hall, dances, "500" card parties in the school to raise money for the boys' overseas parcels. I remember a lantern slide show ("Magic Lantern") which I rented from the university to show at school. Adults asked that the show be given for the public who filled the hall to capacity.

THE HORSE THIEF

There is an old, old story
That's been passed from year to year,
How a horse-man came a-riding,
With some ranchers at his rear.

Some mustangs that they had corralled
He had taken for his own.
And so the desperate flight began,
Of this horse thief, all alone.

O'er hill and dale he galloped
With their horses by his side.
He dared not stop to rest his mount.
There was no place to hide.

They chased him 'cross the prairies
To the edge of Sullivan Lake,
Where from a tree they hung him.
His life they thus did take.

Then they dug a shallow grave
And buried him 'neath the tree.
Near the tiny hamlet of Scapa,
The grave is said to be.

Helen Standing

In every district there are people who move to other farms, to the cities and towns and it is impossible to contact them all and so many may not be mentioned but this is not intentional.

The Martin Galseth family went back to Devil's Lake, North Dakota in 1927.

P. Anderson passed away in 1927. The remainder of the stone house built by him is still standing.

The Richard Hassel family moved to the Vancouver area. There were two children, Richard and Alice.

Jack Leicht is mentioned in the Dave Leicht story. He married Pauline Lohrmann. Jack passed away and Mrs. Leicht lives in Edmonton. Their sons, Bill and Ted, live in Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

Other families that lived here for a time were Witchens, Smiths, Doerings, Bachmiers, Panchucks, Stouts, Moraschs, Marchants, Ostopovichs, Frank Brunner.

GREYSTONE HALL

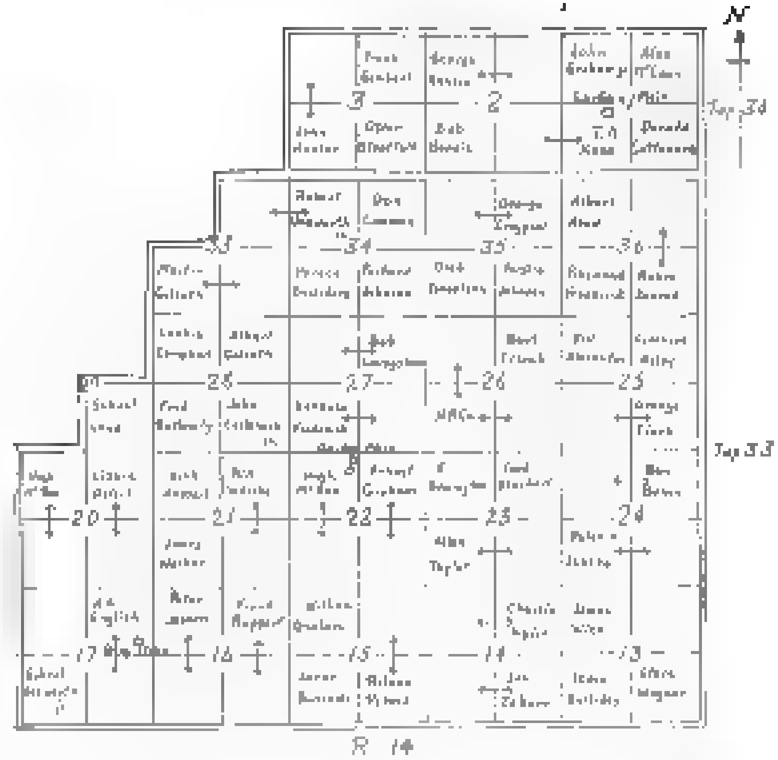
Greystone Hall, named after the post office of the district, was built in January of 1914 by Charlie Lohrmann on his dad's homestead, the SW 18-32-14. It was 32' by 40' in size. The first dance was held there on January 30, 1914, with A. Henderson's orchestra of Hanna supplying the music.

The Greystone correspondent to the Hanna Herald wrote that a barn with ample room and plenty of feed was available. The correspondent later suggested, "Import a car load of girls for the supper dance."

The hall was shortlived, as people began using the schoolhouses for entertainments

Fred and Flora Welch, Arthur, Reinhardt, Henry.

GARDEN PLAIN No. 2041



OWNERS AND RENTERS — TOWNSHIPS 33 and 34, RANGE 14

S.E. 21-33-14
W. Weste
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wilens

S.W. 21-33-14
James Walker
A. English
Les Weeds

N.E. 21-33-14
W. Weste
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wilens

N.W. 21-33-14
R. Hassel
F. Hassel

S.E. 22-33-14
E. H. Graham
Pierce Morris
Bessel
H. Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Hassel

S.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 22-33-14
W. C. Knox
Graham
Pierce Morris
Bessel
Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Hassel

N.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 23-33-14
Fred Blackall
W. Burt
Friedel Hassel

N.E. 23-33-14
C. Dummington
Fred Blackall
Bill Burt
Friedel Hassel

S.W. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
Deody
Lyman Grove
Friedel Hassel

S.E. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
L. Doty
Lyman Grove
F. Hassel

S.E. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
Russel Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

S.W. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
R. Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 24-33-14
B. Bunso
Robert Scrimgill
Strode
F. W. Johnston
Walter Lewis
F. & R. Johnston

N.W. 24-33-14
B. Bunso
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 25-33-14
C. Alley
C. M. Young
R. J. Unsworth
Frances Unsworth

N.W. 25-33-14
W. H. Alexander
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.E. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
Richard Artzenbarker
George Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.W. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

N.E. 26-33-14
G. B. France
Nels Wright
Billy Wagner
H. Goodkey
M. Campbell

N.W. 26-33-14
Elmer Sleep
R. Hinn
Arnold Grove
Friedal Haessel
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. J. Unsworth

S.E. 26-33-14
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S.W. 26-33-14
Fred Blashak
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S½ 27-33-14
L. Frederick
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove
Walter Miller
Leo Wiens

S.E. 28-33-14
J. Cattanach
David Cattanach

N½ 27-33-14
R. Livingstone
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. B. Zeamer
Fred Johnston

S.W. 28-33-14
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.W. 28-33-14
L. Campbell
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 28-33-14
A. Gulseth
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 35-33-14
G. M. Claypool
Dan Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 35-33-14
Erbin Grove

S.E. 35-33-14
C. Johnston
M. Gulseth
D. Cameron
Erbin Grove

S.W. 35-33-14
J. Israelson
Robert Eye
Walter Lewis
Gus Gadinger
Raymond Johnston

S.E. 33-33-14
M. Gulseth
Erbin Wiens

S.W. 33-33-14
M. Gulseth
M. M. Stuart
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 33-33-14
R. Unsworth
Hugh McRae
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 33-33-14
J. R. Crombie
R. Haessel
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

S.E. 34-33-14
R. W. Johnston
M. Gulseth
Morgan

S.W. 34-33-14
H. F. Brelson
L. C. Burt
Henry Brown
A. L. Sturgess
Mrs. Stuart
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 34-33-14
Claypool
Mrs. Mary Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 34-33-14
R. Unsworth
Morgan

S.W. 36-33-14
A. Head
Chris Wickson
Herb Taylor
Benny Weller
Rudy Finkbiner
Earl Ness
L. Unsworth

S.E. 36-33-14
Henry Finkbiner
George Unsworth
Albert Finkbiner
R. J. Unsworth

S.W. 36-33-14
A. S. Fredrickson
L. W. Chappell
Johnny Israelson
L. Unsworth

S.E. 15-33-14
A. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 15-33-14
Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 15-33-14
A. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 15-33-14
W. J. Graham
Lorne Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
Bill Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
E. Wiens
R. and E. Wiens

N.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
E. Wiens
R. and E. Wiens

N.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
Bill Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 17-33-14
A. English
R. Gaugler

S.W. 17-33-14
R. J. Unsworth
Bert Sims
Walter Viste
B. Gaugler

N.E. 17-33-14
A. English
R. Gaugler

N.W. 17-33-14
Roach
Walter Viste
B. Gaugler

S.E. 1-34-14
Donald Cattanach
James Bradshaw
Thomas Hunter
Sid Calderbank
Hobson
Alf Stevenson
Stanley Strandberg

S.W. 1-34-14
Thomas Kane
Chris Wickson
George Smith
Jones
Wm. Kissinger
Stanley Strandberg

N.E. 1-34-14
Alex McLean
Henry Nelson

N.W. 1-34-14
John Graham Jr
Elmer Nelson

S.E. 20-33-14
Larry Hills
Marge Hills
E. Haessel
F. Haessel

S.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
Morgan
W. Viste
W. Gaugler
E. Haessel

N.E. 20-33-14
Larry Hills
Mary Hills
E. Haessel
F. Haessel

N.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
E. Haessel
W. Viste
Wm. Gaugler

S.E. 2-34-14
T. Kane

Henry Naftoft

S.W. 2-34-14
Robert Benzie
Albert Delker

N.E. 7-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.W. 2-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.E. 3-34-14
F. L. Gambert
Alfred Delker

S.E. 13-33-14
Steve Wagner
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

S.W. 13-33-14
I. Galladay
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.E. 13-33-14
George Forster
C. W. Noyce
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 13-33-14
Jim Wiler
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 3-34-14
Thomas Hunter
Albert Delker

S.E. 3-34-14
D. Stredfall
L. Unsworth

S.W. 3-34-14
Tom Hunter
George Smith

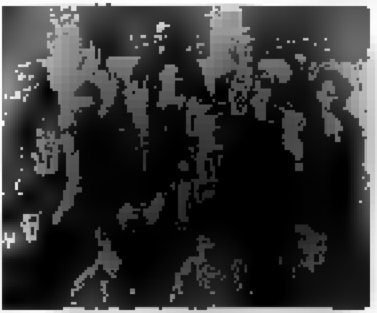
Albert Delker

S½ 14-34-14
J. L. Zabner
Wm. Monroe
Tom Hannah
Baessler
Wittchen
F. Johnston

N.W. 14-34-14
C. M. Wylie
Jim Wylie
Tom Hannah
Baessler
Madke
F. Johnston

GARDEN PLAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2941

By Louis Unsworth



Garden Plain School 1945. Back Row, left to right: Billy Cook, Vera Weins, Joe Weins, Charlotte Cook, Tom Ness. Second Row: Gordon Ness, Arnold Grove, Charlotte Zeamer, Agatha Weins, Evelyn Cook, Barbara Grove, Margaret Ness, Rosanna Weins. Front Row: Robert Weins, Erbie Weins, Russell Ness, Frank Cook.

Garden Plain school was built by Mr. Ben Bunce, and was opened in 1914. Some of the teachers who conducted classes were Eva West, Mrs. Violet Frogge, Miss Sterling, Miss Ellis, Verda Hoffman, Don Pound, Miss Holmes, Miss Brydon, Isabella Payne, Miss Bloomer, Jessie Campbell, Mr. Scollen, Miss McKenzie, Mrs. McLaren, Jack McLaren, Mrs. Agnes Temple, Helen Jensen, Ray Burke, Mr. Chandler, Stella Johnson. When Mr. Scollen became ill Miss Jessie Campbell substituted for him for about three months; she put on the Christmas concert that year.

The first trustees were Hugh McRae, Robert Unsworth and Jim Walker.

The school was closed from June, 1937 to September, 1939 and the pupils were sent elsewhere. It closed permanently in 1954.

Garden Plain School, 1914 — L. to R.: Benny Brown, Norman Brown, Leonard Brown, Paul Hubert, Wittchen, Willie Hubert, Roy McRae, Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Harold Unsworth, Louis Unsworth, Hilton Bertram, George Unsworth. Teacher: Mr. Scollen. Relieving Teacher: Miss Jessie Campbell.

Garden Plain School, 1933 – 34. Back Row, left to right: Stewart Bartman, – Bassler, ? Peter Ruppert, Leonard Brown, teacher Helen Jensen, Hilda Bassler, Esther Finkbiner, Rosa Artzenbacher. Middle Row: George Unsworth, Gordon Brown, Benny Brown, Melford Finkbiner, Adelheide Artzenbacher, Helen Bartman, Clara Artzenbacher. Front Row: Louie Unsworth, Alfred Bassler, Walter Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Ida Wittchen, Harold Unsworth

Children attended Garden Plain school from these families: Grove, Unsworth, Dekker, Brown, Bartman, Eye, Peters, Ruppert, Cook, Wattchen, Artzenbacher, Medke, Smart, Wells, Temple, McLaren, Hassel, Ness, Zeemer, Frogge, English, Brooker, Smythe, McRae, Smith, Burt, Finkbiner, Bassler.

GEORGE CLARKE STORY, By Frances Unsworth — Mr. George Clarke homesteaded the south half of 25-33-14 about 1909. He built a small shack and a sod barn in the middle of his land, about a mile from the Castor trail. He was a very quiet, good-natured man, probably in his sixties, and he used to tell us that he was a prospector before he came here.

At first he had a team of oxen, their names were Red and Bright. I remember that they both had very long horns, and that one was brown and the other brown and white. He was very good to his animals and gave them the best of food and treatment.

Fighting Prairie Fire, 1909: Bert Brown, George Clarke, Horace Lewis, Frances Lewis.

He spent a lot of time at our house, as Mother and Dad always invited bachelors for meals and a visit, and they were always glad to accept. From what Mr. Clarke told us, he lived on porridge and pancakes . . . flapjacks, he used to call them . . . and drank green tea, as did most of the people who had come from the United States.

Sometimes we would not see him for a week or so, and my Dad would walk to his shack to see if he was sick. We used to watch for smoke coming from his chimney.

He planted a rhubarb patch and a small garden, off which he lived in the summer. He had no cellar to keep things from freezing, so in winter he had only frozen potatoes. He was always invited to our home for his birthday and for Christmas.

After a few years his oxen died and he bought some wild broncos. I will always remember the runaways he had nearly every time he hitched them up.

He farmed for about ten years, then after the First World War he sold through the Soldier Settlement Board to Mr. George Forster, and we never heard from him again.

George and Alice Forster.

MEMORIES OF THE HOMESTEAD, By Alice Lewis Forster — I am the middle daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis. Dad and mother had come from England to Victoria, B.C. in 1908. In May, 1909, our family left Victoria to homestead in Alberta with my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sturgess and their family.

We camped in tents at Stettler while Dad and Uncle walked many miles looking for a homestead. While they were away, we were all very saddened by the death of my baby sister Queenie. A very nice man made a little coffin for her and she was buried in Stettler.

Dad and Uncle were lucky to get homesteads side by side. Ours was the south-west of 30-33-13. I was only eight years old at the time but I remember well the journey from Stettler with the oxen and covered wagon. There were no roads then, only winding trails. The prairie wool was very thick and many flowers bloomed.

Dad and Mom chose the highest hill on the homestead for our home site. It was covered with wild roses, and they said, "We will name our farm Rose Hill Farm." We lived in a tent while Dad built a sod house. Mother plastered the inside walls with blue clay which came from a well that Daddy dug.

Whenever Daddy had to make a trip to Castor for supplies during the hot weather, he would start about three o'clock in the morning so that the oxen would not have to travel in the heat of the day. They could not stand being overheated, and you could not even make them trot because of this.

Meals were a little monotonous, especially in the winter. Beans and rice were the mainstay, with wild rabbits and prairie chicken once in a while for variety. I remember the first sack of potatoes that Dad bought, in the spring of 1910. How good they tasted, for we did not have a garden of our own till the next summer. Even the lowly turnip took on a new light in the pioneer days. When one fell off a passerby's wagon, my mother wrapped it up and put it away for our Christmas dinner.

The prairie fires were very frightening in those days. Sometimes at night we could see them all around us and we prayed that the wind would not drive them toward us, as they travelled very fast.

We were on the homestead for two years before a school was built. I often think of the winter mornings when we were so cold from walking the two and a half miles to school that the teacher let us all around the big round coal heater. I remember walking to school in the summer with a heavy gunny sack folded to form a hood and a cape so the mosquitoes couldn't bite through. We wore netting over our heads as well. One day the mosquitoes were so thick we could hardly see through the netting.

Buck Hunting 1909: Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis, Alice and Francis.

I remember that when we still lived in the sod house three homesteaders stopped one very cold night. After supper they laid their blankets on the kitchen floor. One man's bed was under the stovepipe elbow. Frost formed on the pipe outside, the heat from the stove melted it, and the water dripped down the pipe and off the elbow all night. The moisture mixed with the coal soot was very black. As it dripped on his face in his sleep, the man thought it was a fly, and tried to brush it away. When morning came his friends laughed and kept him from looking into the one tiny mirror we had. His face was as black as could be!

My love of horses extended to breaking a horse that my Dad had bought. Whenever he harnessed him he would lie on his side and kick; even when harnessed with other horses he would let himself be dragged along the ground. Dad promised I could have the horse, Buster, if I could break him. I always kept a rail between me and Buster whenever I tried to saddle him in the barn. Eventually I could ride him all over the country, but only straight ahead or to the right. He never would turn left. I remember the day I helped Mom up on Buster so that I could take her out to see the crop, for being crippled, she could not walk that far. Buster did not let me down with such an important passenger, and performed very well.

On March 29, 1921, I married a returned soldier, George Forster. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Scallon in Hanna's little Anglican Church. In 1923 we were blessed with a son, David.

In the twenties my husband was very active with the U.F.A. and with the Garden Plain dances and picnics. George and Fred W. Johnston were buddies for many years, both before World War I and then overseas together, as well as farming at Garden Plain. We shared the problems of raising youngsters with the hazard of toddlers crawling under the horses' bellies (and the father's hazards after the little ones had loosened the nuts under the binder!).

We farmed till 1926, but the crops were not too good and cattle prices were low, so we moved to Surrey, B.C., where we developed a poultry farm. In 1927 we were blessed with a daughter, Dorothy.

We shared a happy life as our farm prospered and our children grew up and supplied us with grandchildren to spoil. In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnston came to B.C. to help celebrate our golden wedding. We promised Blanche and Fred that we would return for theirs, but dear George did not make it as we lost him April 16, 1971. I still live within a stone's throw of our farm.

Charlie Young

CHARLES YOUNG STORY, By Eleanor Young — My name is Eleanor M. Young; I am now eighty-four years old. I was born in Detroit, Michigan, where my parents had settled when they emigrated from Germany.

In 1914 I married Charles Young, who was born in England and who came to this country with his parents when he was nine years old. In 1916 we sold our belongings and moved to Alberta because a doctor told my husband he might not live unless he moved to a cold, dry climate.

Charles' aunt and family, Horace and Jenny Lewis, had come from England and settled in the Garden Plain area about twenty-five miles from Hanna. We stayed with them while looking for a farm. We settled about half a mile down the road from them. The place was in very bad shape and needed much repairing before we could live in it. There was a large living room with a heater stove which burned slack coal as there was no wood, a long kitchen and an unfinished upstairs. To retire each night we had to climb a ladder on the side wall with our nine-month-old baby Hilda.

The first year that we planted wheat it was coming nicely, and was almost ready to harvest when a bad hailstorm ruined it. Our potato crop was beautiful. Charles dug a pit under the floor in the kitchen, right under the stove, to store them, but even there they froze.

That first year the mosquitoes were awful, we had to wear a net bag over our heads. They piled up an inch deep all around the lower window pane, but didn't seem to bother us much in the house. The men had to do their field work very early in the mornings because the mosquitoes bothered the horses too much when it warmed up outdoors. They stood in smudges all day.

Charles' parents and little brother came to Garden Plain, and Dad Young took over the coal mine for a time. Charles was a mechanic and soon people were bringing him their machinery for repairs.

Charles dug a well and put cribbing in it but there was just a trickle of water. Every day in winter we had to melt snow to wash diapers and baby clothes, and for the cooking and drinking Charles had to haul water from his uncle's on a stoneboat. By the time he got home with it, the barrels were only half full. In winter the water splashed over the tops of the barrels and froze.

Two days before Christmas in 1917 our son Frederick Kenneth Young was born. He is now living in Barstow, California.

We had several horses and cows and a sow and nine little pigs. The pigs wandered over to a bachelor's farm, and he didn't like that, so he drove them nine miles to the pound. People got quite a laugh about that.

One time when Charles was painting a granary, he went away for something and left the can of red paint open. The little pigs all stuck their noses in it. When

Hilda tried to keep them out of it she got red paint all over the back of her head.

We went through many hardships, but one good thing happened. Charles' health was restored. Both Charles and Dad Young were offered good positions in Kentucky, so Charles sold the farm to Robert Unsworth.

In 1920 another son was born to us, Kenneth Charles.

In 1925 Charles had a severe case of blood poisoning, which took his life.

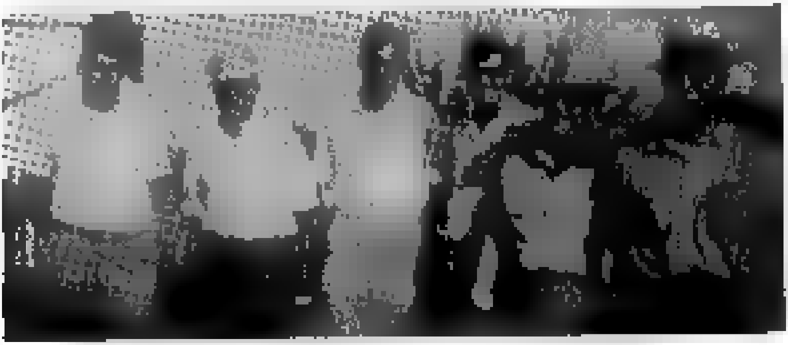
I live with my daughter Hilda and her husband in Marshall, Michigan.

25th Anniversary, September 28, 1945. Bob and Frances Unsworth.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT UNSWORTH, By Frances Unsworth — In September, 1920, I was married to Robert James Unsworth. His family lived four miles west of us, but we had first met as children in 1906, on the boat coming from England. His family had gone to Nova Scotia, mine to Victoria, B.C.; we moved to Garden Plain in 1909, and the Unsworths came in 1912.

After serving overseas for four years, Bob bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm across the road from my dad's place, and I am still there in 1977, fifty-seven years later. We went through a lot of hard years when we were trying to get a start in life . . . drought, poor crops, low prices for farm produce . . . and after being gassed in the war, Bob's health was not good. We had nine sons, but had misfortune to lose three of them; the other six boys are all married and have families of their own.

While digging a well on our farm in 1925, Bob struck coal, so at the first opportunity he sunk a slope and started his own coal mine, which he named the Three Star Mine. He studied at night and got mining papers, and operated it for fifteen years. In the summer I hauled the coal up with horses, and in winter he hired a man for the job.



Unsworth Family, October 1967. Albert, Cyril, Harold, Louis, Roy and George.

At one time he had eight men working for him, and coal was hauled as far as to the Saskatchewan border to the east, west to Byemoor and Endiang, north to Fleet and Federal and south to Hanna.

In 1935, my husband had just come home from the hospital and was

recuperating from a broken back sustained in the mine. One of our horses had died, and as times were hard and a dollar very much needed, our oldest son George and I started across the prairie to skin the dead animal. Although there was a lovely mild chinook blowing, my husband was very much against us going a mile from home, and before we got there, the wind changed and it started to snow. Before we had finished the skinning, a raging blizzard was blowing, and to this day I don't know how we both survived and got home. My poor husband was nearly frantic, walking the floor with a full body-cast on.

Bob could not work much after he was injured, but took an active part in community life. He played for dances, was on the executive of many organizations, and served on the hospital board and the telephone association. He passed away in 1947, after a lung operation.

With the help of our six sons, and the Lord giving us good health, we managed to stay on the farm, where I still live. Our eldest son George lives in Ponoka, where he is shop foreman for the County of Ponoka. Roy is Town Superintendent in Hanna. Harold is an Industrial Arts teacher there, and Albert is Maintenance man at the hospital. Louis and Cyril farm in the Garden Plain district.

LOUIS UNSWORTH — I was born in Hanna in May, 1927 and have been farming in the Garden Plain district ever since. I started my farming career with three geese and two calves that I bought from John Sexsmith with my spending money. I got my schooling at Garden Plain and Netherby, walking the three miles or driving a mule and cart. By the time we went to Netherby we had a team of horses for the winter months. We did chores before and after school and played hockey and ball with Dad, as he was great for sports.

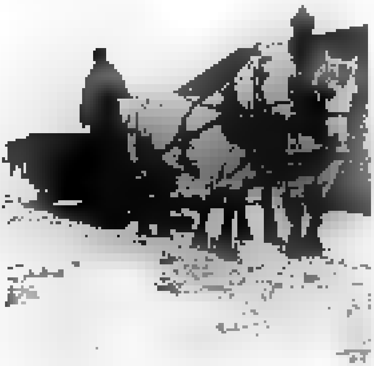
Louis and Laura Unsworth and their oldest children Gerald, Sharon, Robert

L. Unsworth Children — Sharon, Robert, John, Gerry and Frank

My father, Robert James Unsworth, passed away in 1947 and left six boys. I ran the farm for Mother and bought land of my own near the home place. I have tried raising everything, cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese.

I married Laura Clarke, a Calgary girl, in 1950. We have five children. Sharon trained as a nurse and worked in Hanna for a time before marrying Wilfred Schriuer of South Castor. They have two children. Robert is working for the Town of Hanna and John is a carpenter there. Gerry married a local girl, Adelle Allen, and works for the Treasury Branches of Alberta. Frank is living at home and attending Hanna High school.

I am a member of Unifarm, serve on various local boards as well as the Hanna United Church Board, and have been a school trustee for a number of years.



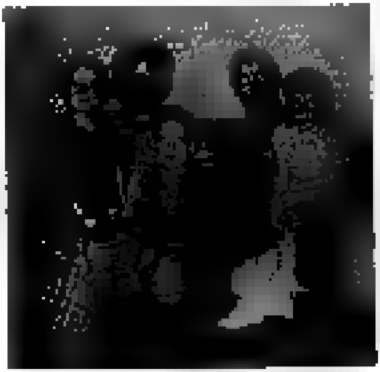
Louis Unsworth and his team of colts he raised as a teenager.

Unsworth Family, December, 1932. Bob, George, Louis, Roy, Albert, Cyril and Harold

CYRIL UNSWORTH STORY — I was born in Hanna, Alta., and grew up on the farm in the Garden Plain district. I went to Netherby School for my education, and a short while at Hanna High School, also completed a course in mechanics.

After my Dad passed away I got a job with the Special Areas running a road patrol, and later went to work for the C.N.R. where I worked as a boiler maker for several years, till I decided to go farming, and settled again in Garden Plain district where I grain farm and run a small herd of cattle. I married Eileen Price, a girl from Kitchener, Ont., and we have raised four children — three boys and one girl, Brian, Bill, Bonnie Mae, and Allison.

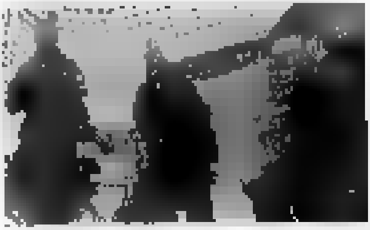
Allison Unsworth.



Bill, Eileen and Cyril Unsworth, Bonnie Mae and Brian.

THE THREE STAR MINE
OWNED and OPERATED by R. J. UNSWORTH

By Frances Unsworth



Three Star Mine 1925. Fred Blackhall, Bob Unsworth and John Unsworth ready for work in the mine.

On November 1, 1924 Bob Unsworth with the help of a hired man, Bob Holt, started digging a slope for a coal mine. They laid track and timbered the tunnel as they went, working every day except Christmas Day and Sundays until March 1, 1925, when they finally struck coal. It was good quality coal, as the seam was quite deep.

Further work on the mine was delayed until after the crop was put in, and then work was resumed at the surface, putting in scales, a tipple, and a hoist; and digging air shafts for ventilation, ready for putting out coal in the fall.

At first the cars of coal were pulled to the surface by a team of horses on a long cable, but this was not very satisfactory. The cars held about twelve hundred pounds of coal. If the team happened to stop when the car was part way up the slope, they could not get started again, and often the weight of the car would pull them backwards until the car hit the bottom or jumped the track. Usually it jumped the track and knocked a lot of timbers out. Later a steel drum with a safety catch was installed, and one horse on a turntable affair could pull out the loads. It was much safer.

Bob started selling coal in the fall of 1925; some winters he hired eight miners and one top man, but in summer we managed by ourselves, as there was very little trade then anyway.

We put in lots of long hours and hard work, but it was a living in the dry years. I fed the miners and sometimes the coal teams, so we were all busy. Bob ran the mine for fifteen years, until he had his back broken in an accident.

George Unsworth took over the mine then, and put down another slope to meet the old one, and ran it for a few more years. When the price of coal dropped so low that he could not make expenses, he closed the mine down.

Grove Family: Barb, Jim and Pam Young, Winnifred, Erbin, Darlene Lewis, Arnold and Inez Grove.

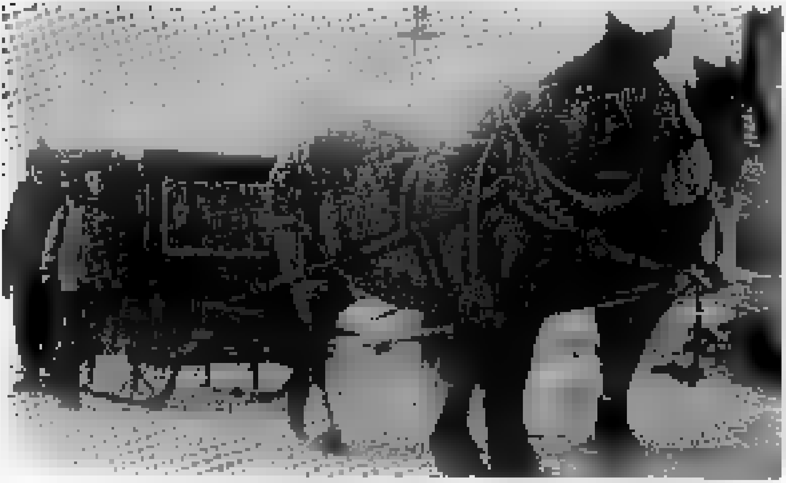
MR. and MRS. ERBIN GROVE, By Winnifred Lewis Grove — We, Erbin Grove and Winnifred Lewis, were married in June, 1935. This was during the depression years and most of our food was home grown. We milked twelve to fifteen cows and sold cream, the cheques paid for the things we had to buy. On June 4, 1936, our daughter Barbara was born, and on November 10, 1937, our son Arnold came along to complete our little family.

We had many good times as well as hardships to remember. I recall one hot July day we had big plans for attending the Scapa picnic. We started out with our Jewett car; we were only a mile along the road when we had a flat tire.

We fixed it, then another went flat. This continued until all four had gone flat . . . the hot sun melted the patches off the inner tubes while we were stopped.

Another year the children had picked out what they wanted for Christmas as soon as the Eaton's catalogue had arrived in the mail. As the time drew near, with no crops or money to fulfil their wishes, we felt sad, but by the end of November Erbin was able to trap and sell enough fur-bearing animals to make everyone happy.

Picking strawberries: Winnifred, Lynden and Erbin Grove



Barb and Arnold Grove leaving for school

On May 1, 1947 we moved to the NE 35-33-14, which had been homesteaded by George Claypool and which we bought from Don Cameron.

Our first radio was a crystal set, it just had earphones and worked quite well. At times we could get Salt Lake City and did get Havana, Cuba, a few times.

In 1951 Rural Electrification Associations were formed, power lines built, and power turned on just before Christmas, 1952. What excitement! It seemed as

If a whole new era had opened up, lights, fridges, deep freezes, vacuum cleaners, etc. The next big event was a new well and running water.

Threshing was always an exciting time of year. We were always glad to see the threshers come, and glad to see them go. How we would have enjoyed deep freezes if we had had them then! One fall Mr. Grove and Erbin hauled the bundles to the machine; I ran the engine and the separator, and fed the threshing machine while Erbin and his dad went back to the field for more bundles. The first combine was such a welcome sight. Just to think that we didn't have to stook all the crop, just the greenfeed. We could almost enjoy doing that.

Erbin was secretary of the Scapa Mutual Telephone Company for twenty-one years. In 1960 we changed to dial phones and our line was divided into two circuits. On March 1, 1973, the government took over the phone lines and they were put underground. Our monthly rate was a dollar a month until the government took over, then the rate was raised to $5.70 a month.

We also had the animal pound in this area for twenty-one years.

Our daughter, Barbara, married Len Young in 1958. They and their daughter live at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Our son Arnold, and his wife and two children, live at Olds.

We still live and work on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Grove and baby Erbin

THE LYMAN GROVE STORY, By Erbin Grove — Lyman Grove was operating a small farm in the western part of the State of Washington, and working in a coal mine, when the doctors told him that his son Erbin had bronchial asthma. They said that the boy would not live long in that damp climate, and advised the father to move to a drier area. About that time Mr. Grove saw an ad in a Washington newspaper: Mr. Frank Ruppert of the Garden Plain district had land for sale.

Mr. Grove came to Canada to look at the land, but it was too hilly to suit him. However, he did buy the south half of 27-33-14 from Hugh McRae, put in a crop and went back to Washington for the summer.

In the fall of 1919 he came back to harvest the crop and brought his son with him. The climate seemed to agree with the boy, so the following January Mr. Grove instructed his wife to sell their cattle and bring their other sons, Ronald and Glen, to Alberta.

Mrs. Grove had no way to communicate with her husband the exact time of their arrival in Hanna, so she hired a livery driver to take her and the boys to the farm. The driver did not know the country very well and became lost. The weather turned colder and a blizzard came up. It was starting to get dark when the driver saw a house and drove to it. It proved to be the Bradshaw mine.

By this time the driver and his passengers were almost frozen, but were taken into the house where it was warm. To get heat to them quickly, the oven door was opened. The youngest boy, thinking that he was not warming up fast enough,

crawled into the oven while everyone's back was turned. He was soon pulled out, a little too warm, but no harm was done.

Mr. Grove bought another section of land, owned quite a few cattle, and did a great deal of custom threshing. His first threshing outfit was one he bought from Ralph Gaugler; in later years he purchased Herman Stamp's outfit. There was a good crop in 1923 and by Christmas of that year, Mr. Grove and his son had hauled six thousand bushels of wheat to Hanna with wagons.

My two brothers and I (Erbin), farmed with Dad for many years. We broke a good many horses, both for ourselves and other people. I put a sign on the harness of one big bay mare we broke, "Man eater, keep away." She was a good work horse but even after working her for three years I still had to harness and bridle her over another horse.

Dad had one part Belgium mare who raised seven colts. They were all big horses; her first colt weighed 1920 pounds at two years of age. The mother and her seven offspring really made a good eight-horse outfit.

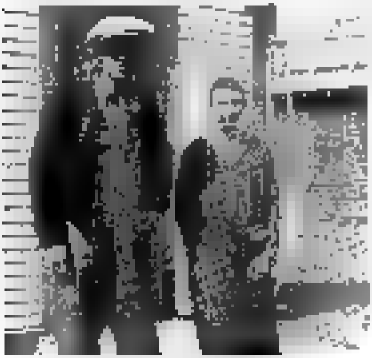
My brother Glen liked to keep coyotes and badgers as pets, so if we ever saw a badger away from his hole we would catch him, put a collar around his neck, and take him home to Glen. Glen kept one pair of coyotes for years, but they never would raise young ones.

Glen built a snowmobile . . . the whole thing, except for the motor at the back which turned a propeller. It worked quite well and he sold it to Fitzsimmons in Hanna.

In 1936 Mother left for the States. Dad did the cooking and milking while Glen and I seeded a thousand acres. We had only thirteen horses that spring, two six-horse outfits and one spare. We cut the crop with two eight-foot binders.

Winnie Lewis and I were married in 1935. During the first twelve years of our marriage, Dad lived with us, and Glen was there for three years, until he moved to the States.

Mr. Grove was a member of the Wheat Pool, a member of the U.F.A., and served on the Garden Plain school board. He suffered a heart attack while driving his truck near the Garden Plain school, and passed away at the age of seventy-six years. He is buried in Netherby cemetery.



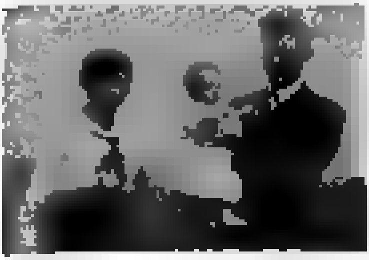
Fred and Nora Blaxhall.

FRED BLAXHALL, By Frances Unsworth — Fred Blaxhall was a bachelor who lived one-half mile east of Garden Plain school. He farmed during the summer and worked hoisting coal at the Unsworth mine during the winter. He was a very particular man. He built a nice Aladdin house on his farm, planted a shelter belt and always had a very tidy yard. He later married a widow, Mrs. Nora King.

During World War II he sold his farm and he and his wife returned to England. During the Atlantic crossing, their ship was chased by a submarine.

Mr. Blaxhall passed away suddenly in 1966, and Mrs. Blaxhall went to a rest home where she spent her remaining years.

Mr. Blackett was famous in the community for entertaining at concerts, playing his flute and singing comic songs.



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ROY BARTMAN, *By Harry and Lena Bartman* — Roy was the youngest of the four Bartman brothers who came to this area in the pioneering days. Like his brothers, he was born in Tobermorey, Ontario. In 1912 when Roy was nineteen, he homesteaded on 33-32-10, some twenty odd miles north-east of present-day Stanmore. His post office was Fenner.

Roy put up a small shack and barn on his place. Meanwhile, his brother Harry had been persuaded to settle in the village of Youngstown, but as soon as winter set in he was out of a job, as everyone put their cars on blocks for the winter. So Harry and Roy kept bachelor's hall on Roy's homestead during the winter of 1913-1914. Roy's shack was so small that he could put fuel on the fire without getting out of bed. The only outside chores were looking after a team of horses.

One day when they were making bread, they forgot about the dough they had set on the warming closet to rise. When they returned to the shack they found that the dough had risen all right, clear out of the pan, down the sides, and some of it was resting on the stove top. They made the best of a bad situation and Harry claims it was about the tastiest bread he had ever eaten.

In 1917 Roy left his homestead and bought Bob Livingstone's half section in the Garden Plain district. In March of 1918 he and Hazel Stewart were married at Lions Head, Ontario, and the newlyweds left for the farm at Garden Plain. Shortly after their arrival Hazel wrote to her sister at Lions Head, "We arrived at Chester Bartman's shack near Garden Plain after a fifteen mile trip by team and sleigh that took seven hours. The trails were mostly bare and we went through water three and four feet deep in places. I was a bit timorous about being left alone on the second day here when Roy had to round up his horses which had strayed away. Our trunks have not yet arrived, so I baked a deep apple pie in a frying pan and rolled out biscuits with a big bottle, all the while trying to contend with a coal stove. I was awe-stricken at the way people lived on these 'wild prairies', but the neighbors are fairly close and yet friendly. I might get to like it after a while!"

As soon as they were able, they moved onto their own farm.

Of the flu epidemic of 1918 Roy says, "In the fall of 1918, during the flu season, the province was prohibition. It was stated by doctors that whiskey was the best preventative of flu. My partner, Elmer Steen, and myself undertook to make some home brew. He was a good mechanic, so had no trouble constructing a good one. Shortly after we had it finished and ready for use a knock came at the door. It was Dr. Nixon. He had come to enquire where certain people lived. He smelled out whiskey right away and knew by the looks of us that we had been into it. (He was a booze artist anyhow!) Asked us how long we'd been drinking it, and how much. A little more wouldn't hurt so we all had a few rounds. Then we set out to find his patients. Elmer drove the doctor's car, a Model T Ford, and I knew the country best so I directed him. The doctor slept in his heavy overcoat, and we went from place to place, rousing him each time to care for his fevered patients. In this manner he travelled many miles and brought relief to many anxious people. I don't think Dr. Nixon ever got the flu himself."

Roy and Elmer, partner and friend from homesteading days at Fenner, bought a threshing outfit from Ralph Gaugler. It was a 25–45 Titan engine and a 32 by 46 inch separator. It took a big crew to operate it. Later they sold this outfit to Lyman Grove and bought another from Roy's brothers, Vic and Harry, who by this time were operating a business in Hanna known as Bertman's Machine Shop. They hauled a cook car with them wherever they threshed. Some of the cooks were Hazel Bertman, a Mrs. Smith, Effie McLaren and Florence Feler.

Roy and Elmer were the life of any gathering. They liked their fun, probably a little better than most, and what deviltry one couldn't think of, the other would. Elmer bought a quarter section of Hudson Bay land across the road from Roy's buildings. Roy farmed this land for Elmer, and also the Bob Eye place which Harry eventually bought.

In the early twenties Roy rented the place to the Groves, and he and his wife and baby Stewart went to Northern Ontario to live. While they were there Helen was born in 1924. But by 1927 the Bertmans were back on the farm. Stewart rode his horse Teddy to school, where his first teacher was Miss Bloomer. When Helen was ready for school they both rode. In winter they drove a horse hitched to a glorified stoneboat. Helen Tucker boarded with the Bertmans and was a bit leery of the shaftless outfit.

During the dry thirties they tried desperately to grow a little garden by hauling water from the creek. One winter they flooded a rink on the coulee flats and had a wonderful time skating. For a time, Roy was abed with rheumatism, having gotten very cold and frostbitten while getting a load of coal.

In 1934 Pete Jensen built an addition to the house. In the fall of 1936 the Bertmans had an auction sale and went to a farm near Wiarton, Ontario. Roy had sent a carload of horses back east before the sale. Herb and Ellen Taylor lived on the place for a while, and Herb finished building the dam on the coulee, a P.F.R.A. project which Roy had started. However, with the large spring runoff the spillway washed out and the dam never did hold much water.

Roy and Hazel eventually retired to Wiarton where Hazel passed away in 1978 and Roy still resides. Stewart and his wife Lorna still farm at Wiarton. Helen is married and lives close by.

MR. and MRS. BOB EYE, By Margaret Eye — I met my husband in Dakota when I was sixteen. We were married there, and later moved to Spokane, Washington, where my husband, Robert, read in a paper that Mr. McRae wanted a hired man. He answered the ad and was hired. We travelled to Canada with our three oldest children, worked for Mr. McRae and later bought 160 acres from Albert Hardman. There was a two-roomed house with a cellar on the property, and later we built on two bedrooms. There was also a barn and a cowshed.

We lived on our place for eleven years, and our two youngest daughters were born while we were there. We worked the land with six head of horses, most of which were bought from Roy Bertman, our closest neighbor.

The four oldest girls went to school at Garden Plain. They rode horses to school, but sometimes in the winter they went by sled.

My husband and I were among the first in that area to plant a shelterbelt, and I think Rob was the first to introduce strawberries to that country. We always raised a big garden and had cows, calves, pigs, and chickens to care for.

To help make ends meet, Rob also worked for Mr. Unsworth in his coal mine. I remember one time it was so foggy when he came out of the mine that he had to turn his horse loose to search for the house.

When Rob was working away from home, I did most of the chores such as

milking and caring for the stock. Of course the girls helped too. During blizzards I tied a rope to the house and held on to it until I found the barn, then tied the other end to the barn so I could find my way back to the house and the kids. During one bad storm, one of our cows had frozen tits. I had to tie her to the back of the stall so she couldn't kick. She was fresh and had to be milked.

I think the hardest part was watering the stock. We had to pull the water up from the well by a pulley. It was hard for me as sometimes a woman can't handle such chores as well as a man. It was hardest when the wind blew and I didn't feel very well. Still, we did get the job done and when Rob was away. I also knitted my husband's socks and made the girls' clothes. The girls weren't dressed fancy, but the best I could. Being well dressed wasn't so important in those days. We were all too busy to notice, but at least they were all clean.

Rob planted most of the land to wheat, and some to oats for feed. I remember only one bumper crop in all of our eleven years, and then the price was poor. Frost and drought ruined most of our crops, still, we had good times too.

Rob helped to build the hall at Garden Plain. All the people came to dance and brought their children along. We enjoyed our neighbors' company. One evening Chester Bertman and his wife came to call. When they went to leave, Mrs. Bertman and my oldest daughter, Marion, decided to have some fun. They traded coats and Marion started off for home with Chester. I don't know how far they went before Chester discovered it was Marion, but they both came back laughing.

We sold out and went to the States in 1928 because of Marion's ill health. They called it leakage of the heart, brought on by St. Vitus dance, a disease of the day. Years later it was determined to be the result of a lack of citrus fruits or vitamin C. We had been able to get dried fruit, but only at Christmas time were oranges and tangerines available. Marion died in 1965. She was to have had open heart surgery at Iowa City, but suffered a stroke at the hospital before the surgery could be completed. She never recovered enough to have the operation.

I will be eighty-four years old in June of 1977. I now live with my daughters. I am now with Maxine and feel pretty good for my years. This letter has been written with the help of my daughter.

Your old neighbor and friend, Margaret Eye.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT EYE, by Rose Eye [illegible] — My parents were married in South Dakota in 1909. They later lived in Minnesota, Idaho and Washington, and in 1917 moved to Calgary where I was born. They had three older daughters, Marion, Gladys and Mildred.

In the spring of 1918 they moved to the Garden Plain area. They traveled to Castor by train and were met by Hugh McRae with horse and buggy. Dad worked for Mr. McRae. When the farm work was finished for that year, they lived in a shack and worked in the Bradshaw coal mine. Next he bought land from a man I have always called Grandpa Hardman. I think his name was Albert. Dad farmed until leaving the district in 1928. In the winters mother did the chores and he worked in the Bradshaw and Unsworth mines.

We went through drought, grasshoppers, army worms, hail and blizzards, but in 1923 we had what they called a bumper crop. I wasn't allowed in the wheat field for fear I'd get lost, as the grain was way above my head.

The big event of 1925 was that I had a new baby sister, Lula Maxine. She was named after our neighbor, Mrs. Grove.

In 1926 in a very bad blizzard we lost a young stallion to the storm. He had gotten within a few feet of shelter. My dad had gone to Iowa to his dad's funeral and we didn't get the horses into the barn before the storm struck. Mother worked shovelling snow and tending stock until she could do no more, then she sent Gladys to Fred Blashill for help. She walked on the crust of the snow, but Fred, being heavier, fell through the crust about every third step, and was very tired by the time they got to the house.

In December of 1927 Dad and Roy Bartman had been butchering pigs all day, when late in the afternoon my older sister Marion had an attack of appendicitis. Dad and Roy hitched the team to the bobsled and started for Hanna about the same time as a winter storm struck. Marion got her appendix out the next morning and was doing fine. That Saturday Dad took mother to the train at Scapa so she could go to visit Marion. When he got home I was having an attack of appendicitis. As another storm was in the air he brought grain and oat bundles for the horses' feed into the house to warm; at daylight he packed me into the bobsleigh with hot grain at my feet and warm oat bundles all around me. We broke trail all but the last two miles into Hanna. Dr. Argue put me right on the operating table and my appendix broke as he laid them on the tray. I came home on December 23, and on Christmas Day, to the horror of my parents and the Bartmans, I was out with Stewart to try out his new toboggan. I didn't get the skis I was planning on as no one thought I'd be able to rough and tumble that year after my operation, but they were wrong. Frances Unsworth gave me a Campfire Book as a get-well gift.

I think I was about five years old when we got Darky; to me he was the most wonderful horse that ever lived. Soon everyone got tired of putting me on his back, so I'd put grain on the ground and straddle his head. When he raised his head I'd be on his back and then all I had to do was turn around and I was ready to go. When he got tired of me he would buck me off, but if I pretended I was hurt, he wouldn't leave me, just stay out of my reach. The sad day came when my dad gave Darky to Peter Ruppert to ride to school. By that time I was eight years old and could ride any horse we had, but none ever took Darky's place, so I took out my hate and frustration on Peter. I'd pick a fight with him at school every chance I got, not because I really had anything against Peter, but because he had my Darky.

Roy Bartmans moved east, then came back again to be our neighbors. Stewart was eight and I was nine. He wasn't supposed to run his horse till he was nine, but I had been running horses as far back as I could remember, so when we got out of sight of the buildings we let them run. The horses told on us, though. Mother and Mrs. Bartman got on the horses we had been riding to go to Wickson's store; when they got out of sight of our house they took off!

My memories of the area are those of a ten-year-old. I remember dances, and sleeping on the table in the back room, covered over with coats, while the older people danced till morning. I remember when Scapa got on the map. When the new store at Scapa was opened, my dad was the first customer. He bought fifteen cents' worth of tobacco.

My dad died in Oregon in 1962, my sister Marion in Iowa in 1966. My mother who is 83 lives with me at present, and also spends some time with my sister Gladys in Spokane. Mildred is in Spokane, and Lula Maxine in Dexter, Oregon. Maxine doesn't remember living in Canada, but when Gladys and I get together we relive those times.

A LETTER TO CANADIAN FRIENDS, from Maxine Eye Watson — I was born Lula Maxine Eye on May 6, 1925, the youngest daughter of Robert and Margaret Eye. My name was a mistake as I was to have been named Janice Maxine, but when Lula Grove visited Mother in hospital, she said, "Are you going to give her my name?" meaning the one she and Mother both liked, Janice, but

Mother thought she meant her own given name, Lula. Perhaps I was a mistake too, as I was seven years younger than my sister Neva, who had been the baby of the family.

Our folks gave us all that it was in their power to give. Times were tough during my growing-up years but I had twenty-five cents to go skating every Thursday night while I was in high school, and now I wonder where Dad managed to get it. My sisters spoiled me too. Marion made me a white lace dress with a yellow underskirt. Gladys taught me to make my first apple pie. Mildred bought me my first horn so that I could play in the band. Neva, bless her, kept me in line.

We came to the States when I was three years old so I don't remember much . . . my sisters coming up the lane on horseback from school, playing in the barn, the new coat my folks bought for me. During World War II I needed my birth certificate, and discovered that both Neva and I have dual citizenship, because we were born in Canada of American parents during a certain time.

I never returned to Canada until 1970, when Mother and Mildred and I went to visit the people I'd heard talked about all my life. We stayed at Winnie and Erbin Grove's; they insisted, and wouldn't hear of us going to Hanna for a room. They took us on a grand tour of the surrounding territory and back to see what was left of our old home.

I met Frances Unsworth next. She invited us to dinner. What a meal! It was like Thanksgiving! We were also introduced to her son, so much like his mother with his warm and friendly greeting. One inherits traits like that.

We also met Mr. and Mrs. Johnson that day. When they heard that Mrs. Eye was in the neighborhood they came just as they were, and came running. Another lovely couple to remember. I'd heard that we had given them our dog when we left for the States. We also spent a very nice evening with Stewart Mc Rae. He and his sister had been schoolmates of my older sisters.

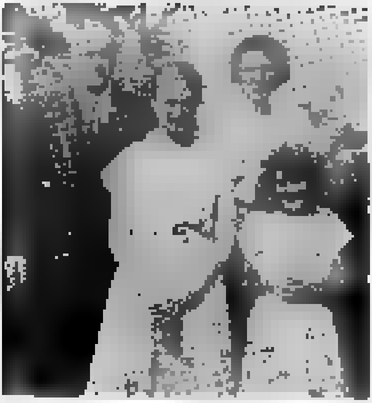
I'll never forget the return to the place of my birth, and the hospitality shown us. I hope some day to return again with my husband. If it's meant to be, I will be coming again.

ROBERT LIVINGSTONE, by Fred Johnston — Mr. and Mrs. Bob Livingstone and their adopted daughter Christina emigrated from Scotland to homestead the north half of 27-33-14 in the early part of 1910. They erected their buildings on the west quarter, but after living there for some time they moved to the east quarter, overlooking the coulee. The creek at the bottom of the coulee emptied into Sullivan Lake some four miles away, and carried the spring runoff from the large watershed to the east.

Before Garden Plain school was built, church services were held in their home. Bob taught the Sunday school classes and John Sims delivered the sermons. Christina was among the first pupils of Garden Plain school.

They sold their land to Roy Bertman in 1917, and bought land south of Hanna. In 1920 they sold that place to W.E. Fitzsimmons, the Hanna auctioneer, and went to California, where they had a vineyard.

JAMES CROMBIE — Jim Crombie was an early settler who came in 1909 to homestead. He was a bachelor and a brother of Mrs. Brailsford. In 1914, while digging a well on his homestead northwest 33-33-14, he lost his life when gas seeped into the hole. Bill Welche was helping him at the time. Jim is interred in the Netherby cemetery.



Richard and Mildred, Charlotte and Marlene Zeamer

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ZEAMER, *By Mildred Hanson Zeamer* — Richard and I were married in 1937 at the Lutheran parsonage in Craigmyle and went to live at Harrogate, B.C. Our first child, Charlotte was born while we were there.

In 1938 we moved to the Scapa district, and lived on a farm five and a half miles east of Scapa. In 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. Both girls attended Garden Plain school. Mrs. Agnes Temple and Gerda Hoffman Litke were their teachers.

We moved to Hanna in 1948 and have lived here ever since. Charlotte Dembicki has two girls, Myrna and Susan. Marlene Little has a boy Brett and a girl Michele.

RICHARD and MILDRED ZEAMER — Richard and I and our daughter Charlotte moved onto the Roy Bartman place in the spring of 1938. Our folks gave us cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks and turkeys, and we used their machinery for the first year.

For four years Richard drove mail route No. 1 from Scapa, going south to H. Viste's, coming up to Gaugler's corner, west and north past Carl Welch's; then west past Hanson's and north to Lyszen's corner, east past Burt's, Lohrmann's, and Stemp's, and south into Scapa. It was a thirty-five mile route. In winter he drove a team on a cutter, and stopped at Chris Viste's to feed his horses and have his own lunch. In summer he drove a truck.

In October, 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. In the fall of 1942 our crops were snowed under and we had to take them off in the spring of 1943. That fall Charlotte started school at Garden Plain; Mrs. Agnes Temple was the teacher. When the children had their Christmas concerts, I always played the piano to accompany their singing, and for their drills. We also used to enjoy the picnics with the homemade ice cream and sandwiches and cake. Parents who could play softball took part, and entered the races too.

Once when Richard and Uncle Bill and I were coming home from Hanna we were caught in a blizzard and had to spend the night in an empty house belonging to Vic Bartman. We were lucky as there was a heater there and we were able to keep warm. In the morning Richard walked to Riddle's and got help. That was in February, 1947. We had to leave our car there and it was April before we got it home.

Once when Charlotte was little she went out with her dad in the winter, and put her tongue on a big steel wheel that was in the yard. Of course it got stuck and Richard had to loosen it. Her tongue was bleeding so badly that I phoned Dr. Argue and he told me to put strong tea on it. Richard had to drive the team a mile to Uncle Bill's to get some tea, but by eleven o'clock that night the tongue had healed enough that Charlotte was able to drink hot chocolate.

Richard worked in the U.G.G. elevator for two years, and in 1947 started working for the Special Areas. We moved to Hanna in December, 1948, and we still live there, as do our daughters. Charlotte married Eddie Dembicki and has two daughters. Marlene married Sergeant Vance Little of the R.C.M.P. and has a son and a daughter.

Mrs. Agnes Temple, who taught both our girls, was one of the first teachers that my brother, Bud Hanson, and I had.

The Cook Family: Fred, Andy, Chester, Frank, Searl, Evelyn, Charlotte, Mrs. Searl Cook, Bill Cook, Sharon and Annie Cook.

THE BILL COOK STORY, By Mildred Zeemer — Mr. and Mrs. W.F. (Bill) Cook and their children, Fred, Charlotte, Bill and Frank, moved to the Brown farm which they had bought, in the spring of 1938. While they lived there six more children were added to the family, Evelyn in 1939, Chester in 1941, Searl in 1944, Annie in 1945, Andy in 1947, and Sharon in 1949.

My aunt always grew a big garden and had new potatoes earlier than anyone else in the spring. She had a lot of patience; she peeled the little potatoes because her husband didn't like them boiled with the skins on. Her cakes were made with what little she had, but they were tasty, and she made the best stew around.

My cousins, Bill and Frank, used to walk a mile to our place for water, and carry it home in syrup pails.

In 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Frank and Evelyn, were caught in a blizzard on their way home from Hanna. Bill left his wife and the two children in the car and started walking home. He got lost walking across our land, and all that saved him was that their dog kept barking and guided him home. He was badly frozen, and though he did not have to have any parts amputated, he was in hospital a long time.

The oldest girl, Charlotte, was at home with the rest of the family. Next morning she phoned my husband in Scapa and asked him to go to the car or to Greenway's and get her mother and the two children. When Richard opened the car door, he got quite a shock to see them still inside it, but they were quite well, except that the children's toes were frost bitten.

In February of 1950 Annie was rushed to the Hanna hospital, with a ruptured appendix. For several days the doctor feared that she would not live, but after two or three months in hospital she recovered.

The Cooks sold the farm and moved to Hanna in 1952. Aunt Searl died on her wedding anniversary in 1967. Uncle Bill is in a private home in Edmonton.

Fred lives at Drumheller. Charlotte, Mrs. Marvin Clarkson, and Evelyn, Mrs. Ken White, live in Calgary. Bill lives south of Langdon Corner; Searl, Mrs. Lawrence Woodbury, is at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Frank, Chester, Andy, Annie (Mrs. Allen Wahl), and Sharon, Mrs. Doug McBride, all live at Edmonton.

JAMES WEIR, By Frances Unsworth — Jim Weir, a bachelor and brother of Mrs. Bob Livingstone, emigrated from Scotland. He came to the Garden Plain area in 1913 to homestead the north-west of 13-33-14. He lived in a sod shack, the remains of which can still be seen today. He was a blacksmith by trade and used to

ply his trade at the Diamond mine located on Donald Cattanach's homestead. He joined the army during World War I and was posted overseas.

Jim did work for his neighbors, and took part in many parties and concerts, singing many Scottish songs. One of his favorite songs was 'Just a wee Doch and Doris'.

THE HUGH McRAE FAMILY, by Stuart McRae — My father, Hugh McRae, was born in Scotland and came to Canada as a young man in 1905. He worked as a dining-car waiter on the C.P.R. line between Calgary and Edmonton, and though there was the promise of advancement, and an adequate pension upon retirement, my father was not satisfied.

Land in abundance was there for the taking, and people by the thousands rushed to possess it. Urged by the hope of carving a life of prosperity and independence from the wilderness, or simply by the desire for adventure, people from all over the world looked to the prairies. Excitement, enthusiasm and rags-to-riches stories filled the air. There was an awareness of the hardships involved, but it was felt to be a small price to pay for the prize.

So my father, yielding to the temptation of the land, went to Stettler in 1908 and filed on the west half of 20-33-14 as his homestead and pre-emption. He returned to Calgary and worked another year for the C.P.R., meanwhile preparing for his conquest of the wilderness. Acquiring a wagon, a team of horses and a team of mules, and other necessities, he was ready early in 1909 to start his great adventure.

Many of the early prairie settlers were from farm backgrounds. They knew about livestock, land cultivation, seeding and harvesting, so that though they found themselves in an environment much different than the one they had left, they were able nonetheless to put their knowledge to good use.

There were also those who knew nothing about farming; those who were lumped together as 'green Englishmen', though in fact they might have been of almost any nationality. They were the butt of endless jokes about harnessing the horses with the collars upside down, fetching the left-handed monkey wrench or greasing the wheels on the harrows. My father was one of these, green as the prairie grass in June.

He told the story of how, on his last Sunday in Calgary, he took several of his friends for a ride to show off his team and wagon. All went well until they entered a dead-end street and tried to turn around. Then he discovered that no matter how he manoeuvered the team, it couldn't be done. So they sat waiting, my father dying of embarrassment, until some kind pedestrian came to their rescue. He turned the outfit by cramping and backing the wagon and set them on their way.

In the spring of 1909 my father, driving the horses and leading the mules, headed east toward his new home. As he rattled over the raw turtleback of the Morrin-Munson country he wondered why anyone would settle this rough area when a few miles beyond so much smooth and easily worked land could be theirs for the asking. Little did he know that the land he questioned was to become the breadbasket of Alberta.

Arriving eventually at the homestead, he set about doing all the necessary things to get established, building his first shack, digging for water, fencing, putting up hay for winter feed and breaking the land.

In between times he got to know his neighbors. There was Lizzie Hills, an Irish woman who in defiance of convention had set about realizing her dream without benefit of male help. She must have been a remarkable person, working, dealing and fighting with men at a time when women, like children, were to be seen and not heard. There were the Lohrmanns, the Leichts and the Bartchs all of whom were connected in some way with that most necessary and romantic machine of early rural life, the great steam threshing outfit. Each fall it rumbled majestically from farm to farm, trailing in its wake swarms of bundle teams, spike pitchers, field pitchers, cook cars and bunk houses.

Jim Walker was a small, quick-tempered Irish American, highly imaginative and full of quite impractical ideas, but an exciting and interesting person. We children weren't raised on fairy tales; instead we listened to endless hilarious stories having to do with Jim Walker. It seems that he and his oxen helped my father break some land, but during the heat of the day insect pests drove the oxen, plough and all, into a slough.

"Mac", said Jim, "We will tie lanterns to the yokes and work at night."

This they did but the lanterns attracted the insects and again the oxen high-tailed it for the water. After struggling for an hour in darkness and up to their hips in water, they finally gave up.

"To hell with it," said Jim. "Let them be."

This they did and sure enough next morning they found the oxen lying by the edge of the slough, quietly chewing their cuds.

Many years later we met Jim Walker's eldest son, a man now of sixty, but who had been seventeen when he knew my father. It was his turn now to tell long funny stories about my father, which he did with great enthusiasm. My father, as seen through his eyes, was someone I hardly knew.

There was Mr. Ruppert, a man of such strength that he could carry a hundred pounds of beans on his back from Stettler, and of such skill with an axe that he could cut a perfect steak from a frozen beef with one swipe. And there were many more, some whose only concern was proving up on their homestead and selling out, but most with a deep faith that they could wrest a good life from the land.

By 1912 my father had bought the west half of 27-33-14, had moved the shack from the west half of 28, and prepared to make this new location his centre of operations. Also in 1912 he went to Edmonton, married my mother, and brought her to the farm. They spent their first night on the prairie at Sesco's stopping house, ten miles south of Castor.

My mother, who had lived a comparatively sheltered life, knew little about the hardships of prairie settlement, but she was soon to learn. A Mrs. Christ had an accident while discing, and badly injured her foot. Somehow she managed to attract my parents' attention, and they took her to Castor where her foot was amputated. Many years later a car drove into the yard and a large jolly woman bounded from it. It was Mrs. Christ. I was surprised to see how little she seemed to have been affected by her past tragedy, yet I should not have been, because I've long since learned that many people endured great suffering in those early days and still were able to live in peace and happiness to a ripe old age. Perhaps hardship was the fire that tempered them.

My sister Bella was born in 1914 and I in 1915. My father was prospering and the trappings of civilization began to make life easier. The price of produce was reasonably good, and there had been no major crop failures. It wasn't until the famous frost of 1918 that my father for sure and many others probably, began to suspect that the land they had chosen might not flow forever with milk and honey.

It was during the First World War years that many farmers began to borrow money. Then, as now, it was needed for expansion and to improve living conditions. Banks and mortgage companies were willing lenders.

Snow came early in 1919. Many crops were left unthreshed and people were short of feed. As winter progressed and the cold intensified, feed prices went out

of sight. Cattle prices had been high in the fall and it was expected that they would be even higher in the spring. But such was not to be. When after one of the worst winters on record, spring finally came, many cattle were dead of starvation, prices were half of what they had been the previous fall, and cattlemen were deeper in debt. The effects of the disaster were felt right across the country and many were forced into bankruptcy.

My brother Roy was born in September of 1921. I remember it well. My mother's time having come, as they used to say, we set off in the early evening for the hospital in Hanna, some twenty miles away. My father and mother were in the seat of the buggy while Bell and I sat in the little box behind. It was a warm night; there was no moon but the stars were bright. We knew that something unusual was about to happen but we children were excited by it, not frightened. As the buggy moved steadily along we gazed at the stars and we watched the roadside shrubs loom large as we approached them, then recede into mysterious darkness as we left them behind. We saw fireflies too that night and the tiny glowing lights filled us with wonder. Time passed happily for us, but not for my mother. While still some four miles from Hanna, she could go no farther. We drove to a large white farm house (I think Peuker was the owner) and there Roy was born.

As I think back to those long-gone days, two great differences from life today come forcibly to mind. The first has to do with night-time darkness. When the light of the sun was gone we depended on the coal oil lamp and lantern. Indoors we lived by the thin light of a table lamp, hardly bright enough to carry to the farthermost wall. Outdoors it was the lantern. We hung it from a peg in the barn and if we had to set it down we were careful not to let it topple on dry straw. We fumbled with harness straps and buckles in darkness. But most of all we travelled in darkness. Mile after mile and hour after hour we were in darkness.

Today we have light, houselights of all sorts, barn lights, yard lights, street lights, car lights, so that we are seldom in darkness. Yet I sometimes think that in eradicating darkness so completely from our lives we have removed ourselves still further from nature, and that this separation from the natural world may produce more unhappiness than joy.

The second difference from life today has to do with horses. Which of us who lived with them can forget them?

They were the means by which we coaxed our living from the soil; they were our tractors, trucks and cars. They kindled our deepest affection, frustration and pride, fear and hopes. And they shared our fortunes. They were fat and sleek as we prospered, suffered too as we suffered. No two horses were alike. Each expressed his personality according to his nature. Some were fast, the lead team on the plough or the drivers on the road. Some were slow, slow as molasses running up hill in January. Some could move huge loads, churning the ground with their feet, their bellies close to the ground, pulling their hearts out. Others wouldn't pull the hat off your head. Some were wind broke, spavined, foundered or sway back; these we pitied. Others, young and strong, thundered over the prairie, manes and tails flying, heads high, snorting their defiance to the world. These were beautiful.

We listened to others' stories of horses, and told our own. We heard of settlers lost in a blizzard giving head to their horses and being taken home. We heard and told of runaways, of eight- and ten-horse teams driven to frenzy in a hail storm, racing uncontrolled for shelter, or of four on a binder suddenly bolting, the bull wheel leaving the ground and bundles thrown twenty feet until the crown and pinion stripped. Strange how they would all take off at once as though each had received a simultaneous shock.

Once when my father was returning from Cereal with a half a load of willow posts and a supply of groceries, including several dozen eggs, a line slipped from his hand and the horses ran. Eventually they slowed down enough that he was able to retrieve the line and gain control. His anger was aroused; he decided that if they wanted to run hard let them, so he grabbed a post and proceeded to give them what-for. He no sooner had them whipped to full speed than he again lost a line. Off they went once more, careening wildly over the prairie. When finally the commotion ceased he discovered that the posts had worked their way over the groceries and the eggs were pounded into the finest omelet you could hope to see.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother, Bell and I waiting impatiently for father's return from hauling wheat to Hanna. My mother, preparing his supper, pauses from time to time to listen. At last we hear it: the jingle of neck chains, the muted sound of harness leather, the soft flop of sleigh runners and finally the loud "Whoa", spoken as much for our benefit as for the horses. Moments later he comes through the door, huge in his great fur coat, carrying a box of groceries wrapped in blankets and exuding the pure cold smell of a winter night. Through the open door we catch a glimpse of the horses, grey with frost, one, my father's favorite, whinnying for attention. Bell and I dance with excitement as we watch him draw a small paper bag of candy from his pocket. He gives it to us, then leaves to look after the horses. Bell and I, sucking our candy, go happily to bed.

Another memory is of Bell and I being roused from our beds early on a summer morning to bring the horses from the pasture. Disgruntled and angry, wiping sleep from our eyes, we set off. Our spirits soon improve as the rising sun warms us and we hear the bright songs of meadowlarks and blackbirds. We make our way to the highest hill of the pasture and look back, marvelling at the paths extending to the farmstead half a mile away, that our feet had made as they brushed the heavy dew from the grass. We gather the horses and return home convinced that the world is a wonderful place after all.

The days of collars and nose nets, of sweatpads and sore shoulders are long since gone. But when I go to the barn and gaze at a set of harness still hanging on the wall, I feel it in my arms as I throw it across a horse's back, and I feel the pressure on my shoulder as I brace against the collar to tighten the hame strap.

Time passed on the prairies. The completion of the C.N.R. line from Hanna to Warden marked a decided improvement in our way of life. We still had to travel to Hanna for many necessities, but we were only six miles from the new town of Scapa. Cars had made their appearance some ten years before but they were erratic, temperamental creatures, not entirely used or trusted. The Model Ts, McLaughlin Buicks, Chevs, Stars, Essex and Hudsons of the day were mostly associated with flat tires, frozen radiators, faulty motors, and horses pulling them out of mudholes. However, as roads and automotive technology improved, cars commenced their rapid rise to dominance.

By and large the twenties were good years. There were hail storms, but insurance at reasonable rates was available, and heavy crops before the hail destroyed them proved at least that the country could grow grain. But the good times were not to last. The stock market crashed in 1929 and prices began to fall. The dry year of 1933 was the first of a series that was to drive thousands off the land and dash the hopes of everyone. It was impossible now to find money to satisfy debts incurred in more prosperous times. Foreclosures and bankruptcies were the order of the day. From 1933 to 1937 there were years of drought, dust, [illegible] on binders, Bennett buggies, relief food and feed, and carloads of vegetables, fruit and fish shipped into Scapa in an effort to curb unemployment

the government paid farmers five dollars a month to hire a man and it paid the man five dollars a month to work for the farmer. Social Credit was born in those years and leaped to power on the promise of ending poverty in the midst of plenty, and of $25.00 per month.

Still life went on. People amused themselves with picnics, card parties, visiting and dances; we didn't have much money but we didn't need much to get by. Ten cents for ten cigarettes, twenty-five cents to go to a dance, and the ladies brought lunch.

During the thirties my father started selling life insurance, and also established connections in Vancouver where he was to spend the last years of his life. In 1935 he advertised the farm for sale at a ridiculously low price. He was swamped by so many offers to buy that he decided that if all those people wanted it it had to be worth something, so he kept it.

In 1931 or 1932 a high school had been established at the home of Bill Harvey, four miles north of where we lived. I attended that school in 1933. Thinking back I am impressed by the amount we learned in the living room of a farmhouse, a far cry from the elaborate educational facilities we have today. A Mr. Reid was in charge. Years before his arm had been amputated after having been mangled by an enraged stallion, or so rumor had it. He was an excellent teacher, knowledgeable, yet compassionate and understanding. Which is to say, I suppose, that education depends more on the quality of the relationship between the pupils and the teacher than on the physical setting in which it takes place.

The outbreak of war in 1939 marked the end of the old days and the beginning of the new. The great drought ended in 1938 and the war created a demand for farm products. Unemployment became a thing of the past as people rushed to the armed services or to war-stimulated industries. Those farmers who had weathered the depression absorbed the land forsaken by their former neighbors and thus accelerated the trend toward larger farms. Mechanization swept the country. In a few short years the horse was almost extinct. The passing of the horse signalled the passing of a way of life which would never return. It could live only in the memories of those who had experienced it.

My father died in Vancouver in 1965, my mother in 1967, my sister Belle in 1975. Roy lives in Richmond, a suburb of Vancouver, while I live on a small farm near the village of Innisfree. The country around here, unlike the prairie, has many trees, but there is enough open space and rolling hills to remind me constantly of the land where I was born and raised.

OF WELLS AND WATER, *By Pat Taylor McRae* — A book could be written about wells in the early days, or about the lack of them. We can all recall tales of people who, discouraged and fed up with the hard unrewarding life, jumped into wells and ended their troubles. There were others who displeased someone, or who perhaps had money someone wanted, and they were disposed of and dumped down abandoned wells.

When Stuart and I were first married in 1946, we lived almost indentically to the way his parents lived. We lived in the same shack that Hugh McRae threw up back in 1910. We hauled water out of a well that we dug ourselves, Stuart down at the bottom and me at the top pulling the mud and slush up, until we hit a good stream of water. Sometimes if I was a bit careless, mud would fall back down the well and over poor Stuart. Many were the bad words passed back and forth before we finished, and at times I was tempted to leave another unsolved mystery down at the bottom of the well.

The well was dug at the bottom of our coulee and the shack was at the top

The first year we were going to make our fortune with five hundred chickens. As they got older, they required more and more water. And the house required water. It required a lot of leg work to carry the pails up the hill.

At that time we had a big old horse named Dock that we bought from Milton Stuart. Every day I would harness him and hook him to the stoneboat and down the hill we would go to the well. Hand over hand I would pull the water up and dump it in the barrel. When it was full, I'd put a tub over it and we'd go back up the hill. Days when the nose flies were bad, shaking his head up and down, he'd start up with a jerk. The barrel would teeter and if I wasn't quick enough, over it would go, barrel and water rolling down the hill and Dock running up. Some bad days I'd have to make two or three trips to get a full barrel of water up the hill. By then I'd be screaming at Dock and crying and heaping curses on farm life, horses, and everything in general.

In 1949 we built, with Fred Harvey's help, a small house at the east end of the trees. It seemed like a castle after the old shack; there was even a propane stove! We dug another well just twenty feet from the house. That was heaven. I still pulled the water from the well hand over hand, but I had no hill to climb. In the winter, the spilt water would freeze and build up until the well casing was only about two feet above it, and it was a treacherous job to keep one's footing and not fall in.

I remember one bad winter morning I got up and went out to get four pails of water, two for the boiler for washing and two for drinking and cooking. I left the top of the well up between trips. At that time we had a cat and a dog who had a continuous running battle; when the dog chased her, the cat would leap to safety on top of the well cover. On this particular morning the cat took a running leap to what she thought was safety and disappeared from sight. I heard a splash, tore into the house and that was the fastest Stuart ever got out of bed. He slipped on pants and shoes and went down the well on the steps nailed to the inside of the cribbing. He rescued the cat from a watery grave, but she refused to drink any more water during her stay at our place.

Wells were our coolers in the early days. We would hang a can of cream on a rope down the well, butter and meat in another pail on another rope. Sometimes in hot weather it was almost an obstacle course, to try to find room to pull up a pail of water. Sometimes we had problems, like when the ropes on the cream can came unknotted and the can of cream fell in the well, and then we had to bail all the water out.

Wells were receptacles for many strange things. I remember when I was very young going to visit a girl friend. We were pulling up a pail of water for the house and in it was a very dead gopher, bloated to several times his normal size. After that I never drank water when I visited them. I could always see in my mind that bloated gopher with his four little legs sticking straight out. If the water in our barn well ever began to get an odd taste or odor, we would clean it out, mud and all, and usually find a dead mouse.

Then there were the different flavors in the water. Some had so much soda in it that it made the tea as black as ink. It also forced most visitors to make innumerable trips to the little house out back. No two farms seemed to have water that tasted the same. One got used to one's own well water even if it was loaded with iron and soda and alkali and could hardly drink any other kind.

Water was a very big item in locating homestead buildings. Some people were lucky and found it without too much difficulty, others were not. Some people had a talent for witching wells; sometimes this worked and sometimes it didn't. One case I know of was the Unsworth farm, where over the past fifty years wells

have been witched and dug and drilled at great expense, but as far as I know, to this day they have never struck water.

Yes indeed, many are the changes that have taken place since those early years. I guess I'd haul water up a hill in a pail, I'd wash diapers for twins and dry them in the kitchen; I'd even dig another well if I had my youth and the enthusiasm I had then; but now, in my twilight years, I like my little luxuries.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ARTZENBACHER, By Clara Artzen — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Artzenbacher and their four children, Ferdie, Rosa, Adelaide and Clara, came to Canada from Germany in 1927. They settled on a farm at Garden Plain, eighteen miles north of Hanna on the Castor highway.

There was a shortage of water on the farm, only enough for cooking purposes. Mrs. Artzenbacher would haul water for the stock and household with open barrels on a stoneboat. It was a two-mile trip, and often the barrels would be half empty when she arrived home. Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher dug seven wells on the farm to try to find a dependable source of water. The seventh well was a good one, but that year they left the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher

Ferdinand Artzen and Family (Artzenbacher). Ferdinand was raised and attended school in Garden Plain

The children went to Garden Plain school, three miles from the farm, and made their first Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. George's Catholic Church, Hanna.

Although most of the family shopping was done at Scapa, Mr. Artzenbacher hauled wheat to Castor to have it milled into flour. It was a two-day trip with a team and box wagon.

In 1928 their house burned to the ground. Mrs. Artzenbacher made several trips back into the house and managed to save some of their belongings.

In 1934 there was a drought, and the grasshoppers ate up the crop and grass. Mr. Artzenbacher and Ferdie took a mower and hayrack and horses and went to Rocky Mountain House where they cut a lot of slough hay. That fall the family moved to the Crimson Lake area where both Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher took up homesteads.

In 1945 they had their name legally changed to Artzen.

Mr. Artzen died in February, 1945.

THE CATTANACH FAMILY, ***By Margaret Cattanach Blockson*** — John and Margaret Cattanach emigrated from Nairn, near Inverness, Scotland, to Canada in 1910, accompanied by six of their eight children. Their sons Donald and Aleck had come over about four years previously. Their four older daughters, Meg, Jessie, Kath and Mollie remained in Calgary where they worked as seamstresses for the Hudson's Bay Company. The younger children, Elizabeth and John, continued on to the Scapa district with their parents and a homestead was established.

Grandpa Cattanach farmed his homestead until 1926 when his wife Margaret died of a heart attack. He spent some of his remaining years with his son John and wife Maymie, and some with his married daughters, Meg and Mollie, in Vancouver, where he died in 1934.

Margaret and David Cattanach, John and Mamie Cattanach, Peg and Alex Blockson, Joyce and Ralph Quaschnick.

Mrs. John Cattanach Sr., Mrs. George Wright, George Wright, John Cattanach Sr. with granddaughter, Margaret Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce Morris, John Cattanach, Bob Lesseth.

My father, John Cattanach, bought a half section of land from Peter Gulleeth in 1918, and began to establish his own home two miles east of Scapa. To supplement the farm income he worked with a team of horses on the building of the Scapa-Hemaruka railway. He also worked with the men who surveyed the Sullivan Lake line for the Pearce irrigation scheme.

My father met my mother, Maymie Hill, when she was working in the store

and cafe at Scapa. They were married in 1928 and had five children, Margaret (Peggy), Joyce and Jean, the twins, Sheila who passed away in 1938, and David.

The depression years were hard times for everyone, but my folks managed, and if any of the neighbors needed a hand to pull a balky pump, move a granary, or whatever, my dad was ready to help. If anyone happened by at mealtime there was always a welcome. When harvest rolled around, the threshing crews went from farm to farm and each farmer accompanied the thresher to do his best to help get the crops off before Old Man Winter hit. Many years the threshing was not completed until spring.

It was in the fall of 1942 that dad had his first ruptured ulcer, and he was to be plagued with recurring sessions of this until in 1945 he was sent to a specialist in Winnipeg for an operation to sever the vagus nerve to the stomach.

My mother was active in the Scapa Ladies' Aid and was a seamstress well known for her ability to 'make over'. As times became more affluent she sewed for many of the neighbors and their families with new material and patterns, a real treat for her.

We children all received the greater part of our education in the Scapa school, walking the two miles each way most of the time. Only occasionally were we lucky enough to have a ride with someone driving a team and wagon to Scapa, or back to a neighboring farm east of ours. The walking was good for us though, and we still had bundles of energy left when we got home to do our chores and play a while before supper.

I remember the time that dad was milking a rather unruly cow who kept switching him with her tail and then managed to get her foot far enough ahead to upset the bucket of milk. Dad had a strong Scottish temper and he jumped up and gave the cow a healthy kick. To his horror his foot appeared to break, with the toe of his boot sticking straight up. Well, he hobbled to the house to tell Mom he had broken his foot, and we all had a good laugh when he discovered that the worn sole of his boot had given way with the kick and had pointed skyward.

Dad worked with the P.F.R.A., starting under Fred Stemp in 1950, taking farmers' statements for the drought bonus. He worked each fall at this until 1973; during the last three years my mother accompanied him to drive the car. Dad was well known by most farmers from the Stettler, Castor, Consort line on the north to the Red Deer River near the Brooks area in the south. He made many lasting friendships on those travels.

John and Maymie retired from the farm in 1974, to reside in Dove's Trailer Court in Hanna. Dad passed away in March, 1977.

I married Ken Blocksom in 1951 and we have three children, Terry, Patti and Gay, and one grandson Kyle.

Joyce married Ralph Queschnack in 1953; they have four children, Don, Keith, Marvin and Mary.

Jean married Dick Mockel in 1956 and they have five children, Randy, Larry, Sheila, Sandra and Carla.

David married Marguerite Cottrell in 1961. They have two children, Jim and Debbie, and live on the home place. Dave also drives a school bus.

THE BENZIE BROTHERS, By Frances Unsworth — Robert and George Benzie took up homesteads a few miles west of the Garden Plain store in 1908. Frank, their younger brother, came later. George was a blacksmith, and Frank a tailor by trade.

They drove oxen for a few years, and later changed to horses, and were noted for the lovely grey Percherons that they drove. They did breaking for their

neighbors, and freighted from Castor to Hanna, and George did blacksmithing to earn money to pay expenses while they were proving up on their homesteads. George and Frank also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

Robert used to amuse the Lepard children with Scottish stories and jokes when he baby sat with them. Miss Benzie came and stayed with her brothers for a while. Later she became Mrs. George Hunter and moved to the Buchan district. The Delker brothers bought the Benzie place and are still farming it.

MEMORIES OF THE FARM, ***By George Morris*** — I came from England in March, 1913, and worked for a time loading C.P.R. box cars for twenty-five cents an hour. In January, 1916, I joined the army and served overseas till the war ended.

Back in civilian life, I married the girl, Mary Cattanach, to whom I was engaged before I went overseas. We started our life together on the Hardman farm, which was close to Garden Plain school. I loved the life very much, especially when I was ploughing, for the smell of the new ground was like a tonic to me, but this area needed a lot of rain to ensure a good crop and often we just didn't get it.

I had my well drilled by a Mr. Huppert. He had to go down 110 feet before striking water. I put in a two-inch pipe and with a one-and-a-half horse engine running steadily for eight hours, it didn't show signs of slackening a bit. In fact, we had the finest soft water in the district. The stock loved it, and although we had water in the creek in the pasture, the stock would always come to the tank for a drink.

My two daughters were both born during our stay in Alberta. The eldest, Annie Margaret, was born at home. Dr. Wade, who attended my wife, stayed with us all night to make sure that everything was all right before he left her in the care of her mother. My younger daughter, Greta Marie, was born in the Hanna hospital. Dr. Argue escorted her into the world in 1926.

Mrs. Cattanach, my wife's mother, died while on a visit to our farm. She just asked for a drink of water and collapsed and died before Dr. Wade could be called. It was quite a shock to us as she had never complained and always seemed to be in the best of health. After losing his wife, John Cattanach went to live with one of his daughters in Vancouver, and later died and was buried there.

I think one of the worst storms I ever encountered started when I was in Hanna one day. I met Dick Hassard who lived a little north-west of me. I wondered if we ought to stay in Hanna for the night but he thought we could make the twenty miles home, so we started out. The snow was hitting us like small pellets, the horses just had to feel their way and at times I wasn't even sure that we were on the trail. My wife's brother, John Cattanach, was staying with her and assured her that I wouldn't try to come home in that storm. They were very surprised to hear the jingle of harness as we drove into the yard. He unhitched the team for me and covered them with blankets; after I had my supper I went out to unharness them. It had been impossible to do it before as all the buckles were frozen. A few years later the steel came through Scapa and our long trips to town were a thing of the past.

In 1927 I had over one hundred acres of wheat, seventy-five of oats and fifteen of barley, and crop prospects were very good. On July 8, I drove into Hanna taking a little sheaf of wheat to show to Jack O'Dell, who owned a store there. About three o'clock I started back home because of a very angry-looking sky. It started to hail and I had to take shelter at Ralph Greenway's farm. The storm was a severe one and when it had abated and I was able to go home I discovered that my crop was completely gone, not a stalk standing any place. Fortunately, I had

insured the wheat for ten dollars an acre, so it was not a complete loss. I waited till the inspector came out to verify the damage, and then headed for the coast with my wife and two daughters, aged three years and ten months, respectively. I left my brother-in-law to sell my stock, and turned my horses out on the school section. My brother-in-law said that he would see that they didn't stray too far away, as I intended to come back in the spring to put in a crop. However, my plans changed and I never did return to farming.

My first job in Vancouver was selling Maytag washers. I tried several other occupations and finally joined the Prudential Insurance Company, with whom I stayed till I retired.

I have been blessed with good health and my life has been a happy one, saddened only by the loss of my wife on August 13, 1974.

THE GRAHAM STORY, By Bill Graham — My great-great grandparents came from County Antrim in Northern Ireland to New York; later many of my relatives came to Ontario and Quebec as United Empire Loyalists. My grandparents on both sides, and my parents were born near Kemptville, Ontario.

I came as a small boy with my parents to Alberta in 1910. I came in a carload of settlers' effects to Castor, which was the end of the railroad going east from Lacombe. My father's name was Ernest H. Graham, my mother Annie Graham.

W. J. Graham's Sod Shack, 1912. Four miles southwest of Garden Plain Store

My father had a feed barn south of the railway tracks in Castor. In 1912 we moved south of Castor to homestead at Garden Plain. Our sod shack was about four miles from the Garden Plain store and post office operated by Mr. Kane

We were located near Sullivan Lake, a large weedy lake. There would be thousands of wild geese on that lake every night; they would go out in large flocks to feed in the daytime. People used to come down to the lake from Castor in Model T Fords to shoot the geese, and would return home with the back seats piled full.

We all had to work hard and try to get along on very little money. We used both oxen and horses in the farming operations. We made our own amusements. Dances were held at different homes and all the small children went also. When the children got tired they were put down to sleep in rows on the floor of one of the rooms, and the noise did not disturb their sleep. The music was generally supplied by two local men on the accordion and violin.

I taught school for a short time at Williston. Then I came to Calgary and eventually obtained work in a grain office. I worked twenty years with the Alberta Pacific; then in 1931 went to the Alberta Wheat Pool, where I worked for thirty years.

RICHARD JOHNSTON — Richard was a tall gangly American who came in 1911 to homestead the southeast of 34-33-14. He lived in a dugout on the side of the creek which split his homestead. Dick had a big flock of sheep which was herded on lands not yet homesteaded north towards Sullivan Lake, and in Range 13 where there was a lot of open range. The spear grass got in the sheep's wool and caused no end of trouble for it left big sores in the sheep's hide. Richard was an excellent ball player and enjoyed playing the game on the diamond opposite Donald Cattanach's homestead. At the many socials and variety concerts held in the Hall Richard sang and recited poetry. He was an above average actor.

MR. and MRS. A. E. ENGLISH, *By Freda Viste* — Mr. and Mrs. English came from Ireland to Boston. Mrs. English's sister, Elizabeth Hills, came from Ireland to Alberta in 1911 to file on a homestead, and later that same year the Englishes filed on the east half of 17-33-14, directly south of Miss Hills' land. They had one son, Stanwood, when they came.

A relative who was a carpenter came from Ireland to help them build a beautiful two-storey, seven-roomed house. One room, about the size of a pantry, was equipped with a wicket and used as a post office. The house with its fine furnishings was a great contrast to the others in the neighborhood at that time.

The Englishes operated the Greystone post office in their home from 1912 until they left. It was named after Mr. English's home town in Ireland. Mail was brought from the Garden Plain post office to Greystone on horseback, by Mr. English or Lizzie Hills. When Greystone closed down, a rural route from Hanna served the area until Scapa was established.

The Englishes were hospitable people and many a time a neighbor would stop there on his way to or from Castor, and spend most of the night playing cards in their parlor. It was important that the room be called 'the parlor'. According to neighbors, Mr. English was a good farmer and had built up a fair-sized herd of cattle. He differed from most of the homesteaders, since he had money when he came. Perhaps that is why the blows of adversity hit him harder than those who had nothing to lose. He shipped a carload of cattle and didn't make enough on them to pay shipping and feeding costs. During the night, without a word to anyone, they loaded what would fit into a wagon and left. This was probably in 1922 or 1923, as birth certificates issued to Pete and Bill Ruppert in 1920 and 1921 list Greystone, Alberta, as their place of birth; and Erbin Grove recalls that Stanwood English attended Garden Plain school in the early twenties.

No one understood how they could go and leave their beautiful furniture, drapes, silver and chandeliers behind. The table was left with dishes on it, just as they got up from a meal. Their bookshelves, full of good books, became a sort of community library, with people borrowing them, reading them and returning them in exchange for others. The livestock that had been left broke out and scattered, some ending up in the pound at John Smith's. It was well on into the thirties when thefts and vandalism finally destroyed the once-prized possessions.

The Englishes went back to Boston without any attempt to sell their things. Taxes were always paid up on the land. Rupperts rented it from 1927 to 1933, then it lay idle until Dad, Ralph Gauger, rented it in 1942. He bought it about twelve years later.

Either the Englishes had built a boarding house when they were in Boston the first time, and went back to it or they bought one on their return. At any rate, when Mother and Dad visited them there in 1948, they still pictured the place as they had left it, and enquired about their big leather chair, their cream separator, sewing machine, silverware, harness and a trunk full of velvet materials. Of course everything was gone by then.

Stanwood was married and in the central United States by that time. Mr. and Mrs. English have both passed away since then.

At one time Greystone was the centre of a large district which had an entertainment hall, a football team which defeated Hanna at the Agricultural fair in 1916; even a Greystone news column in the Hanna Herald!

MISS ELIZABETH HILLIS, ***By Pete Ruppert*** — Miss Hillis homesteaded the NE 20-33-14 and pre-empted the NW 21-33-14 in 1914. She proved up and got her title in 1917. This was a big job for a single girl, but as I remember her she could keep up to any man and do any work he did, even hauling bundles on the threshing crew. One fall she hauled bundles on Ralph Gaugler's crew, and it was several days before some of them realized she was a woman.

Her batching was probably no worse than that of most of the men who were homesteaders, but it was no better either. She used to make most of her own clothes and these, too, were rough and ready. Mother used to tell about one outfit she made out of flour sacks. She didn't do a very good bleach job on them, so she had a clearly visible "Alberta's Best" right across her seat.

I wasn't very old at the time, but I remember that there was very little money to spend on clothes and everyone made the best of what they had. Most of the men had a trade to fall back on for a few extra bucks, but not so with her. She depended on her income from the farm, and that wasn't much.

Living alone caused many a homesteader to become hard to get along with, and to do strange things. No one beat around the bush about it, they were referred to as being crazy. "Old Lizzie", as everyone called her, was famous for taking after people she didn't like with a pitchfork. There was a priest in Hanna at the time by the name of Father O'Sullivan. He was Irish, as Lizzie was. He loved to hunt and one day he stopped along the road by her place to shoot a gopher. She tackled him with her pitch fork, and he wasn't long leaving.

He stopped at our place and told Mother about it. She told him, "It's a pity you Irish people can't get along better."

He said, "If she's Irish, I'm going back to see her."

We were surprised to hear that he got a great welcome.

Lizzie could hold her own with anybody, and cuss like a trooper. Her health wasn't very good the last few years she was here. She stayed at our place for a while, and insisted on helping us, even though we knew that she didn't feel well. She never could accept anything for nothing.

In the late twenties she went back to Ireland, and from what we heard she wasn't very well there. She passed away in her homeland.

Lizzie had gotten her mail at the Greystone post office. She was a sister of Mrs. A.E. English.

MISS MARY HILLIS, ***By Pete Ruppert*** — Mary Hillis, a sister to Lizzie, came to Alberta from Ireland about 1936. She was an old maid, and partially paralyzed. Everyone wondered how she could survive living alone. Jack Temple brought her out from Hanna to Lizzie's place.

She built a fairly good house on the old site, but for heating she had a fancy fireplace built. It was absolutely useless, and the only warmth from it was generated by the person shovelling the wood and coal into it. Her hands were crippled and it made you wonder how she could dress and undress herself, let alone shovel coal into that confounded fireplace.

I used to go over and chop wood for her, and help her as much as I could. She always insisted on paying me, and she paid all it was worth. One day she manoeuvered me into setting the price for the work I had done. When I suggested the same amount she had been paying, she got mad and told me I was too expensive, and I wasn't to come back. I let her cool down before I went back, but I never did commit myself to setting a price again.

About 1939, a nephew Randolph Hills came to stay with her. It wasn't for long though, because he joined the army. I joined up too, and when I returned Mary had passed away.

At one time the Groves boys worked for her, hauling her water and taking milk to her, building, and shingling her roof. Randolph Hills returned after the war was over and spent a short time with his aunt, and then went to the States.

Mary took sick, and was found by the neighbors frozen to death under her kitchen table. Apparently she had pulled the table over on herself as she fell.

She is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

Jim Walker

MEMORIES OF HOMESTEADING DAYS, By Eva Walker Gabriel — My father and mother, Jim and Clara Walker, had ten children born to them. I am the oldest, then Frank, Cecil, Philip, Gladys, Everett, Nellie and Vera. We were all born in the States. Myrtle and Margaret were born in Alberta.

Our family, our grandparents, the Wheelers, their son Ed and his wife Minnie all travelled by train to Stettler in June, 1909. Our sister Myrtle was born a few days after we got there, but lived only a few minutes and was buried there.

My dad, Mr. Lewis and Al Sturgess all went out to find homesteads, and the families became good friends. Mrs. Lewis was my Mom's midwife when our youngest sister Margaret was born.

We spent the winter months of 1909-10 at old Williston, which was later moved to the railroad and became the town of Castor. We moved to the homestead in June, 1910. My folks put up two tents to live in until we got our house finished. Grandpa Phil Walker of Reed had put up the sides and roof, and before winter my dad nailed boards on the inside of the two-by-fours and sodded the outside.

The second day after we got to the homestead, a terrible wind and snowstorm came up. Dad had been using his brother's horses, which had just been shipped in from Washington, and he had to enlarge the door of the house and drive the three big work horses in. Dad, Grandpa, Mom and myself had to hold their heads all night, and my brother had to keep the snow off the tent that the other kids were sleeping in. He was twelve; I was thirteen.

We had the cattle tied to willow brush around the slough. Next morning dad

led the cows up to the door of the house, and mom milked them. Some of them had their tails frozen off. The snow was gone the next day. That storm was June 2, 1910.

Our Grandpa Walker stayed with us every winter when dad went back to Washington to work in the Burnett mines. Whenever Mr. Yocum came down to our place to get milk, bread and butter he would come early and he and Grandpa would play checkers all day if the weather was fine.

Mom and the older kids built our fifty foot long barns. They were both dug in the side of a hill and sodded. In winter, when we could not drive the stock to Frank Ruppert's spring, we put big barrels inside the barn, and filled them with snow to water the cattle and horses.

There was no school for us to go to, so my folks hired Mr. English to teach us at home in the winter. We went to Sunday school at the home of a close neighbor, Mr. Livingstone.

One year Mr. Livingstone had a nice big crop of wheat, so he went to Castor and bought a new binder. As he drove it into his yard it started to hail, and the team ran away and tore the binder all to pieces.

Charley Christ was a neighbor of ours. He built a big sod house on his homestead, and on the end of it built a long sod barn. He was often gone from home and his wife did all the farming; she kept the barn as clean as a house.

One time she came over to borrow our disc. She was barefooted. She set two of her little boys in the pans of the disc, but one of them fell off in front of the disc, and when she reached down to grab him, her foot got caught and was cut off. Mr Hugh Mc Rae took her to Castor to the doctor, but on the way he got lost, and it took him over two days to get there. She lived.

Later dad worked for his brother at Fleet in the summer. He would come home on Saturday night and back Sunday afternoon, fifty miles by foot.

Our dad and Frank hauled lots of freight for Mr. Kane. Frank hauled the first load of lumber that went to Hanna. One time he got caught in a bad snowstorm and had to turn the sleigh over and get under it to keep from freezing.

Dad, Frank and Cecil all drove teams building the railroad grade between Castor and Coronation. Philip did the cooking for them; he was ten years old. Frank and I did a lot of plowing for the neighbors, and every winter Frank would set traps in the garden. He caught quail, pheasants, snowshoe rabbits and weasels.

When I was sixteen I worked for the Hackett Stopping house, and also for their daughter, a teacher named Mrs. Braham. Once I took her two children with me when I went home to visit my folks. It started to rain so I put up the umbrella, and the horse ran away. I threw the umbrella out of the buggy and the wind blew it down the road beside the horse. I had to turn off the road and very near turned over.

Our mom took people in to room and board till they could get their buildings up. She used to bake bread for almost all of the bachelors around us, and knitted for them as well as for her own family . . . gloves, mittens, caps, scarfs, stockings and socks. She always had a big garden, and lots of chickens. She dressed the chickens when it turned real cold, and hung them on the porch with the rest of our winter's meat. Then, by accident, we found a better place to store it.

Dad and McRae dug a well close to the house, but after they had gone down seventy-five feet they found that there was coal in the hole, so they filled it back in up to thirty feet, and that was our freezer from then on. There was ice in it summer and winter. They dug another well twenty feet closer to the house and went down twenty feet and the water came up very near to the top and never went down.

When our dad butchered he always poisoned the head, feet and insides of the animal and staked them in the ground in the hills, south of us, to kill the coyotes. One time he found six coyote pups in a den and brought them home. There were millions of gophers so we fed them all summer, but when winter came my Grandpa had to kill them. We had tamed five of them just like dogs, but the other one was always mean like a coyote.

The four oldest of us kids used to walk to Kane's store at Garden Plain with vegetables and butter to trade for staples. It was five miles over there. Dad had built an eight by fourteen room at the end of the bedroom with a small door to put in the coal that he hauled in the fall from Kane's coal mine, and he always bought twelve big sacks of sugar and flour and stored it in the bedroom.

Dad had good land and good crops, though he lost a couple of them by hail. When we had hail storms, some of the stones would come through the tar paper and knot holes of the roof into the house. The first time we had threshers there were fifteen, and a threshing machine that was powered by horses walking round and round all day.

We went to lots of dances in the winter. One time Frank took his girl home after a dance, and was telling her goodbye when the door opened and her mother came out with a broom and started to hit him. He was so startled he backed up and fell off the porch into a swill barrel, and came out covered with grease and muck. The girl's father came out and told Frank to come in the house, and gave him some clean clothes to put on, and made his wife clean Frank's suit and clothes.

One day when my folks were away my ten-year-old sister hitched a mean horse to Frank's new buggy. It kicked the dashboard and seat off it.

Frank was the only one who was allowed to handle a gun, and he could not have any of us kids with him. One day my two brothers sneaked after him and when Frank laid down the shotgun Philip grabbed it and pulled the trigger. He did not come to for two days, and had a terrible headache.

We had found a large rock which was split into slabs, and dad had used it to make a stone floor by the porch steps. Mom used to sit there in the shade to churn her butter. Of course there were lots of flies then. Mom had one of the kids fanning the flies away with a piece of paper, but when dad came along and saw them, it made him mad. He had a terrible temper. He picked the churn up and threw it on the rocks and broke it all to pieces. The cream flew all over the rocks and the side of the house, and then there were more flies than ever. After that mom put the cream in half-gallon fruit jars and all of us would shake the jars till the butter came. Finally dad got tired of seeing everybody shaking jars so he walked to Livingstone's and bought a six-gallon barrel churn. He packed it home, and it took him three hours to walk the one and a half miles. It was real hot and he sure was tired.

I met John Gabriel at a dance at Fleet; three months later, April 14, 1914, we were married at the Catholic Church in Castor. His people lived near Fleet. They had a big engine and threshing machine and threshed and plowed all over the country.

We live in Washington now. I am eighty years old; my husband is eighty-nine. All my brothers are gone, and my sister Nellie, and there is only Joe, Mike and Anna left of the Gabriels.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WYLIE and CHARLIE WYLIE, ***by Jean Moody*** — My grandmother, Laura Anderson Wylie, moved with her family from North Dakota to a farm twenty miles south of Coronation in 1908. Her brother, Anton,

had talked his dad into moving to Canada, and he went on ahead and filed on a half-section of land for himself and a half-section for his father.

On September 6, 1911, grandmother was married to James Wylie at Castor. Grandfather's parents had come to Canada around the turn of the century, and at the time of my grandparents' marriage, grandfather's brother Charlie had homesteaded five miles south of Garden Plain, on the NE of 14-33-14, and was living there with his mother.

Being a bachelor, Charlie wanted to rent his farm for a couple of years and work out, so the newly-weds, James and Laura Wylie, took over the farm. They lived in a four roomed lumber house and even the floor was made of rough lumber . . . not the easiest floor to scrub come Saturday. They were fortunate, however, as they had shallow wells with plenty of water and managed to make a living by selling cream, butter, eggs, chickens, etc.

Fuel was of little concern as there was a mine two miles away which provided ample coal at two dollars for a wagon box full. Help and company was always available from the neighbors.

In due time, Charlie returned to the farm and married a Scottish girl. Eleven months later he lost his wife and ten-pound infant son in the Hanna hospital, even though two doctors were in attendance. Charlie then sold out, took his money and his mother and left for California.

As there was no homestead land available around Garden Plain, my grandparents packed up their few possessions and their baby daughter Laura Ella, born June 28, 1912 and moved to a homestead at West Wingham, Alberta. Later they moved to the Peace River district.

Grandfather passed away in the Berwyn hospital in October, 1957. Grandmother lived with my parents until 1973 when she moved into an auxiliary hospital. At the age of 88 she is in reasonably good health.

THE FRANK RUPPERT and PETE RUPPERT STORIES, By Pete Ruppert — My father, Frank Ruppert, was born in Glencoe, Minnesota in 1886. Mother was born in 1898 in New Ulm, Minnesota. Father came to Canada in 1904 and was employed in Saskatchewan as a steam engineer for the C.P.R. After a few years he left the company and operated gas and steam outfits for large farms in Saskatchewan.

When he came to Alberta to homestead in 1912, he walked the prairie following the buffalo trails with the idea of finding a constant supply of water. He homesteaded the SE 18-33-14 and pre-empted the adjoining north quarter section. The spring there, where those buffalo trails converged, has never run dry.

To prove up the homestead he did his breaking with oxen. Hard times were the order of the day. He managed to keep going by drilling wells for almost everybody in the country. In 1914 he was injured in a well-drilling accident and spent the next three years in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. He never walked without crutches again.

Mother and Father were married in New Ulm, Minnesota in 1918. The following year they came to Calgary where they bought a horse and buggy and started for the homestead. Mother used to tell about the trip . . . over 180 miles. She wondered if Father really had a farm out there or if she was 'being led down the garden path.'

I was born in 1920 with brother Bill coming in 1921. (Bad luck comes in bunches). Our post office was Greystones, Alberta. The building is still standing on NE 17-33-14, and was operated by a Mr. A. English. His wife was a sister to

Elizabeth Hillis who homesteaded and pre-empted on section 20. She was better known, but not to her face, as 'Old Liz'.

No doctors were available in those days and Mrs. Sexsmith was a midwife. She brought both Bill and me into the world. Brother Paul was born in 1927 but that time Dr. Paul Baxendale was in attendance. He had a Model T Ford car and when he started to go someplace, he got there. He probably wrecked more cars than anyone alive, but he got there, and in one piece. When brother Bill got pneumonia he came out to the farm in an open car over roads that were indescribable, and it was twenty to thirty degrees below zero. He probably saved more lives than he could remember. I can remember seeing one of his cars, a new Model A Ford, with both the fenders and the running boards torn off. He had hit a bridge east of Hanna in a fog, but he never even stopped, and got where he was going.

Elmer Studer, located on SW 16-33-14, was our closest neighbor in the twenties. He rented the land from Bill Veshe who homesteaded NE 21-33-14. About 1926 Elmer Studer moved away to the north country, and a family by the name of Bressler farmed it for a year or two. Later Jack Temple bought the Veshe place.

Father bought a Fordson tractor in 1926. It was second hand but he was a good mechanic; he needed to be. In 1929 he bought a new Woods Brothers' separator.

In 1930 Father died of cancer of the stomach. He was buried on his forty-fourth birthday.

Drilling for water, 1921. Frank Huppert and Herbie Skomp.

Huppert boys, 1940. Pete, Bill and Paul.

Mother married Erich Wiens. At that time we had not yet felt the effects of the depression and in 1931 the first car was bought. It was a 1927 Chev. It ran like new, was easy on gas, and the self-starter even worked! In 1932 we bought a new Massey-Harris binder, an Oliver drill and a new Fordson. The drill was good, the Fordson was bad, and the binder was one of the worst pieces of junk I have ever seen. Around that time wheat went down to nineteen cents a bushel, cattle

couldn't be given away, butter brought a nickel a pound, and as John Saxsmith said, eggs were not worth the wear and tear on the hens' backsides.

The winter of 1932 was bad. Mother got desperately sick and Jack Temple had her to the hospital in one hour . . . fifteen miles in three feet of snow with horses, of which he always had the best. After that the flu hit. The first one to get it was my step-father, Erich Wiens, then Leo (Bud), the baby. Bill and I had a time milking twelve cows, feeding and watering them and the horses, and looking after the chickens. Baby Paul got it next, and then Bill. I gave up trying to do chores and tried to keep the house warm. It got dirty and cold. One morning I saw Mr. Temple, Jack's Dad, going by. I ran out of the house and waved him in. The next thing I can remember was the house being warm and clean. Mrs. Temple was there and she looked like an angel. I wanted to get up to do the chores but was not needed. It seemed that whenever there was help needed in the neighborhood, Jack Temple and his dad were always there.

We dried out badly in 1933, 34 and 35. The big news then was the Brownlee scandal. R.B. Bennett was prime minister and the Bennett buggy with the Brownlee pole was a common sight.

My teachers, God bless them, at Garden Plain school were Miss Bloomer, Miss Helen Jensen (later Mrs. Frank Tucker), Miss Janet Ellis, Mr. Chandler, Raymond Burke, and again Mrs. Frank Tucker.

Bill and I batched one winter on the Hugh McRae place, the NW 22-33-14, and sort of farmed it with a 10-20 Titan. Our cooking just about killed both of us. Fortunately we had good neighbors, Lyman Grove and his son Erbin and Erbin's wife Winnie. We would go over and help with the chores and never turn down the invitation to stay for supper. Mrs. Jack Temple was teaching school, and one day when I went over to help Jack, Paul was to bake some bread. It turned out a delicate blue color, with some coal ashes and straw in it. When Mother saw it she sent over some more bread, with instructions to bury what Paul had made in case a dog might eat it and die.

I joined the army and so did Bill. We served in the same unit in England and in Europe. In 1942 I married Anna Chase of Woodstock, New Brunswick. Anna and I got back to Hanna on New Year's Eve of 1945 and Bill arrived on New Year's Day. Bill went to work for the Special Areas and has been there ever since. He is now Shop Foreman at Youngstown.

I went to New Brunswick where I worked as a logger for a while. Then I went to welding, with a trucking business on the side. Our oldest children, Margaret and Frank, were born in New Brunswick. In 1949 I came west again, worked for a time for the Special Areas, then went welding for the late Earl Armstrong at Lomond, Alberta. In 1957 I bought the business and still own it today. Our younger children, Erich, Marie and William were born at Lomond. Billy passed away in April, 1975, and is buried at Vulcan.

Mother passed away in 1954. She was buried beside Dad in the Catholic cemetery in Hanna.

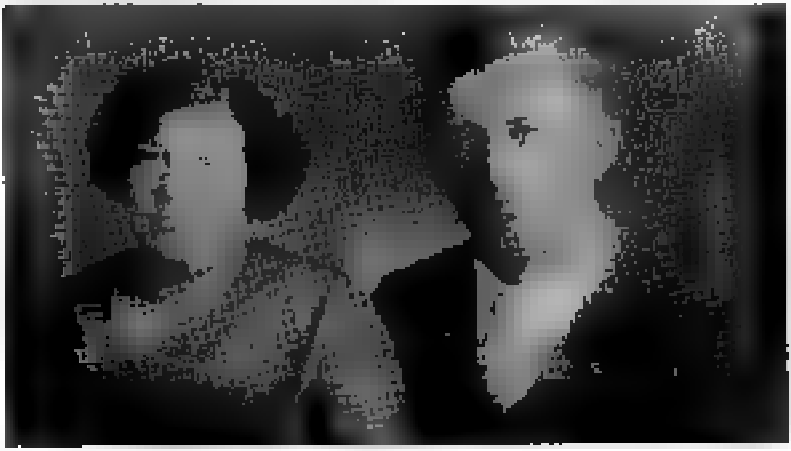
Margaret married Don Zuba, and has two children. They live at Cold Lake where her husband is stationed.

Frank lives at Burdett where he is a repair crew foreman for the Alberta Wheat Pool. He is married and has two children.

Erich, his wife and son live at Red Deer.

Marie and her husband, Bill Moskal, both work in Lethbridge. They have no family

ERICH and MARGARET WIENS, ***By Roseanne Wiens [illegible]*** — Dad was born in Danzig, Germany, on December 24, 1896. He was a German soldier in World War I and in 1926 he immigrated to Canada. He arrived in Hanna and worked for his sponsor, Dominic Raine, then for J. Kellermann and then began farming on some Hudson Bay land situated near Dowling Lake, NE 28-32-15. After Frank Ruppert passed away Dad worked for my mother, Margaret Ruppert, and later they were married. They remained on the Ruppert homestead, which is now the home of Robert and Carol Wiens and family, for all but a few years of their married life. Between 1937 and 1940 we lived on the Kellermann place, across the road from the Granthams.



Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wiens

Wiens and Ruppert boys: Robert, Pete, Paul, Bill, Bud, Bunny.

Dad showed many of his European skills, although he did not often talk about his native land. His first dwelling was typically European as the barn and the house were connected. He enjoyed farming and working with cattle and horses as he had in Germany. The neighbors frequently called on him to do veterinary work. He was also a skilled butcher.

Dad died on December 27, 1957.

I felt that my mother lived a very hard but fulfilling life. She was born in New Ulm, Minnesota, on April 10, 1898; married a homesteader of the Garden Plain district, Frank Ruppert; gave birth to three Ruppert boys, Pete, Bill and Paul; was a widow when the depression started; married Erich Wiens and raised another six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, Rosanna, Robert and Erbin.

Like most pioneer women, Mom kept herself busy. Along with the household duties she raised a large garden, helped with the farm chores, was active in community affairs, played the organ, read the latest serial in the 'Free Press' or the 'Western Producer', was an extremely good cook, and whether the radio program be 'Ma Perkins', 'Pepper Young's Family' or the 'Lux Radio Theatre', Mom would be either knitting, crocheting or mending clothes while she listened to it.

Mom passed away on March 1, 1954, at the age of fifty-six years.

Peter Ruppert owns and operates a welding and machine shop at Lomond, Alberta. William and Paul Ruppert work for the Special Areas at Youngstown.

Leo (Bud) Wiens is Superintendent of Roads for the Special Areas and also farms the Tony Brunner land near Dowling. Klaire Wiens Paul is the Matron of the Mental Hospital at Vernon, B.C. Agatha Wiens Griesdale is a secretary in a Vancouver hospital. Rosanna Wiens Lenfesty became a school teacher. She and her husband and family live in the Hand Hills.

Robert Wiens and his wife Carol and children farm on the SE 16-33-14. Erbin (Bumpy) Wiens, his wife Cathy and four children are farming on the SW 33-33-14.

MR. and MRS. FRANK RUPPERT — MR. and MRS. ERIC WIENS — Frank Ruppert homesteaded the east half of 16-33-14, and in 1918 was joined by his wife, the former Margaret Koepel. Frank was a farmer and well driller, and drilled many wells for homesteaders in that area. Frank and Margaret had three sons, Pete, Bill and Paul.

After Frank's death Margaret married Eric Wiens, who came to Canada from Germany in 1926, and who farmed in the Dowling area, the north half of 26-32-15. From this union there were six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, twins Rosanne and Robert, and Erbin. Most of their schooling was received at the Garden Plain school, as the family had returned to the original home place in 1939. In 1964 Erbin purchased the Milton Stuart and Fred Bottomley farm and still occupies the original house which was built in 1909.

For entertainment in the early years, many nights were spent playing cards with the neighbors. On one occasion when John Sexsmith stayed late, the night got very dark. John had been accustomed to driving a Model T, and was not yet familiar with the Model A he had acquired. While he was getting it started, the car jumped ahead, and John's elbow hit the light switch, plunging him into complete darkness. To everyone's amazement the car came out between two hay racks, unharmed.

HORSES, By Klaire Wiens Paul — Our lives were influenced a great deal by horses.

A team and buggy started to take our parents to town in April, 1937, only to turn back at the pasture and return home with a baby girl, Rosanne. Another baby, Robert, was born shortly after Mom walked into the house!

A caravan of teams took us and our machinery to the farm near Clear Lake in 1937. Many of those horses died during the next three years of an epidemic of sleeping sickness.

We returned to Garden Plain in 1940, horses again doing their duty in the field, taking us to school and running away when they darned well pleased! Many

farmers had threshing outfits, several teams of horses hitched to bundle racks gathered the bundles from the stooks in the fields and hauled them to the separator. A team and man made ten dollars a day.

I rode to Alpe school on Shorty, who was always undecided whether to stop for a gate or to go over it.

I don't imagine anyone in Scapa will ever forget Nannie, my old yellow buckskin horse that I rode from 1948–1950. She terrified all the car drivers who wished to pass, by rearing up and spinning around in front of them. She demolished the barn at Scapa as she didn't like being tied up. She refused to be led, but she brought me home through blizzards, and could run like the wind if coaxed, and to me, a fifteen year old, she was beautiful.

I left Scapa in 1950 to take Nursing training in Manitoba. Nannie was sold to Mr. Chidley who probably remembers her as a bad–natured buckskin. I've used many modes of transportation since those days, but nothing beats a horse. It's the only thing that kicks you back if you don't have due respect for it.

I REMEMBER

By Rosanna Lemiesty

— Garden Plain school being the focal point of activity for us when we were young. Card parties and dances, with the Pat and Stuart McRae orchestra, were held to raise money for the Christmas concert, the highlight event of the year.

— Sleigh riding and skating parties on Sundays with the Cooks and the Temples.

— when Dad worked on the road for days with horses and fresno to pay off the taxes that had accrued during the thirties.

— the hustle and bustle on the farm as Ralph Gaugler's threshing crew moved from field to field.

— John Saxsmith 'dropping in' every bake day.

— milking ten to twenty cows because like many farmers at that time the cream cheque meant our 'bread and butter'.

— when Bud bought Mom her first washing machine with a gas motor.

— when Pete and Bill returned from the war. I guess we had changed as much to them as they had changed to us.

— the anxious moments before the prairie fire on Mr. Bottomly's and Mr. Stuart's places was brought under control.

THE WIEGE STORY, By Emma Wiege Burgermeister as told to Pearl Rasmussen — Henry and Sophie Wiege were farmers in Leipzig, Romania. They had five children: Dan, Julia, Emma, Christine, and Marie. It was a struggle to make a living on a small farm, if you were poor you stayed poor.

In 1927 many Romanians immigrated into Canada which had been advocated as The Promised Land, a land where a man could acquire unlimited acres of his own, be free and not only make a good living but even become wealthy. This was the land and this was the year when Dan along with his uncle William Hiller, friends and countrymen came to the Hanna district. He rented the Wagner Place, eighteen miles north of Hanna along what is now No. 36 Highway. Dan had his own farm, an almost impossible accomplishment in Romania. Here he learned the new language, customs and methods of farming and soon adapted to the vast expanses of the prairie plains. In his letters to his folks he begged and encouraged them to come to the new land where they would not be poor anymore.

On May 1, 1929, Henry and Sophie Wiege with Emma, Christine and Marie

packed what few belongings they could bring and said good-bye to Julia who had married and decided to stay behind. Julia Arndt and family came over in 1952 but settled in Wenatchee, Washington.

The ocean voyage proved a nauseating experience when all became seasick due to the heavy seas. However, several events broke the monotony, made the trip more bearable, and prepared them for the many surprises and experiences they would encounter in the strange land which was to become home. One day as the huge waves buffeted the ship, they were served coffee cake and jello for lunch. The jello jiggled and the dishes jiggled as though alive, and the family were so frightened that none dared eat this living food which they had never seen before. The second incident occurred when the family was put onto the train, there they encountered several colored ladies who were chewing gum. They had never seen a colored person, nor had they learned about gum. They stared with mouths agape, convinced that these were a strange type of cud-chewing creature. The colored ladies probably had similar thoughts about them in their strange mode of attire.

The long, dirty, tiresome train ride ended when they arrived in Hanna, on June 2, 1929, just in time to be confronted with the grim years which the drought of the thirties brought. Mr. Rosenbaum met them at the station and took them to their friends the Dorsch's who had come over in 1927. Here they spent the night and caught up on news of friends.

Next morning Mrs. Wiege's brother William Hiller arrived from the farm he had rented, the Ferg James homestead in the Olive School District. Their belongings were tied in bundles and put into the lumber wagon, properly named because it had to be one of the roughest conveyances ever invented. They bounced and jostled over the prairie trail and became fearful of the open sparsely settled country. It seemed they were still on the ocean only now it was a sea of prairie, limitless and rolling, an expanse of land which seemed to recede until it finally met the sky in the far distance. The sun's glare shimmered on the prairie alive with the stirring by the wind. Emma hid her feelings that if she could have walked back she would have, a sentiment felt by many of the pioneer women.

They stayed with Hillers a few days until Dan came to take them home. On the way home Dan tried to teach Emma to count in English. The family was re-united and the future looked promising and secure. Fortunately they did not know that the next ten years would bring feelings of insecurity, fear, panic, frustration, humiliation and aloneness when the Dirty Thirties struck. It had to be lived to be understood. Relatives and friends would gather on the street corners on Saturday afternoons, dressed in their traditional clothing with black shawls tied around their heads, a head covering quite common today although modernized with gay colors. They spoke German and were very happy when some of the English speaking neighbors could speak German. They were all willing to learn the language and customs and adapted readily. This was home now.

Marie attended the Garden Plain School and soon learned English. Emma and Christine had to go to work, Christine at the hospital for a while, then for Doctor Argue. Emma worked for Noonans where there were six hungry men to feed. At mealtimes they laughed and joked and Emma was sure that she was the butt of their humor, as she could not understand them. Later Emma got a job in the hospital in Hanna, where the wages were fifteen dollars a month and everything was done by hand.

Dan married Ida Ouschnick and they moved into a little house on Dan's farm. They had one son Ed. When Dan's wife died he moved to Bella Coola, B.C. to ing with Ed and family. They had two daughters, Freda who lives in the east and Irene in Edmonton.

Christina married Reinholdt Cook and moved to Trochu, where she died in 1935 when her baby girl was born. Mr. Wiege had died in 1934, at age sixty, so Mrs. Wiege moved to Trochu to care for the baby. She died in 1949 at the age of sixty-nine.

Marie married and had five children. She lived at Trochu for a time but is now at Hondu, Alberta.

Emma married Fred Burgemeister and went to live in the Hand Hills area. They had seven children, and still reside in the new home they built on their farm.

THE FRANK HOLMES STORY, By Edna Holmes Twidale — My father, Frank Holmes, was born in England in 1886. In 1909 he filed claim on a homestead in the Garden Plain area. He and his friend Jack Miller lived in a tent all winter, and hauled supplies from Stettler or Coronation.

One memorable trip started on a cold clear day when my father went for coal, flour and a few other essentials. On the return trip the following day, a blizzard came up and temperatures were very low; one of the horses refused to go on struggling through the drifts. So my father left that horse and sleigh, put a bag of flour on the back of the other horse, and stumbled on, rather hoping that the horse could find its way.

Meanwhile, back at the tent, Jack Miller had been on watch for hours. Now it was late at night and Jack took a final look outside before going to bed. A few yards from the house he saw the horse standing; he went to investigate and saw where my father had fallen there in the snow. His life was saved, but he did suffer for sometime as his feet were badly frozen.

In 1912, he was married at Innisfail to his fiancee, Annie Jane (Jean) Reeves, who had just arrived from England. They attended the first Calgary Stampede. (My father also attended the fiftieth Stampede in 1962.) They lived at Huxley until the spring of 1913 and then moved to the homestead at Garden Plain.

In 1916, Frank Holmes joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 187 Battalion. He served in France till the end of the war. While he was with the Tank Corps at Amiens, his tank was blown up and he was lucky to escape alive. He also saw action at Vimy, Passchendale and Arras. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1919.

As the country in eastern Alberta was very dry, the family moved to Elnora in the early 1920's. In 1923, Mrs. Holmes passed away, and her sister, Clara, arrived from England to care for the family. She and Mr. Holmes were married in 1924. They farmed till 1963, when they retired to Elnora. Mr. Holmes passed away in April, 1975, at the age of 89.

The children of Frank and Jean Holmes are Phyllis, married to Peter Stirling and living at Ponoka; Ronald, who farms near Huxley; and Frank, who was killed in action overseas in 1942.

The family of Frank and Clara Holmes are Edna, married to Joseph Twidale, and Alfred. They and their families farm near Elnora.

PROGRAM PRESENTED AT U.F.A HALL, GARDEN PLAIN, 1913

Recitation, Frances Collins; Vocal Duet, Isabelle Ironside and Jean Ironside. Recitation, Leonora McCafferty. Song, Jimmy Weir; Recitation, Maggie Ironside; Music, Mrs. Harvey; Recitation, Alice Lewis; Song, John Graham; Recitation, Richie Lepard; Music, orchestra; Monologue, Rudy Moore, Dialogue, W. Collins, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. George Claypool, Mrs. W. Harvey; Recitation, Donald Simon; Recitation. Valetta Wagner: Song, Mrs. Livingstone; Recitation, Mrs. John Claypool.

THE FIRST GARDEN PLAIN STORE

By Frances Unsworth

Mrs. Daniel Wickson age 99 years

In 1910 the Williston Trading Company opened a store, post office and lumber yard on Mr. Tom Kane's homestead at Garden Plain. The store burned down on December 24 of the same year, and everything except the contents of the till was lost. The store was rebuilt, with Harry Long and Bert French among the first storekeepers. Mr. Olson carried the mail from Castor, and took passengers with him on his trips.

Later on Mr. Kane took over the store, with Miss Marie Bartsch as assistant. Mail day was a very busy time at Garden Plain, especially during World War I, when the residents of the district were expecting mail from friends and relatives at the front. Teams and saddle horses would be tied to the row of hitching posts at the front of the store; and all sorts of conversations would be going on, discussions of weather and crops, and telling of favorite stories and jokes. To us it was almost as good as going to town.

Garden Plain Store, 1920. C. A. Wickson, owner.

Mr. Kane had the post office in his house on the farm for a while. Later Alf Sturgess kept the post office in a small shack on the hill by the coulee, and ran a small barber shop in conjunction with it. In 1914 the post office was moved to the Cattanach farm on the Castor trail, with Miss Lizzie Cattanach as postmistress. At that time Mr. A. Butchard brought the mail from Castor.

In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Kane sold the store, and in 1923 traded the farm and coal mine for property in Oregon. They farmed there for eleven years, then operated a summer resort until 1946. Mr. Kane died in 1947 at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickson took over the store in 1919, and operated it with the help of Miss Grace Crowe as clerk. Mr. Wickson did his own freighting with an old Model T truck with solid tires on the back. The Wicksons built a nice home, which was later sold to Joe Higgins who moved it to his farm in the Corinne district.

The store and post office was closed in 1927, and the Wicksons moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C., where Mr. Wickson passed away in 1949. Mrs. Wickson lives with her son Mac.

LIFE AT GARDEN PLAIN, By Nelson Wright — I, Nelson Wright, son of Sarah and Will Wright, came to Garden Plain from New Brunswick in 1914. I lived with my parents for a few years; in 1916 I bought a quarter section near Garden Plain school and moved there in 1918 to make a home for my bride-to-be. I married Georgina Hills in October, 1918, and our son Vernon was born in 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wright and Wilma

Times were not the easiest and in 1925 we decided to move back to the old home in New Brunswick. We remained there for a few years and then with our children Vernon and Wilma we moved to Garrick, Saskatchewan, where I was employed by the Post Office.

In the fall of 1948 we moved to Victoria, B.C., where we are still residing in a suite on Hibberson Crescent. Wilma and her husband and daughter live not too far from us.

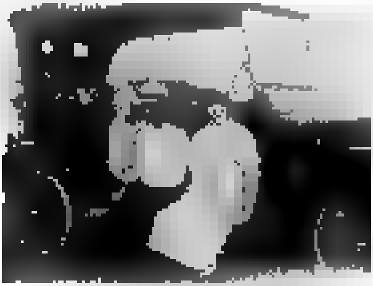
HORACE F. BRELSFORD — Mr. Brelsford, a very early homesteader, filed on southeast of 34–33–14 in 1909. He was a plumber by trade and was away plying his trade when not on the homestead. The Brelsfords built a low, sloped roof house which was a head knocker for tall people.

In 1919 L.C. Burt bought the place through the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

MILTON STEWART and MR. and MRS. BOTTOMLY — Mr. Stewart came to the Garden Plain district from England after World War I, and bought the Gulseth land. He was a good farmer, a good neighbor, and a friend to everyone. He was joined a little later by Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly, who lived and farmed with him. Mr.

Bottomly drove the rural mail route east from Scapa for many years, and was very fond of children.

Mr. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly sold out to Ervin Wiens and moved to Hanna when their health began to fail. Mr. Stewart lost his eyesight and passed away several years later; Mrs. Bottomly has also passed on. Mr. Bottomly still resides in Hanna, and enjoys going to the Pioneer Hall for a game of cards.


Mr. and Mrs. Roland Peters and Ray

ROLAND J. PETERS, *By Doris Peters Yacobucci* — Mom and Dad met in London, England. Dad came to Calgary in 1906 and Mom followed in May of 1907. They were married and lived in Calgary where Dad worked in a store. My brother Lawrence was born in 1908 and I came along eighteen months later.

During the spring of 1910, Mother's brother, Jack Cape, came out from England, and as Dad had already filed for two places, we all left Calgary for the homesteads. I am not sure but I think that mother and we two children went to Castor by train. Dad and my uncle had set out earlier from Calgary with oxen. We lived in a tent until a sod house was erected, and later a house was built with materials freighted from Castor.

Our homestead was the east half of 15–33–14, some thirty miles south of Castor. The closest store was at Garden Plain, operated by T.A. Kane, and what business couldn't be done there had to be attended to in Castor. That meant a three-day trip, one to go, one to do the business, and one to come home. I remember staying overnight at Hockett's stopping house; it was full of people and all were so friendly.

When Hanna started in 1912 it made it much easier as we could make the seventeen miles there, do what we had to, and return the same day. We got our mail at the Greystone post office, two and a half miles west of us. Mr. and Mrs. English, May and Stanwood ran it.

Between 1910 and 1915 times were really hard. If it was a dry summer, there were the hazards of prairie fires. If we got a crop, we would get severe hail storms. It was very slow getting started, but each year saw a little improvement. I remember attending the first picnic at the new Garden Plain hall site in July, 1914.

In 1915 our neighbor, Mrs. Stanfield, was not well, so we moved in with them, and Mom took care of her. While we were there my brother and I started school at Alpa. Nellie Thompson was our teacher; Burrows, Overtons and Weakleys were also attending. The next year when we moved back to the homestead we attended Garden Plain school which was two and a half miles away. We sure had some good times at the school. Himmelreich brothers played for dances and box socials which lasted till seven o'clock in the morning.

Once a year several families would plan a day to go to Sullivan Lake to pick saskatoons and chokecherries. I have happy memories of those outings, and my mouth waters at the thought of those juicy berries.

In 1917 we had a severe hail storm. I remember going to meet my mother who had got caught in it. The stones were as big as golf balls. They knocked her down, and my legs were bleeding where big chunks of ice had cut them. We were hailed out completely, and like many others, we had no insurance.

In August of 1919 Hanna was having a big Round Up, with ferris wheel, circus

and fair. As we had never attended one before, Mom and Dad took us to town to see it. It was a hot day, and at noon a terrible thunderstorm came up, blowing the fancy streamers and decorations down. Everyone took shelter in the stores and hotels. On our way home a neighbor came to meet us with the information that our house had been struck by lightning. Nothing was saved except what we had on our backs.

We stayed with our uncle and aunt who lived not too far from us. The neighbors were wonderful; they had a building bee and put up a new house for us. But Mom couldn't take it any more, so we moved to Hanna where she got a job at the National Hotel. That winter was the terrible flu, and Mom was very ill. Dr. Wade saved her life. Dad also had flu and spent three months in hospital. The land was rented to Everett Dorman and Lorne Burrows; later it was sold and eventually Stewart McRae got it. He sold out and Morgan's Transport of Olds now owns it.

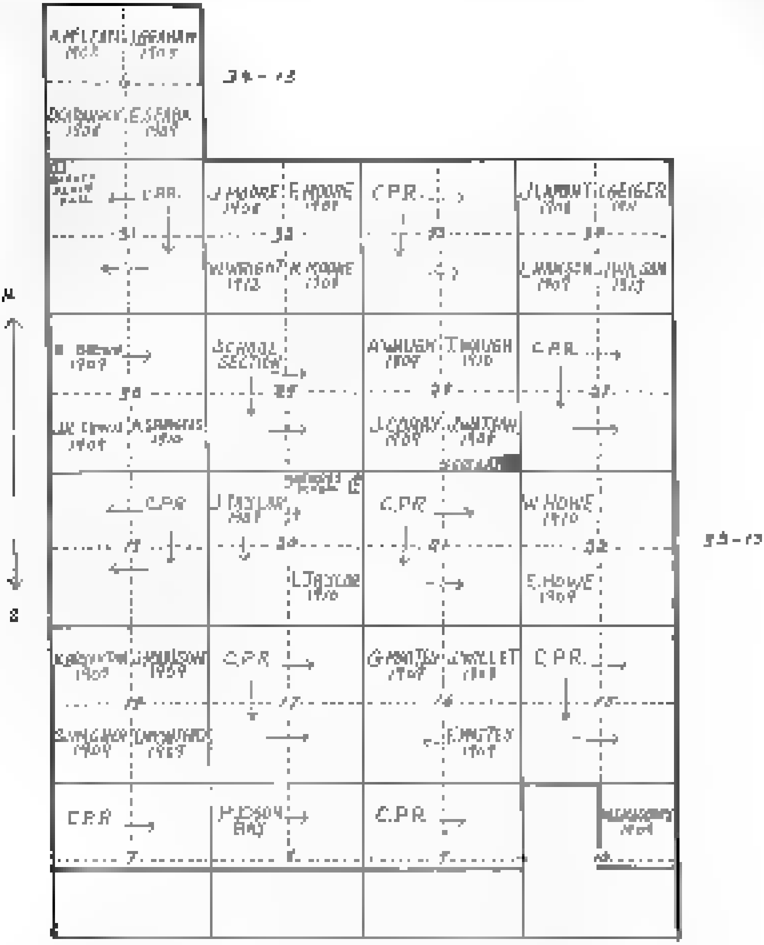
While we were still on the farm, Mother lost a baby girl who was buried in Netherby cemetery. In 1924 our brother Raymond was born in the Hanna hospital. Lawrence, who had spent some time in the sanitorium in Calgary, died in 1931.

About 1940 Mom and Dad moved to North Vancouver; I followed in 1944, from Calgary where I had been working. I was married in 1949 and my husband and son and I live in Vancouver. Raymond, who was in the R.C.A.F. during World War II and his wife and daughter are in North Vancouver.

Our dear Mother passed away in 1946 and Dad in 1958.

We had some tough times through the years, but in spite of that, we remember the early days on the farm as happy times.

NETHERBY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2848



OWNERS AND RENTERS

NW 6-34-13
Alex McLean
Henry Nielsen

NE 6-34-13
J. Graham
Henry Nielsen

SW 6-34-13
D. Cattanach
Jim Wright
George Wright
Henry Nielsen

SE 6-34-13
E. Szabo
H. Nielsen

N ½ 31-33-13
Henry Nielsen

S ½ 31-33-13
Cyril Unsworth

NW 32-33-13
J. Moore
E. Job

NE 32-33-13
F. Moore
E. Job

SW 32-33-13
W. Wright
E. Job

SE 32-33-13
A. Moore
E. Job

NW 33-33-13
H. Strandberg

NE 33-33-13
C. Corry

SW 33-33-13
C. Corry

SE 33-33-13
C. Corry

NW 34-33-13
J. Lamont
A. Wilson
S. Spandberg

NE 34-33-13
H. Diegel
A. Storch

SW 34-33-13
J. Hanson
S. Strandberg

SE 34-33-13
J. Wilson
S. Strandberg

Sec. 27-33-13
G. Strandberg

NW 28-33-13
A. Waugh
W. Hoodless
J. Hoodless
C. Corry

NE 28-33-13
T. Waugh
C. Corry

SW 28-33-13
J. Corry
C. Corry

SE 28-33-13
J. Watson
A. Crabb
C. Corry

Sec. 29-33-13
C. Corry

NW 30-33-13
B. Brown
J. Taylor
H. Taylor
G. Taylor
E. Moss
G. Grove
S. Steinbrater
A. Unsworth
C. Unsworth

Mr. Hein
G. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

NE 30-33-13
B. Brown
L. Unsworth

SW 30-33-13
J. Lewis
L. Unsworth

SE 30-33-13
A. Sturgess
L. Unsworth

Sec. 19-33-13
L. Unsworth

NW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
S. Donaldson
R. Hoessel
W. Halverson
E. Whiteman
C. Whiteman
R. Hein
R. Corry
C. Corry

NE 20-33-13
J. Taylor
C. Corry

SW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
R. Corry

SE 20-33-13
L. Taylor
W. Job

Sec. 21-33-13
S. Herring
J. Roth
E. Job

NW 22-33-13
W. Howe
S. Herring
I. Job

E ½ 22-33-13
Fertiley Grazing Group

SW 22-33-13
E. Howe
G. Standing Est.

NW 15-33-13
A. Standing

E ½ 15-33-13
L. Legrun
B. Weller
G. Standing Jr.

SW 15-33-13
H. Olore

NW 16-33-13
G. Morley
S. Patton
E. Job

NE 16-33-13
J. Willet
G. Standing Sr.
A. Standing

S ½ 16-33-13
F. Massey
E. Standing

NW 17-33-13
W. Job

NE 17-33-13
E. Smith
A. Welch
S. Doering
A. Facho
Mr. Facho
W. Job

S ½ 17-33-13
W. Job

NW 18-33-13
K. Bryanton
E. Sniel
H. Strandberg

NE 18-33-13
J. Manson
B. Wright
W. Job

SW 18-33-13
S. Wagner
S. Vigh
H. Strandberg

SE 18-33-13
T. McCafferty
P. Jensen
H. Mathe
J. Tait
J. Boulter

N ½ 7-33-13
C. Corry

N ½ 8-33-13
P. Boyd
C. Grose
I. Hauk
D. Buckwold

W ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Job

E ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Standing Jr.

NE 9-33-13
G. Standing Jr.

NE 10-33-13
W. Colesbury
D. Temple
H. Marks
G. Standing

NETHERBY SCHOOL

By Winnifred Grove

Netherby School District No. 2346 in the Sullivan Lake School Division, was formed in 1911. The first two loads of lumber for the building were hauled February 28, 1911, from Travers and Finlayson at Castor. On March 13 the school site was staked out. Neighbors from around the district helped with the construction, and by June 5 the one-roomed building was completed and classes commenced, with Miss Carrie DeLong as teacher. Some of the first pupils were Frances and Alice Lewis, Violet and Lillian Wagner, Reggie, Lewis and Frank Sturgess, Lily, Jimmy and Tommy Watson, Roberta Willett and Lenore McCafferty. Among the first trustees were J. Taylor, J. Corry, W. Hoodless and Mr. Willett.

The first picnic was held on Coronation Day, June 22, 1911, on the school grounds; it was a huge success with large crowds attending. On August 3 they held a school picnic, and thereafter the picnics that were held to mark the end of the term were looked forward to with anticipation. The first visit from a school inspector occurred on September 7, 1911.

First Netherby school teacher — Miss Carrie DeLong

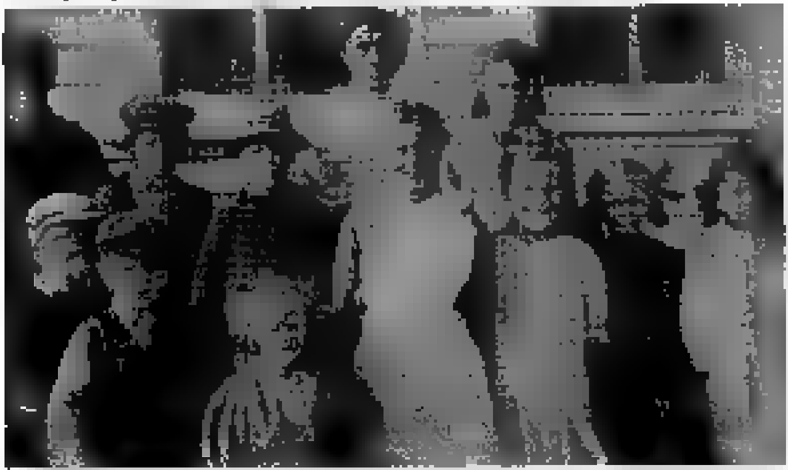
In the early years the teachers usually boarded with families who lived near the school; in later years, a teacherage in the school yard was supplied for them to live in.

The teacher usually did the janitor work, and sometimes it was quite an effort to get the big coal heater to warm the room in time for morning classes. The children took turns helping sweep the floor and clean blackboards and brushes.

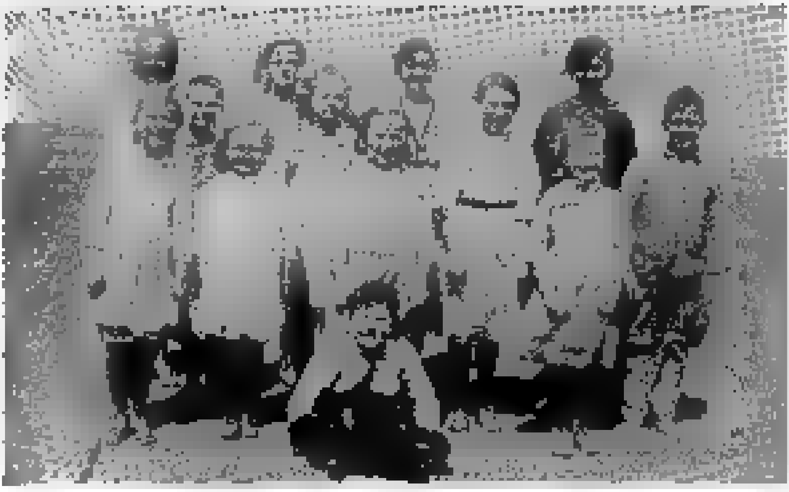
Recesses and noon hours were always something to look forward to, for without a lot of expensive equipment we could play games we all knew, hide and seek, pom-pom pull away, cops and robbers, Anti-I-Over, tag, basketball, run sheep run, X and O, hangman, hop scotch, marbles, baseball, ring around a rosie, prisoner's base, and so on.

We always had a little party on special days, Valentine's, Hallowe'en, Easter and of course Christmas was the tops. All our spare time during recesses and noon hour, plus other time if we worked harder and got our class work done more quickly, was spent on practising for our Christmas concert. That was an event that everyone looked forward to and enjoyed thoroughly.

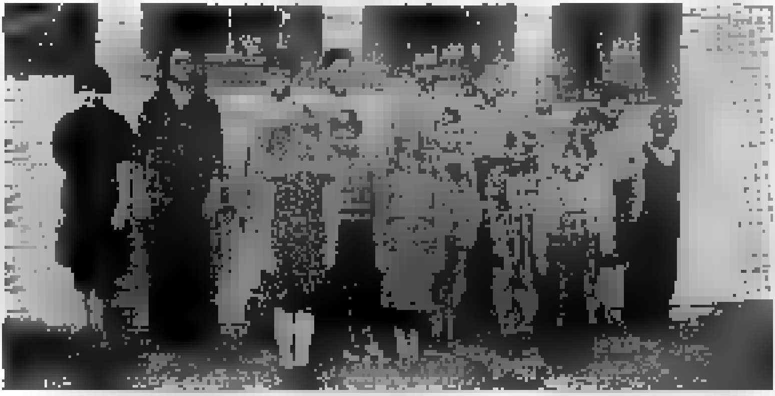
There would be a nice big Christmas tree decorated with strings of popcorn, candy canes, and ornaments, presents, candles and treats; Santa's visit, and then a dance. There were always local people with talent who would be kind enough to bring a violin and join someone on the piano for music. The dance finished off the evening in great style, and everyone went home happy.



Netherby School children — 1927. Back Row: Joe Clark, Tom Watson, Reginald Sturgess, Frances Lewis, Lillian Wagner, Alice Lewis, Gertie Howe, Roberta Wallet, Louise McCafferty. Front Row: Lewis Sturgess, Frank Sturgess, Doris Sturgess.



Netherby School children - 1921. Back Row: Dorothy Crabe, Iona Wright, Gladys Aunning, Helen Jensen. Middle Row: Nan Herring, George Standing, Frances Herring, Vera Standing, Winifred Lewis, Gwendoline Miller, Rosanna Corry, Walter Jensen. Front Row: Albert Wagner.



Netherby School children - 1931. Back Row: Doreen Wright, Peggy Standing, Louis Unsworth, Edwin Wright, Cliff Corry, Roy Unsworth, Blythe Herring, Harold Unsworth, Rod Standing. Front Row: Thelma Grover, Tom Standing, Georgina Wright, John Paton, Albert Unsworth, Abner Grover, Cyril Unsworth

Children came to school by all modes of travel, afoot, on horseback, by horse and buggy or sleigh and team, by bicycle. In the earlier years the small barn was almost always full of horses.

The two little outhouses were situated a long way from the school, or so it seemed in the cold weather. There was a pump and well at the north end of the schoolyard to supply water.

About 1953 a second school building was moved into the yard and classes were held there too, so that the lower and higher grades each had a room to themselves. That building was later moved away.

In 1955 a new two-roomed school was built across the road to the east, where

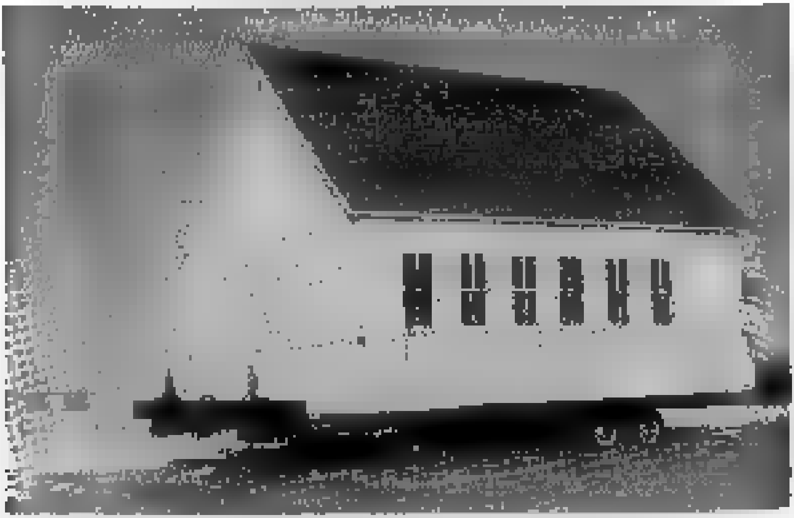
Frank Lee was the first teacher of grades one to six, and Jack McLaren for grades seven to ten. A large teacherage was moved into position on the south side of the new school, and all the buildings were equipped with modern conveniences such as running water and controlled central heating. By this time, smaller rural school districts were starting to amalgamate, and children from other districts were attending Netherby. In 1953 Netherby school was closed, the building was moved to Cessford, and the children were bussed to Hanna.

Some of the families whose children attended classes at Netherby were Watson, Sturgess, Lewis, Willet, Wagner, Jensen, Crabb, Rils, Corry, Vigen, Peetz, Unsworth, McLaren, Cheney, Marlowe, Wright, Greenway, Moulding, Stickney, Rehill, Chidley, Shumaker, Wollert, Brunner, Smith, Kautz, Lumsden, Swerson, Howery, Anderson, Sieppert, Bossert, Lee, Storch, Mette, Taylor, Strandberg, Hassel, Gustafson, Ironside, Nelson, Miller, Wilson, Bailey, Boyd, Fecho, Standing, Wild, Moran, Doering, Garbutt, Payne, Ness, Cunningham, Job, Park, Thomas, Teiz, Herring and Patton.

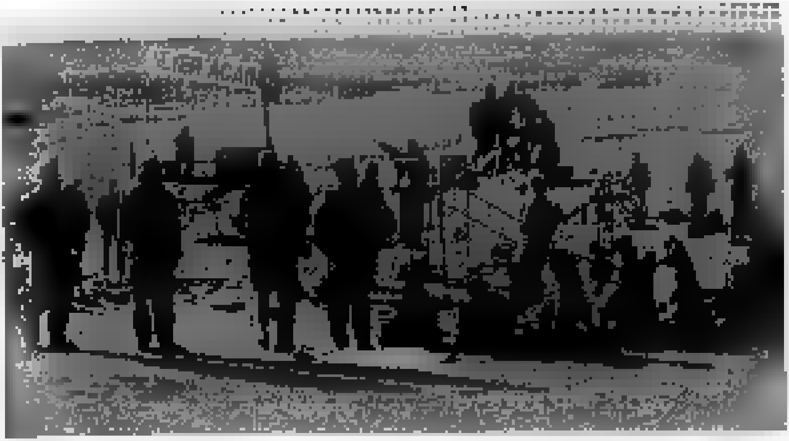
Some of the teachers who taught at Netherby were: Miss C. DeLong, Miss Fisher, Mr. Williams, Mr. Frederick, Miss Green, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Reed, Miss O'Lacy, Miss Geddes, R. Wallace, W. Smith, V. Trenaman, K. McKenzie, A. Penman, Miss M. Taylor, R. Penny, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs Shufflebarger, J. Smith, Mrs. H. Bossert, J. Feeney, J. Lenuik, L. Schultheis, L. Longmore, Mrs. F. Storch, Mrs. L. McLaren, Miss L. Benjamin, Ernestine Battryn, F. Lee and J. McLaren.

In the spring of 1978 the original Netherby school was moved to a site four miles east of Hanna, where it was used in the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher?", a movie in which several local residents took part. When the filming was completed, the school was returned to its original site and put on a cement foundation.

Today the building is still in good shape, serving as a community centre. For the past number of years it has been used for various social functions, card parties, meetings, Sunday school and church services. Several funerals have been held there, as the Netherby cemetery adjoins the school grounds.



Netherby School loaded ready for moving to the site of the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher", starring Samantha Eggar and Bud Cort.



During the filming. The film was chosen as one of the six best films produced in Canada in 1976 and was shown at the world film festival at Cannes, France. It was described by Martin Knelman of the Edmonton Journal of May 28 as "a happy surprise . . . a gently funny adaptation of Max Braithwaite's memoir of his days presiding over a one-room schoolhouse in Saskatchewan during the depression years." The film will be shown in Alberta in September, 1977.

NETHERBY CEMETERY

By Mrs. Erbin Grove

The land for Netherby cemetery, a portion of the NE 20-33-13 adjacent to the south side of Netherby school grounds, was donated in 1913 by a homesteader, J.W. Taylor. In that same year the first burial, that of William Lewis, took place.

The cemetery is maintained by the people of the community who hold clean-up days, when they gather to mow the grass, trim trees, paint the fence and haul away debris.

Netherby Cemetery clean up day — 1942. Included in the picture are: Jack Corry, Bill Storch, Sandy Donaldson, Alex Wilson, Mary Cameron, Mrs. Sid Herring, Mrs. Ray Armstrong, Mrs. Charley Blayney, Mrs. Jack Corry, Mrs. Dick Roberts, Mrs. Jane Wilson, Mrs. George Wright, Andy Gamble, Chas Blayney, Ralph Greenaway, Chas Strandberg, Bill Glover, Stanley Strandberg, Willie Storch, Ernie Taylor, Bob Rahill, Patsy Taylor, Frank Bandle, John Marlowe, Howard Armstrong.

Another homesteader, John Corry, took care of the register and the measuring of new grave sites until his death, when his son Clifford assumed these duties. Whenever a new grave is needed, the men of the community dig and prepare it.

The name, Netherby Cemetery, is formed of metal letters in an arch over the gateway. In 1958 a cairn was erected in memory of the pioneers buried there. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

Netherby Cemetery
In memory of the
Pioneers of Garden Plain
and district
1958

At this time of writing, February 22, 1977, there are one hundred and two graves in Netherby cemetery; each has a marker or headstone to mark its location.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Taylor

MR. and MRS. JAMES W. TAYLOR, By Jim Taylor Jr. and Marian Taylor Fox — James W. Taylor, a South African War veteran, owned and operated a furniture store in Okotoks from 1906 to 1909. In 1907 he married Winnifred DeLong, a registered nurse who was working in High River.

In 1908 the Dominion government passed the South African Bounty Act, which allowed veterans of the Boer War to obtain a half-section of land by fulfilling homestead duties. As soon as Mr. Taylor was able to dispose of his business, he got in touch with a real estate firm which advertised, "Homesteads located, $25.00 per half section." With a group of other landseekers, he travelled by train to Calgary, Lacombe and Stettler, where they hired a livery rig and driver at six dollars per day plus expenses. They spent their first night at Beaver Dam Creek, (where Castor is now located), and slept twenty-four men in a twelve-by-fourteen shack. The next day they drove south, and stopped the night with an old bachelor, seventy-seven years old, who had just gotten a shack built and who was preparing to perform the duties necessary to enable him to acquire deed to the land.

Their 'expert land locator' did not prove so very expert when it came to running the lines and finding the necessary mounds and stakes left by the surveyors. However, by tying a white handkerchief on the spokes of the wheel, and counting the revolutions, they were able to find the stakes and locate some choice land in Township 33, Range 13. They returned to Calgary and filed on their choices in the Land Office there.

In September, 1909, Mrs. Taylor and their two small boys, Jim, 15 months old, and Herbert, 3 months, joined Mr. Taylor on the homestead. Until Mrs. Taylor's passing at Garden Plain in February, 1943, she was an invaluable partner,

and a loving mother to their eight children, two of whom pre-deceased her. She was a dedicated church and community worker, and will always be remembered for her services as a nurse. It was not uncommon, on a twenty below winter night, for a neighbor to come with a team and sleigh, put heated rocks at her feet, and drive her many miles to tend the sick, or to deliver a baby.

The Taylors had the only piano in the district in those early years, and it bore its 'moving scratches' forever, as it was often taken to the schoolhouse or the community hall for various social functions. I can still remember my parents tell of the wonderful sing-songs which were enjoyed by neighbors who gathered at our home on winter evenings. If it happened to blizzard during such a gathering, it lasted for two or three days, with everyone taking turns sleeping, as bed space was limited.

In 1910 the town of Castor, almost thirty miles north, came into existence, and a year or two later, the town of Hanna. Mr. Taylor hauled lumber from these towns and built a nice house, and in due course, a barn. He was always a believer in keeping his buildings painted, and he called his farm "Hillside Farm", which was painted in large letters on the barn.

Mrs. Taylor always missed the trees and was not fond of the bald prairie, so in 1918 the family moved to Alix, and later to Manitoba. In 1930 they returned to Garden Plain, where their son Herbert took over the farming operations while Mr. Taylor opened and operated a small general store at Garden Plain.

Mrs. Taylor passed away at Garden Plain in 1943; Mr. Taylor died at Castor in 1958. Their eldest son, Jim, lives in Calgary. Herbert predeceased his father in 1948. George died in Australia in 1970. Marion married Herbert Fox and lives in Chilliwack. Patricia is Mrs. Stuart McRae and lives near Innisfree. Ernest, the youngest son, is at 100 Mile House, B.C. All the family except Herbert served in the armed forces during World War II.

Following are excerpts from the diaries of Mr. Taylor, who recorded in them regularly until his death:

June 20, 1909 . . . Walked over towards Hand Hills about five miles. Noticed a great variety of flowers on prairie, almost a new variety every day. Today saw a wild rose in blossom, and strawberry plants in full bloom. Sun still shining at 8:55 p.m.

August 9, 1909 . . . Fine and hot. Cutting hay in the forenoon, stacking after dinner until seven p.m. Being considerably bothered by flying ants, I lit some hay to drive them away and immediately my load was on fire. I tried to unhitch but only partly succeeded. The horses ran away, broke the whipple trees, and ran into the rake, damaging one wheel. Wagon and rack completely destroyed, no chance to save them, no water.

August 20, 1909 . . . Got a message from Stettler, by livery, to go at once to Calgary as baby Herb was very ill . . . rode back to Castor with livery, there borrowed wheel (bicycle), started for Stettler, overtaken by storm, laid up in a haystack till daylight. Arrived at Stettler at 10:15 next day, tired and hungry . . . a very fatiguing trip. Telephoned Calgary and got cheerful news.

August 30, 1909 . . . Left family at Okotoks, wheeled to Calgary in evening, took train for Stettler in morning.

September 1, 1909 . . . Wheeled from Stettler eighteen miles northwest to look at coal mine for Dr. DeLong (Mrs. Taylor's brother). Wheeled back to Stettler, very hot and thirsty ride, pushed towards home. Arrived at Castor at eight p.m. tired and weary from dusty road and slight head wind.

June 24, 1911 . . . Heavy rain in a.m. Splendid growth this summer. Prairie

greenest for years. Grain well advanced. Peas and tomatoes in flower, radish and lettuce on the table. Lots of wild strawberries, and wild roses.

August 13, 1911 . . . Fine and hot till 5 p.m. when heavy cloud came from west and hailed out all crops. Eight miles wide and twelve miles long. The grain was looking splendid, wheat would have gone twenty bushels per acre, oats fifty. All gone except a little feed. Hail broke fourteen panes of glass, stones as big as crabapples.

May 20, 1913 . . . crop seeded; wheat, 62 acres; oats, 40 acres; barley, 15; potatoes, 3. Total 120 acres.

THE WATSONS, By Irene Paton — Irene Paton, daughter of Lily Watson recalls what she has heard of the early years:

The year 1909 brought John Watson, a grain merchant from Scotland, to homestead in the area. Doctor's orders to locate in a drier climate prompted his move, and he chose this part of the country because a school friend, Jack Pichen, had come to the Sullivan Lake country about 1905.

John Watson homesteaded the SE of 26-33-13 and proceeded to have a house built in preparation for his wife and family coming. The carpenter was a fellow Scot, John Maxwell, who was the father-in-law of a lumber merchant in Castor, Tom Finlayson. After sixty-seven years the house is still in use, having been moved into Hanna by Mr. and Mrs. Corry when they retired in 1960. Rosanna Corry Hanlon is now owner of the house.

Mrs. Watson, Lily, Tom and Jimmy arrived on one of the first trains to Castor, May 31, 1910. Tom recalls a foot of snow a few days later, and sleighs being used. The weather incident I recall my grandmother telling about often was a hailstorm one of the first summers, which broke all their west windows, and imbedded straw in the opposite walls!

Mr. and Mrs. John Watson and Lily Watson — 1919

About 1911 or 1912 the Watsons started a general store in their farmyard, with supplies freighted out from Castor by Bill Glover. A post office in connection with the store was named Fertility and operated for some years with mail coming from Castor to Garden Plain where Watsons picked it up. Many years later I recall amusing myself with grandfather's Notary stamp and Post Office stamp.

The younger boy, Jimmy, was trampled when the children were riding steers, and died of intestinal injuries in 1912, about seven years of age. Lily and Tom attended Netherby school, and often the teachers and the student ministers boarded with the family. Two names I recall hearing mentioned were Mr. Pritchard, who I believe was a student minister, and Miss Fisher, a teacher.

Closest neighbors through the years were the Corrys, and though the Watsons sold to R.S. Crabb and moved north of Castor in 1918, that friendship carried on.

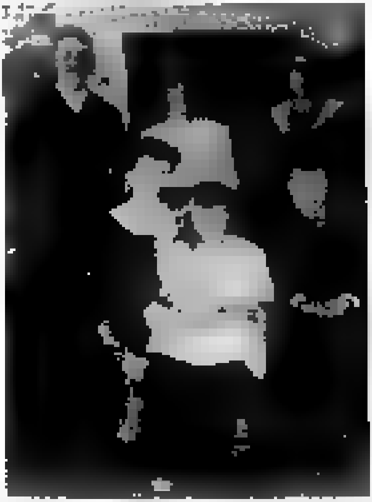
Lily married Ralph Wangeness of the Glengyle district, but died when their daughter Irene was born in August of 1923. A year later Mr. Watson passed away.

Mrs. Watson and Tom continued farming until 1939. Through the years I recall many visits from old friends of the Garden Plain and Hanna areas . . . the Corrys, Elliotts, Herrings and MacLeods. How could I forget the MacLeods, for on one visit they gave me their daughter's doll carriage, a real prize for a lonely little girl on an isolated farm.

About 1940 Tom became an elevator agent, first at Veldt, then Castor, Clive and Rocky Mountain House where Mrs. Watson passed away in 1954. She was buried at Castor, and after all those years Netherby district was at the funeral. Mr. Corry was a pallbearer, and I recall Mrs. Unsworth telling me she had gone to school with my mother.

Tom Watson is now retired and living in South Edmonton. I have been married for nearly twenty-five years to Bert Paton and we also live in Edmonton.

The old Watson house holds many memories of happy days spent under its roof when I was a child.



Lewis Family: Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Lewis, Alice, Frances, Walter and Winifred

THE JASPER HORACE S. LEWIS STORY, By Frances Lewis Unsworth, Alice Lewis Forster, Winnifred Lewis Grace — Our father was born in Wales in 1874, and lived for a time in New York city where his father worked for a large newspaper. After his mother's death, his father returned to England, where our father worked as a silk tie cutter. In 1897 he married Jane Frances Young, and in 1906 he brought his wife and two small daughters to Victoria, B.C. In June, 1909, he decided to come to Alberta to take up a homestead. By this time a son and another daughter had been added to the family, and travelling with them were our uncle and aunt, Alf Sturgess and family.

We lived in tents at Stettler while our father and our uncle walked to the Garden Plain area to choose homesteads. They decided on two adjoining quarters, and tossed a coin to see which of them would have the land on the main road, now Number 36 Highway. It fell to our dad. When they returned to Stettler they found that in their absence our two-month-old baby sister had died and was already buried.

Dad bought a team of oxen and a Bain wagon and put bows and a canvas

over the box. He loaded a walking plow, some coal oil, and enough groceries to last a month . . . dried beans, rice, flour, yeast cakes, tea, rolled oats, sugar and salt. When we arrived at the homestead he went to look for drinking water, which he found about four miles west where a Mr. Brebber had dug a well. We had a Jersey cow and the milk, butter and cottage cheese helped our diet a lot. Our only furniture was bought from a disgusted homesteader, a Mr. Ed Wheeler, who was giving up and going back to the States. Our mattresses were ticks filled with slough hay.

Mr. H. Lewis moving the Art Sturgess home down from Castor with his team of oxen — Teddy and Spot.

In order to prove up on the homestead, Dad had to break ten acres a year for three years, and build a frame dwelling worth three hundred dollars. After the frame house was built, it was called "Lewis Stopping House", and Dad and Mother fed men and teams who were going to the country to the south.

The first years were very hard. Dad worked on the roads with a fresno and scraper to work out his taxes. We dug several wells, with Mother and Frances pulling the dirt out of the holes with a bucket and rope, before finding enough water for the cattle and the house.

We once had a cow pushed into the well by another cow, in mid-winter, and had to pull her out with a team. She was frozen stiff, but we got her to the barn and put blankets on her and she lived.

In 1911 another little boy came to our family, but he passed away eighteen months later, and his little grave was the first in Netherby cemetery. Mr. J. W. Taylor had donated the land for the cemetery.

Dad tanned rabbit skins and mother used them to line winter hats and make collars. When we went out in a sleigh in winter, we would cover up with fur robes or horse blankets, and if it was to be a long trip, we wrapped heated stones in a sack to put our feet on. In winter we wore moccasins, or felt boots and rubbers, or heavy 'German' socks or knee-high felt socks with rubbers. There were also clogs, felt-lined boots with wooden soles, which were guaranteed to keep you warm at sixty below, but we nearly froze in them. Those who could afford them had fur mitts and hats and coats; one could buy a good heavy fur coat in those days for fifteen or twenty dollars.

Our home remedies were flax seed ground up for poultices, or bread and hot water, and for animals we sometimes used cow manure. Our spring tonics were boiled dandelion leaves, sulphur and molasses, and castor oil; and our first fresh vegetables were the pigweeds which grew around the sod barns.

At first the closest doctor and hospital was at Stettler, seventy-five miles away, but fortunately we did not need either one very often. There didn't seem to be as many diseases then, I suppose because people didn't mix so much.

When our school was first built, the term lasted from the first of March till Christmas, with a two-week holiday in July. One summer day there was a bad hailstorm and cloudburst, which flooded the coulee between our house and the school. A neighbor and our uncle came to help us across the coulee when it was time to go home. They had brought a team and wagon to ford the coulee, but forgot to tie the wagon box on, so it floated off and went down to Berry Creek. The horses swam through with the running gear, and my uncle piggy-backed all the younger children over, but we older ones had to walk upstream two miles to where the water wasn't so deep. It really was cold wading through there, with the hailstones still lying on the edge of the water.

If anyone was out away from home after dark, we always hung a lantern on a pole on the hill beside the house, and also put a lamp in the window to help guide them home.

In 1914 our youngest sister, Winnifred, was born.

After our father had proved up on the original homestead, he also took up a purchase homestead in the Solon area, and farmed that land too.

In 1919 an epidemic of flu hit this country, and as there was only one doctor in town, it was impossible to get help. Three of us children and our dad were all sick at one time. Our father developed pleurisy and the neighbors rode horseback all night to try to find the doctor, who was out in the country on another case. Finally the neighbors made up a bed in a bobsleigh, and even though a terrible blizzard was raging, got him to the hospital in Castor. He passed away ten days later, February 24, 1920.

Both Frances and Alice were married within the year, and on Christmas Day 1927, Walter was married to Beulah Kruger. They lived in the district for a few years, then moved with their baby son to Viking. Walter's back was broken in an accident with a runaway team in May, 1931, and after seven months in hospital he died.

For many years Mother and I [Winnifred] lived on the farm alone. One fall Mother hired a man to cut our crop with our nearly-new binder. He didn't even know how to put the canvas on and wanted me to help him. Needless to say he was sent on his way and I did the job myself. I helped with the farm work and milked cows for a living; hauling feed and water during the winter proved quite a hardship for me and those prices in the depression years were so low. One year I helped drive over a hundred head of cattle to town to be shipped and the owners received a cent a pound for payment.

Life was not easy for my mother. When they lived in a tent during those first months on the homestead, she was always worried that wild animals such as gophers or mice might crawl under the edge of the tent and gnaw the little children while they were sleeping. When they operated a stopping house, they had some difficult guests. On one occasion a lady and her daughter were going to stay there, but wanted to know the number of their room and the way to the bathroom. When they found out that men would be sleeping in the room next to them they decided to go on their way. Then there was the minister who tied his horse to the gate post and walked up to the house for dinner. After the meal he shook a little salt from the salt shaker, popped it in his mouth, and moved his chair back from the table. When the next person who stopped there came in to eat, he pulled his chair back to the table and ate again.

A third incident was when two men got lost in a bad blizzard several miles

from our house. At times when the storm abated somewhat, they would catch a glimpse of the light in our window. They finally made it to our gateway but couldn't get out of their wagon to open the gate as their feet were so badly frozen. Dad had gone to bed and kept telling mother to put out the light and come too, but she said that she thought she heard noises outside, and finally convinced him to get up and go to see what it was. He got the poor men into the house and put their team away, then rubbed the frozen feet with coal oil and gave them hot drinks and food.

After Winnifred's marriage in 1935, Mother moved to the Hanna area where she resided until 1959. She died in 1961 and is buried at Netherby cemetery.

Frances Lewis Unsworth and Winnifred Lewis Grove still live in the Garden Plain area. Alice Lewis Forster makes her home at Surrey, B.C.

Bert Brown by his sod house

B. C. BROWN, ***By Frances Unsworth*** — Mr. Bert Brown was a South African War veteran who filed on South African scrip land in 1908, the north half of 30-33-13. He built a small square sod shack with a lean-to roof on the bank of a slough surrounded by willows and poplars. He also dug a well, but it gave him only a few pails of water a day.

Bert was born in Birmingham, England, but I believe he came here from New Zealand. He worked around at the neighbors', helping wherever he was needed or wherever he could make a dollar, and in return managed to get the necessary land work done on his farm, as he never owned any horses or machinery himself. He worked in coal mines in the winter, mainly at the Ken Bryanton strip mine.

If he wanted to go to town he just started walking, leaving about six o'clock in the morning and coming home the next day. He would not accept a ride as he got great pleasure out of walking. On moonlight nights he would walk to the neighbors for an evening of cards.

To prove up on his land, he built a $300.00 frame house and dug another well. The house is still standing in 1977, and has had many tenants: J.W. Taylor, Herb Taylor, George Taylor, Steinbreckers, Grovers, Nasses, Cyril Unsworth, Albert Unsworth, Gerry Unsworth; Louis Unsworth now owns the land.

When World War I started in 1914, Bert enlisted, as though it was his duty to do so as he was single. He kept in touch with all of his friends, but eventually we received word from one of his comrades that Bert had been killed in action in November, 1917. We had all lost a kind and true friend.

JOHN CORRY, ***By Mrs. John Corry and Rosanna Corry Hampton*** — John Corry was born on February 15, 1883, at Hoddom Mill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. In 1906 he, his mother, his sister, and his brother came to Canada to join a brother who had come out earlier.

He spent the winter of 1906 in Manitoba, and the next year worked on a ranch in the Kamloops, B.C. area. In May of 1908 he took up a homestead, the SW 2[illegible]-33-13, built a shack and sod barn and dug a well. He hauled all his supplies from Stettler, a distance of seventy-five miles, with a team of oxen and a wagon. As the round trip took a week, he often slept under the wagon.

Albert Brown, John Corry, Archie Corry Sr. Chris Corry, Mary Waugh, Lauren Brown, Rachel Corry, Cliff Corry, and Rosanna Corry.

He returned to Kamloops for the winter of 1909, and there met Jane Hodgson, whom he married. By this time he had a team of horses and a cow, Lena, from whom he started his herd of cattle. He also had a cattle dog, Flossie, who would bring the cows to the yard at milking time.

His first crop was hailed out, with no insurance, and later he was to lose five crops out of eight due to hail. Prairie fires, drought and intensive cultivation took their toll of the land, and many hard times lay ahead for the young farmers, but through many personal sacrifices, they gradually got ahead. In 1929 John Corry won the Kiwanis Cup for the best standing crop in the area.

Mrs. Corry became ill and was nursed by Rae Nelder Lunn, a member of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and a Red Cross nurse from Hanna. She died in 1916, leaving a daughter, two-year-old Rosanna. Mr. Corry's mother came out to take care of the little family until Rachel Hodgson arrived from England.

John Corry married Rachel Hodgson in February, 1917. They had three sons. Joe died of cholera in 1923 and Archie was killed in a car accident in 1938. Clifford married Eileen Johnson in 1948 and had four children, Reg, Archie, Leonard and Linda. They live on the original homestead quarter.

Rosanna married Ed Hanlon. Their children are Corry, Garth, Marjorie Jean and John.

Rosanna recalls him getting ready to haul grain to the elevator at Bonar. He would wear a big buffalo coat, and spend much of the trip walking along beside the sleigh. His big treat was to smoke a cigar or two to help keep himself warm. He and Billy Hoodless usually planned to take loads at the same time. He returned home from one trip quite upset, for he had found Billy lying by the side of the road, hurt and unable to get up, and had taken him to the hospital. Another unhappy day was when he saw smoke at Alex Wilson's house; he hurried down there but all that was saved were a few sacks of flour.

A happier incident occurred during the family's yearly visit to the Billy Howe and John Watson families, who had left the district and moved north of Castor. He and Billy went shooting ducks and got so many that they had to take off their

overalls, tie the legs and put the ducks in them so that they could carry them home. They took them to the Watson's where they distributed them among all the neighbors and had a very fine feast.

John Corry always took an active part in community affairs. He was Reeve of the Sullivan Lake Municipality for many years. He worked hard to get the Municipal Hospital in Hanna and served on that Board for the last twenty years of his life. He was president of the Co-op store executive for many years, and was instrumental in getting the rural mail route and telephone into his district. He always helped to raise funds for Christmas treats at the local school concerts, and took care of the Netherby cemetery from the time it was surveyed until his death.

Despite many hardships, he always felt that he had had a full and active life, and often reminded us how fortunate we were to live in such a productive and peaceful land.

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Sturgess and family

MR. and MRS. ALFRED STURGESS from information supplied by Dolly Sturgess England and Reg Sturgess — The Sturgess family travelled with their relatives, the Horace Lewis family, from Victoria, B.C. to Stettler in the spring of 1909. The women and children lived in tents at Stettler while the men walked to the Garden Plain area to find homesteads.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess had two children. The oldest, Reg, was six years old. He walked most of the way with the men while the women and children rode in the wagon.

During their first winter on the prairie, the family lived in a sod building which had been formerly used as an Anglican Church near the present town of Castor; the next summer Mr. Sturgess built a small house in Castor. In March, 1911, Mr. Lewis hitched his oxen to the Sturgess house and moved it to the homestead for them. The family continued to occupy their home during the move, which took three days.

That summer, Mr. Sturgess went to work in the mountains. While he was away, his wife gave birth to twin girls, with only her brother, Mr. Lewis, to assist. A few weeks later, the little home was destroyed by a severe hail storm, and the family moved in with the Lewises. When Mr. Sturgess returned from his summer job, he moved his family back to Castor, and later to Coronation. There was a fuel shortage that winter, and for added protection against the cold, the family slept in a tent pitched upstairs in the house.

In the spring of 1912 the family returned to the homestead, and lived in a sod barn until Mr. Sturgess was able to build them a house. After the Thomas Walters store burned to the ground on Christmas Day, 1932, Mr. Sturgess operated a post office and also cut hair, as there was no other barber in the area. He was known as 'the Englishman'.

In 1915 Mr. Sturgess sold his homestead and moved his family and his livestock to Lane's Lake, west of Castor, until he disposed of his stock in November of that year. Then he took his family to Australia, where they remained until 1923.

On their return to Canada, they stayed in Calgary for a short while, then

bought horses and a wagon, put a tent over the wagon and set out for Garden Plain.

Mrs. Englund says, "Mrs. Horace Lewis was a widow then, and when our dad went to her door, she thought that we were travelling gypsies. She was so surprised that the Sturgess family had returned to the Garden Plain country after so many years away. We stayed there until June, 1925."

The Sturgess family lived in Calgary for the next ten years, then moved to the Vancouver area, where both Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess died.

Their children were Reginald, Lewis, Francis, Doris, Gertrude, Vivian and Vida (twins) and Alfred.

JIM ELLIOT — I was born in Calgary. My parents moved to what is now the Spondin district and I grew up there.

I first arrived in the Garden Plain district in 1923. I came to work in the harvest fields and worked for Bill Hoddess, John Corry and Robert Crabb, mostly stooking the grain. These three farmers all lived on the same section, so the farms were a lot smaller then than they are nowadays.

I came back at harvest time in 1925 and spent over three years at the Corry farm. This was the longest stretch that I put in there. I was back there several times afterwards, mainly in the summer time, the last year being 1939. In all I spent over six years working for John Corry.

The twenties were good years, the times of good crops and reasonably decent prices for the grain. The thirties were something else again, as a lot of us can remember.

However, as I remember the times, it seemed we had quite a lot of fun too. In the twenties we shot rabbits by moonlight with a shotgun. By the thirties, though, even the rabbits seemed to have dried up. Then we had card parties at Netherby school, dances at the Garden Plain hall, and so on.

I can remember very clearly the Sunday morning that Jack Corry, Jim Peterson and I sat in the living room and listened to Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of Britain, announce the declaration of war on Germany. When he was through we were all quiet and sober looking. I think that we all knew that things were never going to be quite the same again. That was September 3, 1939.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM HOWE, By Edith Howe Hronek — William Howe homesteaded in 1910 in the Netherby district, on the NW 22-33-13. His brother Ernie also homesteaded nearby, so they worked together, and also worked with Charles Blaney. During the winter of 1910-11 he worked for John Chidley at the livery barn in Castor.

On September 27, 1911, he married Christena Chidley of Castor and moved to the homestead. They had three daughters born at Fertility, Dorothy, Edith and Elsie; and two sons, Stanley and William, born at Castor.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe lived on the homestead for seven years, and their crops were hailed out five times in those seven years, so they decided to move. In the spring of 1918 they bought land in the Lauderdale district north-west of Castor; that year their crop was frozen out in July.

Mrs. Howe passed away in 1946. Mr. Howe farmed until 1953 when he retired to Castor. He passed away in 1972 at the age of ninety-two.

STEPHEN WAGNER, By Valletta Wagner Wales — My father was born in Nova Scotia, but came to Alberta from Maine, where he had been employed in a paper mill. He and Ken Bryanton arrived in Stettler in April, 1906, and filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain district. In one of his letters to us, my father said that it was a beautiful country with many lakes and wild ducks and geese.

In December of that year my mother and sister and I joined father in Stettler, where my sister and I attended school and father did freighting. The following March we moved to the Garden Plain area, living with Mr. James Manson in his sod house for three weeks until our frame home was completed, with his help. As our house was located on the Castor Trail on the SW 18-33-13, many men freighting supplies to the south country stopped at our place to spend the night.

Steve Wagner, his son Albert, Mrs. Wagner and their grandchildren

We met many wonderful people, and there was such a friendly feeling among everyone. Wherever a helping hand was needed, all worked together. On several occasions Mother was called upon to usher a little one into the world.

My sister and I walked three miles to Netherby school, and I remember that there were very many mosquitoes.

My brother Albert was born in 1914, and also attended Netherby school. In 1929 my parents moved to Oregon, where my sister Lillian died in 1950, my mother in 1960 and my father in 1962.

Rudy Moore

RUDY MOORE, By Harold Strandberg — Rudy Moore was born at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in 1888. In 1908, he, his father Jacob and uncle Fred, came to Alberta and filed on homesteads on the same section, 32-33-13. Jacob had the north-west quarter, Fred the north-east, and Rudy the south-east. Instead of building a shack on each quarter, they built one house so that part of it rested on each claim.

Rudy and his father did a lot of carpenter work in Castor after the railway reached there, and one day in July, 1909, while they were away, a neighbor found Fred dead. He is buried in an unmarked grave on his homestead.

Until the three claims were proved up and the titles received, Jacob Moore spent the winters at his home in Rice

Lake and returned each spring to the homesteads. After he received the title to his brother's land, he went back to the States and never returned. He was accidentally killed in 1923 while blowing stumps in a land-clearing project in Wisconsin.

After his father left, Rudy moved the house to the eastern part of the southeast quarter so that he would be close to the road. He continued to farm the three quarters, usually with the help of a hired man. Some of these fellows could speak very little English, but with the aid of the Eaton's catalogue, Rudy soon had them both speaking and writing the language.

In 1928 Rudy hired Mrs. N. Orth, from Peterborough, Ontario, as his housekeeper. Her daughter Ruth attended Netherby school, later married John Pokojoy and had one son, Jack. This is what she says about her mother's employer.

"Rudy Moore knew all about hard times and being resourceful. During the lean thirties he did blacksmith work for himself and his neighbors, and made many useful and interesting things in his shop.

"Soap was expensive, so he made both hand and laundry soap. There was no money for furniture polish, so he made it, but it did take a lot of rubbing to produce a shine. Rudy enjoyed his pinch of snuff, so when times got even worse he made his own. It was a funny color, and he never said how it tasted. He made coffee by cracking roasted wheat and adding chicory. Mother and I did use the soap, but after sampling the coffee, mother preferred to drink tea and I had milk.

"Rudy loved company and made everyone welcome to share whatever there was to eat. There were always potatoes, eggs if the hens were laying, and Mother's homemade bread and freshly churned butter. Rudy never turned away anyone who had no place to go. Often he had two men staying with him, even if there wasn't much to do in the winter except bring in water, keep the wood box and coal scuttles full, and feed a few cattle and horses. For years an older gentleman, Mr. Stillman, stayed with him and looked after the garden in the summer time. We never knew where he came from, or where he went when he left."

Mrs. Orth lived in Hanna for a few years before her death in 1956.

When the railroad was built in 1929, it passed through Rudy's land, and the hamlet of Garden Plain was situated on his homestead quarter. Two elevators and a store were built there, so Rudy had close neighbors for over thirty years. Eventually the store closed, one elevator was moved to Cereal and the other torn down and the material used to build a new one in Hanna.

In 1958 Rudy sold his farm to a neighbor, Ed Job, but continued to live in his home. In 1963 he suffered a broken arm when he had an accident with his half-ton truck, and after that he depended on his neighbors for transportation to town or to go visiting. He was found dead in October, 1966, and was buried in Netherby cemetery.

OUR RETURN TO THE WEST, *By Ruth Orth Pokojoy* — My mother, Mrs. James Edwin Orth, and I came to Hanna in August, 1928, from Peterborough, Ontario. Our journey took one week on the excursion train. We were so glad we had packed a big wicker basket of food to eat on the trip. While travelling, we spent our time visiting with the other passengers, reading and doing fancy work. It must have been a very tiring trip for my mother, but for me, a girl eleven years old, I could curl up and sleep on the leather seats. We stayed overnight at the Dominion Rooming House in Hanna, and Mr. Rudy Moore, for whom my mother was going to work, came into town with his Model T Ford and brought us out to his farm at Garden Plain.

Tom McCafferty and son Harry

Mother and I had lived 'out west', as the easterners say, with my father on the homestead near Paynton and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, so mother had an idea of what life would be like on the farm. However, I was a small girl when my father died and we returned east to be near our relations. I could not remember ever seeing coal oil lamps, water in pails, or outdoor plumbing.

Yes, I had many experiences in store for me. We had hardly had time to get settled when I began to realize that Netherby school, one and one half miles south, would be starting, and I would either have to walk or learn to ride a horse. One sunny afternoon a neighbor girl came over on a quiet farm horse and offered to teach me how to ride. After putting on the saddle, and getting me seated therein, she jumped up behind. We rode at a trot for over a mile, with me bouncing up and down. I felt every bone in my body beginning to ache, so I said, "Could we possibly let the horse walk for a while?"

This girl was a good rider and I guess she felt she had stood about enough from me, even having to show me how to get on the horse. She replied, "If you don't like it, get off and take your saddle with you."

Needless to say, I stayed on, but I didn't do any riding or even sitting down for a few days. However, I did learn to ride and I even got my own pony, Topsy, and loved to gallop over the open prairie riding Indian style.

I have heard so much talk about the dirty thirties, but for me there were many good memories. The wind blew, but when it did the windcharger would charge up the batteries for the car and the radio. Then we could listen to Major Bowes, the ten o'clock news, Lux Theatre, Eb and Zeb, Amos and Andy, and other good programs. In the cold winter evenings we sat around the heater in the front room doing sewing, embroidering flour sack pillow cases and flour sack luncheon cloths, eating apples or reading the Free Press, especially the Home Loving Hearts pages, or the Country Guide, or a book. Of course my mother insisted that my homework must be done first.

There is never a Christmas that I do not recall the Netherby Christmas concert. Each child had a little piece to say, and we all lined up on the stage to sing the Christmas carols. Santa came and each child received a present from under the big tree at the front. Candies and oranges were passed out to everyone. After the concert no one went home. The men took out the school desks and benches to clear the floor and a dance began. Music was supplied by a pick-up orchestra. The first dance I took part in was the Heel and Toe Polka. I was twelve years old.

As I grew older there were dances in the Garden Plain hall. Everyone went, even the children. We never went home until the wee hours of the morning. One night when we were all shaking up the floor doing a square dance, the big stove pipes fell down. They were quickly put up, the floor swept, and the dance went on.

I also remember the United Farm Young People's. We held our meetings at one another's homes. As I recall, these meetings were in the winter time, and we went by sleighloads, straw in the bottom of the sleigh, heated rocks and blankets. There was such a nice bunch of young people, and we had a marvellous time.

Another memory I have is the building of the railroad. One of the workers used to cook his meals on an old kitchen stove out on the prairie. One day a wind got up, and before anyone noticed, the prairie was on fire. It looked as if the house and buildings would be burned to the ground. Rudy Moore had his hands burned fighting the fire with wet sacks. The men fought the fire all night to bring it under control.

Two elevators and one store were built at Garden Plain. The crew that built the Pioneer elevator had their own cook, but my mother, Blake Heder and I cooked three meals a day and did all the dishes for the gang that built the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in 1929, earning the big sum of one dollar a day and our board. Rudy Moore made and bottled root beer and sold it to the crew for ten cents a bottle.

I left Mr. Moore's to continue my high schooling and to take a business course in Edmonton and Hanna. Mother stayed on the farm until she moved into Hanna in 1950. She often talked about returning to the east to be near her people, but she really liked the freedom of the west. In the summer time there was always a bouquet of wild flowers on the kitchen table. My son has a box of Indian arrowheads that Mother found on her walks around the farm. My dear mother passed away in 1956, and is buried in Hanna cemetery.

I married in 1944 and have one son, Jack, who is in exploration geology and spends much of his working time in the arctic looking for gas and oil.

My husband, Blake Heder, and I have made our home in the village of Halkirk. We often reminisce about the good old days at Garden Plain.

THOMAS McCAFFERTY, ***By Lenora McCafferty [illegible]*** — Thomas McCafferty came to Alberta in 1908 from the State of Maine in the U.S.A. His wife and daughter Lenora followed the next year.

He worked on a farm south of Castor for a Mr. and Mrs. Behrens until he earned enough money to buy a team of horses and a wagon, then he drove newcomers over the land available for homesteaders, helping them to locate. He filed on the south-east of 16-33-13 and built a frame house and a sod barn.

The first year was spent building fences, cutting prairie wool for hay, and breaking ground for next year's crop. The work was accomplished by all four settlers on the section working together. Steve Wagner and Ken Bryanton had come from Maine with Mr. McCafferty. Jim Manson came from Nova Scotia, and the four men pooled tools and machines and helped each other with their work.

Tom McCafferty hauled freight from Castor south to Copeville, near where the town of Hanna is now located. The money he earned helped to buy groceries and machinery and equipment to help improve life on the homestead.

Later he developed a coal mine on the south-east corner of his land. At one time he stripped a bit of land to get at the coal beneath several feet of surface soil. It was necessary to have qualified miners to operate an underground mine, so in the summers he would hire Mr. Baxter and Mr. Camp, who were also homesteaders but who worked in the large coal mines in Drumheller during the winter.

Tom McCafferty had a contract for hauling mail three times a week from the post office at Garden Plain to the post office at Fenwick. Neither rain, hail nor blinding blizzard stopped the Royal Mail from going through.

The long trip to haul grain to the elevators in winter was a special hardship for him. He was lame as the result of a broken hip in his youth, and consequently could not walk behind his load to keep warm as the other men did, but he never complained.

The most severe hailstorm occurred in 1915. There had been ample rain and a bumper crop was ripening in Tom McCafferty's field. He was in the process of making arrangements with Fred Whaley to have his crop cut.

In those days the grain was cut with a binder which tied the grain into uniform bundles and deposited them on the ground in piles. Men would pick up the bundles and place several of them together in an upright position to form a stook, where they were left to dry until they could be threshed.

It was a beautiful Sunday in that late summer of 1915 when Fred Whaley came to look at the crop which Tom wanted him to cut. Sunday dinner was prepared and the table set for the meal. A beautiful shortcake was sitting on the table, embellished with whipped cream and orange sections. As the men returned from the field, the skies darkened and the wind started to blow. Rain fell, followed by hail the size of golf balls, some as big as baseballs. Windows in the house were broken; glass was spattered over the table and the beautiful cake. The wheat was flattened. In less than an hour, the hard work and prospects of an income for a whole year were gone. The homesteaders gathered up the remains for feed and carried on as best they could, hoping for a better return for their labors the next year.

Tom McCafferty sold his farm, stock and equipment in 1917, and purchased a farm north of Garden Plain. He and his wife have both passed away and are buried at Castor.

Their son Harry, born in 1911, lives at Botha. Lenore lives in Calgary.

THE JOHN WILLETT FAMILY, By Roberta Willett Sergeant — My dad filed on the NE 16-33-13 in 1907. He had come to Alberta from North Dakota where he had farmed and been a Superintendent of Schools. Mother and I came out in the spring of 1909. In the meantime dad had taught school, (Sullivan Lake, I think) and had built a house on his land.

Four more children were born while we were on the farm. Boyd in 1910, Stanley in 1915, (he died in 1921), Laura in 1917 and Angus in 1919.

I dimly remember being with dad on one trip he went for supplies. We could see smoke from a fire behind us to the north-west. Oxen are so slow! If a prairie fire came, our home was protected only by a narrow plowed fireguard. Mother was home alone, but when we got there we discovered that she had wet gunny sacks ready; fortunately that fire went away to the north and east so the sacks weren't needed.

Everyone did things the hard way, because there were no labor-saving devices. We had a well that gave us clear cold water, but we had to draw it or pump it by hand for the stock, and carry it to the house by the pailful. The kitchen stove had a reservoir on the side which kept some warm water handy, but on washdays a larger quantity was heated in a large boiler on top of the stove. Clothes used to be boiled in that boiler too, to get them white. The washing was done on a scrub board, rinsed and wrung out by hand. Floors were scrubbed with a brush and mop, soap was homemade.

Coal and wood, but mostly coal, were the fuels in those days. Our home was heated by the range in the kitchen, and by a round-bellied stove in the living room. The pipe from this stove went through the upstairs and so our sleeping quarters received some heat.

In the years we were on the farm we grew only two really good crops, and one of them was hailed out, in 1916, I think. Shortage of rain was such a problem! I remember milking cows, and churning . . . how I used to dislike that: it took so long to get butter by moving the dasher up and down . . . but how good the butter was after mother had worked it! We had our own beef and pork and chickens and eggs.

One of my chores was to go for the cattle after school. Sometimes it was quite a hunt. I remember one time it was dusk before I found them, in an area where cacti grew, and I was barefoot. Another time I was bringing in a cow with her new calf, and a coyote followed me to the top of the hill west of George Mattey's. There he stopped and howled and howled; his supper had gotten away.

When my sister Laura was born, a nurse stayed with us to care for mother and the baby, but after a few days she was called away on an emergency case. I was only eleven years old, but I took over as best I could, even bathing the baby. I had all the confidence in the world, but I wonder how my mother felt?

I remember, during the flu epidemic, that our family always wore masks when away from home. I remember the neighbors gathering on a Sunday afternoon to listen to the music of J.W. Taylor's gramaphone. That was the first one in the district; it had a horn and cylindrical records.

I remember watching a storm from our kitchen doorway. The wind was of cyclone speed and we were watching the cloud carried by it. Mr. Williams was driving home from Hanna. He pulled his team in to the shelter of a building, but the wind lifted the roof off it and dropped it on Mr. Williams in his democrat. He was in hospital for months after that, and walked with a limp for the rest of his life.

Dad sold the farm to George Standing, through the Soldier Settlement Board, and we moved to Calgary in 1919. Primarily, I believe the move was made with the education of the children in mind.

Mother died in 1951 at the age of seventy-one, dad in 1954 at eighty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson

ALEX WILSON, *By Ruby Wilson* — Alex Wilson was born in Deskford, Banffshire, Scotland on November twenty-seventh 1885.

A cousin, Alex Lyon, emigrated to Manitoba and sent glowing reports; these interested the young man so much that in 1911 Alex decided to venture out to the land of opportunity.

The family was a close knit one; on the day of his departure, his father, who hated to see his son go, couldn't say goodbye, but just walked down the road with him, turned, waved his hand in farewell, never looking back. That was the last Alex ever saw his dear Dad as he became a victim of the flu epidemic a few years later.

Alex sailed on April fourteenth, 1911, from Liverpool, England, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia eight days later in company with Jim Andrew's brother, John. There were no dining cars on the train, so meals were had whenever, and wherever a long stop occurred and the

young men could find a restaurant nearby. Jim Andrew met the young immigrants and all three worked for a short time on the railroad at Empress. When the outfit moved to Coronation Alex went along to help in the building of the railroad at that point. While there the first store and bank were opened so a new town was born. The work continued on the railroad till freeze-up. Alex then went to Castor and owing to a coal strike (they were around in those days too) he was able to get work at the coal mine. Work was work and nothing too menial to tackle. Christmas 1911, and once again Alex was on his way to Coronation, this time by train. Jim Andrew met him and both men walked back to Jim's homestead, north of Stanmore; from Coronation a distance of thirty-three miles. They reached their destination in one day, in spite of heavy snow left by a three-day blizzard.

In January of 1912, John Bye a father-in-law was returning from Castor to his homestead north of Richdale and invited Alex to accompany him. The first night was spent at the Ricker place and the following day they arrived at Watson's. Alex Scott, who operated the post office and store at Fertility. This house in later years was renovated and moved to Hanna and is still used as a dwelling. The kindly couple gave Alex work that winter, hauling freight from Castor, choring and the odd time hauling mail from Garden Plain Post Office to Fertility. In late March Alex got a ride with an Irishman named Ryan going north to within seven miles of Castor and he walked the remainder of the way to meet his brother John, who arrived that night from Scotland.

The brothers joined the Andrew brothers and all four men journeyed to Bassano to work with the irrigation crew. That fall John, who now had a homestead, returned to Fertility and built a shack on his homestead north-east of Watson's store. The following summer both brothers returned to Bassano and late that year Alex filed his claim on a homestead in the Spondin district. Alex never lived on his homestead. During the winter he batched with John and the following spring, 1914, John helped him build his shack. Later that year Alex purchased a team of horses, some farm machinery and commenced farming. During this time John Wilson was working in Hanna in the construction of the Old Public School so Alex seeded thirty acres for each of them and broke eighty acres on each homestead.

In 1915 John enlisted in the Services, but he never returned to farming, being badly wounded and obliged to change his type of work. He moved to Calgary, married Dorothy Amos Lee and had one son John Robert who was drowned in Chestermere Lake in 1945. John, prior to retiring in the late fifties was Supervisor in the Custom's office in Calgary. He died in 1963. John's widow Dorothy passed away in 1969.

Alex farmed both homesteads until 1917 at which time he sold his homestead at Spondin to Messrs. John and Henry Adolph, whose land adjoined his. He also owned the south-east of 35-33-12 which he farmed for a short time, but owing to the distance from Fertility he found it inconvenient to operate and so allowed the creamery operator to pasture his cows on one part and Gus Adolph farmed the remainder. This same quarter section was sold to Gus Adolph in October 1962 for one half ton truck of barley and one cow.

Alex's mother, the late Mrs. Jane Wilson, joined Alex in October, 1919. At that time she was a lady of sixty years old and amused the station master at Castor on her arrival by carrying an umbrella, as he remarked "to the banana belt". Nothing undaunted, she laughingly replied, "then I'll use it as a sunshade." During her long stay in the area Mrs. Wilson, Sr., put her nursing knowledge to use by acting as a midwife on many occasions. She was loved by one and all and although she retained the Scottish dialect of the north, the children and adults too managed to

understand her. Alex often recalled how much she liked to visit Hanna and would say she required to go on the pretense of being short of tea (she would hide it) but Alex finally found out, and then she had to resort to another excuse for an outing. A trip to Hanna in those days had to be planned well ahead, lists made, etc.

The first winter of Alex's mother's sojourn in the land of her adoption was spent at Glover's until Alex was able to build on to his shack. On one occasion, on a return trip from Castor where he had gone for lumber, he stopped at Glover's to visit and have supper. While unhitching the horses he noticed that a quarter of beef he had purchased was missing, but before he could hitch up the team again they were off, and each time he almost caught up to them they would gallop away. He finally ran them down at Eklund's three miles away, and was a thankful man to do so, as at the time the chase began he was wearing a fur coat which greatly hampered his progress. He found the meat, too.

Alex loved his animals and the care and attention they received were evidence of this. He never had an animal lie down in wet or soggy bedding, nor had he any half-starved looking cattle. In fact, his cattle usually brought the top price.

On going through some receipts, one was found in which he had paid for four hours of labor the substantial sum of twelve dollars per hour.

In the spring of 1923, while Alex's mother was away visiting a neighbor, their home was razed by fire, the result of warm ashes being used for a pathway round the house and a high wind coming up in her absence. In later years all such ash pans were well doused with water. For a time Grandma Wilson, as she was affectionately known, and Alex lived in the Hanson house and in 1926 moved to a new location and a new home on northwest 34-33-13, which at that time was almost void of trees with the exception of a few willows. It is believed that an elderly gentleman was buried among the few willows in the very early years, but no stone marks his resting place. In the early 1960's a young lady called enquiring about his burial place and stating she was a relative of his, but Alex was unable to help her, he only being able to relay the hearsay story.

Over the years Alex planted twenty thousand trees by hand and possessed the loveliest setting of home, buildings and shelter belts in the entire area. His mother passed away in January 1944 at the age of eighty-five, active until the end; she was greatly missed by all.

In September 1946, Ruby Kellie, a friend of Grandma Wilson's sister flew over from Glasgow for a visit, and in December the same year she became the bride of Alex. They were married in the Calvary Tabernacle in Hanna (now known as the Alliance Church). The plane she flew in was a converted bomber which developed engine trouble enroute and had to make a forced landing in Gander, Newfoundland, which resulted in a delay of several hours; and Miss Kellie missed her connection for the west from Dorval. As she had been advised of her flight on very short notice (while attending a church service) she had been unable to say goodbye to anyone prior to leaving Scotland nor been able to advise Alex of her impending arrival. A telegram was sent from Dorval giving the arrival time at Calgary, but due to the telephone lines being down (a thing unknown in Scotland) Alex never received the message and Ruby arrived in Calgary expecting Alex to meet her at any moment.

The date of her arrival coincided with that of Lord Montgomery who was coming for an airport inspection, and naturally the airport authorities wanted the place cleared for this event. Ruby was asked several times if someone was coming to pick her up. Eventually the airport authorities phoned the Customs Office where John, Alex's brother, was Supervisor, but he thought the call was just about a

parcel so didn't trouble to return their call. However, after the Airport's third call he returned theirs and was able to converse with Ruby. At first he thought she might be his niece from Glasgow and was so surprised when he found out who she was; Alex had never mentioned her possible visit. Ruby spent the day at John's home, and in the evening travelled by train to Hanna. Alex did not know of her arrival in Canada until about five the same evening and wanted to drive to Calgary to meet her but she had come thus far alone another hundred miles wasn't too much. Ruby spent her first week at Jack Corry's farm and was made very welcome. It was a very wet fall and Alex rode over each evening to visit her, the roads being too muddy to travel by truck.

The day of her arrival coincided with that of Mr. Reid's funeral, so her first introduction to the neighbors and district was attendance at a funeral, during which the rain poured and the streets in Hanna were a quagmire.

Prior to coming to Canada Ruby had been employed for a number of years as Secretary in a Scottish Hospital. In her course of duties she met many Canadians, even the late Sid Herring of the Netherby district. She had been preparing for work in the Sudan Interior Mission as a Missionary, but little did she realize her trip to Canada was preparing her for a mission field of a different kind. The isolation, the drabness of the unpainted frame houses, the dust, brown grass, mud when it rained, and the lack of mail when it stormed, phones knocked out in the high winds, sometimes was almost too much to bear and she wished she could swim back to Scotland.

Mail day was most important in the Wilson home for then they could escape for a few hours from the frustrations that at times seemed to be part of their daily lives.

On the couple's return from their honeymoon they ran into a snow storm and stayed overnight at Frances Unsworth's; during the night Alex suffered a gall bladder attack and the following day was taken by ambulance to Hanna. The snow had to be pushed to the side of the road to make a pathway for the ambulance. The kindness of the Unsworth family will never be forgotten and thus a friendship with the Scottish bride was cemented which has endured ever since, growing richer over the years. While the couple had been on their honeymoon, the man Alex had hired to do the chores in their absence had gone away and Mrs. Unsworth's son, Roy, had gone over daily, a distance of three miles each way, to attend to the cattle, and continued to do so until Alex was discharged from hospital and able to return to the farm. The roads were still snowbound on his discharge from hospital, but the couple took the train to Scapa and were met by Tiff Ironside who, with his Belgian team drove them back to the farm. Thus the couple, who were welcomed by the bagpipes on their arrival on their honeymoon in Vancouver, returned home accompanied by the cheery jingle of the horses' bells all the way from Scapa to the farm.

Alex never was of robust health but he was hard working and took a pride in his Scottish heritage. His home and buildings were always neat, well arranged, well painted and gladdened the eye of all callers. In April 1948 a daughter arrived to bless this home. The mailman Fred Harvey helped the stork in this case, having taken the expectant mother by cutter from Garden Plain Store just four days previously to catch the train for Hanna. The previous winter had deposited lots of snow, and Alex drove Ruby by team over Mr. Corry's field to the store, and the remaining miles to Scapa she accompanied Fred Harvey with his mail. That was a very long day, having left home at nine in the morning and arriving at Hanna shortly after seven in the evening. The post office officials in Calgary, on learning of Fred's assistance, honoured him with a scroll. A month later on her return trip the happy couple called at Frances Unsworth's to show her their treasure — Frances was the first neighbor to share with them their new found joy. In May 1950 a son, Fraser, was born and their cup was full.

Often in the winter when the roads were not too bad Ruby would take the sled and pull it the one and a half miles to Garden Plain Store for provisions, and enjoy the exercise. The children were taken out most days in the buggy and she often walked down to Mrs. Patton's, a dear Irish lady who lived about four miles from the Wilson farm. Babysitters were not for Ruby, her children were too precious to trust to another's care.

When Fraser was about fifteen months old Alex's health deteriorated and his prognosis was poor. At that time Prairie Bible Institute were advertising for stenographers and on enquiry Ruby was informed that in the event of Alex's demise a position would be available for her, supplying room and board for herself and children, plus fifteen dollars monthly for incidentals. Fortunately the need never arose.

The fall of 1951 was a lovely one and on October seventeenth, the Wilson's drove with a student minister, Graham Clark who had been staying at the Wilson's and helping with the harvest. The minister, Rev. Harder, who had married the couple had moved to Wimbourne the year previous, and as he was having special services that weekend had invited the family. During the service a snow storm arose and the Wilson's and Clark had to remain in Three Hills overnight, the following day after being pulled by three different tractors they arrived at Gadsby only to find the hotel being renovated and with no heating. They had to sleep with their clothes on and coats piled on top of the blankets. The following day (Tuesday) highway twelve was cleared and when they finally reached home they found the block of the tractor had cracked and their crop deep under snow. So winter had arrived once again and there was nothing one could do but accept the fact.

The following spring the Special Areas Crew bulldozed out the stooks and the farmers then had plenty of feed, the rabbits and mice too.

Ruby still hadn't tried milking, cows were fine at a distance, but with Alex's failing health and more prolonged stays in bed this had to be overcome. Her neighbor, Inga Strandberg, elected to teach her. The following evening at Strandberg's farm the lesson began, Inga demonstrating the milking technique on Ruby's index finger, explaining that squeezing, not pulling, gave results. With an upturned pail for a stool Ruby got under the cow and gingerly commenced and by the time she got a cup full Inga's pail was almost full. At that precise moment a cow entered the barn (the cows were not chained) and Ruby's cow side-tracked. Ruby fell, knocking Inga over on her back with the pail of milk streaming down her face. All Ruby observed were two legs up in the air and she ran — that was her first and only milking lesson. It proved to be instant learning.

Once a year the train from Scapa to Hemaruka would run and it was a highlight for the children as it passed through the pasture close to the house. When its whistle sounded at the Elevator one mile east Ruby got out the buggy and hurried down the road with the children so that they could wave to the engineer. Quite often he would pull the whistle an extra time for the enjoyment of the children. These men often stopped and filled their large cans from the Wilson well as it was known for its lovely water. The elevator families also came to the Wilson's twice a week for their water supply.

The Alex Wilson family were a close-knit family, their lives revolving mainly round the farm and church. They attended Sunday School first at Solon, later at

Dundee and then at Netherby. When the roads were too muddy to drive they walked.

Ruby never ventured on the road with the truck or car before committing herself and children to the Lord's care and when highway thirty-six was reached they stopped and gave thanks. Similarly on the return trip: it could be thirty below zero and colder yet Ruby always left home coatless and on the return trip would take off her coat prior to venturing on the remaining five miles on the dirt road. The five miles of that road were prayed on every inch of the way. The children never argued or fought in the truck; when they became concerned about the road condition they would bow their heads in prayer — such co-operation from the family made Ruby's burden lighter.

Another source of concern to Ruby was the annual trips to Halkirk for coal. In earlier years Alex accompanied her but soon the distance was too long and the trip too tiring for him so Ruby would go alone. She left early in the forenoon calling on Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse enroute and would enquire if they wanted anything taken to Castor, or mail and groceries delivered on her return trip. The truck was always loaded to capacity making the return trip a nightmare for fear that it had been overloaded. Mrs. Waterhouse who was a Glaswegian loved to visit with a fellow Scot and always had the kettle boiling and a cup of tea ready. The children often accompanied Ruby and loved visiting Mrs. Waterhouse and for years thought her name was Mrs. Hooch Aye, an expression she often used. The trips would continue until twenty tons had been hauled, then Ruby would sigh with relief and thankfulness. Flat tires and slipping into the ditch were only some of the mishaps she encountered, but always some kind person came to the rescue. By the time Hope was eleven years old, she could change a tire as efficiently as anyone.

The crop year of 1963 promised to be a good one. The wheat and oats had never stood so tall nor looked better; the garden was good and people's hearts were gladdened and all sorts of plans were being formed, when in August hail struck twice, a week apart. The second severe hail storm was accompanied by extremely high winds. Following the hail, heavy downpours of rain fell, which also contributed to the general damaging effects of the storm. Windows in farm homes were smashed, siding on homes dented, shingles ripped loose, and even some smaller farm buildings twisted from their foundations. When it was over, Alex commented "Never fear, dear, God has always supplied our needs, and He will never fail us", and He never did.

Alex was not a lazy man and when his health permitted he would resume his farming operations, often attempting too much. A portion of the land was rented out but brought very little remuneration. Thus the years passed until 1964 when Hope was in grade ten and Fraser in grade eight.

All during the years Ruby had kept up her shorthand speed by taking down lectures from radio talks, and her typing by submitting articles to various papers and magazines. A position as secretary with the Provincial Government became vacant and now that the family was in their teens Ruby felt she could best contribute to the household finances by resuming, if possible, her former occupation. It was a day of thankfulness and joy when her acceptance was received and she was officially appointed to her office, a position she has continued in to the present time.

The day prior to commencing her employment Alex once again was admitted to the Hanna Hospital and remained there six weeks. When Ruby took up her first pay cheque to show him, he wept, and remarked, "I'm the one who should be supporting you."

Hope entered the Seventh Day Adventist College later that year (she had been baby sitting during the summer for one of the Doctor's wives, who evidently got her interested in the college). The following year Fraser entered the same college and completed his education at that institution. For almost a year Ruby commuted from the farm to Hanna but it really was too long to leave Alex alone so in the fall of 1965 the farm was sold to Stanley Strandberg.

Alex was a very quiet man and it was only in the latter months of his life he revealed just how much he disliked living in Hanna and missed the farm. He always liked to take a run out at the weekends just to see the old home and surroundings.

The year prior to selling the farm, Dan Trefz rented the farm and after all expenses were paid the Wilson's got a thousand dollars, the most they had seen in many years. The Trefz were real friends in need, coming up in the winter and taking the milk cows to their own farm, milking them for the Wilsons, and then bringing back milk. Dan Trefz sold his farm the following year and the remainder of our cows the same day and moved to B.C., otherwise the Wilson's would probably still be the owners.

Hope was married in 1966 and has a daughter, Coleen Michelle. Fraser is a bachelor and resides with his mother in Hanna.

In May and June of 1968 Alex and Ruby revisited their homeland, spending some time at the home where Alex was born, the school he attended as a lad, his church and his kindred. The weather was very kind, only one shower in the five weeks. Alex returned to Canada looking ten years younger, everyone remarking on the great change. The stewardess confided that she had not expected him on the return trip he had looked so frail when going over. At eighty-three he still was not grey-haired and often was taken for a much younger man.

In June 1971, after a long spell in hospital, Alex passed away and lies in Netherby Cemetery awaiting the coming of the Lord. He left to honor his memory his loving wife Ruby, Hope and Fraser, and one grandchild Coleen Michelle.

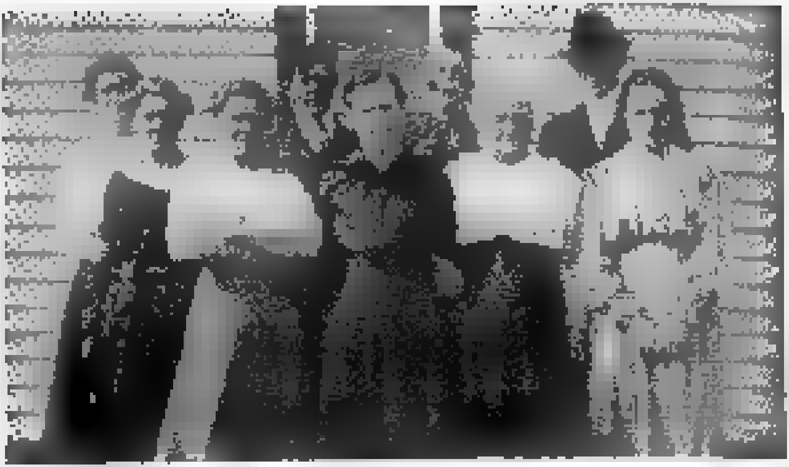
In retrospect, despite the many setbacks experienced, their lives on the farm were complete; in fact, the trials and tribulations became a source of strengthening of their faith and reliance on the Lord, and they could reiterate with assurance the old saying, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

SARAH and WILL WRIGHT'S STORY, *as remembered by their daughter, Jessie Wright [illegible] and compiled by granddaughter Sarah [illegible] Brown* — Sarah Jane West and William Wright were both born in 1863 in the village of Dundas in New Brunswick. They were married in October, 1882, continuing to live near Dundas where they farmed and cut out a home for themselves from the forest in which they lived. They had nine children, Edwin, Jim, Harry, Emily, Bel, Nelson, Jessie, George and Vernon, who died at the age of seven.

In 1906 their second son, Jim, came west and took land in Alberta near Castor. He did not prove up on it, but moved farther south and took up strip mining in the Garden Plain district.

In the spring of 1911 Jim sent back to New Brunswick for some of his family. Those who came were his father and mother, Sarah and Will Wright, his sisters Emily and Jessie, and his two younger brothers, Nelson and George.

Later Will Wright took over land at Garden Plain, the SW 32-34-13. Jim and Nelson also had land at Garden Plain and George had land near Sullivan Lake. All three boys lived at home until they married.



Back Row: Emily Wright, Jess Wright, H. Simon, William Wright Sr., George Wright. Front Row: Eva Wright, Mrs. H. Simon, Mrs. Wm. Wright Sr. and Mrs. George Wright.

In May, 1918, George married Elizabeth Cattanach. They had three sons, Bill, Lorne and Edwin, and three daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Georgean.

Nelson married Georgina Hills in October, 1918. They had one son, Vernon, and a daughter, Wilma.

Jim was married in January, 1920, to Mabel Dawson. They had two sons, Jim and Norman, and two daughters, Audrey and Nona.

When the flu epidemic broke out in 1918, Emily returned to Moncton to nurse her brothers' families, and never returned to Alberta. She married Wylder Cudmore. They had five children and she died at Christmas of 1947 in Moncton.

Jessie Wright married a World War veteran in October, 1922. They were married at her folks' home at Garden Plain. It was a double celebration that day as it was her parents' fortieth wedding anniversary. After the wedding they moved directly to their new home north of Delia. They lived on the family farm until his death in 1961. Since that time she has lived in Delia, Calgary and Drumheller. Her four daughters, Sarah, Margaret, Jackie and Elizabeth have given her seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Wright returned to New Brunswick to live with their son Bill at Moncton. She died at Christmastime in 1932; he passed on in June of 1933.

GEORGE WRIGHT, *By Margaret Wright Nelson* — My dad, George Hugh Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, April 20, 1895. He came west with his parents and two sisters to Castor in 1911. His father took a homestead on the SW ¼ 32-33-13 in June 1912. There the family moved and made Garden Plain their home. Dad took out a homestead SE 4-34-14 W4 on January 20, 1912, proved it up and continued to work and live at home. In 1916 Dad went into service in World War I. He was stationed in Calgary all during his stay in the army.

Elizabeth Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, on February 23, 1898. In 1910, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cattanach, their five daughters and one son sailed for Canada. They went to Calgary where they spent about two years, before coming to Garden Plain. In 1914 a post office was opened on the premises of D.

Callanach and Mother became Postmistress. I believe the post office was moved to Garden Plain store, west of there, in 1916.

In 1918 Mother and Dad married, and lived a few years with Dad's folks. In 1920 or 1921 Dad bought the James Manson place and started farming on his own. By this time he had acquired four mules. During the winter and off season he worked in the coal mines for Bryanton and in the last Callanach mine. But this came to an end in the early twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wright — 50th anniversary, May 11, 1968. Back Row: Lorne Wright, Edwin Wright, Doreen Rahill, Georgean Mohr. Front Row: Bill Wright, Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, Margaret Nelson.

Crops were good, bad and indifferent during the roaring twenties as they were later called. Then came the tragic thirties. Poor crops, grasshoppers, wheat prices dropping to the twenty-two cent mark for some grades of wheat. Cattle prices about a cent a pound. I can remember Dad selling pail bunter calves for six to eight dollars apiece. During the early thirties things were worse. I can remember that it cost eight dollars for licenses for the 1926 Model T, just the price of one steer. Dad just couldn't afford to buy the license. It was driven illegally at times but not very often as one had to buy gas too. In 1936 we moved from the farm to Jim Wright's place. He had just sold his machinery at a farm sale and moved to Edmonton.

This additional land meant that more horses were needed. Dad had quite a few good horses by now. Jesse and Dick Roberts had a number of horses and dad would get horses from them and break them. By then it was in the very late thirties, and with the two older boys able to help, at least sixteen horses were used for two outfits.

As far back as the twenties Dad always had cattle. There were generally six to eight cows to milk twice a day most of the year. There were also chickens and turkeys to tend. In the early years Mother made butter and took it to Hanna and traded it at the old Stephens Store for groceries. Later on the cream was collected by the creamery truck from Hanna or Spondin.

It was a big winter job cutting ice for the ice house. If it wasn't cut and packed

properly it melted too fast in summer, and by early September when it was needed to keep meat for threshing it would be gone. There was a big difference in price between a five gallon can of special cream and one that had soured and Graded one or two. The ice helped keep the cream sweet. By 1950 power was put in, and so ended the ice age.

The year 1928 saw the railway bed laid from Scapa to Hemaruka. In 1930 the steel followed and in 1930-31 the Pioneer Grain Company built an elevator at Garden Plain. This elevator was opened in August 1931. Mr. George Wilson was the first elevator agent. Dad had the first load of grain to go into the elevator. Bill, then only ten, proudly drove the team to the elevator, and had the honor of delivering the first load of wheat to the Pioneer Grain Company. Finally the Great Depression was over. There were hardships, but we never suffered like some for which we were all grateful. The 1940's brought a gradual return to normal, although cattle prices in the forties were from ten to fifteen cents for fat steers.

The mid forties to mid fifties saw all the family marry and leave home. In 1961 Dad thought he and Mother should sell out and retire to Calgary. They enjoyed good health and happiness until 1969 when Dad's health started to fail. In 1970 they moved back to Hanna.

Mother and Dad celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 11, 1968 with all their children and grandchildren present. On June 21, 1972 after two years of poor health Dad passed away and was laid to rest in the Netherby Cemetery. Mother, in fair health resides in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. There were six children in the family. Margaret married Harry Nelson in 1945. Bill left the farm to work and went to the west coast. In 1953 he married Hazel Johnson in Vancouver. A few years later he moved to Gibson's, B.C. and has resided there ever since. They have two children Wayne and Heather.

Lorne worked in Hanna part time and in 1951 married Betty Marlowe. They have one daughter Lorna. They moved to Stettler in 1965 and still reside there where Lorne works for Wootton Tire Ltd.

Edwin left the farm at an early age and in 1947 moved to the west coast. He never returned home after that. He worked on the coast for a number of years before going to Arizona. He lives in Phoenix. He and Stella enjoy the Arizona climate especially in the winter.

Doreen married Bob Rehill in 1960 and has two sons. Ken and Jack both at home.

Georgean married Richard Mohl in 1953. Their oldest child Scott died in 1974. They and their two children Jeffery and Winona live in Hanna, where Richard is owner of Dick's Men's Wear.

JAMES EMERSON WRIGHT, by Mabel Dawson Wright — James Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, on November 26, 1883, the second oldest of a family of eight. At the age of twelve he left home to work in the Glace Bay Colliery and in 1903, left for the West. He worked in lumber camps and mines until 1906, when he took up a homestead near Castor. Later he and his partner, Ed Fortner, operated a mine near Saunders, Alberta.

Mabel Dawson was born in England in 1894. She came to Lethbridge in 1914 to visit her sister Ella and her husband William Thompson. When war broke out Mabel moved with them to Calgary where she attended business school. Upon finishing her course, she worked in the Royal Bank and in 1918 was transferred to Castor.

James Wright and Mabel Dawson were married in January, 1920, and moved

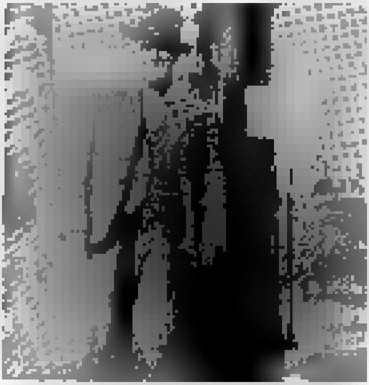
to a farm at Garden Plain, the SW 6-34-13. James Wright also strip mined on this farm.

They had four children. James was born at the farm in November, 1920 and died in 1974. His wife, May, and daughter Moira, live in Edmonton. Norman was born in England in 1922 and lives in Edmonton with his mother, who is still enjoying good health. Audrey was born in 1925 and lives in Edmonton with her husband, Wilf Bowe, and their two daughters. Nona was born in 1928 and lives with her husband, Cecil White, at Pearl. They have eight children, six from a previous marriage.

James Wright Family — Nona, Mable, James and Audrey.

Jim Wright farmed until 1935, when after repeated droughts, he sold out and moved to Mirror where he leased the Imperial Hotel for one year, with the option of buying. He found that the hotel business was not to his liking, so they moved to Jasper Place where he bought a garage and store from B. A. Gas and Oil Company. Jim was happy with this business and continued to work at the garage up to his death on March 21, 1963.

DONALD CATTANACH, By Margaret Nelson — My uncle, Donald Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, October 5, 1886. At the age of 21 he decided to come to Canada. He left Glasgow March 9, 1907 and 13 days later landed at St. John. Heading west, he worked in Winnipeg, North Battleford, Calgary and Langdon, where he met his brother Alick and friends, Jack Campbell and Jim Adams.


Donald Cattanach   Taken in Peace River area.

In 1908 he filed on his homestead on SW 6-34-13 and in January 1909, with a team and wagon and six month's provisions, landed on the homestead.

In 1910 Walter's Store with Mr. and Mrs. French as storekeepers, opened one-half mile west. He used to go and help them look after the store every Sunday. On Christmas Day of 1910 Mr. and Mrs. French cooked dinner for all the bachelors of the area. About twenty were there.

In the spring of 1910 he went to Calgary and worked on the First Street Subway. He came back to the homestead in the fall. Hugh McRae rented the twenty acres which was broke and there was a good crop of oats. That year he also built a twelve by sixteen shack.

In 1911 coal was found just south of the present house, on SW 6. By 1913 R.

Livingstone, Donald Campbell and Donald Cattanach had a mine operation. They rented it to Mr. Unsworth. Shortly afterward it caved in.

In 1913 the first wheat grown was on thirty acres of new breaking. Fred Sagr threshed it. It had been stacked and after threshing it heated and spoiled. He said, "I even took it out of the bin and put it on ice on the slough, but it still spoiled." About this time Donald proved up on his pre-emption and sold to Kane.

From 1918 till 1919, he worked in Stettler during the winters, helping Mr. Davidson look after the bulls he consigned to sales in Calgary and Kamloops.

In 1920 he sold to Jim Wright. He put in the crop for him that spring, and ended his homestead days in Garden Plain. In 1921 he moved to Fleet, Alberta and in 1929 to the Peace River area.

In the fall of 1965 he came to spend the winter with his relatives at Garden Plain. In late January he became ill and passed away in Hanna General Hospital on February 4, 1966 at the age of 80 years. He was buried in the family plot at Netherby.

Alick McLean — mixing mortar for Harry Mason —1945.

ALEXANDER M. McLEAN, by Margaret McLean — Alexander M. McLean was born in Nairn, Scotland on March 6, 1876. As a young man he learned the stone mason trade. He enlisted his services in the Boer War, and upon returning home decided to come to Canada.

In 1906 he left Scotland, on arriving in Canada he headed west. He spent some time in the North Battleford area, with homesteading in mind, before deciding to go farther west. He went to Calgary where he obtained work and in 1908 met his brother Donald, Jack Campbell, a friend from Scotland, and Jack's partner, Jim Adams. All filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain area in 1909, Alick's being NW 6-34-13.

In the fall of 1909 John Grove and Bud Hackett built a sod house and barn for him, and later that year he moved to the homestead for good. He proved up on his land and took a pre-emption across the road, NE 1-34-14.

Brother Donald, who homesteaded the next quarter, needed help with his homestead duties, so Alick lent a helping hand whenever possible. When homes or schools needed brick chimneys he always built them. This he did until into the late forties.

Alick lived a very quiet life, by himself in a one room shack. During the depression years times were hard, but in 1946 he got his Old Age Pension and lived much better.

He passed away in the Hanna General Hospital after a brief illness, at the age of 85 years on March 10, 1961. Burial was in the Netherby Cemetery.

GEORGE MATTEY — I was born in England, came to Canada in July of 1906, and after working at various jobs in Manitoba, I joined my brother, Fred Mattey, on his homestead in the Lauderdale district in the fall of 1907. My first job in Alberta was keeping the straw away from a twelve-horse threshing machine.

In the spring of 1909 my brother and I took up land in what is now the

Netherby district, one mile south of where the schoolhouse was later built. My brother broke forty acres with oxen. He plowed through the half mile, making twenty acres on his land and twenty on mine. Meanwhile I picked rocks, built a lumber shack on my place, and a sod barn on his. Later on in the summer we put up hay, using oxen for power. That fall a big prairie fire swept through the country. Fred and I were away harvesting at the time. Our hay was burned, and Fred's barn, but thanks to the neighbors my shack was saved.

That winter I worked for George Rutherford north of Castor, and the next spring he loaned me the money to buy a team of horses. We seeded the breaking to oats, broke more land and put up hay. As it had been a dry year the crop was very short, and we cut it with a mower with a sacker attached to the cutter bar to catch the heads. The job was hardly worth doing. That fall I sold the team, Fred and Barney, to J.W. Taylor, and spent the winter with the Rutherfords.

The next spring I bought a team of oxen and seeded our breaking to oats. As Fred did not come to the homestead that spring, I made a deal with a young fellow to put his oxen with mine to do more breaking. I hardly got started when one of my oxen died, so that stopped the breaking. I traded my remaining ox to Chic Erickson in return for him working the land, and started to work for William Goldsbury. One Sunday afternoon Charlie Blaney, who lived on the same section as Goldsburys, and I walked over to my place. While we were there a hail storm struck. We sheltered in my shack but the hail smashed the west window and came through the roof. Charlie crept under the bed. The oats were too badly hailed to be worth threshing and I sold the stack of bundles two years later.

In 1917 I seeded to oats, and summerfallowed the twenty acres of old land. I used Goldsbury's outfit to do my field work, giving them three days' work for each day I used the outfit. That fall I threshed with the Fred Baer outfit, which charged eight cents a bushel for threshing. Crops were good but there was no real market for the oats. I had worked all summer for Goldsbury but didn't ask for wages, as I knew that blood doesn't run from stones. Mrs. Goldsbury's mother, Mrs. Pyle, loaned me money to pay my thresh bill.

That fall I took two loads of Goldsbury's wheat to Castor. There were no grain elevators in those days, but some townspeople bought and shipped wheat. When I got there the buyers' bins were full. I stayed the night and in the morning I phoned the dealer at Halkirk. He said he had room, so I headed for there, but when I arrived I learned that he had filled his bin while I was on the road. I left the wheat in a bin on Goldsbury's homestead three miles east of Halkirk, and headed for home. Later that winter I boarded up the end of a stall in the livery barn and carried a load of wheat into it with pails, because the buyers had no room.

The following spring I sold most of my oats to James Burns for about fifteen cents a bushel. After seeding I went north of Castor to work, and in the spring of 1914 bought a team and went back to the homestead. I did summerfallowing and breaking, and dug some wells for neighbors. There was a good crop in 1915 and the price was good, but there was a shortage of elevator room. J.R. Wilson and I built a bin in Hanna and hauled into it. When elevator room became available in the spring we moved the grain from the bin to the elevator.

There was a good growing season in 1916, but after an August hail storm, my wheat was not worth cutting. I did some plowing for Jim Mangan, and later worked for the Johnston threshing outfit. The water tank driver quit and I took over his job. We were still threshing in February, and the weather was too cold for a pump, so I used a long-handled ladle. By night I was covered with ice which made music when I moved and which could be heard for a considerable distance.

By 1917 I had progressed to four horses, the crop was fair and the price

good. In 1918 it was very dry, with frost in July. The crop was a complete failure. In 1919 I had a fair crop and hauled my wheat and some oats to the Bonar elevator. In January 1920 I sold the homestead to Len Taylor through the Soldier Settlement Board.

This ended my homesteading experience.

KEN and ANNIE BRYANTON, by Fred Johnston — Ken Bryanton was born in Prince Edward Island in 1861; Annie was born 1867. Both had gone to the state of Maine to seek employment, and there they met and were married in 1893. They lived in Maine until 1909 when they came to Alberta to homestead on the NE 18-33-13.

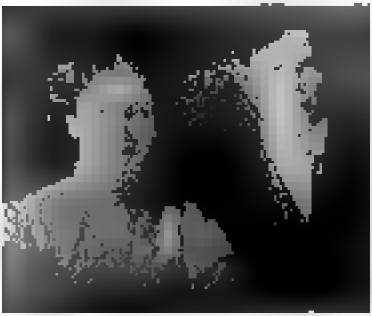
He soon had a strip mine in operation on his homestead, and he and Annie milked cows. One should say that Annie milked cows. Ken was much troubled by rheumatism. One time when my dad was visiting there when Ken was recuperating from a bout of rheumatism, Ken held up his claw-like hands and said, "And how can you milk with hands like these?"

Annie replied, "I would get down on my hands and knees and suck them."

They were childless, and liked dogs. They had one intelligent dog, Fanny, who was trained to bring the cows in from the pasture.

Ken belonged to the old U.F.A. and was a threshing syndicate member. He died in hospital in Hanna in 1926, aged sixty-five, and was interred at Netherby cemetery.

Annie was in hospital at the same time. Shortly afterward she had a sale and disposed of the farm to Eric Small. She kept house for Billy Hoodless until about 1928 when she went east and was house mother at a young ladies' finishing school, in New York. She retired to the home of her nephew and his wife in New Brunswick. She died in April, 1961, soon after her ninety-fourth birthday.



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Jensen — 1908

PETER VALDEMAR JENSEN, by Helen Jensen Northey — Peter Valdemar Jensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1881. He worked as a grocery boy for a couple of summers and went to sea at age thirteen, sailing on German and Danish merchant ships to New York and as far south as Central America. He worked in iron mines in Michigan and Minnesota about 1906. Then he worked building dams in Montana and Washington. He married Anna Carlson in February 1908. Mrs. Jensen said they changed their place of residence seventeen times in the first year of their marriage as Pete changed from one place of employment to another. Daughter Helen was born on December eighteenth.

When his friend, Tom Ryan, drove from Spokane to Bassano, Alberta, Pete ventured with him. In the autumn of 1910, he went by train from Spokane to Castor, and walked to look around the country to the south. He filed on a homestead thirty miles south of Castor and made the acquaintance of Judd, Charley and Artey Doran, who kept a stopping-house. In the spring of 1911 Pete loaded his wagon with tools and household goods and drove north from Spokane in June. Anna and child went by train to Castor and travelled to Dorans by stage-wagon (not coach) and stayed at Dorans' six weeks waiting for Pete.

Meanwhile Pete pressed on with team and wagon. When he crossed the Old Man River near Pincher Creek his wagon almost hung up on a rock as he forded, and he feared that his goods would be swept away into the deeper water. An Indian woman had told him: "Stay in rough water, still water deep."

After Pete camped that night a hailstorm struck. One of his hobbled mares broke her leg. Pete walked to an R.N.W.M.P. Station at Fort MacLeod and got a revolver. He walked back, killed the mare, returned the revolver and went back to bury the mare. Then he hitched the other mare to the wagon and he himself supported the neck-yoke on the other side. In this way he went for about ten miles. He tried to buy a horse from an Indian woman, and while he waited for her husband to return, he ate his noon meal. Then the Indian woman said she would not sell the horse (because it was "Loco") to a poor honest man.

So Pete went on carrying the neck-yoke. After he had camped, a man named Brigham with an English remittance man for a cook, drove up with his horse and buggy and took Pete to his homestead shack. In the morning they hitched his stallion to the buggy, and hitched his mare with Pete's mare and drove the wagon to the homestead. Pete stayed for about three weeks framing some buildings and doing other handyman jobs. Then he traded his good set of harness for a not-so-good set and a mare, and travelled to Dorans, and to the homestead north along the Castor Trail.

There a sod house and canvas gave shelter to the family and Pete followed a walking plow to get some fields ready for planting. He worked out at times building, butchering and plowing. Pete hauled some sawed lumber from Stettler, and built a room beside the sod structure.

There, on February thirteenth, 1912, when the prairie was a trackless waste of snow, the first son Walter was born and tended with the help of good neighbors.

I can remember that when Dad went to the shelter he had built for the horses in the side of the cutbank below the sod shack, he sometimes came back with two eggs from the two hens that shared the barn shelter. I think we sometimes got milk from Ken and Annie Bryanton, good neighbors a half mile away. That winter we ran short of flour. Either Bryantons or bachelor neighbor Jim Manson had given Dad a gunny-sack of "chicken-feed", (screenings from the threshed wheat), as pay for some repair jobs, and I can remember Dad and Mother picking out the best grains of wheat and grinding them in the coffee-mill to make biscuits. As winter roads opened again I expect that flour came from Castor by stage-sleigh.

In the summer Dad was working for W.O. Stevenson of Nicholls. While baby Walter slept, Mom would hitch our ox Tom to the stoneboat with a barrel on it and haul water from a well in the cutbanks a half mile away. By the time the barrel was hauled home, half its contents had splashed out.

Later, while Dad broke more ground on the homestead quarter, Mom kept house and tended three W.O. Stevenson children so they could attend school near Nicholls. Walter and I found the older children stimulating company. One day they had a dead bull snake over a stick, calling to Mom, who was much shaken by the incident, to come to the window to "see". When they told how the snake had swallowed all her young ones to protect them, the incident became an indelible impression. I can still see in memory the arrival of W.O. in the black leather-upholstered buggy, wielding the long black driving whip, urging his high stepping team in fancy harness and net covering.

The family spent the next winter in charge of the stopping-house while the Dorans were away. I remember as well a green pine tree brought from Castor for

Christmas and placed in a stand my father fashioned. We had been told that Santa wouldn't come until after we had gone to bed. We woke in grey dawn to view the tree laden with candles and strings of popcorn, and red netted bags filled with homemade turkish delight, popcorn, fudge and peanut brittle; a lovely doll with eyes that opened and closed; a warm wooly toque for my head. How long had Santa been gone? I ran to the door in my long nightgown, hoping to catch a glimpse of that elusive Santa and his reindeer but alas! all I could see were travellers leaving the stopping-house heading their horse-drawn sleighs down the snowy trail.

One morning, to try to keep Walter quiet, I let him shake pennies out of my iron bank. His face looked so crinkled when he swallowed one. It hurt his throat and I cried out in concern for Mom's attention. Then the vigil of the next twenty-four hours to see that the penny was passed, lest gangrene take the life of my loved brother.

Later Pete took a pre-emption quarter of land, still searching and digging for a supply of water. He found a flow of water, finished the well and cribbed it; soon he dug a cellar and hauled lumber and built a house and a privy, adding later a barn for cows and horses and a coop for chickens. By this time lumber and other necessities could be hauled about twenty miles from the new town of Hanna that sprang up in 1912 when the C.N.R. came through.

The J.W. Taylors north-east of us lived in a large two-storey house painted green. Mrs. Winnifred Taylor was the trained nurse who came pioneering with her husband James. She had assisted at the birth of my brother Walter. The winter of 1914-15 our family wintered at the Taylor farm while they spent the season at Victoria, B.C. All my early life was enriched by that winter's use of their gramophone's musical records, among them "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and Harry Lauder vocals, also by a library that gave me the joy of "Little Tom, the Water Baby," 'Black Beauty' and other books.

One day Walter decided to meet me walking home from school. While Mom and neighbors searched for the missing child, wondering if he had fallen into one of the deeper muddy holes in the meandering creek he arrived at a spot where Chris Lehrmann was getting the steam engine and grain separator ready for harvest. Mosquitoes were constant irritants. Chris spoke with the little fellow. Yes, his name was Walter, but Walter who? Whose boy was he? "Mama's boy", he repeated, as he playfully answered so many times. Dad soon came to rescue him and calm the frightened women.

Walter started to accompany me to school before he was five years old. The winding trail took us past the Allan Taylor family home or, if we preferred, past the Dunnington place. On a rise of the ground were many horned eyeless skulls of buffalo. Thunderstorms that shook the firmament were sometimes frightening in mid-afternoon, mosquitoes so troublesome that bags of green net hung from wide hat brims to ankles. Like the farm animals one sought relief with smoke from smudges, especially in the evenings.

Teacher MacDonald was replaced in mid-summer by a Mr. Eagen who took over a living area in what had been a small coal-shed at the back of the school. At noon hour, when Mr. Eagen was absent, an adventurous older pupil went into the coal-shed and brought a package of dates to the play area. When school resumed Mr. Eagen told all who had eaten dates to stand up. He had paid Mr. MacDonald twenty cents good money for those dates, so most of the pupils including myself were lined up and strapped on the hands. That was shame enough, for some of us had not known that the dates were stolen, but to add more shame, that big May English stood there on the platform and wet her clothes and made a puddle on the wooden floor. By later newspaper accounts Mr. Eagan did become rather notorious.

I remember being sent on errands to the home of old Mrs. Wylie who kept house for her son Charles, and trying to understand her Scottish speech. Or welcoming Mr. Israelson who was from a different part of Sweden from our Mother's Varmland, and sang his words, his eyes twinkling at our joy when he brought five packs of gum wrapped in a felt flag of one of the world's countries. These flags, postcard size, made beautiful cushion tops. Sometimes Marie Bertsch, who tended Tom Kane's Garden Plain country store and post office near Kane's coal-mine, sent the gum with our grocery order, a loved treat. The gum wads saved in strange places, usually inside the kitchen cupboard, and remained when Mom decided it was time to throw them in the fire. Later the flag wrapping gave way to smaller silken flower-bedecked pieces.

Winter gave Dad time to mend harness and make our wooden toys: wagons, sleds, blocks, derricks of wood and string and wire, wheelbarrows, rocking chairs of swan or rabbit designs. Empty thread spools made wheels and spinning tops. I used to marvel how our Dad knew so much, and how Mom could make a tasty meal of so little; how she could fashion dresses, jumper skirts, aprons, even under-garments from flour and sugar sacks bleached, dyed and trimmed with lace or embroidery or hemstitching.

The land of the homestead and pre-emption was not productive, and in a few years Dad bought a quarter of land from Tommy McCafferty, who was moving away. Our household goods were loaded on the hayrack and arranged in the new home. Cows, calves, pigs, chickens and dog were moved, and our pleasure was real that we acquired a buckskin pony with black mane and tail along with the farm. Buck was patient with us and carried us three and a half miles to Netherby School. He was a shrewd old cow-pony who herded strays so well that his sudden turns and dodges sometimes dumped us on the prairie. One time I lay very still and Buck came to nuzzle me, so he was more easily caught that time. We couldn't always jump up bareback without the help of a fence-wire or a burn-out.

It may have been the autumn of 1920 that we noticed from the schoolyard that our house in the distance was burning. Such a feeling of disbelief and foreboding! Walter and I rode to Bryersons where we found Mama and Laura and baby Russell safe, sheltered and comforted by dear Annie Bryerson, Ken having gone with other neighbors to help Dad keep the fire from other buildings. Dad and Mom had been digging and storing potatoes. The Home Comfort range sat squarely on the kitchen floor, and later Mom remembered that she had emptied the ashes that morning and probably hot coals falling from the grate had caused the wooden floor boards to ignite. Anyhow, when Mom and Dad looked up, smoke was coming from under the eaves, and as Dad broke the bedroom window to pull out Mom's trunk and armloads of bedding, other windows blew out from the heat and all else was lost.

The neighbors were wonderfully kind. We cleaned the small blacksmith shop for a temporary shelter and were glad to move into a new clean twelve by sixteen foot building, using a granary in summer for extra space. Our home-site was moved to a hill in the centre of the quarter, where Dad had found an excellent supply of good well water. We planted caragana hedges and a big garden. After two years we were able to move into the downstairs of our new house built over a full cement basement, and in time the stairs were built and the four upstairs bedrooms were ready for occupancy.

The move to Netherby School gave us good teachers: Mr. Fredericks, Mrs. Johnson, Miss O'Leary, Miss Shufflebarger and Mrs. Ellen Graves. That dear lady saw me through grade eight departmental exams, ready at thirteen years of age to go to work for my room and board at Harry Bartman's in Hanna where I took grade nine.

I can recall clear moonlight nights, the snow sparkling with millions of diamond lights as we walked or drove with team and sleigh to visit a neighbor or attend a social or dance. Sometimes in the week before Christmas holidays one could attend a concert each night in the surrounding schoolhouses. Card parties and dances in winter months often went on until daybreak, and morning chores would be completed before taking a few hours' rest.

Firing the kitchen range and heater was steady and the tank heater keeping the water for the stock from freezing should not be neglected. In all the winters on the prairies we never failed to feed, water, clean barns, bed down and sometimes "doctor" our stock, besides harnessing and saddling and the reverse, but the knowledge that there were people who did not go to the barn during a three-day blizzard has always wrung my heart's blood, thinking of animal suffering.

The Bryantons could not recover three turkeys when one blizzard struck. Imagine the shocked surprise and delight three weeks later of seeing the turkeys come out from under a melting snowdrift! Springtime! crocuses! birdsongs! buttercups! shooting stars! wading in the sloughs! tadpoles! making yards of chains from sloughgrass! discovering a patch of wild strawberries or a bush laden with ripening saskatoon berries or tart gooseberries!

First of July picnic and sports day! Dad had helped to build the community hall and barn and outhouses, the booth for refreshments, the swings and teeter-totters, even a merry-go-round propelled by willing feet, the chutes for the bucking horses, a smooth stretch of ground for foot races, three-legged, wheelbarrow, thread and needle and egg race.

A growing child looked for two outfits of clothing a year, one for Christmas and one for the first of July. I remember laying out outfits for the family in readiness for dressing up after all chores were tended and the picnic lunch basket filled with salads, sandwiches, pies and other goodies, fearing that the cows might get through the fence into the cropped field, or that the horses coming in off the range would break down the gate and drink the farm trough dry (filling that huge tank was labor on the pump-handle, but better than pail and rope), fearing that someone might need to stay with a sick animal and spoil the family outing! Sudden wind and rainstorm! Hurrying home to clucking hens hovering over drowned chicks, or worse still, hailed crops and gardens, broken windows and leaking roofs. Yet we survived as a family as did most of our neighbors. Sometimes we could attend church or Sunday school and go to the neighbor's for Sunday supper or have neighbors come to us.

Dad used to say that the section of land 16-33-13 of which his quarter was a part, was the only one around that supported four families: Bryantons, Wagners, Jim Manson and McCaffertys. Later the four families were Eric Smalls, George Wrights, Pete Jensens and Vieges.

To the Jensens five more sons and daughters were born before the family moved to Langley, B.C.: Laura in 1916, Russell in 1918, Donald in 1920, Betty in 1923 and Leone in 1930.

An interesting follow-up was that in the spring of 1934 when Pete and sons, Walter and Russell left the dry Alberta farms and drove in an old car to settle in the Langley area near Vancouver, they had supper in MacLeod and an old man approached Pete and said, "I never forget a face. Where did we meet before?" Conversation brought out that he was the officer, since retired, who had loaned Pete a revolver in 1911.

Another interesting note is that Pete's naturalization papers are marked "duplicate, original lost through enemy action at sea, British Merchant Navy, 1940."

Pete sits in the sun with Tina, his second wife, in a cozy home and garden at Mazatlan on the west coast of Mexico, ninety-five years at the time of writing, May 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. George Standing Sr., Vera and George Jr. — 1914

GEORGE G. STANDING SR. — George was born in Cape Town, South Africa, August 23, 1882. His parents moved back to London, England when he was six months old. His father was a tailor by trade. His mother died when he was only eleven years old. He had four sisters, Edith, Vera, Mae and a baby sister who died and one brother, Ernie.

As a young man he went to work as an apprentice for his uncle in a butcher shop and learned that trade. One day in 1907, he and his brother Ernie decided to travel across the ocean.

They both worked and helped build a church in Saskatoon. When that job was finished they travelled west across Alberta, British Columbia, then down to Spokane, Washington, where they worked building churches and also in the harvest fields.

They went back to London, England, but didn't stay very long and returned to Calgary looking for land. While there they met someone who told them to go to Stettler as there was homestead land available there. They left by train but on the train they met another man who said to drop off at Carstairs, as there was land for sale but not homestead land.

They found a section of unbroken land which was to their satisfaction six and a half miles northeast of Carstairs. With financial help from their father in England, they were able to buy this land. They hired a steam breaking outfit to break six hundred acres the first summer. The crop was very good, the first on the new land.

In the fall of 1909 George married Roseline Mathews, an English girl from Bath. They had met on the boat as she was going to Yorkton to visit her aunt and he was on his way to Alberta. They had corresponded and he asked her to come to Alberta before she returned to England. They were married in Crossfield and settled on the farm at Carstairs. They had two children, a boy George in 1910 and a girl Vera in 1912.

World War I was declared in 1914, so they sold everything and he joined the forces in Calgary and went overseas, where his wife and two children joined him. He was wounded on Vimy Ridge in 1917. When he recovered they returned to Calgary. He worked in a garage for a while but soon got a job with the Soldiers Settlement Board as a land inspector. On one of his land inspecting trips he saw land in the Fertility district which was for sale. It seemed satisfactory to him and there was also a half section for his brother Ernie. The location of the land, northeast 16-33-13, the former Willet homestead, was also known as a stopping

place between Castor and Youngstown. His brother, Ernie, got the south half of 16–33–13, the Fred Mattie homestead. George Sr., his eight year old son George Jr., and Uncle Ernie came to these farms in May 1919. They batched on the farm until the fall of 1919 when his wife Rose and daughter Vera sold their home in Calgary and joined them on the farm. Their second daughter, Evelyn, was born on the farm in November, 1919.

There were good years and there were bad years in the early twenties. In the fall 1923-24 and 1924–25 they moved into Hanna and worked on the C.N.R. but always moved back to the farm in the Spring. The year 1927 was a very good year until a very bad hailstorm, the worst they had ever seen, destroyed their good crop. In 1928 there was another good crop but it froze. Their second son, Roderick, was born in 1928. The years 1919 to 1928 they hauled their grain by team and wagon to the Boner elevator fifteen miles away, and to Hanna nineteen miles. They also hauled to Scapa twelve and a half miles away. During those years the price of grain was on the open market which resulted in it fluctuating between $2.30 and $.19 a bushel.

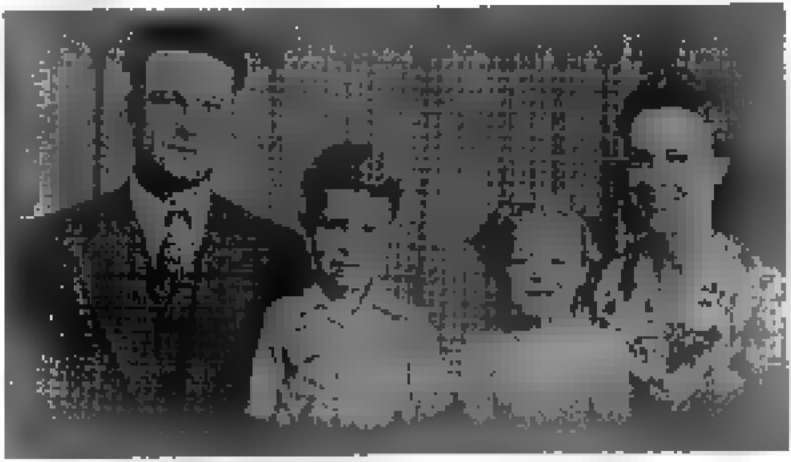
Their oldest son, George Jr., was married to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma in 1939 and settled on his own farm, the east half of 16–33–13. Vera married Harvey Hancock, an R.C.M.P., in Calgary in 1941. They have a daughter, Heather, and are living in Ottawa. Evelyn married Leslie Swan in 1950. They have three children. Their home is in Regina. Roderick married Eileen Andrus from Pollockville in 1955. They have three children. Their home is on the family farm at Garden Plain.

In 1962 George and Rose retired to Hanna, but his happiness and thoughts were still on the farm. He passed away January 1, 1964. Rose is still living in their home in Hanna and enjoying good health. She walks down town most days and loves to travel.

GEORGE C. STANDING, JR. — We came to Hanna by train in May, 1919, and stayed over night in town. When my uncle bought the farm, he also purchased a team and democrat formerly owned by Fred Mattie. When Fred went to Calgary, he left the team in town so father, uncle Ernie and myself could drive out to the farm in the Fertility District, the south half of 16-33-13. I was only eight years old and lived with my father and uncle Ernie on his farm for the summer, as the Willets were still living in the house that my father purchased and the crops were just being seeded. The land wasn't all broke so they got busy and broke more land, while I spent time with the Willet family. The boy's name was Boyd and the girl's Roberta and on Sundays we went to Sunday School taught by Mrs. B. Herring in the Netherby school. Mother and sister Vera came in October and we moved to the Willet farm.

In the fall I started to attend school in Netherby; my teachers' names were Miss Hunt, Miss Green, Miss O'Lacey, Mr. Robert Wallace, Mrs. S. Grimes, Miss Gettes and Mr. George Smith. We spent two winters in Hanna so I went to school there in 1923-24 and 1924–25. The teachers I had were Miss Venus, who married Dr. Baxendale, and Miss Foot. I quit school in 1927 as my folks' crop was hailed. I went to work in the harvest field for Alex Richards in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Lake Thelma district too. Later in the fall I went threshing in the Centre Point district with Neville Thomas and Giltner threshing outfits. In the spring of 1928 I went to work for George Mattie in the Grassy Slope district, the farm now is owned by Fred Fecho. The wages in 1928 were $50.00 a month and two years later only $20.00 a month. I worked long hours and with horses. Then for a few years I worked at home with my father. I worked for Ironsides for over a year and then decided I would purchase land and start my career in farming.

In the spring of 1933 I leased the northeast of 9-33-13 and seeded my first crop and my only return was the seed. In 1934 I seeded ninety acres of back setting and got only five hundred bushels as the grasshoppers were so bad. That fall I sold a straw stack to John Corry for ten dollars and another straw stack traded to Theodore Ekelund for a yearling heifer and one dollar. I then jumped the freight train at Scapa and travelled north of Edmonton. It was too wet up there so came back to Camrose and walked back to Ohaton to our friends. Two days later I got a job shovelling wheat in flat bins in an elevator for Jim Mobler, the top wages were twenty-five cents an hour. I stayed there for two weeks and then went to work for his brother at Strome for the rest of the fall and all winter for twenty dollars a month.



Mr. and Mrs. George Stalding Jr., Janet and George Arthur — 1947

When spring came I returned to my folks and went to a farm sale at Chester Barbman's in the Scapa district and invested my money in four cows and two calves for $66.60. I then had five cows and two calves and four horses to start farming. I seeded a crop in 1935 which yielded very well. In 1936 it was not so good. In the fall of 1936 I worked in the coal mines for Mr. Russel Hemstock in the Dundee district. In 1937 I had not a very good crop but in 1938 and 1939 had very good crops. In the spring of 1938 I bought the east half of 15-33-13. It had only eighty-five acres broke on it so I broke more as the years went by.

In the years that I was growing up there were church services at the school, stampedes at Garden Plain on July first and there were school picnics in most districts. We went and took an active part in playing ball, playing horseshoe, racing horses and at night there were the dances that lasted until early hours of the morning. In the winter time there were card parties, dances and house parties. We played hockey on the sloughs and trapped weasels and badgers for spending money.

I got married on November 11, 1939 to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma district and we lived on my farm.

The mail was delivered from Scapa post office on the mail route by Mr. Bottomley twice a week. Our grocery supplies were bought mostly at Garden Plain

store, managed for many years by Mr. J.W. Taylor. We milked cows so we would take the cream to the Spondin Creamery which was managed by Mr. Rasmussen. There was also a store there so we could get some supplies from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henrikson. The town for business was Hanna and I guess still is.

During the Second World War the ladies formed the Dundee Red Cross. They were busy knitting articles, wrapping food parcels for the boys overseas, and also made warm quilts for the Red Cross.

In the fall of 1940 a son, George Arthur, was born and in 1943 a daughter, Janet Arlene, was born.

I farmed with horses until the fall of 1944 when I purchased a John Deere A-R tractor at a farm sale. The following year I bought a combine. I was hailed out in 1944-45 and 1949, also in 1950. They were real bad hailstorms, but having cattle and doing mixed farming enabled us to survive on the farm.

When the children started school it was so far to Netherby so in 1948 we decided to buy the farm that was formerly owned by Theodore Ekelund, the east half of 4-34-13. The children then had only one mile to go to Buchan school. In a few years the schools were centralized so then the children were all transported by bus to Netherby; then a few years later to Hanna school. They both graduated from grade twelve. George Arthur then attended Olds College and decided to farm with me. He married Elizabeth Berthot from Big Valley and they have three sons and are living in their own home with us on our farm. Janet attended business college in Calgary. She married Ronald Thumlert from Castor and they have two children. They are presently living in Sherwood Park.

There were many good years and many bad years on the farm but I still enjoy the life.

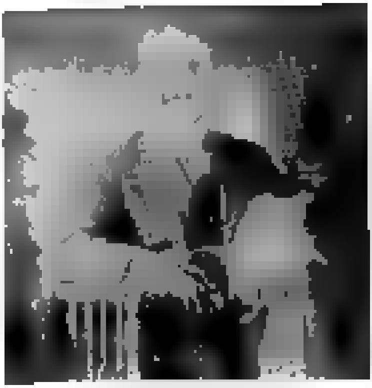
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Standing, Roger, Charlotte and Greg

RODERICK STANDING — I was born in the Hanna Hospital, December 24, 1928. I went to school at Netherby from 1934-45 with the exception of two months when I attended Buchan, because there was no teacher for Netherby. The winters of 1937 and 1938 my parents and I lived in Calgary, coming back to the farm in the spring. I attended Hanna High school for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47.

When I quit school I returned to the farm and worked with my dad. In 1955 I married Eileen Andrus of Finnegan district. In 1957 I started driving the school bus to the Netherby school. In 1963 Netherby was closed and I started driving into Hanna.

In 1962 mom and dad retired to Hanna and I took over the farm. We have three children, Roger born September 29, 1956; Charlotte born December 12, 1957; and Gregory born August 30, 1960.

MR. and MRS. E. J. STANDING, by Margaret Currie Standing — Ernest Jesse Standing was born in London, England, in 1883. He fought in the Boer and First World Wars where he became a sergeant. After the First World War he



Ernie Standing

worked for a short time as an appraiser for the Soldier Settlement Board. When he saw the present Standing farm, the south half of 16-33-13, he decided that this was the time and place to settle. He bought the farm from Fred Morley and settled there in 1919. He resided on the farm until his death in 1961.

Margaret Gill Currie was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1905. Her mother died in 1907, leaving three children, including a ten-week-old baby. An aunt cared for the children for several years, and in 1912 Margaret, her sister Dorothy, and her aunt went to Calgary where another aunt was teaching school. Margaret completed her High School there and attended Normal School. In 1928 she taught the North Berry Creek school, and there she met and later married Ernest Jesse Standing.

My travelling to open that school in North Berry Creek was by horse and sleigh. As was commonly done in those days, I was delivered to my boarding place by the mailman on his rural route. Schools were social centres. Picnics, dances, local orchestras held sway here. The July First Dominion Day event was particularly of interest, well attended and enjoyed by all. Outdoor sports such as ball games, races and children's games, were followed by a dance at night, with lunches and snacks throughout the day. The school also had church services, Sunday school, and at times there were interesting evenings of lantern slides. The cemetery adjoins Netherby school yard, so funeral services were also held in the school.

We managed for several years with horses — work horses for the fields, and a team for road trips. In winter the roads, never any too easy for travel, became impassable after heavy snow storms and blizzards left drifts. For fourteen consecutive years we were never in the town of Hanna. We got groceries and supplies at Jim Taylor's store at Garden Plain, or at Scapa.

As time went on, farms became more and more mechanized. No more sounds of hoofs or wagon wheels, the roads were much improved, and the snow plow kept them open. Tractors, wider discs and drills, swather and baler, the all-important combine . . . all made the farmers' work easier, as did also different sizes of trucks for everyday use and for hauling and shipping grain and cattle. To all this is added the family car, snowmobiles, ski-doos, skis and airplanes for both work and pleasure.

Mechanization didn't stop outside. The home now has telephone, washing machine and dryer, color televisions, gas range and furnace and hot water heater, replacing the wash tub and scrubbing board, the wood and coal stoves and heaters, and there are no more coal or gas lanterns or lamps.

The Standing farm has been described as one of the prettiest in Alberta, having four brushpiles gloriously green in spring, and picturesque with color in autumn, and a slough of considerable size, both of which are aids in raising cattle.

We shared lease land for cattle raising with the neighbors, the water supply on the lease being a part of the slough, with a natural spring supplying water if the slough should dry up. This year is my fifty-first in the Netherby area, and only twice in that time did we have drought disaster, by which is meant no crop to harvest.

As for family life, my daughter Margaret, known as Peggy, married Ernie Matthews and lives in Bowness. Her two sons are both in the services. Donald in the Air Force and Brian in the Navy. My son, Jess Standing, is married and has five children. Their oldest daughter made me a great grandmother in 1974. My older son, Tom, died a diabetic in 1957. He had three children.

Margaret Standing is still living on the farm which is operated by her son Jess, and is very active.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS, By F.S. Herring — My parents, Annie and Sid Herring, were born and raised in New Westminster, B.C. After dad had cleared two farms, one on Lulu Island and then one in Pitt Meadows, he had his fill of removing large stumps, and in 1917 bought a farm near Fertility post office. My mother and two sisters, Nan and Frances, moved with dad to this farm where they planned to raise horses, cattle and grain. It seemed like an ideal area for this purpose, no trees to clear before plowing, and a large expanse of range ideal for grazing.

When the army was mechanized and stopped buying horses, the price for them went down, but dad had established a herd of purebred Angus cattle, and we managed to survive and educate the family.

Stephen Herring, Mr. and Mrs. Herring and Blythe Herring

I was born at Castor simply because dad couldn't leave the farm at that time and the mail came from Castor. Dad arranged for mother to ride to Castor with the mailman who took her to the Castor hospital. I arrived a few days later during a blinding blizzard. My two brothers, Stephen and Blythe, were born in Hanna a few years later and did not get to ride to town with the mailman.

The arrival of the mail was always a big event. Fertility post office was in the kitchen of Mr. and Mrs. Crabb. One of my earliest recollections is that of waiting in the Crabb kitchen, along with all the neighbors, for the mail to be sorted and handed out. When a post office was established at Scapa, we received mail delivery to our own mail box twice a week. In the winter time I recall the mailman using a team and a covered sleigh which was fitted out like a miniature post office itself. It even had a little heater in it.

The party line telephone was a great convenience. The wires were properly strung on telephone poles rather than using the barbed wire fence, and I seldom remember when it was out of order. If the lines did cross in a storm, someone usually spotted the trouble and untangled the wires. Our telephone number was 714 and our ring was one long and four shorts.

I spent a good portion of my childhood summers riding horseback over the open prairie, trying to keep the cattle from wandering too far from their home range. Some summers were so dry that very little grass grew, and the cattle would wander away looking for better feed. Two or three times they found it in an unfenced grain field north of Spondin. Once some of the stock ended up at the pound and cash money had to be paid to get them back.

Harvest was always a particularly busy time for the whole family; stooking behind the four-horse binder required a lot of hard work and many long days. Dad had a steam threshing outfit in the early days and did custom work for many of the neighbors. It was a grand sight to see the steam engine with a long drive belt running the separator, the water wagon, the coal wagon, the numerous bundle racks and teams, and the golden grain pouring into the granary. When the outfit went away to thresh on other farms, a bunkhouse on wheels went with it, to accommodate those of the crew who did not live nearby.

When combines were invented, Dad sold the steam rig and bought the first swather and combine in the area. We missed the excitement of the big threshing crews, but the combine made threshing a job that could be handled by the family without much extra help.

We had a Titan tractor which dad used originally to break sod, and later for stationary engine power such as for grinding grain, but we did most of our work with horses. The largest team I remember was twelve horses used to pull a road grader on new road construction. The horses were arranged like three four-horse teams, one behind the other. They were not difficult to handle once you got the hang of it, but the line you drove had to be straight and you needed to depend on well-trained lead horses.

Horses provided us with a new car in 1929; Dad had arranged to trade the old car and about twenty horses for it. I remember him assembling the selected horses into a herd and driving them to Delia, where the car dealer took possession and we picked up the car.

It was a great time to be young; one learned to cope with problems at an early age.

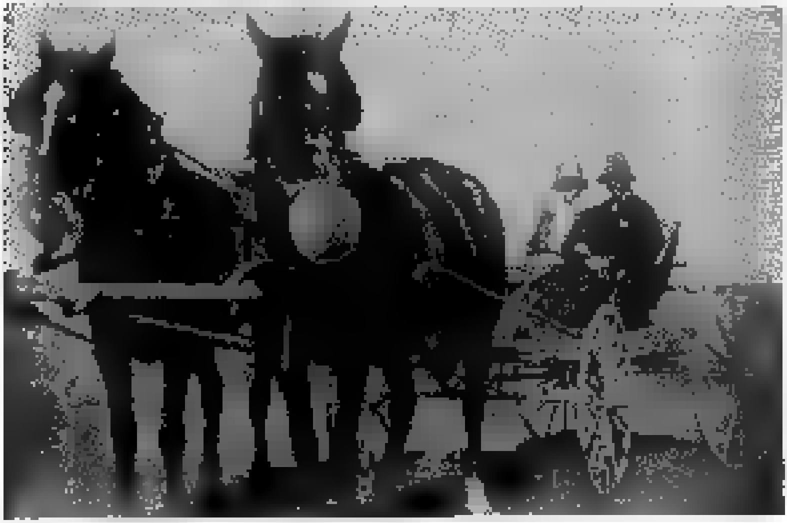
THE ROTH and JOB FAMILIES, By Carol Job — The Sid Herring farm was purchased by Mr. Jacob Roth of Burstall, Saskatchewan, in 1945. His sons Oscar and Art Roth farmed it for two years. Art Roth married Hattie Price of Medicine Hat in 1947. Oscar Roth moved to Medicine Hat and Art and Hattie farmed the land for three years. Then they returned to Medicine Hat where Art entered carpentry apprenticeship with his father-in-law.

Herb Pfahl married Mabel Roth in 1948 and rented the place for the next three years. Then they moved to Herb's father's farm about five miles north-east of Hanna, where they now reside.

Ed and Irene Job, nee Roth, purchased the farm from the Roth estate, and lived there until their son Willis married Carol Gustafson in 1964. In the spring of 1965 they moved a house trailer onto the new Netherby school site, and later built a new house there.

Willis and Carol Job and their three children, Clayton, Tracey and Pam, now live in the house Sid Herring built.

OUR LIFE ON THE PRAIRIES, By Eric Small — It was Friday, March 13, 1925 that my wife of one month and I set sail from England for Canada. We travelled by immigrant train from St. John, N. B. to Calgary. The coaches had wooden seats which you pulled out at night for your bed, wooden racks above for your luggage, and a pot-bellied stove in the caboose to boil your water or heat your soup. Everyone supplied their own blankets and pillows. Needless to say, we all slept in the clothes we were wearing. The train did stop at the busier stations where we could buy something to eat.



Mr. and Mrs. Small — 1925.

It had been spring in England, but on the prairies of Canada the grass was brown and the trees bare of leaf, and there was still snow in places. Where were the green fields dotted with white-faced cattle and horses, which we had been looking at for the past three months on brochures supplied to us by the C.P.R.? We did not expect to see fields of golden grain this time of year, but what we had seen impressed on us that we had landed in a cold, hard country, no place for weaklings.

We arrived in Calgary after four days of travel which we shall never forget. It was an eye opener for two British immigrants, at least. Our first view of the Rockies was fascinating. I think what impressed us most was the unlimited space of the Canada.

After spending two days in Calgary, we decided that we would not buy land, but would work out for a year to get some experience of the Canadian way of life. I had been raised on a farm in England, and I could see that farming over here was an entirely different proposition. Through the Soldier Settlement Board we hired out to Jesse Roberts of Round Lake, south of Fleet.

I should mention that my wife, Hilda, had lived all her life in a city, and that ride from Fleet to the farm was her introduction to life on the prairie. We rode in a wagon, on dirt roads; in the low places the water was up to the horses' bellies. But Hilda never complained, nor did she ever complain about the hardships we went through during the tough years ahead, and that is one reason that we came out on top in the end. She soon learned to drive a team and ride a saddle horse.

We stayed at Jess Roberts' until March, 1926. By that time we had decided that we should be on our own. We were both healthy and strong and enjoying the Canadian way of life, and nothing seemed impossible. So I bought the NW of section 18 from Mrs. Bryenton whose husband, Ken, had died that winter. There were still a few open sections around at that time so we had free grazing for our livestock.

In 1926 we had a light crop, but raised enough feed for our six milk cows and their calves. We were expecting our first child, about the end of December, Dr. Basendale said. The weather turned cold and there was snow the end of November so the doctor suggested that it being Hilda's first baby she should go and wait in Hanna, as the roads could be snowed in at any time. Pete Jensen had a Model T Ford and we took Hilda to Hanna in it the first week in December. She stayed at Mrs. Trenmamen's until she went to hospital January 2, 1927. It was a complicated birth. We lost the baby and nearly lost Hilda too. Thank the Lord she survived, but was not able to come home until the end of January.

The spring of 1927 was wet, and there was lots of moisture in June. The mosquitoes were terrible for men and beast. That summer we put a graded road through for two miles straight north from Netherby school. I drove the eight-horse outfit on the grader, and I think it was Bill Hoodless who ran the grader, and Rusty Moore had the four horses on the plough. The mosquitoes were so bad that we had a smudge at both ends of the grade. I wore a wide-brimmed hat and mosquito netting and a leather jacket to keep the devils from biting. We were paid six dollars a day for a man and four horses, and the money was applied to your taxes. You had to put in eight hours on the grade, no travelling time, and as I had to travel two and a half miles, it meant a ten hour day.

On July 28, 1927, a hailstorm pounded our crop right into the ground. It also ruined the prairie for haying. It was not big hail, about pea size, but it was hard and so thick that you could shovel it up on the north side of the barn the next morning. Now what could we do? No feed and no money to buy it. We sold the cattle and I went out harvesting and threshing. Walter Jensen, a lad of sixteen, went with me. Hilda went to Calgary and found work with a family in Three Hills. I managed to find work until the middle of December, when Alex Wilson and his mother went to the Coast for a holiday. I sent for Hilda and we looked after his farm until spring.

Some of the open range was beginning to be bought up, so instead of replacing my livestock in the spring of 1928, I bought the east half of section 17. Hilda went to housekeep for Bill Hoodless and I broke seventy-five acres with five horses and a sixteen inch sulky plow. That fall the Netherby School Board decided to drill a well, hired a driller from Scapa, and I helped him. Four dollars a day, and the last day I got my hand smashed and was handicapped for the winter. For compensation the well driller gave me a heifer calf.

I did not break any new land in 1929, as it was a very dry year, but I had a fair crop on the breaking I had done the previous year. In September we were blessed with a daughter, Moyra. The next three years saw us struggling along with poor crops and poor prices. Pete Jensen and I opened up a coal mine on the Bryenton quarter. We stripped twelve feet of dirt with fresnos and got a three-foot seam of coal, which we sold for $2.00 per ton. In February, 1932, Pete Jensen and I moved the house and buildings over to the east half of section seventeen.

In 1933 Eric was born. By this time we were well into the Depression, and during the next three years prices for farm commodities reached rock bottom. How did we survive? We had our own beef and pork, cured our own bacon and canned our beef for summer. We had a garden, and canned saskatoons for winter fruit. We had chickens and eggs, ground our wheat for cereal, and took wheat to

the Hanna Flour Mill where we traded it for flour, shorts and bran. We never went hungry.

Those were the years of the grasshopper[3] plague. We tried poisoning them with bran and strychnine around the outside of our crops; the wife would drive the team and I would spread the poison with a scoop shovel, but it was a useless effort. The only thing that got rid of them was a cold wet spring which killed the young as they hatched.

In 1934 I bought our first car, a 1930 Model T in perfect running condition, for thirty dollars. I turned it over one night coming from Hanna, after picking up some relief supplies for distribution , potatoes, apples and dried salt cod. Some of those cod were as big as sweat pads and looked the same, and that was what people called them. I couldn't afford to fix my car so turned it into a Bennet Buggy.

Crops were good in 1938, but it was doomsday year for us. Just before harvest time, Encephalitis (sleeping sickness) struck our horses, and I lost three brood mares and one colt. We raised the three orphan colts on skim milk fed from a pail. Then in October while we were threshing oats, the straw stack caught fire. The fire spread to my corral, my feed stacks and buildings. We managed to save a granery full of oats and the house. There was no insurance. There were enough oat sheaves in the field to feed the livestock if I reduced their numbers, which I did, and with the help of Jack Corry and Norman Greenway we put up a barn and some sheds.

After fourteen years of long cold winters, hail storms, dry summers and grasshoppers, we were just about where we had started, so we decided to take a look at B.C. Our old neighbors, the Jensens, were living at Langley, so we visited them, but tragedy followed us there. On January 21, 1939, we lost Moyra, nine and a half years old, after an appendix operation at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

Three tragedies within six months! No matter what the odds are you must keep fighting back, so we returned to the farm and put our crop in. It was a good crop, prices had improved, and since World War II had started, money had appeared back in circulation. I called a sale in October and got rid of the farm. We stayed in Hanna until December as Hilda was expecting a child, and after our experience in B.C. she wanted Dr. Baxendale to be with her. Barbara was born December 5, 1939, and soon afterward we bade goodbye to the Prairies.

I farmed at Cloverdale for six years, then sold out, dabbled a little in real estate, and finally joined a Cloverdale firm as an insurance agent. After twenty years with that company, I retired in 1967, and since then we have been enjoying the fruits of our labors.

Mrs. Patton, son John and Mr. Patton.

THE PATTON STORY, By Maie Patton Mason — My father, Samuel Patton, first came to Alberta about 1910. He travelled the length of Alberta, from Lethbridge to the Peace River country, and at one time, before the first war, held title to land where Edmonton's Municipal Airport is now. When World War I broke out, he returned to Ireland and in 1920 married Sarah Clyde. They engaged in farming for several years, but times were difficult, and in 1926 my father sold his farm and sailed for Can-

ada. He went to relatives in Toronto, heard there was good money to be made during the harvest season in the West, and decided to come to Alberta again.

He found work with Mr. Herring, a farmer of the Netherby district. He took charge of their farm and livestock while the family spent the winter at New Westminster. In the spring, he was able to rent the adjoining farm formerly occupied by Mr. Len Taylor, who had decided to give up farming and move to Vancouver.

During this time my mother, my sister Joan and myself had been living with my grandparents, but on August 4, 1928, we sailed for Canada, accompanied by my father's sister, Martha Patton, who resided with us until a few months before her death at the age of ninety-four. Our trip was uneventful until we reached Winnipeg, where we encountered one of the fiercest electric storms we had ever seen, and which gave us quite a scare. At the same time I became violently ill from the change of water, so my memories of Winnipeg are not too good!

The fall that we arrived at the farm the crop was beautiful, but it received an early frost, so consequently nobody made any fortunes that year. In 1930 a son was added to the family, my brother John. The following years were hard and lean at times, but they weren't unhappy, and we were luckier than some in that we had close neighbors. Prairie neighbors are a special breed, not found anywhere else.

Many of my early memories revolve around horses. I can well remember my father in the earlier days, hauling our winter coal from the mines north of our place. He had a beautiful black mare named Maggie. One evening, when he was coming home with a loaded wagon, she developed colic, but bravely brought the load home where she dropped dead in the yard.

In the years of growing up on the farm, we saw two of our closest neighbors at different times lose practically all their possessions by fire. During the dry thirties we were threatened by prairie fire more than once. During these years I can also remember my mother being called upon to officiate at both birth and death.

In later years, Mr. J.W. Taylor operated a general store at Garden Plain, which was a great convenience to the surrounding community. Mrs. Taylor, too, will be remembered for her many contributions to our early entertainment. The success of many a Christmas concert was due to the long hours of patient practice she put in with the children; when she passed away very suddenly, it was a great loss to our family as well as to the community at large.

After they lost all their crop by hail in the fall of 1952, my parents decided to move into Edmonton for the winter to be close to my sister and myself who had, by this time, married two brothers, George and Steve Mason. They spent the winter with us, but dad was restless in the city, and when the leaves started showing up in the spring, he decided that he wanted to go back to the farm again.

They continued farming for three years, after which they decided to give up farming for good, as my brother always had trouble with asthma and my father's health was getting progressively worse. They rented the farm to Ed Job, who later bought it, and moved to the city.

In October, 1957, my father passed away at the age of eighty-two years. The following year, my brother John married and has two daughters in high school. My sister Joan has three children, a girl and two boys, and I have three sons.

My mother continues to live with me and has very good health mentally and physically, considering her age which is eighty-seven.

THE STORY OF MY LIFE, *By Henry Mattie* — I was born at Leduc on October 28, 1908. I came to this part of the country with my parents when I was two years old. My father, Frederick Mattie, came here in 1910. He bought the south

half of 36-31-13, it was Boer War scrip, and took up a homestead, SW 12-32-13. He built a house and barn, put up a fence, and moved his family from Leduc.

As there was no school in our district, my father paid tuition fees so that my sister and three brothers and I could attend Centre Point school, three and a half miles away across country. I took all my schooling there.

From the time I was fifteen, I worked on the threshing rigs in the fall, putting in a day's work along with the older men. My brothers and I helped dad farm. We each drove an outfit of horses. In the winter it was almost a daily chore to haul grain to the elevators at Richdale, Bonar or Hanna. In the fall we hauled coal from the Brown mine, and later from Sheerness.

In 1916 or 1917 dad bought a threshing machine, hand fed, with a straw carrier in the back, powered by an eight-horse stationary engine. We threshed with this outfit until 1920, when he bought a 22 inch International separator which was powered by the first tractor he bought, a Titan. This outfit was run by my brother Dan until he bought a Rumley outfit for himself, then I ran the smaller one. My dad had bought a McCormick-Deering tractor in 1927 and then we threshed with it.

I worked with my dad until the spring of 1934, when I rented the Pete Jensen place, SE 18-33-13 in the Garden Plain district, but I still helped dad with his farming, as the other brothers were all on their own farms. I farmed with horses until the early years of World War II.

For entertainment, we used to have house parties and dances at the different homes in the district. It was always my turn to have the people of the district come to my home on New Year's Eve. We certainly had real fun in those days and we didn't need to have a bottle to have a good time either.

In the fall of 1938 Florence Wilkinson and I were married. She was born and raised in the Hiram district south of Coronation. Our three oldest children were born during the time we were on the Jensen place, Inza in 1940, Sandra in 1941 and Gordon in 1942

In the spring of 1944 we bought the Bill Goldsbury place, three quarters of 10-33-13. About 1948 we bought the other quarter of the same section from Jim Cuthbert.

In the spring of 1944 our second son, Dennis, was born, and in 1947 Rosemary and in 1953, Doris

When we moved on April 4, 1944, the roads were dry and the dust was blowing. I started seeding on April 18, and that was the last year I was able to get on the land that early, during the years we lived there.

The farm was quite run down when I took it over, the fences all needed repairing, and we rebuilt the house as we had to have a larger home. The first few years we had a bored well, which was about fifty feet deep and pumped by hand. The quicksand kept coming in, giving trouble all the time. In the winter time I had to water the cattle at a spring a mile away from the buildings, which was quite a chore for me and the stock in cold weather.

About 1953 Peter Boyd and I bought a well-drilling rig. We drilled a well for Pete, and put down two at my place, one at the barn for the stock, and later one next to the house. These proved to be excellent wells; we could not pump them dry. I also put up a larger barn, cattle sheds and corrals.

The children went to school at Netherby, Dundee, and again to Netherby. The youngest ones were bussed to Hanna.

Inza married John Carls; they have two children and live in the East Coulee district.

Sandra married George Callahan. They and their three children live at Slave Lake.

Gordon married Rose Schaler. They had three children but lost one of them when she was not quite two years old. They live at Nacmine.

Rosemary married Tom Jones; they have two children and live in Hanna. Doris married Gordon Edwards; they also have two children and live in Hanna.

Dennis died July 28, 1966, as the result of a car accident.

My folks lived on their farm until 1946, then they went to live in a small house in the same yard as Dan, their eldest son. There they lived out their last years; mother passed away March 26, 1950, at the age of eighty years, and my father died in November, 1956, at the age of ninety.

My sister, the oldest of the family, lived at home with my parents, and after they died she continued to live in the little house on brother Dan's place until 1969, when she went to the Sunnyside Nursing Home in Medicine Hat, where she died July 25, 1976.

My brother Dan farmed all his life on the land a few miles north-west of my dad's place. He married Bella Thomas and they had three children. He passed away suddenly September 28, 1966.

My brother Albert still farms just a half a mile from the home place. He married Emilie Jess and they had five children.

My brother Fred farmed at Spondin and Standard, and after all his family was married he and his wife, the former Barbara Schram, moved back to the farm he had in the Garden Plain district. He lived there until his death in October, 1973. They had four daughters.

Due to poor health, I sold everything except the land in the fall of 1967, and moved to Hanna. In 1971 I sold my farm to Arthur Standing.

MR. and MRS. STANLEY STRANDBERG, by Inga Strandberg — For the first year after he finished school, Stanley worked for the neighbors, then rented the Theodore Eklund farm from 1924-1926. In 1927 he purchased the east half of 21-34-13 on time. His crop was hailed in 1928, but he had hail insurance, and it was not until the depression years that he found it impossible to make his payments on his land. The agent of the Dominion Land Development Company promised him that if he signed a quit claim he would be able to rent the land; Stanley signed but the agent did not keep his promise. That served as a never-to-be-forgotten lesson to beware of agents.

In 1933 he started farming the NW 27-33-13, and continued to live with his parents until 1941, when he started to build up his farmstead. Over the years more land has been added until now we have a small mixed farm. In 1942 he and I, Inga Siverson, were married. We have three children: Muriel, who arrived in 1943, is now Mrs. Bruce Beach of Calgary; Kenneth, born in 1946, is farming at Daysland, and Lloyd, born in 1948, farms with his dad.

We bought our first combine in 1950 and put an end to stooking and threshing. However, we still needed the straw for the livestock, so we obtained a contraption to put behind the combine to collect the straw in. The straw would build up in front and for the next ten years it was my rather dusty job to stand on the side and fork the straw back, and dump the barge when it became full. It is now arranged that the straw can be handled from the tractor seat.

Whenever the combine got plugged up, Stanley used to prop up the feeder on a wooden block and crawl in and clean it out. Once when he was inside the block slipped, imprisoning him, fortunately unhurt. The first thing I heard was, "Get me out of here, I've got work to do. I need to keep combining." I am sure it

seemed a long time to him before I did anything because I could not lift up the feeder with him inside. I had to get blocks and a crowbar to pry it up. I am glad that I was close by so that he did not have to be in there for hours. After that he made sure that it was well blocked before he crawled in.

Maud Strandberg, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Szanchuk and sons Lloyd and Kenneth.

Stanley is handy at keeping machinery in repair, and with more modern equipment farming is not so time consuming or such hard work. For many years Stanley was the secretary of the Fertility Community Grazing Association. Later our son Lloyd took over the position and now Reg Corry has that office.

After some fifty years I still milk cows. In 1968 I received the Central Alberta Dairy Pool trophy and in 1972 the F.A. Rasmussen trophy at the Hanna Fall Fair for dairy products. In 1976 when the movie "Why Shoot the Teacher?" was being filmed, I had the pleasure of having a small part in it, and also baked bread for some scenes. Unfortunately, no way would the fast-rising yeast make three such nice big loaves in one pan as those square Royal yeast cakes of other days.

On February 18, 1977, Harold and Marion Gustafson surprised us with a thirty-fifth wedding anniversary supper with a few friends. They presented us with corsages and an engraved tray.

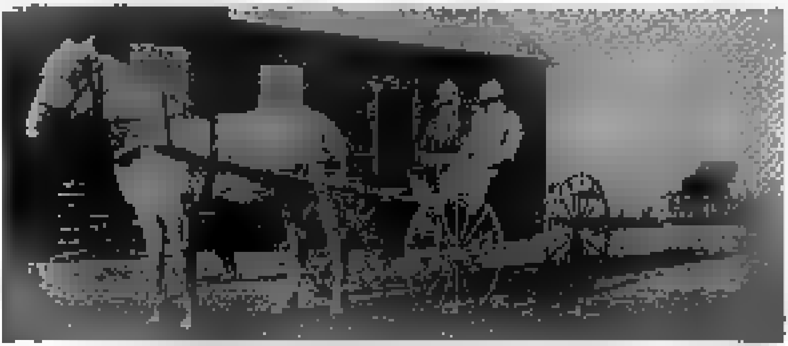
We have wonderful neighbors in this community.

THE DONALDSONS, By Helen Jensen Northey — Alexander and Euphemia Donaldson, known to family and friends as Sandy and Phemie, were a delightful couple who came to the Netherby area about 1918. They had worked at Nanton, Alberta, for a farming and ranching company; Sandy was the foreman and Phemie the cook. They bought the J.W. Taylor farm. Sandy's sister, Madge Kay, and her husband who had been invalided home from war service, lived with them for a time. Phemie's mother, Mrs. Patterson, also lived with them, and received tender and devoted care until her death about 1920.

Sandy was a hard-working dour Scot with a heart of gold and a quiet humor

that showed in his laughing blue eyes. Phemie went about her labors, indoors and out, usually on the run. She always had scones and oatcakes on hand for visitors stopping for tea, and Scotch shortbread, and haggis in season. She loved to tell jokes on the Scottish people, and had a never ending succession of tales.

She led a busy life, sympathetic to everyone's need. Our home and most of its contents had been destroyed by fire in 1919; Dad had built a twelve by sixteen shack to shelter the family temporarily, but when the fifth child of our family was expected, the Donaldsons insisted that mother come to them and be cared for through her confinement. There our youngest brother came into the world with the help of Dr. Baxendale, and was named Donald.



Setting out for home — Sandy and Euphemia Donaldson

In later years Phemie often told that when Donald stopped by on an errand she offered him two nickels, but he backed away, saying, "I'm only saving dimes."

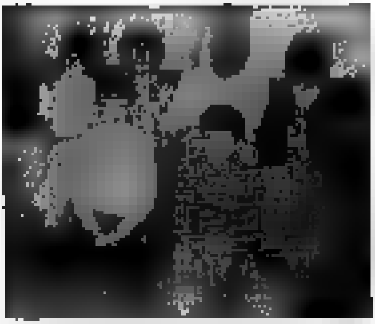
The Donaldsons were members of the Beef Ring. They participated actively in the affairs of Netherby school and cemetery, and of Garden Plain hall. Phemie sometimes cooked on the cook car of Sid Herring's threshing outfit. Sandy and Billy Hoodless were partners in a Hart Parr tractor and a Nichols and Shepard combine. After Billy died, Sandy sold the outfit.

In 1943 the Donaldsons sold their farm and moved to Calgary where they operated a chicken farm and sold eggs. Phemie, who had been born in Luntrilton, Perthshire, Scotland in 1879, died in Calgary in August, 1952, aged seventy-three years.

Sandy moved back to Hanna where he enjoyed the fellowship with his sister and her husband, and his many friends until his death in April, 1960 in his seventy-ninth year. He also was a native of Perthshire.

HENRY NIELSEN — I was born in Castor on February 6, 1930, and started school at Buchan in 1936. At that time there were six pupils attending, Murray and Raymond Halverson, Bill and Betty Marlowe, my sister Eve and myself. The teacher was Miss Bonnie Shoults.

The next year I went to Corinne School. At that time there were twenty-six pupils: Margaret, Velma, Lois and Joyce Waterhouse; Arley and Murl Childley; Dave Wallace; Frances, Andy and Nellie Harvey; Mae and Alfred Dalker; Dorothy, Donna and Harold Lepard; Irene Kennedy; Mary, Isobel and Donald Campbell; Gordon, Mary and Allen Ironside; Alf Siverson; Joe Higgins; Eve and Henry Nielsen. Teachers during my time there were Mr. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Betty Kerner, and Doreen Lyksen.



Henry Nielsen Family — Sheila, Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, Kathleen, Kenneth and Douglas.

The two main highlights of the school year were always the Christmas concert with all the preparation and excitement of concert night and Santa, and the school picnic at the end of the term in June. I remember during one of these picnics at Corinne, two moose came up fairly close to the school yard during a ball game. This was a real oddity on the prairies.

Our mode of transportation in the summer was a two-wheeled cart made from a Model T differential, and a little buckskin mare called Nellie. In the winter it was a cutter or shank's pony.

I started grade ten in Hanna in the fall of 1945, staying in the dormitory there, but quit in November of the same year. I helped at home, and when we were caught up there I stooked for some of the neighbors and hauled bundles at threshing time. During the winter of 1949-50 I worked for Lyman Grove in the Garden Plain district. That was the coldest winter I remember. The potatoes froze in the house behind the heater in the front room. The temperature didn't get above zero for I believe forty-two days straight. In the winter of 1963 I did Rudolph Hessel's chores while they were on a holiday to Germany.

In 1958 I went to Lacombe and got a job with Ellis Construction, doing carpenter work. While I was there I met Irene Helman who was a secretary for the Department of Highways in Red Deer. We were married on August 3, 1961, and lived in Lacombe for one year.

In 1962 we bought a farm in the Garden Plain district formerly owned by George Wright. In 1971 we purchased the SE 2-34-14, and also have other land rented.

We have four children, Kathleen, Sheila, Douglas and Kenneth. They are all attending school in Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Boyd and Family — Donald, Ilene and Dorothy

PETER BOYD, By Dorothy Boyd Harvey and F. Johnston — Pete was born in Dauphin, Manitoba in 1905, the eldest of a large family. In the summer of 1926 he came to work for Charlie Noyce. Pete became one of the family and worked for Noyces for years.

That fall of 1926 Pete ran the 20-40 Case twin opposed kerosene engine while Charlie was separator man. In 1928 Charlie purchased a new 20-40 Rumley Oil Pull and Pete worked with it until 1938 when one of the first rubber tired tractors in this area, a 25 Massey, was purchased. Pete did most of the field work for Noyces with the tractor.

During the first few years that Pete was here he drove horses for field work. In 1927 Pete and Charlie were caught in a severe hail storm when they were driving sixteen head of horses abreast on a big double disc. Sensing the impending storm, they hurriedly tried to unhitch but didn't quite make it. The horses tore

loose and went with the storm, scattering harness and equipment over a wide area. Except for minor wire cuts the horses escaped serious injury but both men spent days gathering up the pieces.

When Pete lived in Dauphin he owned a Case car so when he arrived, an experienced driver, he was relegated to drive Charlie's trucks. The first two were, a Model T with Ruxtel axle and a Graham Paige. One hundred bushels was a big load for either one. At Bill Goldsbury's sale a 1928 Ford Phaeton was bought and Pete and the Noyces got good mileage out of it. Charlie bought a No. 7 Massey combine in 1938, one of the first in the area, and Pete operated it. Wilmer arrived early in 1941 and Pete was hired to straight combine flax for Pearmans, Tom Campion and Fred Engel. He worked off and on during that whole winter, finishing in January. The fall of 1950 he went with Art Wasch to do custom combining in the Vulcan area.

Pete and Margaret Noyce were married in 1938. They set up housekeeping in a small house in Noyce's yard for awhile. In the spring of 1939 they moved to the Hudson Bay section, two miles east. A house had been moved in by Kirby from the south country and placed in about the middle of the section. A barn and other outbuildings were built on the place. Water was obtainable at seventy feet but quicksand was always present requiring a new well quite frequently. Joe Slepecka bored a well for them, however, before Joe got to the water bearing formation, a big sandstone rock stopped him from going any further. Pete got the Fred Johnston's machine and eventually punched a hole through. Later Pete and Henry Mellis acquired an old well drill of their own. An eight hundred pound bit suspended by a cable from a walking beam on a high tower pounded its way through the soil without any water being used. This machine, though old and rickety, drilled a number of successful wells. There were some of the other kind too. The drilling machine ended its usefulness abruptly when the bit got wedged in a rock formation while Pete was drilling a well for Shorty Bossert. No amount of hammering could budge it. As a last resort a charge of dynamite was set off somewhere near where the bit was lodged. They were very disappointed when, after winding the cable up, they found that the hammer portion of the bit was all that they retrieved. The rest of the bit is still down there.

In 1955 the school division started bussing to Netherby school. Pete drove one of the routes. Later on he bussed the high school students to Hanna once a week for special classes.

Pete and Margaret and the children liked to go fishing. When Carolside Dam was stocked he and the family, the Rudy Hansons and Ralph Bailey family would spend a Sunday trying to get the early pike. Buffalo Lake was another favorite spot that the family loved to go to.

In the spring of 1963 Pete and Margaret sold their farm and moved to Hanna where Pete operated a gravel truck until he retired in 1974.

Margaret was very active helping form the Association for Retarded Children and the school for Retarded Children in Hanna. She was also active in the Woman's group of the United Church.

Margaret passed away in March of 1965 and Pete in January of 1976. The children are, Dorothy, Mrs. J. Harvey of Hanna; Donald, of Hanna; Ileene, Mrs. Dale Cox, of Winfield, Alberta; Leslie, of Calgary, and David, of Hanna. There are five grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. STAN SANDERSON — In the fall of 1938 Stan Sanderson opened the new Pool elevator at Garden Plain and the following September he married Marguerite Martin of Oyen. There was no Pool dwelling at Garden Plain so George Wright moved over a one-room dwelling which served as a home until the Pool moved one from Excel the next year. We were blessed with two sons, Harold and Fred, while we lived at Garden Plain. In June 1947 we moved to Sibbald, leaving behind many lasting friendships and taking with us fond memories of our years at Garden Plain. In the fall of 1953 Harold went to Dowling and Garden Plain as Pool agent and was there for three years.

After leaving Garden Plain we moved to Sibbald where we were blessed with two more sons, Dennis and Richard. In 1966 we moved to Oyen, where Stan passed away on March 13, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ness and Family, Margaret, Gordon, Evelyn, Russell and Tom

***THE EARL NESS STORY,* By Tom Ness** — Earl Ness was born in 1915 and was raised in the Nevis, Alberta district. In 1933 he met Hedvig Hein, who was working on a neighboring farm. They married in 1934.

In 1938 Earl, Hedvig and children, Tom, Russel and Gordon, moved to the Garden Plain district, settling on the Wickson farm, now vacant but owned by Louis Unsworth. Margaret was born a year later and Evelyn two years later. Water had to be hauled by stone boat from neighbor Don Cameron every day. Due to the long dry spell and several dry wells it was the nearest source of water for them.

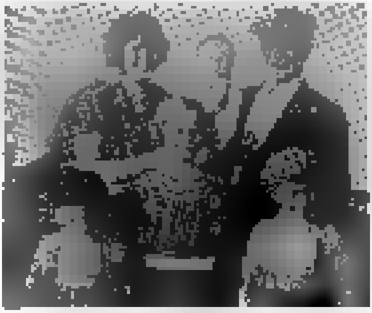
To supplement earnings from the rather poor crops Earl worked in the Unsworth coal mines. In the fall of 1941 Earl and the family moved to Scapa. Then he worked in the coal mines in Drumheller. In 1942 they moved one half mile south of Scapa where Earl worked for the C.N.R. During the fall of 1943 the family moved back to the Wickson place. The children then attended Garden Plain School which was four miles away. Earl and Tom hauled their coal supply from Till Ironside's strip mine. They also used railroad ties that the C.N.R. had discarded for fuel.

A spectacle to see was the geese migrating south in the fall. Many was the morning while they were feeding on Cameron's fields their honking woke us up. Because Earl's house was on a hill he often shot his supper from the front door step.

The fall of 1946 Earl started hauling freight from Scapa to Garden Plain for Taylor's General Store, with his faithful old team "Tony and Baldy". There were many stories about Earl and his team. At the time when threshing crews moved from farm to farm, hauling bundles, an unusual cloud of dust often appeared. More times than not it was just "Tony and Baldy" in another runaway. Being a fast runner Earl was very seldom left very far behind.

In 1948 the Ness family moved from the Wickson place to the Taylor place now occupied by Gerald Unsworth. The children attended Netherby school, which was two and a half miles away. The next year, 1949, was a highlight year for Earl. He modernized his operation with the addition of a well worn Rumley tractor and a 1936 Pontiac car.

In 1952 Earl and the family moved to Hanna where he was employed by Imperial Oil and Massey-Harris.



Mr. and Mrs. Glen Grover and Family.

LOOKING BACK, By Glen Grover — Owing to the rapid progress made in scientific farming, modern machinery and transportation, it is unlikely that any generation will ever experience again the hard times and rough life that we had during the hungry thirties.

We were living in Hanna in those years, and we thought we would try farming. So in the spring of 1939 we moved to the Taylor farm at Garden Plain, Mr. Taylor owned and operated the Garden Plain store, and was a fine gentleman to have as a landlord. We were very fortunate as 1939 was the beginning of the good crop years. Mr. George Wright did our threshing.

The following year they tore down the Pool elevator at Scapa and moved it to Garden Plain, and to help our finances I helped tear it down and rebuild it. We were milking thirteen cows that summer, so we delivered milk and cream to the crew, and could those Swedes drink milk!

It was not all work though, I played ball with the Scapa Club and I believe we won the league that year.

We had five children, two of school age, and they attended Netherby school. In the summer they rode two Shetland ponies and in the winter the sons of our good neighbor, the late Robert Unsworth, picked our children up in their sleigh and took them to school with them. How times have changed in regard to school transportation!

The winter of 1940–41 was the winter of the deep snow. I hauled Mr. Taylor's freight from Scapa to the store. Many trips were made with four horses in order to break trail.

It was with regret that we left the Garden Plain district, as we liked the farm life very much, but there was no more land available, as everyone was farming every acre of arable land. Garden Plain was one of the best neighborhoods to be found anywhere; the people were always ready to give a helping hand to anyone in need.

After we left the farm I started working for the Special Areas, where I remained for twenty-five years until retiring in 1967.

THE GARDEN PLAIN STORE 1933 - 1951

By Marion Taylor Fox

In 1933 my Dad and Mother decided to open a store at the new Garden Plain siding on the recently-built C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka. However, after a few trial runs, the line was not used too often; only at harvest time and whenever carloads of grain had to be brought out, or coal shipped in. Occasionally during the drought years, feed grains were shipped in to be distributed among the farmers for their cattle.

Across the road from, and facing the Pioneer elevator, was a small three-roomed building which the grain company had rented from R. W. Moore, to be used as a home for their buyer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Shand. About 1933, the

J.W. Taylor in front of his store at Garden Plain.

Pioneer Grain Company built a house, and so, Dad was able to rent the Moore building for use as a store. He continued to rent it until 1951, mainly because Mr. Moore didn't want to sell it.

The large front room was fitted up with a counter, and shelves along the east and west walls. With a bank loan, and Dad's good credit standing, he was able to stock staple articles from groceries to nails, Leckie's shoes, and a few dry goods. In the granary warehouse outside near the hitching rail, were stored Robin Hood flour, sugar, sacks of bran and blocks of salt. Later there was a B. A. gas pump in front, serviced in later years from Drumheller, but in those early years Kirby's truck from Hanna kept the bulk gasoline tanks and the kerosene barrels filled.

I can remember the odd sleepless night when one of us who weren't used to serving fuel oil would lie awake most of the night, wondering if we'd filled some customer's kerosene can with gas by mistake. Nothing serious every occurred, but on occasion one of us would have to make a flying trip to some farm to check, mainly by sniffing. There weren't too many phones then and who'd want the others on the party line to know of such carelessness, in any case?

For almost two years Dad continued to operate the store from our farm a mile and a half away, across from Robert Unsworth's. In the slack season, one of us children, home on holidays, would walk or ride the bike across the old Wright farm to the siding, to serve the few customers. If the weather turned nasty in winter, Dad would sleep on an old Winnipeg couch in the phone room at the store. Business was quiet in the early years.

In summer freight was often picked up in Hanna with our half-ton truck; or from the C.N. station in Scapa, as it had been shipped from McDonald's Consolidated in Camrose. Fresh fruit and bakery products usually came from Calgary wholesalers. In winter the freight trips were really hard on the horses and drivers. Often fresh produce was frozen during its long trip in the sleigh, in spite of the effort of the drivers to prevent it.

I'll never forget the horrible experiences of driving over gumbo roads after a heavy rain, to get freight and bundles of mail from the Scapa post office. Our customers, like ourselves, were always anxious for letters, especially during the war years when many of our local boys were serving overseas.

In August, 1935, Dad and Mother commenced building a small bungalow between the Pioneer house and the store, and lived there after October. How well I remember the thrill of coming home to the store from Mrs. Kennedy's, with whom I boarded in the Corinne district, the first weekend of November, 1935. And later, going in to Hanna to attend the teachers' convention, via team and sleigh with Mr. and Mrs. George Wright; a long weary trip, but no grumbling, just thankful to be able to attend.

My parents continued to operate the expanding store until my Mother's sudden passing, in February, 1943. Dad sold his stock, closed the doors, and moved to Calgary. However, he never felt comfortable in the busy city. He missed his community, his old neighbors, his independence. He left his Calgary house for Patsy and me to live in while she worked for the R.C.A.F. and I in C.W.A.C., and re-

opened the Garden Plain store in August, 1943. He continued to operate it until he retired to Castor in the fall of 1951.

I remember the friendly visits with the regular Friday customers, many of whom were bachelors from the Buchan, Corinne and Lake Thelma districts. We could almost write up their weekly order from memory; bread, butter, jam, rolled oats, tinned milk, tobacco or snoose, kerosene, etc.

I remember the wonderful happy feeling of thankfulness when finally the trucks and horse-drawn wagons would bring their newly-threshed wheat to the elevators, and everyone was hustling and bustling to get back home for another load.

I remember the many, many times we would run from our barb-wire phone in the house to catch a local Dad in the store, to have him add another item to his list. Often we had to redirect a local message to someone on the regular phone line, but Mother and Dad performed the service cheerfully, slipping on a sweater to run to the store to relay the message.

I remember our kitchen table being covered with paper bags, treats for the Christmas concert, and what better place to fill them ? And the Community club wrapping parcels for overseas.

Dad and Mother had an extensive library, and were always lending to or exchanging books with regular customers. Newspapers and magazines were never thrown away, but rolled up, and tucked in someone's grocery box, along with a bonus bag of candy if there were children in the home.

Those years had their hardships, but they had their rewards too, stemming from the need for each other in the community. No matter what, everyone cared and was willing to help in times of fellowship , distress or illness. I am grateful to have been a part of the growth of the Garden Plain store.

GARDEN PLAIN ELEVATORS

By Margaret Nelson

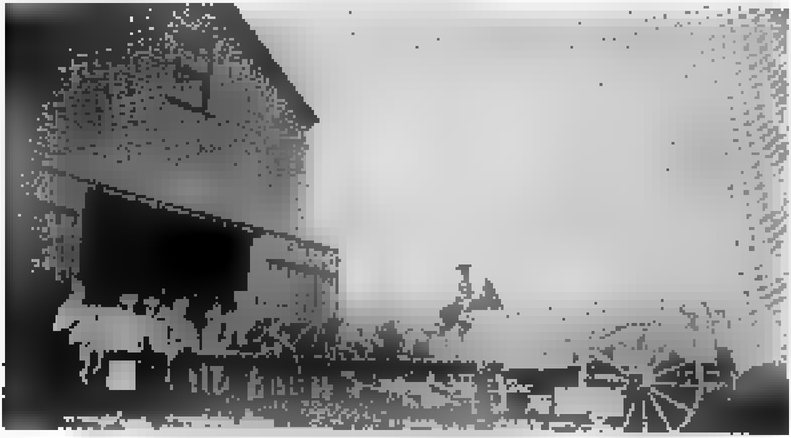
Tearing down elevator at Garden Plain — 1974

Following the completion of the C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka in 1931, the Pioneer Grain Co. started building an elevator. This was opened for business in August 1931. It is believed nearly all the material was shipped in by rail. The first agent, Mr. Wilson rented the W. Wright house. Mr. Shand rented a small house which R.W. Moore had built until the Pioneer Grain Co. had completed their own house.

The following is a list of agents who were at Garden Plain: George Wilson, August to October 1931; A.W. Shand, October 1931 to May 1937; Elevator Closed, May 1937 to July 1938; W.J. Kennedy, July 1938 to May 1945, H.M. Taylor, May to July 1945; C.J. Hergott, July 1945 to June 1947. D.C. Ross, June 1947 to May 1949; J. Paetz, May 1949 to July 1950; E. Renschler, July 1950 to September 1951; J. Biko, September 1951 to April 1952; S.T. Canning, April 1952 to September 1952; L. Fraser, September 1952 to July 1956; B.B. Stickney, July 1958 to November 1960; J.C. Foy, November 1960 to April 1962; G. Burns, April 1962 to November 1967.

The elevator at Garden Plain was closed in November of 1967 and was subsequently moved to Cereal, Alberta by G. Champagne Movers from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The elevator left Garden Plain February 26, 1968.

The Alberta Wheat Pool elevator was built in Scapa and in 1936 torn down and the lumber hauled to Garden Plain. It was rebuilt, along with new material hauled from Wainwright by Albert Storch. This was done in time for the harvest of 1939. The elevator had a 40,000 bushel capacity.



First load of grain to Pioneer Company, Garden Plain — August 27, 1937.

Grain delivered to the Pool's Garden Plain Elevator from 1939 to 1972 totaled 1,478,437 bushels. The highest handling was 108,856 bushels in 1942 to 1943, the lowest handling was recorded in 1949 to 1950 at 5,249 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Garden Plain Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: S.B. Sanderson, Aug 17/39 to June 9/47; J.M. Ferguson, Jun 9/47 to Aug 4/48; A.T. Cheney, Aug 4/48 to Apr 3/49; L.O. Paulson, Apr 3/49 to Jun 10/49; A.W. Garbutt, Jul 18/49 to Oct 19/51; H.R. Cunningham, Oct 19/51 to Jan 15/52; P.J. Moran, Feb 7/52 to Dec 10/53; R.C. Baily, Dec 10/53 to Oct 27/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; R.L. Stapley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66.

A local Pool member who was elected as Delegate, to represent the members in the Sub-District in which Garden Plain is located was Edward D. Blain, Hanna in 1924-25.

A house was moved into Garden Plain in 1941 for the agent. Prior to that he boarded, then rented a small house.

The elevator was torn down early in 1975. Some of the lumber was hauled to Hanna. This was mainly dimensional lumber which was used in the construction of the new Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. The scales were sold and the unuseable remains were burned.

After the elevator closed Ed Job bought the house and dismantled it.

BAILEY STORY, ***by Mrs. Marie Britz*** — The Bailey family arrived in Garden Plain on January first, 1954. Ralph was the new Alberta Wheat Pool agent. We came from Craigmyle where he had been second man.

Ralph was of farming background, and we soon got some cows to milk and some Shetland ponies. We bought a quarter section of land close to the elevator from Mr. George Wright, for pasture. Ralph loved horses, and it seemed to me that when he took one to an auction market to sell, he brought two more home.

The children rode Shetland ponies to school and on visits to their friends.

We soon became involved in community life, taking in the dances and card parties. We enjoyed learning the game of "500" which was played there, and missed it when we left.

We found the people of Garden Plain area were among the friendliest we had ever met.

In June 1963 we bought a farm in the Viking area. The children and I left in August 1963 so they could be ready to start school. Ralph remained at the elevator until after the cut-off in October.

We have four children, Ronald now resides in Red Deer, Sharon in Edmonton, Bill at Drayton Valley and Lee at Viking.

Ralph passed away while visiting his son at Drayton Valley in November of 1973.

I have since remarried and live at Ryley.

MR. and MRS. FRANK LEE — When the Lee family, Eileen and Frank, Trevor (12) and Robert (10) dismounted at the C.N. Station in Hanna, at 3:00 a.m. 14 August 1954, our sense of curiosity and adventure really awoke.

These senses were kindled by our trip out to Netherby School. While being driven out by School Superintendent, Gordon Hay, we had the sight of Rayford and Freddie Johnson trying to coax a bull back to the pasture from Highway 36, and by coming upon Winnie Grove in distress with a flat.

We were not left out of things for very long, for less than a week later, I was called upon by Rudolph Hassel to bring a hammer, and joined the men in putting in the new hardwood floor at Garden Plain Hall.

The school certainly was the centre of the community, with card parties, Christmas concerts, film shows, meetings, church services, funerals and other activities. All seemed to go off well, even if we did have the occasional skunk under the school to disrupt the proceedings.

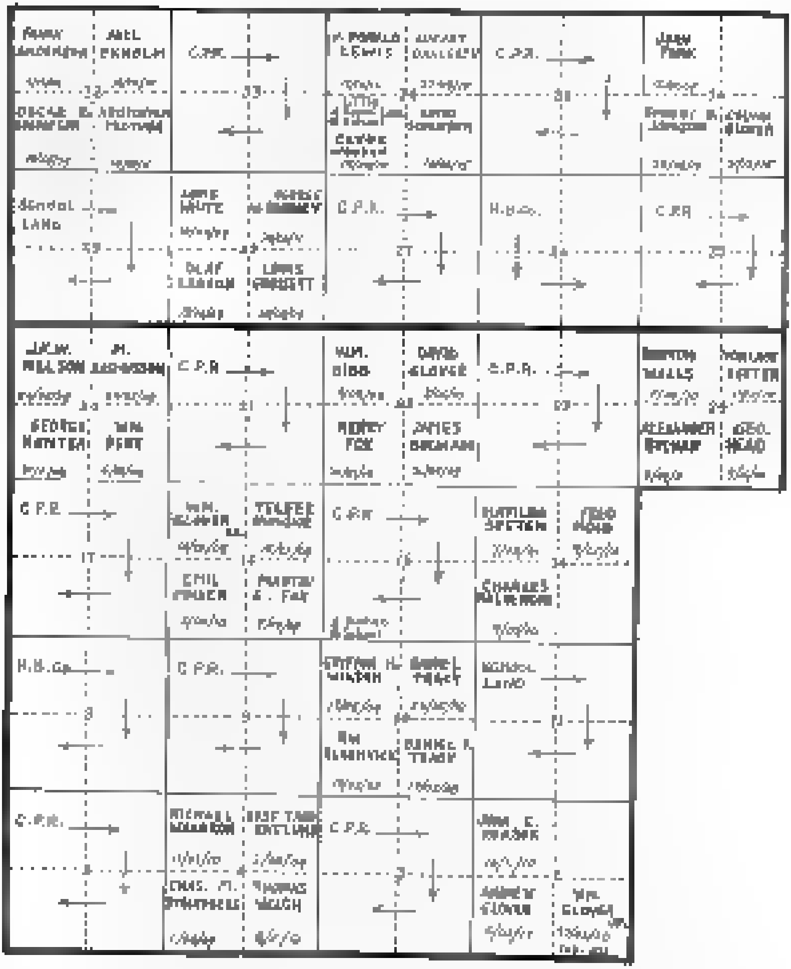
The winter of 1955-56 was a memorable one as Grassy Slope School had been pulled in to centralize the area. It was cold and we had so much snow we had to utilize two "bombadiers" to haul the students to school. That was the winter also when we had a dozen cars and trucks parked in the school yard, with their batteries being kept warm behind our wood and coal stove in the teacherage kitchen, while their drivers drove home in sleighs or on horseback.

Memories flood back especially such incidents as the "wash-out" on the new two mile high grade in the spring of '56, the Boxing Day fire at Basil Stickney's elevator house, grass fires on the community pasture; and the day that Walter Hassel broke his leg in the middle of writing his Grade Nine examinations. This was a memorable day because my mother arrived from England that evening and accused me of being drunk because of the way the car was weaving from side to side during the six mile trip on the back road from Norman Greenway's corner, and I was congratulating myself on having kept in the ruts to get us home successfully after all the rain we had had!

Although conditions in the teacherage (and in teaching) were so vastly different from those we had been accustomed to in the old country we thoroughly enjoyed our three years in the community, and still have many friends we look forward to seeing whenever we travel down in that direction.

BUCHAN No. 2330
LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 2016
TOWNSHIP 34, RANGE 17

HOMESTEADERS



OTHER RENTERS and OWNERS IN BUCHAN and LITTLE ROUND LAKE S.D.

Section 2 NW ¼
W. Glover Jr.
F. Tetz
J. Nielsen
G.P. Grazing Group
Section 3

W.R. Sports
A. Slench
Section 4 NW ¼
B. Calderbank
H. Strandberg

NE ¼
M. Williams
D. Morris
J. Sleath
S. Strandberg
T. Eklund

G. Stenling
SW ¼
H. Strandberg
Section 9 NE ¼
S. Armstrong

J. Marlowe

SE ¼
R. Armstrong
G. Standing

Section 10 SW ¼
A. Anderson
K. Storch

Section 14 W ½
H. Halverson
R. Halverson
P. Dobige
A. and R. Storch

SE ¼
H. Wilson
G.P. Grazing Group

Section 15 SE of SW ¼
W. L. Storch

Section 18 NW ¼
M. Quaschnick
W. Glover
R. Roberts
E. Strandberg

SE ¼
C. Blayney

F. Evans
W. L. Storch

Section 20 NW ¼
H. Nelson

NE ¼
T.F. Ironside
E.B. Ironside
W.J. Ironside
C. Unsworth

SW ¼
N. Storch

Section 21 E ½
M. Doyle
P. Russell
J. Marlowe

Section 22 N ½
W. Glover Sr.
A. Storch

SE ¼
E. Halvorsen
K. Storch

Section 28 NW ¼
Mrs. Arthur
E. Storch

NE ¼
J. Scott
F. Evans
R. Roberts
M. Johnson
M. Lamb
B. Ramsbottom
E. Dawson
B. Collins
Morgan Transport

SE ¼
J. Hutcheson
Kotler & Williams
J. Kotler
J. Marlowe

SW ¼
T. Williams
E. Storch

Section 32 NE ¼
H. Gustafson

SE ¼
J. Nielsen
H. Gustafson

SW ¼
C. Dahlgren

D. Gustafson
H. Gustafson

Section 33 NW ¼
C. Bergan
Morgan Transport

Section 34 NW ¼
J.H. Roberts
J. Morgan
W. Thomas
R. Heckaible
V. Hawery
F. Mattis
Morgan Transport

NE ¼
Orvin Dahl
Morgan Transport

Section 36 NW ¼
W. Grindheel
E. Walsh

BUCHAN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2330

To the best of our knowledge, Buchan School opened in the spring of 1912 with Miss Laura Amanda McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia, as the first teacher. The Secretary was Daniel Tracy and the Trustees were T.F. Ironside, Charles Halverson and Martin Fox.

The school was built by Mr. Julius Block of Maunders on the south west of 15-34-13 and was named for the district of Buchan in Scotland from which a number of area residents had come a few years earlier. An early homesteader, Jim Buchan, plowed the fireguard around the school yard with a team of oxen. A caragana hedge planted shortly afterward is still there today.

As the number 2330 indicates Buchan was the first school built in the area and it operated continuously until 1935, when lack of students forced it to close for a short time. Due to consolidation with Netherby it closed permanently in 1955.

Some Buchan teachers were: Miss L.A. MacDonald, Mrs. T.F. Ironside, Marjorie Dixon, Sidney Gilson, E.V. Springbett, Wm. Marsh, Hal Henry, Mrs. Richard Morris, Ralph Barnett, Mrs. S. Grimes, Albert Oke, Mrs. Wells, Morris Carnat, Ralph Cook, John Vanderberg, Chester Laing, Donald Green, Florence McRae, who also taught as Mrs. Wm. L. Storch, Bonna Shoults, George B. Hall, Georgina Horne, who also taught as Mrs. Norbert Dyke, Joyce Evans, Wm. Gibb, Mrs. M.D. Cook, Irene Hohm, Marlene Schultheis and George Patzer.

Buchan and Little Round Lake districts are flat and treeless, drained by branches of the Berry Creek, which flows north-east into North Berry Creek and then on to the Red Deer River near Wardlow. The soil varies from clay to sand and gravel with numerous burned out holes where there is very little growth, perhaps due to tree roots being burned following a prairie fire. The numerous arrow and spear heads, hammers and pieces of pottery as well as campsites, stone tent rings and burial sites indicate that this area was once either Indian hunting or battle grounds.

LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 3019

In 1913 the contract to build Little Round Lake school was let to Henry Dunington for the cost of roughly nine hundred dollars. With the help of local farmers the school was built on the homestead of Clyde Wooden on the south west of 34-34-13. A well was dug by Mr. Wooden and the school opened for the fall term with Mrs. T.F. Ironside as first teacher. She was also the last, for the school operated for less than six months and closed because a family having five school-aged children left the district. As the attendance was now too low to justify paying a teacher, the district consolidated with Cowan, Lake Thelma and Buchan.

The building was used as a community centre for picnics, card parties and dances until the early forties, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Dahl and moved to their farm three miles to the north-east where it was used for a dwelling. Today it forms part of the modern farm home of Mr. and Mrs. George Welsh and family.

EKHOLM — ANDERSON, as told to Harry Nelson by Emil Ekholm — Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm, Mrs. Ekholm's brothers Frank and Otto Anderson, and her father Mr. Anderson came to Alberta from Spokane in 1909. Frank Anderson filed on the NW 32-34-13. Otto Anderson filed on the NE 30-34-13. They all went back to Spokane for the winter of 1909-10. In the early spring of 1910 they all returned to Alberta and Axel Ekholm filed on the NE 32-34-13 on the fourth day of April 1910.

Their closest neighbor was Oscar Gustafson who had filed on SW 32-34-13 on the tenth day of April 1909. He had built a house on the south-west corner of his homestead and Otto built one on the north-east corner of his homestead. Neither house was very big so these families ate and cooked in one house and crossed the road allowance and slept in the other one. This went on till Axel Ekholm got his own buildings put up.

Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm had a family of three: Emil, born in 1905, Ruth in 1907, and Andrew (Pete) in 1912. Axel proved up on his homestead and was getting pretty well established when his health began to fail. He passed away on December 21, 1914. Mrs. Ekholm, being of hardy pioneer stock, continued to farm and look after her children. Mrs. Ekholm's father lived with her and helped with the work on the farm. In those days you did not buy bread at the store, which was too far away anyway, and Mrs. Ekholm, being very industrious and a hard worker, used to bake bread for the bachelors for miles around, D. Lewis, B. Ludlow, D. Carlson, J. Nelson just to name a few. She used to get $2.50 for baking up 100 pounds of flour. She did this for quite a number of years.

Mrs. Ekholm's brother Frank Anderson, proved up his homestead and also worked out in his spare time. He used to work around Stettler, or wherever work was available till 1917. He then came back and stayed on the farm with Mrs. Ekholm and family, working his land from there as it was on the same section. Frank bought more land and raised good crops for some years.

In 1937, after a number of bad years, Frank and Mrs. Ekholm and Andrew (Pete) left this area and moved to Donalda where they farmed for a number of years. Mr. Anderson passed away in 1929 at the age of ninety-two years. Frank Anderson passed away in 1964 and Mrs. Axel Ekholm passed away July 19, 1968.

Otto Anderson proved up on his homestead. He used to rent his land out and go up around Stettler. He did a lot of carpenter work, as he was good at that, but he would take any kind of work. He generally spent the summer around Stettler and part of the winter in this area. Otto was a great guy for walking and when he went visiting around here he always walked. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside in the 1950's and more or less retired around Donalda and Stettler. He passed away on April 1, 1959 at the age of 79

Emil Ekholm, the oldest one, spent his school years at Little Round Lake School and Cowan School, mostly at Cowan as Round Lake was only open for a few months. After he finished school he started farming, buying some land and renting some. He also played a guitar with some of the early day orchestras. In the winter time he often rode horseback or drove in a cutter fifteen or twenty miles to help play for a dance and a lot of the time the temperature was well below zero.

Emil married Erna Blum on November 1, 1933. They have one son, Donald. After they were married they continued farming around here till about 1937. After a series of poor crops and low grain and cattle prices they decided to move to Donalda.

Emil has producers' Certificates from Scapa elevators dating back to 1928. That year number one wheat sold for 82½ cents a bushel, then in February 1931 it was worth 23¼ cents a bushel, up just slightly from the winter of 1930 when it had dropped to 22½ cents a bushel. By October 1935 it had gone up to 86½ cents a bushel. Some of the later certificates were from the Pioneer Grain at Garden Plain. In 1936 he shipped thirteen head of mixed cattle, cows, calves, and some steers, all grain fed, to A.W.W. in Calgary and received a cheque for $130.00. Could that be what they call 'The good old days?'

Emil and Erna continued farming in the Donalda area for a number of years. They are now retired and make their home in Donalda.

Ruth Ekholm, the only daughter, married Walter Rochen on December 10, 1931. They farmed her uncle's (Otto Anderson), farm till 1935 then decided to move to the Red Willow - Donalda area where they farmed for some years. They had one son Gordon.

Ruth and Walter were killed in a tragic train-vehicle collision in Bashaw on May 17, 1976.

Andrew (Pete) Ekholm grew up in this area. When he was through school he farmed with his mother and Uncle Frank, and went with them to Donalda. Pete was musical, and used to play and sing at the local dances. He passed away on February 12, 1978.

AUGUST DAHLGREN, ***By Henry Nelson*** — August Dahlgren was born in Sweden and as a young man immigrated to the United States. In the summer of 1910 he came to Alberta in search of a homestead.

He filed on NE 34-34-13 on August 8, 1910

He proved up his homestead and also worked out. For a number of years he was grader man for the local municipality, building roads. In his later years, after he retired, he lived in a small house in Mrs. Ekholm's yard.

He passed away in the early thirties and is buried in the Castor Cemetery

CALVIN B. GLOVER, ***By Margaret Nelson*** — Calvin Glover homesteaded the SE 36-34-13 on December 21, 1915. He proved up his homestead by building a small house and breaking some land. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glover were musical. Mr. Glover played the violin and Mrs. Glover was a beautiful singer. In 1918 he took the job of secretary of the Sullivan Lake Municipality No. 335. He then moved to Castor and later on to Calgary. Mr. Embert Johnson, who homesteaded the next quarter, farmed his land into the twenties.

DAVID SHRIEBER, ***By Margaret Nelson*** — Mr. Shrieber was a late homesteader, coming to the area in February 1915, to file on SE 34-34-13. He farmed his land and proved up from his other land holdings a few miles north. He married and remained in the area till the early twenties when Dick Roberts bought his land.

JAMES DONALD LEWIS, By Margaret Nelson — Don Lewis homesteaded the NW 34-34-13 in June of 1912. He proved up his land and remained in the area about six years. On leaving he sold his land to Jesse Roberts.

Willis, Pam, Carol, Tracy and Clayton Job; Marion, Harold, Lee and Brenda Gustafson; Carol and Fred Jenkins.

OSCAR GUSTAFSON, By Harry Nelson — Oscar Gustafson was born in Minnesota September 11, 1879. He came from a large family and as there was not enough to do at home, he decided to head for Canada where homesteads were still available. In March of 1909 he arrived in Stettler where he met another Scandinavian by the name of Olaf Larson.

It was through Larson that Oscar decided to file on SW 32-34-13 as this was only about two miles from where Larson had homesteaded. He proved up his homestead, breaking ten acres every year for three years, and also working out in his spare time to make ends meet.

Mr. Oscar Gustafson

Mrs. Oscar Gustafson

Oscar and William Nelson worked together a lot stacking hay and bundles in the fall. They also had their first binder in partnership. Oscar handled the binder in the fall as he was very good at that, and Nelson did the stooking.

In the early days when it was not easy to get threshed early, they often stacked all their grain crops and threshed them late in the fall or early winter whenever a machine was available. They did this exchange work for years and I never once heard one complain about one doing more work on one farm than the other.

Oscar was married to Miss Hattie Dahlgren in the teens but his wife passed away in the early twenties when their son was born. After his wife passed away

Oscar rented out to his brother-in-law, Charlie Dahlgren, and went up to Stettler and worked out for some years. He eventually returned to the homestead and took up farming again. He bought another quarter of land and farmed and raised a few cattle for some years. He was also a municipal councillor for a term of two or three years.

When he got older, Oscar got rid of his cattle and straight grain farmed till about 1950 when he decided to retire. He bought a house in Castor and lived there till January 1966, when he passed away at the age of 86 years. He is buried in the Castor Cemetery

Oscar had only one son, Harold, who still farms his Dad's homestead. Harold was married to Violet Walker in 1943. She was killed in a tragic car accident near Blairmore in August 1962. She is buried in the Castor Cemetery. They had three children, Carol, now Mrs. Willis Job; Lee on the home place; and Brenda who married John Taylor and is living on a farm in the Halkirk area

CLYDE WOODEN, as told by Mrs. Wooden written by Margaret Nelson — Clyde Wooden came from Missouri U.S.A. in 1909. He filed blind on his first homestead and on coming to find his land found it to be in Sullivan Lake. He cancelled this claim. On locating another claim, a friend Bill Knight, also from Missouri, drove him to Stettler with a team of mules. He filed on SW 34-34-13 in April 1910. This land had been homesteaded previously and thrown up. Clyde paid for the shack and what improvements were made.

Clyde spent much time working in coal mines. His mining career in early years has been traced from strip mining to the first underground mine in the area. Mrs. Wooden also cooked for the men at the first mine he worked at.

By 1913, the homestead shack now consisted of three rooms. Clyde built a barn that summer. Also that year Little Round Lake School was built and to earn extra money Clyde dug a well at the school.

In 1912 a hail storm swept through, the oat crop was destroyed. The next year the shelled-out oats volunteered and an eighty bushel per acre crop was harvested.

In the spring of 1917 Clyde fenced his quarter of land with cedar posts. This was the only land fenced with cedar posts at that time.

In summer Clyde was an ardent ball player. Mrs. Wooden recalls some others, Harry Fox, Howard Wilson and Szabo Brothers as being on the same team. In winter his talents turned to music. He played the banjo, mandolin, or guitar whichever was handy. Later he mastered the violin. He helped play for many dances and house parties.

Mrs. Wooden recalls a picnic at Corinne School in 1913 when lemonade was made in a galvanized wash tub and an old hammer used to crush the lemons. Many people were sick after drinking it. No one was ever sure if it was the lead from the tub or the hammer.

Mrs. Wooden tells of going back to the homestead site about 1960 to find some rhubarb planted in 1913 still thriving. By this time Mr. Fred Mattis owned the land and had sheep grazing on it. Apparently the sheep didn't care for the rhubarb.

In the fall of 1917 Clyde sold his homestead to Roy Scott and moved to the Rumsey, Alberta area where he continued coal mining.

Clyde Wooden was united in marriage to Virgie Creasy on January 31, 1913. To this union four children were born. Lester died as the result of a car accident in July 1976. Anna and Elsie live at Byemoor and Clifford at Ashcroft, B.C. There are twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mr. Wooden passed away at Kelowna, August 6, 1976 at the age of eighty-five years.

Mrs. Wooden lives at Heart Haven in Stettler, where she enjoys good health. A remarkable lady to talk to about the Good Old Days!

LOUIS WHITE, *By Margaret Nelson* — Louis White filed on NW 28–34–13. This land was proved up. He married Miss Hackett from the Castor area. Mr. White passed away. Mrs. White later married Mr. Arthur. They farmed the original homestead till 1917 when they sold to Olaf Larson.

Jesse and Dick Roberts

JESSE HERBERT ROBERTS, By Trevor Roberts — My uncle, Jesse Roberts, was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales. In 1907 he came to Innisfail, Alberta, where he hired a team and buggy to go in search of a homestead. He drove over the Three Hills - Ghost Pine area and decided if the land wouldn't grow grass it was no good. This same land is some of the best in Alberta today. He finally homesteaded on the northwest quarter of 10-35-13 on land that grew prairie wool but very little grain. Later he bought land farther south and made his home on the northwest of 34-34-13 where he raised Clydesdale horses and registered Shorthorn cattle.

In 1917 he married Belle Ironside but they separated in 1924.

For many years Mr. Roberts was councillor of Sullivan Lake Municipality and was also secretary of Little Round Lake School.

In 1948 he sold his ranch to Fred Mattis and retired to Wales where he died in 1969. In his will he left one hundred dollars to be used for the upkeep of Netherby Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts in Wales

MR. and MRS. RICHARD TUDOR ROBERTS — Mr. Roberts was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales in 1884. He came to Canada in 1907 and homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 10-35-13. Later he moved to the northeast of 28-34-13, where he raised Aberdeen Angus cattle and Percheron horses.

In 1942 he married Mrs. Marjorie Donaldson Kay who had been keeping house for William Glover Sr. since the death of Mrs. Glover in 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts continued to farm until they sold out to Fred Mabie in 1948. They moved to Hanna where Mrs. Roberts was a charter member of

the Hanna Social Credit Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a member of Hanna United Church and was a life member of the Missionary Society.

Mrs. Roberts passed away in June 1956 following a lengthy illness. Mr. Roberts died in December 1965. Both are buried in Hanna.

OLAF LARSON, By Jessie Larson — In June of 1906, Mr. Olaf (Ole) Larson and Mr. Louis Grossett put packs of supplies on their backs and walked from Stettler, Alberta to the area now called Garden Plain, Alberta to file their homesteads. They were the first homesteaders in that district. Mr. Larson's land was SW 26-34-13.

Mr. Grossett filed on the quarter section east of Ole Larson.

Mr. Larson built a sod house to live in, then walked back and forth to Stettler for supplies. He eventually brought back an ox and a mule which he put to work breaking the land. In order to improve the homestead he had to go out on other jobs to earn a grub stake. These jobs included, helping to build the C.P.R. from Lacombe to Castor and hauling lumber to start the building of the town of Hanna.

Ole Larson, Norman Larson, Mrs. Ole Larson, Mrs. Emil Paschal, baby Esther Larson

In 1914, he managed to build a very nice, large red barn with the help of a very good friend Mr. Chris Mechlun. Also in this year he received the title to his homestead.

In 1917 Mr. Larson married and bought another quarter of land, north of his homestead. He then invested in some cattle and started mixed farming. In the meantime other settlers had arrived.

Mr. C.A. Wickson opened a store at Garden Plain and a hall was built, where all the gatherings and dances were held.

Mr. Olson is remembered as bringing mail and supplies from Castor to Garden Plain for a number of years.

Buchan School was built and Norman Larson attended this school until Mr. Larson sold the farm in 1928 and moved to Castor.

Mrs. Larson remembered some very hard times when there was a lot of hard work to do and not many returns. She remembers selling butter for twenty-five

cents per pound and eggs for ten cents a dozen. First class steers sold at five dollars a head.

The first homesteaders hauled grain into Castor for nineteen cents a bushel. Some years of drought and hail were experienced and crops were destroyed. At that time no restitution was made to the farmers by the government.

Mr. Olaf Larson was born in Bodo, Norway in 1885. He passed away in Penticton, B.C. in 1967 at the age of eighty-three years.

His wife Jennie was born in Nordsand, Norway in 1895. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

They had three children. Norman was born in Coronation Alberta on November 27, 1918. He lives in Grande Prairie, Alta. Ernest Larson was born in Coronation, Alberta on August 28, 1920. Their second son met death by accident in June 1923, and is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

Esther Larson Grover was born in Castor, on August 3, 1927. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

EMBERT JOHNSON, By Margaret Nelson — Johnson filed on the SW 36-34-13 in August 1915. Because of his health, he was persuaded by his family to return home. He had only been here long enough to prove up. The last year or two he farmed Calvin Glover's land.

JOHN FINK, By Margaret Nelson — John Fink homesteaded the NW 36-34-13 on July 15, 1909. He built his first sod shack into the coulee bank. He proved up his land and worked out doing carpenter work around Coronation. He worked for Carl Stettler when he built a hotel in Castor. He also built a frame house for himself.

In the late twenties he built a big chicken house, raised chickens and sold eggs. The chicken house was built into a coulee bank and was two stories high. At the back you could go into the top floor at ground level. This was used for feed and incubation. The lower floor was used for the laying hens.

He sold his farm in 1930-31 to Mr. W. Grantham and moved to British Columbia. Here he continued chicken ranching.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink had one son Earl. When Earl was a young boy he had the misfortune of having one of his legs cut off below the knee in a binder accident. At that time he was fitted with a peg leg and attended school playing like any other boy would. When he grew up he was fitted with an artificial leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink both passed away some years ago.

Earl made a trip out to see the old homestead in 1950; at that time he lived at Rossland, B.C.

GEORGE KINNEY, By Margaret Nelson — George Kinney came to the Castor area from the United States. In June of 1911 he decided to homestead and filed on NE 28-34-13.

Mr. Kinney was a carpenter before coming to the homestead. He worked at his trade in Castor for extra money. He helped the contractor build Little Round Lake School, along with Mr. Spalding and Mr. Waldron.

Mr. Kinney had the first car in the area, about 1916. It was a Chevrolet model.

Delbert, the only child, went to school at Little Round Lake, Cowan and Buchan. When he was young his Mother drove him to school, later he rode a horse.

In 1917 the Kinneys sold their farm to J. Scott. At that time they returned to the United States. Mrs. Kinney passed away shortly after and Mr. Kinney some time later. Son Delbert still lives in Billings, Montana.

LOUIS GROSSETT, ***By Harry Nelson*** — L. Grossett was one of the earliest homesteaders in this area having filed on the SE 28-34-13, on March 28, 1906. He proved up his homestead and worked out part time. A cottage roofed house was built and still stands there today.

He farmed his land for a few years and then rented it to his neighbor. It was later sold to J. Hutcheson. This land was later sold to Keller and Williams and the present owner is Mr. J. Maricevs.

It is believed that when Mr. and Mrs. Grossett left here they went to the Rocky Mountain House area as he was very fond of hunting and trapping.

MR. and MRS. JOHN HUTCHESON, ***By Mrs. John Hutcheson 1954, and reprinted from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, The Dundee Women's Institute*** — First of all I will tell how I came to be among the early pioneers of this community when I was Mrs. Matilda Speken.

Those of you who have lived in the United States are familiar with, or have at least seen the pamphlets that are sent out picturing Canada the Golden West. My brother-in-law, Mr. Halverson, took the Canada fever, and as I was of a roving nature it did not take me very long to decide that I would see Canada too. Cars were ordered on April 23, 1910, and were billed out for Canada. My car consisted of two horses, six head of cattle, six hens, household goods and some implements. A few days later my sister and I followed and we landed in Castor on May 2, where we camped for two weeks.

Mr. Halverson then located the homesteads after which applications for filing were made. A few days elapsed before we found out if they were open for entry. At last the great day came, and everything was packed for moving again. We started out on the morning of May 16 and landed on our homestead on the seventeenth at four p.m. on the north-west of 14-34-13

Chrissa Glover, Mabel Speken and Mrs. Matilda Speken in front of the tar paper shack. Note rocks on roof.

What a change from the land we had left! We had lived in the Park region of Minnesota where small lakes and rivers were numerous and there were plenty of fish, trees of all kinds, and plenty of wild fruit and game.

A prairie fire which passed through in the fall of 1909 had left this a very barren country indeed. The ground was covered with black ashes four inches deep, and one was ready for a bath after walking through it only a short distance. There hadn't been any snow in the winter to pack it down. To the east the white rocks showed up like sheep lying on the hillside. Feed for stock was very scarce, there was only a little grass along the coulee.

We lived in a tent while waiting for a shack to be built. This was a one-roomed, car-roofed, tarpapered building twelve by fourteen feet, which cost sixty-seven dollars. A barn, a temporary shelter, was erected for the horses, cows and hens. Next a garden patch was broken for potatoes and vegetables which did very well.

On May 31 I could see a storm coming up so I packed Mabel, my daughter, on my back, and set out for the cattle. I saw them but could not get to them three quarters of a mile away. The snow and small hail pelted my face so hard that I was forced to turn back to the shack without them. In the morning, the first of June, there was a snow drift in front of the house three feet deep, and also a lot inside which came through the knot holes in the walls, and no cattle to be seen. I started out to look for them plunging through the snow drifts on horseback. The snow lasted for six days, then a neighbor told me he had seen the cattle on the place where Dave Carlson now lives. It was seven o'clock the same evening when I set out to look for them, and brought them home at midnight. No roads or fences in those days, just crossed the prairie anywhere.

My only cow died four days after being fresh, leaving me with a little calf and no milk. I had to take it over to Mr. Halverson and they fed it until I got a cow, which was a range cow, the price being thirty-five dollars. She was some kicker, too, believe me!

Later in the summer a well was dug, a hen house built, also a coalhouse, all of prairie sod, or Alberta bricks, as they were sometimes called. The settlers in the district were made up of ninety-six per cent bachelors and four per cent families, being Ironside, Fox, Halverson and myself. There was a store at Garden Plain known as the Williston Trading Company. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Watson opened a store and post office at Fertility. The Buchan school was organized in 1910 and was built in 1911. The first term of school opened on April 7, 1912, the teacher being Miss McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia. On the last day of school, August 7, the first U.F.A. picnic was held. A good crowd gathered in spite of the mosquitoes. Baseball and races made up the sports.

Our nearest railroad was Castor, twenty-five miles away, and many a time a round trip was made with a team of horses and a lumber wagon. In April, 1911, the farming began. Breaking was done with one team of horses, two three-year-old steers and a walking plough. I broke ten acres in time for crop on my own and rented nineteen from Jim Buchan; this was into oats. Twelve hundred bushels were threshed that fall by Fred Saar. The year was wet and the mosquitoes near ate you alive. Everybody wore mosquito nets down over their faces, all the colors that were going. Smudges were going night and day for the stock. I even took a smudge pail into the barn when milking to save my own skin.

Later in the summer I had enough broke to make thirty acres, the homestead duty. This was all in crop in 1912. Twelve acres of wheat and the rest in oats. It was hailed on August 27. Hay was cut anywhere on the prairie for winter feed. By this time I had thirteen head of stock.

On February 27, 1911, I took a quick trip back to the States and came back in time for the first dance held at Mr. William Glover's house, which was built while I was away.

In the spring of 1913 I sold five pigs, which brought one hundred and three dollars. This was a dry year and the crops were light. In the fall I sold my oxen and bought a saddle horse. From her I raised five colts. I sold three and kept two which are still going strong. In 1914 all my field was summerfallowed so I had no crop.

By 1915 the first stages of pioneering were over, and I had settled into a routine much as it is today. That was a very wet year, the first part of the season,

and the crops were the best they had ever been. I had two hundred bushels of wheat from five acres and oats went seventy bushels per acre. This crop was threshed by Mr. William Glover and Company two weeks before Christmas.

The crop in 1918 was good too, but slightly frozen. The fall was very wet and the wild ducks were playing hide and seek among the grain. This summer I spent three and a half months in North Dakota. During my absence a creamery was built three-quarters of a mile south-east of where the Spondin Creamery now stands. The old creamery was operated by Louis Kofoed.

I weaned the calves and sold cream. It was worth thirty-five to forty cents a pound in those days. This was a new stunt for me and still stays by me. The cream was collected with horses and a wagon once a week.. Late in the fall they moved the outfit to Hanna, and then the cream had to be taken by the farmers in turn.

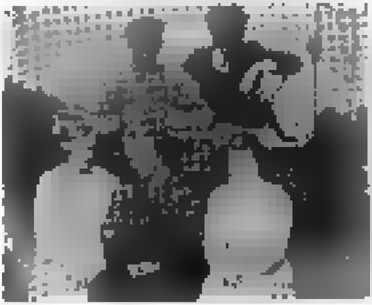
By this time I was fed up with my tar-papered hut so I raised the roof and added another room. This made a room ten by fourteen feet and the other twelve by fourteen feet. In 1920 another room was added, six by ten feet, and then I had room to let so I boarded a school teacher, E.V. Springbett.

Nothing of any particular interest took place during 1917-18-19. The winter of 19 and 20 was very hard, lots of stock dying for want of feed and feed was not to be got for money anywhere. Oat bundles sold for fifteen cents each and straw stacks brought sixty-five dollars apiece.

In the fall of 1920 I had a sale, and so put an end to my homesteading days. I have not said much about the entertainment in the early days. Our first Dominion Day in Canada, 1910, was spent at Clement Lake, which is on the quarter where Jesse Roberts now lives. Halversons and I packed our lunches and hit for a clump of trees and ate our dinner. The rest of the day was spent splashing in the water.

The first Christmas tree and program in 1911 was held at the Buchan school. The Christmas tree was furnished by John MacCurly, a young minister who held services through the summer. The second U.F.A. picnic was held at Corinne in 1913. During that year the Garden Plain hall was built and the third U.F.A. picnic was held there on the first of July, 1914, where it was held annually until the late twenties.

Editor's Note: In the twenties Mrs. Spelen married a local bachelor, John Hutcheson, and they moved to the southeast quarter of section 26-34-13 where they farmed until the late thirties when they moved to the town of Stettler. They later settled in Calgary where they both died the same day. Mr. Hutcheson died of cancer on the morning of October 25, 1963 and Mrs. Hutcheson of shock that afternoon. Both are buried at Netherby.

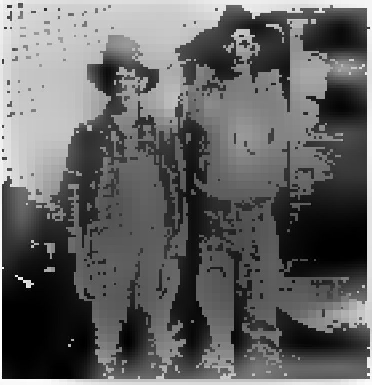

Brinton Walls, Jim Hamilton, Mabel Spelen, Clara Halverson, Gladys Hamilton

BRINTON WALLS — Brinton (Shorty) Walls came from Nova Scotia and in 1910 homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 24-34-13. While proving up, he worked in pool halls in Castor and Coronation. In 1912 he hauled water for the Fred Saar steam engine at threshing time.

After being alone for some time he moved in with another bachelor, Jim Buchan, on southeast of 22-34-13. They farmed together until Mr. Walls passed away in 1947. He is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

FRED HOIG — Fred Hoig came to Canada from Minnesota in 1910, at the same time as Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halverson and family and Mrs. Matilda Spelen and daughter. They all homesteaded on section 14-34-13.

When war broke out in 1914 he enlisted and was killed overseas.



Howard and Emil Halverson

THE CHARLES HALVERSON STORY, as told by his son Howard Halverson — My father, Charles Halverson, was born in Dromen, Norway and came to Canada from Minnesota in 1909. He homesteaded on the southwest of 14-34-13 southeast of Castor in the Garden Plain district.

In 1910 he went back to Moose Creek, Minnesota and brought his wife, Bertha, his five daughters, Clara, Mamie, Pearl, Matilda and Lenora, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Matilda Spelen and her daughter, Mabel, back to the homestead. Mrs. Spelen homesteaded on the adjoining quarter.

They built a huge sod barn for their four horses, four cows and their chickens. Their machinery was small, a six foot binder, a small drill, a diamond harrow made of oak and a fourteen inch, one-share sulky plow which had to be steered with a lever. They had a logging sleigh, four inches wider than average, handmade of oak with chain connections and cast runners.

The lumber for our house was hauled from Castor and the house was built by John Reasor who homesteaded south of us on northwest 2-34-13.

My dad plowed twenty-five acres, one furrow at a time, the first year.

To make money he hauled freight from Castor to Hanna before the CN railway came to Hanna. The trip took two days each way. The stopping house was Hunt's south of Castor.

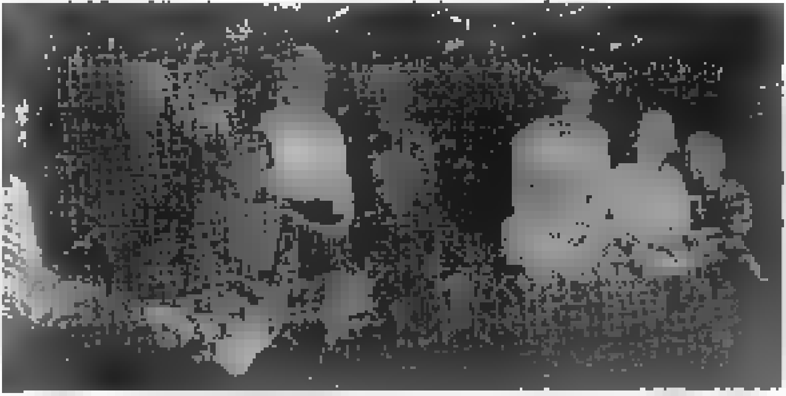
Coal and groceries came from the Kane mine and store at Garden Plain on section 1-34-14. Our mailman from Castor was Mr. Olson who drove the mail to Fertility post office on southeast 28-33-13. He drove nothing but broncs and made the round trip of fifty miles in one day.

When the C.P.R. was extended from Castor to Reel we hauled our grain there and received twenty-two cents per bushel. When the C.N.R. track was extended east of Hanna to Bonar, my dad would leave at four o'clock in the morning with a load of grain and return from the fifty mile trip at midnight.

From 1911 to 1925 seven more children were born. They were Clarence, Emil, Irene, Roy, Howard, Mamie, Murray and Raymond. The reason there were two Mamies in our family was that the first Mamie died of flu in April 1919 and the baby girl born June 10, 1919 was named Little Mamie.

We certainly had some storms in those days. When we still had the sod barn the cattle were out by the straw stacks when the storm hit. We had to knock the icicles off the cows' eyes so they could see. The milk cows and the horses were in the sod barn and we had to dig them out as the snow was three feet deep. The storm was so bad that my dad never got home from Hanna for three days. The willows and poplars which were twenty feet high were covered with snow. The

rabbits could find no food so they came like flocks of sheep to eat at our feed stacks.



Back: Lenore and Tillie Halverson, Mrs. Charles Halverson, Mrs. Matilda Spaner, Mabel Seman, Irene and Roy Halverson. Front: Clarence and Emil Halverson

We would undermine the snowbanks, and when two bachelor neighbors, Jim Buchan and Shorty Walls, came at night to listen to our radio, Shorty fell through the tunnel and Jim couldn't figure out what happened to him.

We all went to Buchan school which was one mile west of us. My dad used to play the violin for dances, house parties and chivarees. We had the best Christmas programs at the school and people came from miles around to our concert and dance. One time before Christmas we all got scarlet fever so that ended that. We had box socials at Buchan and some boxes sold for fifty dollars.

We went to church at Netherby in a democrat with two seats, as we had no car.

We had dust storms which turned day into night and lasted for a week at a time. Then the army worms came and cleaned the leaves off the trees. No matter how tight you closed the doors and windows they came in. Then the grasshoppers came and just wiped the crop out leaving only a few spears here and there. We got some stuff from the government to poison the grasshoppers. Then the best horses died when they got sleeping sickness.

Then in October, 1930, my dad took sick. He had heart trouble and died at home. William Storch senior went to Hanna and got the casket and brought it out to the house and prepared my dad for burial. He is buried in Netherby cemetery. Then my sister, Tillie, who was going to college in Calgary got her knee hurt while playing basketball and became a cripple. I used to carry her around and I was only fifteen years old at the time. Mrs. Charlie Blaymey was at our house the day Tillie died in August 1935. William Storch senior brought out the casket and she was buried at Netherby with Reverend Scallon conducting the service.

When I was fourteen I worked for one dollar a day stooking and helping cook meals. I pitched bundles and got two dollars a day.

My sister Mamie and I and Irene Williams and Harold Gustafson poisoned gophers and got paid twenty dollars each by the Castor Municipality. We had to walk about four miles a day and put poisoned oats in gopher holes. Out of the twenty dollars I bought myself a pair of long pants, a blue shirt, a tweed cap, a pair of shoes and still had money left over.

I played guitar and banjo for dances all over, sometimes five nights a week. I

would have to ride nine or ten miles on my saddle horse, milk four cows when I came home, get one hour sleep and then go to school. I was so tired from playing all night that I fell asleep at my desk and started to snore. The teacher told me to lie down by the platform and catch some sleep.

Mrs. Harry Sear and I played together at house parties and dances for two dollars a night. We would all bunch together and take one team to dances at Bingo, Sear, Spondin, Dundee, Netherby, Corinne and Buchan.

We had stampedes at home. I rode a big red pig with spurs and got flattened out. We also rode cattle when our parents were in town and got heck for that, because we put the saddle on the cows and tied it to their tails. When we came out of the chute we called each other cowboy names, rode a few jumps and got bucked off. Best days of our lives!

My mother became crippled with arthritis and was in a wheel chair. All other members of the family had left home but I stayed on the farm and looked after her for seven years and did the farming and cooking and cooked for ten men at threshing time.

We went to Vancouver and she went to the St. Paul Hospital where they found out she had cancer. After an operation she went to live for a year with my brother Roy and his wife Mabel in Vancouver. We moved back to Hanna and mother died in the Hanna Hospital on January 28, 1951.

In 1952 I married a wonderful girl, Sylvia Lokken, from Vancouver. We now live in Calgary and have two fine boys, Charles and Harold

JAMES BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Jim Buchan was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The family were fishermen. Jim was a cooper, a barrel maker by trade.

In 1905 he came to Canada with the Ironside family as Mrs. Ironside was his sister. He spent two years in Ontario and one in Manitoba. In August 1908 he came to Stettler and filed on a homestead on SE 22-34-13. The spring of 1909 he returned again from Manitoba and began homesteading. He had a team of oxen. With no buildings on his place, he lived with John Hutcheson. John had a team of horses. Together John and Jim broke up land for themselves and anyone else requiring help.

Jim went to Calgary in search of work. He found a job at the Breweries, but being an abstainer he didn't stay long. Returning home he found work at Dyble's farm south of Hanna. When Louis Kofoed built his first creamery in Hanna he worked for him. When it was time to return to farming he moved back to the homestead, milked cows, raised chickens and turkeys. He remained there many years, with [illegible] friend Brinton (Shorty) Wells living with him.

Jim returned to Scotland where he passed away about 1947.

MATT DOYLE, By Harry Nelson — Mr. and Mrs. M. Doyle came into this area in the early twenties. They came from the Munson area. Matt, as he was known, bought the east half of 21-34-13 from the Canadian Dominion Development Co. He hired Mr. S. Armstrong to break some of the land, also breaking some of it himself. While Matt farmed this land he had about one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, the balance was used for pasture. He owned two purebred Clyde stallions that stood for service.

Matt generally kept a hired man as his health was not too good. I believe he was gassed in World War I.

In the spring of 1927, not being able to keep up with the payments on the land, he was given sheriff's orders to leave. This he did.

While in the process of moving one of those three day blizzards blew in which slowed things up.

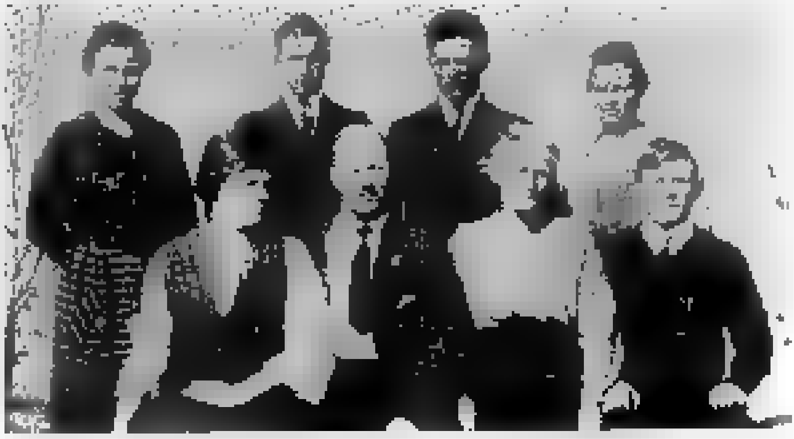
Mr. and Mrs. Doyle moved back to Munson taking their belongings with them. It is not known what happened to them after this.

Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Ironside

T. F. IRONSIDE, by [illegible] (Butch) Ironside — In 1905 Dad and Mother set sail from Scotland for Canada. They lived in Ontario for two years before going on to Manitoba. Manitoba held their interest only for a year, and in the summer of 1908 they came to Alberta to homestead. A group of Scotsmen, George Hunter, John Hutcheson, William Glover, Jim Buchan, and Dad all set out for Stettler to file on land.

Dad filed on the NE 16-34-13 on the sixteenth day of July, 1908. In due time Dad returned to Manitoba and in October of 1909 the family came to the homestead. He brought two horses and two cows with him. The rest of the equipment came to Stettler later. A sod shack, and a sod barn had been built in the summer of 1909 by Pep Rickard and Bill Seebe. We were the first family here at that time.

In the summer and fall of 1909 lumber was hauled from Stettler to build a frame house. Our friends Hunter, Hutcheson, and Glover helped us to build. This became a stopping house from 1910 on. In 1910 we built a big sod barn. The roof was made with poles and straw or hay. We shipped the poles up from Manitoba for this. I remember that winter the snow was so deep and built up so much around the barn that a cow walked on top of the roof and fell through, doing much damage.



1923 — T.F. Ironside Family. Back: Belle, Butch, Tiff, Jean. Front: Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. Ironside, Will.

Dad helped organize the Buchan School district in 1910 and realized his goal when the school was built in 1911. In 1913 he was busy organizing the Sullivan Lake Municipality. He was a councillor for many years and at the time of his retirement in 1934 was Reeve. About the same time he was active in a Co-Op store which was formed in Castor, and also in the United Farmers of Alberta movement.

By 1914 more good horses were needed so a Stallion Club was organized. A purebred stallion was obtained through the government. This horse was travelled throughout the country. Some of the members of the club were: Kinney, Don Lewis as secretary, J. H. Roberts, H. Waldron as well as Dad.

The winter of 1912-1913 Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor to Hanna all winter.

Church services were held in our home before Buchan School was open, later in the school.

In 1913 Dad bought the homestead of Marinus Rasmussen, this being NE 20-34-13. 1915 saw the start on a new house there. The crop being good that year, some of the grain was put into the started house. The weight of the grain pushed the single floor into the cellar below. In 1916 the house was completed. The spring of 1917 we moved there. A big barn was also built. Chris Midthun did a lot of the work on both buildings.

Mother was a teacher. She taught at three schools, in 1913 at Buchan, about six months at Little Round Lake, and a year at Cowan School.

By 1923 there was more need for horses so Dad started dealing in horses and cattle, buying, trading and shipping. Some of these went to Calgary.

Because of poor health, Dad and Mother left the farm in 1934. Both Dad and Mother were born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Dad on October 24, 1873, and mother February 5, 1873. Dad passed away in Vancouver April 6, 1938.

Mother returned to the farm about 1940 to live with Will. She stayed there till the fall of 1946 when she went to High River to live with Bella. She passed away in April 1961 and was laid to rest at High River.

There were seven children in the family. The oldest child a son, died in infancy in 1899. Bella Cooper, 1900, resides in Vancouver; Jean Adams, 1901, lives in Calgary; Telfer, 1902, at Castor; Edward (Butch) 1905, resides in Hanna; Margaret (Meg) Smith, 1906, at Calgary and William, 1908, in Hanna.

TELFER (TIFF) IRONSIDE, By Tiff Ironside — I was born on a farm in New-deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1902. I came with my parents and two older sisters to Shaw Station, Ontario in 1905. Two years later we moved to a farm in Carman, Manitoba. The family had now grown by two brothers and a sister.

In the fall of 1909 we came to Alberta to homestead in the Garden Plain area on the north east of 16-34-13 where we lived in a one-roomed sod shack with a dirt floor. That winter we hauled lumber from Tom Finlayson in Castor and built a two-storey house which soon became known as the Ironside Stopping House for travellers between Castor and Youngstown and points between. Wagon trails across unplowed fields are still visible in 1977. Some poles were hauled from north of Castor to roof a sod barn, which would hold twenty head of horses. Merrill Fox, who lived on the same section, had a team of white oxen and a wagon and took Dad and me to Stettler. The first day we got to a stopping house just west of Castor where the menu was biscuits, bacon and beans three times a day. The second day we got as far as Botha where we met George Hunter who was helping to build a hotel there. The third day we reached Stettler.

In 1917 we moved to the north east of 20-34-13 where Chris Midthun helped us build a new house and a hip roofed barn. My mother taught Cowan School.

eight miles north of us. I drove my mother and my two brothers and three sisters to school in our covered wagon driven by a spirited team, picking up other students along the way.

After I quit school I fired a steam engine for Alex Richards each harvest for six years. As I fired with straw I had to get up at quarter to four to get steam up for the day.

I learned to play the violin so with sister Belle and brother Butch, we played for Garden Plain dances every two weeks. Others I played with were Ed Berg, Jens Sands, Torlif Bergum and Earl Hemridge.

On Sundays, unknown to our parents, we would go to Dick Roberts farm and ride bucking horses, but no one was ever seriously injured. I broke broncs for Dick so he could sell them as work horses. Some ended up bucking in Hand Hills Stampedes and some became race horses. One race horse I remember was Cricket. In 1921 I rode him for Dick at the Bingo School Stampede. The same year he hired a jockey to ride him at the Garden Plain picnic. He won easily at both places. Bets were high.

In 1922 I went to Roberts Creek, B.C. where I worked in a sawmill but I soon returned to Garden Plain where in 1929 I married Ruth Clark of Maunders. We farmed on the north east of 19-34-13. On this property there was a burn out where coal was visible near the surface. For forty dollars I leased the mineral rights from the C.P.R. and started a strip mine. I had to pay the Alberta Department of Lands and Mines ten cents per ton for each ton sold. In 1932 I opened another mine on 5-34-13 where there was a better grade of coal. In 1934 we moved to the south west of 30-34-13 where I still live. We have four sons and four daughters. Gordon at home, Mary Towers in Florida, Allan a missionary in India, Clark at Devon, Margaret Sleppert in Calgary, Bruce in Youngstown, Mabel Pfulster at Blackfalds and Marilyn Gurnett in Edmonton.

E. S. (DUTCH) [illegible], *By Dutch [illegible]* — I was born in Ontario June 6, 1906. At the age of four I arrived at our homestead with Dad, Mother, three sisters and two brothers.

In 1912 I started school at Buchan, at the age of seven. That year Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor to Hanna. My oldest sister Belle, then thirteen, and I did the chores. We had pigs to water, this we did by cutting a hole in the ice in the creek. One day we cut the hole too big and a pig fell in. Next morning only its head was out of the hole, the rest was frozen in the ice. There were also bundles to haul in on a stone boat out of the stooks in the field.

My first year of threshing was in 1919. I hauled bundles for Alex Richards. The next six years I hauled water for his steam engine at threshing time.

I remember my first trip to Hanna. It was in 1913. I went along with Tiff, my older brother, when he was taking a load of freight in. I thought it was great riding on top of the load.

In the winter of 1919-1920 I worked for Dick Roberts. Wages were good at that time; I got forty-five dollars a month.

My first attempt at farming on my own was in 1923. That year I rented August Dahlgren's land and farmed it with horses. In 1926 I bought the SW 21-34-13 and broke a hundred acres. In 1927 it was in crop. 1928 it was hailed out. The spring of 1930 I rented Dan Tracy's land. I had a good crop in 1930 but 1931 was different. It had been hailed and snow came early. Some of it was cut late as the snow went away in November. Some still stood and I pastured horses that winter.

I bought a Ford ¾ ton truck in 1929. It was two years old then. I had hounds to

did quite a lot of coyote hunting. In the fall I used the Ford; two hounds rode in the back and one in front with me. In winter I used the team and sleigh.

I bought an International 15–30 tractor in 1928. The next year we got a Massey Harris combine and did some custom work. In 1932 we got our first grain separator.

When Dad and Mother left the farm in the fall of 1934, I took over the home place. I stayed there until 1942 when I bought the homestead of Billy Wagner from a mortgage company. I farmed this land until 1951, when I started working for Ducks Unlimited.

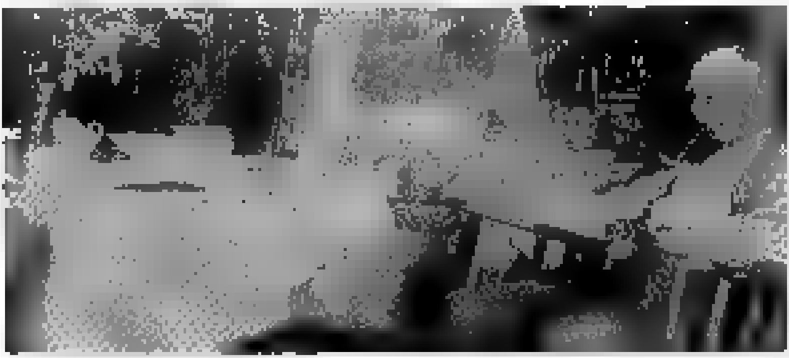
In December of 1951 I moved to Hanna where we still live. I sold my land to Henry and Elmer Nelson.

I married Cora Nelson on November 17, 1934. We have three children. Corinne, Mrs. Glen Brown, resides in Jasper where Glen is employed. They have two boys. Gladys, Mrs. Lyle Robbs, lives at Bluffton. Lyle farms and works at a Gas Plant. William married Marion McLean, they live at Didsbury where Willie is employed by Shell Oil. They have two children.

ALEXANDER BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Sandy Buchan came from Scotland to Canada in 1910. His wife remained in Scotland. Sandy had been a Sea Captain. He filed on SW 24-34-13 in September 1911. He stayed at Ironsides, as his wife was a sister of Mrs. Ironside. From here he homesteaded and worked out around Coronation. He returned to Scotland in 1918.

MARTIN and HENRY FOX, By Margaret Nelson — Henry Fox, Harry as he was best known filed on SW 22-34-13 in July of 1908. Brother Martin Fox filed April 1908 on SE 16-34-13. Harry and Martin worked together, Martin having the equipment to prove up. Harry worked out. In 1916 Martin Fox traded homesteads with Mr. Charles Blayney of the Castor area. Martin Fox was married and had three children. Harry was a bachelor. From Castor they went to Calgary.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES BLAYNEY, reprinted in part from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, the Dundee Women's Institute — Charles Blayney was born in Dolgelly, Merionethshire, West Wales. He came to Canada in 1906; in 1910 he homesteaded at Lauderdale on the southwest quarter of 12-33-15. A few years later he traded his homestead to Martin Fox for the southeast quarter of section 16-34-13 in the Garden Plain district, where he farmed until his death in 1950.



Charles Blayney enjoying his paper and pipe.

In 1917 he married Winnifred Evans who came to Canada from Abermule, Montgomeryshire, Wales and together they made their grounds a show place in the community. They planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables of all kinds, some of which had never been grown before in this part of the province. After establishing a shelter belt which included four kinds of evergreens, they started to grow fruit trees such as cherries, plums and crabapples as well as red, white and black currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries. Asparagus planted before 1919 was still producing forty years later in 1959. Oak trees and evergreens purchased from Estevan, Saskatchewan, grew and flourished after much care and watering during our dry summers.

Mr. and Mrs. Blayney had no family, but when Mrs. Norman Williams, a family friend, passed away following a lingering illness, the Blayneys took their two small daughters, Ruby and Nora, to live with them. They cared for the two girls until they went to live with their father who was now working in Hanna.

Mrs. Blayney was a staunch member of the Anglican Church and was always interested in community work. Mr. Blayney was for years the chairman of Buchan School Board.

Mrs. Blayney died in 1948, her husband in 1950 and both are buried in Netherby cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams in Wales

MR. and MRS. NORMAN WILLIAMS, By Nora Frealick and Ruby Setue — Norman B. Williams came to Canada from Abermule, Wales in 1913. He had visions of becoming a cowboy so the first thing he bought was a pair of red sheepskin chaps which he wore on Hallowe'en for years.

He had been a school teacher in London, England so took a teaching job at Netherby in 1913-14.

His wife Pauline and small daughter Ruby left England in 1914 on the day the First World War started. They had a hazardous trip dodging mine fields but arrived safely in Halifax and took the train to Hanna, Alberta. They lived in a sod shack with another Welshman, Charles Blayney, until Mr. Williams took up a homestead on the northwest quarter of 7-33-12. While there he taught North Berry Creek school.

His wife suffered from tuberculosis, so a nurse, Winnifred Evans, came from Wales to look after Mrs. Williams and her baby daughter, Nora.

Mrs. Williams died in 1917 and is buried in Calgary. Winnifred Evans married Charles Blayney and they cared for the two small girls on their farm on southeast 16-34-13.

In 1918 Mr. Williams was seriously injured when a small cyclone went through the area. He was on his way back from Hanna after dark and turned into a farm yard to escape the hail. The roof blew off a barn pinning him beneath and breaking his pelvis. He managed to pull himself up onto his horse who was lying beside him.

He got to the farm house and was taken to the Hanna Hospital. For many years he was badly crippled.

In 1923 he gave up his homestead and found a railway job in Hanna. He took Ruby and Nora to live with him, then in 1926 they moved to Calgary.

He died in 1960 while on a visit to England and Wales. Ruby lives in Calgary and Nora in Edmonton.

THE FRANK EVANS STORY, Told in part by Nora Froehlich — Frank Evans was the youngest brother of Mrs. Charles Blayney. He had enlisted in the British Army at the age of seventeen and arrived in Canada immediately after the war ended in 1918. He made his home with his brother-in-law and sister until he rented the northeast quarter of 26-34-13.

He was always a happy-go-lucky person and will be remembered for his love of animals and on his frequent visits to neighbors he was always accompanied by "me dog". He had a habit of leaving his mitts behind when he visited. Next day he would come back looking for "me mitts".

Frank never married and when his health failed he moved to the Senior Citizens Lodge in Castor. He died in 1969 and was buried in the Netherby Cemetery

JAMES SCOTT, By Margaret Nelson — James Scott came from Nanton, Alberta, in 1917 and bought the George Kinney land. His son Roy farmed the land along with other land he rented. One of Mr. Scott's sons was married to a Miss Lores from Nanton. Her father purchased land close by and Scott's farmed that too. After five or six years the Scott's decided to return to Nanton. Frank Evans rented the land for a short time before it was sold to Dick Roberts

EMIL MILLER, By Margaret Nelson — Emil Miller homesteaded S.W. 16-34-13 in February 1910. Thirty acres was broke in the southwest corner. Martin Fox farmed it, later Mr. Glover rented it. It was then bought by Mr. Blayney.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glover Sr. taken in Glenboro, Manitoba

THE GLOVER FAMILY — William and Elizabeth Glover were among those courageous people who emigrated from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, stopping temporarily in Manitoba for a while, and finally venturing on to Alberta to homestead on NW 18-34-13 in the Buchan School District in 1908. They had farmed in the old country on a 300 acre farm between Peterhead and the village of St. Fergus. The farm was then and still is known as Lunderton, and borders right on the North Sea. In fact, they have a saying that there are 100 more acres when the tide is out. Old records held by the present owner show Mr. Glover as the reeve, or foreman, for a while, and later before deciding to leave for Canada, he was the tenant, or lessee. The farm of course in those days was owned by a laird. While still in Scotland, the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland awarded Mr. Glover a silver medal for his prowess in a ploughing competition.

Mr. and Mrs. Glover had eight children, five sons and three daughters, all of whom came to Canada. They were not joined by all of their children in the homesteading venture.

Bessie stayed in Manitoba, married there and farmed with her husband, Fred Davidson. She brought forth twelve sturdy children, eleven of whom are still living. Bessie is now a widow and lives in Cypress River, Manitoba. She is the last living member of the original Glover family.

Annie came west to Alberta with the family and in 1911 she married Jack MacRae. Annie lost her husband in 1962 and she herself died in 1968.

Christina married Norman MacLeod in 1916 in Red Deer, Alberta. Prior to her marriage, Christina had worked in Hanna for Beck & Macleod who ran the Dominion rooming house there in the early days. They had two children Elizabeth and Christie. She died in March of 1946 and is buried in Calgary.

William married Margaret McGee and they farmed in the Buchan and Dundee Districts. In 1966 he died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage and is buried in the Field of Honour, Burnsland Cemetery.

David, who homesteaded on NE 22-34-13, had been in poor health when the family lived in Manitoba. He lived only to be 22 years old, and in 1913 he was the first one of the family to be buried in the Hetherby Cemetery.

Hugh was well known around Hanna and the Goose Lake Line as he travelled these areas as a service representative for the International Harvester Co. for over 40 years. He passed away in High River after a short illness and is buried in the cemetery there. He left to mourn him a wife, Selina, and two sons, Bill and Harry.

John homesteaded on NE 28-34-13 but before proving up decided to be a policeman in Calgary. He died in Edmonton and is buried there.

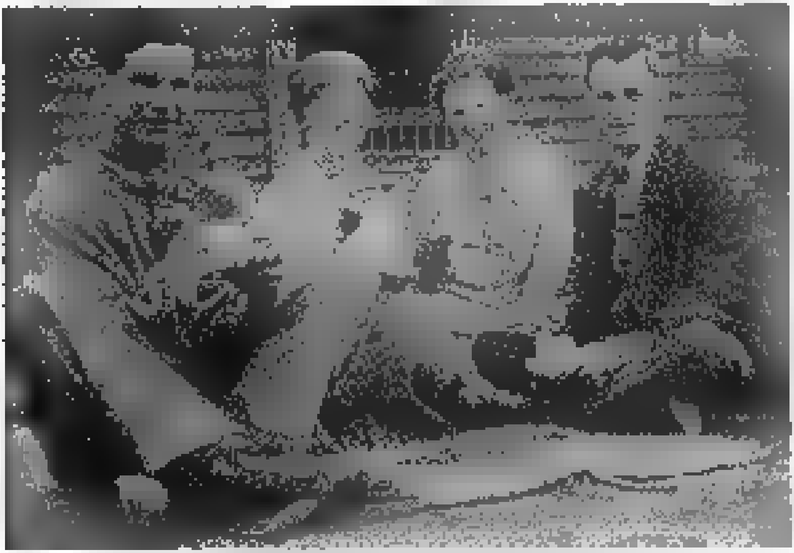
Last but not least was Andrew (Andy for short), the baby of the family. He was the bachelor type and stayed pretty close to his parents. As a lad of 14 he worked side by side with his father freighting supplies of all kinds by team and wagon from Castor to Hanna townsite before the railroad was built through Hanna. Close to the end of World War I, Andy was conscripted since he was still single and living alone on a quarter section. He went to Calgary, passed his medical, got his army number then returned to the farm to wait to be called for army service. However, the war ended and he did not have to go to fight. In 1922 he left the area for a short while and worked in Calgary on the construction of the Imperial Oil Refinery. The city lights held very little attraction for him and he returned to rural life again and resumed farming. It is interesting to note that the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed in 1923 and on the 50th anniversary of the Wheat Pool, Andy was one of the original founding members still living. Andy farmed at Scapa until suffering a stroke in the early fall of 1973 and was hospitalized in Hanna until he passed away in February 1975. He is buried in Hetherby Cemetery.

William and Elizabeth ran into some pretty rough times during their homesteading days in Alberta. Although the land was virgin territory, some years crops were good and other years they were burned out from lack of moisture, or they were hailed out. A great many of the farmers left the area. William had a great love of the land and he was not one to give up easily. One of his great joys was an appreciation of good cattle and he did his best to improve the strain he liked best — the white-faced Herefords. William's pride showed greatly when in 1919 he was successful in achieving a first prize for one of his Hereford bulls at the Calgary Bull Show & Sale. It was a four year old bull by name of George Rex. The next year William tried again with another Hereford — a two year old by name of Rob Roy but no luck this time. In competition you learn to take the losses with dignity.

Tragedy was soon to come into William's life in the loss of his wife, Elizabeth.

to 1921. She died in Calgary and is laid to rest in Union Cemetery there. When a man loses his life partner, something goes out of his life; the challenge the land demands from him becomes different; yet William hid his sorrow and courageously faced the future with determination to go on through whatever was to come. He continued to farm until 1943. He was fortunate indeed to obtain a very capable housekeeper in the person of Mrs. Madge Kay, a widow, who kept house for him faithfully all through the years that remained of his life. He took sick suddenly in September of 1943; just a three day illness and he was gone. Another pioneer had finished the role God had set out for him. He was laid to rest in Netherby Cemetery.

ANDY GLOVER, ***By William L. Storch*** — Andy Glover homesteaded on SW 2-34-13. As a young lad he helped his dad freight lumber and merchandise from Castor to Hanna. He often told how, when he got dry, he would take a drink or two from the jugs of whiskey he was hauling, and when they came to a well they would fill them up with water.



Andy Glover, Miss L.A. MacDonald, Miss Margaret Fisher and Sidney Bison

He was known for the humorous stories and jokes he loved to tell. If he could get a joke on someone he really thought he had something going.

In the later years of his life he lived in a shack on SE 18-34-13. Then he built himself a two roomed house, and from his east window he could take his binoculars and watch what the neighbors were doing.

He used to farm with four horses. In later years he farmed with a small tractor. He would take his tractor and two old tractor tires and drag the roads.

He didn't have any cattle, but used to talk about the striped gopher he had. Sometimes a cat would come around and he would take it in and feed it. He loved dogs but he never had one.

He liked to be among people; he never married, but he often said if he could get a woman with no less than fifty thousand dollars he would marry in a minute.

He always attended the Netherby Cemetery clean up day. At one time he made markers for all the unmarked graves.

He was on the barbed wire telephone with the neighbors. He got a great charge out of rubbering on the neighbor ladies as they talked on the phone. If what they said wasn't right he would butt in and tell them so. If something was wrong with the phone, he was right out there fixing it, rain or shine, as he didn't want to miss any of the gossip.

He was very fond of children and they liked him too. At picnics he would buy them candy bars and when he met them in town he would buy them some kind of sweets, for he loved sweets himself.

He was a very handy man to have around. There was no job he wouldn't tackle, he was called the handy man of the neighborhood. When he would come around at meal times, he would say, "Just put another cup of water in the soup." He enjoyed his meals when he was out as he had to cook them himself at home.

Late one Hallowe'en night a bachelor neighbor dressed up as a fat lady, came to Andy's house, crawled into bed with him, and tried to make love to him. I won't say what he had to say about that. It was out of this world anyway.

He used to say that if he came home the worse for drink, he could throw his cap in and it wouldn't come out; "But you married guys can't do that." And then he would have a good laugh. He was born in Scotland and passed away after a stroke in 1975.

1928 Mrs. Michael Quaschnick, Emma, Jack and Mr. Michael Quaschnick

THE MICHAEL QUASCHNICK FAMILY, By Elsie Quaschnick Bennett — My parents, Michael and Marie Quaschnick, and six children, Ida, Olga, Bertha, Elsa, Jack and Emma, came to Canada from Leipzig, Roumania in October 1927.

We bought land from William Glover Sr. and made our home on the northwest quarter of 16-34-13, where for the next eight years we all worked hard at farming in a strange new land.

In the fall of 1935 we sold out and moved to British Columbia where we were able to make a better living.

My dad died in 1948 of a heart attack in Chilliwack, B.C., at the age of 68. Mother passed away in 1970 at 84 years of age.

GEORGE HUNTER, *By Harry Nelson* — George Hunter came to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1905. He came to Ontario, then to Manitoba where he spent about two years. In 1907 he came to Erskine, Alberta where he did carpenter work for about one year. In the fall of 1908 he, along with John Hutcheson, came in to what is now known as the Garden Plain area looking for land. George filed on the SW 20-34-13 on November 20, 1908. John Hutcheson filed on the NE of 18-34-13 on November 21, 1908. They farmed jointly for the first few years, John doing the homestead duties and George doing the carpenter work in the area. After they were established George did his own farming, also doing carpenter work for other homesteaders in his spare time. He was co-owner of the first steam threshing outfit in this area, the Hunter-Campbell-Glover-Hutcheson Syndicate, which threshed throughout the country for a number of years. George batched for

about twelve or thirteen years of his homestead days. On March 27, 1923 he married Miss Rebecca Benzie who lived with her brother Frank on the former John Hutcheson homestead. After they were married George farmed this land along with his own for a number of years. They lived on the Benzie farm as the house was better there.

About 1931 George had a house built on his own land. After it was finished they moved into it. From then on he farmed only his own land. He continued to farm his own land till about 1952 when he decided to retire and have a sale. All his machinery and buildings except the house were sold. He sold the land to Rudolph Storch but reserved the right to stay on the place as long as he wanted to. George Hunter passed away on December 21, 1956 at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Hunter continued to live on the farm till about 1959 when she moved to Coronation, to live with her brother George Benzie. She passed away on March 12, 1968 at the age of eighty years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

MARINUS RASMUSSEN, ***By Harry Nelson*** — Marinus Rasmussen filed on the NE 20-34-13 on May 20, 1908. He proved up his homestead, breaking so much every year and worked out in his spare time. In the spring of 1913 he had a farm sale and went back to Denmark where he came from. He sold his farm to T.F. Ironside in 1913, who farmed it till the fall of 1934, when he left for Vancouver. It was then farmed by his son E.B. Ironside till 1942. After that it was farmed by the youngest son W.J. Ironside till 1964. He then had a farm sale and the land was bought by Cyril Unsworth who still farms it.

WILLIAM PERT, ***By Margaret Nelson*** — William Pert filed on the SE 20-34-13 in August 1908. He built a shack and broke thirty acres of land in order to prove up. After four or five years on the prairie he decided to go to Calgary. Wm. Glover bought the land: after his death Dick Roberts bought it. Ironside bought from Roberts and in 1964 sold to Cyril Unsworth.

WILLIAM NELSON, ***By Harry Nelson*** — William Nelson was born in Denmark May 19, 1886. In the spring of 1905 he left Denmark for the United States in search of work. He came to North Dakota where he got a job on a farm. I can recall him telling of some terrible blizzards in North Dakota while he was there. From North Dakota he went to Montana where he worked on railroad construction until the spring of 1908. He then left for Alberta with the intention of filing on a homestead which he did in May 1908, at Stettler, Alberta. The land that was filed on was the north west quarter of 20-34-13 in the Garden Plain area. After homestead duties were done for that year, he went back to work on the railroad construction in order to make enough money to buy livestock and equipment to prove up on his homestead.

1912 — Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, taken in Denmark.

He got a job with Leach Brothers, a contractor from the United States, who

had three elevating graders plus a large number of dump wagons. The graders were pulled by eight horses or mules in front and four behind the grader. Most of the dump wagons were pulled by two mules. Most of the construction was on the Stettler to Castor C.P.R. line and at Fox Coulee in the Drumheller area.

When the railroads were done in this area he worked on the irrigation ditches at Bassano and Brooks. By this time he had an outfit of mules of his own so got work from Jackson Contractors. They would sublet sections of ditching which paid off pretty well. By the winter of 1911 he had made enough money to return to Denmark and was married on February 23, 1912. In the spring of 1912 he returned to Canada and worked on railroad construction in Saskatchewan for the summer, then came back to the homestead.

When the people first homesteaded Stettler was the closest town and they often walked to Stettler and back home a distance of sixty-five or seventy miles one way. In the fall of 1909 the railroad reached Castor, so for a number of years what grain was grown was hauled to there, a distance of about twenty-four miles, a two day trip. Later it was hauled to Fleet which was about sixteen or eighteen miles. Then Scapa was built and later Garden Plain which was only five miles.

From 1914 to 1923 there were good years and years when there was frost or hail. There were bumper crops in this area in 1923 to the early thirties so there were good years and bad years, some with dust so thick that it was almost impossible to see.

Then came 1934 and the grasshoppers. They pretty well cleaned off the grain as fast as it came up, in spite of all the grasshopper poison that was spread. Andy Glover had the poison mixing station and every evening the surrounding farmers would go and get the poison for spreading in the morning, but in spite of all this work the grasshoppers cleaned off the crops. Through the dirty thirties, as they were called, a lot of the original homesteaders left this area for greener pastures.

From the homestead days till 1938 all the field work was done first with mules then horses. Threshing was done with steam power. Some of the first steamers in this area were W. Glover, S. Hunter, J. Campbell Syndicate, and A. Richards outfits. Then later there was gasoline outfits. In the early thirties combining became the way of harvesting. T.F. Ingrade owned one of the first combines in this area.

About 1928 Mr. Nelson bought another half section of land from the C.P.R. Land Company. This was all broken up with horses and a two-bottom breaking plow. A lot of C.P.R. land was sold about this time. Prices ranged from about eight to fifteen dollars an acre. Terms were a down payment and so much per year. About 1935, when crops had been poor for some years and payments were not being made the C.P.R. decided to sell it to the original purchaser for whatever cash payments he could offer. A lot of the land was bought for about fifty dollars for a quarter section.

It was about this time that the local Municipal Council was dissolved and the Special Areas took over. A lot of vacant land with back taxes owing was taken over by Special Areas and is still controlled by them. It is leased out to local farmers either for grazing or cultivation leases.

In the late thirties or early forties things started improving. Crops and cattle prices were better. By the late forties and early fifties everybody had changed from horses to tractors, which enabled them to farm more land. When anyone sold out the land was bought by the local farmers. Through the fifties and early sixties crops were reasonably good and so were cattle prices, so everyone prospered.

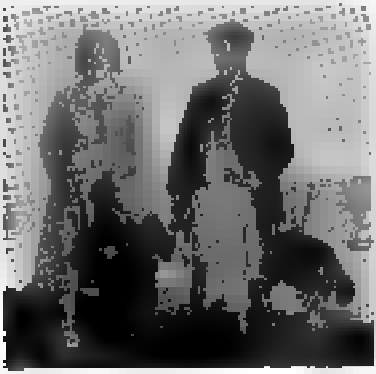
William Nelson retired from active farming about 1960 after suffering a heart condition. He passed away July 27, 1968. He was predeceased by his wife and one

son in 1945. He is survived by one daughter Cora, Mrs. E.B. Ironside living in Hanna, and one son, Harry still on the original homestead.

CHRISTOPHER MIDTHUN — Chris Midthun came to Alberta from Norway and homesteaded on south-east 32-34-13 in May 1911. As he was a good carpenter his services were in great demand by homesteaders who were building for the first time.

Butch Ironside, Till Ironside, Christopher Midthun and Emil Paasche

In 1919 he married Edith Ekman of the Lake Thelma district. Shortly after they moved to Castor where he became a full time carpenter. Later they moved to Washington where he was a building contractor. Chris will be remembered as a good-natured helpful neighbor.



1923 — Mr. and Mrs. John Nielsen and children Henry and Eva.

JOHN NIELSEN, By Henry Nielsen — I left Copenhagen, Denmark on May 12, 1916 to sail to Canada on the Scandinavian-American Ship "Frederick VII" and landed in New York on May 28. From there I went by train to Calgary, then to Lacombe and Castor where my brother Bill met me and took me to his homestead on the NE 20-34-13. I stayed with Bill and his family until July when I went to work for a Danish family by the name of Alfred Jensen who lived north of the correction line. I worked there until November and then spent the winter with brother Bill.

In the summer of 1917 I worked for Arthur Groves who lived five miles north of the correction line over near Sullivan Lake. We broke a number of horses that summer as well as doing the general farm work. The winter of 1917-18 I

worked at Shuswap Lake, B.C. for Adams River Lumber Company. The spring of 1918 I rented the NE 30-34-13 from Otto Anderson. I farmed this land with four horses that I bought from Arthur Groves. In the winter of 1918-1919 I was out in the B.C. logging camp again, returning in the spring to farm the Otto Anderson land. In 1920 I bought the SE 32-34-13 from Chris Midthun and farmed that as well as Anderson's.

I remember one winter in the early twenties, I went over to Roy Scott's to find that he had broken his leg that day. Apparently he had hooked up his team to go somewhere, and got down off the sleigh again to do something when one of his horses kicked him, breaking his leg. The doctor had been sent for and arrived about the same time I did. The doctor, needed some help setting the leg, asked me to assist. My job was to stretch the leg while he manipulated the bones back into place and put a cast on. Six weeks later I took Roy to Castor hospital to get the cast removed and found the leg was alright again.

About 1923 I bought my first two cows from Timmerman who lived north of the correction line.

In 1926 I rented the farm to Vagn Hansen and went to Denmark. On July 15, 1927 I married Ane Paulsen and we returned to Canada again that fall.

At a land sale in Coronation in June of 1928 I bought the NE 29-34-13 and then we quit farming Otto Anderson's. On November 16, 1928 our daughter Eva was born in the Castor Hospital. Henry was born February 6, 1930 also in the Castor Hospital. In 1930 we moved the house from the original place on Chris Midthun's down to the school land because of better water. A sod barn was built there also. We farmed here until the kids had to start school. By this time Round Lake School was closed so our nearest school was Buchan, almost four miles away. So after much deliberation, in 1935 we decided to move to the W ½ 2-34-13 which was only 2½ miles from school.

In June 1935 Elmer was born. Eva and Henry started school in September of 1936 and completed one term at Buchan. This same year we didn't get enough wheat to fill a triple wagon box. Our first Angus bull was bought this fall from Sid Herring for $16.00.

The summer of 1937 there were quite a number of vacant farms so we decided to move to a better location. We rented the S ½ 25-34-14 formerly farmed by Blums and moved there in October 1937. It was just across the road from Corinne School. In 1939 we moved again, this time two and one half miles south of Corinne to the SW 12-34-14 which had been previously farmed by Rutherfords. Along with this we leased the NW 1-34-14, N ½ 24-34-14 and the NE 25-34-14. During the next few years things got better as prices improved after the depression and we had more rainfall. Now we were able to increase our cow herd and get some new machinery.

When Eva completed her high school she supervised at the Ozark School from September to Christmas. In 1948 she attended Normal School and took up teaching. She married Clarence Moran in September of 1953. At present they are living in Bowness and Eva is a librarian at Eugene Coste School while Clarence is employed at Burns Packing Plant.

Henry helped at home until he went to Lacombe to take up carpentry. Later he returned to the area and went farming. He married Irene Holman and they have four children.

In November 1958, when Elmer got married to Doris Hoffart, we bought a house in Hanna and Elmer and Doris lived on the farm. They have two children, Terry and Peggy. When we retired from active farming we had a herd of good

Angus cows, all descendants of the first two cows I bought from Timmerman and the $15.00 bull I got from Herring.

In 1969 I took a trip to Denmark by air. Owing to poor health Ane was not able to go, but after I found what relatives were left, we both went back the following year. In September of 1974 we sold the house in Hanna and moved into the Acadia Lodge. On February 11, 1975 Ane entered Hanna Hospital and remained there, except for a few months in the Palliser Nursing Home, until her passing on February 7, 1977. At present I am a resident of the Acadia Lodge.

HARRY NELSON, ***By Harry Nelson*** — I was born on September 21, 1914 on NW 20-34-13 W4, my dad's homestead, and am still living there.

The first years of school my sister and I drove a horse and buggy in summer and a cutter in winter. When we were a little older we rode horseback a distance of three and one-half miles.

In those days I believe it was permissable to quit school at the age of fifteen.

In June or July of 1929 work was started on the C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka and it was an awful dry year and not much to do at home; I decided to try and get work with some of the contractors on the line.

About three miles west of Spondin, an American company by the name of J. Owen & Sons had set up their camp, so I rode down to see them about getting work. They asked if I could drive horses, I assured them I could and was told I could start work the next day. The next morning after breakfast I followed the rest of the men down to the barn. The barn boss told me to wait until the other boys had their horses out and then helped me get my three horses harnessed and hitched up to a dump wagon. I spent the summer of 1929 with them and stayed on until they completed their contract on the grade which I believe was late October or early November.

The Harry Nelson Family. Ross, Bill, Scott, Margaret and Harry Nelson, Keith, Diane and Barry Hutton. Gordon Hutton in front

The wage those days was forty dollars a month and if you remained with the company in the fall it was sixty dollars a month plus room and board. Not much by today's standards but pretty good in those days.

The company had one elevating grader which was pulled by a Holt 60 Cat.

The cat skinner on the grader was the youngest son, **Bill Owen**. The next son was John Owen who drove another Holt 60 pulling two large steel dump wagons. The rest of the dirt was hauled by dump wagons pulled by three horses. There were approximately fifteen or twenty wagons. Ralph Owen, the oldest son, was the foreman and a great fellow to work for. Then there was John Owen senior, a fairly elderly man and father to the three boys. He did a lot of grumping and growling if you happened to have a breakdown.

The crop at home in 1929 was very poor. There was hardly any rain all summer. I remember in 1928 my dad had the SE 19-34-13 rented from F. Benzle, it was new breaking and would have been a good crop but it was hailed out. The following year (1929) was pretty well dried out though some of it was cut. I believe dad threshed something like one hundred and thirty-five bushels off the hundred acres.

I was at home during the winter of 1929 and summer of 1930.

The fall and winter of 1930-31 I believe the C.N.R. laid the steel between Scapa and Hemaruka. I hired on with the railway helping lay the steel starting approximately one mile east of Scapa straight through to Hemaruka.

The winter of 1930-31 was fairly mild with very little snow. It was possible to drive a car home every weekend even though there were no high grade roads at that time. The railway line was completed in the winter of 1931. This same line is now abandoned and has not been in use for several years. The last piece of the rail from Scapa to Spondin was removed during the fall and winter of 1976. (Progress in reverse.) The track from Spondin to Hemaruka was removed several years ago

The first elevator at Garden Plain was the Pioneer Grain Co. built in the summer of 1931 and operating that fall. George Wilson was the first grain buyer followed by A.W. Shand in 1932. A store was opened about this time by Mr. J.W. Taylor who operated there for a number of years.

I was home most of the time from 1931 until the fall of 1933 helping around the farm

The winter of 1933 and summer of 1934 I worked for the next door neighbor, Mr. T.F. Ironside.

During the fairly dry summer of 1934 the grasshoppers moved in. They destroyed the crops in spite of all the poison bait that was spread out. That fall a lot of feed grain was shipped in to Garden Plain to feed the livestock in the area.

Cattle prices were at an all time low the fall of 1934. A lot of people had to sell because of the feed shortage. A lot of good cattle were shipped that fall for a penny a pound or less.

In the fall of 1934 I went to Calgary to work for Maxwell Smith, a well known Thoroughbred breeder, who lived about ten miles west of Calgary. I worked there for most of the time until 1938 when I came home and started to farm with my dad.

We acquired more land and the first tractor in the spring of 1939. The crops were good in the fall of 1940 and I bought my first combine. I did our combining plus a lot of custom work

There was a series of good years in the 1940's. In 1942 there were exceptional crops although several of them were out all winter

Through the forties and fifties there was a series of good years with better than average crops.

We also got through the 1960's and 1970's with not many problems. There was one year, 1962, started out dry and it looked as if there would be a feed shortage. A couple of the neighbors and myself went up to Vegreville area to put up feed. While we were there it started raining so we decided to go home. When we got home there was water everywhere. There had been five inches of rain

overnight and two inches more the following day so that solved the feed problem that year. This rain came about the twelfth of July so all the later sown crops produced a lot of feed.

There was more progress in 1974. The East-Central Gas Co-Op was formed and gas lines were laid through most of this area. Now everybody that wanted it has natural gas on the farm, a real benefit.

In January 1945 I was married to Margaret Wright. We built a house on the home place and still live there.

We have two children, Diane, now Mrs. Barry Hutton, is living on a farm north of Watts. Bill married Rena Braconnier and they are living in their own trailer on the home place.

I still farm and raise cattle and haven't thought of retiring for awhile yet.

KEN WILLIAMS STORY, by Ken Williams — My father Tom Williams purchased the Ole Larson farm in the fall of 1928. My mother and I, brothers Keith and Bud, and sister Irene moved on January 6, 1929. The weather was just like the first of July. Soon after that, winter set in and we had lots of snow.

My first job was to get coal at Bob Unsworth's Three Star Mine eight miles south.

Next thing we had to find our school. We were actually in Little Round Lake district but that school was closed. We enrolled at Buchan School three miles away and Mr. Vanderburg was our teacher.

We always looked forward to the mailman coming around. Earl Hill made his rounds by cutter and team in winter. In summer he drove a "Bennett Buggy". The mail came from Scapa, sixteen miles away.

The depression of the thirties set in so Dad decided he had better continue his job on the C.N.R. so he stayed in Hanna and I was left to take over.

As we had good neighbors, we managed. There was John Nelson to the north, Ironsides and Bill Nelson to the west, Quaschnick to the south and John Hutcheson and Bill Glover to the east. They were always willing to lend a helping hand.

We had three sisters born into the family while on the Larson place, Joyce, Shirley and June.

In the spring of 1935 Dad decided to move the family closer to Hanna so we moved to what was called the old Overton place, fourteen miles north of Hanna. There we met new neighbors, to the north lived Fred Johnstons and Greenways and Jim Taylor, to the east Marion Wright and the Rehell family, south were Harry Lumsden and Ed Loveday. William Lumsden was west of us.

I took over the farm in the fall of 1936 and Mother and sisters including Bud went back to town. I was married to Mildred Harvey of Corinne district in the fall of 1939. She taught at Sefton for two years.

In the summer of 1941 I got a job with the C.N.R. in Hanna, later I left the farm and moved back to Hanna. Our two sons, Bob and Jim, were born in Hanna.

After serving three years in the Air Force we moved to Mirror where I continued with the C.N.R. I am retired now. My wife taught at Mirror School for twenty-four years and retired last June. We are now enjoying visiting with our sons and three grandchildren, and looking forward to travelling and relaxing at our cabin at Pelican Point on Buffalo Lake.

FRED and BARBARA MATTIS, Written by Barbara Mattis — Fred Mattis homesteaded west of Spondin in 1927, and it was here that I, Barbara Schram, met him when I came to teach Saar school in 1931. We were married in September

of 1933 and managed to make our way with hard work and horse power through the "Dirty Thirties" on the homestead.

In 1936, Fred did some horse trading and obtained his first tractor, and I.H.C. Caterpillar, which contained under its hood much more horse power that didn't have to be fed and harnessed every day. With this, he became ambitious for a larger farm in a better district where he could also expand in livestock. He found one at Standard and seeded the first crop in 1939 and the children and I moved down in the fall of 1940.

Fred was a great lover and judge of good horses and, as the herd increased beyond the capacity of the homestead and the open range became leases, he sought to find more pasture for them. It was then that Jesse Roberts was wanting to sell out and go back to the "Old Country". His brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts, who owned adjoining property, also decided to sell out and retire to Hanna, so Fred bought them both out in 1946 and this became our ranch. Both the house and barn on the Jesse Roberts place burned and were rebuilt. Vivian Howery managed the ranch and looked after the place for twelve years.

The Dick Roberts place was fitted for sheep raising and a man was placed there to look after them. At shearing time, many neighbors would come to watch.

By 1960, our family of four girls were away from home and married, so we began to think about reducing the work load for the "Old Timer" to handle, so advertised the farm and went out of the sheep. The Standard farm was sold in 1965, so we moved our livestock and equipment to the Jesse Roberts place, whose buildings were situated on northwest 34-34-13, a picturesque spot between two bodies of water known as Little Round and Clement Lakes, and continued farming and ranching in this area.

We concentrated on a large herd of good Belgian and Percheron horses and buyers came from everywhere to purchase them. A lot of them were shipped to the United States and some went to Hollywood to be used for entertainment purposes, while others went all over Canada and the United States to be used in lumber camps and for wagons of various kinds. In 1975, I went to Victoria, British Columbia, especially to see our horses hooked to the "Tally-Ho Sightseeing Tour" wagons. At the 1978 Camrose Fair, I got the thrill of my life to discover that a lovely grey Percheron gelding brought in from Saskatchewan had our brand on his left hip and was taking prizes. I learned that he had taken second in his class at the Royal Winter Fair. We sold most of our remaining herd to two men in southeastern Saskatchewan and they are still raising horses from them.

In the spring of 1973 we sold the ranch to Jack Morgan and had an auction sale in June. We were preparing to move and retire to Castor when Fred passed away suddenly October 27. The house on the ranch was not going to be used so I remained there for another year, then moved into a new home in Castor.

VIV HOWERY, ***By Viv Howery*** — I came from the Spondin area to work for Fred Mattis in 1952, and lived on the former J.H. Roberts place. I became foreman and worked for him eleven years. Fred operated eleven sections of land and had about two hundred head of draft horses.

I generally had a hired man, we had to keep up the fences and put up hay for feed. I had to bring the horses off the lease each fall. Winter pasture was close at home.

I ran about a hundred head of feeder cattle of my own each year and also had some ponies of my own. I bought my grain and roughage.

I did some farming each year. Some years Fred sent up help from Standard,

where he had other land. On December 3, 1952, I married Ina Mulgrove of Spondin. We have three children.

The two oldest children went to school at Netherby by bus. Gerry is married and living at Viking. Debbie married Barry Quinlan and lives in Edmonton. Valerie is still at home and is in her last year of high school.

In 1963 we moved to Viking where I bought a farm. Here we grow grain, feed cattle and have ponies which I drive in summer on Pony Chuckwagons. Ina is a hairdresser.

JOHN REASOR — John Reasor came to Alberta from Texas in 1909. He homesteaded on northwest 2-34-13. He farmed and hauled freight with oxen for several years, even after most of his neighbors had horses.

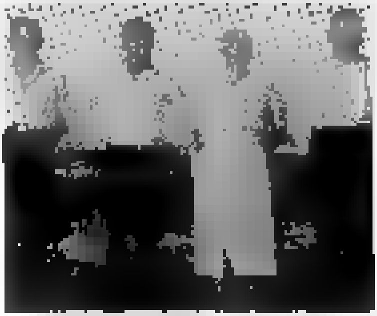
One year he did not have any seed grain or the money to buy any. In order to fulfil his homestead duties he had to seed something, so he sent an order to the T. Eaton Company for fifty cents worth of turnip seed. He seeded it by broadcasting with a hand-cranked seeder. That fall, people for many miles around came to buy his turnips.

John Reasor plowing with oxen

In October, 1912, he rented Charles Strandberg's homestead quarter and moved onto it. His own homestead turned out to be a poor place of ground, as it was in an area three to four miles wide and about twelve miles long which became known as the "Poverty Flats" during the homestead days. This land is very rocky and has a thin layer of top soil; at present it is divided into grazing leases.

In 1918 Charles Strandberg, with his family, returned from the United States, so John moved back to his own place. He did not farm much after that. He had an auction sale in the spring of 1920, held at Strandberg's farm. He sold his land to the Soldiers Settlement Board and moved to New York where he married a childhood friend.

He died in 1924, aged eighty years.



The Charles Strandberg family: Harold, Eric, Mrs. Strandberg, Mr. Strandberg.

CHARLES M. STRANDBERG, by Harold Strandberg — Charles M. Strandberg was born in Sweden in 1876, the oldest of eleven children. His parents moved to the U.S.A. in 1880 where they homesteaded about twenty miles north of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1906 he married Beda Ekelund who had come from Sweden in 1903. A son Stanley was born in 1907.

In May 1908 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead about sixty miles southeast of Stettler, southeast 4-34-13. His brother-in-law, Theodor Ekelund, who came with him filed on the northeast quarter of the same section. In October that year, Mr. Strandberg received the sad news that his wife had passed away, along with her infant daughter. He went back to the U.S.A. the same month.

Due to the circumstances, his entry for the quarter section was protected for one year, although he had not been able to stay the required six months. He returned to the homestead in April 1909 and continued with the work that was required in order to "prove up". He went back to the States in November and returned in April of each year until the fall of 1912 when he rented the one hundred and sixty acres to John Rassor.

During the time he was on the homestead he did a lot of breaking using three oxen and a walking plow. He broke about eighty acres of his own and also broke land for several of his neighbors who would be away working for wages during the summer months and living on their homesteads during the winter.

In the fall of 1909 a prairie fire burned through this area; he lost his shack and everything in it.

He married Anna Anderson in 1913. She was born in Sweden in 1880, one of a family of ten children. She had come to Minneapolis in 1899 and resided with an older brother who had arrived two years earlier. She soon obtained employment at the Oak Ridge Farm, a country estate owned by the former president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison. She was still employed there as a cook when she married.

A son, Harold, was born in 1916. In July of that year the family moved to the homestead in Alberta, arriving by train at Castor and travelling the rest of the way in Theodor Ekelund's new model T car. A new house was built the same year. In 1921, a son, Eric, was born. Stanley, Harold and Eric attended Buchan school.

The next years were up and down financially. Several times the crops were hailed out, sometimes they were frozen; it seemed that whenever there was a good yield the price was low. During the thirties there were several dry years in succession and some of the neighbors left for what they hoped would be a better farming area.

In 1942 Stanley married Inga Siverson. They live about two miles southeast of the homestead.

During the forties and fifties, cattle prices improved and there were fewer crop failures, so in 1952 a new house was built with running water, electricity and eventually natural gas. Mr. Strandberg fell and broke his hip in 1951 and was never able to walk after the accident. He passed away in 1958. Mrs. Strandberg passed away in 1963 after a short illness.

In 1967 Eric married. He lives in Hanna but owns land and cattle, and shares his farming operations with Harold, who still lives on the old homestead.

MR. and MRS. THEODOR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Gustav Theodor Nilson Ekelund was born in Skattebol, Vermland, Sverige (Sweden), the year 1880. He worked there as a policeman before he sought adventure by sailing for the U.S.A. He worked in the logging industry and at other jobs. Theodor, his brother Oscar, and sister Beda met the Sven Johan Strandberg family in Wyoming, Minnesota. Beda became the bride of Carl M. (Charles) Strandberg in 1906. Glowing reports of next-to-free land inspired Theodor and Charles Strandberg to head for Canada. Theodor filed on his homestead NE 4-34-13 on June 2, 1908. He was taken to his homestead by Haldor Brattberg, who assisted homesteaders to locate their places.

He built himself the necessary shelters of sod. At times strange noises were heard in his barn. Believing that he had built it on the grave of an Indian Chief, he buried a box of snuff in the floor as a peace offering. He believed that helped to stop the racket, for he never heard the noises again.

Edit Elisabeth Lindroth was born in Sweden, in 1891. She lived in Bergforsen, and Karlsborg before immigrating to the U.S.A. She worked there until she came to Castor, Alberta, where she was married to Theodor Ekelund on November 11, 1911. After the ceremony they drove to the homestead where together they built up a nice little farm which they named Newham.

In the spring of 1920 they had a sale and went back to Sweden until 1927, when they returned to Newham. Mr. Norman Williams and daughters Ruby and Nora operated Newham after Ekelunds left for Sweden until Morris arrived in the late summer of 1920. Mr. Richard Morris operated the farm until 1923, while Mrs. Morris taught Buchan school. Two boys were born to the Morris's while on the Ekelund farm. From the fall of 1923 to the spring of 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Steele lived there. Stanley Strandberg operated the farm from 1924 until Ekelund's return in 1927.

Theodor and Edit loved their animals. Once they sold four steers to Pete Kennedy. When he came to get them the animals had strayed away down the road so Theodor boarded the truck with Pete, drove to where the animals were, and instructed Pete to park the truck against a bank so the animals could walk into it. Carrying a pail of chop, Theodor then called, "Come Kalven, Come Kalven" and walked into the truck. To Pete's amazement, the steers followed him.

As Theodor had no brand, Pete had been rather dubious about loading cattle anywhere else than on the owner's property, in case people would think he was stealing cattle. Theodor proved without a doubt whose cattle they were.

In 1946 they had another sale. In 1949 they went back to Sweden where they both passed away.

BLOOMVICK — ANDERSON, By Margaret Nelson — P.W. Bloomvick homesteaded the SW 10-34-13 May 13, 1909. Mr. Bloomvick came from the United States. His wife remained there. One daughter and one son came out later. The daughter became Mrs. Gerritz of the Cowan School district. The homestead was worked and all improvements made that were necessary. In 1914 or 1915 son Anton Anderson took over the land. He also bought the homestead of Griff Wilson.

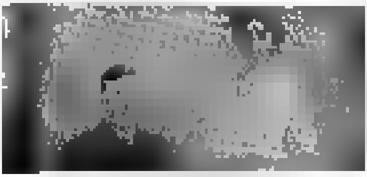
Anton's brother came out from the States and stayed with him for a year in the early twenties.

In summer Anton liked to play baseball. He was a member of the Sullivan

Lake Ball team and was their pitcher. One story told of his records, that he pitched three games in one day and won them all.

About 1924 Anton decided to return to the States. Mr. Halverson rented the land for a few years, then it was sold to Mr. Storch in 1928.

In the summer of 1978 Anton Anderson, over eighty, was still living in the State of Washington.



Mr. and Mrs. Griff Wilson

GRIFFON WILSON, By Margaret Nelson — Grif Wilson homesteaded the NW 10-34-13 in August 1909. His brother Howard lived on SE 14-34-13. Grif broke his land and built a shack. Grif and Howard Wilson were brothers of Mrs. Martin Fox. In 1914 or 1915 Wilsons sold to Anton Anderson.

WALLACE BATTEN, By Margaret Nelson — Wallace Batten filed on the NE 24-34-13 in December 1910. He spent his time, off the homestead, working in Coronation and at harvest time on the Fred Saar threshing crew. He left the area only four or five years after arriving.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF THE WELCHS, By Margaret Welch Foss — My folks, my Dad's brother Frank Welch and I came to Canada from North Dakota in 1911. We crossed the border at Portal, came to Castor by train and the rest by horse and wagon. We had a wagon filled with all the items needed for the days ahead; such as a grind stone, post hole digger, picks and all types of shovels, dishes, clothing, pots and pans, wash tubs, a boiler and even a churn. It seemed to me, if my memory is correct that we had two wagons but considering the fact that I was only two and a half years old, I am not too clear on some things.

1916 — Tom Welch, Margaret Welch, Mrs. Welch Sr. and Mrs. Tom Welch.

There are things though that I do remember very clearly. The nearest town to our homestead was Castor and from there they took the horses, and the cattle were brought along by foot. My Mother and I took the Stage to the stopping house

which was run by Mr. and Mrs. Herm Simon. They served meals and provided rooms for overnight guests. It was situated on what was known as "The Castor Trail" and believe me, in those days, it was truly a trail, strictly wagon ruts.

I'll never forget our arrival at Simon's stopping house that day, as I refused to get out of the stagecoach for a very good reason. It had rained the night before and there was a little puddle of water on the seat where I had to sit, consequently, I was soaked and knew that the wet would show on my white dress and I was sure everyone would think that I had suffered an accident. Finally my mother and Mrs. Simon convinced me that no one would think that, and Mrs. Simon promptly went into the house and told the stagecoach driver that he better be more careful in the future and dry off the seats before letting people get aboard. Then and only then did I feel vindicated and ready to face the world.

Garden Plain consisted of a small store which had groceries, dry goods, hardware (even the pickle barrel), and the Post Office was located in the store as well. It was owned by Tom Kane who had to bring all the supplies by horse and wagon from Castor or Stettler to supply the people who settled in the area. Mr. Kane also owned and operated a coal mine about a quarter of a mile from the store.

He had a young lady help in the store and Post Office, who was invaluable to everyone as she was quick and more than willing to serve people and a very good worker; her name was Marie Barlach. In later years she married Don Cameron. I always appreciated her kindness to me a few years later when I was able to ride my horse over to get the mail and groceries. My folks felt I was too young to use a saddle, in case I would get hung up in the stirrups, so I had to ride bareback. The only trouble with that was that, even though I could get off the horse I just never mastered the knack of getting on again. Consequently I had to be hoisted upon the horse, a Pinto Indian pony that was blind in one eye, and when I went to the store Marie would pack the groceries and the mail in two saddle bags, tied together and thrown on the pony's shoulders, then she would give me a boost up and away I'd gallop the three and a half miles to my home. No matter how many people were in the store or how busy she was, Marie was never impatient and would always tell others they would have to wait their turn, because I came first. I'm sure she never realized how important she made me feel, giving me such priority. She made sure the bags were evenly balanced so everything arrived home safe and sound. I guess a child never forgets a kindness like that and I felt so grown up and responsible to be able to go for the groceries and an inner glow of pleasure in many such kindnesses people bestowed on me. I was truly a very fortunate youngster in that regard.

My Dad (Tom Welch) had come to Canada beforehand, filed on the homestead and had built a one room shack, so we had a place to go for a roof over our heads. My Dad had worked on the Railway during the time they were completing the line beyond Castor. My Mother and Dad bought the first lots to be sold in Coronation, and built a small house on the lot. We packed up and moved to Coronation, stayed for six months and then reversed the procedure and went back to the homestead for another six months. Coronation was one of the real frontier towns, which really mushroomed in a short time.

I remember the school being built, when it was finished I thought that was all anyone needed to have to be able to attend. I was so anxious to go to school that one day I took it into my head that This Was The Day For Me, so I walked right into school classes in session. The teacher was very nice, asked me my name and what I wanted, so I told her I was starting school that day and she showed me to a desk, gave me a pencil and paper and told me to pay attention like all of the others were doing, after all this was the fifth grade (I didn't believe in starting at the bottom). I remained until recess and then the teacher told me I had to go home because she was afraid my Mother would be looking for me. She also said that I could come back any time as long as I was quiet as I had been that day. I was never more grown up when I was twenty-one than I was walking home from school that day! My Mother was embarrassed when I told her I was going to school so much so that she bought a nice box of chocolates and we both went to school and gave them to the teacher with a most heartfelt "Thank You" for her understanding and kindness to a three and a half year old school girl.

One time when we were going to Coronation there was also a great deal of snow on the ground and some very high drifts. To keep warm we had lap robes and a couple of foot warmers. These were containers covered with asbestos and velvet and inside was a couple of bricks of coal which when lit burned a long time and gave an unbelievable amount of warmth.

On the way Dad bought a cow from someone and the poor thing was so thin that she just looked like hide and bones. They loaded her in the sleigh with plenty of nice hay which she started to eat with great relish. I was holding my little tin box of doll dishes. All of a sudden we hit a high snowbank and the sleigh flipped upside down. We were thrown clear and were not injured but my Mother and Dad were afraid the cow had been killed because she was on her back and the sleigh was upside down on top of her. When they got the sleigh turned right side up again they looked at her with concern and were astounded to see that she was still eating hay and was unconcerned. In the meantime, I was standing on a snowbank crying and my folks came over to see if I had been hurt even though they had checked me over first of all. When they came over to see why I was crying, I told them I was afraid my doll dishes were broken; the day was saved when upon opening my little tin box they found everything in perfect order.

This brings to mind a time my husband and I needed to have our car pulled out of the snow. We had our young baby with us and try as we would we could not budge the car. We were right in front of a neighbor's farmhouse and my husband had to ask their help with a team. The horses gave one good pull and in a matter of minutes we were in the clear once more. Where upon the neighbor said "That will be six dollars." Now this was in the depression when six dollars was a lot of money comparable to about $60.00 nowadays.

I've often wondered how much good that money did them. One thing for sure that's one neighbor I've never forgotten even though the memory isn't kindly. That person had been on the receiving end of more than one favor from our family. No doubt the memory of this incident remains so clear in mind because such events were few and far between.

Both of my parents loved Canada very much and were always very loyal to their adopted country. Many people in this day and age of television, radio and planes would think our lives so dull. I doubt very much that any child in today's living has as full and enjoyable life as I did. I was most fortunate in having parents who showed their love for me and each other. We shared everything and I went everywhere with them. In those days this was not unusual because there was no such thing as a babysitter. It was anything but a lonely life because as time went on and more people came to our country there were card parties at people's homes and dances at the school houses. Coffee was made in a wash boiler with coffee tied in a cheese cloth bag added and was a beautiful brew. After lunch the chairs and card tables were cleared away and everyone danced to four or five a.m. The youngest children were put to bed, usually on the stage. The parents brought blankets and pillows and made very comfortable beds. The kids went to bed undisturbed by the music or laughter or talking. All of this made for a wonderful relationship between adults and the children. The children had great respect for the adults. The togetherness enjoyed by all in those days is something that could well be employed by the families and friends in our present society to the advantage of all. The families not only enjoyed recreation together but worked together. My job after I was seven or eight years old was to round the cattle up on the open range every night and corral them. Also I was supposed to gather all the eggs. There were sometimes when I slipped up on the latter, not through neglect on my part but because I had a further distance to go for the cows which were chased by the heel flies.

Our home was always a gathering place for young and old for parties and fun. I never had to hesitate if I wanted to bring my friends after a dance for a lunch and more fun and music. Mother wasn't long making a plate of sandwiches and producing another plate of cookies, a pot of coffee plus a pitcher of milk for us to feast on. Sometimes Mother and Dad would be in bed when we arrived home, however, my friends would troop into their bedroom to relate the evening events with them. The folks always wound up being served coffee in bed. This program continued even when I was away in the U.S.A. My folks were not very rich in worldly goods, but were rich in the most worthwhile things in life. They both remained young at heart and in their interests.

One thing that stands out in my memory is the storms in winter and summer. The lightning storms we had were more than a little vicious. To this day I'm terrified of thunder storms, and I blame it on the fact that I stood at our kitchen door and watched lightning strike six fence posts one after another, and strike and stun cattle in the corral. I also saw lightning strike the house next to ours in Coronation. The only thing that saved it from fire was that the people who lived there had the baby's bath water in the tub and used it to put out the flames. The crash was so loud we thought it was our house that the lightning had hit.

The winter storms in their own way were equally frightening. With all that open prairie and high winds those blizzards were something to behold. The visibility was nil, and it wasn't too unusual to hear of someone getting lost between the house and the barn. They were terrible storms for the livestock, especially to those caught on the open prairie; they would drift with the storm and be found miles away, many times unfortunately dead. There were others over the years who weren't found until after the storm, frozen to death or still alive with serious frost bites to their bodies. It's surprising there weren't more such cases considering the ruggedness of our dear frontier land in those days.

The two years I spent in the Convent in Castor, when I was nine to eleven years old was a far cry from my home life, but all in all was a good experience for me. Looking back I feel for the poor Sisters dealing with me, they were determined to make a lady of me and I'm afraid they had to fight an uphill battle in that respect. I had been accustomed to dealing with adults on more or less equal footing, but of course with proper respect. However, the Sisters, who were French and French Canadian had another view point entirely concerning the proper attitude of a child towards adults. I finally saw the light and found I really could defer with proper respect and decorum toward my superiors. Somehow answering my parents "Yes Ma'am" was short lived when I went home to stay! Thank goodness we were so close in our relationship, for such stiff formality was strictly for the convent. I really didn't mind the two years spent in Castor, but it was good to get home again and back to a normal life once again.

One thing I had in my early childhood that the children of today missed out on, was waking up to the beautiful song of the meadowlarks, there's no music in

this world so sweet and wonderful. Another thing I enjoyed was when my Dad was breaking the new land and I would follow bare foot in the damp, moist wonderful smelling furrows of the freshly turned soil. Every so often we would find a duck's nest which Daddy would very carefully pick up and transfer to the sod, being so careful not to disturb the nest or the eggs. The duck would stay at a distance but after we did a couple more rounds we would see her settle on her eggs once more staying there to hatch her brood.

One time Daddy took a few eggs from a duck nest and put them under one of our setting hens. I'll never forget the consternation of that poor hen when the little ducklings hatched and promptly took off in a straight line for the slough half a mile away, the mother hen in hot pursuit, cackling at them all the way. The last straw for her was when they reached the water and took off swimming happily. The hen ran up and down scolding the ducklings every step of the way and they paid no attention to her. We finally picked up the poor distraught hen, carried her home and put her on some chicken eggs that hatched in three weeks and everyone lived happily ever after. The ducklings had taken up with their own kind and fared much better, I'm sure, than had they been raised as chickens.

The hay fires seemed to be worse in the early days, probably because of all the growth of prairie wool, that wonderful grass we had for hay. Haying was done in August, the hottest month of the year. The fresh cut hay had such a wonderful aroma but the pleasure was diminished by the pesky hay needles that would penetrate any type of clothing and work their way into the skin. They looked like old furs when removed from the flesh. Haying was much hard work for all concerned but when there were rows of stacks ready for the cattle and horses in the winter time it seemed all very worthwhile. Now they raise tame grass but I'm sure it doesn't compare with the old fashioned wild hay of by gone days.

Our animals had another benefit, something very necessary for animals, all the water they wanted. My Dad dug the well by hand and only had to dig down twelve feet, where he hit sandstone and water came rushing in, clear, ice cold beautiful drinking water. The water was ice cold even on the hottest days and my Dad built a shelf about half way down the well and we put milk, cream and butter in containers and lowered them with a rope. In the days of no refrigeration this was a distinct benefit because everything came out cold. During the terrible drought we suffered in later years so many wells went dry and the poor cattle and horses, as well as people could have perished if it hadn't been for our wonderful well. People would drive a whole herd of cattle and horses to our place for a drink. It was pathetic to see them bury their faces in the water, drink their fill, walk away for awhile only to return and drink some more. The people would bring large barrels on a stoneboat and fill them up to take home for household use.

That drought period is something I'm sure everyone who lived through it would love to forget — the parched, burned up fields and grassland. The farmers would optimistically seed grain, praying for rain while working in violent dust storms. The drifting of the soil was tragic. It blew so hard that the fence posts along the field were almost buried in top soil. The animals were skin and bones from lack of food, the cows had their poor little calves and didn't have enough milk to give them a good start. Then we were plagued with grasshoppers. A field could be green and within minutes after the grasshoppers landed it looked like a ploughed field: stripped of every vestige of growth.

How the people could stand it year after year and still try again is hard to comprehend. Of course every year there were those who took off for greener pastures. Like so many of the pioneers, Tom and Agnes Welch held on through seven years of drought and grasshoppers. Then my Dad said, he could take lack of money for their own needs, cut back on so many things but when his prized horses and cattle were starving to death, hardly able to walk, their hides stretched over their bones, that was more than he could take and they were leaving. They packed up all they owned in a Bennett Buggy and hayrack and headed north to the Vermilion district where grass was plentiful for the animals.

When the cattle showed results of good food and got fat enough to sell, the folks packed it in, sold everything and came to Calgary where they remained the rest of their lives. When the war broke out my Dad was accepted in the army, was stationed at Currie Barracks as a Batman. Dad was well liked by the officers he served. After the war they put him in charge of the horses of Strathconas and once more was in his true element and loved every minute he remained there before retirement. He died in December 1956, my mother in August 1967.

My dad was a hard working man and he appreciated all my mother had done for him, not only at threshing time but all year. He also had the same feeling for me. In spite of the fact my mother was raised in the city, she soon learned to drive an outfit of horses in the field and she loved it; not only did it save hiring outside help but the two of them enjoyed working together. The only time I remember them having an argument was when putting up new stove pipes (no one has lived until they have tackled this job) and when they papered the house. This was before the convenience of the pasted paper of this day. The paste used was a mixture of flour and water mixed in a large dish pan. Once when I was about five years old, I inadvertently backed into and sat down in a full pan of this mixture. Naturally I cried out because I could not extricate myself from my predicament. When my folks turned around and saw me they both burst out laughing and came to help me out of that pan of paste, which was clinging in thick gobs all over my overalls and right through to my skin. Mama had to take time to remove all my clothing, including my long underwear children had to wear in those days, wash me and my hair and dress me up again in clean clothing. They finally got back to their job of papering; the one bright spot of this episode was the fact that it was the only time I can remember that they didn't have an argument while papering; every time they were on the verge, they'd look at me and roar with laughter. I guess it was worth the humiliation I suffered.

The Christmas Concerts held at various schools were the highlights of the year to every child taking part, each one working for weeks on learning their piece. I'll always remember one little one in the first grade who had a piece to recite and part of it was to go with "Santa came down the chimney like a shot." The little guy had a strong Swedish accent and the above came out somewhat like this, "Santa Claus came down the chimney like a snot." He, of course, didn't realize the poem didn't come out as exactly as written and when he finished with a flourishing bow he was delighted to receive a resounding laugh and applause from the audience. Another happy memory of Christmas I have is of Mr. Storch giving me a lovely Christmas tree every year. He went somewhere up north and brought back a load of trees to sell to neighbors and to the schools in the district. He always picked one for me because he knew how much pleasure I got out of trimming a tree to the best of my ability. Imagine my surprise the first Christmas after I was married to find Mr. Storch at the door with the nicest tree he had ever given me. He continued this practice as long as we lived in Hanna.

Harry [illegible], a man who worked for us during harvest time was from Pennsylvania. His folks had a radio which he spoke of often. He was determined we should buy a radio because he realized how our lives were inter-woven with music. He insisted on digging a deep hole and installing an enormous pole for the aerial. In November [illegible] my folks purchased a King Radio, a large box with dials

on it and a horn which plugged into the front of the machine. It was run with batteries, a large A battery as is used in cars and two sets of B batteries. No one can realize the enjoyment we got from that radio and reception was unbelievable, especially during the winter months. We could get stations over our radio from the U.S.A. The neighbors all dropped by to hear the new contraption and within a year or so most people had purchased one. No one who ever listened to C.F.C.N. can forget the resonant tones of W. W. Grant as he read baseball results and gave a play by play account of the games.

Speaking of entertainment I swear that people enjoyed the telephone more than anything else. It was a party line and the pastime was listening in on other's conversations. One person on our line had a squeaky receiver and it was quite the usual thing when talking to someone to hear that squeaky receiver being lifted. In this case no one really minded because the party involved meant no harm, it was only curiosity that made them listen. However, such wasn't the case with some who made it a point not to miss any conversation and repeat them to all and sundry, without regard for the truth. Another man really got my Mother and Mrs. Storch's natures in high gear; he not only listened, but would interrupt with what he considered smart remarks. I'll never forget one day they gave him a jolt; he felt he was hiding behind the anonymity of the party line but they called him by name. They were bothered much less by him from then on. Whenever they heard a receiver being lifted they would greet him by name and a cheery hello. They were guessing he was on the line. He must have been on because immediately someone would hang up.

No matter what happens in our lifetime, the sweetest memories always come to the top of our minds. In my case those memories are of my very happy childhood. The time between then and now has all gone by much too fast. I was more fortunate than most, having happy well adjusted parents with wonderful sense of humor.

I married a good man, Stan (Bud) Foss and we have been blessed with two lovely, decent daughters, Loy Demers and Gail Ruff. All in all my life has been very good in those things that really count. Thank you for giving me the chance to share some of these memories with you, and I hope all who read this will enjoy that trip to the past as much as I have.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Waldron, May Hush, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walsh.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL T. WALDRON, by Margaret Walsh Foss — My mother's sister, Belle Waldron, and her husband lived on the quarter section which cornered our place. For six months each year for three years my uncle Mike did barbering in Coronation, as well as looking after a feed mill there. They lived in the living quarters above the mill.

They didn't stay in Canada too long and left to return to the United States with some unhappy memories. When they came to Canada their daughter, Dorothy, was just a tiny baby and a very dear little thing. While living in Coronation she took ill and in a matter of a few days she passed away and was buried in Castor cemetery. A few months later, Roy, a son was born.

My aunt and uncle stayed long enough to prove up on their claim and moved to Spokane, Washington where he again went into the barbering business.

DANIEL TRACY SR., By Margaret Welch Foss — My grandfather, Daniel Tracy, filed on the southeast of 10-34-13 in 1908. He also filed on a homestead for my uncle Dan Tracy and built a house for himself. Grandpa stayed on the homestead year round and in three years proved up and got the deed to his land.

After we came to the area I can remember going to Grandpa's and having him tell us of some of his experiences in the Civil War. Somehow the vision of Grandpa is always with a book which he would put down on his lap to talk to me. Before our conversation was finished he would tell me what he was reading and outline as he felt I could understand of the story.

1926 — D.P. Tracy Sr. and his granddaughter Margaret Welch

My Granddad remained for some time and my folks always looked out for him. When my aunt Jen Cooney from North Dakota visited us, Grandpa returned with them and went over to South Dakota to the Civil War Veteran's Home and Hospital where many of his Civil War cronies were living. He stayed there some months, then took up residence in Spokane where he spent his remaining years.

DANIEL P. TRACY JR., By Margaret Welch Foss — My uncle Danny homesteaded in 1908 on a quarter adjoining the land of his father. He was a barber and had a barbershop in Stettler where he worked for six months each year for three years. After proving up his homestead he rented his land and returned to the United States, spent quite a few years in Omack, Washington where he had his barbershop, and eventually spent several years in southern California. When he retired from barbering he returned to Canada and lived with my family as long as they remained in the Garden Plain district. After they left there he fixed up a place, with my Dad's help, on his own property and remained there for several years until he took ill and passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1945.

Dan Tracy Jr.

THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY, By Howard Armstrong — We came from Bethany, Illinois, to the Garden Plain district in the spring of 1922. My grandfather, Sylvester Armstrong, came in 1921 and built the house and the barn. There were five of us in our family, my father Ray, mother Cras, brother Bill, sister Helen and

myself, Howard. We were all born in Bethany, Illinois. Bill in 1911, Helen in 1913 and I was born in 1915.

We came to Canada by railway, crossing the border at Emerson, Manitoba. We brought most of our furniture with us. We settled on the north half of section 8-34-13 with buildings a quarter mile west of Buchan school where John Marlowe now lives. In 1928 we moved to the south half of section nine, one half mile south of the school.

Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Ekelund, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Eklund, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Armstrong

Our first store and post office was four miles west of us at the coal mines at Garden Plain. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Chib Wickson. In later years, when the railway came through and elevators were built, it was moved to the farm of R.W. Moore and owned by J.W. Taylor. Our mail was then sent out of Scapa.

Living conditions were not too bad in the twenties but in the Dirty Thirties it was terrible, no crops, no rain, just grasshoppers and caterpillars to eat what little bit did want to grow. It was always said the gophers had to carry their lunch when passing through the district in those years. Cattle prices were next to nothing. We sold cattle for one cent a pound as there was no feed for them.

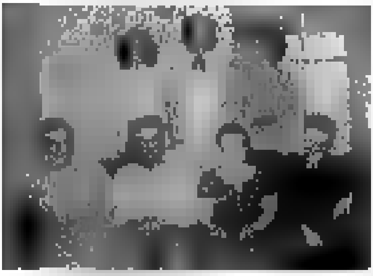
Even through the hard times everyone looked forward to the dances and card parties held at the Garden Plain hall and Buchan School. Christmas was good with all the Christmas concerts at the various schools. Bill, Helen and myself all attended Buchan school.

My dad was interested in all sports and was a rodeo fan. In the twenties he was catcher for the Garden Plain baseball team.

We left there in the thirties, but mother and dad stayed on for a few years until they retired to Hanna and later to Calgary. Bill married Violet Bertschy of Majorville and they are living in Medicine Hat. They have one daughter, Faye, now living in Houston, Texas. Helen married Ed Lindy of Vancouver where she still lives. They had one son, Richard. I married Gladys Robinson of Sunnyrook and we live in Calgary. We have two sons and one daughter all living in Calgary. We have five grandchildren. Mother passed away in Calgary in 1962 and father passed away in 1970, also in Calgary. Ed Lindy passed away in 1983 in Vancouver.

MR. and MRS. LORNE WRIGHT, By Betty Wright — I am the eldest daughter of the John Marlowe family. I attended Buchan School for the first seven years, then attended Netherby for two years. From there I stayed in the dormitory in Hanna and attended Hanna High School.

In 1951 I married Lorne Wright also from the Garden Plain district. We lived in Hanna for fourteen years where our only child was born; a daughter, Lorna Louise. She attended grades one to three at Hanna Elementary school, then we moved to Stettler in 1965. Lorna finished her schooling in Stettler and then went on to College. We still reside in Stettler.



The John Marlowe Family: Back: Marie, Shirley, Bette. Front: Bill, Mr. Marlowe, Mrs. Marlowe and Jack

THE JOHN MARLOWE STORY, as told to Shirley Carlson — I made my appearance into the world on September 17, 1888 to Elmer and Ada Belle Marlowe in Clark County, Illinois.

I'd yearned to see the country of Canada so when I got the chance to work in Alberta, I accepted. Sylvester Armstrong and I had known each other for years, having lived in the same town of Bethany, Illinois. He offered me fifty dollars per month plus board and paid my fare to Alberta.

After a four day train trip, I arrived in Hanna, April 15, 1928, with only a suitcase of clothes. When Sylvester Armstrong and I arrived at my present home we were met with snowdrifts in the front yard. Snow didn't appeal to me as I'd worked on the land two weeks before leaving Illinois.

Before starting to work we had to buy feed for the horses. What little machinery we had was in poor condition. Mr. Armstrong had come to Canada in 1923 when he had bought land from the Dominion Development Company. His son, Ray, farmed the land until we came up in 1928.

Our crop that first year was partially hailed and the grain was frozen. Mr. Armstrong returned to Illinois for the winter and asked me to stay to take care of his farm. I agreed on one condition; if my girlfriend would come up, I'd stay. Eva Lillie Sharp arrived (paying her own fare) on August 24, 1928, and we were married that day in Hanna by the United Church minister, Reverend Coone. One of our witnesses was Carol Mathe. The neighbors chivareed us at home and had a dance at Buchan School. Charles Halverson played the violin. In this way we became acquainted with our fine neighbors.

Our first winter was spent quietly as there was very little to do. We had one cow to milk and our eight horses foraged on their own. The saddle horse also served as a work horse.

Spring finally arrived and Mr. Armstrong returned driving a Dodge car. I was pleased to be back on the land but the type of farming was entirely different from what I was used to. I wasn't too pleased to think that the only source of income was from grain so I decided, then, that if I ever farmed on my own I'd raise cattle.

After four years of farming for Mr. Armstrong, I bought out the farm. The first quarter purchased was where Buchan school is, then the home quarter, northeast 9-34-13.

The crops were fair but prices were low, about fifty cents per bushel, but in 1932 wheat was as low as nineteen cents per bushel.

Every time I had the chance, and the money, I bought a cow. A good neighbor often helped by loaning me the necessary cash. I got into the cattle feeding business and for forty-seven years I've fed cattle. My first bull was a registered Shorthorn bought in the thirties. Frank Kennedy bought my first fat steer for fifty

dollars. I changed to Herefords and have always tried to improve the herd by buying as good a bull as I could afford.

During the thirties prices received for produce were low, cattle for sixteen dollars per head, a five gallon can of cream for a dollar and a half, and eggs for three cents a dozen.

I bought my first car from Mr. Armstrong, the Dodge he'd driven up in 1929. I made it into a truck, the back seat serving for years as a couch in the house.

A John Deere A-R, which I bought in 1944, was my first tractor. Since then there have been eight Case tractors on the farm.

The farm was added to in the spring of 1947 when I bought the Jo Keller farm and Jo moved to Oliver, British Columbia.

Coal was the source of fuel for the house. I stripped coal at Tilt Ironsides and at Bradshaws long enough to get sufficient coal for the winter. I also bought coal at Unsworths and at Finkbiners. Our house was a convenient stopping place for coal haulers who loaded at the Tilt Ironside strip mine and on their homeward trip to the east stayed overnight with us.

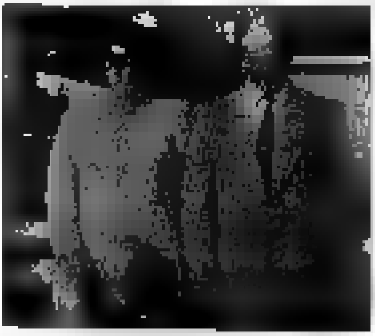
My wife and I were blessed with two sons and three daughters, William Wayne, June 2, 1928; Betty Louise (Wright), July 25, 1930; John Keith, August 30, 1932; Eva Marie (Vigen), June 7, 1934; and Shirley Jean (Carlson), March 27, 1936. I have twelve grandchildren and one great grandson. My wife passed away September 5, 1963.

My first four children went to Buchan school, then the "kids" had to drive a horse and homemade "cab" (wood frame covered with tin) five miles to Netherby. Marie and Shirley finished their junior high at Buchan and all but one went to Hanna for their high school.

Our neighbors were of the highest calibre, always kind, friendly and helpful when needed. Mr. Slayney often offered us fruit from his many trees. The Slayney's, Charles and Winnifred, and Frank Evans always spent Christmas Eve at our house. The Jo Keller family spent Christmas night with us and we went to their place for New Year's day.

The Christmas concert was an event the children looked forward to. On one occasion Bill noticed that Santa had a hat "just like Dad's".

Over the years there have been a few renovations to the house and farm, so I still live comfortably in the once tar-papered shack on the prairie.

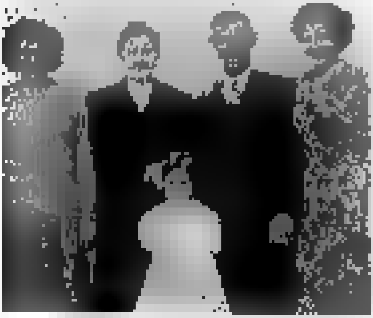

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marlowe and son David

JACK and JOAN MARLOWE STORY By Joan Marlowe — Jack, (John K.) the son of John and Eva Marlowe was born in 1932. He has always lived on the farm his father purchased from Mr. Armstrong in 1932, in the Garden Plain district.

He received all his education at Buchan and Netherby Schools.

I, Joan, the daughter of Fred and Louise Cook was born in 1940. The first seven years of my life were spent on the farm, five of which were on the Leo Kirby farm 3 miles north of Hanna. In 1948 my parents moved to Hanna. There I received my education. In 1958, I graduated from the Sisters of Charity Commercial School in Hanna.

We were married in 1968. In 1973 our son David was born. We now reside on the original farm; where we farm and ranch with Jack's father, John Marlowe senior.



The Jo Keller Family — 1945. Mary, Mrs. Keller Mr. Keller, Jolan and Annie

THE JO KELLER STORY, By Jolan Keller Dakpoo — My father, Ignacz (Jo) Keller was born in Tass, Hungary on January 1, 1898. He was a steam engineer and blacksmith by trade. He married Rozalia Barvojc and they had four daughters, Elizabeth, Jolan, Mary and Annie, of which I am the second eldest.

Shortly after the First World War the economy of the country was in a very poor state. Rumors had it that Canada was in need of farm laborers rather than skilled immigrants. Thus, father became a farm laborer and as such he set out for a new life in Canada.

After his arrival in Canada in May, 1928, he travelled to Calgary and from there was sent to a farm at Acme. Apart from not knowing too much about farming, his immediate problem was the language barrier. In addition to Hungarian, father was fluent in German. Neither language was of any use to him until he made the discovery that the farmer also could speak German. For lack of communication his immense misery of the first few days was now over, he no longer had to drink his coffee without sugar and was told how to command his team of horses in English. The team on a previous occasion had run away, dragging him along the ground.

After a couple of years on the farm, father decided to go to Vancouver to try his luck there and to be near an aunt, also an immigrant, who was working there.

By this time jobs were getting more and more scarce and father took whatever jobs were available. He worked on the docks, demolishing old buildings, was on a bridge building gang for the C.P.R. and for a while he even tried panning for gold.

Canada was well into the depression years by now. Without a steady job, his responsibilities for the maintenance of his family at home drove him once more back to farming. Jumping freight trains was his only means of transportation (a necessary mode of transport for many in those days). He returned to Alberta for fall harvesting.

At the end of the harvest season, he stayed on with a farmer, repairing farm machinery in exchange for food and lodging. At this time he met a Jerald Williams, also a farm hand, and together they bought land in the Garden Plain area (southeast quarter 26-34-13) which they later farmed jointly.

As father became financially more secure, and could provide a permanent home for us, arrangements were made for us to follow him. Nine years had passed, then in May, 1937, after a long and tiring journey, we were reunited with a man we could hardly remember.

We came from a fairly large town, according to European standards, with many fruit bearing trees, beautiful flowers, clean and well kept houses and yards.

I remember well the impression my sister and I had upon arrival at my father's house. Our shock was immense and most unbearable. As we stood in the yard and observed this vast open prairie, where the naked eye could see for miles

in any direction, we looked at each other and broke down crying for the things we had left behind.

Our readjustment period started soon after. We attended a one room country school. Over the next few years our teachers worked patiently and diligently to teach us the language we found so hard to learn.

That first summer we learned to cope with many strange things. Our first "sand storm" made us flee indoors with terror, where we covered our heads with blankets, because we did not know what was coming next. The drought and myriads of grasshoppers were other things we had to learn about.

In the winter the inclement weather, heavy snowfall and snowdrifts were another new experience for us, coming from a fairly mild climate. Father had to string rope from house to well and barn before a big storm as a safety measure against being lost in the yard. In bad weather we had to stay in school until father came for us with a team and sleigh. The sleigh had a box built over it and a coal stove inside it to keep us warm on the way home. Otherwise we walked the two miles to and from school.

The two older ones of us girls always had specific chores to do after school, while our younger sister could take her time drowning gophers on the way home. The gophers were a plague to the farmers and we were forever poisoning them.

We children were adapting to the use of English relatively quickly, but the subtle nuances eluded us for a long time. When my older sister went to visit my aunt I was asked at a picnic by a neighbor — "Do you miss Elizabeth?" My reply was "No, I'm Miss Jolan." That error, one of many, was rather embarrassing to me for quite some time.

Both of my parents were very industrious people. Idleness was never tolerated.

The role of my mother as wife and helpmate was a very hard one. She had already had the care and responsibility of our upbringing alone for nine years. In coming to Canada, she had to accept an unknown partner of father's. She had to adapt to a new life style on a remote farm, learn a new and strange language, and in addition, had a new Canadian born daughter, Annie.

With World War Two now raging in Europe, my father's partner joined the Armed Forces, so father managed the farm on his own for a few years until he became ill. Later, by mutual agreement, they sold out, thus dissolving their partnership. The family moved to Hanna, Alberta, for a few years and from there to Oliver, British Columbia, where my father bought and managed a fruit farm until his death in 1967.

THE W. R. STORCH STORY, as told to Rodina Storch by Mrs. Louise Storch — William Rudolph Storch was born at Congo, Arkansas, in 1890. His parents had originally come from Germany. Mrs. Storch was born in Germany in 1899 and had immigrated to Arkansas with her mother and brother at an early age. They were married February 16, 1916 at Little Rock, Arkansas, and made their first home at Congo.

W.R. Storch and his father, John, operated a general store and butchering business in Congo. In 1909, John and a younger son, George, came to Canada and filed on land in the Morrin district. They returned to Congo with reports of rich and virgin farmland in Alberta. In 1912 William visited brother George at Morrin. Later George filed on what is now the home place at Garden Plain, and realizing that he could not handle both farms, turned the latter over to William. In 1921, William sold his share in the store to his brother-in-law and decided to move to Canada.

William Jr., Mr. William R. Storch, Rudolph, Albert and Mrs. William R. Storch in front of their Chevrolet One Ton Car

By this time his family consisted of himself, his wife and three sons, William, Albert and Rudolph. They were accompanied on the journey by George and his bride, who had been honeymooning in Arkansas, and a nephew, Louis Scheufele. The family loaded all their possessions on a three-ton, Federal truck with solid rubber tires, and a rear-end chain drive; and a 1916 Studebaker eight-passenger touring car with side curtains. They were three days packing for the 3200 mile journey across country to Canada. They had purchased a large army tent, sixteen by sixteen, an oil stove, three adult beds, a child's crib and food for the journey. The party, including Tippy, the dog, left Congo on a bright warm morning, January 29, 1921. They travelled through the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming and Montana, and crossed the international boundary into Canada on April 2, 1921. They were forced to camp for a week at Warner, Alberta, on account of heavy snows and impassable roads. George and Mary took the train to their home at Morrin so that he could start spring work. On April 13 the travellers took to the wet, slippery roads again, arriving in Calgary two days later. Here they had to go through customs and register their guns and pistol. Once more on the road, they spent an hour pushing and shoving the two vehicles up the muddy Drumheller hill. They arrived at George Storch's at Morrin on April 17, after travelling 3200 miles in thirty-one days travelling time.

The expenses for the trip were: gas, $169.10; oil, $55.50; repairs, $34.85; groceries, $130.56; tolls, $3.00, for a total of $393.01.

After helping George finish seeding his crop, the rest of the family continued their journey to the farm on section 3-34-13. There were no roads, no fences, no buildings. From May till September they lived in the tent. The day after their arrival they awoke to a heavy snowstorm, so went to Hanna to buy lumber to put a board floor in the tent. Their next task was to dig a well; when they had dug to a depth of twenty-four feet they found an abundance of clear soft water. The digging was done by hand, and in the meantime water was hauled in barrels from a neighbor's well.

Lumber for the house was hauled from Castor, and a carpenter from Stettler, Mr. MacMillan, was hired to do the building. Meanwhile, nephew Louis had moved eight horses from Morrin to break one hundred acres on the home quarter.

Their first crop was good, oats and wheat on breaking. All was lost to severe hail storms in 1923 and 1926. Other devastating hail years were 1935 and 1969.

Dad and the boys constructed and used the 'poverty box' to harvest short crops in the dry thirties. They farmed through hail, drought, frost and grasshoppers, always looking for better times ahead.

The three boys walked to Buchan school. Rural entertainment consisted of card parties in various homes where "500" was played. Card parties and dances in nearby schools helped raise money for the annual Christmas concerts and treats. The family tell of driving miles with team and sleigh to plays and dances; of attending picnics and rodeos in the summer.

The family attended Lutheran church services, first at St. John's, Castor; later at St. Peter's at Scapa and Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna. Mother was the only lady in the district who drove a car and she travelled many miles picking up the local ladies to take them to their meetings.

Dad became very active in community affairs. He installed the first telephone in the area in 1928 and for many years relayed important messages. He was secretary of Buchan school district for nineteen years, and also acted as secretary of the Mutual Telephone and Trunk Line committee, and the Garden Plain Grazing Society. He was on the executive of the R.E.A. to bring electricity to rural areas, and Chairman of the Church Council of Redeemer Lutheran. He was a member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local, the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the Hanna Board of Trade.

He was elected to the Sullivan Lake school board in 1937 and was Chairman of the board until his retirement in 1952. During this time he served many years on the dormitory committee. The following are exerpts from a tribute paid to him at his retirement party by J.D. Aitkenhead, Superintendent of Sullivan Lake school division.

"W.R. Storch came to Alberta . . . to make it the richer, especially for twenty-three years work in the school business. His shrewdness is as sharp as the twinkle in his eyes. No detail is too small for his attention, no problem too minute for his thought, no day too long for him. Parallel with his ability to work is his ability to get along with others, and to pour oil on troubled waters . . . as long as there are men like Bill to act as a tower of strength, no problem will ever be too difficult."

In 1931 Dad won the Hanna Kiwanis Club silver cup award for Marquis wheat in the standing field crops competition.

The highlight of his farming career was receiving the Master Farm Family award in October, 1954, from the provincial Department of Agriculture. The Storchs were the first family in this area to receive the award, which gave them a cash prize of $1000, an engraved wall plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance. Judging was based on good farming, right living and clear thinking.

Dad continued farming actively until his death in the Hanna Hospital on November 1, 1960. His sons remained in the area.

William started farming on his own land nearby in 1936. In November of that year he married Florence McRae of Coronation. They have three sons, Donald, Edward and Leslie.

Albert married Rodina McRae of Coronation in November 1941. They have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman.

Rudolph farmed with his dad and brother Albert until he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the fall of 1942. He served in Sicily, Italy and North-west Europe, and was mentioned in dispatches. He returned to the family farm in 1946, where his main interest was in Hereford cattle. He died in the Col. Belcher hospital on August 8, 1970.

Mrs. Storch still lives in her own home on the farm and has supplied the details for this story.

MY STORY, By William L. Starck — I left Arkansas with my parents and two brothers to come to Alberta in the spring of 1921. We came in a touring car and a solid rubber tired Federal truck loaded with things for the farm. We got stuck with the truck lots of times on the way up. One time mother and Aunt Mary did our washing, then they threw the wash water under the truck and when we went to move the truck we were stuck. We had a big rope block and tackle which we used to pull the truck out.

When we first arrived at the farm we put up a high square tent. Next morning a neighbor living three-quarters of a mile east of us saw the tent, so he ran back into the house and said to his wife, "Maw, the Indians have moved in on us."

My dad was in the yard one day and he heard the neighbor and his wife to the west of us shouting, so he went over to see what the trouble was. The man and wife were trying to drive a skunk away from their yard. Dad picked up a few rocks and started throwing them at the skunk. The wife, who had quite an accent, said to her husband, "Don't get too close to the skunk or he may vet on you."

One of those dry windy years another neighbor said "You know, I put seventeen posts up before dinner and when I came back all but five had blown down."

In those days, we as kids often got measles or chicken pox. One neighbor said one day "You know, I've had the measles fourteen times, sick enough to die every time."

After I quit school, I helped my dad farm till 1932. I bought the east half section of 15-34-13, where I still live today, for which I paid eight dollars an acre. That was a big price for land at that time. Price of wheat was twenty-five cents a bushel for number one wheat. Oats were six or seven cents a bushel; it didn't pay to have them threshed. I farmed this land from dad's place till 1938. In the fall of 1938 I married Florence McRae, who taught the school I had attended some years before. Her home was at Federal. I used to take the saddle horse and ride to see her. I had some long rides and cold ones too, but I put up with it.

Late in the fall of 1938 we moved a house on to the farm. We remodelled it in 1938. Since that time we have gone from coal to propane to natural gas; coal oil lamp to thirty-two volt power to one hundred and ten power.

I did my farming with eight head of horses, cut crop with four horses on a binder and did the stooking. I hauled bundles on my dad's threshing rig in harvest time. I hauled grain to the elevator in winter with two horses on a sleigh and wagon box.

When I was farming with horses I used to take one of the boys, when they were small, and hold him on my lap and he would go to sleep as we went up and down the field.

I bought my first D-Case tractor in 1947. Since that time I've had four or five Case tractors. At present I'm using an air cooled Deutz tractor. I'm amazed at how it stays cool in hot weather. It handles real well under heavy loads.

In these later years my sons and I have been feeding cattle. We feed our bull calves out, they are virgin bulls. They get a lot bigger and finish quicker than steers. They are ready a month before steers are ready to go but we have to keep them away from heifers.

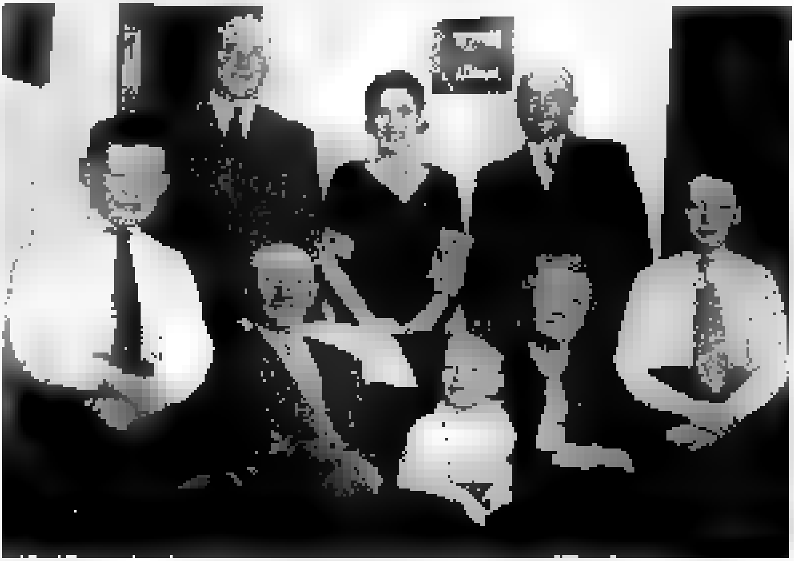
We have been using artificial insemination on our cows for the past few years. We get bigger calves and a better type of calf and can try different breeds.

We have three children. Donald, who married Janet Hennig, lives in Edmonton. Edward, who married Margaret Pangle, lives five miles to the northwest of us. Leslie, who married Elsie Wolfert, lives on the home place. Donald has

three children, Edward has two children, and Leslie hasn't given us any grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT STORCH — Albert Storch was born in a small country town, Congo, Arkansas, on December 28, 1916. He travelled across country with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Storch and two brothers, William and Rudolph, to Garden Plain, Alberta, in the spring of 1921. He attended at Buchan; his first teacher was Mrs. Sid Grimes.

His farming career started when Mr. Dan Tracy, a close neighbor, asked the boys to do his summer fallow for him. They used three eight-horse shifts daily and a small eight foot cultivator. Their payment for the summer's work was a wagon and box as cash was very scarce then. The boys got their start in Hereford cattle when good neighbor, Alex Wilson, gave them an orphan calf to raise. For spending money the three brothers spent many a happy hour shooting rabbits; these were skinned and sold to Mr. Chris German, fur and cattle buyer from Hanna, for the handsome sum of ten cents per hide.



1954 — Master Farm Family. Back: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Storch, Rudolph. Front: Terry, Mr. W.R. Storch, Herman, Mrs. W.R. Storch, Kenneth.

In 1936 Albert went into partnership farming with his brother Rudolph and rented Mr. Dan Tracy's land, the east half of 10-34-13 and seeded their first wheat crop. The rent agreement read that they would deliver one third share of the crop to the Garden Plain elevator for Mr. Tracy. That fall they bought their first Chev truck from General Supplies, Calgary for $933.00 ($23.00 extra for heavy duty tires). The farm work was all done with horses until the spring of 1940 when they were able to buy their first rubber tired Case tractor from E.A. Laughlin, Hanna, for $1,691.00 and their first tiller, also from Laughlin, for $590.00. Horses were traded in on the deal. Meantime their cattle herd grew and prices were as follows: 1938, sold 3 heifers at $19.00 each; 7 steers at $26.00 each, to Mr. Wm. Duncan, cattle buyer from Coronation. 1939, sold 3 heifers, 600 pounds each, at 4½ cents per pound; 5 steers, 850 pounds each, at 6 cents per pound, to Mr. Wm. Duncan, Coronation.

Albert was a member of the Scapa baseball team for several years. He married Rodina McRae of Coronation in 1941 and they have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman. Kenneth married Lynda Bunbury of Castor and resides on the family farm. They have three children. Terry married Rita Speida of Provost and they have two daughters. They reside at Huxley where Terry is principal of the Huxley school. Norman married Leona Kneller of Castor and they operate an extensive poultry project on their farm near the home place.

Like his dad before him, Albert has always taken an active part in the affairs of the community. During the war years he was president of the Garden Plain Community Club. The club raised large sums of money by putting on plays, dances, card parties, etc. to send packages overseas to all the local boys who were in the services. The Garden Plain hall was renovated by the club: all the windows on the north side were boarded up and a new hardwood floor laid. Albert has been the Red Cross canvasser in the Garden Plain district for over twenty-five years. He was operator of the local snow plow machine for many years.

Goose shooting has always been a favorite sport on the Storch farm.

Albert has retired on the farm and enjoys his hobbies of wood craft and carpentry.

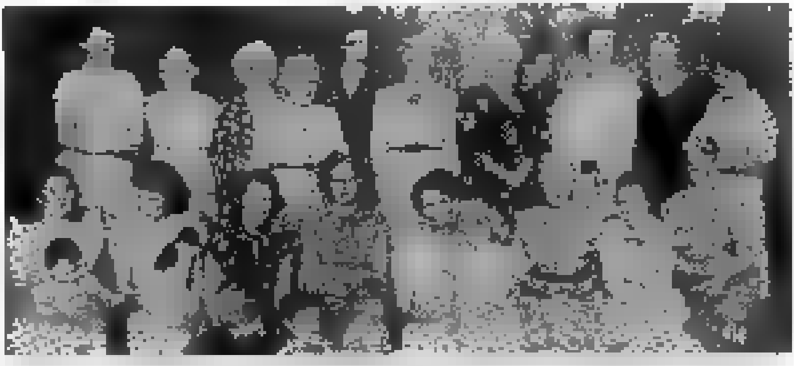
WILLIAM GIBB, ***By Margaret Nelson*** — On August 8, 1908, Bill Gibb filed on the NW 22-34-13. For extra income to help with the homesteading he worked on the C.P.R. line around Castor. After proving up he left the homestead and worked for the Department of Public Works under the U.F.A. Government. Later he bought Rabbit Hill Collieries out of Edmonton, which he operated a few years until it flooded out. Going north again, he worked in construction. He passed away while in the far north in the late thirties.

Mrs. Gibb, a sister of Mrs. T.F. Ironside, lived in Edmonton. She passed away in the fifties. Both are buried in Edmonton.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Farewell Tea for Mrs. Calderbank - 1934. Back Row: Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Strandberg, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. G. Wright. Front Row: Mrs. Corry, Mrs. Rudy Rinkbeil, Mrs. A. W. Shand, Kenny Calderbank, Mrs. Calderbank, Doreen Wright, Mrs. J. Wright, Mrs. Bradshaw.

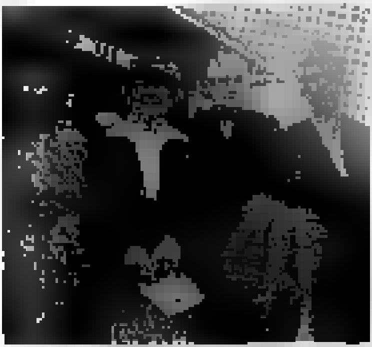
Round Lake Ladies Aid Group — 1932. Mrs. J. Marlowe, F. McRae, N. Spelen, Mrs. G. Hunter, Mrs. J. Hutcheson, D. McRae, Mrs. C. Stapley, Mrs. H. Armstrong, Mrs. S. Harding, Mrs. M. Kay, Mrs. J. Wilson



Guests at a shower for Isobel Campbell at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright. Back Row: Mrs. Matt Chidley, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. Herb Waterhouse, Isobel Campbell, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Fred Lyczen, Mrs. Fred Hildreth and daughter, Marion Taylor, Nan Campbell, Mrs. George Wright. Front Row: Mary Kerner holding Dallas Chidley, Lois Waterhouse, Velma Waterhouse, Mrs. Stuart McRae, Mrs. John Cattanach holding Diane Nelson, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Glenn, Mrs. Ray Armstrong. Children in front unidentified.

1955 — Shower for Mary Kerner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nelson. Mrs. Vic Hawley holding son Garry, Mrs. Harold Gustafson, Mrs. Arley Chidley, Mary Kerner, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Lyczen, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. Harry Nelson. The children are Diane Nelson and Lee Gustafson

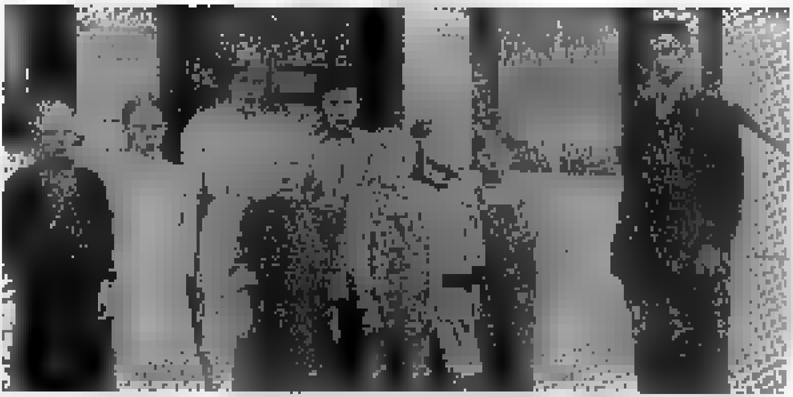
Garden Plain Pioneer picnic — 1972. Back: Ralph Tucker, Tom Northey, Jack Temple, John Marlowe, Andy Gizmer, Mrs. Butch Ironside, Mrs. Harry Nelson, Butch Ironside, Stanley Strandberg, Mrs. Stanley Strandberg, Erbin Grove, Harold Davies, Mrs. George Unsworth, George Unsworth, John Nelson, Mrs. Will Ironside, John Grove. Front: Mrs. Ralph Tucker, Mrs. Tom Northey, Mrs. Jack Temple, Mrs. George Vigen, Mrs. Jack Corry, Mrs. George Standing Sr., Mrs. William Storch Sr., Mrs. Erbin Grove, Fred Johnston, Mrs. Fred Johnston, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. R.J. Unsworth, Mrs. John Grove.



1962 — Garden Plain Pioneers meet at the Golden Age Club in Calgary. Mrs. Bill Harvey, Mrs. Herman Steen, Mrs. Tom Welch and Mrs. Jo Higgins, Sr.

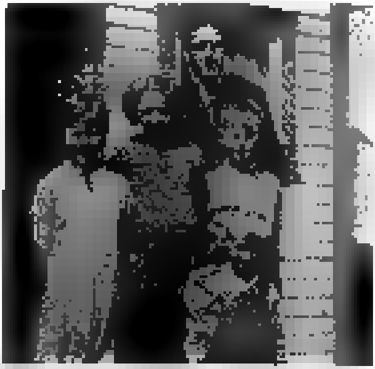
Strawberry Tea put on by Garden W.I. at home of Blanche Johnston — June 1976. Back: Mrs. Erbin Grove, Mrs. Ed Storch, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. W.L. Storch, Mrs. Art Standing, Mrs. Margaret Standing, Mrs. Selma Vigen, Mrs. Rod Standing, Mrs. Louise Storch, Mrs. Sarah Noyce, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. Effie Crossfield, Mrs. Frances Unsworth. Front: Mrs. Rose Standing, Mrs. Rachel Corry, Mrs. Nellie Greenway, Mrs. Blanche Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr.

BUCHAN SCHOOL PUPILS AND TEACHERS



Buchan School pupils with teacher, Sidney Gibson — 1915. Back: Pearl, Mamie and Clara Halverson, Delbert Kinney, Margaret and Butch Ironside. Front: Tillie Halverson and Will Ironside.

George B. Holl (teacher) — 1938. Betty Marlowe, Mary Keller, Bill Marlowe and Jack Marlowe.



Buchan Students at Nelsonby School — 1955. Back: Jack McLaren (teacher), G. Arthur Standing, Donald Storch, Kenneth Storch, Larry Storch, Jim Taylor, Kenneth Strandberg, Muriel Strandberg, Carol Gustafson, Frank Lee (teacher). Front: Janet Standing, Edward Storch, Judy Ironside, Diane Nelson, Hope Wilson, Lloyd Strandberg, Lee Gustafson.

"THE DUTCHMAN"

'Twas in the early nineteen - hundreds
In an area not far from here,
That a stranger known as "The Dutchman"
Came hiding in terror and fear.

He tended his land and his cattle
As all of his neighbors did.
But of his fears and suspicions
He never seemed to be rid.

What made him shun his neighbors?
Why did he live under a ban?
Why was his heart filled with terror?
This stranger known as "The Dutchman."

Then one day in the stillness
His neighbors heard more than one shot.
When finally they went to investigate,
The sight was not soon forgot.

His livestock were all shot to death,
His home was burned to the ground.
And of the man called "The Dutchman"
No trace was ever to be found.

Who was it that slew his cattle?
Who set his buildings aflame?
Was it someone from the past who found him?
Or was "The Dutchman" himself to blame?

Where did this stranger come from?
Where did "The Dutchman" go?
Was his body burned with his buildings?
No one will ever know.

Helen Standing

COMPRESSOR STATION

As told by Mike Yakimowich, written by Harry Nelson

Over a period of years Triad Oil Co. Ltd. drilled several exploratory wells in the Sullivan Lake and Garden Plain areas. Some of these turned out as good gas producers, but were not put into production as there was not too much demand for natural gas and the price was too low. Also there was no pipe line close enough to carry it to a market.

About 1972 Alberta Gas Trunk Lines installed a carrier line west of Sullivan Lake. In 1974 they also ran a feeder line east to the Garden Plain area and built a meter station on SW 18-34-13.

In the meantime B.P. of Canada had bought the Triad wells in this area and proceeded to put them into production.

They leased approximately seven and a half acres of land on the SW 31-34-13 to build a compressor station and access road.

In 1974 they built the compressor station and also a pipe line gathering system from the Sullivan Lake wells to the plant, and a three mile line of pipe from the plant to the meter station. By September of 1974 they had four wells from the Sullivan Lake area in production.

In 1975 and 1976 more wells were drilled and two were producers.

At the present time there are eight wells feeding into this compressor plant, six from Sullivan Lake and two from north Garden Plain area.

The compressor station is used to pick up the low pressure gas from wells and to increase it to high pressure before putting it into Alberta Gas Trunk line. It consists of a 1400 horsepower V16 Wakeshaw motor to drive the compressor. It is run by natural gas from the line and uses approximately two hundred and sixteen thousand cubic feet of gas per twenty-four hour period.

This plant is fully automated. If anything goes wrong the plant automatically stops, and by means of an A.G.T. connection sounds an alarm at the home in Castor of either of the two operators of the plant.

To date there are about fifteen miles of carrier pipe from wells to plant site.

In 1952 a well was drilled in the south Garden Plain area. It was owned by an American and called Eden Gas Co. This well had the potential of being a high producer. Sulpetro of Canada Ltd. also had a number of wells drilled in this area. In the spring of 1976 InterCity, who had bought the Eden Wells, leased a six acre site on the W ½ 15-33-13 and put in a small portable compressor plant. It is powered by a 400 horsepower motor. When this was completed they also began selling gas to the Alberta Gas Trunk line, which is also carried to the same Alberta Gas Trunk Line meter station on SW 16-34-13. A seven mile carrier line had been put in in the fall of 1975.

In the summer of 1976 Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co., who had bought the Sulpetro rights, also built a Compressor Station on the same site as InterCity. This is powered by a V12, 1000 horsepower Wakeshaw motor. They also installed a processing plant to take out water and hyrocarbons from the gas. The by-products from this plant are trucked to a refining plant. At the present time Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co. have one well in production.

These Compressor Stations are both operated by Mike Yakimowich and Frank Gutenberg. Mike also travels to other parts of Alberta if any problems develop at other compressor sites or gas wells.

BLIZZARD OF 1927

By Harry Nelson

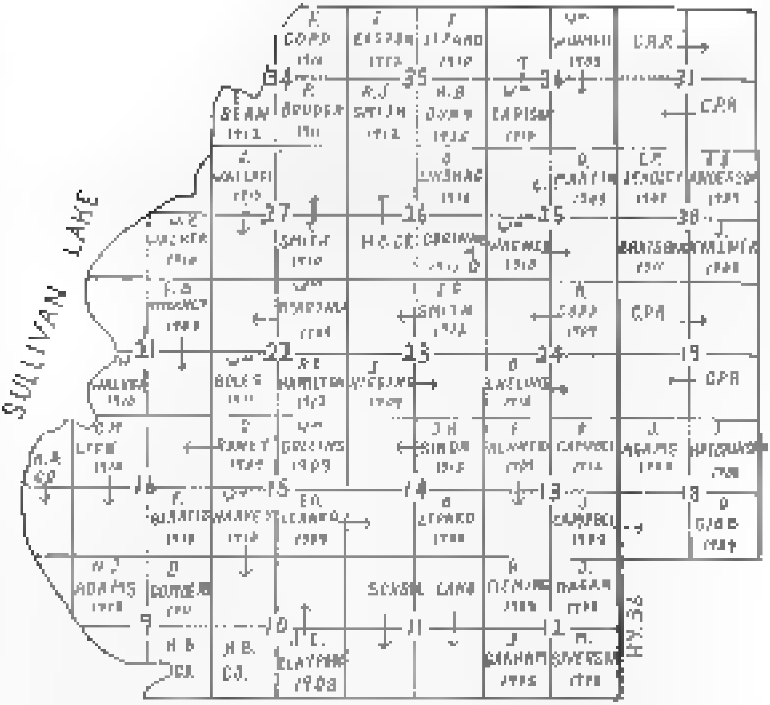
Good Friday dawned a bright clear balmy day in April. The snow had all melted, except a few drifts in the trees and coulees. All the sloughs had already filled with water. About four o'clock in the afternoon the wind started to blow a little from the north and it soon clouded over. Pretty soon the first flakes of snow began falling. By nightfall the wind had risen and snow was really falling. Visibility was near zero. This kept on all night and the next day and into the next night temperatures dropped to well below zero.

As the weather had been good and the snow gone, a lot of farmers had turned their cattle on the open range to graze. When the storm came with no warning it was impossible to get them home. The cattle drifted with the storm. A lot of them waded into sloughs and stayed there. After the storm was over there was a great loss of livestock. The ones in the sloughs froze in and died there.

This was only one of the early day blizzards, but coming at that time of year there was probably more livestock lost than in most of them. There may be contradictions on this but that is the way I remember it.

CORINNE S. D. No. 2497

◆



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS and OWNERS OF SAID LAND

Homesteaders top the list with the year of filing following their name

Present Owners at the bottom of the list

By Orpha Wolfert

NW 18-34-13
James Adams, 3-8-1908
Oscar Eklund
Andy Glover
William Storch

NE 8-34-13
John Hutchinson,
20-11-1908
Frank Benzie
George Hunter
A. Walbank
E. Ekholm
John Wallace
George Benzie
Harry Nelson

SW 18-34-13
John Campbell, 24-8-1908
Hugh Campbell
M. Chisley

SE 18-34-13
George Gibb, 2-7-1909
A. Glover
Wm. Storch

N ½ 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
H. Nelson
E. Storch

SW 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SE 19-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Benzie
Wm. Nelson
A. Walbank

E. Ekholm
G. Benzie
H. Nelson

NW ¼ 30-34-13
E. Leadley, 29-3-1909
Miss O. Leadley
Charlie Dahlgren
T.H.G. Ironside
Edward Storch

NE 30-34-13
Otto Anderson, 1-4-1908
E.J. Nelson
W. Nelson
E. Ekholm
W. Rochan
H. Nelson
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SW 30-34-13
J. Bratsberg, 21-2-1911
C. Dahlgren
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SE 30-34-13
J. Kvalter, 16-7-1908
Hubert
A. Kennedy
H. Nelson

S ½ 31-34-13
C.P.R.
Wm. Nelson
H. Nelson

NW 31-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Anderson
J. Oelker
G. Ensign

NE 31-34-13
E. Ekholm
J. Dekker
G. Ebbeja

NW 9-34-14
Henry Adams, 30-11-1910
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 9-34-14
Otto Gembert, 22-3-1911
Henry Adames
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

S ½ 9-34-14
H.B. Co.
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Linden Boyson

NW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

E ½ 10-34-14
John Claypool Sr.
John Dekker Sr.
Mary Dekker

Section 11-34-14
Tom Kane
Herman Slemp
Edgar Slemp
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

NW 12-34-14
H. Fleming, 11-6-1908
Frank Kennedy
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

SW 12-34-14
John Graham
Dan Campbell
Wm. Rutherford
J. Nelson
E. Nelson

SE 12-34-14
M. Siverson, 27-8-1908
Alf Siverson
Hugh Riddle
Elmer Nelson

NE 13-34-14
D. Campbell, 14-7-1913
Hugh Campbell
Campbell Estate

SE 13-34-14
J. Campbell, 4-6-1908
Hugh Campbell
Dallas Chidley

W ½ 13-34-14
Frank Kennedy, 7-8-1909
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

N ½ 14-34-14
John Gleason, 28-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Albert Dekker

SW 14-34-14
E. Lepard, 18-8-1908
Ted Smith
James Roney
Joe Lepard
Artey Chidley
Wm. & Thelma Boyson

SE 14-34-14
Ben Lepard, 7-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Artey Chidley
William & T. Boyson

SW 15-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SE 15-34-14
E. Lepard, 19-8-1908
T. Smith
Willard Roney
Albert Dekker

NW 15-34-14
C. Roney, 6-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
Fred Harvey
Fred Lyczen
Andy Harvey
John Schedeck
David Cattanach
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 16-34-14
Wm. Collins, 28-1-1912
Robert Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

NW 18-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
H. Adames
Melvin Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

NW 16-34-14
C. Roney, 8-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
F. Harvey
F. Lyczen
E. Hassard
J. Schedeck
A. Harvey
D. Cattanach
D. and J. Boyson

SW 16-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd.
Linden Boyson

SE 16-34-14
F. Gerritz, 19-5-1910
Wm. Lepard
J. Lepard
A. Harvey
Morgan's Transport
L. Boyson

NE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

SE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

SW 21-34-14
W.E. Walker, 28-1-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

E ½ 21-34-14
F.B. Stickney, 5-10-1908
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NW 22-34-14
William H. McArthur,
10-6-1909
William Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
B. Chidley
D. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

SW 22-34-14
William A. Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
M. Chidley
B. Chidley
D. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NE 22-34-14
William H. McArthur
W. Roney
R. Chidley
Artey Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

SE 22-34-14
Robert E. Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

N ½ 23-34-14
J.C. Smith, 16-12-1912
A. Kennedy
C. Wigley
A. Wigley
R. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

S ½ 23-34-14
J. Higgins, 8-6-1909
H. Campbell
A. Wolfert
D. Boyson

N ½ 24-34-14
Robert Copp, 17-10-1909
M. McMillan
C. Dahlgren
J. Nelson
E. Nelson

SW 24-34-14
Oscar Eklund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
A. Wolfert

SE 24-34-14
Oscar Eklund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
H. Campbell
D. Chidley

N ½ 25-34-14
George Martin, 1-4-1908
J. Easton
J. Nelson
E. Nelson

S ½ 25-34-14
Wm. Wagner, 28-1-1910
C. Blum
F. Blum
J. Nelson
B. Kendle
H. Nelson
E. Nelson

NE 26-34-14
David Lindhag, 15-4-1910
M. Walker
L. Lohrmann
D. and L. Laller

SE 26-34-14
H.B. Co.

E ½ 27-34-14
T. Smith, 17-9-1910
R. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm and T. Boyson

W ½ 27-34-14
J. Wallace, 17-9-1910

A. Lyzen
J. Schadeck
E. Hassel
B. Chidley
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 33-34-14
W.E. Walker, 17-3-1910
C. Blunt
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd

NE 34-34-14
Frank Copp, 29-11-1910
Max Lepard
R. Chidley

A. Chidley
Wm. and I. Boyson

SW 34-34-14
E.H. Dean, 28-8-1917
J. Wallace
A. Lynzen
J. Schadeck

SW 34-34-14
B. Chidley
E. Hassel
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 34-34-14
Phil Bradel, 31-5-1911
H. McCafferty
R. Chidley

M. Chidley
Morgan Transport

NW 35-34-14
John Easton, 3-7-1917
H. McCafferty
L. Lohmann

NE 35-34-14
John Lepard, 6-9-1910
T. McCafferty
H. McCafferty
L. Lohmann
D. and L. Laller

SE 35-34-14
Rob Smith, 27-7-1912
J. Simon
H. McCafferty

T. McCafferty
L. Lohmann

SE 35-34-14
H.B. Dunn, 22-12-1925
H. McCafferty
L. Lohmann

W ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Carlson, 26-6-1910
O. Eklund
J. Nelson
H. McCafferty
L. Lohmann

E ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Wimmer, 1-4-1909
H. Nelson

I am sorry for any errors or omissions in the names and land locations. Land presently being lived on:

SE 27-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. D. Boyson

NE 10-34-14
Albert & Alfred Delker
Mrs. Mary Delker

NW 13-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. A. Wollert

SW 12-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. E. Nelson

CORINNE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. [illegible]

By Orpha Wollert

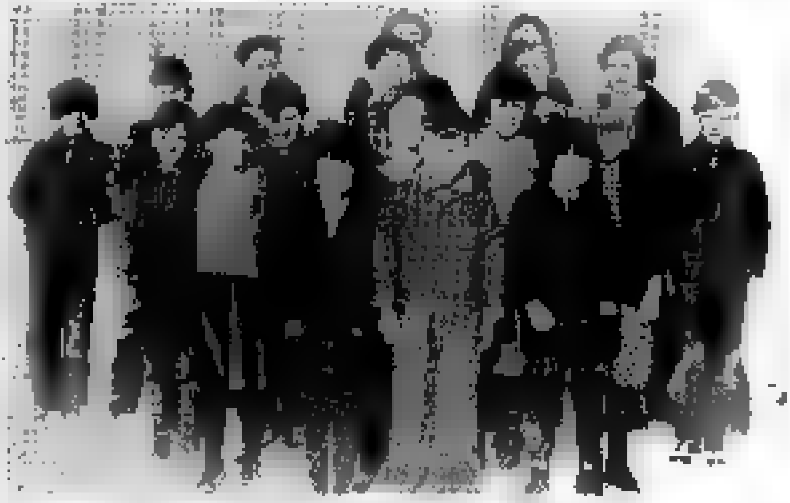
In July, 1911, the Department of Education gave instructions to Mr. Frank Kennedy to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a board to transact the business of the district. Trustees were Edward Lepard, Herman Simon and Frank Kennedy. By September they had chosen a site in the centre of the district, the south-east corner of the south-east quarter of 26-34-14.

Corinne School built in 1912

In order to build the school house, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars was borrowed on the securities of the district. The money was to be repaid in ten instalments at eight per cent interest. The lumber was purchased from the Stettler Lumber Company at a cost of $485.00. John Wallace did the mason work and the plastering, furnishing all materials except the stones, which were supplied by William Collins. William Harvey hauled all the lumber and hardware and supplied the labor. The [illegible] Brothers furnished all the hardware for the erected schoolhouse, coal shed and outbuildings. The business of purchasing the building supplies for the proposed school was completed on December 5, 1911, and the school was built in 1912. It was named Corinne after the birthplace of an American settler, Herman Simon.

The first meeting after the completion of the school was held in the building on January 15, 1913. The minutes tell of holding classes only eight months of the year, to take advantage of the warm summer months. School started in March or April, and there was a two week vacation in the middle of the term. In 1927 the school had to be closed for ten days due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Corinne School students — 1921. John Wallace, Arthur Skelund, William Rutherford, Ken Simon, Lucy Wigley, Grace Wigley, Fred Harvey, Arley Chidley, Janet Easton, Jewel Adams, Mary Campbell, Margaret Simon, Alex Rutherford, Bill Chidley, Zenna Blum, Patrick Lepard, Fred Wigley, Albert Delker, David Wallace, Frances Harvey, Josephine Harvey, Ethel Rutherford, Joe Higgins, Jesse Rutherford, Harold Simon, Margaret Wallace, Hazel Kennedy, Hugh Campbell



Corinne School students — 1934-35. Teacher, Marion Taylor. Back Row: David Easton, Joe Higgins, Bill Chidley, Albert Delker, Margaret Wallace, Mary Campbell. Second Row: Andy Harvey, Murl Chidley, Arley Chidley, Mac Delker. Third Row: Dorothy Lepard, Irene Kennedy, Isabel Campbell, Evelyn Eklund, Alfred Delker. Front Row: Nellie Harvey, Don Campbell, Donna Lepard.

Corinne School pupils — 1948. Teacher, Doreen Lyzen, Dorothy Lepard, Donald Campbell, Henry Nelson, Gordon Ironside, Allan Ironside, Mary Ironside, Clark Ironside, Harold Lepard, Corinne Ironside, Elmer Nelson, Gladys Ironside.

Corinne School students — 1946. Taylor Twin, Bert Chidley, Clark Ironside, Taylor Twin, Margaret Ironside, Georgian Wright, Gladys Ironside, Norman Wallace, Norman Sleep.

There seemed to be the need for another school to accommodate the children from the southern part of the district, so a new school district, Pleasant Site No. 4210, was formed. According to the minutes of the meetings, the school district was formed but no building was ever erected. Apparently the formation of a district was sufficient to allow a grant to be paid to Corinne for the pupils who attended there from Pleasant Site. Corinne accepted the eight pupils from the area, and the new district was never mentioned again. Mr. William Henderson was the teacher at the time.

In 1931, a room was rented in the William Harvey home for the purpose of holding high school classes. Grades one to eight remained in Corinne school. In 1934 the district had financial problems and hiring a teacher was almost impossible. After advertising in the papers, the board hired Miss Marion Taylor, brought grade nine back to Corinne, and closed the high school. Pupils from grades ten, eleven and twelve had to go to Castor or Hanna to further their education.

In 1936 the small school districts became part of Sullivan Lake school division, with offices in Hanna.

Corinne was not only the centre of the education facilities for the district. It was also used for church services, concerts, card parties and dances. In the earlier years the people of the Endiang community came to entertain with plays and songs. After the concerts there would be lunch, then the desks would be piled up and pushed against the walls and the dancing would start. Old and young enjoyed these dances. Music was supplied by the Lepard family, or the Ironside brothers with violin and guitar. For the Christmas concert, all the boys and girls had the pleasure of new clothes.

Corinne school was kept open until 1952, when the children were vanned to Scapa. It was difficult to get teachers to come to a school which was so far from town. At one time Corinne consisted of a school, a barn, a coal shed and a well, and the yard was surrounded by a page wire fence. Trees had been planted. But now the time has taken its toll and all that remains is the schoolhouse, which is used as a granary.

Names of families who attended the school were: Adams, Blum, Boles, Carlson, Campbell, Chidley, Copp, Coulter, Delker, Easton, Eklund, Gustafson, Herring, Harvey, Higgins, Hamilton, Ironside, Johnson, Keller, Kerner, Kennedy, Lepard, McRae, McCafferty, Nelson, Orth, Perro, Rehill, Rutherford, Simon, Stemp, Tucker, Taylor, Wallace, Walker, Waterhouse, Wigley, Wright and Wittmill.

Teachers and supervisors who taught at Corinne and the high school were Miss Dawson, Mr. Frederickson, Miss McEachern, W.H. Pedley, Miss Ford, E.V. Smart, C.A. Sullivan, M.G. Scott, James McPherson, Jean Blackwood, Jean Palmer, Annie English, Violet Williams Lepard, E.G. Hamilton, Edith Smith, William Henderson, Mary Treneman, Edna Blackwood, L.A. Reid, Scollen, Violet Diprose, Marion Taylor, C.O. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Daisy Kerner, Doreen Lyczan, Miss Nestor, Shirley Ekman, Mrs. Art Welch, Jos. A. Connelly, Francis R. Thompson, A.R. Barton, Harold Unsworth, William Coulter.

These names are not in the order that they taught in the district, and I am sorry for any omissions.

Superintendents were W.G. Hay, Mr. Korek, J.C. Jonason, L.A. Thurber, G.K. Haverstock, J.C. Butchart, C.B. Yule, W.J. McLean, J.D. Aikenhead and F.J. Carr.

Of all the farm steads in the school district that were occupied at one time, now only four have families living on them: Delker, Wohlert, Boyson and Nelson.

One evening in February, 1977, we visited with Mr. Donald Simon and Mr. Harry McCafferty. They began to reminisce about school days at Corinne. The conversation went something like this:

"Donald, do you remember when we used to squirt the teacher with those old fountain pens? Boy, would she get mad!"

"Yes, Harry, that was Miss Williams. She was a good teacher and very nice to us, despite what we put her through."

"Do you remember when you and Bob Hamilton used to sign each other's report cards, until you signed Tom instead of Thomas on Bob's card. Boy! That strap sure did hurt!"

"Well, that didn't hurt our dignity as bad as the time when we washed my brother Ken's face with frozen potatoes and Miss Williams nearly wore herself out strapping us boys. Counting us to see how many she had spanked she said, 'There is one more. Who is it?' Alex Wallace spoke up and said, 'All I did was rub dirt on his face.' Out came the strap again."

"We had fun at school, although I sometimes wonder why we went."

"Remember how you used to hide your books under the bridge when you didn't get your homework done?"

"Yes, Don, and she would send me back to get them, and I had to do my homework at recess, but that wasn't too bad. At least my parents didn't find out."

Taken at Corinne School — 1942. Dorothy Lepard, Joe Lepard, Herman Siegn, Harold Lepard, Mrs. Tom McCafferty, Harry McCafferty, Mrs. Harvey, George Benzie, Bill Haner, Frank Benze, Mrs. Siegn, Joe Higgins, Bill Harvey, Tom McCafferty, Dennis Lepard.

"Do you remember the time we went poisoning gophers and sampled the snuff in the little round box?"

"I thought I was poisoned. Snuff chewing wasn't for us."

"I thought you were going to die on me!"

Leslie Walker, another former student at Corinne, remembers two of his teachers. "Mr. Frederickson was an elderly man with grey whiskers, and he drove to school in a buggy with a single horse. He travelled seven miles each way, and to get his horse to go faster he would say, "Hip-a holly!" After lunch hour he would put his feet on the desk and lean back against the chalk rail below the blackboard for a siesta. Three of us boys would get out our elastic bands and roll up inch squares of paper for spit wads, and aim them at his number nines. All was fine until one went between his feet and smacked him on the chin. That fun was short-lived, and we were punished by having to stay in after school to clean the blackboards and sweep the floor. After that he took his rest at noon hour while us students were outside eating our lunch.

"Miss Sullivan was a good-sized teacher with an Irish accent. We boys thought she was very strict, as we couldn't get away with any pranks on the girls anymore. One of the boys' pastimes was to have about thirty feet of chalk line and make a slip knot in one end and catch gophers. We would lay the loop around the gopher hole and when the gopher would stick his head out of the hole, we pulled the string and we had him around the neck. One morning we caught one and put it in the desk with the attendance records. When she pulled open the drawer for roll call, the rodent squeaked and jumped on her lap, she squealed and jumped on her desk. No one knew who had done the trick, but everyone helped chase it out."

MRS. DOREEN LYXZEN KERNER, By Victoria Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — I was born on the farm on August 15, 1920. My first seven years of schooling were at Crow Hill. My first teacher was Agnes Cameron. In 1933 I took my grade nine in Scapa so Marie Lohrmann and I rode to school. I had an old chestnut-colored horse appropriately named Chess, who shied at everything and sometimes dumped me off. For the next two years I was back at Crow Hill, but the Board wouldn't allow instruction in Grade 11 so I worked by myself with help from Wilma

Symth after school hours. It was a cold year. I spent one year at Stettler High School and then went back to riding to Scapa, a bay this time I called "Beauty". Ralph Ringdahl was teaching high school. I never missed many days of school, except if there was a blizzard.

In 1938 the Dormitory opened in Hanna and I attended Hanna High school to get my remaining subjects and grade twelve. Because I couldn't get a third year Latin course which I needed, I stayed home one year and took correspondence. In 1940 I attended Calgary Normal School.

Tea party at Corinne School teacherage — 1943. Dorothy Lepard, Mary Ironside, Sheila Barnes, Doreen Lyzen, Mrs. Chisley, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Campbell, Cora Ironside holding Willie, Hazel Stemp and Faye, Mrs. Lepard, Ruth Ironside.

My teaching career started at Benge, a school set in the north-east corner of a twelve mile cattle lease. I was never short of 'Beef on the Hoof', especially one night during a blizzard when they all crowded on the south side of my teacherage. Thank goodness the fence was a few feet away from the teacherage. There were three families there, the Lehmans, Serrs and Roesslers. I boarded with the Roesslers and their seven children, until the powers that be hauled in a two-roomed teacherage.

I did the janitor work for the use of the teacherage. I split a lot of wood and hauled in a lot of coal, as well as clinkers and ashes which went out. Those old Waterbury furnaces had enormous appetites and were quite disconcerting at times, such as when a solid clinker formed, and as one tried to remove it, all the hot coals would fall into the ash pan. So one would hurriedly try to start a new fire and hope the school would get warm enough. School started at 9:30 during the winter months. Sometimes pupils ran up and down the aisles to keep warm or brought desks up close beside the furnace to do their work.

I had many varied experiences in my first teacherage and school, once a family of skunks decided to make their home under the school. My teacherage was pretty wide open. Water in the wash basin, three feet from a huge cast iron range, would freeze during forenoon while I was at school. I had a pot-bellied heater next to my bed in the second room and often sat on the bed with my coat on, to eat my lunch. One morning after a blizzard I discovered a snow drift inside the house as high as my window sill on the north side, and petering out at my range. I had to shovel snow before I could get my breakfast; of course there was a film of snow over everything in the room. The second year my eight-year-old cousin Myrna Erickson stayed with me.

In October 1943 I started teaching at Corinne. This was the year the polio was

bad and all schools were closed for about a month. The second year Mary Keller stayed with me to finish her grade nine. We lived in a one roomed teacherage and our main problem here was the chimney. When the wind blew from a certain direction all my stove would do was smoke. One morning I left the door open while I was over at the school and Mr. Keller who was bringing Mary back, breasted the hill and came hurrying down because he thought the teacherage was on fire. Finally a cap was put on the chimney that was almost tall enough to be a spire, but it solved the problem.

In the fall of 1945 I started teaching grades one to six in Scapa, and also working in the store. I quit at Christmas. Mrs. Harry Cook was teaching Junior High. No teacher was available for the smaller grades at first so a Supervisor was hired for a few weeks. I returned to teaching in 1947 at Rosebud, near Drumheller. I was to teach nineteen pupils, but opening morning I thought there was no end. The last one in the door was number 33. I hadn't enough desks, seats, space or anything. Many had to double up in a seat. Imagine the discipline problem! Finally more desks were brought in, but there wasn't enough spaces so rows were pushed together and right up to the blackboards. I had trouble moving between desks and the blackboards. After the New Year a larger school was hauled in. That was the year Severn Creek flooded and we were without mail for a month.

I completed my Junior Home Economics that summer at the University of Alberta and started my specialized career on the circuit at Champion, Carmangay and Barons. I had unique boarding facilities at Champion. I lived at Libby Leiffe's and had breakfast there. For dinner (when not on circuit) and supper I had to go to the Marshman's. Lunch was non-existent out on the circuit unless I bought something to eat. After summer school again I moved south to the Bow Island-Foremost circuit.

I married John Wendlane Kerner on July 7, 1951 and we started wildcatting in the oil fields for four years. It took us to such places as Lac La Biche in north-eastern Alberta, Hudson Hope in B.C., Aden near the Montana border and Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. One son Brian Wayne was born at Castor on October 16, 1953. In the spring of 1956 we bought a quarter of irrigated land three miles east of Bow Island and left the oil fields for good. After John died of cancer on July 12, 1971, I rented the land but continue to live on the farm, I had gone back to teaching Home Economics at Senator Gershaw High in 1962, and fifteen years later, I'm still there.

FRED STICKNEY, *By Orpha Weibert* — Mr. Fred Stickney homesteaded on the NE 21-34-14 in 1908. He and his wife lived in a sod house. His wife was a very handy person so she undertook the job of plastering the inside of their home with plaster of paris. The walls were snow white. Mrs. Chedley commented on Mrs. Stickney's management. This house was the most beautiful home to walk into.

During threshing time, Fred was engineer on a steam threshing machine which belonged to Fred Saar. He was a brother of Harry Saar of the Spondin district.

JULIEN KVALNER, *By Harry Nelson* — Julien Kvalner filed on the SE 30-34-13 on July 16, 1906. He proved up on his homestead and also worked out. After he got title to the land he rented it out to Alban Kennedy for a few years and later sold it to Mr. Hubert who farmed it for a short time. It was then sold to Oscar Gustafson who farmed it till he retired. Harry Nelson bought it and still farms it. Not too much is known about Julien Kvalner as he was only here a few years and then left the country.

JOHN GRAHAM SR. STORY, By Inga Strandberg — John Graham homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14 in 1908. His son John junior filed on his homestead on the NE 6-34-14, and a pre-emption on the NW 12-34-14. They made their home on the SW 12-34-14. John Graham Sr. had two children, a son John and a daughter, who was a trained nurse. The daughter came to live with her father and brother for a couple of years and nursed in the district. She enjoyed driving around with Mrs. Lepard in a buggy.

Sigurd Larson courted her and later they were married. Later Mr. Graham Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Larson left for New Zealand. While Mr. Graham was in the district he was chairman at the first U.F.A. meeting in the Garden Plain hall. He sold his land to Dan Campbell before leaving. Mr. Graham lived to the ripe old age of 104.

Graham family and Larson — Kathy, John Sr., John Jr., Sigurd Larson

THE JOHN GRAHAM JR. STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — John Graham Jr. was the son of John Graham Sr., and he homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14. He was a bachelor and enjoyed his life.

Mrs. Electa Chidley remembered the Lepard boys catching John Graham's chickens and tying them to the fence posts, as the chickens were squawking. Mr. Graham came out in his pyjamas, seeing who it was and what they were doing he jumped on his horse in his pyjamas and rode his horse as fast as he could to see Mr. Lepard. By the time he got there the boys were already home, and he didn't have much to say or explain why he was wearing his sleeping attire. He was a good sport about it all. The boys liked to play tricks on the old man. Another night they took one of his little pigs and put it in the attic of his house. Poor John didn't know what to do, but he got his thoughts about him and rescued the poor little animal and laughed about it.

Mrs. Chidley enjoyed playing the violin and remembers her first store violin (the others were homemade ones) this was a gift from Mr. Graham.

THE DAN CAMPBELL FAMILY, *By Mrs. Dan Campbell* — My husband, Dan Campbell returned to Canada after four years with the Canadian Army in 1919. I came as a war bride and we decided to go farming. Before the war, Dan had a homestead north of Cochrane, where he owned several head of cattle and horses, which had multiplied during the years. We bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm twenty-four miles north of Hanna, where Mr. Graham lived. We shipped the cattle there as soon as we could. Mr. Bob Smith was the Supervisor of the Board at that time. With the war gratuities we bought a team of work horses from Mr. and Mrs. Wickson, who operated the General Store and Post Office, just a mile north of us. Later we purchased a saddle horse and a buggy from Mac Lepard.

That first winter was a hard winter with lots of snow and severe cold weather. We had a terrific blizzard towards the end, and most of the cattle perished in the deep snow drifts. We fed the cattle on green feed bought from a neighbor for five cents a sheaf. We drew water from a well which was a few yards from the house. The water contained alkali and made us both quite ill for a while.

We lived in a two-roomed house which was very small and very cold. Eventually Dan built a bungalow, hauling the lumber for it with a team and wagon from Castor. After the first planting of wheat, Dan broke more acres of land for next year's crop. We also planted a garden and raised chickens, borrowing brood hens from our very kind neighbors. Our crops were very poor, yielding scarcely enough seed for the following year.

In May 1920, our daughter was born in Castor, where Doctor McPherson was our doctor. Our nearest neighbors were the Donald Campbell family.

The work was hard, we milked cows and were able to ship cream to Hanna. Our eggs and some cream we took to the Garden Plain Store and exchanged them for groceries. Our water for washing had to be carried from the well and clothing had to be scrubbed on a wash board.

We were sorry to leave our first home, but decided to give up farming after a lot of hard work and only one crop, which was destroyed by hail just before being harvested. We never regretted leaving when we did. Dan went into the garage business in Calgary and was with General Supplies for over twenty years. During the Second World War, Dan worked as an Instructor in Mechanics for the Navy; later lived in Victoria where he owned a Service Station at Langford. He passed away July 6, 1954.

WILLIAM RUTHERFORD and FAMILY, *By Ethel Rutherford Martin* — William Rutherford and his wife Dora and seven children landed in Hanna in November 1923 during the biggest blizzard they had had in years in the Hanna district. They came from England and had never seen snow. We lived with Granddad Rutherford on his farm at Dowling Lake for a year, then Dad got a job on the railroad (he was a coal miner in England) and we moved to the town of Hanna.

We lived in town for a couple of years, then dad, a World War veteran, arranged to buy a farm in the Garden Plain district, through the Soldier Settlement Board. We farmed there for eleven years, were dried out and hailed out at least eight of the years we lived there. Our garden more than once was blown onto the road allowance and the lettuce and radishes grew out there. I will never forget the sandstorms and blizzards. More than once Mrs. Higgins let us children stay at her house when we couldn't get home from school on account of the storms.

We worked hard on the farm, Mom had chickens and turkeys, dad kept some cattle, horses and pigs. He was very busy and very fussy also, every thing had to be kept tidy and in its place. We planted hundreds of carraganas and always had a

big garden. We all had to help pull mustard weed, make hay, stook bundles and so on. Mother was a jolly Scottish lady and kept us all as happy as she could. She had to work hard as the rest of us although she was never very strong. My parents had never farmed before and we had left a real nice home in England where we didn't know what hard times were. Dad made us a swing and homemade sleigh, and would go out to play ball with us when he had time. When he wasn't too tired he would sing or play the mouth organ.

Alex was the family cut up. He would make plasticine bucking horses, etc., and when the teacher wasn't looking, he would make them prance on his desk. When he was caught and the teacher would give him the strap he could bring on the tears, so she would end up feeling sorry for him.

Once when Isabel and Dora had gone to Scapa in an open cutter for groceries, a blizzard came up. Dora ran behind the sleigh to keep warm, but Isabel froze the toes on her left foot. Two of her toes fell off at home before the folks could get her to the hospital, as the roads were blocked and there was no way to get to a doctor. When she did get to Hanna they operated and removed all but her little toe. It was very painful, but it didn't hold her back. She danced and lived life to the fullest.

We have all had a good life and lots of memories, happy and otherwise. The folks moved to Armistice, Alberta in 1937.

Mary married M. Campbell and passed away when she was thirty. The cause of her death was unknown.

Dora married C. Nessen. Isabell married G. Hoover, they lived in southern Alberta. They both have passed away.

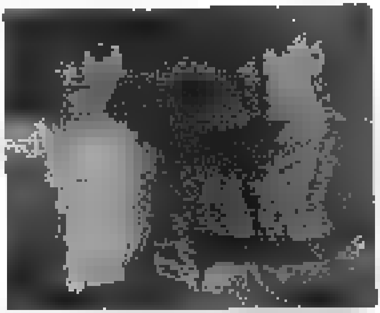
Ethel married P. Martin, and we live in Edmonton. Jessie married M. Abram, of Dewberry.

Bill was in active service overseas, he married Daisy Hawker, an English war bride. They live at Ponoka.

Alex was killed in Action on D. Day at the age of twenty-two. Dad passed away in 1950 at the age of 78 years, and Mother in 1963 at the age of 75 years.

JAMES ADAMS, *By Margaret Nelson* — James Adams came to Garden Plain area with his partner John Campbell to homestead in the year 1906. He filed on NW 18-34-13. Little is known of his early days. He proved up his land and a short time later returned to Calgary where he had worked before his endeavor in homesteading.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, *By Don Campbell* — Jack Campbell came to the Garden Plain district in 1906, approximately one year after the area north east of Drumheller was opened up for homesteading. He and his partner, James Adams, settled on a homestead on the SW 18-34-14. James returned to Calgary but Jack remained on the homestead until 1909 when he, too, returned to Calgary. On New Year's Day in 1910 he came back to the homestead and remained in the district until his death in 1974.


Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campbell Wedding Day

Soon after he settled on the homestead he was joined by his sister Nan and his parents.

His brother, Don Campbell, homesteaded the NE 19-34-14. He served overseas for four years during World War I with the 31st Infantry Battalion. On his return after the war, he and his wife Agnes and son Hugh, who had been born in Scotland, lived in a granary in Jack's yard until the home across the way was built. Four more children were born in Canada, Leslie who died at the age of four, Mary, Isabel and Don. Jack's original homestead remained in the family for some sixty-seven years, until it was sold in 1976 after Hugh's death.

During his early years on the homestead Jack was very active in community affairs, serving on the board of Buchan school and the United Farmers of Alberta. Being the musical member of the family, he enjoyed playing the accordion at get-togethers.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, ***By Mrs. Betty Waterhouse*** — My husband, Bert Waterhouse, first met the Campbells [illegible] 1919. He was on his way to Unsworth's with his team and wagon to get his first load of coal, and stopped in at Campbell's to enquire where the coal mine was, as he was an easterner from Ontario, and didn't know too much about the west, especially the bald headed prairies. He was asked in for a cup of tea and a piece of shortbread, and that was the beginning of a long-standing, wonderful friendship. Donald and Bert had both been in the first World War and had lots in common to talk about.

Mrs. Campbell came from Nairn, Scotland, in 1918, I believe, and I came from Glasgow in 1920, so the Campbells and I had lots to talk about and it was good to meet someone else from Scotland. I am sure a finer family would be hard to find; they were so kind to everyone. One just got inside the house when the kettle was put on the stove and there would be tea and shortbread, a favorite of Mrs. Campbell's which she loved to bake.

I remember one time in the twenties, Donald was taking a load of grain to the elevator, and on his way back home from Castor he called in at our house. I put the kettle on for a cup of tea, but Donald said, "I just came in because I have a wee treat to share with you." He had bought sausages in Castor and shared them with us. We never forgot that treat, that was only one of the times. They were always sharing with others, no matter what it was.

I also remember Donald's Dad, a wonderful old gentleman and very Scotch.

Nell and Jack were wonderful people too. One never left their place without having a cup of tea and a good friendly chat. Donald's garden was something to be admired, flowers of all kinds and colors. He took such pride in it, and I always came home with a lovely big bouquet.

Hugh never complained and never turned down anyone if they needed a helping hand. They have all gone from us now to a well-deserved rest where I am sure their kindness has been rewarded.

My four daughters and I still correspond with Poll, Isobel and Don. We like to keep up the friendship that started so long ago. We will never forget the good times we had and the people who helped make them. We were all poor, but rich in the things money cannot buy.

MR. WILLIAM BOLES, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Mr. William Boles homesteaded on the SW 22-34-14 in 1911. He had a brother in the Scapa district. William and his wife had two daughters and one son: Gladys was the oldest born in 1906, Della was the youngest girl born in 1913. Their only son Byron, was born in 1911.

Garden Plain Breezes in the Castor Advance in 1916 read; In 1916, William Boles was elected to the council of the Municipality of the Sullivan Lake School Division No. 335. He served on the council until 1927.

The Bole Family sold their land to Willard Roney and left the district. Their destiny is unknown.

Clarence Roney

CLARENCE RONEY, *By Gladys M. Roney* — My husband, Clarence W. Roney was one of the first settlers in the Garden Plain district, along with Harry McArthur and Joseph Higgins who homesteaded together.

Clarence Roney was born in Willmington, Delaware, in 1887. He went to the Yukon to pan for gold and then came to Canada, became a Canadian citizen, and homesteaded in 1909. He worked on the homestead for six months of the year, the other six months he worked as a surveyor on the Banff-Windermere highway. He built a sod house on the homestead, and made his own bread, pies and cakes.

In 1914 he joined the army and trained at Calgary, went overseas with the 31st battalion, and returned in 1919. He built a house and started farming, obtaining his stock and machinery through the Soldier Settlement Board

In 1928 he married Gladys Hamilton, daughter of R.E. Hamilton. We have one daughter Betty. We stayed on the farm until 1932 when we went into business at Cereal, Alberta.

In 1937 we moved to British Columbia. Clarence was in the retail business until his retirement in 1956. He died on July 28, 1971, in Vancouver, B.C.

WILLARD RONEY, *By Daphne Walbert* — In 1910, Willard Roney, his brother James and their parents, came from Unionville, Iowa, to the Corinne district. Their brother Clarence had come in 1909. Willard purchased the Boles homestead and the Harry McCafferty farm. He had filed on a parcel of land which he didn't keep, and let Mr. R.E. Hamilton take possession of it.

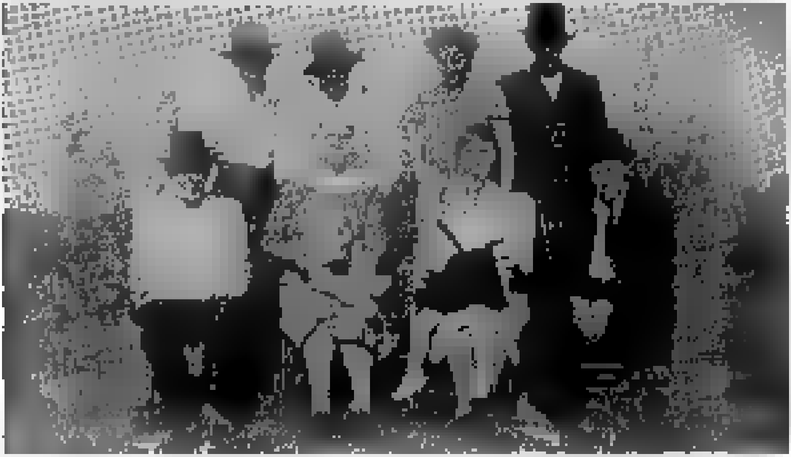
Willard returned to Unionville, but later came back to the Corinne district. He and his wife Nellie had a daughter, Gladys, who married a man whose surname was Light. Willard has passed away; his wife still lives in Unionville.

Alberta Kennedy, Mrs. Frank Kennedy, Mrs. Herman Simon, Helen Kennedy, Donald Simon, Maxine Simon, Ken Simon, Jim Adams, Herman Simon, Frank Kennedy, Willard Roney, William Harvey, Mildred Harvey, Irene Kennedy, Marguerite Simon, Fred Harvey, Andy Harvey, Frances Harvey, Harold Simon, Nellie Harvey.

MR. and MRS. MARTIN SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — Martin Siverson was born in Oslo, Norway on September 16, 1885. His mother made a living washing clothes by hand, scrubbing them on a washboard. In the winter the clothes would freeze on the line and my dad would help bring them into the house to finish drying. Dad worked in a cork factory, cutting corks by hand with a sharp knife from slabs of cork tree bark. It was a very tiresome job, and made him decide to emigrate to try to make a living in a more interesting way.

In the United States he worked on the railroad and as a lumberjack, but the slogan, 'Go west, young man', and the desire to own a farm so he could eat all the eggs he wanted, inspired him to go homesteading. Perhaps eggs were expensive because all chicks were hatched by hens on the farm in those days.

He arrived in the Garden Plain area during the wet years and with the tall ungrazed prairie wool to hold the moisture, water was abundant. He had come from a land noted for its fjords and fish; he chose to homestead the SE 12-34-14 because it had a couple of sloughs on it, and he believed they would have fish in them.



Harold Sturey, Inga Strandberg, Alf Siverson, Mr. and Mrs. Strandberg holding Kenneth, Mr. and Mrs. Siverson holding Muriel.

What wonderful plans for a farm that would produce crops, livestock, chickens and even fish, went through his mind as he filed on his homestead on June 27, 1906.

In Stettler Dad met Jacob Hagen who had filed on the NE 12-34-14 the same day, and Siguard Larson. The three men walked together to their homesteads. Jacob had bought some oxen and a walking plow. He built a sod shack and a barn; Larson, a carpenter by trade, built a sturdy ten by twelve building of lumber on my dad's homestead for their home.

Once Dad went duck hunting on Sullivan Lake. A very heavy fog came up suddenly, and lasted for thirty-six hours. Dad became lost and walked in circles for two nights and a day; he had to keep moving so that he would not freeze to death. A search party found his footprints only fifty feet from a home north of the correction line. When the fog finally cleared he was half a mile from a stopping house where he sought shelter. He was too tired to eat; a bed never felt better.

During the winter Dad went to Calgary and Gleichen to work. In the spring of

1908 he returned to the homestead with a walking plow and four oxen. One of the oxen was a white bull that sired a white heifer calf for John Campbell. John kept the heifer, and for as long as he farmed, he occasionally had white calves from her offspring.

During the summer Dad broke some land and worked for Kane. He built another shack to replace the one which had been destroyed by a prairie fire, but that was blown down by a strong wind, so he had to start all over again. During a hail storm in 1928, a gust of wind which shook the house we were living in, picked up the shack. It flew past the window, then up in the air, twirling around, tearing into pieces which scattered for some distance. It really frightened me and every time it blows hard I remember that shack flying past the window.

After Dad got his shack built, Larson moved his building to the Hagen homestead, and lived there until he married Miss Graham. Hagen then occupied it until he left for Prince Rupert, and from that time until 1927 it was used for storing grain. That summer the Johanssons, mother's brother and his family, arrived from Sweden, and lived in it. While they were there, my uncle worked in the mine and hunted ducks and rabbits for meat. One time he shot a badger. My aunt borrowed my mother's meat grinder and made hamburger from it. When our relatives left for Edmonton in 1928, the shack stood empty until it was moved to Dad's farmstead to be used for storage. When Alf operated the Garden Plain service station during the sixties it was moved there to be used as an office building. It is now a chicken house on the farm of Walter Gross of Spondin.

In 1913 Sigurd Larson helped Dad dig a well in his hog pasture, but the water contained so many salts that it was fit for neither man nor beast to drink.

When Hagen left he rented his homestead to my dad. During the thirties when times were so bad, the taxes were not paid, and the Special Areas took possession of it. Dad rented it from them until Alf took it over. He eventually sold the lease rights to Lloyd Strandberg who is now operating it.

About 1916 Larson built a two-roomed cottage which was Dad's home for the remainder of his life. That same year Karin Johansson left her homeland in Sweden and visited her sister, Anna Peterson, at Richdale. Then she came to stay with another sister, Matilda Eklund, in the Corinne district. She worked for the Frank Kennedy family for a while, then in 1918 she married Martin Siverson.

On May 13, 1919, their daughter Inga Marie was born, with Mrs. Matilda Spelen assisting. Incidentally, my birth was not registered, so when I applied for a birth certificate in 1957, Mr. Alex Wilson and my Dad had to sign a form stating that they had known me all my life. My brother, Alf, was born on November 17, 1924. This time Mrs. Halverson was with my mother.

In 1920 Dad bought two cows, the herd foundation and the beginning of milking cows. At first the cream was churned and the butter sold at the stores. I can remember when Dad brought the first cream can home. From then on the cream was shipped to the creamery.

Hail can be destructive, but in 1929 I gained from it. I took my total savings of $7.50 and insured Dad's crop. When it was hailed out I received $75.00. With the money I bought a black calf from James Bradshaw for $20.00, and later sold it for $40.00. I was rich. However, the depression struck and daddy borrowed it all. He did not forget it though; after I was married he gave me my favorite cow, Gulrose, and a mare. The mare produced two colts, but they have all been sold. The cow gave me a heifer and a bull calf; money from the sale of offspring bought a purebred cow which has increased into a small herd. There are still descendants of Gulrose in our herd, and she had come from one of the cows dad had bought at Mrs. Spelen's sale in 1920.

Because of the distance to school, I did not attend until I was twelve years old. Mother had the equivalent of a grade eight in Sweden, she was partially deaf, could not read English, and spoke it very little. But with the aid of a first reader and an arithmetic book which Mrs. Halverson gave her, and a dictionary, Mother began to teach me. She discovered that school books were obtainable through Eaton's mail order service, so for years I received new readers for Christmas presents. I used to love the stories in those readers, and would read them through silently, but Mother insisted that I had to read aloud for an hour every day. I used to read aloud and churn the butter at the same time. Due to mother's efforts, I was able to go into grade seven when I started school, and obtained my grade eight diploma after two years at Corinne.

Firewood and kindling was very scarce, and I can remember helping my mother gather dry cow chips to use as fuel.

One fall day when I was quite young I noticed the buckbrush turning black on SW 7-34-13. My mother was milking a cow, and how I must have frightened her when I came running and yelling that the prairie was on fire. She quickly went to the house and wrote a note, "Please send Martin home as there is a prairie fire east of our house." She instructed me to go to James Wright's place, where Dad was working on the threshing outfit, as fast as I could. I ran most of the way, not far short of a mile. Mrs. Wright got the message to my dad, and people from far and near came to fight the fire. Mrs. Burt from Scape came in a car; she took my mother, Alf and me with her, and cream cans of water so the men could soak the sacks they were using to beat out the flames. Luckily there was little wind so the fire was brought under control before it caused much damage to the native grass.

Those golden straw stacks of the threshing era provided food and shelter for the livestock during the winter. As the animals ate around them they became mushroom-shaped; with a blanket of snow and ice on them they could become death traps if the tops slid on top of the animals. Such an avalanche put me in a tricky situation one time when I had gone with my father for a load of straw.

He was using a wagon box on bobsleighs, pulled by a team of horses. My dad started to load the straw when he noticed the top of the stack starting to move. He yelled a warning, but before I could get out of the way the top of the stack came down on me, pinning my face against the wagon box. It was God's providence that the team did not move; I shudder at the thought of what would have happened if my face had rubbed against the box with the stakes and bolts sticking out of it. My dad dug me out, none the worse for the experience, except for some black and blue spots which disappeared in time.

Horses can be balky. My dad had one, a pretty little bay called Maud. As he was short of horses, he had to use her, but after a night's rest she would balk; she just refused to work in the morning. So I would hold the rest of the horses while dad jumped on her and rode her at full gallop around the field. Then he would hook the horses to the implement and away she would go and work, sweatily, puffing and blowing.

Our bachelor neighbour used to leave the oven door of his coal and wood stove open, so that the heat from the oven would help warm the one-room shack which was his home all of his days at Garden Plain. His beloved cats lived in the shack too. One morning he put kindling in the stove, filled the tea-kettle, shut the drafts enough that the fire would not burn out of control, closed the oven door and went out to feed his horses. When he returned he was met by an unfamiliar smell, so he opened the oven door, and there was his cat, roasted. What an awful feeling that kindhearted man must have had! To my knowledge he never closed that oven

door again. The last time I saw that stove he had put so much stuff on the oven door that it would be impossible to close it without thinking.

He also kept some chickens. Once they were visited by a striped kitty who helped himself to breakfast; the owner borrowed a gun and sat down in the chicken coop to wait for the unwelcome visitor. The animal was so long in coming that the man fell asleep. When the skunk did arrive the squawking of the chickens awakened the man, who sleepily grabbed his trusty pitchfork and killed the intruder, but not before it had sprayed man, coop and all with the offensive odor reserved for anyone getting in its way.

In the dry thirties, those sloughs that my dad had believed might have fish in them, turned out to be alkaline flats with big cracks in the parched soil. The rainfall of the forties filled them again, and for a while one of them became the neighborhood skating rink; my dad donned skates and played goalkeeper

It was during the late thirties that some hot fat spattered into one of Mother's eyes when she was frying something. From that day on she mentioned that it bothered her. It turned to cancer which spread, and she passed away in July, 1949. Dad remained on the farm until his death in 1964.

My mother instilled in me a faith in God that has never left me; it is the one thing I can turn to when the going gets tough. As I enter the sunset years I thank God for my wonderful mother who made the best of what she had. She missed the Bon Hus or mission place that she used to go to in Sweden, as she did not get to go to meetings here, but she taught me that you don't have to go to church to worship God as He lives within us. May we meet again in the house of many mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

MR. and MRS. ALF SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — After Alf finished school he worked on the farm with his dad. He married Helen Pincombe in 1953, and they had six children, Marie, May, Sandra, Arthur, Terry and Annette. May is now married to Walter Peach; they have two daughters, Vickie and Bertha. Sandra is married to Henry Schellelmaier and has one daughter Tammy. Marie and Arthur are working in Calgary.

At first the family lived on SW 12-34-14 but later moved to the SE 1-34-14 where Alf operated the Garden Plain service station as well as the farm. In 1967 Alf had a sale and moved to Calgary and later to Langdon.

Alf and Helen are now divorced, and she is married to Hugh Riddle. Terry and Annette are with their mother. Alf lives at Langdon where he is an Amway and Rawleigh distributor.

MR. and MRS. OSCAR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Oscar Neilson Ekelund was born in Skattebol, Vermland, Sweden in 1878. Like other young men he wanted adventure, so with his brother Theodor and sister Beda set sail for the United States where he worked in the logging industry in South Dakota and Washington. Later he went back to his homeland for a visit and in 1910 immigrated to Canada. On May 26, 1910, he filed on NW 24-34-14 as his homestead and NE 24-34-14 as his pre-emption in the Corinne district. He built his homestead shack alongside the burnout on his pre-emption, and later built a house a mile further west.

Matilda Johansson was born on April 25, 1888 in Vermland. On June 2, 1909, Matilda and her sister Anna Maria left Sweden for Chicago where they both worked until 1913, when she immigrated to the Corinne district near Garden Plain, and was united in marriage with her childhood sweetheart, Oscar Ekelund.

To this union seven children were born. Four died in infancy. Astrid, Arthur

and Evelyn attended Corinne school. The family loved to visit their relatives and friends, and attended local social functions such as concerts and picnics. They were well liked as Oscar was a very honest man.

The depression years and the drought inspired the family to look for greener pastures. They found a likeable place in the Daysland district, where they moved in 1937. In the first letter I received from my cousin Astrid after they moved she wrote, "And all the nice clear water we can use!" In the Corinne district their farmstead must have been where coal was close to the surface, as the water was a very dark brown. It must have been hard for my godmother, Aunt Matilda, to keep house at Corinne, as water for washing clothes was hauled from the neighbors. And if my godfather, Uncle Oscar, was like most men, she must have heard often, "Do you have to use so much water all the time? I've got other things to do besides hauling water for you to pour out."

Mr. and Mrs. Ekelund, Evelyn, Astrid, Arthur Ekelund

They farmed in the Daysland district until they retired to the town of Daysland in 1956, only a few months before Astrid passed away after many years of painful suffering from arthritis and waiting for the day she would meet Jesus face to face.

Arthur is married to Ann Gordash, and farms the home place. They have seven children, Gordon, Douglas, Vickie, Timmy, Danny, Barbra and Marilyn.

Evelyn is married to Ole Larson and has three chosen children, Allen, Carol and Joy. They live in Wetaskiwin.

Oscar passed away in 1966 and Matilda in 1972.

THE WINMILL STORY — Mr. William Winmill came to the Corinne district in 1909 to take up a homestead. This homestead was on the NE 36-34-14. Mr. and Mrs. William Winmill had three children: Doris, the oldest child was born in 1921 Ervine, born in 1908, and the youngest was Raymond born in 1920. The three children attended school in the Corinne School. They are all married and the two boys Ervine and Raymond are living in Edmonton.

Several years ago Mr. William Winmill was seen in Edmonton, a friend of his remembers visiting him in the hotel in the southern part of the city. Mrs. Winmill has remarried and is Mrs. Flynn and is living in Edmonton.

GEORGE GIBB, By *Margaret Nelson* — In July of 1909 George Gibb filed on the SE 18-34-13. He broke up the required land and built a shack; during the winter of 1912-13 he freighted from Castor. After his homestead was proved up, he had enough of Alberta. He went to Saskatoon where he worked for a time

before going to Calgary. He later spent some time in British Columbia before retiring in Calgary where he passed away a few years ago. About 1921, Andrew Glover bought his land.

EDWARD LEADLY, ***By Harry Nelson*** — Edward Parker Leadly homesteaded the NW 30-34-13 on March 29, 1909. He apparently proved up his homestead.

Sometime later he was found dead in his shack, apparently a victim of ptomaine poisoning. His land was taken over by the Special Areas in the early thirties. It was leased by T.G. Ironside for pasture and at the present time E. Storch has the grazing rights.

ROBERT COPP, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — The year 1909 brought numbers of families to the Corinne area in search of land to homestead. Robert filed on the north west of 24-34-14 to make this his home. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Copp had two children, Frank and Vivian. Vivian attended school at the Corinne School. She was a very pleasant girl and full of laughter. She would ride her horse about four miles for the mail each day.

Frank homesteaded on the north east of 34-34-14 in 1910. Later he married Bessie Ogg. They had one son, Robert.

The Robert Copp and the Frank Copp families lived together and owned and operated a stopping house. This along with other stopping houses provided lodging for people travelling north and south on the main road. Later he sold his property to Thomas Smith.

WILLIAM HENRY McARTHUR, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — William McArthur homesteaded on the NE of 22-34-14 in 1909. After farming his land, he moved to Castor where he owned and operated a butcher shop. William sold his homestead to Mr. Willard Roney. Later he moved to British Columbia. While in B.C. he found a loved one and married. William passed away in 1970.

GEORGE MARTIN, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — In 1909, George came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead on the north half of 25-34-14. He farmed his land until 1920, when he left the district. George was a very short man and acquired the name of Little George. While homesteading he found it very difficult to harness his horses; he built himself a box to stand on to bridle and harness them.

In 1919, George worked with Alex Richard on a large steam threshing machine doing threshing for the neighbors. In 1920, George left the district.

George was a very sociable bachelor with a nice personality. He enjoyed his "oil of happiness" and while walking down the streets of Castor he would sing his favorite little song, "I built the Rocky Mountains and placed them where they are. Sold Whiskey to the Indians, from my little Bar."

THE HIGGINS FAMILY, ***By Mrs. H. Higgins*** — Joseph Higgins filed on a homestead and pre-emption about halfway between Castor and Hanna in 1909. He built a sod house, dug a well, and farmed for a time with oxen, then changed to horses.

About the same time, Mary and Edward Lepard settled in the Garden Plain area. In 1913, Mary Lepard's widowed mother, Mrs. O'Connor, and her only sister, Honora, came to visit them. Mrs. O'Connor died about ten days after their arrival, and Honora remained in Alberta. She married Joseph Higgins in 1917. Their son, Joseph Junior, was born in 1922.

When Mr. Wickson, the storekeeper and postmaster, moved to British Columbia, he sold his house to Mr. Higgins, who moved it on to his homestead.

Joseph Higgins' health failed and his son, relying on his father's experience and advice, took over the operation of the farm. But conditions were poor. Very little rain fell, crops were damaged by frost. Grasshoppers ate the little that did grow.

The farmers didn't lose hope; they kept saying, "Next year will be a good year," but it didn't happen that way. Almost every year, some part of the district was hailed. The Hail Insurance companies considered it a high risk area, and charged very high premiums. The government would insure the crop for a smaller amount at a lower premium, but if the farmer was unable to pay it, it was charged against his land.

Some farmers were lucky enough to sell their property; others packed what they could, took their horses and cattle and left to start a home elsewhere. Others decided to stay as there was so much land that couldn't be used for farming but could be used for pasture, they went in to ranching. It proved to be a wise choice and worked out very well.

Joseph Senior died in 1946. Joseph Junior put in one more crop, but didn't even get enough feed for the stock. He wanted to try something else, so he sold the farm to one neighbor and the house to another, and he and his mother moved to Castor. He got a job supervising a school near Coronation and the next year went to Normal and started to teach.

He taught several schools near Castor, and periodically spent a year at University to upgrade his qualifications. He taught in Calgary until his health failed. He died of cancer in 1975.

His widow, his three step-children and his mother live in Calgary.

IT'S THE LANDING THAT TELLS, By Marie Lepard Claypool — In the year of 1909 my parents with eight of us youngsters moved from a coastal city in the state of Washington to the prairies of Alberta. After rattling through the Canadian Rockies in what the Canadian Railway Company called immigration cars, we arrived in Calgary, a city snuggled in the foothills. There, the scene changed (but not the cars) to a rolling green prairie dotted with yellow buttercups and white daisies. After swaying and bumping along over the unballasted railroad for many hours our train pulled into the little wooden town of Stettler and the end of the line, but not the end of the journey for us, for a whole new life was opening before us.

Stiff and tired from our journey we stood on the platform of the tiny red depot looking around us with mixed feelings of which dismay was not the least.

For Father's sake I had kept my feelings well under my hat. It was when he came into the hotel the next morning, calmly telling us we would have to go before a North West Mounted Policeman and kiss the Union Jack — well, what had been so carefully hidden came out as I told all and sundry that I would kiss no flag but the Stars and Stripes and I did not care if King George himself gave the order. Of course Father enjoyed this and when he was able to stop laughing told us he was only joking. But there was no joking when he brought around a lumber wagon piled high with everything including the kitchen stove. On the very top he had placed mattresses and the ten of us climbed on to them holding on the best we could. Then as if to add insult to injury two red long-horned oxen were hitched to this monstrosity and we started our sixty mile trek as the crow flies to journey's end, over hills and valleys, through and around mud holes, for four of the longest days of my life.

We arrived at dusk at two small shacks where we hastily prepared supper and without any coaxing retired for a much needed rest. The ground looked like

that we had passed over and not too promising and as the last chore of the night we staked out the oxen.

Something went wrong for the next morning the oxen were gone. Two of my brothers went in one direction and my older brother and I went in the other. We walked for miles before we found them on the bank of a ravine. Being tired and hungry we were anxious to get home. I got the idea that perhaps we could ride the creatures. Did you ever ride an ox? Well don't.

There was one short rope we had and my brother put that on his ox and I had my mother's hubbard apron to tie onto mine. After putting the horns of the animal through the straps of the apron my brother gave me a boost sending me on top of a very resentful ox. I got a good grip on the apron, using it very much as one would reins on a saddle horse, when the fun began. The ox started bucking up and circling around, then humping his back — head down and tail in the air — plunged down the ravine into a gooey gumbo mud puddle. The other ox with my brother perched on his back was walking in all the dignity you please up the other bank. Where was my dignity? Well! that is what I landed on in the mud hole. The moral of this story is: It's not the take off as much as the landing that tells.

THE JOHN DELKER FAMILY, By Alfred and Albert Delker — John and Mary Delker and their five children came from Bessarabia in July, 1927. They bought the John Claypool farm north-east of Scapa on the east half of 10-34-14. The children attended Garden Plain and Corinne schools. John Delker Sr. passed away in 1938

John Delker Jr. married Violet Tschritter and lived on a farm twenty miles south of Castor. They have two children, Shirley and Douglas. John Delker Jr. passed away in 1972.

Elsie Delker married Earl Burt and now lives on a farm north of Craigmyle. They have three children, Sheila, Gary and Diane.

Mae married Don Welch and lives in Calgary. They have two children, Gloria and Marilyn.

Mrs. Mary Delker, Albert and Alfred still live on the original farm.

THE ED LEPARD STORY, By Belle Lepard Provost — Mother and Dad were married in Michigan, United States of America, where all of us eight children were born, Marie, Ed, John, Dave, George, Mary, Belle and Laurette. My Dad had a lumber mill in Michigan. He sold out in 1907 and moved to Hoquiam, Washington, where he worked in a saw mill till the spring of 1909.

The family came to Canada and settled in the Garden Plain district on the south west quarter of section fourteen, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen. We arrived in Stettler on the eighteenth of April 1909.

They bought a yoke of oxen and wagon, also a little cook stove and some dishes and other necessary items. They loaded the bedding, two guns, two trunks, the stove and dishes, Mother, Dad and us eight children piled on top. The load was completed

With a cow behind the wagon, we started across country to the homestead. After wandering around sloughs and mud holes for several days, we came to the Smith and Wallace homesteads just two and a half miles from our own.

They had come in just before us and had built two shacks. So we stayed there for a few days, while Dad and Dave took the oxen and wagon back to Stettler to get lumber to put a floor in our tent. They also hoped to get our other belongings which were shipped from Washington. When Dad went to the station, someone else had claimed the shipment. This was a big loss to our parents as Mother's

sewing machine and all our clothing and other household goods were all gone, and it was impossible to trace things like that in those days.

While Dad and Dave were gone, a prairie fire came from the north, headed straight for our tent. It was coming fast as the grass was long then. Mother got all us children together and gave us our orders. The older ones hauled water from a slough nearby and Mother and the older ones back fired around the shacks. We younger ones dipped coats or anything we could find to keep wet for them to use. Mary and I had to watch Laurella as she was too small to do anything.

That was a long hard fight, but the shacks and all of us were saved. My Dad was so relieved to find us all safe when he got back. He had heard of the fire on his way home, and was very proud of Mother for the way she had managed in such a terrible situation.

They put up the tent on our homestead and we lived in it until they got the sod house built. Then in June we got a blizzard and the roof blew off the sod house. By that time Jack Claypool's father had finished his sod house so he took us all over there.

Later when Dad tied the oxen on a hay rack and the heel flies were bad and took after the oxen, Dad had a merry ride till the oxen stopped in the middle of a big slough.

We sold out and moved north of Castor in 1919. This was after brother John and cousin Mack Lepard came home after the end of World War One. We liked the Lauderdale district and remained there till the end of Dad's farming days. Of the eight children only two remain. George of Calgary, and Belle of Edmonton.

THE BEN LEPARD STORY, *By Electie Lepard Chidley* — Ben Lepard was born and raised in the Township of Mara, Ontario. He married Hannah McMillan in 1888. To this marriage there were born nine children, Bill, Mary, Maggie, Belle, Lizzie, Mack, Joe, Hannah and Electie, all born in Ontario. In 1910 Ben had heard of the Great North West from his brothers, who were already here, so he landed in Calgary in the early spring and filed on the south east of 14-34-14. He broke up the thirty acres that was required for a homestead and built a twelve by sixteen. Found work north of Castor for awhile and finally worked for Mr. G.B. Hoover of Gadsby until the spring of 1913. Then he returned to Ontario for his family and such belongings as could be made use of in Alberta. He shipped a railway carload about April 1st. It took two weeks to get to Lacombe. The family had left Ontario a week later, and when our train pulled into Lacombe, we were very pleased to see dad and the dog standing in a box car door. We continued on to Gadsby to the Hoover farm where the men worked until late October, then we came to the homestead in the Garden Plain area. The men built an additional twelve by sixteen shack to the original, plowed sod three inches deep and fourteen inches wide cut into eighteen inch lengths and laid them around our shiplap shack. That was a warm place to live. They also built a sod barn and chicken house.

We were very fortunate to be living beside a very good clear water spring, and farther up the creek we had our own coal. It was about four feet down to a two foot seam of very hard shiny coal. All our neighbors helped strip coal every fall for their own use.

The fall of 1913 was very warm. On Christmas Day my mother walked all over our quarter section with only a white blouse and skirt on. On January sixth, Ed Lepard broke up a few acres and seeded wheat, also Mr. Claypool seeded some, it came up a few inches then winter came.

In 1917 Dad built a house twenty by twenty-six with twelve foot studs. That was shiplap, two layers of tar paper and drop siding. It too was warm. And the price! Five hundred and seventy-five dollars, this was five, two-year-old steers sold to Harold Hunt from Endiang at one hundred dollars each. the other seventy-five was some of my brothers' wages.

This house held many happy occasions for the Lepards and their neighbors. As the front room and dining room were all one, thirteen by twenty feet, we had many dances there, supplying our own music — a mouth organ, which most of us played, a violin and guitar, and we rattled the bones too. You may be able to understand what our parents had to listen to. They were very tolerant: only once did Mother tell Mack to quit, but he just went outside and kept playing. A violin is a very squeaky thing.

Mother must have had a lot of patience or else she would have drowned me early in life. Shortly after we came to Alberta, I was washing all her fancy cups and saucers that the kind relatives had given her when leaving Ontario. I never noticed the open cellar door and pushed the table over it. A leg went down, and all the dishes too. Oh my! I was ten years old then and not very smart, eh?

When I was seventeen, and Russell Chidley was our regular Sunday visitor, I decided to really clean the separator room. So I put plenty of water on the floor and sprinkled it generously with Gillette Lye, took an old broom and gave it the what for — then washed it all down the drain and away to the coulee. Later mother looked out and said, "Oh my goodness, all my turkeys are lying beside the drain, dead." Poor me again. So you see what some parents have to put up with. I guess they sighed with relief when I married and got out of there.

Mother and Dad lived there until about 1936 then moved to Castor and stayed with my sister Lizzie, Mrs. Bert Barnes. They passed away there in 1939 and 1941 respectively.

Of their children, only four remain in 1976. Belle eighty-three years in Edmonton, M.G. "Mack" eighty years in Surrey, British Columbia, Hannah seventy-five years in Orillia, Ontario and Electa seventy-three in Hanna, Alberta.

MYLES G. (Mac) LEPARD — My Father, Ben Lepard, had filed on a homestead on the SE 14-34-14 in 1910. My brother Bill had joined him in 1912. In the spring of 1913 my father moved the rest of the family from Ontario to the G.B. Hoover ranch north-east of Gadsby, where he and I and brother Bill worked for the summer. In the fall of 1913 the family moved to the homestead; the following spring I helped with the building of the U.F.A. hall at Garden Plain, then went back to the Hoover ranch.

In 1914 I filed on a quarter section on the north side of the correction line; I worked for J.H. Simon on the horse-powered threshing rig owned by the Simon brothers. This was a relic of the past, which was hand fed and had a straw carrier.

In the spring of 1916 I was turned down for the army because of being underweight; but was finally accepted in the fall of 1917. I was attached to the Tenth Battalion and went overseas, but came down with flu and was sent to England for the duration. I returned home in July 1919, bought another quarter section, and tried to farm, but without much success. I moved to Ohaton and later to B.C. where I worked as a logger.

In 1939 I joined D Company of the Westminster Regiment at Chilliwack, went overseas with them and later transferred to the R.C.E.M.E. When I returned home in 1945 I got married and have lived at Surrey, B.C., ever since.

During my stay at Garden Plain I was on the hall committee for much of the time.

MR. and MRS. JOE LEPARD, By Violet Williams Lepard — I am the youngest of ten children of the C.B. William family. My parents and seven children came from North Dakota to the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill area. Three children passed away in Iowa from diphtheria. My father heard of homesteads in Alberta, so he came west and homesteaded in the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill district.

Dad was a carpenter, so he built a shack for Mother and the family, who came in 1907. a sod room had to be added to accommodate us all. Dad and the boys built the Hill Park School, which later I attended until I was eleven years of age. Later I attended the Neutral Hill School, taking grade eleven in Consort and finishing my education at Normal in 1921-22.

I taught the Silver Beach School near Gooseberry Lake for two years and in 1924-25 came to the Corinne School and boarded with the Frank Kennedy family.

In June 1926, Joseph Lepard and I were united in marriage and lived in the Ben Lepard home until the spring of 1927 when he began carpentering with Bert Barnes. We moved back to the Lepard home in the fall of 1930, we had two small daughters, then a baby brother kept them company at Christmas of thirty-one.

During the thirties the grasshoppers and the dry weather didn't leave much for the people to get by with. In those years there were nasty blizzards, feed was scarce and had to be shipped into Scapa.

Some families had left the district, among them was the Herman Simon family. We rented and lived on their land until the spring of 1948. About the middle of April a snowplow opened the highway to Hanna. We had to sell cattle as we didn't have enough feed to keep them. That summer Joe farmed our own quarter and the McCafferty place.

In the spring of 1949 there were only a few spots of snow left by the first of March, when we moved to a farm south of Nevis.

Joe passed away in July 1963. That fall I moved into Stettler and have been residing there since. Harold and his wife, Joan live in the Erskine area, Keith, Dorothy and their daughter are at Whitecourt.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley Wedding Day

THE RUSSELL CHIDLEY STORY, by [illegible] Chidley — Russell came to Manitoba from Devil's Lake, North Dakota with his family. Russell had three sisters and two brothers. One sister Grace, had long hair and while she was blowing out the coal oil lamp, her hair caught fire. She breathed in the flames and passed away shortly after.

The family later moved to Edmonton, then to Castor or rather Old Williston as the town was known then. Russell attended school there for a few years. After the Railroad reached Castor, the family moved to Hanna, where they felt there was more opportunity for a pioneer family. In 1913, they pitched their tent and Russell often told of the very severe cold in that tent that winter.

He attended school here for some years, attending Hanna's first school, and during Hanna's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, he had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances with the first teacher, Mr. Herb De Bow.

Russell's sister, Gertrude, had returned to the United States of America with

the rest of the family in 1917. She later became an actress in Hollywood. We watched her on T.V. one evening in 1967.

Russell remained in this area and later took up land about three miles south of the Garden Plain store. As I recall, he had a very nice looking horse and buggy, and many a girl had a buggy ride with him. That horse could walk the slowest and trot the fastest of any horse in the district. I guess I enjoyed the most rides as he married me, Elechia Lepard in 1921.

Of this marriage there were four sons, Bill, Arley, Murl and Bert.

Russell left the farm there and bought the Tom Smith homestead one mile west of the Corinne School, and one mile from the shores of Sullivan Lake.

Our boys all attended school at Corinne. There were many laughs and many hard times as the years rolled by. I took great pleasure in dressing my boys in white shirts and dress pants for school. These were homemade. Finally Arley at twelve years of age came home the last day of school in June and said, "Ma, Ma, do we have to wear white shirts next year?" I said, "Yes, and you will be wearing ties too." All was forgotten till the first day of school, when he stood in front of me and said, "Do we have to wear ties too?"

Russell farmed that area for about forty eight years, raising black Angus cattle. He also was a Councillor in the Sullivan Lake Municipality for several years, and an original member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall Committee, having helped build that hall in 1914. He was a staunch Co-Op member until his demise in 1968.

The boys all married and are now living in the Hanna area.

It might be of some interest to the readers to learn that while visiting my sister in Ontario, I learned that my grandfather had been a Quaker, and they took me to the one-time home of that group north of Toronto. It is now maintained as a Museum. While there I was told that each member had his name engraved on the under side of his chair seat, and sure enough, there I found Ezekiel Lepards' name. In one of the clippings from the papers kept there, it said my grandfather had been one of the finest fiddlers in North America.

Now I never heard my father mention this, and I'm sure grandfather never told the family he had been a Quaker or a fiddler (as he moved north to Orillia) and this was granddad's secret.

Two of his sons were real old time fiddlers, Jack Lepard played in the Garden Plain Hall and surrounding Schools; he could get the nicest sound from that fiddle I believe I ever heard. There wasn't much rubbed off on me, I was too busy with dishes and diapers. I played at it a bit. My brothers George and Mack as he was known, was a nice smooth player. My son Bert inherited more than the rest of us, he is a real good fiddler, just a natural.

I wonder how many remember the mild winter of 1913 and 1914. One of my uncles did some breaking of sod in January, and another seeded some wheat on January sixth. Of course, it came up but was frozen off in February.

ARLEY CHIDLEY, & Leona Stamp Chidley — Arley Chidley, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley, was born in Castor on June 15, 1923. I attended school at Corinne and in 1954 married Leona Stamp of Fleet. They have four children. Gary was born in Hanna in 1958; Debbie was born in Hanna, 1960; Donna was born in 1961; and Dixie, the youngest, was born in December, 1962.

Gary started school in Scapa and later attended school in Hanna, graduating from Hanna High in 1976 and is working for Special Areas. His three sisters, Debbie, Donna and Dixie are attending school in Hanna.

Arley took over his Father's farm in 1964 and in 1974 sold it to Mr. William

Boyson. Arley and I had an auction sale and moved to an acreage west of Hanna. Arley is employed as janitor at the Hanna Elementary School.

MURL CHIDLEY, *By Sylvia Kerner Chidley* — Murl Chidley, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell was born in Castor on November 24, 1924. He received his education at Corinne School and later married Sylvia Kerner of Stanmore. Murl and I have one son Dallas. He was born in Hanna, November 29, 1950. Dallas attended school in Scapa and Netherby, finishing his education in Hanna High.

In 1945 Murl and I lived on the Roney place the north west of 22-34-14. Then we bought the Walker farm in 1949. We moved to the Walker farm in 1953 to make this our home. We remained on this farm until 1974. Dallas started farming his own land in 1971. In July 1974 we decided to leave the farm so Murl and I along with our son, sold our farms to Morgan Transport Limited. We had an auction sale and moved to Hanna.

Murl is employed with Special Areas and Dallas works with Special Areas and the Co-op Gas Company. Later Murl and Dallas purchased the Hugh Campbell Estate, farming this land from town.

THE BERT CHIDLEY STORY, *By Mary Chidley* — Bert Chidley is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley. He was born in the Castor Hospital on February 11, 1934. He received his schooling at Corinne, later married Mary Kerner from Stanmore.

Bert and Mary lived on the Fred Stamp farm and the Wallace farm, later moving to Hanna. While residing in Hanna, Bert was employed in the Jenkin's Grocery Store and Grover's Transport.

Their only child, Dale, received his schooling in Scapa and Hanna. He graduated from Hanna High in 1978 and is presently working in a grocery store in Hanna.

WILLIAM GEORGE BOYSON, *By Phyllis Boyson* — Bill, his wife, Thelma and their three children farmed in the Airdrie district before moving to the Craigmyle district. They purchased the Bercht Farm in the Craigmyle district in May of 1964. They resided there until April of 1973 when they purchased the Arley Chidley farm one mile west of the Corinne School. Bill and Thelma have three children: Linden Archie born in Calgary in 1943, Dwight William born in Calgary in 1946 and Lela Mary born in Calgary in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. William Boyson, Dwight, Lela, Linden

Linden received his education in Airdrie and is presently farming in the Corinne district.

Dwight attended school in Airdrie, Elmer, Hanna High and later went to S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968.

Lela received her education at Airdrie, Elmer and Hanna High School. In November 1967, she married Laurence Nicholson of Vegreville. They have three children: Chris, Charlene and David. They are presently living in Peace River where Laurence is a Public Relations man for the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Bill and Thelma moved from the farm to Hanna in October of 1976.

DWIGHT WILLIAM BOYSON, By Phyllis Boyson — Dwight Boyson married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968. We resided in Hanna where Dwight apprenticed as a heavy duty mechanic at C.C.I.L. In the spring of 1970 he received his Heavy Duty Mechanic License after attending school at S.A.I.T. in Calgary.

The spring of 1970 saw Dwight and myself off to the mining hamlet of Pine Point, N.W.T., where Dwight was employed as a H.D. Mechanic for Cominco Mines. The type of mining operation is open pit and experimental underground mining.

In the spring of 1972 we returned to the Corinne district and later purchased the Andy Harvey farm. Then Dwight, myself, our two children and Dwight's brother Linden took up residence and the management of his father's farm as well as our own.

We have two children: Kelly Dwight born in Hay River, N.W.T. in the fall of 1971 and Evonne Ann born in Hanna in the summer of 1974.

THE THOMAS SMITH STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — Thomas Smith came to homestead in 1910. He filed on the south east of 27-34-14. He homesteaded on the land until joining the Army in 1913. Thomas made his home with the John Wallace family.

During the war Thomas lost an arm. Returning with this handicap, Tom acquired the job of superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board. He sold his land to Mr. Russell Chidley in 1926 through the S.S.B. Later he moved to Edmonton.

The Castor Advance of 1916 stated "Garden Plain: A farewell and dance was given in December 1916 in the U.F.A. Hall in honor of Thomas Smith, who is a war veteran and is leaving the district."

He died in Edmonton where his wife still resides.

MR. ROBERT SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — Robert Smith homesteaded in the Corinne district on the SW 35–34-14 in 1912. Robert never lived on his homestead but lived with the John Wallace family. When the war started he joined the army in 1913. When he returned he worked as a superintendent for the Soldier Settlement Board. In later years he sold his land and went to live in Edmonton and later moving to Calgary, residing there until his death.

JAMES COOPER SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1912, James Cooper Smith, who is a brother of Robert and Thomas Smith, came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead, James filed on the NE of 23-34-14. He and his wife lived on their homestead until 1916. They left the district to find better land. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. FRANK GERRITZ, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Frank Gerritz was among the homesteaders that came to the district in 1910. He didn't take up residence in the

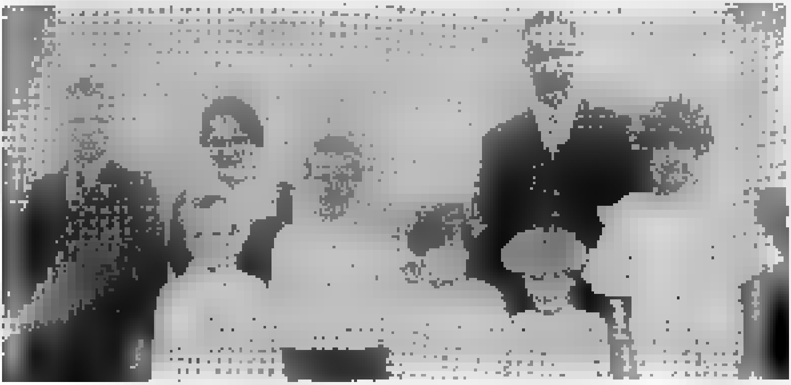
area but lived with his brother in the Cowan district, which is north of the correction line. In later years he sold his land to William Lepard. His destiny is unknown.

WILLIAM WAGNER, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Mr. William Wagner homesteaded on the south half of 26-34-14. He and his wife Maggie had one son who remained in the States. He married there and came to live with his parents for a short time, then returned to the States.

William had a great interest in witching wells and helped the neighbors find water. William had a problem speaking, as his stuttering was very noticeable.

Bill and Maggie had a farm sale, selling their horses and cattle to the neighbors, before leaving in the thirties.

THE CARL BLUM STORY, ***By Paul Blum*** — Carl Blum homesteaded in the Bullpound district near Hanna in 1909, coming from the United States with the Kohl, Gall and Wiedrick families. In 1910 he married Johanna Wiedrick. To this union six children were born, Fred, Erna, Albin, Paul, Lillian and Selma. The latter passed away in 1942.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blum and family, Fred, Paul, Albin, Lilia, Zelma

In 1923 we moved to the Garden Plain district on what was then the Walker farm. Later my father purchased the William Wagner farm. In 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Blum moved north to Wetaskiwin. They both have passed away.

MACK McMILLAN, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Mr. Mack McMillan was a returned soldier from World War II. While in the war he was a Commanding Officer in the army. During the war he fell in love with a girl who was in the English Army in England, they were married and came to live in the Corinne district after the war. Mr. and Mrs. Mack McMillan bought the Frank Copp homestead through the Soldier Settlement Board, they lived in the district for a few years and then they left. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. CHARLES MAY LYON, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Mr. Charles May Lyon homesteaded on the NW 16-34-14. Charles and his wife came to the district in 1910. They had one daughter who was married to Mr. Walker. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lyon didn't live here very long. They sold their land to Melvin Walker and left the district. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. WILLIAM CARLSON, *By Orpha Walfert* — Mr. and Mrs. William Carlson came west to take up a homestead. They filed on the SW 36-34-14 in 1910. William and his wife didn't live here very long. While here William helped to make hay with James Hildreth, later they left the district, their whereabouts is unknown.

EDGAR DEAN, *By Orpha Walfert* — Edgar Dean came to the Corinne district in June 1910. He took up a homestead on the east side of Sullivan Lake on the NE 26-34-14. Edgar never lived on his homestead very long before disposing of his land to a neighbor. His destiny is unknown.

WALTER EARL WALKER, *By Leslie Walker* — Walter E. Walker was born in 1860. He came west at the age of twenty to the wide open spaces, so in 1909 he emigrated from Bonners Ferry Idaho to Alberta. He spent the last half of October with a Government Land Agent looking for land to settle on. Some snow was on the ground when he decided on the south half of 28-34-14, which was on the south east ridge of Sullivan Lake, so he couldn't have known that lake was an alkali flat. After filing on the homestead he worked helping to build the Castor Railway Depot.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Walker, taken in 1952. Mr. Walker was ninety-two years young. Sons standing: Melvin and Leslie

In the summer of 1910, he freighted enough lumber from Stettler to build the fourteen and sixteen foot shack. He hired a man to break sixty acres of sod and in the spring of 1911 the first crop was planted. Not much profit was realized due to the expense of hiring the work done.

In March 1913 his wife and three sons were packed and ready to leave for the homestead, snow was still on the ground when we left Castor with a team of horses and a sixty bushel grain tank on a sleigh. We had horse blankets tacked over the top of the box and a kerosene lantern burning under the blanket for warmth.

A three foot snow drift had formed in front of the storm door and had to be shoveled away before we could enter. There had been no fire in the little cook stove for two days, so the house was really cold. In one corner was a four foot square bin, five feet high, full of seed grain for the spring planting. The shack had a dirt floor and a wooden floor couldn't be put in until the wheat was out, so the children's bed had to be made on the top of the wheat. We shivered for two nights till the wheat got warmed up.

The snow melted in April and by the first week in May it was time to seed again. When the grass became green, we got our first cow and calf. There was free range, so livestock roamed the prairie, where an occasional buffalo skull lay. Cropland had to be fenced.

Several trips were made to the Battle River area, this was fourteen miles north of Castor to bring home willow posts and poplar poles for the fence and corrals. The posts were sharpened and all the wood chips had to be saved and used for kindling.

The oldest son Melvin age seventeen worked in Hanna at the Royal Bank to help with the expenses. The second son Leslie age seven walked two miles to school and back each day, then walked to bring the cows in each night for milking. Also his chore was to draw water from the well with a pail on a rope to water the livestock and for the household use. The youngest son Kenneth age five, kept his mother company in the house.

Our summer vacations were short as the winters were so severe with blizzards that school would be closed for three or four days at a time. So we would have our Christmas concerts then and no school until March when it was warmer.

Time went fast and we got our first McCormick binder to take off the harvest in September. The wheat bundles had to be stooked up with a fork or by hand in a bunch of eight with heads upward for them to mature. If a threshing machine wasn't available right away, the bundles were hauled into the centre of the field and made into nice round stacks that were quite high and tapered in at the top to shed off the rain in the fall. Sometimes it would be February or March before the threshing crew came to separate the wheat from the straw. Oats were harvested green and when the bundles were dry, they were stacked to feed the livestock during the winter. Sometimes it seemed like six months of winter, then three months more of cold weather.

In the spring of 1915, Melvin came from Hanna to help on the farm, we got more horses and cattle. The farmers all went together and bought a threshing outfit of their own so they could get their own grains threshed before it got too late in the fall. This was a big steam engine and separator.

The year of 1916-17 we had early frosts, so the wheat sold for feed at a reduced price. The fall and winter of 1919 was a bad one, as winter set in early in September and the wheat and green feed was still in the field. It snowed and kept on snowing, so we had to go out every day to dig out a load of bundles to feed thirty-six head of cattle and sixteen horses. We salvaged some of the grain in the spring and threshed it, more feed grain in the spring again. Spring planting was very late in 1920 mostly oats for feed. Right then I thought about going south with the birds, but I stayed.

The year 1921 was another dry one, the grain came up six inches, then turned brown and died. I got a job driving four horses on a fresno north of Castor on a highway job, and made enough to go to Spokane, Washington to spend the winter.

After that, trips out to the old homestead were just visits. I came back in 1923 to help harvest a bumper crop of fifty bushels to the acre and ninety bushels of oats to the acre. Every available space was filled with grain. That helped the old farm out of the red, and that was the only real crop I saw there.

I left Alberta then for good. Dad and Mother and Melvin remained for a couple of years. Eventually they sold to Murl Chidley and returned to Lewiston, Idaho, where Leslie had established a home, and my parents enjoyed several good and happy years before passing away.

Melvin and I are still living here. Melvin is eighty years young and I am seventy. We have an acreage and grow alfalfa for a pastime.

THE JOHN WALLACE SR. STORY, ***By [illegible]*** — Mr. John Wallace Senior homesteaded in the Corinne district in 1910 on the NW 27-34-14. John Wallace was a very handy man. He was a carpenter and did some mason work. When the Corinne School was being built, John did the mason work and the plastering inside. Besides the schoolhouse he plastered many houses in the country and in different towns. One of his main projects was plastering the

courthouse in Hanna along with many other houses. When any plastering was to be done the people called on John Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace Sr. had four children: Jane, John, Alex and David. All four children attended school at Corinne. Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace moved from their homestead to Calgary. John passed away a few years ago and his wife died in 1978.

Mother Harvey sitting, Nellie, Andy, Frances, Fred, Josephine and Mildred

THE HARVEY STORY, *By The Harvey Family* — William Harvey, born in 1881 in Hantsport, Nova Scotia, worked his way west doing carpenter work. He homesteaded the northwest quarter of section ten, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen, in 1912. He was later married to Adline De Gunther, born in 1888, who was a native of Ackley, Iowa. She came to Alberta to visit her sister, Mrs. Henry Simon. She taught Cowan and Lake Thelma schools.

They had a family of eight children born in Castor. Their first child passed away at birth; Mildred was born in 1916, Josephine in 1917, Daniel in 1920 — died at the age of three, Fred in 1922, Frances in 1924, Andy in 1926 and Nellie in 1928. The children took the majority of their schooling at Corinne School, travelling a distance of four miles by horse and buggy in summer and team and cutter in winter. A number of years the three oldest children attended the Catholic Separate School in Castor to avoid the long winter trips.

In 1927 Dad with the help of two neighbors, Jim and Harry Adams built a ten-room farm home. The gravel for the basement was hauled with team and wagon from the Camp farm, north west of Scapa, a distance of seven miles. The lumber came to Scapa by rail, and was hauled to the farm by team and hay rack. The plastering was done by another neighbor, Jack Wallace.

Then came the notorious dirty thirties, when grasshoppers and drought prevailed. A number of years Dad could not harvest enough grain for next year's seed. Relief was shipped to Scapa.

At the peak of the depression Dad was forced to sell one of his favorite horses to pay the grocery bill. Other horses were sold to buy milk cows to supply milk and butter, and have ready cash from cream cheques.

Regardless of the depression we still recall having many good times attending Christmas concerts, dances, picnics, card parties and ball games at Corinne School.

In the year 1932 one room of our house was converted into a high school classroom and was classed as a second room to Corinne School. This allowed us a government grant with which the teachers were paid. This amount was subsidized by each family paying fifteen dollars a year. These two amounts paid the teachers' salary. This facility provided education for children from surrounding areas. The students who attended were Marion and Patsy Taylor, Frances Herring, Dorothy Rehill, Ruth Ortt, Stuart McRae, Bill Riddle, Hazel Kennedy, Maxine, Marguerite and Kenneth Simon, Bill and Grace Wigley, Johnny Wallace and Mildred and Josephine Harvey. In the course of the three years that this was in

operation our home life was vastly changed. The girls from outlying districts roomed with us, and the teachers, Mr. Reid and Mr. Scallon boarded with us.

Many evening hours were spent doing homework around the dining room table.

In 1937 Dad's asthma and heart trouble forced him to leave the heavy work of the farm to his family. He passed away September 17, 1947. Mother continued to live on the farm with Andy and Nellie.

Mother spent the last few years of her life in Nursing Homes in Castor and Red Deer. She passed away January 6, 1970. The farm was taken over by Andy until 1973, at which time it was sold to the Boyson Brothers. Andy retired in Hanna, where he passed away April 6, 1976.

Mildred married Kenneth Williams, and has now retired from twenty-nine years of school teaching and is presently living in Mirror. They have two sons.

Josephene married Bernie McCullough, has a family of three girls and three boys, and was widowed in 1958. She has taught for thirty-three years.

Fred married Elsie Hein, has one son and two daughters. He has bought grain in Scapa since 1951 and been Post Master since 1946.

Frances married Charlie Johnson, and has one daughter and five sons. She taught school for four years. They reside in Hanna.

Nellie married Louie DeGlano and has one daughter and one son, and at the present time are living in Spirit River.

Our family house was used as a setting in the filming of the movie, "Why Shoot The Teacher" — shot in 1976.

THE JAMES EASTON STORY, ***By Freddie Chidley*** — James or Jimmy, as he was well known, came over from Scotland in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, and took up a homestead near Corinne School. He lived with the John Wallace family and worked in the coal mine owned by T.A. Kane. Later he worked in another mine that was operated by Mr. Bradshaw.

In 1916, a lovely young Scottish lady by the name of Janet Wilkie came over from Scotland and landed in Hanna with no one there to meet her. She hired Mr. Dick Hannah to drive her to the Wallace farm to meet Jimmie, her future husband.

Having no building on his farm yet, they lived with the Wallaces for a short time, and were married a few days after she arrived in the new country that was to be her future home. I will always remember their Chivaree. While we were all banging the pans and plow shears, near me was Jimmie pounding on a dish pan, he looked around and said, "Chivaree her darn good boys."

They built a shack on their land and lived there for some time. Jimmie always worked in the mine. Later they bought a quarter section north of Corinne School and lived there till they moved to Castor, where Jimmie continued to work in a coal mine till he retired and then was Night Clerk in the National Hotel for some time.

Of this marriage, there were three children: David, Janet, and a baby who lived only a few years. David now lives in Red Willow near Stettler. Janet married Alex Mix, they live at Grand Forks. Janet and her husband had the misfortune to lose their home by fire, in which some of their children lost their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. James Easton were a friendly couple and took part in the community affairs, he could sing the Scottish songs, which we all enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth remembers when Miss Wilkie came to Canada to marry Jimmie Easton. She spent her first Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis of the Garden Plain district. Miss Wilkie had a nursing career in Scotland before coming

to Canada. Her nursing profession was a great help to the people of this district.

One winter Mr. and Mrs. James Easton lived at the Three Star Mine, where she cooked for eight men and looked after her sick baby at the same time. Her husband worked in the mine. Mr. Bob Unsworth took Mrs. Easton and her sick baby to see the doctor, but the baby died in the car on the way to town. On different occasions Mrs. Easton was asked to accompany sick people on their way to see a doctor

Mr. Easton passed away after they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. Mrs. Easton moved into the Paintearth Lodge in Castor. She was noted for her handicraft which was just beautiful, doing this until her passing.

JOHN BRATEBERG, By Margaret Nelson — John Brateberg was born in Norway. As a young man there, he became a Ship's Pilot. He gave this up to come to Canada and try his luck at homesteading. He arrived in this area in 1911 and filed on the SW 30-34-13. He did his homestead duties and worked out breaking land for extra income. When World War I broke out he enlisted, and joined the Merchant Marines. He never returned to the homestead after the war. It is believed he remained in Norway.

In the early twenties Charlie Dahlgren bought the land.

CHARLIE DAHLGREN, as told to H. Nelson by Mrs. Clyde Wooden — Charlie Dahlgren came to Alberta from Rockford, Washington with his father, A. Dahlgren in August 1910, at the age of seventeen.

He filed on a homestead in township 36-13 with his father signing a proxy as he was not eighteen years old.

Dahlgren family and Wright family

He farmed there for about five years. On April 14, 1919 he was married to Rose Crabey of Edwall, Washington. He worked in that district till the fall of 1920 then returned to Rumsey, Alberta where he worked with his brother-in-law, Clyde Wooden for the winter. In the spring of 1921 he returned to his father's homestead.

About 1922 he rented a farm from his brother-in-law, Oscar Gustafson, which he farmed for some years.

About 1927 or 1928 he built a house on SW 30-34-13 which he had bought from J. Bratsberg some years earlier. He also bought a threshing outfit and threshed throughout the country for some years.

When the dry and dusty thirties came Charlie decided that it was time to leave this area. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside and moved to Red Willow where he farmed for a few years. When they retired from farming they bought a house in Red Willow and Mrs. Dahlgren looked after a small store, which she had always wanted to do.

A year later they sold this house and built a house and store combined. Mrs. Dahlgren looked after the store and Charlie worked out. He did carpenter work and also ran the road patrol in that area.

Some years later they moved to Kelowna where Mrs. Dahlgren passed away on June 25, 1965.

Charlie then moved to Nanaimo where he died in his sleep the next fall. Mr. and Mrs. Dahlgren had a family of five. Two of these children died in infancy and are buried in Castor Cemetery. Marjorie Winterburn lives in Seattle Washington, Shirley McLeod lives in Vancouver and Ronald in Nanaimo, B.C.

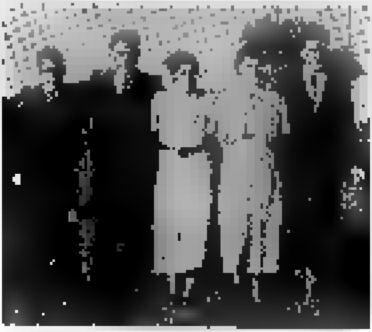
FRANCIS BENZIE, By Harry Nelson — Francis Benzie was born May 23, 1884, in Scotland. While a young man he came to Alberta to join his brothers Robert and George who had come out a while before. Liking the look of the country, he decided to file on land.

In the spring of 1910 he filed on the NW 35–33–15 at Stettler. This was in what is now known as the Scapa area. He proved up his homestead and being a tailor by trade, he worked also in a tailor shop in Castor.

In 1917 he sold his homestead to C. Lohrmann and moved into the Garden Plain area, buying the J. Hutcheson homestead. This land he rented out to his neighbors and continued working for farmers in the area. He also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

In 1927 he purchased a quarter section from the C.P.R. land company. He hired Alex Richard to break up about sixty acres which was done with a Caterpillar and eight bottom plow. He also hired W. Winmill to break forty acres which was done with a gang plow and eight horses. He rented this land out also, and continued working out.

About 1939 or 1940 brother Robert passed away and his brother George moved up on Frank's farm. George and Frank farmed in partnership till November 1957, when Frank passed away. The farm was sold in early 1958 to Harry Nelson. George retired and moved to Coronation. After the death of his sister, Mrs. Hunter in 1965 he went to Saskatoon to reside with a niece. He passed away there a year or two later.



The Simon children: Harold, Kenneth, Marguerite, Maxine and Donald

MR. and MRS. JOHN HERMAN SIMON, By Maxine Simon Lee — My parents came from South Dakota in 1910 and lived in Castor for the first year where Dad worked in the lumber yard for Mr. O.W. Colley. Donald was born while they lived there.

In the spring of 1911 they left town, travelling by horse and wagon to the land of promise on their homestead in the Garden Plain district. Roads at this time were only prairie trails and before they reached their destination the mosquitoes left Mother in tears. She was ready right then to go back to the States.

During their first years on the homestead they lived in a small house but Mother provided many meals for other emmigrants that were hauling freight from Castor or Stettler. While their horses were resting they enjoyed a good meal for a quarter.

Miss Isabel Ford, a teacher at Corinne School boarded with them. She was very good company for Mother, as she was lonely after leaving all her family in Dakota. In later years other teachers stayed with us. I remember Miss Hamilton and Miss Scott as two of them and I think both of those ladies were from Ontario. Dad served on the Corinne School Board and on the municipal council for some years.

Mother's brother and wife (Dad's sister) Mr. and Mrs. W. Collins came out a year or so later by covered wagon, but they didn't care for the prairie so went back to Dakota the same way. Dad's brother, Henry Simon, came up to Canada and stayed with us for awhile until he settled near the Correction Line. He and his family also went back to Iowa after a few years.

Times were difficult for these pioneers but the community spirit was wonderful. For entertainment people gathered at the school houses for card parties, Christmas concerts, and dances with music supplied by local talent. The main event of the summer was the U.F.A. picnic held at the hall in early July. No one would think of missing that picnic.

The family consisted of five children, two of them born at home in March. Doctor McPherson came out from Castor by team and cutter both times to attend.

There were many hardships to endure such as drought, hail, cold weather, poor prices and grasshoppers. Eggs and cream were sold in order to buy groceries but many items had to be stroked off the list because the cream cheque wouldn't pay for them. Cattle cheques weren't much better.

My first memory of a store and Post Office was at Wickson's. Mr. Olsen hauled the mail from Castor and went as far as Fertility and back two or three times a week. Later there was a rural route from Scapa.

Before the railroad went through and elevators were built at Scapa, Dad hauled the grain to Castor. It was always a two or three day trip. He hauled coal either from Kane's or Bradshaw's mines.

In the spring of 1935 they left the prairie and settled at Red Willow, where they farmed until 1943, then retired to Stettler. Dad passed away in December of 1944, Marguerite in May of 1966 and Mother in November of 1969. There are four living children, Maxine (Mrs. R. Lee) in Chilliwack, B.C. and the three boys, Donald, Kenneth and Harold all in Stettler, Alberta.

WILLIAM COLLINS, By Mrs. Orpha Wolfert — In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. William Collins Jr. came to the Corinne district in a covered wagon. They homesteaded on the NE 15-34-14. Mrs. Collins was a cook in the cook car for a threshing crew working with a Case horse-powered threshing machine. She took her milk cow along so they could have milk to drink. The threshing machine belonged to her brother, Herman Simon.

Mr. Collins Sr. persuaded his son and his wife to return to South Dakota. On a very cold day in May they left by covered wagon and arrived there in July.

PHILIP BRUDER, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1911, Philip Bruder came west to file on a homestead. He homesteaded on the SE 34-34-14, but Philip didn't live on his homestead very long. Later he sold his land to one of his neighbors and went to live with his brother at Cremona, Alberta. Philip's health started to fail, he then went to live in a nursing home south of Calgary, remaining there until his death.

R. E. HAMILTON FAMILY, ***By Jim Hamilton*** — I am the oldest of the seven children who arrived with our parents in Castor, Alberta on March 31, 1913 from Ontario. April 1, 1913 was a beautiful day, when we started out to our homestead. We had along with us, four cows and four horses, a few chickens, a couple of geese, one pig and some furniture. We arrived at the homestead before dark. My Grandfather was out a year before and started to build a two-storey house. It had a roof and walls up, and a plain board floor, building paper on the inside and one ply of shiplap on the outside. The wind sure blew for a couple of days. I was wishing I was back in Ontario. My Mother thought the same.

My Mother sure had her hands full. As there were seven children, the youngest being only four months old. We had to haul water from William Collins' place on the next quarter for several years. We had dug several wells with no luck, but after several tries we did get water and lots of it, fourteen feet deep.

I still remember the beautiful springtime on the prairies; it was wonderful after some very cold winters. The neighbors were most friendly, always willing to help one another when it was needed, with no thought of money changing hands.

I can well remember our first grain harvest and the threshing machine. It belonged to Herman Simon, it was powered by seven teams of horses. My uncle, Jack Lepard and Herm Simon always fed the machine by hand, the straw came out the back. Two men had to stack the straw by hand. My brother and I cut the bands on the sheaves for fifty-two days. One year we got finished the day before Christmas. It was all stack threshing in those days.

In all, I think we enjoyed the times as they came. We were young and kept ourselves busy, the time went fast

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy Wedding Day, November 29, 1907

THE FRANK A. KENNEDY FAMILY, ***By Hazel Kennedy Stamp*** — Mr. Frank Allen Kennedy was born May 29, 1879, his wife, Margaret Mabel Adams was born July 29, 1887, in the town Austin, Minnesota. They were married in the same town November 26, 1907.

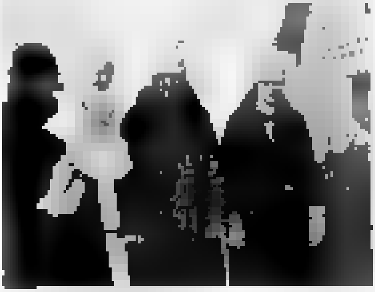
My Dad had acquired farming experience in the Dakotas. He and mother and my oldest sister Alberta, who was a mere infant, immigrated to Canada in 1910. He took up a homestead on section 13-34-14, this was on what was later highway 36. Strenuous labor at stripping coal and freighting, soon enabled him to build the home he longed for. His success was made evident by that landmark, the halfway point between Castor and Hanna.

My dad was always a baseball player and enthusiast: in recent years he always had the usually thankless job of umpire. In later years he branched out into buying cattle, not only for himself but for Adams, Wood and Weller stock yard firm in Calgary. He would freight loads of cattle to Minneapolis, Minnesota, also bought and sold horses. Besides buying cattle and horses he did his own farming with horses and machinery consisting of sulky plows, harrows, drill, and a binder.

He served the Sullivan Lake municipality as a Weed Inspector for five years and was trustee and chairman in the Corinne School District No. 2407 for several years. My dad was elected to call a meeting to form the school district and get the school board organized in 1911. He was president of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local for several years beginning in 1913. The local group consisted of Laughlin Campbell, Steve Wagner, George Claypool, Olaf Larson, Martin Severson, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charlie Lohrmann, Billie Vlachis, Bob Livingston, Billie Collins, Charlie Standfield, Hugh McRae, my dad Frank Kennedy and Albert Kennedy.

My dad installed a Premier Gasoline service tank and pump to accommodate the travellers, tourists and hunters who travelled on highway 36. The tank was installed in the farm yard, this being the only gas available between Castor and Hanna.

In the summer of 1930, there were a number of grade VIII children graduating from the Corinne School. High School was not available and our parents couldn't afford to send us to town to go to school, so Mr. H. Simon, Mr. William Harvey and my dad managed to get a grant for a high school from the government, if they could get twelve pupils to attend. They were able to get fourteen pupils, and Mr. W. Harvey offered one room in his home, to turn into a regular school room. Besides our school work, we enjoyed putting on plays for entertaining the public. We used to make our own costumes and dress up to disguise ourselves.



Mrs. Frank Kennedy and daughters: Alberta, Helen, Hazel, Irene

On November 28, 1931, dad was taken suddenly ill and was taken to the Hospital in Castor. He was operated on and in spite of every effort and spirit, he passed away with peritonitis on December 4, 1931 at the age of fifty-two. My mother was left with four girls to raise; this was quite a task. She carried on farming operations with the help of us girls and hired help until 1936.

Later she moved to the coast where she lived for fifteen years and in 1952 she returned to Alberta and made her home with her daughter Alberta, Mrs. Mac Stamp, at Fleet, Alberta. She went to her final resting place on April 10, 1954. My oldest sister, Mrs. Alberta Stamp, passed away in Edmonton on March 16, 1974 after a lengthy illness.

The three remaining girls are all widows: Mrs. Helen Hill, Red Deer, Mrs. Irene Roxburgh, San Jose, California and Mrs. Hazel Stamp, Hanna.

ALEX WOLFERT FAMILY, ***By Orpha Gaebeler Wolfert*** — In 1927, Alex Wolfert, his parents and sister Matilda and three brothers; Jacob, Fred and Albert, who was six months old, emigrated from Bessarabia, Roumania. Arriving in Hanna in October, they were met by a friend who had previously immigrated. Living with this family in the Maunders district, later moving to a farm in the Spondin district. Alex attended the Great Star School. When he was a student in that school, his teacher then, is presently teaching in Hanna. She is Mrs. Housch and has taught his youngest daughter in Junior High. Alex and his brothers had to walk two or three miles to school to start the fire before the other children arrived. This wasn't a very nice task in real cold weather.

Later Alex worked at various farms for wages of ten cents a day to five dollars per month and to eighteen dollars a month. The highest wages he received were eighty-five dollars a month on a farm in the Coronation area.

Elsie and Leslie Storch, Orpha and Alex Wolfert, Phyllis and Dwight Boyson, Evonne and Kelly Boyson

In 1947, Alex Wolfert and Orpha Courturier were united in marriage. To this marriage two daughters were born; Phyllis in August 1949, in the Coronation Hospital and Elsie in Hanna Hospital in July 1957. Both daughters were educated in the Scapa and Hanna Schools. While going to school Phyllis worked as Secretary in the Hanna High and on the completion of school she worked for Mr. Charyk, Principal of the Hanna High School. Later she married Dwight Boyson of Craigmyle. They have two children; Evonne and Kelly. Elsie finished her education in Hanna, working at office work while she attended school. Elsie married Leslie Storch and is still employed by Mr. Douglas Todd, a lawyer in the firm, Ross, Ciozza, Todd and Gough.

The Wolfert family settled on a farm near Coronation before coming to the Corinne district. We settled on the Fred Stemp farm, formerly the Frank Kennedy homestead, the west half of 12–34–14.

While establishing our home here we have had a few disheartening experiences. A severe hail storm in 1960 broke windows and battered the shingles so badly the rain came in. We tried to hold plywood over the broken windows, but the wind was so strong this was impossible. We were putting the storm windows on when the Delker brothers stopped in and said, "Alex, we don't put storm windows on in the summer." We had to. Crops and gardens soon became green from all the moisture.

The summer of 1976 was dry and windy. Hay crops were poor. One day while we were away from home, a terrible strong wind came. Visibility was almost nil. Coming home was a nightmare. Two power poles had broken off letting the line drop to the ground and starting a fire. The fire started about a mile north of our place, driven by the strong wind, it soon travelled south burning grass and trees in its path. Neighbors tried to keep the fire under control, but to no avail. We arrived home to see flames shooting skyward with only two by fours standing and people

silhouetted against the fire. The garage was burned to the ground, the grove of trees were a sad looking sight. Cars and trucks were parked on the road and fire trucks with their flashing lights were busy fighting fire. Entering the yard we saw that a friend had a car parked, she was serving coffee to the fire fighters. Her Salvation Army training gave her the insight to go home for food and refreshments. Neighbors stayed till the next day to watch so the wind wouldn't start it up again.

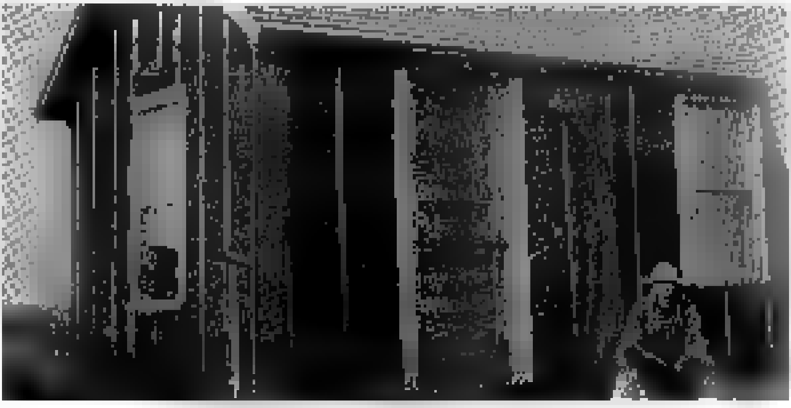
A few days later a clean-up bee was organized to clean the debris left from the fire. The ladies of the district helped to supply coffee, cake and sandwiches and helped serve the workers.

Gasoline pump in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy home with James Adams at the pump — 1920–30.

JAMES and HARRY ADAMS, by Hazel Alsop — James Adams came from Austin, Minnesota in 1906 to homestead on the NW 18-34-13. He was followed in 1910 by his son Harry who homesteaded the NW 9-34-14. Uncle James had lost his wife and another son Walter before coming to this district.

Harry Adams married the former Jean Ironside of Garden Plain. They had two children, Elaine and William. They lived on the farm only a few years, then moved to Calgary where Harry passed away.

After Harry and Jean were married, Uncle Jim came to live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy. He was my mother's brother. Uncle Jim was a great help to mother and dad. He would pump gasoline from our underground tank and serve the customers as they stopped for gas on their way down highway 36. At that time the highway ran in front of our home, but was later moved one mile east to its present location.



Harry Adams standing in front of his log home in 1951

In 1932, Uncle Jim suffered a slight stroke which invalided him. From 1935 to 1940 he was a patient in the Hanna hospital, and died there on June 8, 1940, at the age of seventy-five years.

Slemp Family. Standing: Fred and Hazel Slemp. Seated: Mrs. and Mr. Edgar Slemp. Children: Faye and Norman Slemp

THE FRED SLEMP STORY, *By Hazel Kennedy Slemp* — Fred Slemp was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp. He was born at Verden, Oklahoma on October 23, 1912 and came to Canada with his parents in 1914 to Fleet, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp and son Fred lived in Fleet until April 1914. They travelled by team and wagon across country, staying with the Harvey Burt family until they built a sod house. In 1917 they built a frame house. Fred took his lower grades in the Crowhill School and later attended high school in Fleet, Alberta. After his schooling he returned to his parents' farm in the Scapa district to help with farm operations.

In October 1938, Fred and I were married. We lived with Fred's parents and helped with the work till 1941, later moving to my parents' farm, the Frank Kennedy homestead. Our first home in the yard at the Kennedy farm was a garage that Harry Adams, my cousin had built on his farm. It was moved to this location and Mr. W. Harvey transformed it into a lovely home for Fred and me. We lived in it approximately twenty-two months and then moved into my mother's big house, after she moved to Vancouver. We sold our ranch to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert, and they are presently living in the original house that Kennedy built on his homestead.

We had two children: Norman Rae born July 1940 and Marjorie Faye July 2, 1942. They attended school at Corinne for their lower grades.

We farmed the hard way with horses and the old fashioned machinery until we could afford a tractor, then we moved up to more up-to-date machinery, but in order to get this, Fred worked for a few years on the C.N.R. at Scapa and on the rip track from Scapa east line and at Big Valley. We had quite a herd of Hereford cattle, several pigs and chickens, which I helped to look after while he was at work.

In the early years Fred was an ardent baseball player, pitching and playing in the field for the Scapa baseball club, when the sport was highly popular. After his playing days were over, he was manager of the local team and the Hanna team. He was a great booster for sports and recreation of any type.

After leaving the C.N.R. he obtained a job with the Federal Government as an inspector with Prairie Farm Assistance Administration for several years and later was promoted to P.F.A.A. Supervisor, having an office in Hanna in the Post Office Building.

We moved to Hanna in 1952 so our children could attend school, as Corinne was being closed due to the lack of pupils. In that year Fred carried the Liberal banner in the Hand Hill Provincial Constituency opposing the Honorable W.W. Cross, Social Credit Candidate, Minister of Health and Public Welfare. He was on the losing end, but received over one-third of the votes.

In October 1961, Fred had a heart attack and was hospitalized for six weeks.

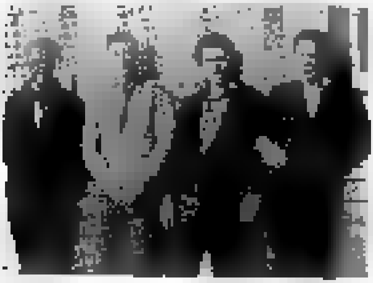
but returned to his work as P.F.A.A. Supervisor in December of that year. He worked very steadily and strenuously until July 14, 1964, when he passed away quite suddenly from another heart attack.

Faye our daughter was married to Ted Morris formerly of Grande Forks, B.C. in June 1961. They have two children: Sherri-Rae and Darren Fred. They now reside in Calgary, previously lived in Hanna, where they owned and operated Ted's T.V. and Appliances.

Norman, our son, was married to the former Darlene Shubert of Acadia Valley, Alberta in June 1967. They had one daughter, Michelle Marie. Norman worked for Jimmie's Auto Service in Hanna as partsman for years and then took over as agent for Shell Bulk Oil until his untimely death in a tragic accident in his truck east of Cereal on August 15, 1973. Norman was a lover of ball games, as was his father.

I reside in Hanna and enjoy my job in the Hanna Herald Office.

EDGAR DEAN, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Edgar Dean homesteaded on the SW 34-34-14 in 1912. He farmed his homestead while living with his parents in the district north of the correction line. Edgar returned to the United States to live.


Donald Simon, Jim Roley, Harry McCafferty, Ken Simon

HARRY McCAFFERTY, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — In 1918, Harry McCafferty, his sister and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCafferty came to the Corinne district. They lived on the north east of 34-34-14. This was the Frank Copp homestead. Harry and his sister attended school at Corinne.

After his father's death, Harry took the management of the farm. Later his mother took up residence in Castor and several years later moved to the Botha area. He enjoyed his bachelorhood on the farm there until he decided to live a more relaxed life in the Heart Haven Senior Citizens Home in Stettler. He enjoys driving his truck to visit his old friends. Reminiscing old times as a boy at school brings a chuckle from Harry. He enjoys good health and the comforts of the Home.

H. BASIL DUNN, ***By Orpha Wolfert*** — Basil Dunn, two brothers and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunn came to Canada from Wisconsin and settled in the Gowan district. Mr. Charles Dunn was superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board.

His son H. Basil was in the first world war, he returned and got married. In 1924 Basil lost his wife. His mother lived to the age of 103 and died in 1975 while residing in Edmonton.

Basil took up a homestead on the south east of 35-34-14 in 1926. He proved up his homestead, but never built any buildings on his land. Later Basil worked for the Stettler Flour Mill. He died later as the result of a car accident.

GILBERT and AGNES TUCKER, ***By Agnes Thiel*** — Gilbert Tucker was born in Fisherville, Kentucky, in 1901. He came with his parents, the Watson Tuckers, to the Endiang district in 1907. He received his schooling there.

I was born in 1906 in Apache, Oklahoma, and came with my parents, the

Harvey Burtt, to Castor in 1912. We settled five miles west and two miles south of Garden Plain store. We lived in a tent until Dad got the ten by twelve shack built for the winter.

I went to Wiese school for three months and stayed with the Wieses. Our school, built in 1919, had many German-speaking pupils. It was a struggle for the teacher and hard for the students to learn to speak and write English. A lot of learning was done by all, as we learned German words while they learned the English ones.

In November, 1928, Gilbert and I were married. We lived in the Endiang district for three years, then moved to the Huson place in the Crow Hill district. Ziemmers, Mattheis and Joe Camps were our neighbors. Our son Harvey arrived in 1933. A few years later the Mattheis lost a baby girl. It was just before Christmas, and I went to spend the day with Mrs. Mattheis. We bathed and dressed the wee one's body, ready for the casket when the men folks finished building it, and made paper flowers to line the casket. It was thirty below that week.

The hungry thirties came; in three years of seeding we threshed sixty-seven bushels of wheat. In 1936 we moved to the Corinne school district to the Willard Roney farm. It was no better; no rain and the soil drifting so that it covered up the fences.

When Harvey started to school, one of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook, who had been my teacher when she was Miss O'Neil.

Our daughter Jean arrived in 1938 and son Frank in 1939. There were no baby showers in those days, and we passed baby clothes down from one to the other. We seemed to manage to grow a garden and I canned everything I could.

Gilbert worked so hard, but with few returns, and his health started to fail. We moved in with my brother Harvey. Gilbert had several operations, but passed away in 1948.

Later we moved to Hanna, where the children went to school and I picked up what work I could. In 1955 I left Hanna and married Otto Thiel of Viking. We moved to Ponoka, where Otto had a mishap and lost the fingers of his right hand, so I went to work at the Alberta Hospital.

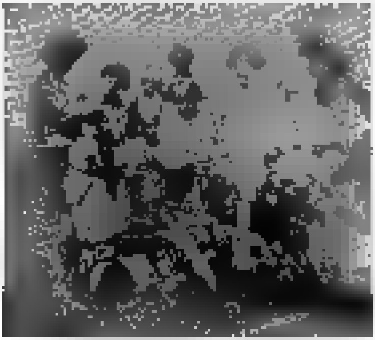
That was a very rewarding place to work, and I often thought of a talk that Mrs. George Benner had given to the U.F.W.A. about visiting the mental hospital. What she had said was so true.

In 1974 I retired. We make our home in Ponoka, where I have my garden and do lots of knitting and crocheting. We also have a hobby of collecting and polishing rocks, and make table tops, lamps and costume jewellery with them.

Harvey and his wife Mary are farming seven miles south of Westlock. Jean works at Sears in Kelowna, B.C.; she has three daughters and one son. Frank, his wife Lena and their two sons and daughter live in Calgary, where Frank works for Skip's Auto Glass and Lena is at the Foothills Hospital Intensive Care Unit for babies.

CHARLIE WIGLEY FAMILY, ***By Rose Wigley*** — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wigley with two daughters Lucy and Grace moved from Lethbridge to the Garden Plain area. They came to a Soldier Settlement Board farm which was purchased by his brother Art in the spring of 1920. That same year in December Bill was born in Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital in Castor. In those days we had no car so we went to Castor with a team and sleigh and changed horses at the farm of B. Schultz.

We did not get rich as we never had very good crops. One year we were left with nothing as the grasshoppers were so thick. We threw out poison to try to kill them; they even ate the tobacco plants Charlie tried to grow.



Charlie Wigley and family

We had very good neighbors in those days, that's what counted. Once a week in the winter time we would go to different places to play cards and would stay all night, have breakfast, come home to do chores and then go to bed for awhile. Fred, Charlie, George and Betty were born while we lived in the Garden Plain district.

The children always have a good laugh about me learning to drive the first car we had. One day I got real brave and was going to put the car in the garage. Instead of putting my foot on the brake I stepped on the gas and went right through the other end, so I took another try and I made it O.K. The kids helped put up the end of the garage so Charlie wouldn't see what I done. The next time he wanted to use the car he went to crank it and his seat hit against the end of the garage and it fell down. This caused a little commotion for awhile but everybody laughed it off.

It seemed to me we had more snow those days than we get now. In the winter the neighbors gathered at our place; while waiting for the mail man to arrive we visited over a cup of coffee. Those were the days when there were more visiting with neighbors and social evenings at the Corinne School. Television changed that.

We moved to Castor in 1935 where Charlie worked in the coal mine until his retirement. Richard was born after we came to Castor.

Charlie passed away in August [illegible] 1958. He was predeceased by one son Charlie who was killed in the Airforce over Germany during the last war.

I am living in Stettler now and the rest of the family are all married and live in different places in Alberta.

THE CORINNE THRESHING SYNDICATE

By Mildred Williams

In the early twenties the farmers in the Corinne district realized their need for a threshing machine so they formed a Company and purchased a steam engine and a large seperator. When threshing they required a crew of about twenty men. Engineer, fireman, waterboy, seperator man, two grain haulers with wagons and teams, eight men with bundle racks and teams, two field pitchers to help them load and two spike pitchers, who helped put bundles onto the separator. Mr. Clarence Roney was the engineer, Mr. J. Higgins looked after the seperator. The rest seemed to work as their health and ability allowed. Although they worked hard, they were always ready for a good laugh and were constantly pulling pranks on each other.

The farmer's wife had a big job feeding these hungry men and usually obtained help of a neighbor. There was no power, no fridges or deepfreezers. Huge roasts and big pots of potatoes and vegetables were cooked for both dinner and supper. The women seemed to race for the title of Best Piemaker. The men were also given morning and afternoon coffee and sandwiches and cake or buns and cookies.

All made their own bread. Mother used to have eight or ten twenty-pound syrup pails that she filled with cookies and doughnuts in preparation for threshers.

if it rained or snowed before they got there we used to have a real treat, considering they could not be fresh a week or ten days later. Then she started baking all over again. It was our job to keep the wood box and the coal pail filled on such occasions.

I often wonder how they managed to keep meat on hand, and keep it fresh. The nearest butcher shop was in Castor twenty-six miles away, so they usually butchered their own.

I can still remember hearing the steam engine whistle blow loud and shrill every morning at six o'clock. It could be heard for miles around. Men got up and went to feed and harness their horses before breakfast around seven. They worked until dark each evening.

THE MURA FARM STORY

By Orpha Wolfert

In 1956 an Edmonton businessman, John Schadeck, became interested in the small animal with pastel colored fur, the Mura. He decided to start a Mura farm near Scapa, on the NW ¼ 27-34-14 W4. At the rate the Mura multiply he figured a farm was the smallest possible place to keep them on. By the end of 1958 the few pair of original stock had increased to 17,000 animals. This fur farm was expected to pay its way. Women soon were to be wearing lovely fur coats of stunning colors, white, black, brown, palomino and a beautiful sapphire blue.

The Mura was much the size of a Norway rat. They were kept in cages in rows inside a barn which had a cement floor. Each cage housed a family until they were separated according to color and put into other cages. Fresh water was supplied by an automatic system with water nipples in each cage. The barn was heated by a coal furnace.

Pest control officers worried about the rat-like rodents escaping. Yet a fur farm was a business even in this day of synthetics. To be certain of their identity as a fur animal, the advice of the Zoology Department of the University of Alberta and the British Museum was sought.

Mr. Schadeck drove from Edmonton to his Mura farm each week to see his stock increasing. His investment came to around $50,000 and within three years he saw his first fur, a sapphire blue.

The future of the fur farm came to an abrupt end when Mr. Schadeck lost his life in a traffic accident. His daughter inherited the business, but stated she was not interested in carrying on.

On April 7, 1960, a provincial fur supervisor and a pest control officer watched the death by drowning of lovely, but unwanted, Muras. Then, just to be safe, they sealed the Scapa Mura Farm by spreading rat poison all around the buildings where the animals had been housed.

DAYS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

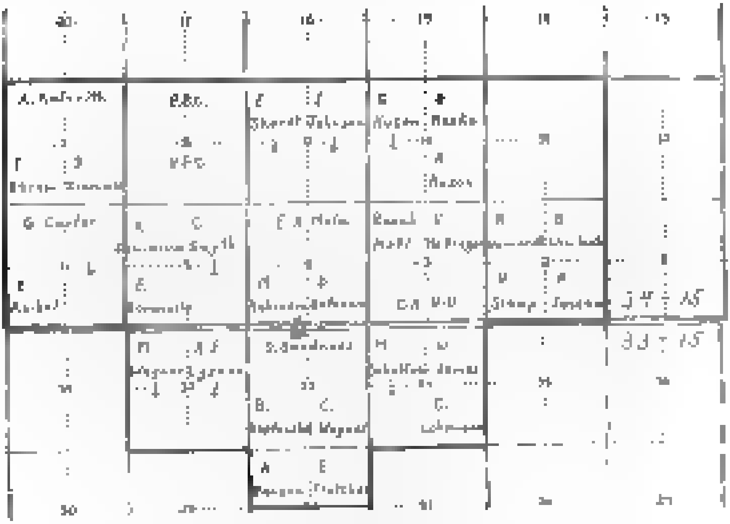
Attending Chivarees was a highlight of the early settlers. Jack Campbell often spoke of going to a chivaree for Mr. and Mrs. Corry and how they were all dressed in their best clothes for the occasion, riding along with a team and sleigh was fun until the sleigh tipped over dumping them out into the snow. This is when the horses bolted back to the farmstead, leaving them stranded. Jack and his friends collected their belongings, one of which was Jack's accordion, and hiked along to the chivaree and enjoyed the evening in spite of their disaster.

The early settlers had a unique way of entertaining themselves during the long winter evenings. With no radio, T.V. or telephone they resorted to card

games, reminiscing and musical evenings with whatever form of instrument they could find.

Christmas in 1908 saw a group of bachelor settlers in the community getting together, each one displaying their culinary art. Jack Campbell was chosen to cook the plum pudding. In Scotland, the traditional way to cook a plum was to prepare it in a cotton sack. However, such a luxury was not to be found in Jack's shack, not to be outdone he washed one of his good socks, stuffed the sock with pudding and cooked the pudding the steam method. The results the bachelor friends remarked tasted very good. To this day we are not sure whether the rest of the bachelors were ever really informed about this incident, but possibly the expression, "What the eye don't see, don't hurt the heart," would apply in this case.

CROWHILL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3533

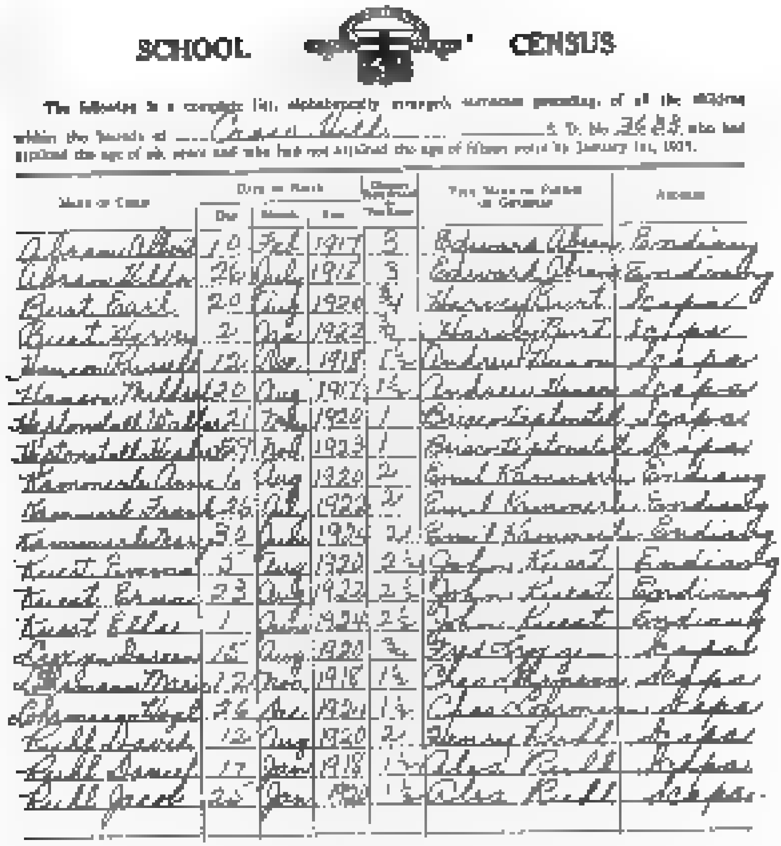


CROW HILL SCHOOL

By Jean James

Crow Hill School district No. 3533 was organized in 1918. In June of that year the total estimated cost of purchasing land, building the school, and buying furniture and equipment was two thousand dollars. The trustees managed to float a debenture for that amount of money, to be repaid over a ten-year period. As the maximum school tax at that time was sixteen cents an acre, and the school district comprised about fifteen sections, there was not too much money available for paying a teacher's salary, operating expenses and repayment of the debenture.

The Department of Education supplied blueprints of four possible plans for the school, depending on its location in relation to the road allowances. Each plan was for a single classroom with five large windows facing east, two cloakrooms, and sometimes a small entry. Quite often there was a platform about eight inches high across the front of the room. This is where the teacher's desk and chair were placed, and the few teaching aids which were available at that time. The platform also served as a stage.



SCHOOL CENSUS

School Census — 1931

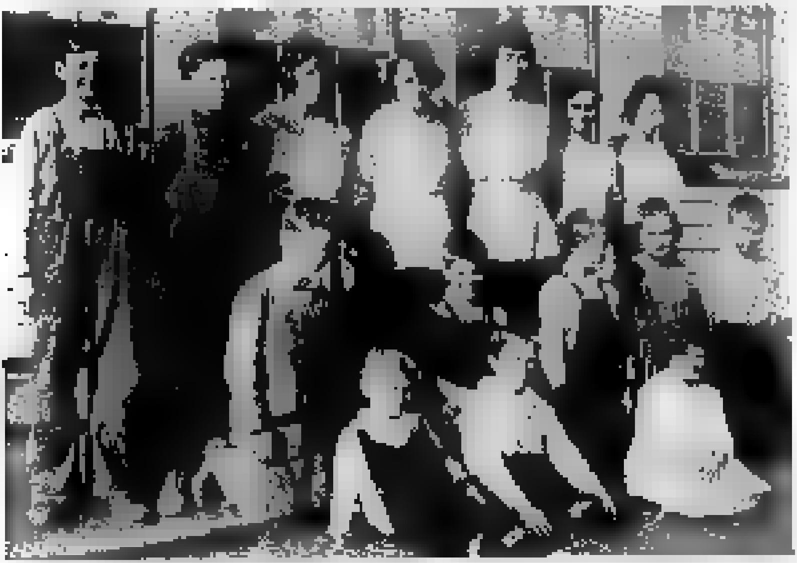
Eig Malm was awarded the contract to build Crow Hill school. He supplied the materials and erected the building, (excluding the blackboards and heater) for $1,800.00. The following year, 1919, he built and painted a school barn for the sum of $104.80.

The original site chosen for the school was on the south-east quarter of 35-33-15, but the Department of Education advised the trustees to build it on the north-west quarter of that section, so that it would be more central in the district which was five miles wide and three miles long. The borders of the school district were re-arranged in 1929. At that time several families who lived along the southern edge of township 34-15, were transferred from Hunt Lake to Crow Hill school district, and one family was transferred from Annaheim to Crow Hill.

When the school was first opened, the school year began in late February and ended just before Christmas, with a short break during July or August. Although the records are sketchy, it appears that some of the first teachers were university students who spent their summer holidays in the classroom, and it was not unusual to have two or three different teachers in one year.

Names found on old teachers' contracts and inspectors' reports indicate that

the following taught at Crow Hill school: Christine Campbell, Jessie MacLachlan, Mrs. Eleanor Fleiman, Mr. C. Bourne, Elizabeth Smart, Helen Hamilton, Aldra Malhiot, Lavina Raymond, Zelma Samson (Mrs. Milne), Vivian Graham, Marjorie Chapman, Georgina Marois, Agnes Cameron (Mrs. J. Temple), Nicidine Hansen, Mrs. Kane Brocklebank, Louise Wade, Dolly Stemp, Olga Bakken (Mrs. Walter Jensen), Wilma Smyth, Miss Stewart, Lillian Kelly and Mrs. M. Williams (nee Harvey).



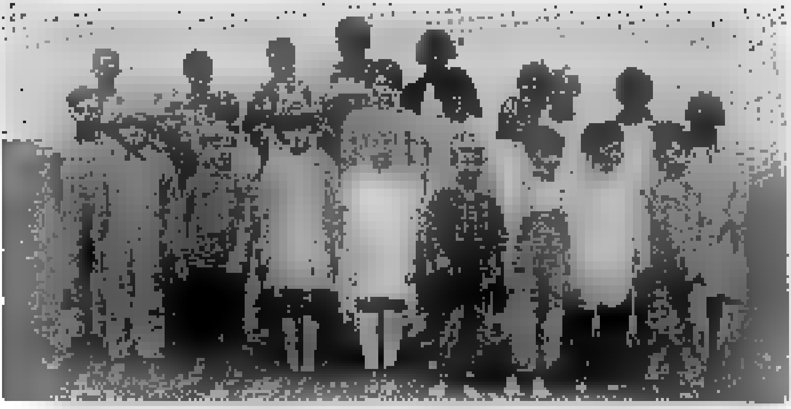
Crow Hill pupils in the early twenties: Herman Zimmer, Basil Adam, Wilma Smyth, Iris Smyth, Alice Smyth, Lizzie Wagner, Arthur Skaret, Jim Smyth, Mabel Skaret, Chester Hill, Martha Zimmer, Earl Hill, Albert Zimmer, Bernie Zimmer, Vivian Skaret.

Teachers' salaries varied with the economy of the country. In the early twenties nine hundred dollars per year was a good salary for an experienced teacher; by the mid-thirties a teacher with a second class certificate could expect only five hundred dollars per year, and might have to wait for that. In 1936 the government grant of twenty cents per pupil-day did not go very far toward paying expenses.

Among the trustees who struggled to make ends meet were C.S. Smyth, Emil Kammerle, Chester Hill, Mrs. Hazel Fletcher, Joe Camp, Ron Hugon, Mrs. H.A. Burt, A.B. Hanson, W.E. Kading, and Mr. Lyksen. Men who acted as secretary-treasurer were A.E. Tynzer, Edgar Stemp, H. Burt and A.B. Hanson. Here again, the absence of complete records may mean that we have omitted the names of some dedicated persons who gave unstintingly of their time to ensure that their children had the opportunity for an education.

Records do show that in 1928 Earl Hill was paid the sum of five dollars per month for janitor work, and that in 1927 Wilma Smyth earned five dollars by scrubbing and oiling the classroom floor.

At various times, high school classes were taught at Crow Hill. The minutes of 1935 state that Grace Donald and Lillian Schultz would be allowed to attend high school at Crow Hill, on condition that their tuition fees were paid by their home school district, Summerhill.

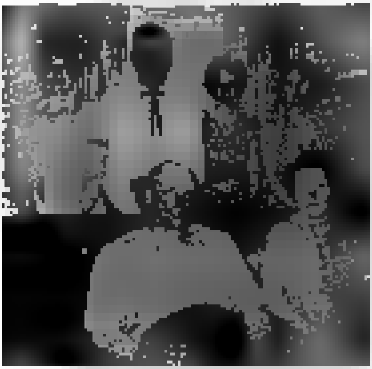


Crow Hill pupils in the late twenties: Albert Zimmer, Bill Burt, Bennie Zimmer, Fred Stamp, Olive Burt, Annie Ruhl, Carl Ruhl, Bud Hansen, Earl Burt, Albert Abram, Mildred Hansen, Connie Heptonstall, Elsie Abram, Katie Ruhl, Hilda Abram, Jake Ruhl, Walter Heptonstall, Doreen Lynzon, Annie Kammerle, Marie Lohmann, Mona Camp, Arthur Camp, Fred Kammerle, Harvey Burt.

Crow Hill graduates in the early thirties: Jim Smyth, Herman Zimmer, Fred Stamp, Dolly Stamp (teacher), Connie Heptonstall, [illegible] [illegible], Fred Abram, Carl Abram, Elsie Abram, A. Vandalline, Ann Morley

Crow Hill pupils 1942: Emanuel Kalmbach, Ethel Dewart, Jean Smyth, Annie Mattheis, Ted Smyth, Bennie Kading, Lilian Geisel, Dora Keibel, Arthur Mattheis, Edwin Mattheis, Lucy Kalmbach, ? Smyth.

Crow Hill school closed its door in 1942. Family names which appeared on old school registers include: Abram, Burt, Dewert, Hanson, Hunt, Heptonstall, Hill, Kammerle, Kalmbach, Kusel, Lyccan, Lohrmann, Matthels, Nill, Ruhl, Schill, Stauffer, Symington, Schuler and Ziemmer.


Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann and their children, Tiny, Hazel, Lou and Doris.

CHARLIE LOHRMANN, by Christina Lohrmann — Charlie Lohrmann was born April 12, 1887, in Iowa, U.S.A. In the fall of 1909 he came to Castor where he worked on a construction crew putting up buildings.

He had a room at the hotel. One day he came down with measles. The hotel manager, afraid that his hotel would be quarantined, hustled him out, telling him to get on the freight train that was leaving for Stettler. Charlie was so sick he could hardly stand, so he went out the front door, around and up the back way and went back to his room. Sometime later the passenger train came in from Stettler, and the manager came up with some guests for that room. Was he ever mad to find Charlie there! A Mr. Lepard and another man told the manager that Charlie was his guest and it was up to him to call a doctor and take care of him, and that if he did not do so they would report him. Charlie got good care after that.

By the time he was able to get out of bed, his parents and sisters (Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Lohrmann, Polly and Marie) had arrived with their freight cars. After that it was a busy time to locate a homestead and get settled on it. He helped his father with the farming, and did his own homestead duties, until December 12, 1917, when he and I, Christina Leicht, were married.

By this time Charlie had four quarters of land, the north half of 35-33-15 and the east half of 34-33-15. One quarter he bought from Frank Benzie and one from Bill James. The 1917 crop was hailed out completely but he had hail insurance on it, so that helped.

In the winter of 1918-19 when the flu was raging, Charlie would do his chores, then get on a horse and go to see if any of the neighbors needed help. He made a couple of trips to Hanna for the doctor.

We had a lot of wonderful neighbors . . . I was to learn how wonderful. The Charley Hill family and Kate and Herman Stemp were the closest ones. Late in the fall of 1919 Charley Hill had a sale, rented the land to my brother Jack Leicht, and took his family to the United States.

A couple of days before Christmas Charlie and Jack went to Hanna in the car to get the Christmas order. They had a very bad trip; it was very cold, and they got stuck, and got chilled after shovelling and riding in the open car. Next morning Charlie went out to do the chores, but came back in a very short time, too sick to carry on. He came down with smallpox.

The councillor and the Mountie came out and quarantined us, but did not appoint anyone to look after us. So Edgar Stemp, coming two miles, and Harvey Burt coming four miles, took turns day about and hauled feed to the outside cattle. Mr. Burt also got what we needed from Hanna. I did the rest of the chores, with water to haul uphill for some distance. Our baby Marie was just creeping and

trying to walk, so I had to make many trips back to the house to see that everyone and everything was safe. Charlie was very sick. After he was able to be up and around the house, the baby took sick. We sat up all one night fearing the worst. I was so thankful that I did not take sick too.

In a couple of years the Hill family came back to their farm. Jack and Polly moved back to the Chris Lohrmann place.

Charlie, coming from a corn country, decided to try a field of corn. As it was a field variety it grew tall and had tremendous ears. At threshing time the girls in the cook car kept a pot of it on the stove all the time. As the bundle teams came in the drivers would run in and get an ear. When the threshing was all finished, Charlie turned the cattle into the corn field. It almost took the place of a fattening pen.

One year our crop was snowed under in the stook. To thresh it they had to dig it out of the snow. Some of the bundles were frozen to the ground and had to be cut loose with a spade. Needless to say the grain was damp. Some farmers left theirs till spring. The grain was dry then but they had trouble getting help to thresh it as everyone was busy with spring work. The mice had taken their share too, so I am not sure which was the best way to do it.

Hauling the grain to Hanna was a real problem. When you got there you had to wait in line to get unloaded and sometimes that was not until the next day. Some farmers bought, built or rented granaries in Hanna and stored the grain till spring. The trips were hard and cold . . . It was twenty-one miles to Hanna.

One day Mr. Hill and Charlie got their loads ready, two four-horse sleigh loads of wheat. They started next morning. The road was all drifted over and built up high; they were breaking trail all the way. They walked most of the way to keep from freezing. When they were about one and a half miles from Hanna, (it was dark by this time), they met a couple of the neighbors on their way home. They stopped and produced a bottle. Charlie said that if it had not been for the drink he did not think they would have made it. The horses were just as tired and hungry as the men. They made many such trips.

We had the horses that we did not need for hauling turned out. One cold morning Herman Stemp noticed one of our mares with a new colt. She was on one side of the fence and the colt was on the other, so he walked down there. The poor little thing was almost frozen. Herman took off his mackinaw, put the colt's front feet in the sleeves, and buttoned it up over its back, then hurried to tell us. Charlie hitched a team to a sleigh and brought them home. The poor little fellow froze part of his ears off, and a few patches on his legs and hips, but came out of it fine, thanks to Herman and his mackinaw.

The summer of 1922 things did not look very promising; it looked as if the crops would be a complete failure. Charlie got discouraged so we went to the Calgary Stampede for a few days. That trip was like a shot in the arm, for Charlie could not get home fast enough to get to work. He ploughed part of the crop under, getting ready for next year. It really paid off as we had a good crop the next year.

When that crop was cut and tied, but not one stook up, it looked like an endless job when we started stooking. But who should come along but Charlie's brother Chris, who said, "If you go and haul some coal for me (he ran a big steam threshing outfit) I will move right over and start to thresh. No need to stook, we will pick it up right out of the windrow."

Needless to say Charlie went as soon as he could get a team hitched to the wagon.

In the fall of 1928 Charlie bought a threshing machine; he already had a tractor. Through the years he did a lot of threshing, and would be away from home

a great deal in the fall. That was the time of year when skunks would invade the chicken coops. Our chicken coop was a lean-to on one side of a granary; on the other side there was a lean-to for the car. I noticed that something was getting the chickens, so I set a trap. Next morning I had a skunk, but it had got under the door into the chicken house. I opened the door, but it would not come out, nor would the chickens, and I would not go in. I had no choice. I got the gun, went into the granary, put the barrel through a knot hole, and shot the skunk. The air got kind of blue. When I happened to think of the car, I got it out, but the fumes had done their work. You could smell that car for a long time afterward.

Shipping cattle was a problem, as they had to be driven the twenty-one miles to Hanna, where they were loaded into freight cars and shipped to Calgary. After the railroad came through we had just two and a half miles to go to Scapa, where there were stores, elevators and post office. That was a great help.

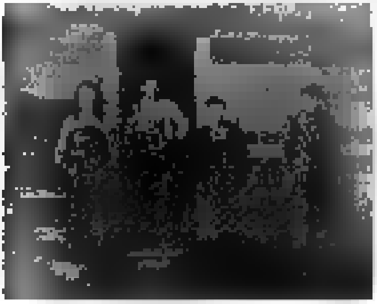
During the dry years of the early thirties we sold two head of cattle to the government for two cents a pound. We shipped some to Calgary for little more than the freight. We sold cream for sixty-five cents for a five gallon can. We had our share of hoppers, cut worms, wire worms and dust storms. We lost some horses through sleeping sickness. One year, after all the crop was harvested, we had two rack loads of unthreshed wheat for feed. We put Russian thistle through a threshing machine, then through a hammer mill, and fed that along with what little else we had. We lived by the rule of the old saying, "Use it up, make it do, wear it out."

This may all sound very grim, but we never suffered. We had a lot of good times and a lot of fun in the community. Charlie had a great sense of humor and always looked on the bright side of things, and somehow made troubles seem very small. One of his favorite sayings was, "It will be better next year. We will just chalk this up to experience."

Charlie was interested in all sports. He managed the Scapa ball team for a number of years. He and the neighbors got together and built the Scapa community hall, which he also managed for a number of years. Our children attended Crow Hill and Scapa schools.

We were blessed with four children, Marie (Tiny), Hazel, Lewis (Lou) and Doris.

In 1962 we sold the farm to Lou. We reserved the house and retired there, as Lou and his wife had built a house of their own. Charlie passed away March 18, 1964. I still live on the farm during the summer; I spend the winters in Hanna or Big Valley.

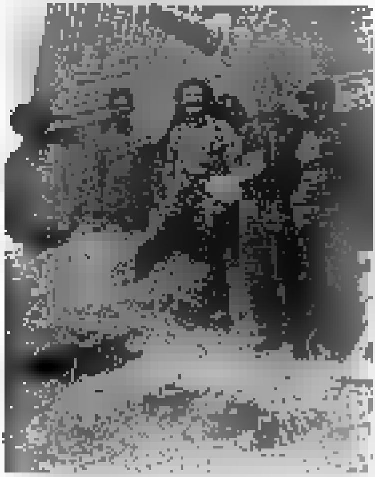


Andy Hanson, [illegible], [illegible], Tom Symington in front of Hanson's shack with the boys in 1932

A. B. HANSON STORY, By Mrs. Hanson — My husband, Andrew B. Hanson was born in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, on July 5, 1880. His father, Rasmus Hanson, had come to the United States as a young man; and after service in the Civil War settled on land granted to veterans. His fiancee, Gertrude Helmeth, came from Norway after the Civil War to marry him, and to them eight children were born. Andrew was the second youngest of the family.

Andrew got his steam engineer's papers so he followed the harvest from

Minnesota to Washington, where he met a Mr. Ernest Fletcher; the two of them moved on with the harvest to Medicine Hat, with Andy running the engine and Fletcher the separator. Then they went to the Galahad area to work. Fletcher remained there with his brother, and Andrew bought lumber at Castor and moved down to the homestead to build his shack. He stopped for the night with his closest neighbors, the Bodemans, and the next morning they drove over to the farm and helped him build his shack. It was completed on December 18, 1910, and he moved into his new home.



Herman Kasten of Sheerness, Gordon Maxwell, Andy Hanson, Rost Cook and Joe Major. A storm had turned the bunk car on its side with the door down; the men had to make a hole in the roof to get out -- 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson. Married and tied in 1923.

Andy Hanson's threshing crew in 1927: Emil Kading, Louis Welch, Joe Lidgett, Joe Shilberg, Donald McKenzie, August Hein, Paul Tratkin, Bill Kading, Andy Hanson. Two days later a storm wrecked the building.

After the storm. Andy Hanson, Bill Kading, Findlay Cook

Many people looking for homesteads made this one-roomed shack their stopping place. The trail to the coal mine went right by the door, and people travelling it were always glad to stop for a hot cup of coffee.

In the first years Andy Hanson got his mail at Flagstaff, Watts and Garden Plain post offices, and like other homesteaders, walked a good many miles to get it. After the railway was built through Hanna, mail was delivered from the Dowling Lake post office to the Nick Lund home by horse and buggy, and Andy and his neighbors had only a few miles to go to get it.

For the first few years, Ernest Fletcher and Andy Hanson lived together in Hanson's shack, sharing the work and the money they earned. Andy was a mechanic: he would never drive oxen or even horses if he could help it. He ran Ed Dotseld's tractor for plowing and threshing and later operated George Chapman's outfit at threshing time. Wages in those days were low. The engineer got $2.50 a day; the bundle haulers got $1.50 and an extra fifty cents a day if they supplied the team and rack.

One year Andy took a team of oxen for wages. Fletcher was doing some breaking with them when the heel flies took after them and they ran into a slough. No one had a very large wardrobe in those days, so Mr. Fletcher climbed up on the seat to get out of the water, and removed his clothing. He was planning to hold his clothes up out of the water while he walked to shore, but was startled to hear a giggle, and looked up to see a couple of the neighbor ladies driving by. I think that must have been the first high dive ever taken from the seat of a plough!

The men had made a dugout shelter in the hillside for their pigs. One morning they got up to find them all roasted. Mr. Fletcher had been smoking and had dropped his cigarette while he was feeding them.

I came with my parents, my brothers and sisters, to the Craigmyle area in 1910. We had come from Germany to the United States in 1906, and the following year my father came to Canada to get some of the free land we had heard so much about. In July of 1909 he went to Acme and travelled from there to look for a homestead. In the fall my mother and we eight children came to Linden, and spent the winter at the Mennonite colony there. Next spring we moved to the homestead with all our possessions, three horses, one cow, four sacks of flour, a few sacks of potatoes, eight kids and seven dollars. It took us eight days to cover the eighty-five miles to the homestead three miles south of Craigmyle, my home until 1916 when I came here to marry Andrew Hanson.

That was over sixty years ago, and I have lived here ever since, except for a couple of years that we lived at Craigmyle and Delia, where Andy worked in garages. Our daughter Mildred was born in 1917, and our son, Russell, in 1918. In 1923 I was confirmed in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, and our children were baptized there.

We tried to give our children an education, but it was not easy. In 1917 we still did not have a school in our district, and there were neighbors who had fifteen-year-old children who had never been to school, but who had been taught by their mother. Finally the district of Crow Hill was formed, and in 1923 Mildred and Russell (Bud) started school there. They took some of their high school at Scapa, but when it came time for them to take grade twelve, it was during the hungry thirties and we could not afford to send both of them. We sent Russell to stay with my folks at Craigmyle so he could finish his grade twelve in 1935.

Mildred and Russell took music lessons from Mrs. Banner, an accomplished musician in spite of a handicapped hand. She was a real lady, with a world of patience, and while she was still taking lessons, Mildred began to play for church services.

In 1928 we were hailed out completely. My husband got work threshing in the Galahad area. I cut and raked the hailed grain and we put it up for feed. A neighbor lady, Mrs. Heptonstall, helped me haul it home. We would leave the last load of the day on the rack, and when her husband came home from work, he would put the top on the stack, which when finished was 125 feet long and 35 feet across the end.

My husband passed away in 1944. Mildred married Richard Zeemer. They had two daughters, Charlotte and Marlene, and are living in Hanna.

Russell is an electrician, working from home.

We still live on the same farm. All my old neighbors have left; some have passed on, some thought they could do better elsewhere. I have a small house in Hanna so I spend my time between town and the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ziemmer

MR. and MRS. DANIEL ZIEMMER, by Bennie Ziemmer — Daniel Ziemmer came to Canada from Wollinia, Russia, about 1900, and worked for a number of years with the Mennonites in Manitoba. While there he married Justina Rother, and my oldest brother Gerhard was born there in 1903.

Dad obtained his first land at Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and John, Herman and Martha were born there. In 1909 he homesteaded the SE 7-34-16. That fall he sold out at Lanigan; at that time anything bought at an auction sale did not have to be paid for in cash, but could be on time. He spent the winter at Leduc with his sisters, the Weller and the Bienert families.

In the spring of 1910 he and Andrew and Louie Weller shipped their equipment by train to Castor. Dad had a team of oxen and a horse, and he broke land with a walking plow. The family lived in a sod house on the homestead for the first year. Albert and I were born on the homestead.

There was open range then and at milking time the cows were sometimes miles from home. Mother churned butter and put it up in prints to be traded for groceries.

Their post office and store was at Old Endiang.

In the fall of 1916 we moved to the NE 10-34-15, where Dad had purchased land from Emil Reske and R. Eisenraut. We farmed with horses and lived off the farm, keeping cattle, hogs and poultry. At one time we hand-milked more than twenty cows, and every week Mother would drive to Hanna with a team and democrat, taking in eggs and cream and returning the same day with groceries and other necessities. The round trip was forty-six miles.

Grain was hauled to Hanna and livestock was driven to market there. Wheat was milled into flour, livestock was butchered and the meat was cured or canned. Neighbors would get together in the fall to butcher or dress poultry. For use during the winter, eggs were preserved in salt brine or waterglass.

On Sundays we dressed up and drove to church services as far away as Sponden, Craigmyle and the Hand Hills. Later we attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

At home we played horseshoes and baseball, boxed and rode steers. I recall a rodeo being held at Fedor Prokupuk's place. The first ball diamond was north of our place on the Keibel land, later it was moved two miles south, and still later, to Scapa.

When the railway came in 1926, the real pioneer times were over, as most of the farm land had been broken, fenced and improved with buildings. Some farmers had cars and tractors.

About that time Dad built a new barn, and had a well drilled, and a windmill installed to pump the water. We had a Coleman gas lamp for light and a radio with earphones. I can remember listening to the Dempsey-Tunney fight on that radio.

Dad purchased his first car in 1927, a Model T Ford, but driving in mud, half a mile in low gear and it would boil. In 1930 it was replaced by a Model A, which was a good unit.

Mother served as a midwife until the thirties. In 1931 Dad passed away and mother remarried. She and her husband, Gottlieb Schuter, lived on the homestead until they retired to Hanna. Both are deceased now.

Our sister Martha, Mrs. John Mohl, died on Christmas Day, 1973. Brothers Gerhard and Herman live in the Mayerthorpe district, John is at Lacombe, and Albert and I live at Endiang.

HERMAN and PAULINE ZIEMMER, *By Herman Ziemmer* — In 1931 my dad passed away and that was when I started on my own. I batched until 1935 and then married Pauline Stulberg. As we remember, it was a very cold day, thirty below and the snow drifts six or eight feet high. It was so cold in the church that we froze our toes.

I had a quarter section of land, and rented another quarter from Ron Huson. I later bought that, and also the Charlie Hill half-section from the Ruhl brothers.

We lived in a two-roomed house for ten years. Then in 1945 we bought a school house, moved it from south of Hanna, remodelled it and lived in it for ten years. We did not like that house, for it was a high building and when the wind blew, the whole house shook. One day a window blew in. So we bought a house and moved it down from south of Edmonton.

In the dry years all that really grew was tumble weeds and Russian thistle. Towards fall the tumble weeds broke off and blew against the fences, then the dirt blew against them, until the fences were covered over.

Herman Zeimer's courting days

We farmed with horses and horse-drawn machinery, as most people did. Herman went into the horse business. Over the years he travelled five different stallions. He broke horses to drive, and got paid ten dollars for each one he broke. He also had a little trap line which caught rabbits, weasels and skunks. At first he would get five cents for rabbit ears; later he skinned the rabbits and got as high as seventy-five cents for them. Skunks and weasels brought from one to five dollars. One winter we sold one hundred dollars' worth of skins, which was very good.

During the war years, we gathered dry bones from cattle that did not make the winter and took them in to Scapa where we sold them. However, this brought only a small amount of money.

We always milked cows and raised pigs, and in 1949 we bought a purebred Hereford cow, which had a heifer calf. That cow had twelve bull calves, which we always sold for good prices, as there were not too many purebred breeders in the area. We still have purebred polled cattle, but only enough to keep us busy.

FRED LYXZEN, By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Andrew Emfred (Fred) Lyxzen was born October 17, 1885 in Vannas, Sweden. He had two brothers and one sister. His sister and one brother died of diphtheria while youngsters. His younger brother died in 1974. His father was the only one who came over here but he returned to the old country after a couple of years. In 1903 Fred immigrated to South Dakota where he had relatives. He worked on a large farm there for a couple of years and then went to Vancouver Island to work in a lumber camp. In 1907 he started working for a harness maker in Stettler, Alberta. Three years later he bought a building and started his own harness shop. Andy Robinson, an oldtimer of Stettler, worked for him.

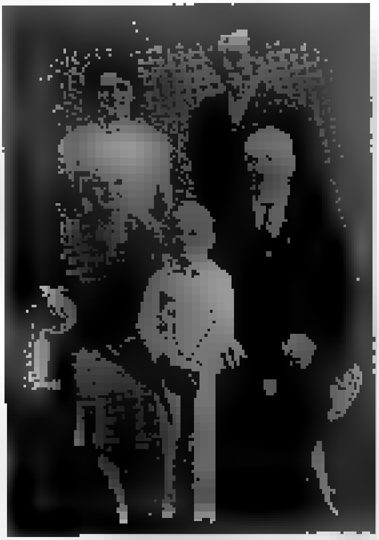
After getting married in 1911, he operated his shop for a couple more years, till he went broke due to too much credit on the books and no cash. He never did collect the money that was owing to him. After renting land south of Erskine and near Hanna, he took up a homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1915, and then went to work for the Government, at Great West Saddlery, for thirty-five cents an hour. He made bridles and saddles for war purposes until the quota was reached. He returned to the homestead with two horses and five cows he had acquired. Over the ensuing years he improved and increased his herd of Shorthorns many times over. Before the advent of tractors he farmed six quarters with horses.

They, as did all other pioneers, experienced many set backs; hail, drought, grasshoppers and the dirty thirties. In 1916 they had only a one-roomed shack covered with rubberoid roofing. A terrific hailstorm struck and tore off all the roofing, so they had to stand under an umbrella with their rubbers on. A canvas had been spread over the bed so it was the only dry spot. The chickens were startled and ran out only to be killed, so none were left. This was the storm that

killed Mr. Depencier, about one-half mile west of them. He was returning from Craigmyle with a load of lumber. He managed to crawl to some bush and was found with his hands over his head as though trying to protect himself.

Money was non-existent. Sometimes a pound of butter or such like was traded for some much-needed commodity. There was a flour mill in Hanna where farmers had their wheat ground. The closest trading centre was Endiang until Scapa was established.

Mr. Fred Lyzen and coyote hounds



Doreen and John Kerner, Hilda Lyzen, Brian Kerner and Fred Lyzen

Since Fred was a harness maker, in early winter and spring one would find him astride his "harness horse" making and repairing harness of his own and as a favor, also his neighbors'. He owned a threshing machine, before the advent of combines, and did threshing on various farms for many years. He owned three quarters of land and rented two quarters from Olaf Saunders who had returned to Sweden. Crow Hill School was in the north-east corner of this land. The Depencier quarter, which he had purchased after Mr. Depencier was killed, just cornered this to the north-east. In the twenties he purchased the quarter west of the homestead.

In the spring of 1945 he held an auction sale and bought the Red and White Store at Scapa from H.A. Burt Sr. They actually switched places. In 1949 the Pounds from Dowling bought the store and the Lyzens moved to the land referred to as the Wallaces and Roneys; nine miles north-east of Scapa. In 1956 they bought a house in Hanna and retired from farming.

Fred was an avid hunter of coyotes, big game and birds — mostly geese. For most of the years on the homestead he kept numerous hunting dogs of various breeds — some were greyhounds. He spent the winters covering miles and miles of territory hunting coyotes. The pelts had to be carefully skinned and stretched on boards to be saleable. With fall came the goose hunting season. In later years on his second farm, he took many hunters out. His farm bordered Sullivan Lake and thousands of geese landed there. Today his guns are a prized possession of his grandson. After his retirement he did a lot of fishing, especially at Gleniffer Dam.

He also upholstered furniture. He made two sets of harness, one for a team of Shetland ponies in the Garden Plain area, the other was regular size. Unfortunately the harness, which was left locked in the garage, disappeared after his death. Somewhere there is an excellent set of hand-stitched harness made about 1959.

Because his wife was in hospital and his health was failing, he spent the winter of 1964-65 with his daughter, Doreen in Bow Island. He suffered a stroke and passed away twelve days later on May 20, 1965.

MRS. FRED LYXZEN,* *By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Hildur (Hilda) Karolina Erickson, daughter of Per and Elizabeth, was born December 25, 1888 in Helgum, Sweden. She is one of a family of one sister, four brothers and two half-brothers, one of whom, Edward, lives in Hanna. Two brothers Enoch and Abe are still living at ninety-one and ninety. Her mother died when she was six years old, so she had a step-mother, Maria. She left Sweden in October 1903 with the Molander family to come to Erskine, Alberta where her father and brother, Albert, were. Except for her sister, the rest of the family came a year later.

In the spring of 1904 she started work in the kitchen of the Adelphi Hotel in Lacombe. There were no specified working hours; if a train happened to come in at midnight, she worked. There was no overtime pay; she earned fifteen dollars a month, most of which was given to her father. She worked eleven months, learned English and then did odd jobs for a while before she started her apprenticeship as a dressmaker. After recovering from an illness she rented a room above the Harness Shop in Stettler; opened her dressmaking shop and launched her career as a professional dressmaker in 1907.

On April 5, 1911 she married Andrew Ernfred (Fred) Lyxzen. Four children were born of this union but only the youngest, Victoria Doreen survived. They lived in Stettler for a couple of years where she kept on with her shop. After moving south of Erskine and then to the Reddel place four miles south of Hanna, she moved to the homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1916. Since her husband was working in Calgary, her brother August helped her on the farm.

Like all pioneer women she had to work out on the land, so she could handle horses as well as any man. She was a member of the old U.F.W.A. and later of the Home Ladies Club at Scapa. Upon retiring in 1958 with her husband, she became an active member of the Church of Christ in Hanna.

No matter where they lived, she always had a wide assortment of material, for she sewed for countless people in the Scapa and Hanna areas. For example, one Christmas season she had twenty dresses to make. Everyone had to have a new dress for the Christmas Concert.

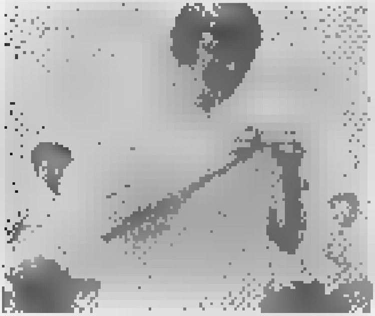
She is an avid gardener and plant lover; and had lots of produce, beautiful flowers and house plants to prove it. At the age of eighty-eight, she still does a variety of handicrafts.

On October 19, 1962, she fell off the back step of their home in Hanna and broke her hip. Arthritis set in and after three operations and many months in various hospitals, she can get around only in a wheelchair. She remains cheerful and retains a sharp and agile mind. She now resides in the Bow Island Nursing Home.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SLEMP,* *By Kate Hudson Slemp — Herman Slemp came to the Fleet district from Oklahoma with his parents and the rest of the family in 1912. His wife (nee Kate Hudson) came from England with her parents and one sister in 1913. Her four brothers had come in previous years. Her mother's sister, Mrs. Bob Climie of Lane and Climie ranch of Castor district, had come to Alberta

in 1901 when Red Deer was the nearest town. The fact of so many of the family being here decided her parents to leave England for a life in sunny Alberta.

Herman homesteaded the southwest 2-34-15, proving up in 1920. He was married in Castor in March 1920, driving the same day by team and cutter to the homestead where he and his wife made their home for forty-four years; moving to Castor in May 1964 where they enjoyed retirement until Herman's sudden passing in October 1978. His wife is still living there.


Kate Stemp: Pie eating contest at Hudson Bay School

June 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stemp and John Wallace raising Stemp's two-roomed house to put on a foundation

Herman worked at various jobs before his marriage, one being a freighting job between Castor and Hanna with a four horse team. He also worked for Mr. Kane at Garden Plain Store and coal mine which was our post office for several years, the mail coming from Castor by team, twice a week I believe.

Their first home was a small two-room house, twelve by twenty feet and the few acres of crop grown in 1919 was snowed under and stooks stayed in the field until being threshed in May 1920.

The railroad came in the fall of 1925, bringing three elevators the following year; Herman operated the Searle elevator from about 1929 or 30 to about 1937 or 38. During the early thirties (commonly known as the hungry thirties) the elevator handled relief feed made possible by the government to aid farmers in carrying their stock through those difficult years.

There was very little income those years as wheat was nineteen cents a bushel, cattle one to one and a half cents a pound, eggs five cents a dozen and cream from two dollars to two dollars and seventy-five cents for a five gallon can.

Everyone tried to be optimistic, making their own entertainment by visiting families and gatherings at local school houses, at card parties and dances. In winter a group would organize a play, practising at different homes until ready for showing before spring work commenced. Sometimes they would journey to different places, affording people in other communities an opportunity to see the play. One year when roads were bad the railroad hand car was pressed into transporting the cast to another point along the railroad.

Farming was done with horses and Herman had two six horse teams — "Big Six" and "Little Six."

Times were hard those years but made one appreciate to the full the better years that followed.

THE HILL FAMILY, ***By Mrs. Maymie Hill Cattanach*** — Charles Arvin Hill (known as Charlie), his wife Alma, and their four children; Jessie Dee, Maymie,

Earl and Chester; arrived all the way from Steedman, Oklahoma to Fleet, Alberta to become "new citizens". They arrived in August, 1912 in time to help with the harvest. Alma helped in a cook car where the threshing crew were fed while Maymie looked after the baby, Chester. Chester was only one year old and Maymie six years of age so it was understandable that there were a few arguments!

In 1914 Charlie filed on a homestead two miles west of what is now known as Scapa. By 1917 he received his Naturalization Papers and his homestead rights from the Federal Government. He also received what was known as Pre-Emption Rights. Luckily for his children he named all of them on his application for Naturalization, thus they became Canadian citizens.

In 1918 Homer was born on January 13, while on September 13, 1919 Haskel (known as Hack) arrived on the scene. Mrs. Saxsmith, midwife in the district, ushered both new Canadians into the world without any benefits of a doctor.

It was in 1918 that Crow Hill School was built. Charlie Hill was the main "pusher" of the school as well as Chairman and Trustee. The first Crow Hill teacher was Miss Christine Campbell — later to become Mrs. Milo Loomer of Endiang. The school had an enrollment of approximately thirty children from grade one to grade nine. How about that, you 1977 teachers of today!

To make ends meet Charlie went to work for Harold Hunt of Endiang while Alma and Jessie ran the farm and the rest of the kids ran the house.

After a few years things got better and the work eased up, especially when the price of wheat went up. Charlie and Jessie built a two room building in Scapa in 1926 where Jessie ran a butcher shop on one side and Maymie ran a small restaurant on the other side. By 1925 there were two elevators in Scapa and farmers really appreciated something to eat after driving so far with their wheat. Elis Malm had started the Scapa Store by then, so a cup of hot coffee and a piece of pie was quite welcome.

In 1928 Charlie and Alma took over the restaurant after the farm was sold to the Ruhls. The rest of the kids had gone out working, leaving Homer and Hack the only kids at home with their parents. Scapa School had started up by then so schooling went on — much to their disgust.

In 1929 John Cattanach and Maymie Hill were married and continued farming on John's farm two miles east of Scapa. In 1931 Charlie, Alma, and the two younger boys moved to British Columbia for health reasons, as Homer had developed diabetes and was on a salad diet — something they couldn't get in Alberta. They sold the building in Scapa to Jim and Olive Boehlke who set up a store in it.

Homer passed away in 1942, Alma in 1944, Charlie in 1947, Jessie in October of 1966, Chester in May of 1967, Earl in September of 1971, and Hack in December of 1974, leaving Maymie as sole survivor of the Hill family from Scapa.

OLAV SANDNESS, *By Mrs. A.E. Hanson* — Olav Sandness homesteaded the NW 33–33–15 about 1912. Crow Hill school was built on two acres of land in the corner of his farm. In the mid-twenties he rented his land to Mr. Lyzen and took a trip back to Norway, where he died.

THE WAGNER FAMILY, *By Mrs. A.E. Hanson* — Mr. and Mrs. M. Wagner had a homestead and pre-emption on section 32-33-15. They had four children, Lizzie, Chris, Benny and Mary. Their son Chris, who was married and had two children, also took out a homestead and a pre-emption. When Chris' house burned down, he and his family moved in with his parents.

When the men had proved up on their homesteads they sold them; C. Hill bought the M. Wagner homestead and H. Burn bought Chris'. The pre-emptions were let go back. Mr. Lyzen took M. Wagner's as a second homestead, and Mr. Heptonstall filed on Chris' pre-emption.

In 1926, the Wagners returned to the United States. The only member of the families to remain in Canada was Mary, who had married Andrew Riebe of Oyen.

Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren

HJALMAR HOLMGREN FAMILY, By Norman Holmgren — Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren and their two children, Lila and Norman, came from North Dakota to Craigmyle about 1916. Dad got a house for us to live in, then found a job in the coal mine at Garden Plain. My brother Archie was born in 1915, and my sister Ellen two years later, when we lived on the Rom place.

Dad decided to try his hand at farming on rented land. There wasn't much money to be made at that, but with a part-time job in the coal mine we managed to survive. Lila and I started school at Princeton; about 1923 we went to Lillico school and while we lived on the Lyzen place we attended Crow Hill. Dad put some land into crop on the NW 5-34-15 but had the misfortune to get hailed out.

When we moved to the Charles Loomer place we went to the Endiang school which was later re-named Hunt Lake. In wintertime Earl Hoover took us to school in a covered van pulled by horses. We left Endiang in the late twenties. Dad filed on a homestead in the Lindale area where he made his home until he suddenly took ill and passed away in 1941. Mother died a few years later.

Lila, Mrs. Norma Phillips, had one son. She died at Lindale in 1967. Archie died in 1975. His widow continues to operate the store and service station which he had bought at Carnwood. Ellen lives in Vancouver. My wife and I have three married sons. We farm at Lindale and I drive a school bus.

Going to school to learn to speak English, Emil Kading 1927

EMIL KADING, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Emil Kading came from Germany in the summer of 1926 to stay with his brother, Bill Kading. As he was anxious to learn English, he did the janitor work at Crow Hill school, and stayed to listen to the children's instruction. Every day he drove by team and sleigh to the school, taking my children with him.

During World War I he had been an airplane mechanic for the German ace, Baron Von Richtofen, and he was hoping to continue the work he had been trained for in Canada. In 1928 Andy Hanson took him to Medicine Hat

to see if he could help him get his Canadian license. As he could not speak English very well, the examiners gave him an airplane engine to work on, and Mr. Hanson translated for him. He was given his permit to work in Canada and was sent to Vancouver.

In 1930 he was traveling as mechanic with a bush pilot whose plane was damaged after a forced landing. The three men aboard the plane spent two months in the mountainous country near the Liard River in B.C. before rescuers found them. One of the party had died from injuries and exposure.

After he had regained his health, his company sent him to Thunder Bay; he remained there throughout the Second World War and until his retirement. Then he returned to the Scapa area to live with his brother and his wife. He stayed with them for seven years; when Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kading decided to retire to Stettler, Emil was to go with them, but wanted to take a trip back to Germany first. The Bill Kadings moved his effects to Stettler with their own, while Emil visited with relatives in his homeland.

He died suddenly of a heart attack while visiting the home of his nieces in East Germany, and he was buried there.

The Heptonstall Family: Ron, Hep, Connie, Herb, Walter and Mrs. Heptonstall — 1963

MR. and MRS. A. HEPTONSTALL, By Connie Heptonstall Stevens — Mr. and Mrs. Heptonstall and their three children, Connie, Walter and Herb, arrived in Hanna from Yorkshire, England, on March 27, 1927. During their first few months in the area, they lived with Mr. Heptonstall's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Linley and the children attended Chain Lakes school. They also spent some time with the Joe Liggett family in the Scapa district, and then moved to the Hill place about four miles west of Scapa. Late that summer 'Hep' as he was known to all his friends, took up the homestead that Chris Wagner had given up, a mile south of Crow Hill school.

Mrs. Hanson tells an amusing story. Apparently Walter Heptonstall became ill at school, and the teacher sent Connie home to get her mother. When Mrs. Heptonstall discovered that her son's illness had been caused by chewing tobacco, she switched him all the way home.

The youngest son, Ronnie, was born while Heptonstalls lived on this farm. In 1933 they moved south of Hanna, and the farm was taken over by their daughter Connie and her husband, Paul Schultz.

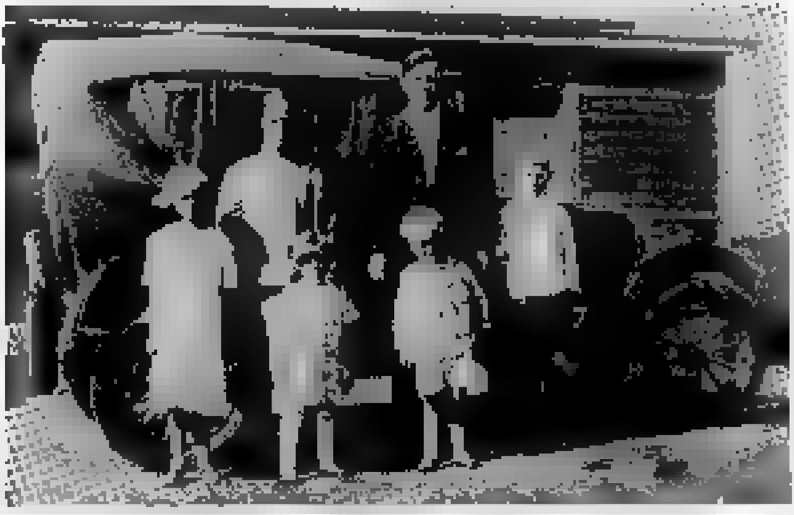
Hep, who was a veteran of World War I, joined the Home Guard during World War II, and moved his family to Hanna in 1941. Mrs. Heptonstall passed away in 1966, Mr. Heptonstall and their son Walter in 1975.

Ronnie still lives in Hanna, Connie and Herbert reside in Calgary.

EMANUEL KALMBACH, By Lucy Kalmbach Gutsche — In October of 1927 my dad, Emanuel Kalmbach, his wife, the former Bertha Irion, and their four children emigrated to Canada from Romania. Their family consisted of Roland, who was then six years old; Lilly, aged five; Hilda, two; and Emanuel Jr., who was

about seven months old when they arrived here. They stayed with relatives at Scapa for three or four months.

My dad had been a school teacher in the Old Country for a number of years. Conditions there at that time were very unsettled, and the country was over-populated; I think that correspondence with relatives in Canada convinced them that they would be much better off living here. I don't know if Dad intended to teach school here, but three or four months after they arrived, he made a down payment on a farm which at that time belonged to Alex Kelenith.



Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Kalmbach, Lilly, Roland and Emanuel Jr., and Ethel Diewert

He started farming with very little in the way of machinery, but I was told that in spite of that he grew a thirty-five to forty bushel crop in either 1928 or 1929. Unfortunately a severe hailstorm destroyed the crop just before harvest. Things looked very black, as he had no means of supporting his family. He finally obtained work with a threshing crew south of Hanna.

In 1930 my dad's wife was not well, and was taken to Hanna where Dr. Baxendale diagnosed a tumor and performed an operation to try to remove it. It was not successful and she died in October of 1930, at the age of thirty-four. It was a severe blow for Dad and the children. He had no idea how he would be able to look after his family, so they were cared for by their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Iston, who lived just across the road. After her father's remarriage, Hilda continued to make her home with her grandparents and attended Endiang school.

Through friends, my mother, Mrs. Alvina Diewert, learned that my dad needed a housekeeper, and took the position. From previous marriages she had one son, Albert Brandt, who was employed at Mayerthorpe and who remained there, and one daughter, Ethel Diewert, five years old. Dad and mother were married in 1931 and I, their only child, was born in 1934, with Mrs. Gottlieb Schuler as midwife.

Ethel, Lilly, Emanuel and Roland all attended Crow Hill school in the thirties. I went there only two years before it was closed. We travelled back and forth to school with a horse and buggy in the summertime and a cutter in the winter. I can remember one day that Ethel and Emanuel had gone to school in the morning,

and later that day a terrible blizzard came up. Due to the severity of the storm they didn't make it home that evening. The storm raged all night, and it was bitterly cold. Mother and dad were terribly worried about where the children could be. They stayed up all night, and as soon as the storm abated somewhat, Dad took a team and sleigh and went to look for them. He found them at the Fred Lyxzen place, where they had spent the night. Possibly the teacher at that time was boarding with the Lyxzens, and had taken them there with her.

My dad was a faithful worker for St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He was church secretary from 1929 to 1966, church organist for the same period of time, and as choir leader organized and directed the music for the annual Christmas and Easter services.

I remember the crop failures, and Dad not always being able to make his land payments when they came due. Mother was an ardent gardener, and usually grew more than enough for the family. Sometimes she would make part of the land payment with vegetables; she also raised a lot of turkeys, and sometimes the money from their sale was used to help pay the taxes.

When Dad's health began to fail he disposed of the land and had an auction sale. He and Mother moved to Calgary where he worked as painter in a steel plant, but he developed lung cancer and died in 1958. Mother remained in Calgary for a couple of years, then moved to Hanna where she is still able to care for her own home.

Roland Kalmbach and his wife Margaret live in Calgary. They have four children.

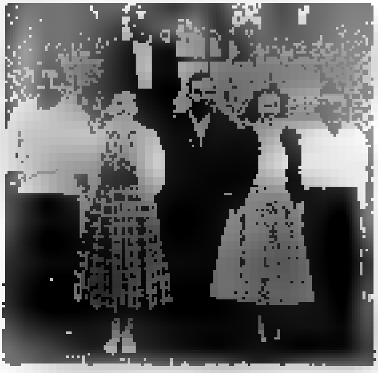
Lilly and Ben Meyers live in Vancouver. They have four children.

Hilda Fischer is a widow. She and her children live in Vancouver.

Emanuel and his wife Darlene and their children are on Vancouver Island.

Ethel and Ed Bertsch and their three children reside in Calgary.

I, Lucy, married Art Gutsche in 1953. We have three sons. We bought Dad's farm in 1958 and still live on the original farm site where we built a new home four years ago.



Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mattheis. Ed, Irma, Art, Annie and Gus

THE DANIEL MATTHEIS FAMILY, By Art Mattheis — Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mattheis emigrated from Romania to Canada in the fall of 1927. They spent the first winter with Mrs. Mattheis' parents, the Pahl family, who had come earlier and who were living in the Scapa district.

The following year they purchased a half section of land from John Johnson. They lived there for a number of years and then moved one mile south, in order to be closer to school, and built a new set of buildings on land bought from Harvey Burt. Later on the house on this farm was traded to a machine agent for a 500 Case Diesel tractor, and moved to Hanna. The family moved to the Edgar Stemp farm because the house had a phone, was closer to town and was served by better roads.

All the above land is now farmed by sons Arthur and Gustav.

The children attended Crow Hill school, a two mile trek summer and winter.

After that school closed they went to Scapa and to Hanna. The family regularly attended church services at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

On one occasion, Mrs. Mattheis and her children, Art and Anna, were taking two crates of eggs and three cans of cream to Scapa for shipment on the train. Just as they approached a railroad crossing, a speeder came down the track, frightening the horses. The runaway team galloped the mile and a half back to the farm. Mrs. Mattheis was very annoyed. She drove the team to the field where her husband was ploughing, traded the runaways for the team he was using, repacked her eggs, and still got to Scapa in time to meet the train.

In 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Mattheis retired to Hanna where they spent their remaining years. Mr. Mattheis died in 1965, Mrs. Mattheis in 1969.

They had five children.

Anna completed her nurse's training at the Holy Cross hospital in Calgary and is now married to Harvey Miller of Ottawa. They have two sons.

Arthur graduated from a two-year course at the Olds College of Agriculture, and is now farming north-west of Scapa.

Edwin became a petroleum engineer. He is married and living in Calgary. He has one son and one daughter.

Irma, a laboratory technician, married Henry Dabre. They live at Valleyview and have two sons and one daughter.

Gustav completed a course in diesel engineering at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He is now farming and ranching in the Scapa district. He is married to June Kelbel. They have one daughter, Kimberlie.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

By Mrs. A.B. Hanson

I hope you will find room in your book for this chapter on the wonderful neighbors we had. I know quite a few women who would not have survived if they had not had good neighbors. Since I am getting to be one of the older people in this part of the country, and have lived here since 1916, I have met and known most of the people who lived in this neighborhood.

Mr. Ernest Fletcher and my husband came to Medicine Hat from Washington in the fall of 1910. They had been working on threshing outfits; my husband was a steam engineer and Mr. Fletcher was the separator man. After harvest was finished at Medicine Hat they went to Galahad where Mr. Fletcher had a brother, and he stayed there for the winter.

In the spring he homesteaded the east half of 26-33-15, and my husband took the west half. In the winter Mr. Fletcher worked in the coal mines at Castor or Garden Plain. On November 12, 1918, he married Hazel Brum, a widow with one son. They lived on his farm until 1923, but Mrs. Fletcher did not like this country, so he rented his land to Bill Kading and moved back to Wisconsin.

Bill Kading took over the horses and cows with the land. In the spring he would get his cows in at five in the morning, milk eight cows and feed his pigs, and then go to work in the field to put his crop in. On March 24, 1929 he married Katie Morasch, and a better friend and neighbor no one ever had. They were my closest friends for fifty years and I do not know how I would have made it without their help when my husband passed on and my son was sick in bed for months. They remained on the farm until seven years ago when they moved to Stettler where their two sons were living. I cannot express what these people meant to us right up to the time of their passing.

The Haptonstalls homesteaded the land that Chris Wagner had let go back.

It joined our place on the north. One year we were hailed out, so my husband went threshing in the Goshed area, and Mrs. Heppenstall helped me haul home the feed that I had cut and raked, and when Mr. Heppenstall got home from work he would top off the stack for me.

The [illegible], Gus and Emma. If it had not been for them, many of the homesteaders would not have been able to keep going. I do not know how many cows and calves, and horses he saved for the people, and never a penny, as most of the homesteaders had no money. And a good many times it put a lot of extra work on his wife and children, as he would stay with the animal till it was out of danger. And it certainly showed in their family, they never raised one lazy youngster, they all earn their own living and my son and I are good friends of these same children who are now grown up with families of their own.

The [illegible] did not come until 1927. It did not make any difference what you needed, all the way from sewing shoes to harness, as these Old Country people had learned many trades, and how welcome that was to us! Praise goes to the wife and children as they had to take on extra work while Dad helped the neighbors. And may I say that is why their children are such good workers, they learned this at home and the district can be proud of children and parents like that.

Mr. and Mrs. George [illegible]. Mrs. Batner was a music teacher. How thankful a lot of young people were to that lady, as most of the parents could not afford to have their children learn to play an instrument. She had the patience of a saint, and put in her time for nothing, not one cent did she take and always a lunch when they were finished, just to give the neighbors' kids a chance.

Mr. and Mrs. Gust Abram. He would tan cowhides. When the years were so terribly hard and he saw how the people's shoes had no place left to nail a sole to, he would make the nicest moccasin slippers for them. He would come to visit and when he left there would be a paper bag in a corner and there would be a slip of paper in with the slippers, and it would say "I did not know what size you take, but I hope you can use these." He would tell the neighbors not to spend money for brooms. "Just cut the tail off one of your horses and bring the hair over and I will make you a broom." I still have one he made from an old Charlie horse we had. He has been gone a long time, but the tail hair broom is still working.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt. Mr. Burt was a farmer but looked after the elevator in Scapa. It was one of the business places that took the place of a bank. Mr. Burt knew just how hard up the people were, so often helped out with a few dollars which were very much appreciated and paid back out of the next cream cheque or crate of eggs. If someone did not know which way to turn, he called at the elevator, and soon came out smiling.

In March, 1936, my mother passed away, and since Mr. Burt had one of the few phones in the district, he brought me word that she had gone. He handed me five dollars, saying, "You might need this, and if you ever have it to spare you can give it back." That is the way our good neighbors were; they knew what you needed most and when. No need to say I made a special effort to pay back that five dollars, with a very thankful heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen. When the hungry thirties were just past, we had not had any crops to pay our taxes, and my husband had been sick for ten years before he passed on. The government of the Province said they were taking over our farm. It had been my home for so many years, and I was at my wits' end where to get the money. One night when Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen were over for a visit, we told them about it. He never said a word, just made out a cheque for three hundred dollars, and said, "Shame the devil! Just pay your taxes. You can give it back when you sell your calves."

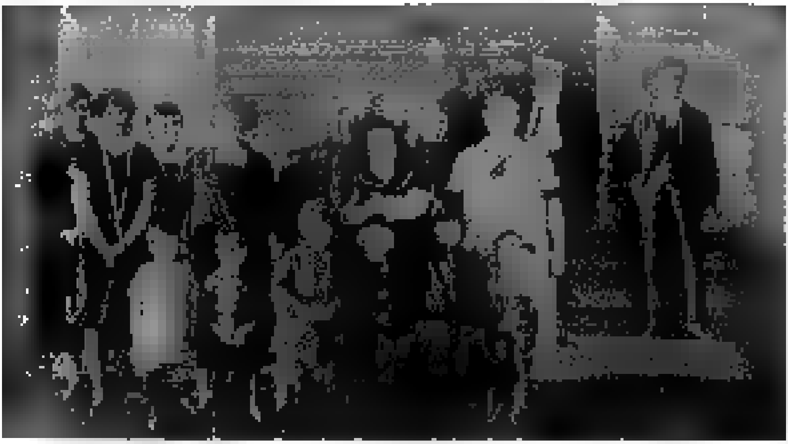
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz had a blacksmith shop in Gadsby. When farmers would drive a long distance there in a lumber wagon, it was impossible to make the return trip the same day. Many of them had no money for a hotel room, but instead of letting them sleep in the wagon box outside, Mr. Schultz would put their horses in his shop and took the people in his home where they were always made welcome and fed. The shop was filled with horses and the house was so filled with strange people that the Schultz children hardly knew which bed was theirs; it was usually on the floor, and strangers in their beds. They never charged anyone, so they were a Godsend to the poor homesteaders.

When they moved out to their homestead, they continued to help their neighbors. Half the girls in this part of the country should have been named Emma, for if a woman needed help, Mrs. Schultz would put on her white apron and put her medicines and other things she would need in a box, and stay until the mother was able to look after her new baby herself. And after the Lutheran Church was built, you would see the whole family going to church, and after the service they would not take no for an answer, and most of the young folks would go home with them, and they would be fed and made welcome. It did not matter if there were fifteen or fifty guests. They had eleven children of their own, and they each had their own friends, and after dinner they would play horseshoes or baseball or football. Everyone had clothes to cover them, and lots of food, and they did not have to work on a Sunday, that was the Lord's day.

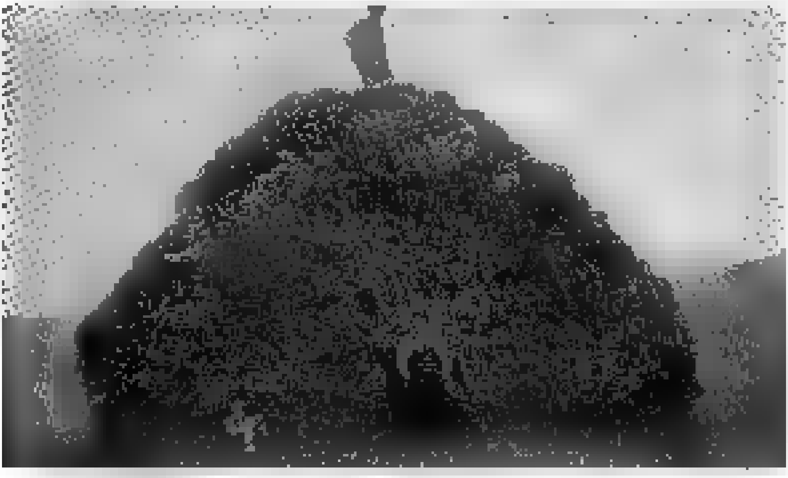
Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker. Mrs. Steinbrecker used to have a big garden, I think it covered two acres. Spuds and peas and beans by the bucket full, and no one ever went home without all he could carry. I think not many folk bought seed for their gardens, or seed spuds, as long as Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker lived on the farm. Their son, Sam, lives on the place now, and he is right there if any help is needed. They have the nicest children; they always show real respect for old people.

Sidney Linley, Joe Lidgett, Ida Barner, George Barner, Mrs. Lidgett, Mrs. Linley — 1924

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trottin A harder working man never lived, and a kinder hearted man you will never know. If you needed help you did not have to ask for it; he would offer to do what was needed, and their children are just like that too.



The Bott, Stump and Leicht families in front of the Bott home in 1927



The stack of baled grain put up by Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Heptonstall in 1931. Mr. Heptonstall on top of stack, Mrs. Hep, Bud Hanson and dog at the end of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Glubrecht. They were not ones to say, "Let me know if you need anything", they could see what was needed. They brought food if there was sickness in the house, and would loan their car or anything else you had to have.

Bernice and George Burns were among the later comers to the district. When they had the store at Scapa it did not make any difference if you had the money to pay for your groceries or not; they would even bring the groceries to the farm if they were needed right away.

Now that most of the old timers are gone, the young folks like the Lohmanns, Erions, Heins, Welchs and Pattingores are a credit to the country. They are there to help whenever they are needed. Very many times we were so thankful to be blessed with kind neighbors, and you can tell their children, yes, and even their grandchildren, by their politeness and friendliness.

Believe me, I agree with my son Bud, when he says that the kindest and best people in the world live around Scapa and Endiang . . . Mrs. A.S. Hanson's neighbors!

Good neighbours — 1960. the Kadings and Gudbransens

THE CHARLES SMYTH FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smyth and their children, Charlie Jr., Alice, Iris, Wilma and Jim, came from the United States, and lived in the Endiang district until homestead land became available. On April 4, 1913, Mr. Smyth filed on the east half of 6-34-15 as a homestead and pre-emption, land which had previously been filed on but abandoned.

At first the children attended Old Endiang school, but when Crow Hill was built they went there, as it was much closer.

Charles Jr. married Madge Pierce, who taught at several schools in the area both before and after her marriage. They now reside at Spirit River.

Alice Stamp and Iris White live in the United States. Wilma Baxter makes her home in Kelowna.

Jim remained at home, and moved to Endiang with his parents when they retired there. He continued to operate the farm until his untimely death in 1972. He was very interested in 4-H work and did a great deal to help the young people with their projects.

Mrs. Charles Smyth died in 1959, and her husband in 1962. They, and Jim, are buried in the family plot in the Endiang cemetery.

JOHN and MARIA SCHILL — In the year 1930, John and Maria Schill plus their five oldest children, came from Romania to a little place called Scapa, Alberta. For the first year they lived in a little shack owned by Maria's brother, Dan Matheis. John worked for a neighboring farmer, Harold Hunt. For six months they lived on the Forrest Tucker place at Endiang, then they came back to Scapa once more, where they lived in the Garrett Zelmmer house. One winter John worked for Fred Lyszen where the twins, Herbert and Freda, were born.

More moving — this time to the Jensen place in Sullivan Lake, where their youngest daughter, Hilda, was born. For two years John farmed three quarters of C.P.R. land in Sullivan Lake. Another move to the Louis Vedder place for two years, and from there to Halkirk where they farmed some more C.P.R. land for another two years.

Then one November day in 1943, the entire family made a big move from

sunny Alberta to beautiful British Columbia. This time they settled on a dairy farm in Pitt Meadows, farming for another nineteen years.

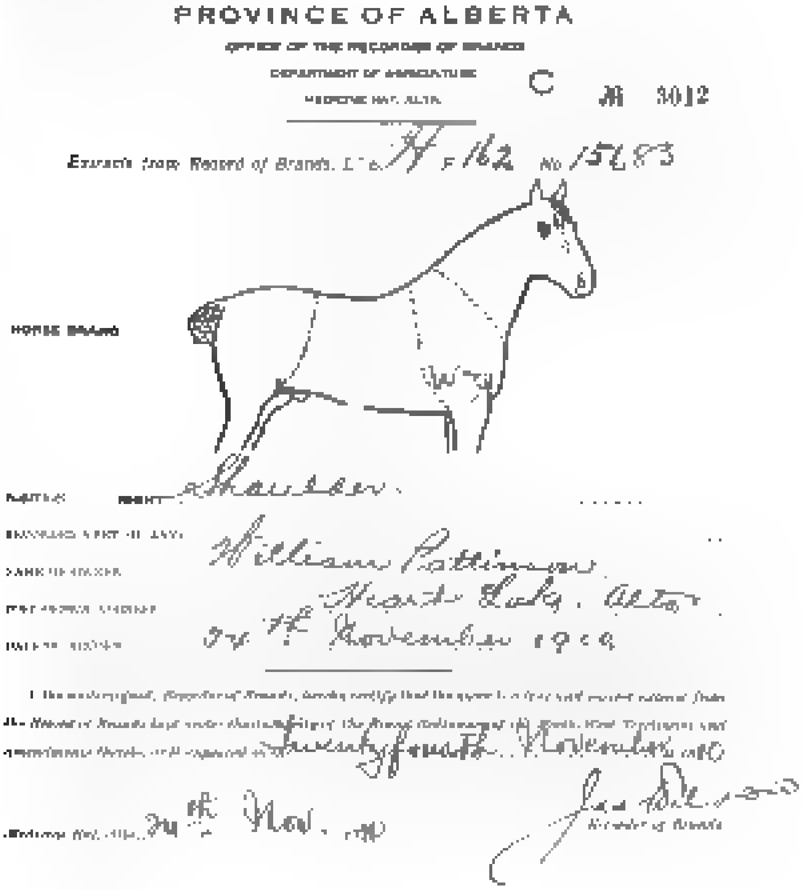
In 1962 John Schill sold his dairy farm and retired on a half-acre lot in Pitt Meadows.

They are both active and enjoying good health. They have a good sized vegetable garden and the most beautiful of flower gardens.

In February of 1978, John and Marie will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Little did they know what they had started! Besides their eight children, they now have twenty-one grandchildren and five great grandchildren. All are living in this area except for Hilda, who is in Fort St. James, B.C. The names of the children in order are: Gus, John, Arnold, Ella, Erna, the twins Herbert and Freda, and Hilda.

Gus is a blueberry farmer. John has an oil truck, also he and Arnold are commercial fishermen bringing in sockeye from the Fraser River. Herb is working for the school board.

BRANDS



PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

C №. 3012

Extract from Record of Brands, Lib. H F 162 No 15283

HORSE BRAND

[illegible] RIGHT shoulder.

[illegible]

NAME OF OWNER William Pattinson.

[illegible] Heart Lake, Alta.

[illegible] 24th November 1910

I the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands [illegible] twenty fourth November 1910

Medicine Hat, Alta. 24th Nov. 1910

Recorder of Brands

PRESENT BRANDS

AJ	LH	F JOHNSTON
AJ	LH	B JOHNSTON
	LR	N GREENWAY
	RH	O MILLER
JS	LSH	E SIEPPERT
KJ	RR	S JAMES
	RR	F MILLER
HK	LR	A KEAN
IT	RR	C KERN
	LR	G ROBERTSON
	RR	P PAXMAN
EJ	RR.	J FORTNA
	RR	L. PAHL
JSP	RR	C PAXMAN
	RR	J MARTIN
⊢7	RR	H PFAHL
	LR	E AHEN
	LR	O WRIGHT
	LH	A JOHNSTON
	LR	H. HILDENBRAND
MB	RR	A BAES
BF	RRR	E BOSSERT
	LR	N BOSSERT
TZ	RR	K HALVERSON
	RR	D. WEICH
3H	RR	A THETTIN
	LH	T PATTINSON
LWD	RR	L DIESEL
NC	LR	F NILL
NZ	RH	L+K GRAYTHAM
	RR	A DOYLE
3S	LL	P.J. SCHULTZ
L3	LR	L WIENS
Z3	RR	A CAMPION
BWB	RR	B GLADDISH
	LR	A BANCO
ZX	LH	W SNEATH
	RR	H. FORTNA
	RRR	A B HANSON + SON
	RR	B MILLER
LG	RR	L. LOHRMANN
	RRR	G MATTHEIS
	LR	G. HALL
	LRR	H. WIMMER
	RR	S STRANDBERG
	RR	L STRANDBERG
	RR	E UNSWORTH
	LR	WIENS BROS.
MC-	LR	D CATTANACH
ZS	RR	D MATTIS
UH	LH	DON MATTIS
	LR	F FECHO
TJ	LR	T JESS
	RR	P KAUTZ
	RR	G BOYD
	LR	A REHL
ZL	LR	I HEIDINGER
	LR	R J REHL
	LR	J.J REHL
YM	RR	F MOULDING
IE	RRR	W. FAUPEL
	RR	A. EVANS
	RR	D. CORRY
	RH	R. CORRY
	LR	E. JOB
Wb	LR	W. JOB
	LR	R STANDING
	RR	J. STANDING
WH	RR	H. NELSON
	RR	M. ANNAS
TK	LR	W McKENZIE
DR	LR	R. MAYBERRY
-L	LH	J LUMSDEN
	LR	R BANCO
	RR	A. NIA
	RR	D BOYSON
	RR	A WOLFERT
LB	RR	L. BOYSON
AN	LRR	E NELSON
LR	LR	L. STORCH
XLX	RR	L GUSTAFSON
	LR	E STORCH
	RR	A STANDING
	RR	W NELSON
	LRR	J K MARLOWE
	LR	C. UNSWORTH
	LR	W L STORCH
	LR	H. STRANDBERG
	RR	A STORCH
	RR	H. GUSTAFSON
	RR	J. MARLOWE
-75	LR	E STRANDBERG
GS	RR	C STANDING
N-E	RR	H O NELSON
	RR	W BOYSON
AH	LR	A. HUTTON
	LR	B HUTTON
	LR	L HUTTON
62	LR	HUTTON + SONS
	RR	SCOTT FARMS
	RR	W. VISTE + W GAUGLER
JV	RR	W. VISTE-W. GAUGLER
	RR	R BRUNNER
	LR	A FECHO
SV	RR	S VISTE
DJ	LR	C VISTE
	LR	M VISTE + SONS
	RSH	R ANNAS
LK	LR	W. J MACKENZIE
	RR	A DUFF
	RR	W LUMSDEN
KH	LR	H KAUTZ
	LH	G SCHMIDT
	RR	DELKER BROS.

FH	[illegible]	F. HARVEY	Y4	[illegible]	D CHIDLEY	74	[illegible]	DALLAS CHIDLEY
CO	[illegible]	M CHIDLEY	CH	[illegible]	A CHIDLEY	AR	[illegible]	T. D. IRONSIDE
JY	[illegible]	A.A. HUTTON	P	[illegible]	MORGAN TRANS LTD.	RC	[illegible]	S JOHNSON

BRANDS 1915 — 1976

KL	[illegible]	VELMA MOORE	3X	[illegible]	C. MOLDOW	MP	[illegible]	M L POPE
R9	[illegible]	J D PARKER	3Y	[illegible]	G BUNBURY	LH	[illegible]	J. WALLACE
SX	[illegible]	R.A McCUISH	ET	[illegible]	J BURNS	J	[illegible]	W.H. SILTNER
LH	[illegible]	L. HANNAN	SL	[illegible]	J H LEWIS	LW	[illegible]	W D LUMSDEN
FE	[illegible]	F ENGEL	LO	[illegible]	L. VACVE	N	[illegible]	N. BANCO
EE	[illegible]	E. PFAHL	E3	[illegible]	E GROVE	FK	[illegible]	F. KAUTZ
KL	[illegible]	A HARVEY	MC	[illegible]	J CATTANACH	L30	[illegible]	R.T ROBERTS
LY	[illegible]	J-H CAMPBELL	TL	[illegible]	O. PAHL	J-R	[illegible]	J H. ROBERTS
H	[illegible]	E. SLEMP	OP	[illegible]	A PAHL	UL	[illegible]	F.W. MATTIS
NL	[illegible]	A H. GALARNEAU	-DS	[illegible]	AL. DESLETS	I-R	[illegible]	T F IRONSIDE · SONS
H	[illegible]	H. BURT	5H	[illegible]	H.H. SLEMP	EX	[illegible]	N. LUND
3H	[illegible]	E FLETCHER	3H	[illegible]	W. KADING	CO	[illegible]	M WALKER
AZ	[illegible]	K SIMON	BH	[illegible]	Mrs B HALVERSON	LY	[illegible]	A.E. & H. LYZEN

HORSE BRANDS

I-R	[illegible]	T.F. IRONSIDE · SONS	OX	[illegible]	R T ROBERTS	RR	[illegible]	J H. ROBERTS
TK	[illegible]	J BURNS	W	[illegible]	W PATTINSON	$	[illegible]	L. DIEGEL
CO	[illegible]	C OVERTON	LN	[illegible]	G BUNBURY	SX	[illegible]	R A McCUISH
UL	[illegible]	F.W. MATTIS	KH	[illegible]	S STRANDBERG	WA	[illegible]	W. A ANDERSON
AZ	[illegible]	K SIMON	83	[illegible]	J.D. PARKER	C	[illegible]	JOHN CORAY

Compiled by Margaret Nelson and Mrs. Alex Wolfert

A SCENE TO PONDER

By Rita Storch

A season's growth of grass bends down, laid low
By passing wheels, the first to come this way
For many months. The maple trees still grow
And sturdy caraganas stiffly sway.
Two acres, maybe three, the trees surround,
And in the center of the yard huge stones
Lay strewn amidst tall grass upon a mound,
And to the east are sun-bleached cattle bones.

A squeaking windmill mourns the farm's demise.
It knows more than I of those who toiled
To build a better life beneath these skies.
Where have they gone? How were their efforts foiled?
As these and other questions flood my mind
I leave the lonely homestead far behind.

Reprinted from the 1974 *Alberta Poetry Yearbook* with permission of the author.

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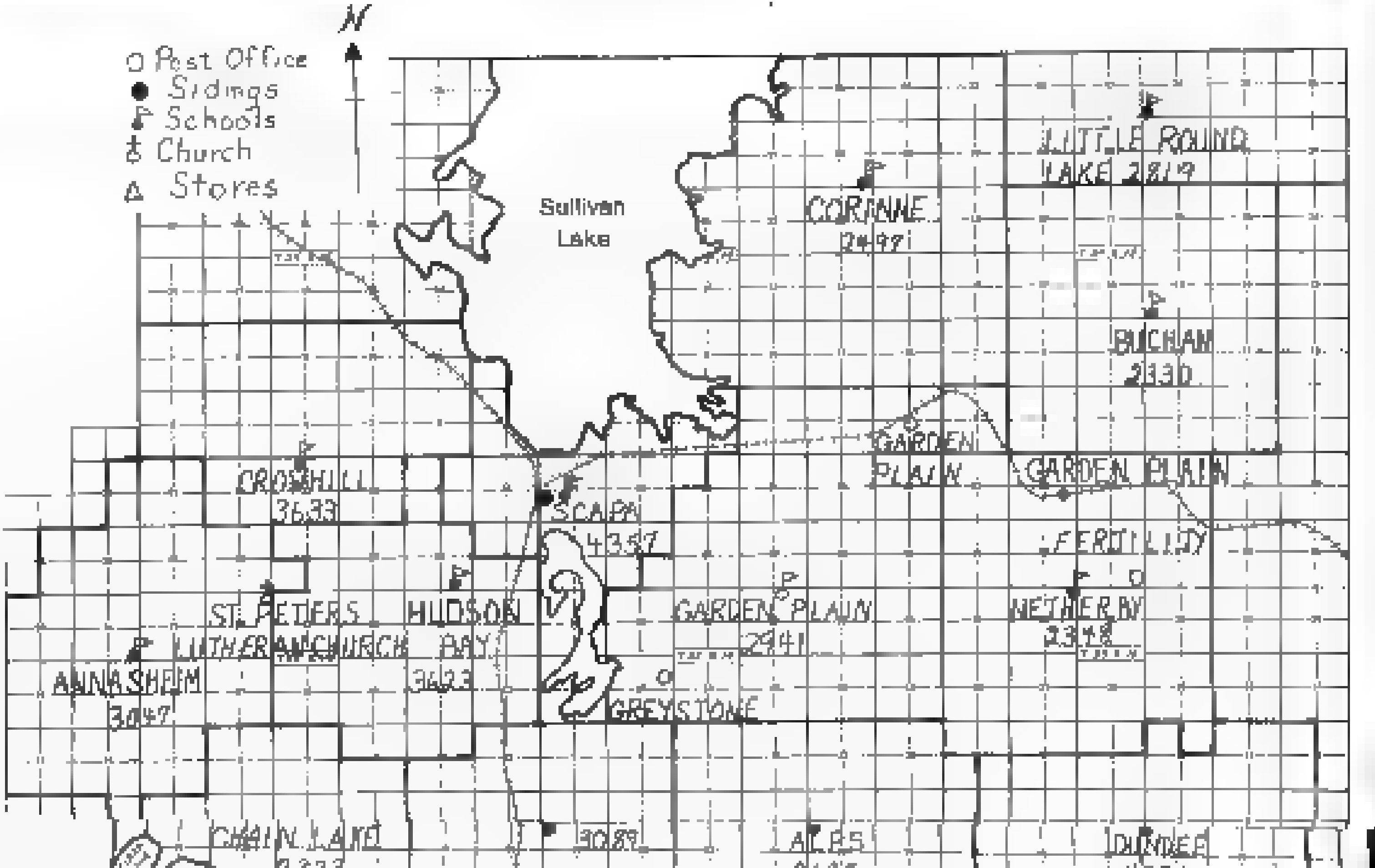
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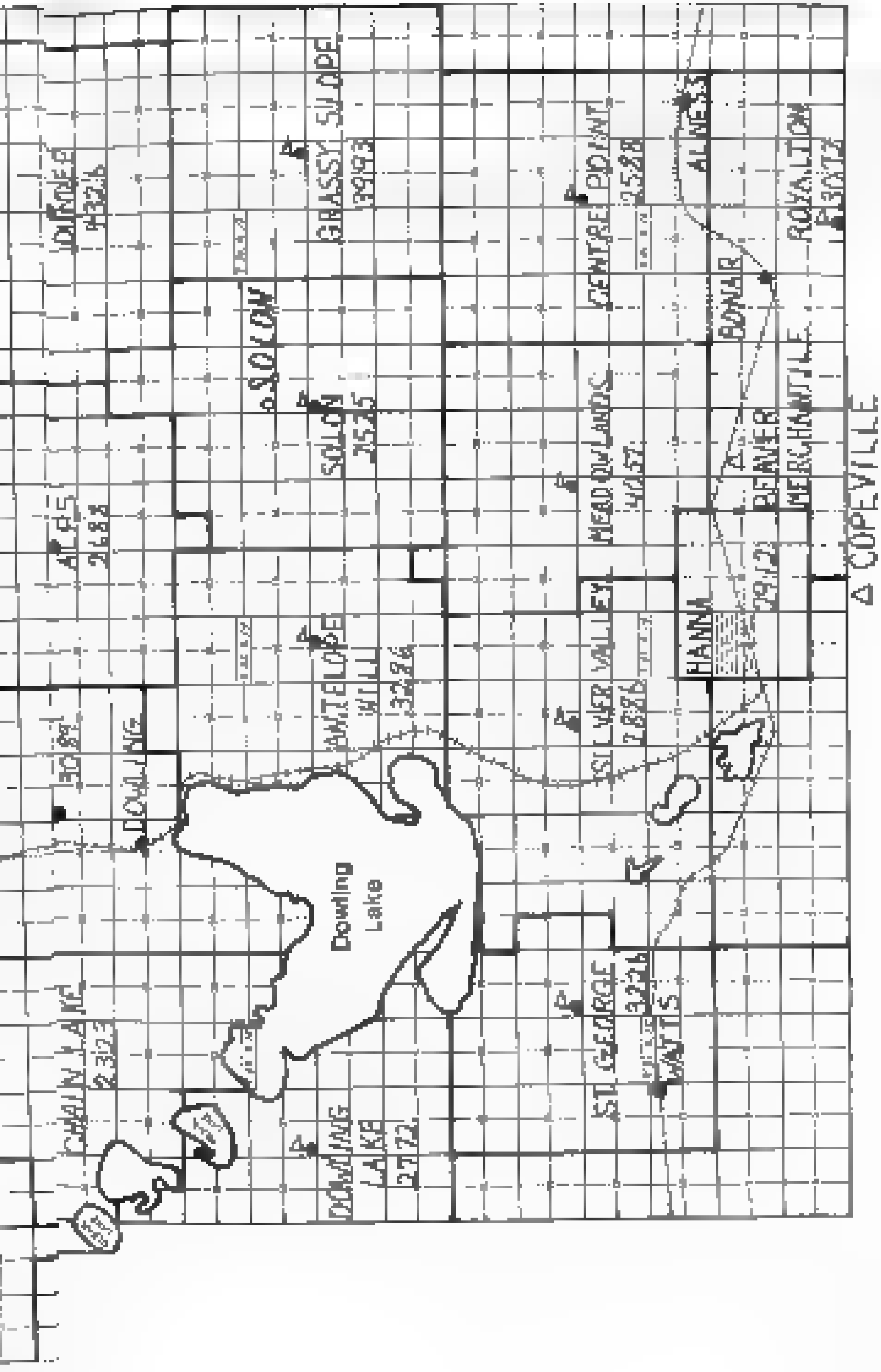DUNDEE
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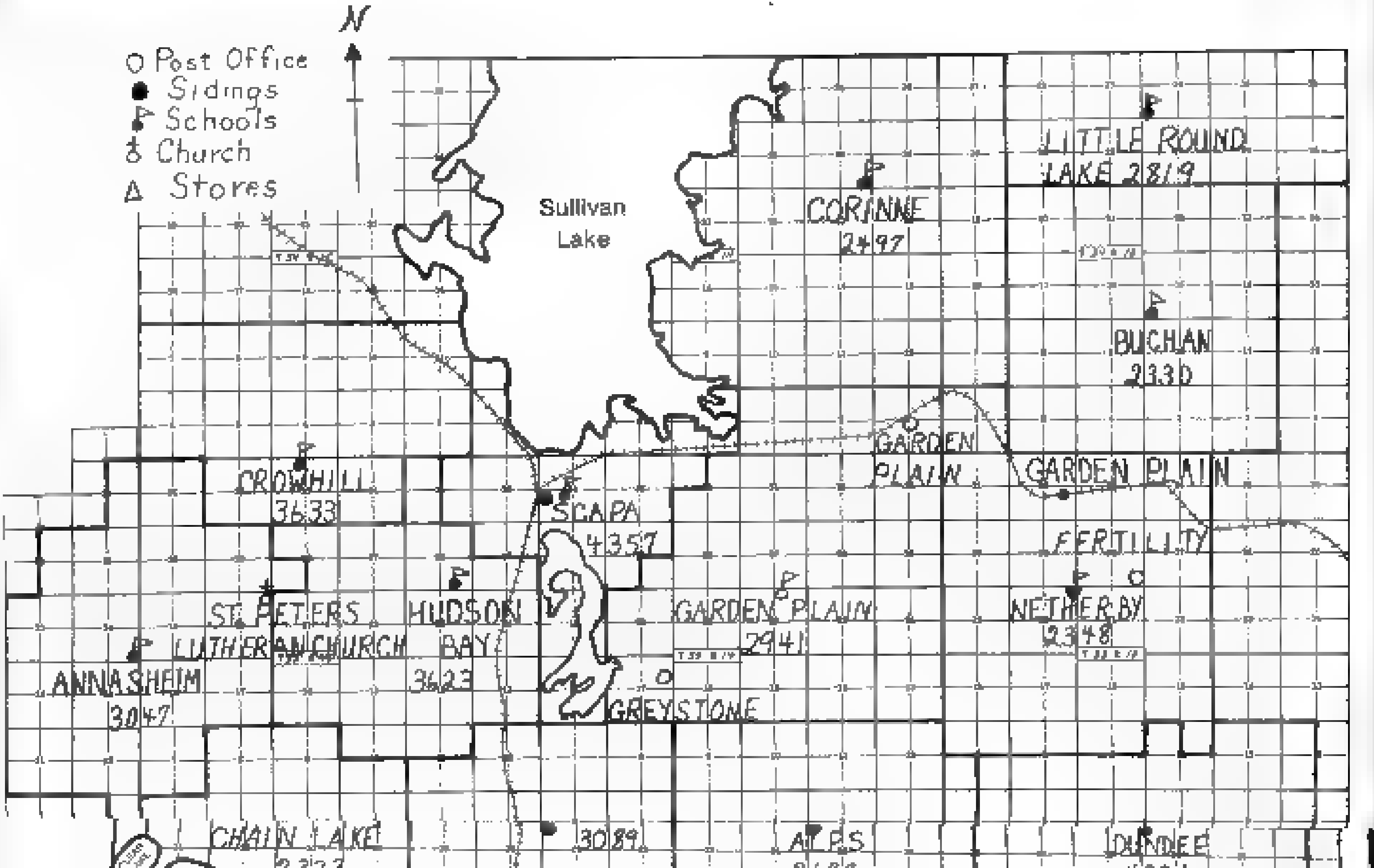
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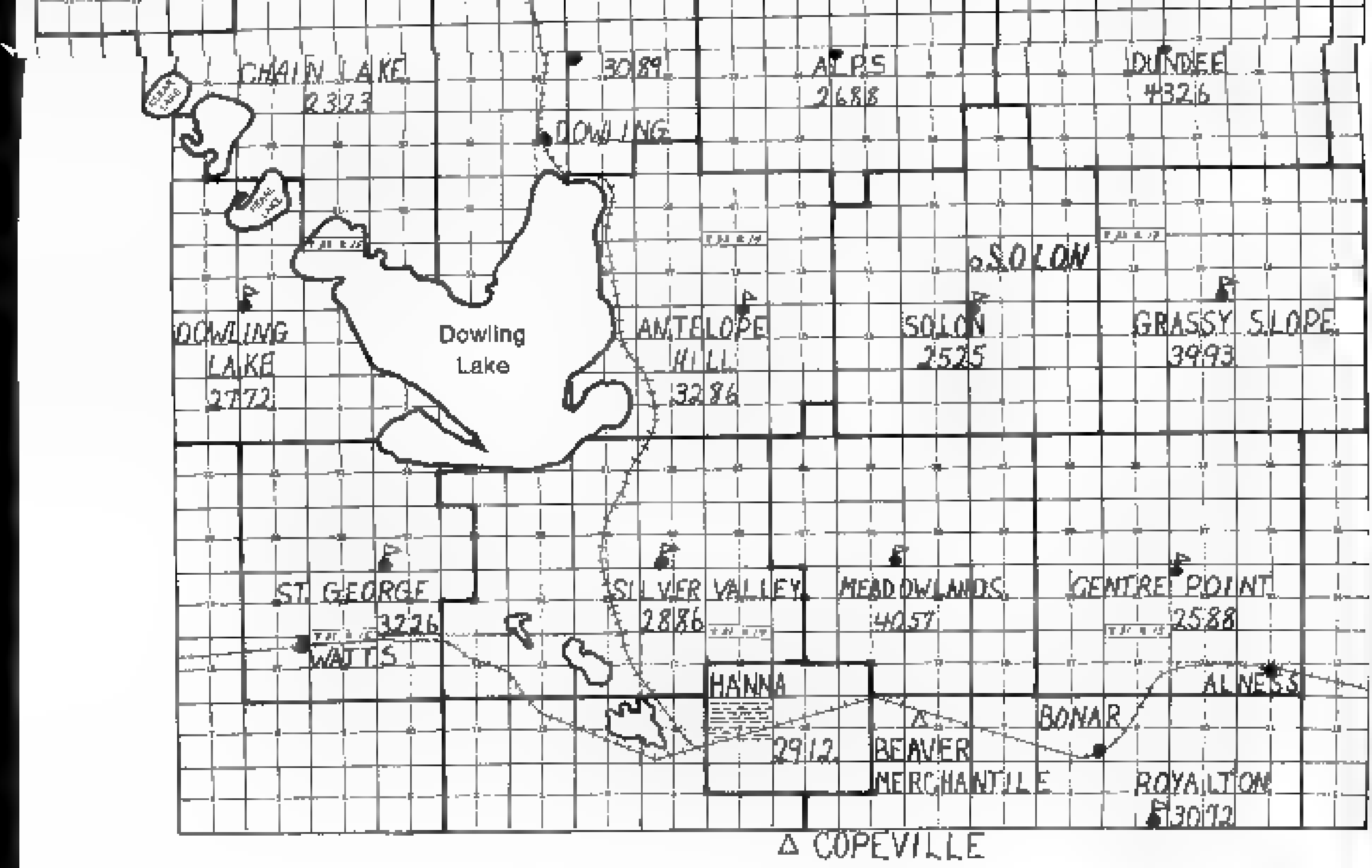
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We dedicate this book to the pioneers . . . to the honored oldtimers still with us,

And to the memory of those who did not live to receive this tribute to them.

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TO THE READER

"We must write the history of our district, so that our heritage will be preserved for present and future generations, that they may know of the stamina and courage it took to turn a virgin land into what it is today." How many times and for how many years did we express these feelings to each other? It is with a guilty conscience, we say that we waited far too long to write this book. Had we taken up the challenge sooner, the task would not have been so tedious. History is being erased daily as old things are scrapped to make room for the new. Sometimes we must question if there are improvements being made, or just changes. The pioneers are also leaving us one by one and with the passing of each, there is another bit of history lost. And so, as the years pass, compiling local histories becomes more difficult.

We have done our best to get accurate accounts of people and events that are the history of the large area north of Hanna, which we have attempted to cover in this book. This wasn't always possible. Truth has only to change hands a few times to become "fiction," and many a pioneer story is no longer first hand. You will find mistakes, for they are easily made. You will find omissions, and they may offend you. We apologize if this has happened, it was unintentional.

The reward of writing a book such as Hanna North, is knowing that it brings pleasure to its readers. May you enjoy scanning these pages and may you find your own personal niche tucked away in a story or picture. If you do, then we have accomplished our purpose.

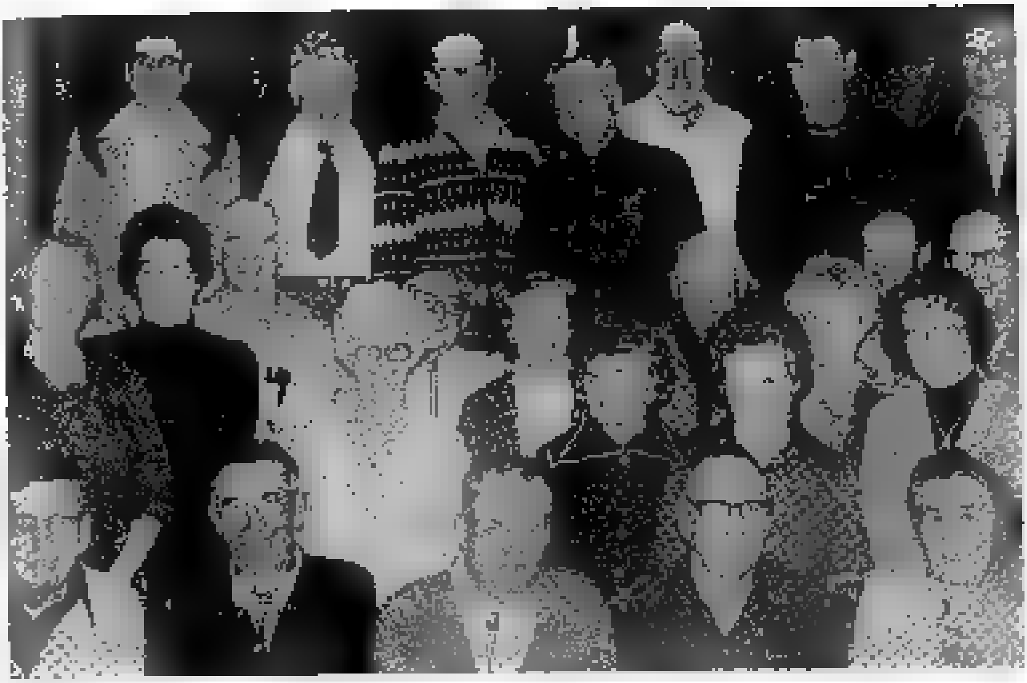
The Book Committee

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO

Each and everyone who contributed stories, poems and pictures. All those who patiently answered our many questions, in person, by phone and letter. It was your information that gave us a foundation [illegible] work from. Also the ones who helped us with maps and feature stories, the typists and proof readers.

We thank those, like Mrs. Pearl Ruetsman, who shared their previous experience with us, and started us out in the right direction. Our Editor, Mrs. Jean James, who read, re-wrote, re-read and organized our jumbled pages into presentable form. The Scapa Athletic Assoc. for the use of the hall. The Editor of the Hanna Herald for giving us access to the Herald files and the material therein. The Glenbow Institute, Calgary and the Provincial Archives in Edmonton for allowing us information from their files. The Hanna Stockyards Ltd. for unknowingly providing us with a place to swap our stories and information. Last but by no means least, those who helped us with our finances.

THESE BUILT THE BOOK



School district representatives and assistants: Louis Unsworth, Bob Rehill, Norman Greenway, Bill Storch, Walter Viste, Tom Pattinson, Herb Wimmer; Inga Strandberg, Edna Welch, Earl Burt, Margaret Hage, Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Mrs. Johnston, Bill MacKenzie, Florence Storch, Margaret Nelson, Fred Johnston, Freda Viste, Cliff Kern; Austin Ludlow, Alex Wolfert, Bill Curtis, Albert Hutton, Frances Unsworth. Not present for the picture: Fred Nill, Ida Grosse, Doris Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fortna, Orpha Wolfert, Mrs. Bill Mackenzie, Harold Strandberg.

Typists: Margaret Storch, Rena Nelson, June Metheis, Doris Hutton, Elsie Storch, Phyllis Boyson, Joan Marlowe, Hildegarde Jabs, Freda Viste, Jean James, Orpha Wolfert, Doreen Kern, Myrtle Greenway, Agnes Mahl.

EXECUTIVE OF HANNA NORTH BOOK CLUB

Executive of Hanna North Book Club: Austin Ludlow, Vice-President; Bill Storch, President; Norman Greenway, Secretary-Treasurer; Jean James, Editor.

NEW HORIZONS COMMITTEE

New Horizons Committee in charge of the production of this book: Norman Greenway, Austin Ludlow, Harry Lumsden, Bill Mackenzie, Bill Curtis, Bill Storch; Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Frances Unsworth, Margaret Nelson. The New Horizons Committee wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Federal Department of Health through the New Horizons Program for Senior Citizens, and from the Alberta Culture Heritage Resources Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

One short year ago, Hugh Campbell began working diligently with us, to compile the history of "Hanna North." His untimely death on July 8, 1976, took from our midst a friend whose sense of humor inspired us to keep going when the hill looked too big to climb.

"To know Hugh Campbell, was to know a gentleman, one of God's gentlemen."

CHAPTER I

THEY WERE HERE FIRST

Between the Battle and the Red Deer Rivers, a broad plateau stretches eastward to the Saskatchewan border. The territory covered in this book, the land immediately south and east of Sullivan Lake, is undulating prairie, rising to hills 2800 feet in altitude, sloping to Sullivan and Dowling Lakes, 2651 and 2595 feet respectively. These lakes, as well as numerous smaller bodies of water, are shallow and alkaline. Springs, a few creeks and small sloughs provide fresh water.

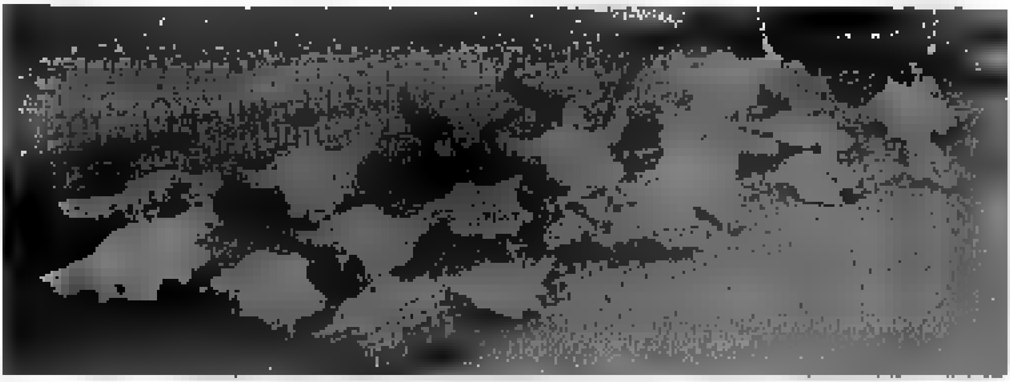
Thick grass called prairie wool covered the land. It was ideal pasture for the buffalo which the Cree and Blackfoot hunted, but in spring and fall it was tinder dry, and carelessness or lightning caused many prairie fires which destroyed everything in their path. The only trees which survived were a few clumps of willow and poplar which ringed the sloughs.

There was no white settlement here before the twentieth century. Explorers who followed the rivers skirted the area. There were no trading posts, no missions, no R.C.M.P. outposts. Palliser's expedition crossed the area on its way from the Neutral Hills to the Hand Hills; reported outcroppings of coal, and suggested that except for a few fertile spots, the land was unfit for cultivation. It remained an Indian hunting ground, and signs of their life style can still be seen.

Several years ago there was an exceptionally heavy spring run-off, which cut a deep gully between two hills on the south side of Dowling Lake. Amateur archeologists discovered three distinct layers of buffalo bones and skulls, evidence that this may have been the location of a buffalo jump. Local enthusiasts declare that arrowheads can be picked up almost anywhere. The pictures on the following pages include artifacts from the collections of Harold Strandberg, Tom Pattinson, Bill Curtis, Al Werner, Bill Blois, Larry Bietelspacher, Rose Schissler, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Viste.

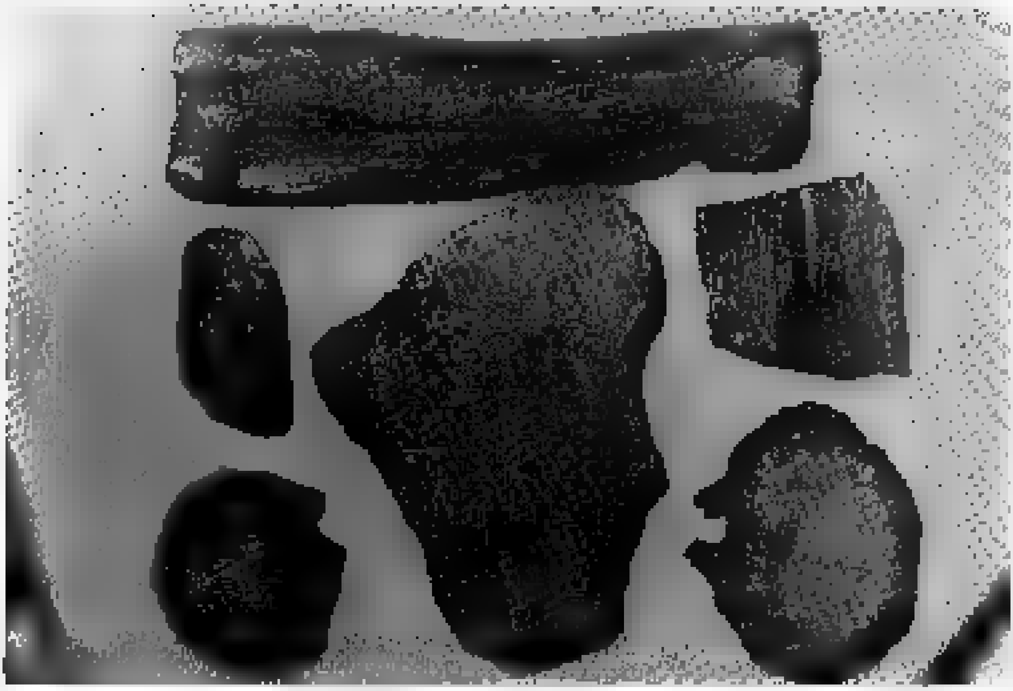
Mr. Harold Strandberg submitted the following information:

There are records of when the first men of European origin came to this area. The North American Indians were here before them; when their ancestors arrived will probably never be known. But they, too, left their records; there is evidence that they were here about ten thousand years ago.



Buffalo skulls dug out of bank along Dowling Lake.

Some of the older stone projectile points which appear on these pages date back to 7000 - 9000 B.C. These have been found in this area, along with grooved hammer stones, scrapers, knives, and various other tools, made of different types of stone, some not native to this area. The corner-notched and side-notched points were the later styles, made when bows and arrows were being used. Pottery shards have also been found; some bowls were plain, but most of them had



Dinosaur bones and petrified wood found locally.

designs on the outer rim. Iron points have also been picked up. These are of much later origin, when the Fur Companies started trading with the Indians.

Some of the Indian campsites can be seen. They consist of circles of stone, eighteen to twenty feet in diameter; at some sites the circles are only six or eight feet in diameter. The smaller ones are believed to have been used before the Indians had horses.

Fire pits can still be located. They are usually close to water and some were used [redacted] heat stones for the sweat baths.

Buffalo trails are still visible on some of the uncultivated land; and there are rubbing stones, worn smooth after thousands of years of use.

The Plains Indians lived a nomadic life, and did little, if any, damage to the land.

Photo No. 1 is a sample of some of the oldest projectile points found in this area. Those with the tapered base are believed to be the oldest, dating back to about 7000-9000 B.C. These are the 'Agate Basin' type.

Those with the square base are the 'Scottsbluff' type, also named 'Eden' or 'Alberta' points. The longest one in this photo is 4¾ inches long. These were used about 5000-7000 B.C.

Photo No. 2. Those with the notch at the base are known as the McKean type; they were used about 2000-3000 B.C. Those in the bottom row with the base partly notched are dated about 1500-2000 B.C.

Photo No. 3. These points, corner-notched as well as having a notch at the base, are known as the Oxbow type. They date back to about 1500-3000 B.C..The longest point is 3¾ inches long, and could have been used as a spear point or a knife.

Photo No. 4. The large point which is about 4¼ inches long was probably used for a spear. The smaller ones may have been used as arrow points. The others could have been either spears or arrows. Date, about 1000 B.C.

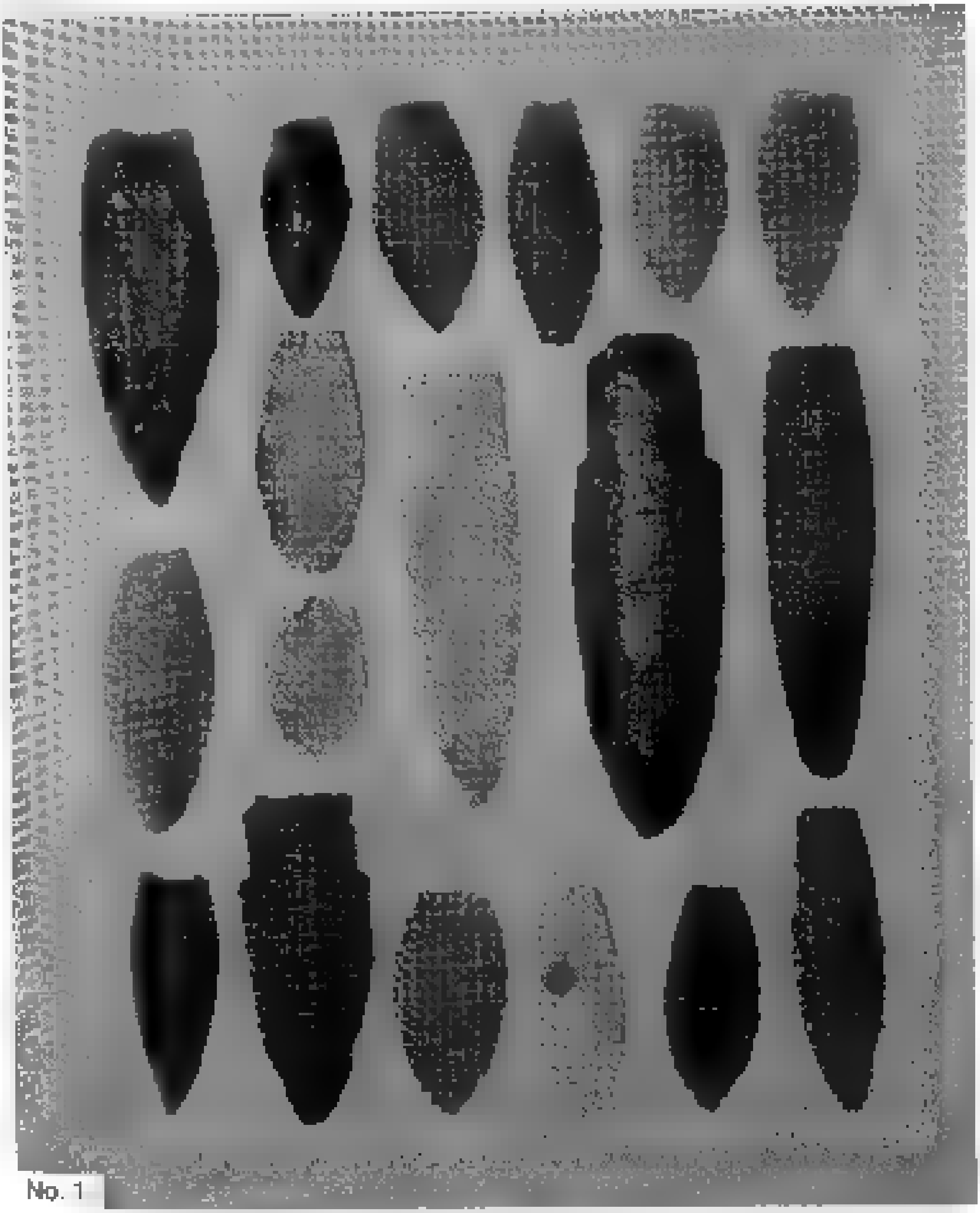
Photo No. 5. These side-notched points are the later type. They were

probably all used for arrows. Very few of this type are more than one inch long; some are less than a half-inch. The bottom artifact, which has a hole in it, is made of glassy black obsidian. It is about four inches long and could have been used as a knife or scraper.

Photo No. 6. These are grooved hammer stones; they vary in size and shape. The stone with no groove, top centre, was held in the hand and used as a pounder. It is worn very smooth.

Photo No. 7. This shows a variety of stone tools, scrapers, knives and drills.

Photo No. 8. This also shows a variety of tools, some made of iron, two arrow points and one large spear point made from a double-edged I.K. Sorbi knife, about ten inches long. The artifact in the top left corner is a spokes shaver made from a piece of Hand Hills agate. The stone with the hole in it may have been used as a pendant. The others could have been used as knives or scrapers.



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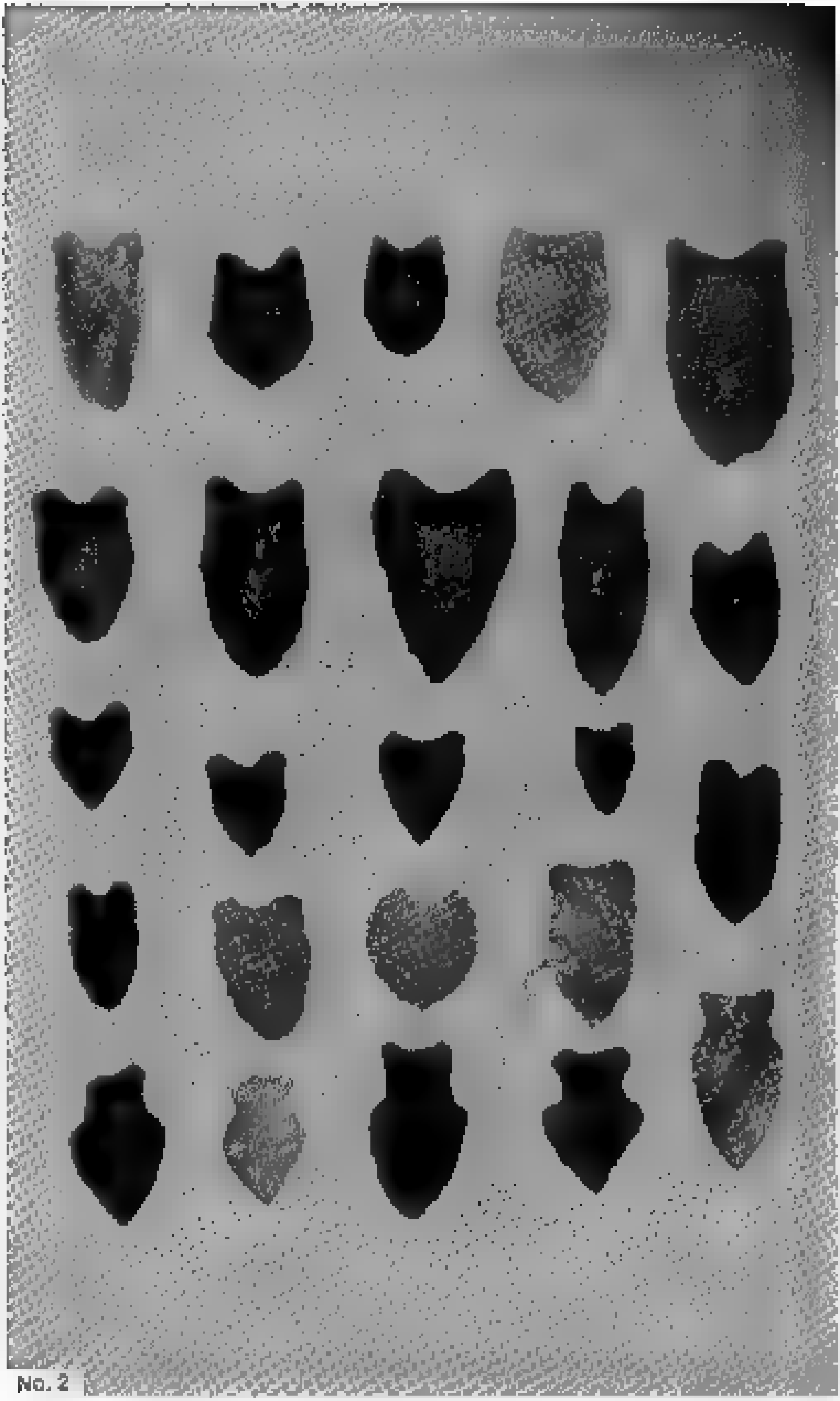

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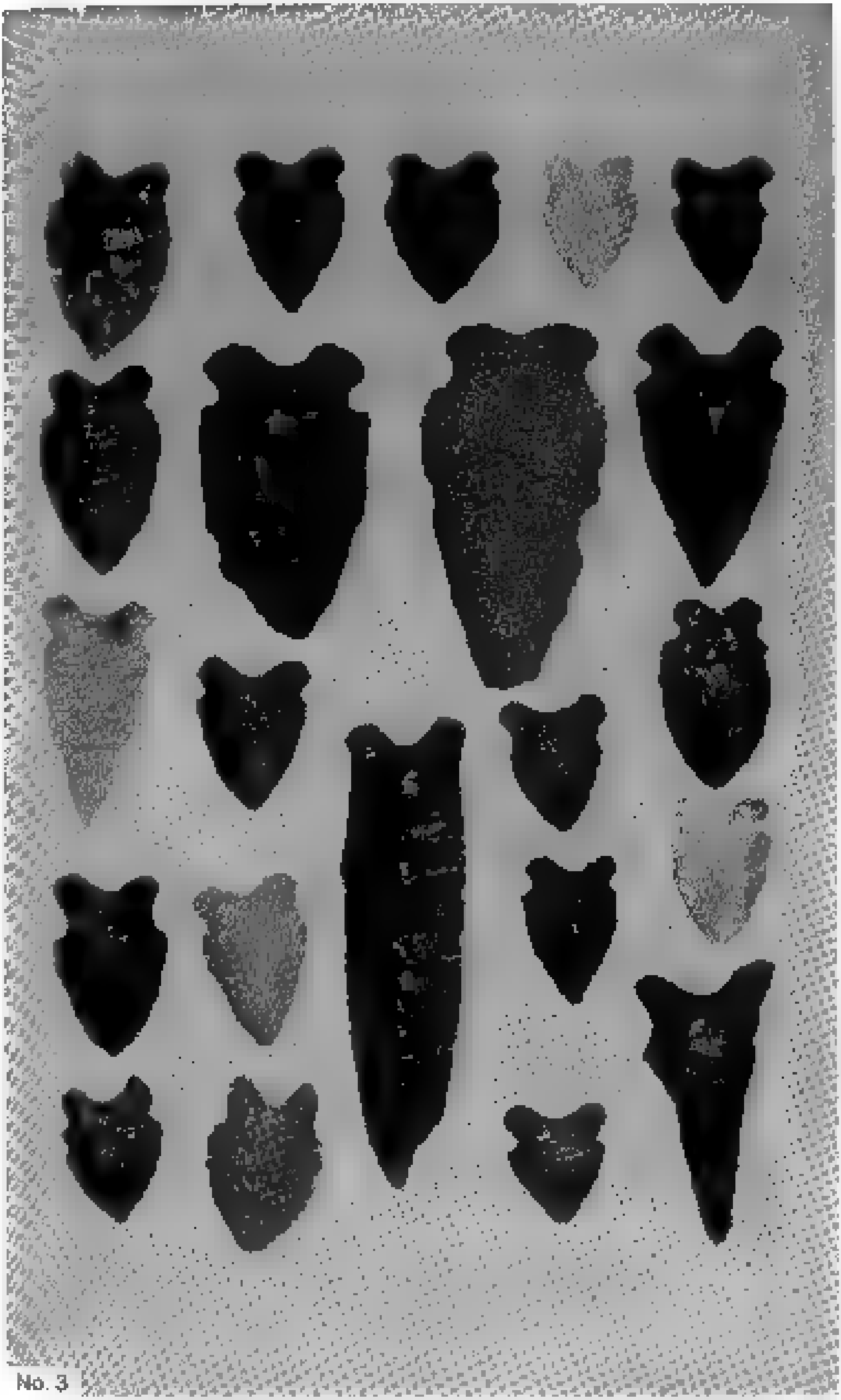

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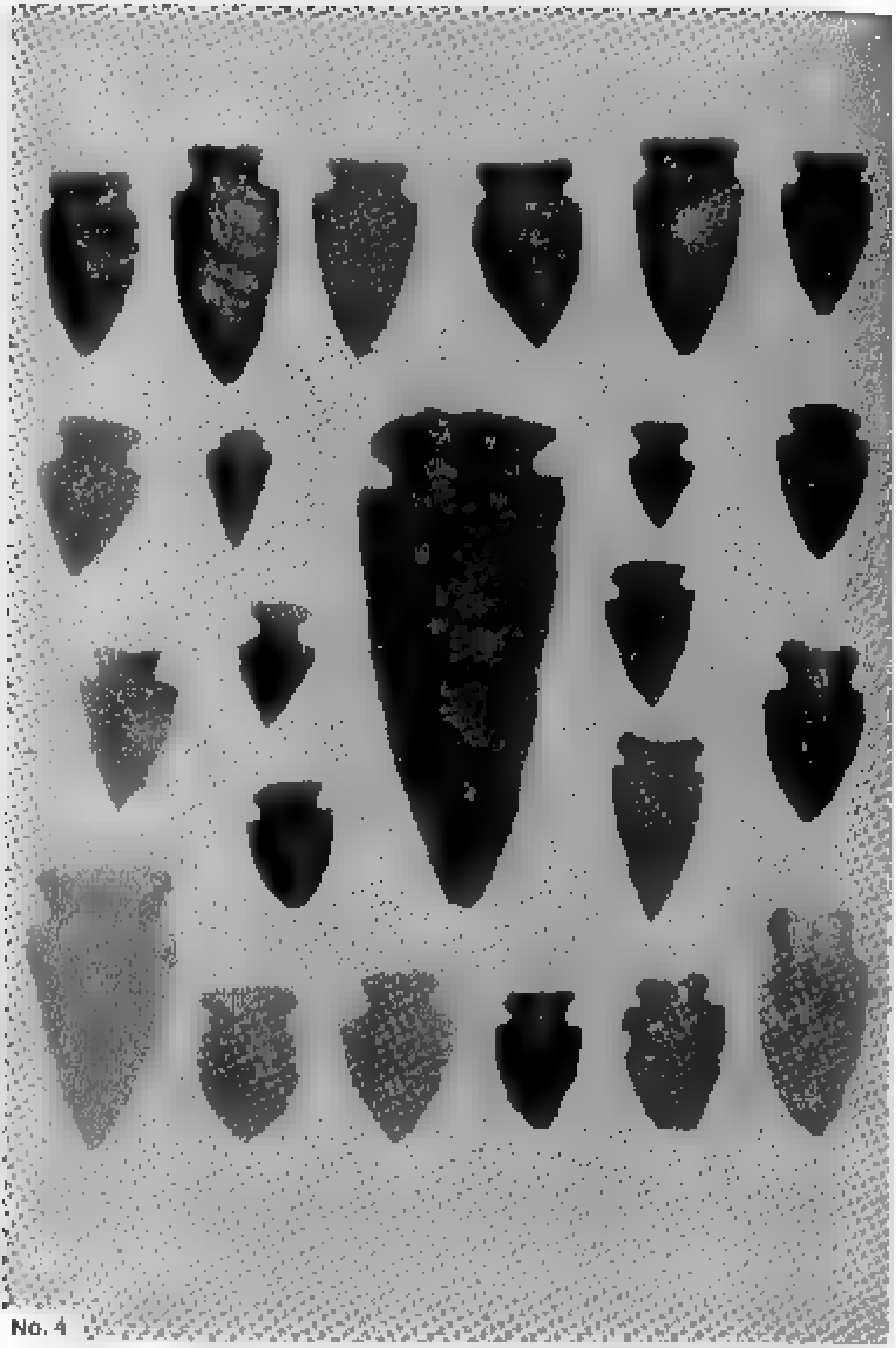

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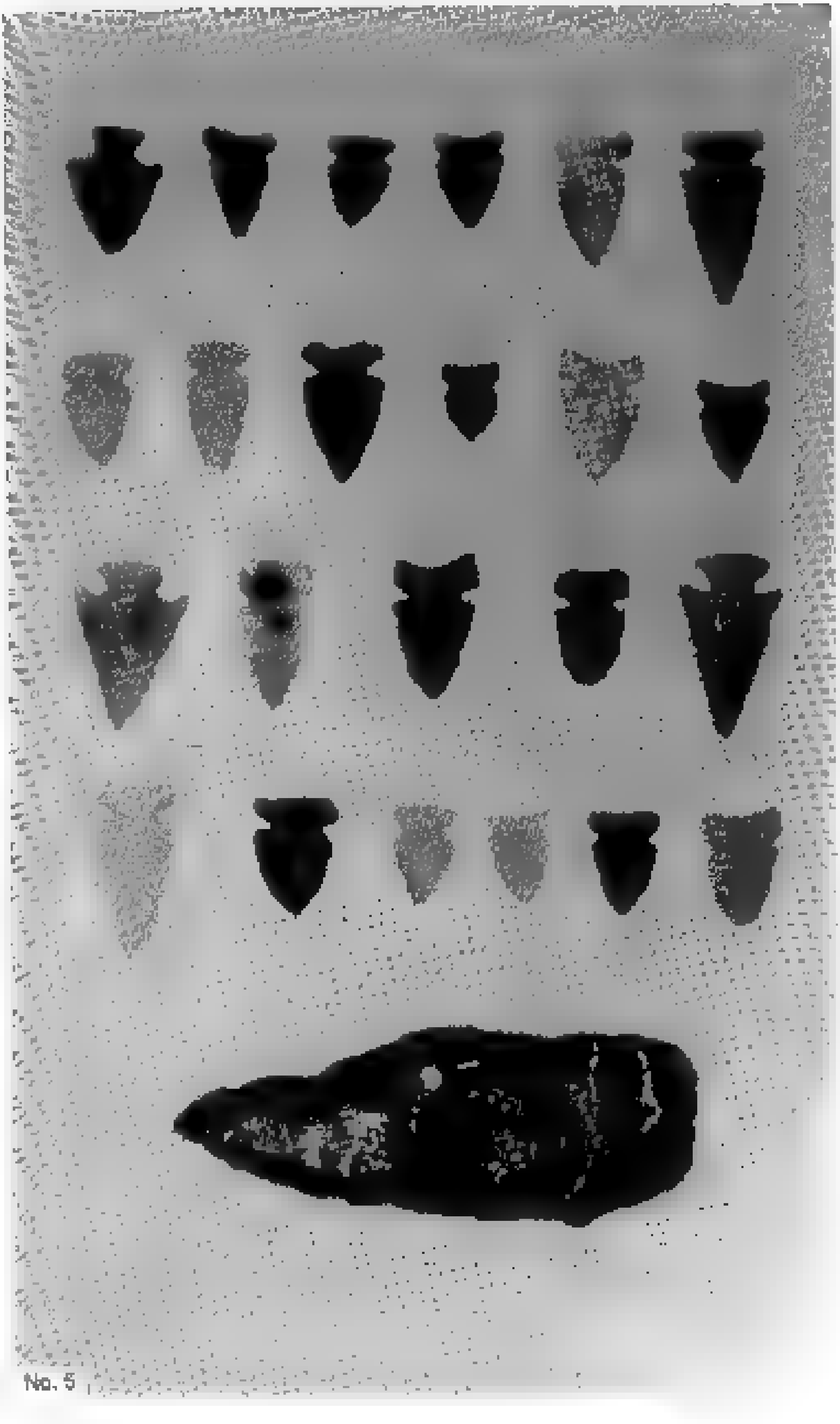

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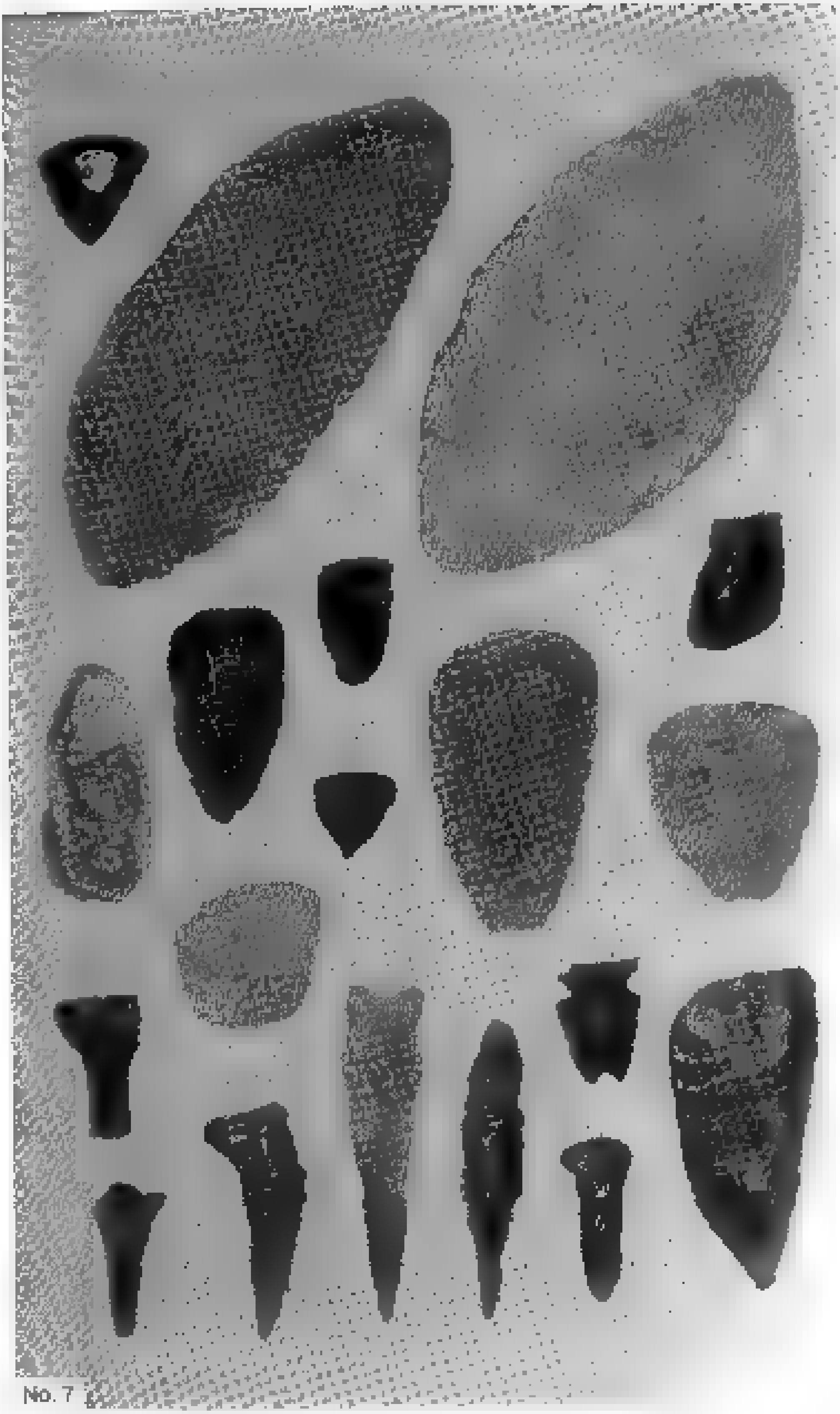


No. 7

No. 8

CHAPTER II

HOW THE LAND WAS SURVEYED

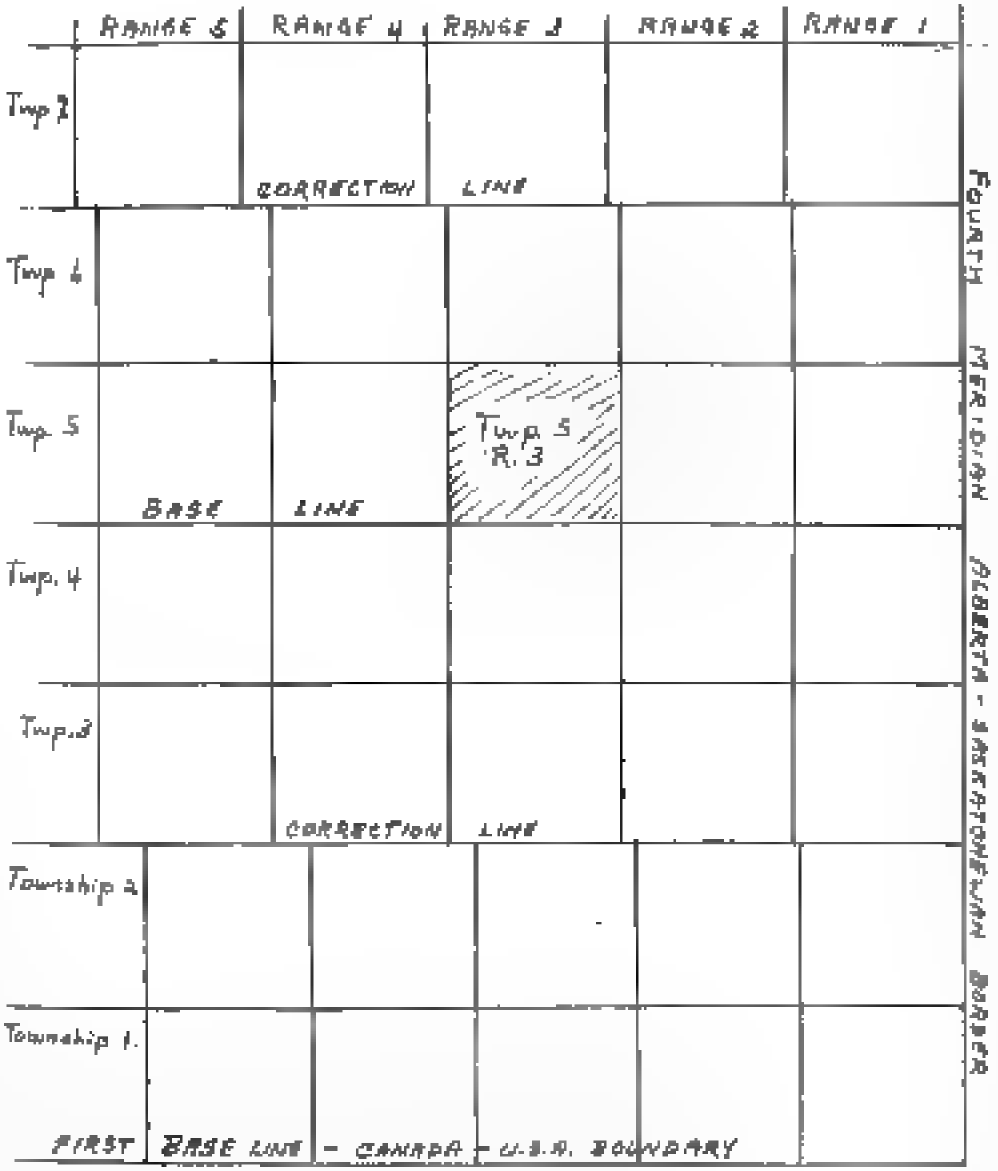
The territory covered in this book includes parts of townships 31, 32, 33, and 34 in ranges 13, 14, 15, and 16. Each quarter section of land has its own description, for example, the south-west quarter of section 19, township 34, range 15, west of the fourth meridian. This may be abbreviated thus: the SW ¼ of sec 19, twp 34, range 15, W4; or simply SW 19-34-15-W4. As all land locations mentioned herein are west of the fourth meridian, W4 has been omitted from the land descriptions.

Land numbers are meaningless unless one understands the survey system used in Western Canada, which actually marked off the area like a huge checkerboard. In essence, draw lines north and south, six miles apart. Call these strips ranges and number them westward from the meridian. Cross them with east-west lines the same distance apart; call the resulting squares townships. Divide each township into thirty-six sections, each section into four quarters.

The fourth meridian is the Alberta-Saskatchewan border; the first base line the forty-ninth parallel. Successive base lines were parallel to the American boundary, and twenty-four miles apart. At one-mile intervals west from the meridian, lines were extended twelve miles north and twelve miles south from the base line. Because of the curve of the earth, lines originating at one base line did not meet exactly those from the next base line. The variation could be as little as six feet, or as much [illegible] a mile and a half, depending on the distance from the meridian. The east-west road allowance where the jog occurred was called a correction line.

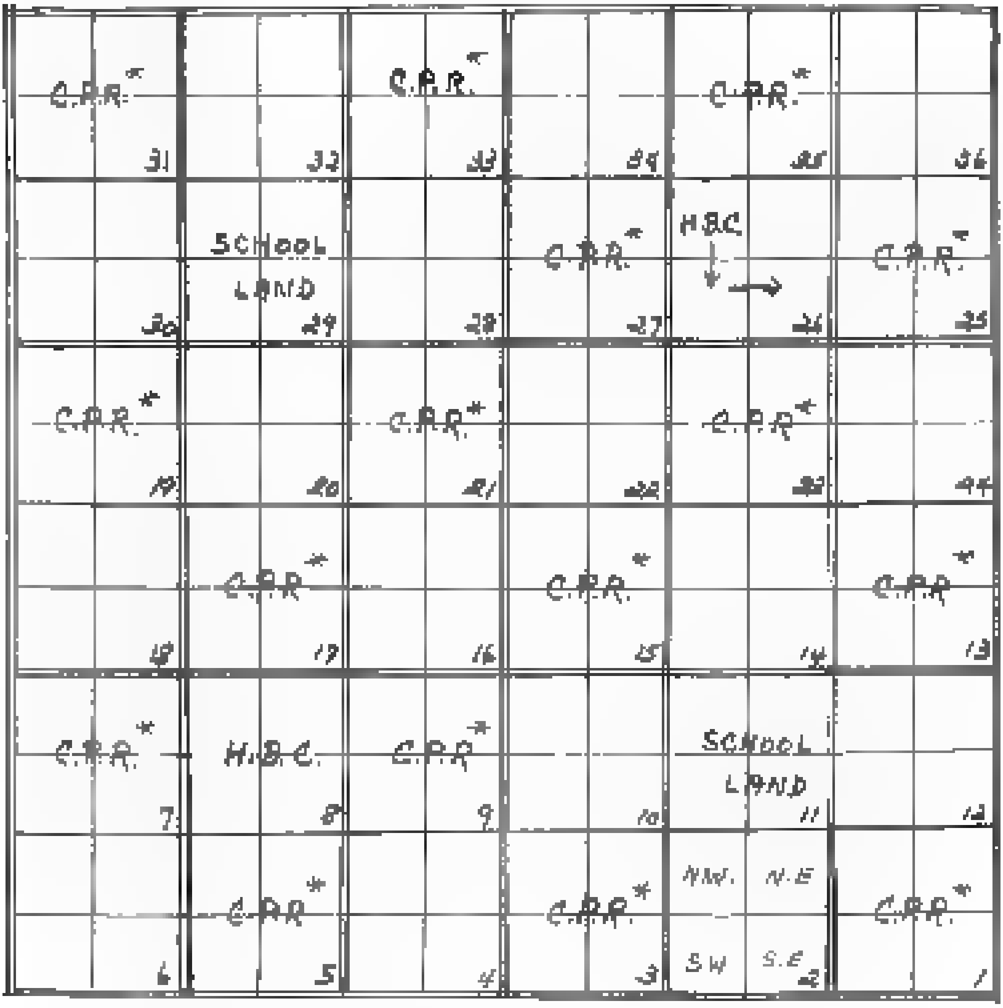
Road allowances, sixty-six feet wide, were laid out one mile apart running north and south, two miles apart going east and west. The overall picture would look like this:

SKETCH No. 1



Each section in a township was given a number, and divided into quarters which contained 160 acres each.

ONE TOWNSHIP



* C.P.R. Land was located within 20 miles of right-of-way — not in all townships.

On paper, the plan was clear-cut and simple; in reality, it involved a great deal of work. Pioneer surveyors were based in Winnipeg, and came west during the summers to plant their markers and make detailed notes regarding the soil, minerals, and wildlife of the area. Hampered by rough terrain, storms and smoke from prairie fires, the surveyors travelled hundreds of miles, climbing hills and circling sloughs and crossing rivers, to chart the range and township lines. In the north-east corner of every quarter-section they drove into the ground a long metal rod with the land number marked on it. So that they would be easier to locate, the rods were marked with a trench and four square holes.

During the winters, the surveyors worked in Winnipeg, transferring to maps the exact location of lakes, water courses, and any trails which were visible at the time the survey was made. The surveyors' notes, preserved in the Provincial Archives, indicate that this area was surveyed by E. Bray in 1883 and J. K. McLean in 1884. Here are their comments:

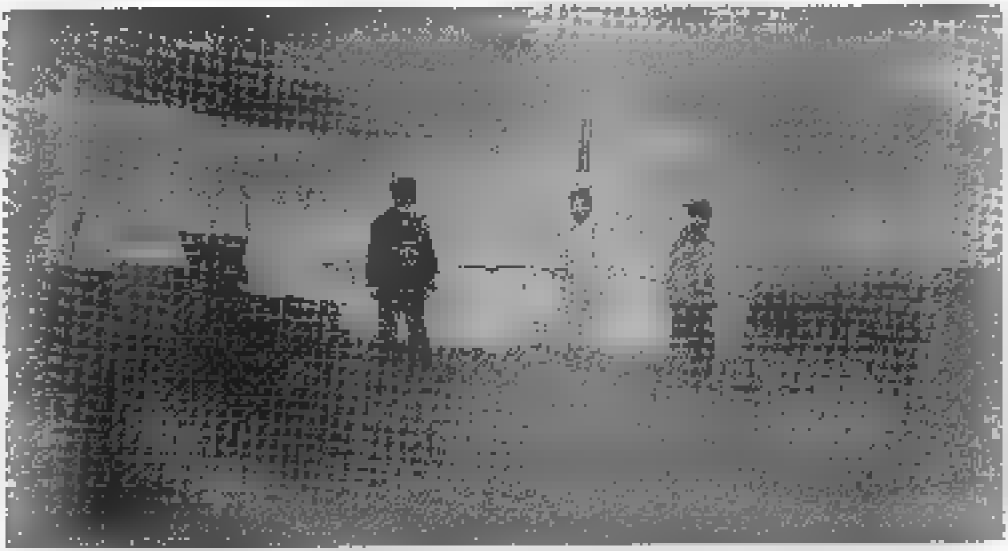
RANGE 13 — Twp. 31: Rolling and undulating prairie; clay loam soil; clay

subsoil. Class 2. ■ section 36 the east line crosses a small creek, but generally water is scarce. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, gently rolling prairie, with a fair soil. Creeks, flowing south, cross the line in sections 31, 34 and 36. (1883). Slightly rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. Class 2. Several large clear-water ponds were crossed by the west line, and the east line crosses creeks in sections 25 and 36. (1884).

Twp. 33: Rolling prairie. The western portion class 2; the eastern, being very stony, class 3. Creeks and ponds ■ sections 6, 19, 13 and 36. (1884). South, rolling; fair soil; creeks in sections 1, 3 and 6. (1883).

Twp. 34: Rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. The eastern portion is very stony, class 3; the western, class 2. In section 19 there is a cut clay bank flat, without alluvial soil. There are occasional small marshes, and a large clear water pond in sections 6 and 7. (1884).



Picture of a surveyor's camp, taken and developed by the Lund Family. The men in the picture are the surveyor, the cook and Andy Alpaugh.

RANGE 14 — Twp. 31: Broken and hilly prairie, with numerous intervening ponds of fresh water. A small creek, now (19th August) merely a succession of pools, runs south-east through section 7. The soil is clay loam, with clay subsoil. Class 3. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, hilly prairie, with a good soil. A number of marshes were crossed by the line. (1883). Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil, class 3. A bay, from a lake which extends several miles west, occupies sections 18 and 19, as well as a portion of 6 and 7. (1884).

Twp. 33: Broken and hilly prairie, clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. Section 6 is a level clay flat. In sections 1, 19 and 30 there are several large clear water ponds. (1884). South, hilly prairie, but good soil. Several marshes. (1883).

Twp. 34: Except for a strip of rolling prairie along the east side, the whole is in Sullivan's Lake. (1884).

RANGE 15 — Twp. 31: Except a few sections of first-class prairie near the north-west corner, this township is class 3. An alkaline flat takes up the south-west portion, the remainder being broken and hilly. A creek ■ section 6, a large pond of alkaline water in 7, and several smaller ponds elsewhere. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, rolling and hilly prairie, rising eastwards. ■ section 31 are arms of a large lake. (1883). A large lake occupies the south-east quarter of this township. An alkaline valley, dotted with small lakes, runs north-west from this

lake. The country is broken and hilly to the north, with rolling prairie towards the west. (1884).

Twp. 33: Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. The north-east and south-west corners are low, and have ponds of water, but the rest of the township is high and dryer. (1884).

RANGE 16 — Twp. 33: An alkaline flat, dotted with small lakes, extends from the south-east to the north-west corner. East of this flat it is hilly prairie, with sand loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 2. Large bodies of water in sections 6, 30 and 31, the greater part of 30 being under water. (1884). South, rolling prairie with good soil. A long lake extends north-west into this township from the south-east corner. (1883).

It is notable that nowhere in these reports are trees mentioned; only in the summaries of townships further north, or nearer the Hand Hills to the south, do the surveyors speak of 'occasional patches of poplar or willow scrub', or 'small timber, suitable only for fuel.'

CHAPTER III

FREE LAND

When the Canadian government took over the administration of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, it became responsible for a vast empty expanse stretching from Hudson's Bay and the tiny province of Manitoba on the east to British Columbia on the west, and from the American boundary to the Arctic Ocean. In the United States, settlement was pushing ever westward, forcing ranchers off their open rangeland, and there was a very real danger that the Americans would try to annex the western Canadian plains in the same way that they had taken Texas and California from the Spanish. It was imperative that the Canadian government establish its sovereignty over the area; the scattered trading posts and the thin ribbon of C.P.R. steel were not enough. The empty spaces had to be filled.

Not only would settlement of the West establish Canada's claim, but it would provide business for the railroad, moving settlers in, hauling their produce out, and adding to the economic well-being of the country as a whole. But before the land could be offered to immigrants, it had to be surveyed, for the Canadian government had other promises to fulfill.

Part of the price Canada paid to the Hudson's Bay Company for Rupert's Land had been one-twentieth of the arable land in it. The C.P.R. also, had been promised twenty-five million acres, and the Indians had been persuaded to give up their nomadic way of life and accept the white man's law, in return for reservations. None of these land claims could be settled until the land was surveyed, and so in 1874 the first survey parties moved out from Winnipeg.

Meanwhile the government had passed its homestead act. Certain lands were set aside as Indian reservations. In the remaining townships, the Hudson's Bay Company was given all of section 8 and three quarters of section 26; sections 11 and 29 were set aside as school land, and the C.P.R. received all the other odd-numbered sections within twenty miles of its right-of-way. The rest was available for homesteading.

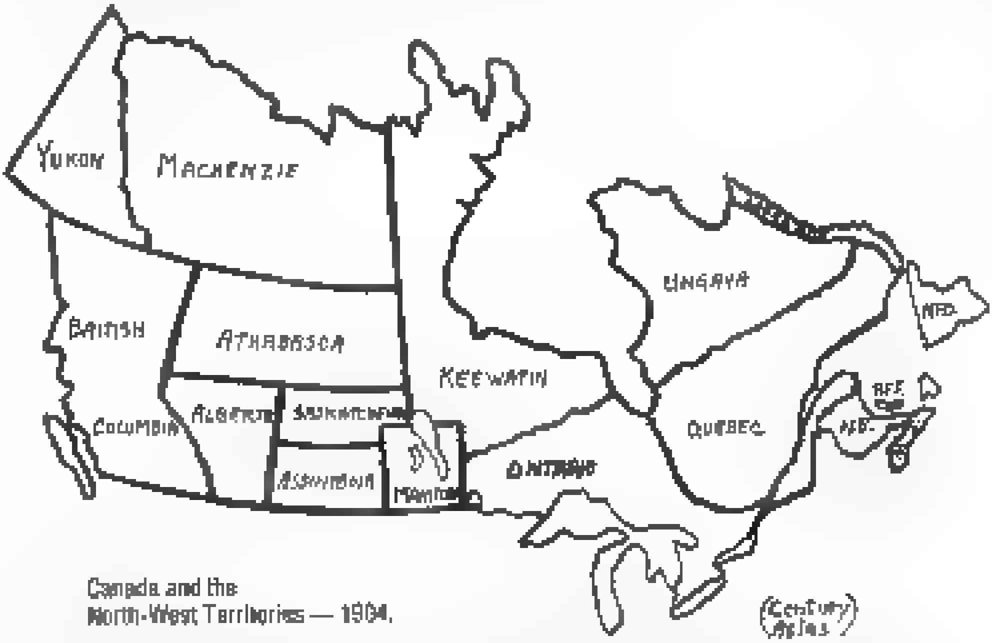
To provide for orderly settlement, the land nearest to already-settled areas and railroads was opened first; as this filled up, another area was opened.

Regulations stated that any sole head of a family, or any male eighteen years old, could obtain a quarter-section of land by paying a ten-dollar filing fee and performing certain duties. These included living on the land for at least six months

[illegible] every year for three years, cultivating thirty acres, and building a house worth three hundred dollars, or making other improvements.

The homesteader had to be a British subject, or declare that he would become one when he received title to his land. Application had to be made in person at a Land Agency. These regulations were relaxed to allow the applicant to live with his immediate family within nine miles of his homestead and for immediate family members to file by proxy for another. A parent could reserve a homestead for a son who was not yet eighteen.

In some districts pre-emptions or purchased homesteads were available. The latter allowed anyone who had already exhausted his homestead rights to buy land at three dollars an acre. Homestead duties had to be performed, and fifty acres had to be broken in the three years.



Canada and the
North-West Territories — 1904.

Many homesteaders coming to the Hanna North area had served during the Boer War, (1899-1901), and for their services had received South African Scrip, which entitled them to a half-section of land. Some of them took this land in addition to their homestead and pre-emption. Others sold the Scrip, with the result that a large number of quarters were held by people who had not seen service during the Boer War, but the land was still known as an S.A.V. homestead.

When all was prepared, the call went out. In Britain, Central Europe and the United States, advertising posters, magazines and pamphlets offered free land to any who would come. The extremes of climate, the isolation, the hardships, were glossed over; testimonials from earlier immigrants spoke in glowing terms of the freedom, the fertile soil, the bumper crops.

The advertising brought results. In the United States, available land was becoming scarce and expensive. In Britain, the farms were not large enough to divide among all the sons in a family; jobs in the cities were poorly paid and hard to find. Emigration seemed to be the answer.

There were even more urgent reasons for the exodus from Central Europe. Wars and rebellions and treaties were constantly altering the boundaries of Russia, Poland, Germany and France. Many people became aliens in the country of their birth, ruled by a foreign power, liable for military service in its armies.

Eagerly they grasped the opportunity to live in a country where they could be free of the fear of conscription, and at the same time become landowners for the trifling sum of ten dollars and a few years' work.

And so they came, factory workers and shopkeepers and teachers, doctors and professors and laborers. Some of them were farmers, able to wrest a living from the soil; others had never been outside the large cities which had been their homes, and had no idea how to farm. Some were well off, and could buy good animals and equipment, and build a decent home. Others had only what they could carry with them, and their faith in themselves.

They endured rough ocean crossings in crowded ships; crossed the continent in the immigrant cars the railroad provided . . . hard wooden seats which could be made into bunks at night . . . carrying their food and their blankets with them, preparing their meals on a stove at the end of the car.

When they arrived at their destination, some of the men found work in the towns, and spent the winters there. During the summers they would work on the homesteads and prepare homes for their wives and families. Others chose their homesteads, gathered enough supplies to last them for a few months, loaded their possessions and families, and struck off into the unknown.

PIONEERS

By Helen Standing

By horse-drawn cart and then by train
We came to our native shore
To cross the turbulent ocean
A new country to explore.

We travelled far, and farther,
By foot and by caravan
Until we came [illegible] virgin soils
At Scapa, Dowling, and Garden Plain.

We pitched our tents for shelter
Against the blustery weather
Till we found time to build a shack
Of logs, or sod, or both together.

Yet still we felt the stinging storms
Of wind and rain and sleet;
The sun became our enemy
In times of drought and heat.

But perseverance was the backbone
Of the settlers of early years.
We tamed the wild and rolling plains,
We, the dauntless pioneers.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY DAYS IN HANNA NORTH

Before 1909, only a few ranchers occupied the short grass country, letting their cattle range over the broad plains which not too long before had been the home of thousands of buffalo. There were the Hunt Brothers on the west side of Sullivan Lake, the McCulshes near Dowling Lake, the Madges on the Berry Creek, and Leo Brainerd on the flat north of Richdale.

The majority of the homesteaders came into the Hanna North area from 1908 to 1912, mainly Scots and Scandinavians and Americans. A few trekked in from the south, travelling overland from Calgary or Bassano; but the more favored route was from the north, by train to the end of steel at Stettler, and later Castor. There were Land Offices in these towns, where the homesteaders could examine maps of the area, find out what land was available, and if they desired, could file blind. Those who did often found their selection not to their liking, one man discovered that he had chosen land in a dried–up lake bottom. The more prudent looked over the country first, then filed their claims.

Immigrants from Europe could bring few possessions with them, but those from the United States and Eastern Canada often had railway cars of settlers' effects. These were shipped to the nearest town, with one of the men riding [illegible] the car to obtain the lower freight rate. The more well-to-do bought horses, or brought them with them; others bought oxen to haul the wagons and break the land.

The women and children usually remained in the towns while the men scouted the land and selected their homesteads. When the all-important claim had been filed, they loaded their wagons and struck out for the promised land. Most of them lived in tents until they could erect a house from the only material readily available, prairie sod.

Furrows were turned with a plow, and cut into sections about eighteen inches long. Like huge bricks, these were piled on top of one another to form the walls, with openings left for one or two small windows and a door. The roof was made by placing poles as beams, and covering them with tarpaper, hay and more sod. The houses were warm in winter and cool in summer, but were not always the easiest places to keep clean. Although some settlers lived in sod houses for only a short time, others occupied them for years, finishing them inside and out with plaster and whitewash.

It was an exciting and challenging time for the men. They built their houses and barns, protected them with fireguards, and began to cultivate their land. They plowed with oxen or horses, or hired huge steam engines which could pull a six- or eight-bottom plow. They sowed the grain and put up hay, and worked on threshing crews in the fall, and coal mines during the winter. In time the land produced, and they could buy milk cows and range cattle. Over the years many of these pioneers were able to build up fine homesteads, in spite of frost and drought and hail.

It was the women who suffered the greatest hardships. Many of the emigrants from Central Europe had been totally unaware that they were moving [illegible] a country with a language different than their own. The men who worked with English speaking neighbors, and the children who attended school soon learned the new tongue; the women did not have the same opportunity. They remained on the farm, bearing and raising their children far from churches, schools and medical facilities. The women who had come from the cities were especially aware of the isolation; many declared they would have gone back, if there had been any way they could have done so.

But most of them remained, learning to build fires with a handful of dry grass, a little wood, and buffalo chips. They baked bread for their own families and their bachelor neighbors, and raised gardens to supplement the diet of oatmeal and beans and rice. They learned to cook wild geese and ducks, and prairie chicken and rabbits. They knit socks and mitts and scarves and hats, and made clothing from flour sacks if nothing better was available. They carried water to wash their clothes, and watched their precious linens turn brown from the chemicals in it.

Somehow they found time to see that their children received an education, teaching them at home until there were enough pupils in an area to warrant the

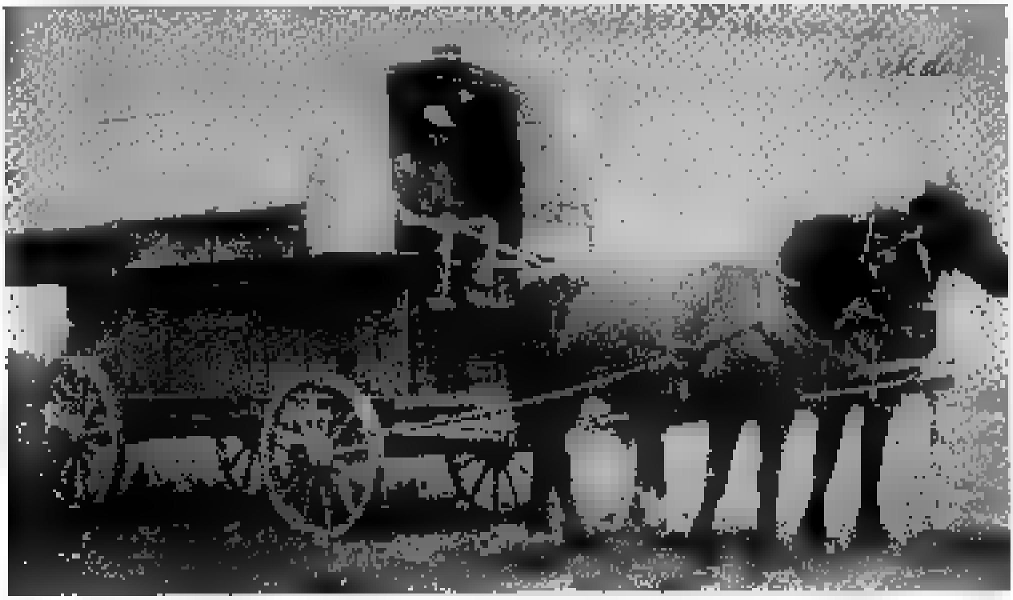
building of a school. They encouraged attendance at church services, and helped to organize community entertainments. They formed Women's Institutes and Red Cross groups, and always found time to be neighborly.

That is the theme that runs through so many of the family histories . . . "What would we have done without our good neighbors?" The women assisted one another deliver their babies, and when mother or child or both died, as was often the case, it was the neighbor women who prepared the body for burial. There were three registered cemeteries in the Hanna North area, Netherby, St. Peter's, and the Seventh Day Adventist cemetery on the Steinbrecker farm; but throughout the area there are tiny family plots which contain the graves of babies who never grew up, children who died of appendicitis or tuberculosis or diphtheria, men who were killed by runaway horses or overcome by gas while digging a well, and women who died before their time for lack of proper medical care.

When World War I began in 1914, huge tracts of land were turned under to assist the war effort. King Wheat was the motto, and the economy was booming. The heavy rainfall of 1915 produced bumper crops, and prices were high. Sod houses were replaced by frame buildings, wells were dug, new and better equipment purchased. After the war, the Soldier Settlement Board was set up to help returned men establish themselves on the land.

Unfortunately, prosperity did not last. After the war, the bottom fell out of the cattle market. War veterans who had bought land were hardest hit, for they had paid high prices for land and cattle, and were not yet established. The country was ravaged by an epidemic of Spanish influenza; there were thirty thousand cases in Alberta, ten percent of the victims died.

The end of Prohibition in 1923 coincided with a return to more favorable weather conditions, and better prices. By the end of the decade some farmers had bought gasoline tractors, many were driving cars. Some homes even had telephones and radios. The pioneering days were over.



("The Lee Brainard Story" in verse, by Helen Standing)

DEATH IN THE BLIZZARD'S WAKE

Lee Brainard heard such wonderous tales,
Of a land both free and warm.

Where grasses grew so thick and high
Up [illegible] the belly of any longhorn.
So he gathered his horses and cattle,
His son Albert and their hired hand,
And in nineteen hundred six left Montana
For Alberta, the ranchers dreamland.

Several extra riders were needed
To start the herd on its way.
With seven hundred horses and cattle
They must keep them from going astray.
They herded their cattle towards the north
Letting them graze on the native grass.
When they crossed the border at Wild Horse,
Their excitement, no man could surpass.

Now they entered the land of chinooks,
Warm winds that melted the snow,
Allowing the cattle to graze all winter
With the deer, the antelope, and the buffalo.
When finally they reached Medicine Hat
It surely was a day of great glee.
They replenished all their exhausted supplies,
But their hardships they could not foresee.

Here was their first disappointment,
For the Mounties heard of their plan.
They warned them of the long, cold winters,
But Brainard was not a quitting man.
Then at the Government Land Office,
A second disappointment he bore.
Ranches were no longer available
On the South Saskatchewan River shore.

But North of the Red Deer River
Was a country rich and vast.
So they headed for the area near Richdale
Where they claimed a ranch at last.
One of their two covered wagons
Was taken to be their home.
The cattle were let out to graze.
Here there was space to roam.

But unknown to Mr. Brainard
Who thought that this was divine.
The "chinook belt" that he so desperately sought,
He had left very far behind.
So instead of harvesting the prairie,
He explored the country side.
Visiting his neighbors near and far.
Telling of his adventure with pride.

One day he rode upon a ranch,
Owned by the Hunt brothers, three.
He refused their kindly offer of help.
If only the future he could foresee!
For one morning late in October

He awoke to a landscape of white,
And the snowflakes continued falling
All day and all night;
floating; twirling; swirling; drifting.

'Twas in the cold month of December
When no warm winds had blown from the west.
That Brainard decided to move his camp,
This decision seemed one of the best.
The thin and starving cattle
Were driven towards Dowling Lake.
To graze on the partially bared hillsides.
At last he realized his mistake.

Then in the New Year of nineteen and seven,
A long sought chinook did arrive.
So the three men gathered the remaining herd,
Perhaps at the Hunt Ranch they could survive.
They travelled north about a dozen miles
To the south edge of Sullivan Lake
Here they were forced to stop and rest,
And themselves some food did partake.

They rested in the warm, calm air
The cattle quietly grazing nearby.
When suddenly Albert looked to the north
And gave a warning cry.
A dark grey wall was descending
Upon the unsuspecting herds.
A storm was quickly approaching
And the wind began, whispering;
gusting; whistling; roaring.

They used their wagon for shelter,
Against the piercing storm.
But the cold was so intense,
There was no way to keep warm.
They were forced to march in circles,
To keep from freezing to death.
All night they marched and rested,
In the blizzard's icy breath.

Next day in the freezing wind and snow
Mr. White was the first to succumb.
Young Albert lost all will to live
When he saw his good friend gone.
After a long and bitter half hour,
His body also lay still and cold.
So Brainerd laid them side by side
In a drift of the new fallen snow.

He then went in search of his cattle,
Found them frozen to death on their feet.
With an axe he chopped pieces from their sides
So that he could have something to eat.
Then turning his face into the storm
He started for the Hunt brothers' farm.

Stumbling and falling in the drifts,
Trying his best to keep warm
Against the storm that was. stinging;
piercing; stabbing; freezing.

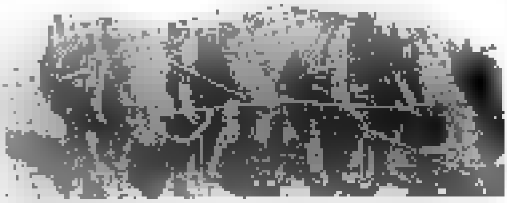
But on he struggled into the storm
Until something made him fall.
He found it was a barbed wire fence.
By then, on hands and knees he had to crawl.
He followed the fence past the feed stacks
Till he fell against the Hunts' cabin door.
He was pulled inside to the fire.
His long, cold trek was o'er.

Spring found him back in the saddle.
Most of his cattle were dead.
Of six hundred yearlings, cows and calves
He found only fifteen head.
Lee Brainerd went back to Montana
For a fresh herd of cows, and his wife.
They returned to his ranch near Richdale.
Together they would start a new life.

SEEDING AND PLOWING

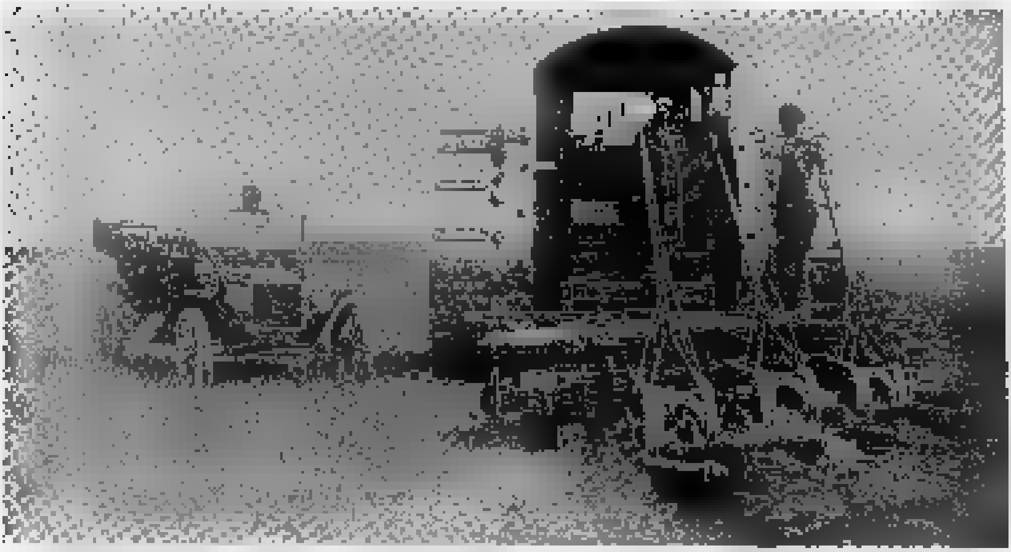
Newly broken Prairie Land (Courtesy of Glenbow- Alberta Institute).

1916 — Steam engine and gang plow on Hannah farm. Jim, Tom and Dick Hannah.

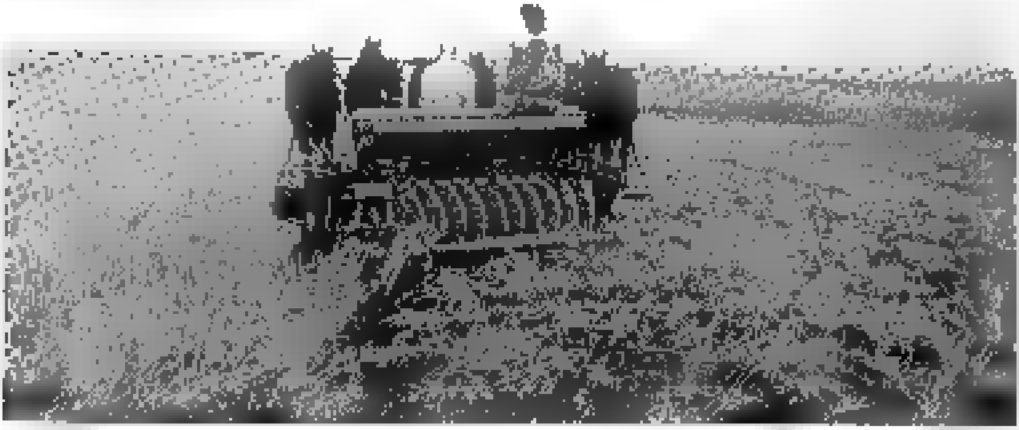


Hanna — 1909 — Breaking with oxen. Driver unknown.

Charlie Glover breaking with sixteen horses.



Fred and Ed Elm breaking the prairie with their Pioneer tractor. Note the carbide lights on the car.

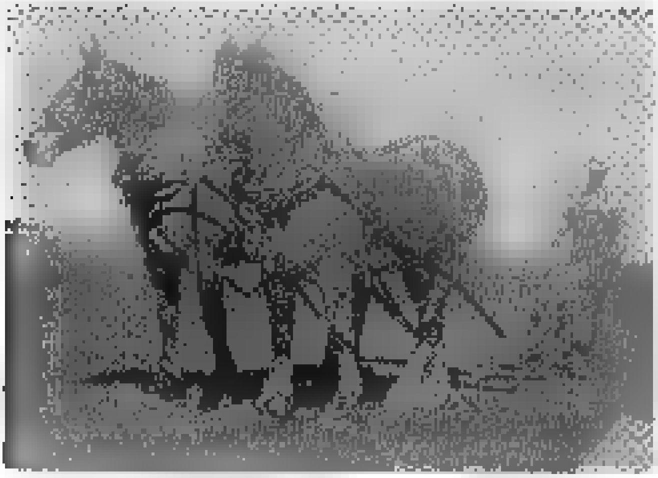


George C. Standing Jr. seeding in spring of 1940 with ten horses pulling a six foot tiller.

Howard Kern plowing with a sulky.

1921 — Frances Lewis discing with a minimum of harness. Sister Winnifred is behind the disc.

Riding in comfort in the buggy behind the harrows while driving six horses. Walter Lewis is on the seed drill.



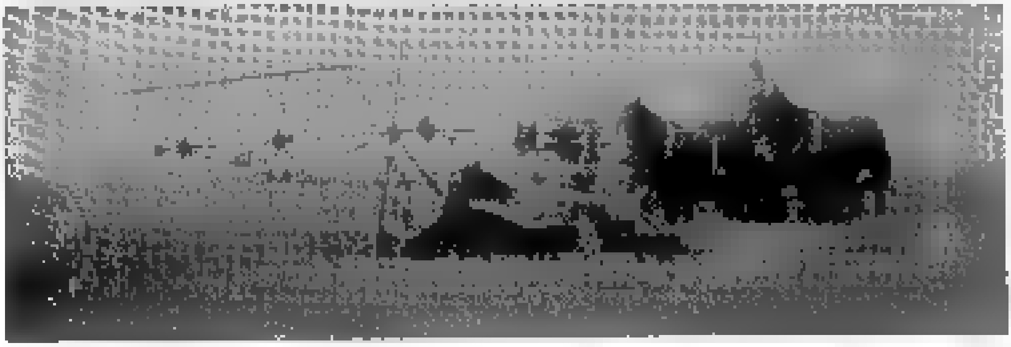
John Marlowe planting potatoes with Babe and Baldy on the walking plow.

1956 — Fred Kautz and daughter-in-law Frances planting potatoes.

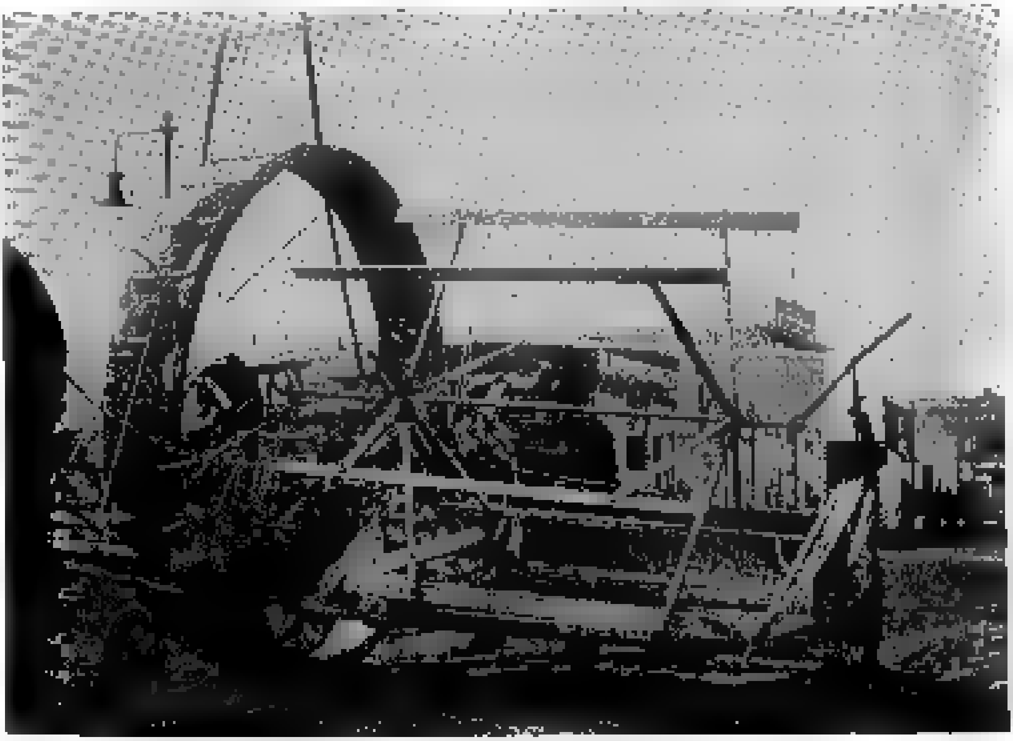
Mr. Fred Kautz broadcasting grass seed.

Much in demand before seeding. Arley Chidley's Carter disc grain cleaning outfit.

HARVESTING

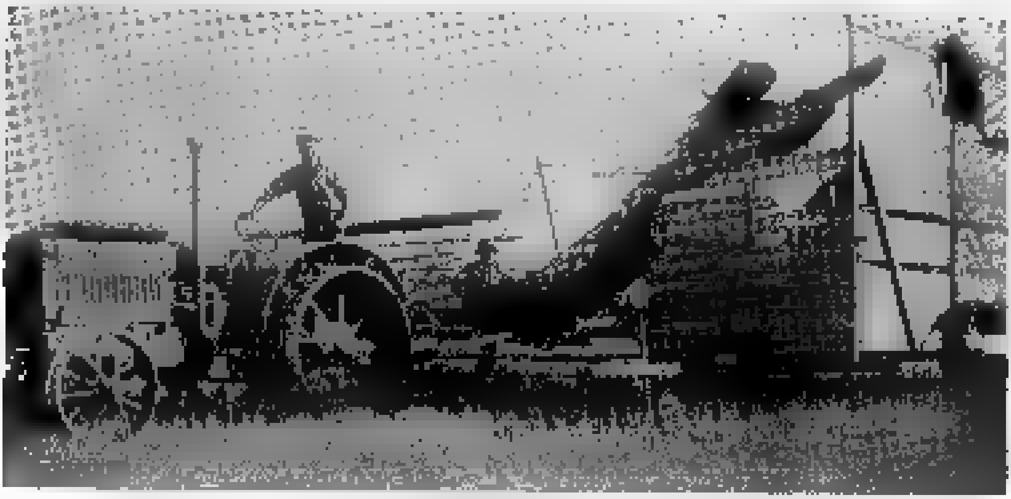


Charlie Glover cutting crop with a push binder.



Binder with small bullwheel inside big bullwheel for cutting grain in wet fields.

Tom Scott and Jack Greg harvesting a short crop with a poverty box on the binder in the thirties. No twine required.



Harvesting with a barge on the Fred Mattis farm, 1937. The John Patzer outfit.

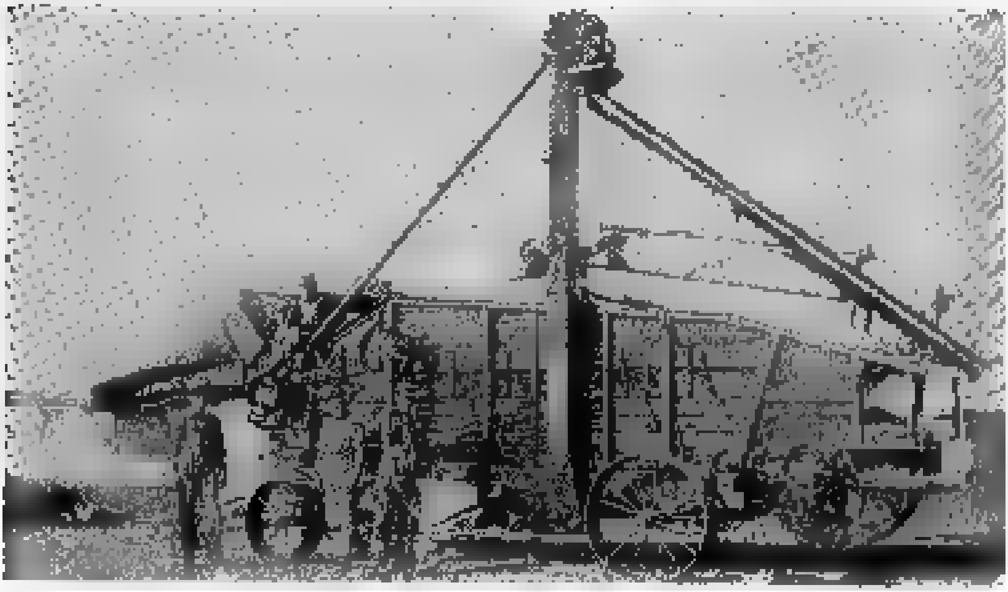
About 1920. Stook loader used for loading grain stooks into a bundle rack.

Labor saving device. Ropes pull clutch off and on. Steering equipment has two universal joints.

Hannah threshing outfit, 1913. Coal fired steam engine.

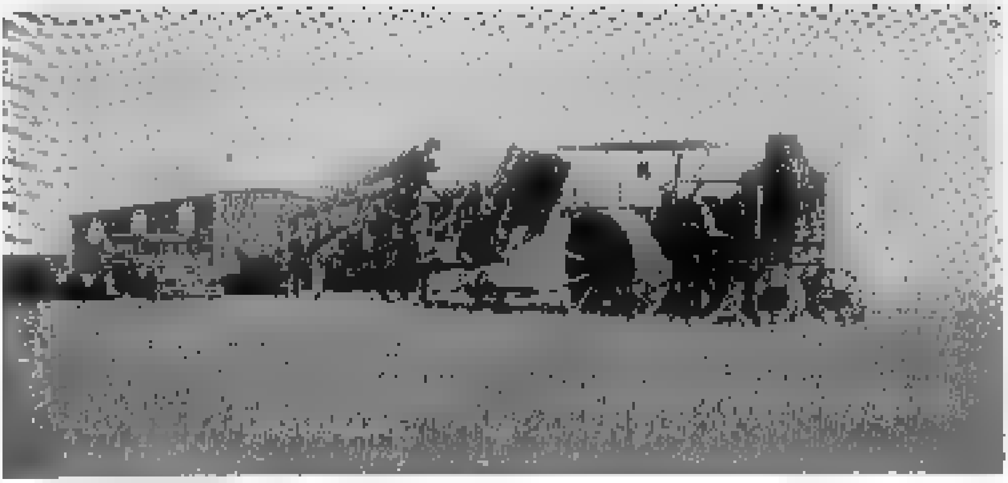
Threshing at J.W. Taylors, 1915. Pete Jensen feeding the machine. Stan Wagner and son Albert at wagon, Russell Childley by feeder cutting bands, Lily Wagner, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Taylor forking straw back. The machine had no blower.

1917 — J.W. Taylor horse-drawn stationary engine.



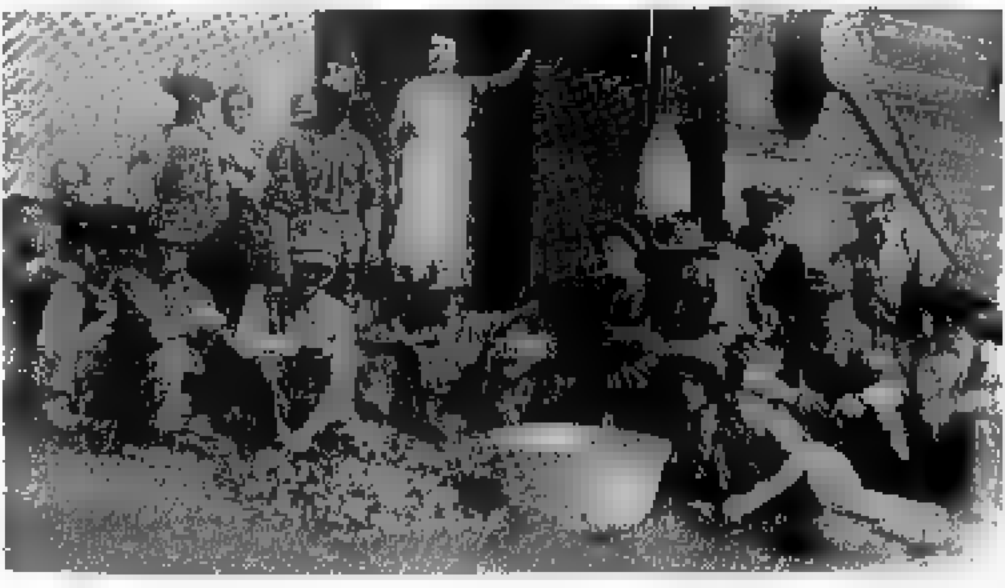
Harry Sleeves wooden Rumley separator.

Threshing into the Fred Whaley barn in 1928.



Dan Mathis threshing machine and cook car, 1929.

Girner threshing crew and cook car with Chinese cook.

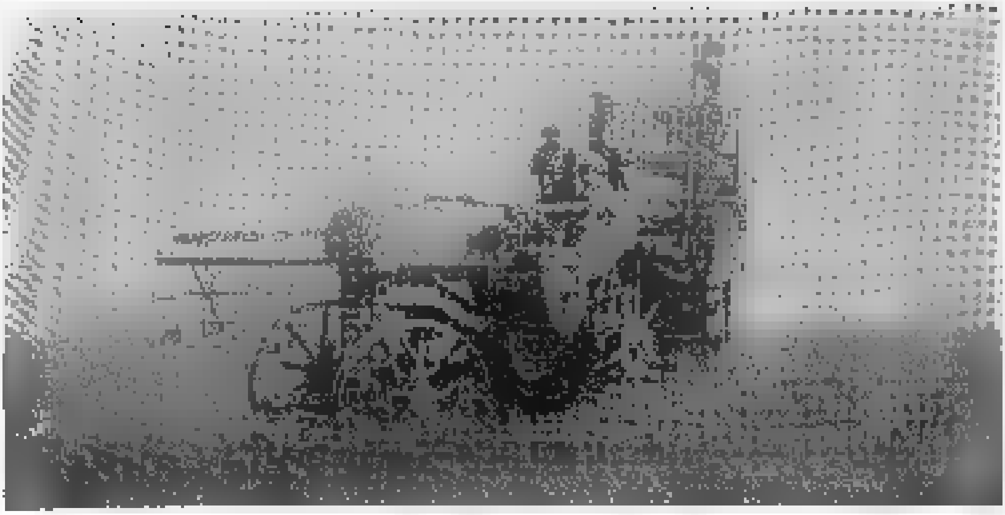


Roy Bartman threshing crew, 1920. Standing: Unknown, Norman Williams, Roy Bartman, Mrs. Vic Bartman (the cook). Seated: Alex McLean, Lyman Grove, Pearce Morris, Elmer Sleen, Fred Blaxhall (with pipe), Charlie Lohrmann, against building is George Forster and Fred Johnston with Russell Chidley and George Benzie in front of them. The man lying down is unidentified.

J.W. Taylor and Bert Brown stacking bundles for threshing before 1915.

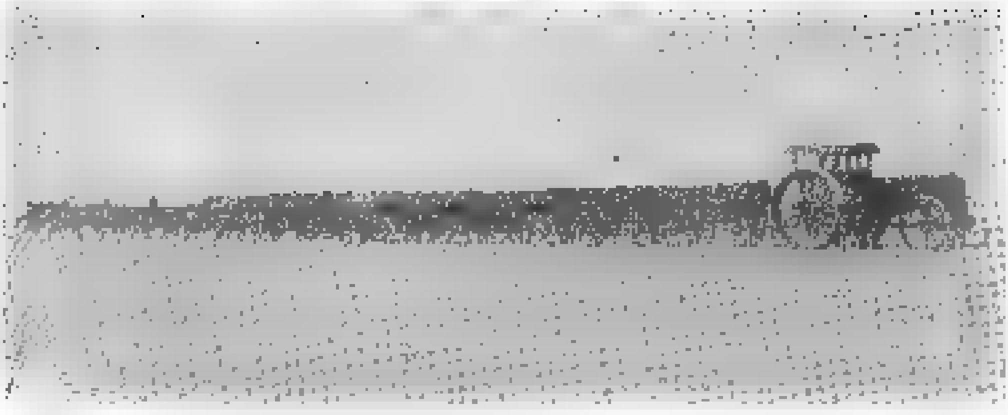
Stack threshing.

Stooks on the Chris Viste farm



Rumley pull-type combine. Hans Hansen, John Hansen and Fred Lyxzen straight combining

A hayrack loaded with slough hay.

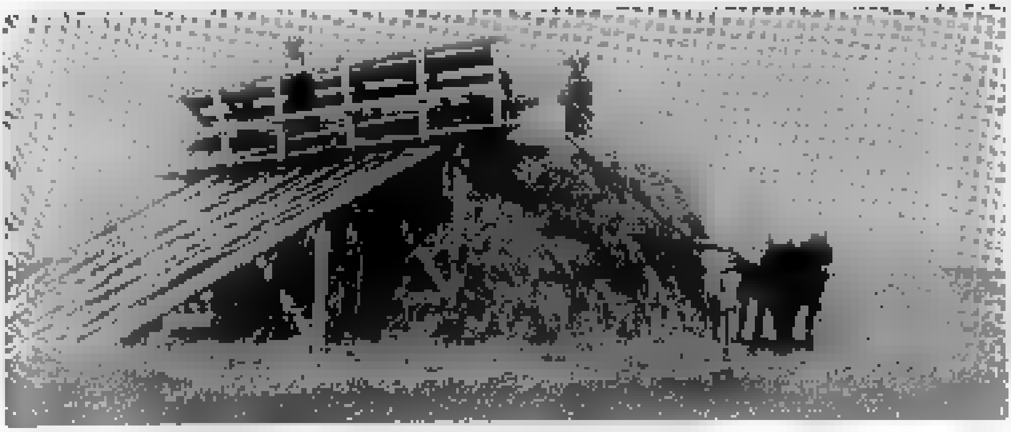


Hauling grain in 1913. 1912 Pioneer Tractor: fuel, gasoline, [illegible] h.p. 4 cylinder horizontally opposed engine. Drawbar 30 h.p. Grain Tanks, 165 bushels. Wagon train capacity, 1800 bushels. Operated by Fred Elm.

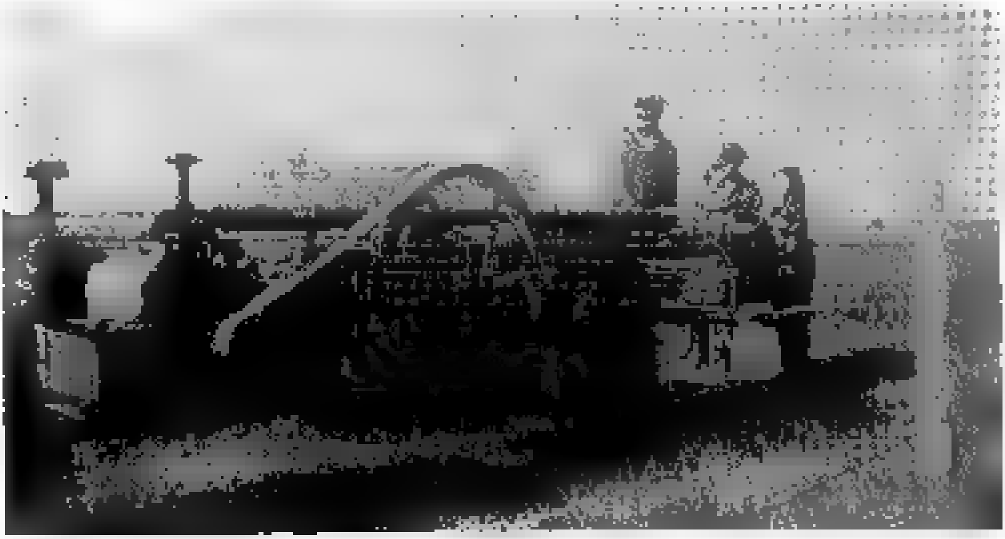
Harry Nelson and Case outfit combining a standing crop in 1944.

1928 - note the skeleton-wheeled tractor, useful in gumbo and when pulling harrows.

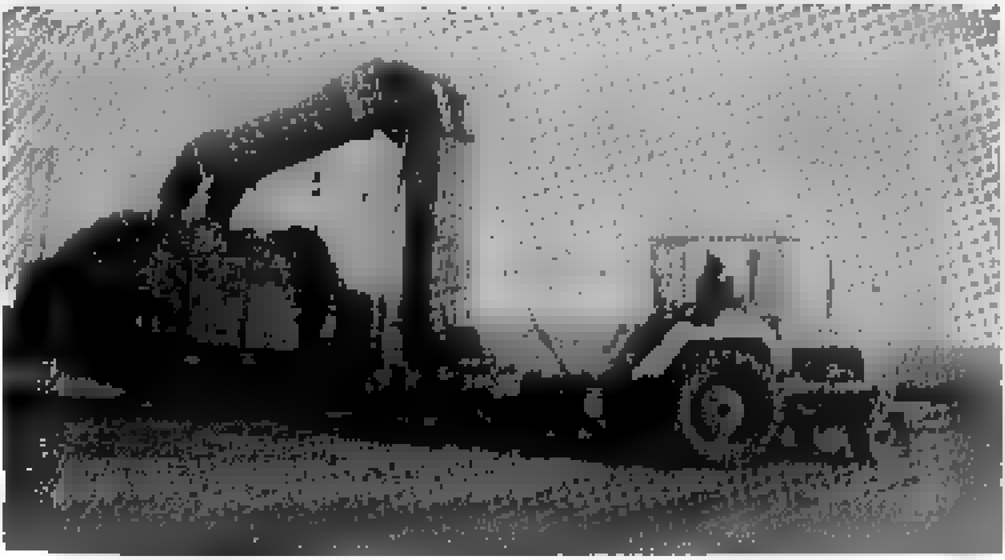
Louis and Gerry Unsworth stacking bales with their Knudson bale loader, 1975.



Putting up hay with slide and buck. J. J. Rahill and son Carl.

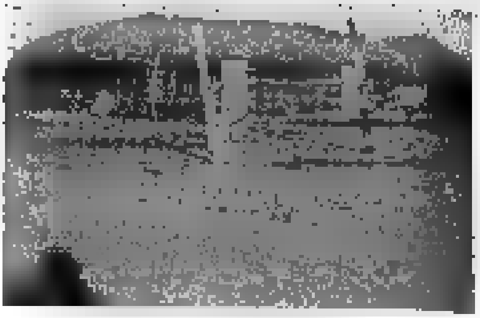


About 1949. Case wire-tie baler. Two men sat on seats at the back and tied the wire. Sure was hard on gloves.

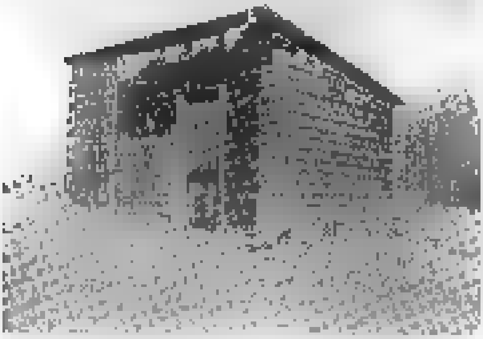


Dwight Boyson picking up hay with his Hay Buster, 1974.

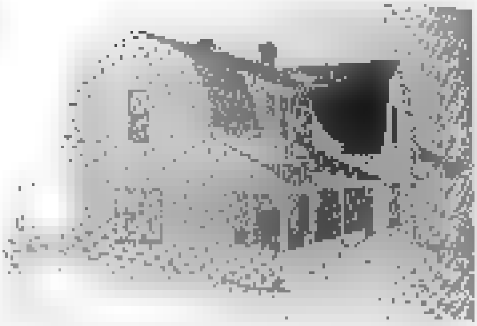
As the family grew so did the house. W. Glover house built in 1911.



Halverson's sod barn.



The shingled shanty-roofed bachelor shack.

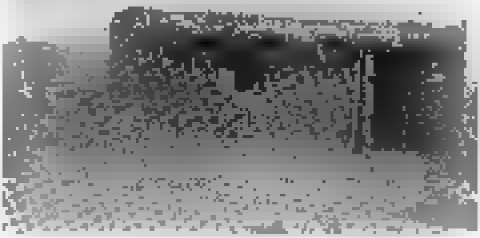


The Frank Kennedy home built in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert are presently living in it, 1977.

Relics of the past, the ashpile and the out-house.

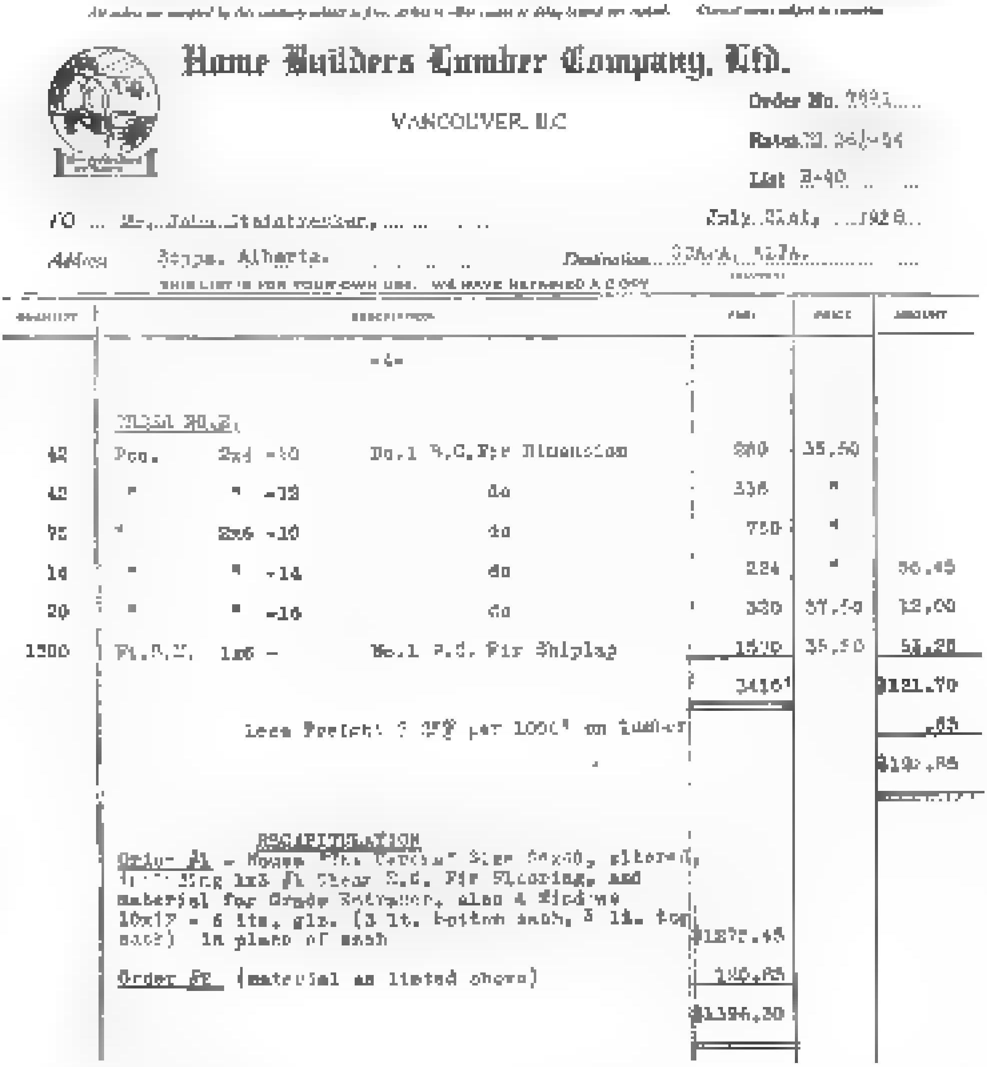
Old time windlass for pulling up pump pipes for repair. It was built in 1909 and is in good working order.

Square one-storey shingled home of Pete Jensen taken about 1917.



1909 — J. W. Taylor sod shack.

Alex Cooper relaxing in his homestead shack on SW 32-33-13 in 1909.



Home Builders Lumber Company, Ltd.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Order No. [illegible]
Rate: [illegible]
List B-40

TO Mr. John [illegible]
July 31st, 1928

Address [illegible], Alberta.
Destination [illegible]

THIS LIST IS FOR YOUR OWN USE. WE HAVE RETAINED A COPY

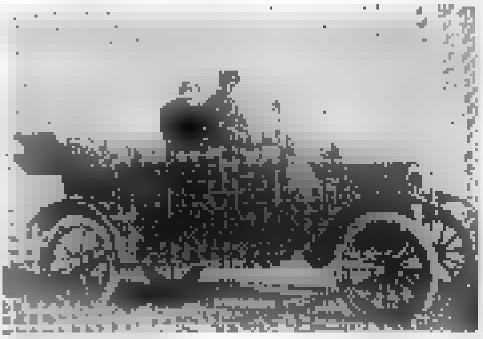
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	FEET	PRICE	AMOUNT
	-4-			
	ORDER NO. 2.			
42	Pcs. 2x4 -10 No.1 B.C. Fir Dimension	280	35.50	
42	" " -12 do	336	"	
75	" 2x6 -10 do	750	"	
16	" " -14 do	224	"	56.45
20	" " -16 do	320	37.50	12.00
1500	Ft.B.M. 1x6 - No.1 B.C. Fir Shiplap	1500	35.50	53.25
		3410'		$121.70
	Less Freight @ 25¢ per 1000' on lumber			.85
				$120.85
	RECAPITULATION			
	Order #1 - House "The Cardinal" Size 24x40, altered, [illegible] 1x3 #1 Clear B.C. Fir Flooring, and material for Grade Entrance, also 4 Windows 10x12 - 6 lts. glz. (3 lt. bottom sash, 3 lt. top sash) in place of sash	$1275.45		
	Order #2 (material as listed above)	120.85		
		$1396.30		

1928 — Lumber Billing.

1909 — All ready for the trip to the homestead with lumber, flour and roof jack. The wagon box is on top of the lumber.

Anthony Waugh and William Glover Sr. beside the Sunday buggy.

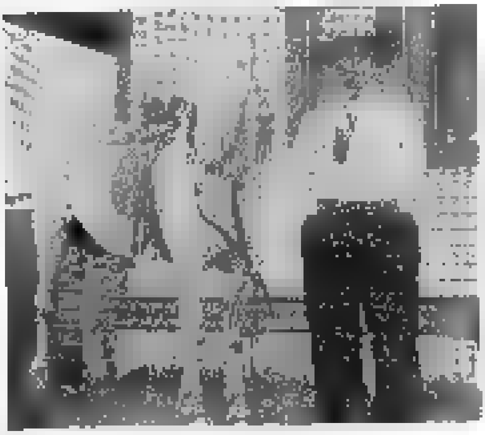
Chrissie Glover all dressed up for a buggy ride.



1917 — Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Ekelund in their new Ford.

J. Parker, driver, in front of his Ford Garage.

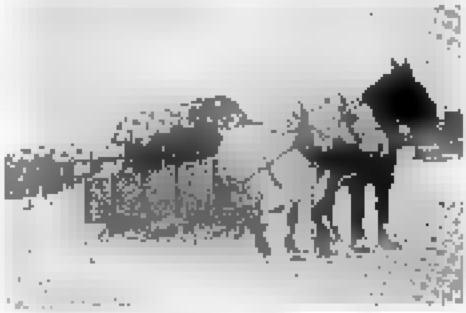
1918 — The Stopping House and farm buildings of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis on the Castor Trail.



1930 — All dressed up for a ride. Note the hair chaps.

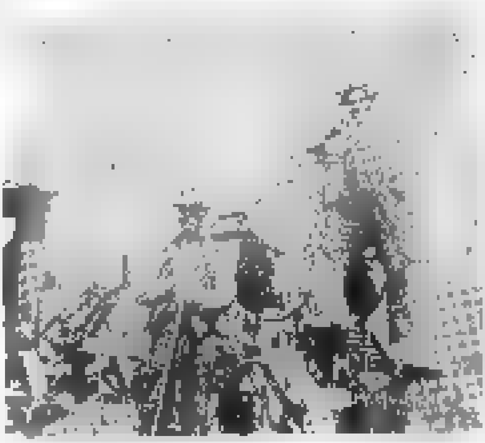
1949 — Janet and Arthur Standing off to Buchan School on Old Nellie.

William Nelson with his team of mules.

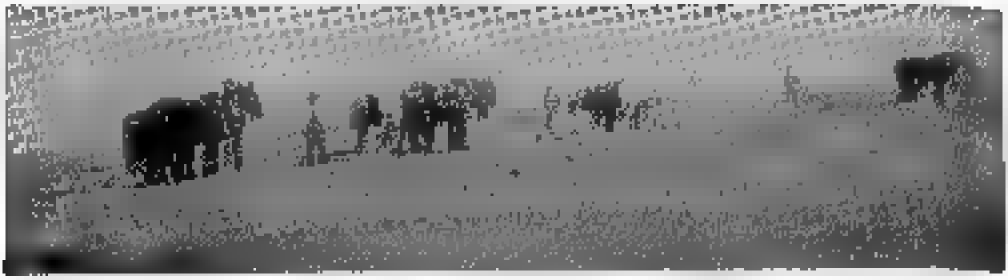


The Earl Ness children off to Netherby School.

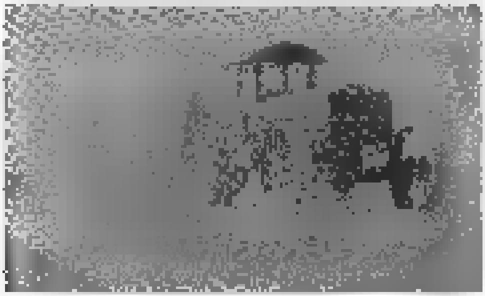
Improvised cart the result of many runaways. Kenneth and Gordon Robertson. Note the pole shafts.



1915 — W. Wright Sr. and Horace Lewis grading roads with a horse-drawn grader.



1930 — Road work to help pay taxes. Theodor Ekelund, Stanley Strandberg, Frank Evans, Unknown.



Fred and Ed Elm road grading on the Castor Trail with their Pioneer Tractor, About 1913.

CHAPTER V

THE DIRTY THIRTIES, AND AFTERWARD

Perhaps the thirties would not have been so dirty or so hungry if farmers then had had access to the methods of cultivation and the weed sprays available today. In those days cultivation was the only way to control weeds, and trash cover was a sign of poor farming, and it was inevitable that during the dry years the land would blow. During the few years that there was sufficient moisture to produce crops, prices were at an all-time low. Unemployed men rode the rods, and gathered on the street corners in the towns, trying to find work.

The government introduced make-work projects, such as building the railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka. It encouraged farmers to hire help, paying the farmer five dollars a month to keep a man, and paying the man's wages, another five dollars per month.

Relief supplies were shipped in to the hardest-hit areas, apples and cheese and fish. There are still people today who cannot stand the sight of salted cod. Baled straw and slough hay, and feed oats, were made available, but the farmers had to pay for them, and in some cases it was years before they were able to pay the debt and have the lien removed from their land titles.

Some gave up. Their farms were mortgaged to the limit, and taking what they could, these disillusioned people moved to areas where they hoped the soil would be better and the moisture adequate. Others stayed; and when they were unable to pay their taxes, took advantage of a government offer to consolidate them, and gradually repaid their debts.

The depression years left their mark; no one who lived through them can forget the grinding poverty of those times. But the very lack of money fostered a closeness and a strong community spirit between neighbors, and when all were poor, making over, making do and doing without did not seem so bad.

By 1936 the cycle of bad years seemed to have run its course; the beginning of World War II in 1939 put an end to unemployment, as men and women joined

the services or took jobs in industry. On the farms, outworn equipment produced food for war-torn countries, and gradually prosperity returned.

Once again, at the cessation of hostilities, the government made money available to veterans who wanted to farm, through the Veterans' Land Act. For a time wheat was King again, but when surpluses began to build up, many farmers increased the size of their cattle herds.

Today there are no quarter-section farms in the Hanna North area. Lands abandoned during the drought years are administered by the government, and leased to farmers residing in the district. A few stunted trees or a sunken foundation may be all that remains [illegible] show that once someone had great hopes.

Today the population of Hanna North is sparse, its farmsteads scattered. Those who chose to remain in the area have learned to cope with blizzards and hail and drought; they have built on the foundations their fathers and grandfathers laid for them, and they can [illegible] assured that the pioneers would be proud of what they have accomplished.

CHAPTER [illegible]

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

By Norman Greenway, with information on
Special Areas contributed by Art Spencer

Prior to 1905 the Federal government provided local government through Local Improvement Districts. When Alberta became a province in 1905, the L.I.D. came under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Public Works.

The performance of the L.I.D. was not very satisfactory. Taxes were low (a maximum of 7½¢ per acre) and expenditures had to be spread very thin. In 1912 a Department of Municipal Affairs was set up, and provision made for the formation of rural municipalities. They consisted of nine townships, numbered from one upward, starting at the south-east corner of the province. Residents of such an area could apply for incorporation as a rural municipality.

Dowling Lake Municipality was formed in 1913. The first meeting was held January 6, 1913, at Dowling Lake school. John Sims was appointed Reeve, Nicholas Lund Deputy Reeve, and C. [illegible]. Tingle Secretary-Treasurer. Municipalities had the power to borrow money by issuing debentures, to form hail insurance districts and hospital districts. They had a greater degree of self-government than the L.I.D.

The municipalities of east-central Alberta functioned quite well until the depression years. The stock market crash of 1929 coupled with drought conditions in the early thirties, brought bankruptcy to many municipalities as well [illegible] individuals. In 1929 the west portion of Tilley East was organized as a Special Area. By 1936 many more municipalities had been dissolved, including Dowling Lake on December 1, 1934.

In its largest state the Special Areas consisted of thirty-six municipalities comprising 7,838,626 acres. The area was considered to be over-populated and the number of farms was reduced from 13,000 to approximately 5000.

The administration of the Special Areas is set out in the Special Areas Act. It provides for a three man board which is located at Hanna. There are also district offices at Consort, Youngstown and Oyen. In addition there is a fully equipped Maintenance Shop at Youngstown to service the road equipment.

There are nine hospital districts and six school divisions wholly or partially within the Special Areas. The Special Areas are served by five community pastures accommodating approximately 9000 head of cattle annually. There are

several proven gas and oil fields in the Area, with 1400 oil and gas wells in production.

Hanna North is in Special Areas No. [illegible]. Generally speaking we have been well served by the Special Areas administration. In an area which is plagued by recurring cycles of drought and economic uncertainty, it is no doubt our best method [illegible] government.

CHAPTER VII

LIFE OF THE COUNTRY MAILMAN

By Bob Rehill

Our rural mailman was very important to us. Not only did he deliver our letters, parcels and papers, but often he would go out of his way to collect our cream cans for us, pick up express or freight, or even provide a ride for a traveller stranded in town.

He made two trips a week in our area, on Rural Route No. 1 from Hanna. The evening before he would go to the post office, collect the mail for the boxholders on his route, roll up the letters inside the papers, and make a list of the parcels. The following morning he would load it [illegible] his vehicle, putting it in the order in which his customers lived along the route. As an added service, because he was good natured and wanted to help the rural people, he would load up the cream cans and perhaps pick up some groceries or medicines that were needed.

The first mailman I remember was Dick Hannah. He drove a team and open buggy. The mail was in canvas bags and the parcels were covered with a blanket or piece of canvas. As long as the mailmen drove horses, they used to try to make the farthest point on the route by noon, usually a local post office where they had their dinner and fed and watered their team. They would leave the mail for those who had boxes along the route, and take the remainder to the local post office where other residents picked it up.

There were several postmasters in the Spondin district [illegible] the end of our route: Clarence Kensey, George Dawson, Coopers, Elliots, Harry Crego, [illegible] Starkie and Howard Mulgrove. When this post office finally closed, a group of metal boxes were installed at the end of the route.

[illegible] winter the mailman had a covered van, with a small heater in it. We used to be able to see him coming down the sleigh trail, with little puffs of smoke coming out of the stovepipe. Times when there were bad blizzards, he might get part way along the route and have to turn back. Occasionally he might have to stay overnight at a farm home.

When the mailmen started using trucks, they had trouble too. The roads weren't very good, and often in the spring or after heavy rains there would [illegible] wash-outs and mud holes, and if they got stuck they would have to walk to find someone to pull them out. In the winter they would find many of the side roads blocked with snow. Then they would go up the Castor trail to Greenway's corner, and someone from east of there would meet them and pick up the mail for the whole neighborhood.

I think the Pincombe family have had the route longer than anyone else. The father, Art Pincombe, did many favors for his customers. One time he delivered to me a twenty-four foot grain auger which had been shipped by freight. Other drivers I remember are John Fox, Bee Howery, Cecil Embree, Glen Grover, Bob Pollock, and Mrs. Albert Holtzer.

The route is not as heavy as it used to be, as many have dropped off the route in favor of a box in town. The mailboxes which remain along country roads remind

us of the faithful mail carriers who did their utmost to see that the mail went through.

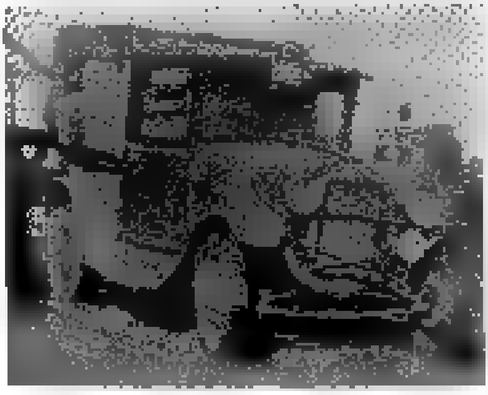
ARTHUR PINCOMBE SR. — Mailman on R. R. No. 1 from 1939 till 1968

By Helen Pincombe Riddle

Art Pincombe, mailman on Route One Hanna from 1939 til 1968.

Art was born in 1891 at Lobo, Ontario. In 1919 he bought a farm eight miles north of Richdale. He and Lillian McPherson were married the same year. He and his wife gave their time and effort in the pioneering and development of the area. In 1926 Art acted as butcher for the Riest district beef ring. While living here the Pincombes had four sons and three daughters.

In 1939 he and his family left the farm and moved [illegible] Hanna, at which time he took over the contract for rural route No. 1, from Bee Howery. For a time he drove a Model T and then he drove the well-known Model A pickup. In the winter he used horses and a covered sleigh. Leaving Hanna on mail day with a rested team, he would stop overnight at Spondin. Next day he would take the other team that had been barned at Spondin and continue on the route. The first few years the route was over fifty miles long; later on it lengthened. Those winter trips were punishing to man and beast. Usually he was the first one over the road after a blow.



Art Pincombe's mail truck

He braved a wide variety of weather in all seasons of the year to see that the mail, freight, eggs and cream got through. Freight went to the two Spondin stores, and the cream to the Spondin Creamery owned by J. A. Rasmussen. On his way back [illegible] Hanna he brought the mail from the Spondin post office, sometimes delivering a few groceries as well as the mail, and taking cream and eggs to the Dairy Pool. By 1950 he also had the contract for Rural Route No. 3. This made four trips a week, two on each route. By this time the roads were greatly improved, so he used a truck all year round.

The faithful mailman, Art Pincombe, made his last trip on Tuesday, April 9, 1968, and passed away the following day. He had delivered mail for twenty-nine consecutive years, a record very few rural mailmen achieved.

He is survived by his wife Lillian, one son Gordon and a daughter Sylvia Holzer in Hanna; his other daughters Helen Riddle of Scapa and Eileen Sweep of Delia; and sons Arthur at Alsask, Albert in Calgary, and Percy at Mantario.

RURAL ROUTE No. 1 — SCAPA WEST

By Erbin Grove

Earl Hill also drove rural route no. 1, south and west of Scapa. In the winter time, in some of those hills, it was a hard job to make the trip. There were times the

only way he could make it was to ride one horse and lead a pack horse. A few times I helped him get his pack horse loaded; at Christmas time he sure looked like a wide horse. Other drivers on rural route no. 1 were George Hausher, Richard Zeamer and Emil Glubrecht.

George Hausher drove from 1932 to 1940. He would leave Scapa at ten in the morning after mail was sorted from the train and if roads were bad returned at eleven or twelve in the evening. As there were no snowplows, winter roads were often so bad he had to go through fields and then explain to the postal department why he had changed his route.

The pay was thirty-five dollars per month which was most welcome in the hungry thirties.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 — SCAPA EAST

By Erbin Grove

John Corry and William Storch Sr. were the main organizers of rural route no. 2 from Scapa east. It was started in the fall of 1927 with sixty mail boxes, and is still going in 1977, but there aren't so many now. The route was thirty miles long. In winter the trip was made by team of horses and covered cutter, which had a small heater in it.

Jesse Hill was first mail route driver, and then Earl Hill took it over. We had no snowplows at that time and the snow seemed to keep getting deeper [illegible] winter. The road would get so heavy that Earl would have to leave his team, named Belle and Fanny, at a farm along the route and exchange it for a fresh team. By the time he would get to our place just four or five miles from Scapa his fresh team would be very tired, so he would rest his team for an hour or so before he went on his way. He was a good mail man; he also hauled cream and eggs to be shipped by train to Hanna or to Alix next morning. Other drivers were Chester Hill, John and Maymie Callanach, Ernie Riddle, Milt Stuart. Fred Bottomley, who had the mail route from 1937 to 1945, was a very faithful mailman. I remember one time he made the trip on Christmas day; he sure made a lot of people happy that day.

Fred Harvey is our present mailman, and has been since 1946. I can remember one winter he was driving a closed cutter with a little stove in it. The snow was very deep, so when he made the turn by our gate over went his cutter. The stove fell out in the snow but no harm was done. He picked up his little stove, put the fire back in the stove, put the stove pipe on again and he was on his way with the smoke pouring out of the stove pipe again.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 FROM ENDIANG SOUTH

By Tom Pattinson

This route started on November third, 1928 with R. S. Gregory-Allan (Dick Allan) as driver on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Other route drivers were Albert Webber, George Baird, Forest Tucker, Carl Boehlke, Albert Boehlke, Hicks Cole, Cliff James, Roy Phibbs and Eric Stoneystreet who still delivers the mail.

George Baird carried mail for nine years by team. He missed two trips in that time, and came once on Christmas Day. Total length of the route is twenty-two miles.

CHAPTER VIII

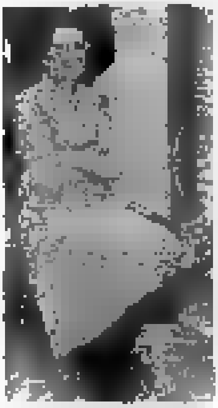
NO DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

By Freda Viale

Of all the tribulations faced by the early settlers, the lack of hospitals and

doctors was one of the greatest. Putting it plainly it was "Survival of the fittest". It was fortunate that the very first to come west were generally healthy young men who seldom required a doctor's services, except for treatment of injuries due to accidents. As more of the wives and families joined their men and some of the bachelors married, the need for hospitals became more evident. Occasionally there was a nurse among the pioneers' wives. They were a godsend to any community, often being called upon to administer aid in the absence of a doctor. They ran into situations where they had to set broken bones, or sew up and dress wounds without anesthetic. The only thing available in most homes was a good strong whiskey or brandy, kept on hand for medical purposes. It was used as an antiseptic as well as a pain killer.

It was these nurses, or women who had some knowledge through experience, who became mid-wives. Their role was not an easy one, since they had to be prepared to go whenever they were needed, in any kind of weather, often travelling over rough terrain to get to the expectant mothers. It was customary for them to stay with their patients and care for the baby up to a week or more. Sometimes they found themselves working in circumstances where people couldn't even afford the necessities for the baby. There were times when a mid-wife couldn't be reached, and a neighbor who had a child or two of her own, might be called upon to assist with the delivery. In times of need everyone did what they could. The following women were among those who served in the area north of Hanna as mid-wives and nurses. Mrs. Henry Wille, Mrs. Julius Schultz, Mrs. Willington Hamilton, Mrs. Paulsen, Mrs. Dunkle, Mrs. Sexsmith, Mrs. J. W. Taylor (registered nurse).


Mrs. J. W. Taylor, R.N.

Mrs. Sexsmith, mid-wife and nurse, October, 1933.

Mrs. Taylor was a resident of the Garden Plain district. About 1913 she wrote the following account of a nursing experience she'd had, for her New York Alumni magazine. The first page of the original story was lost so her daughter Marion wrote it as she remembers it.

"It seems that there was an older bachelor, Shorty Snyder, I believe, who had wooed and won as his pioneer bride, a much younger lady. They homesteaded somewhere in the Grassy Slope area, I think.

"Anyway one morning he drove his team and buggy to our farm, to see if Mother, who herself was several months pregnant, would come back to his little home to help deliver their first baby. So mother, who never refused to help, checked her nurse's bag, which was kept ready for such emergencies, left instructions for her husband and family, and climbed into the buggy with Shorty. They were off in great haste, bumping across the prairie trails to the south east.

"Now from Mother's story: "One woman told me after that, when she saw us passing her place she said, 'Well, that couple are in a big hurry to leave the country'.

"We travelled thus for seven miles, until the thoroughbred horse he was driving with the other high-spirited one, nearly dropped from exhaustion. I kept telling him the case was not so urgent as he feared, and he had better save his horses some, but he replied, 'Oh, no, I can always get another horse, but it's not so easy to get a wife'.

"When we arrived at his abode, a crazy patchwork shack, about 10' x 10' in

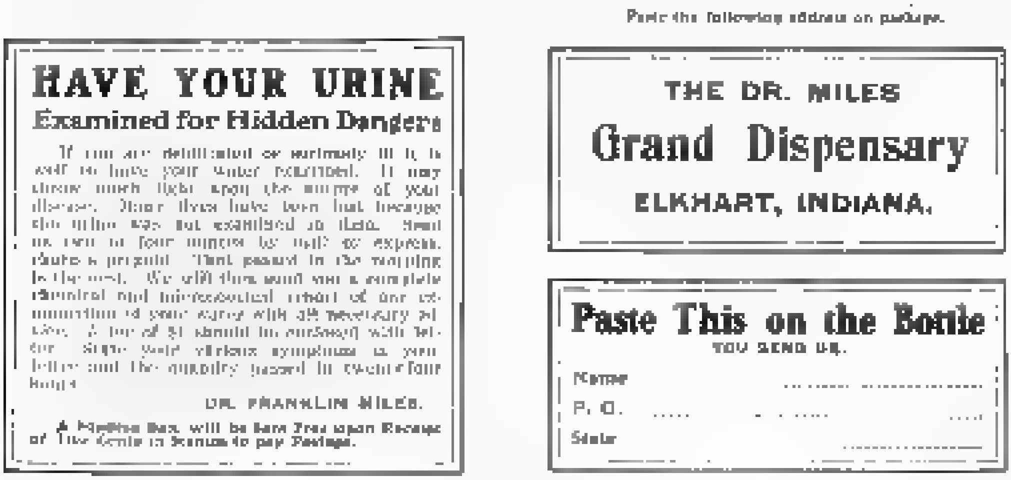
which were a bed, dresser, stove, table and chair, I found another neighbor lady with his dear wee wife, who was only 17 years of age. After talking things over I decided he would need [illegible] go S.W. to Hanna for a Doctor.

"Well, he hitched up the poor exhausted team again, and off he went alone. People who saw him passing say he was whipping his team all the way. The Doctor arrived about sundown, and decided an operation was needed. You can imagine the inconvenience, one kerosene lamp, one little table, and one basin.

"When I had the patient and all in readiness, the only place [illegible] set the basin of disinfectant was on the floor by the Doctor's feet. I administered the chloroform, the other lady held the lamp while the husband helped hold his wife [illegible] position. I kept thinking, 'Whatever shall we do if the lamp glass should *break*!' When horror of horrors! the Doctor changed his position a little, and stepped back — I heard a splash. Yes, he had stepped into the basin of disinfectant. He said not to worry as he could do without it. Soon he was finished. What a relief! The husband took the Doctor back to Hanna, and brought a nurse back from there. I felt sorry for her — a big girl having [illegible] manage in that small shack. But I was glad to start for home myself.

"I could tell of other cases — another time — some extremely sad. One lady patient was in convulsions for hours, and passed away thus. Thank God, the Doctor was in attendance with me there."

This was the era of mustard plasters, onion poultices, tonics, liniments and home cures of all sorts. Every family had its own pet remedies, and used them with great faith. Every newspaper had pages of advertisements of remedies to cure everything from a bald head to ingrown toe nails. They were always accompanied by letters from satisfied customers. The mail contained the same type of quack advertising, with cards so you could send in the names of your ailing friends so they too could be placed on the mailing lists.



HAVE YOUR URINE

Examined for Hidden Dangers

DR. FRANKLIN MILES.

Paste the following address on package.

THE DR. MILES

Grand Dispensary

ELKHART, INDIANA.

Paste This on the Bottle

YOU SEND US.

Name

P. O.

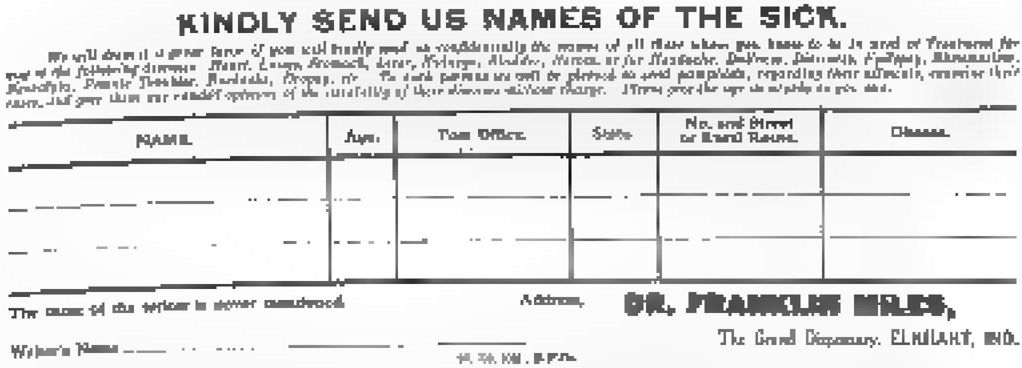
State

Quack Advertising

Before there was a hospital or doctor in Hanna, a Dr. Crawford from Craigmyle and Dr. Lyons of Castor were sometimes called into the district. Castor was the nearest hospital. In most cases the doctors went to the home. Appendicitis seemed to be the most common medical problem, often resulting in death. This was mainly due to the long slow trip to summon a doctor, or the rough ride in wagon or sleigh to a hospital. A tragic story [illegible] such an incident was written [illegible] the "Garden Plain Story" by Mrs. Margaret Taylor.

"In 1918 when our oldest girl started school she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. We called in Dr. Mason who operated right on the kitchen table, since

there was no hospital in Hanna. Although we had a trained nurse stay with us, we lost our little girl. As a result of this Jim worked very hard with Dr. Mason to start the Hanna Hospital."



KINDLY SEND US NAMES OF THE SICK.

NAME.	Age.	Post Office.	State.	No. and Street or Rural Route.	Disease.

The name of the writer is never mentioned.

Address, **DR. FRANKLIN MILES,**

The Grand Dispensary, ELKHART, IND.

Writer's Name

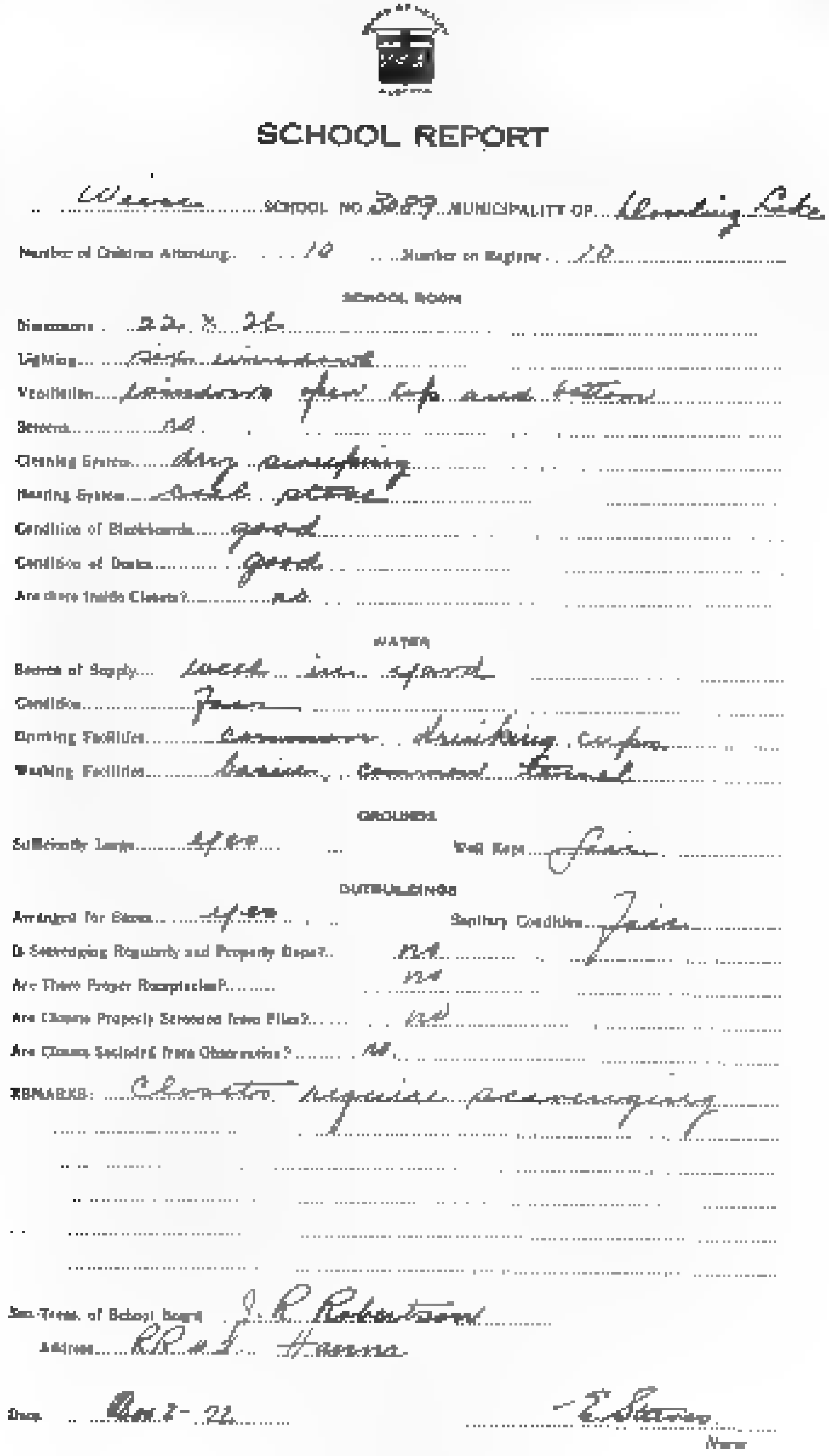
This is the type of advertising that frequented the mail.

At the mention of year 1918, any old timer would think of the "Spanish Influenza" outbreak, and all the suffering it brought. The few doctors in the area were exhausted and couldn't begin [illegible] tend [illegible] everyone. Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann told of their experience at that time. They were the only ones in the district that weren't down with the flu, so Charlie made the rounds on horseback, doing chores for [illegible] the neighbors. Mrs. Lohrmann did baking and washing to help out. All nine of the Hill family, who lived kitty-corner from them, were down at once. Charlie went to Hanna with the team to get Dr. Mason for them and then took the doctor back. He just got home and started doing his own chores when Mrs. Ernest Fletcher came for help. Her husband was delirious, so Charlie went to haul feed for them. Mr. Bodemann, who lived to the east, was very sick. Charlie was sure he had pneumonia, so he went to town for the doctor, but couldn't convince him to come out. Mr. Bodemann passed away. It was a similar story throughout the whole area, with the able, like Mr. and Mrs. Lohrmann, helping the disabled.

In 1914 the old Copeville post office was moved to Hanna and remodelled for an 8 to [illegible] patient hospital. There were four nurses on staff, who did all the housekeeping duties and the laundry service. In 1918 that building was abandoned for a larger one. Nick Lund was the first patient admitted into that hospital. It served a large area and was soon found to [illegible] too small. In 1922 the new Hanna Municipal Hospital opened, located where the present hospital and nursing home are. This was adequate for many years.

In the early twenties the Provincial Department of Public Health set up Public Health Nursing Services. Districts were formed, with a nurse to be appointed for each district. A letter to the school board stated, "It is the desire of this Department to make the Public Health Nurse a valuable asset in a community for the prevention of disease and reduction of infant mortality". This program was slow in getting off the ground. Meanwhile local doctors and nurses acted in the capacity of Public Health personnel. The purpose of the program was to look after immunizations, examine the children, inspect the sanitary conditions of the schools and even do minor surgery.

Miss Lomness, now Mrs. Jack Ross, of Chilliwack, B.C. was one of the pioneer nurses in this work. She was also matron of the Hanna Hospital for nine years, from 1929 [illegible] 1938. She was kind enough to submit the following information: "Health Clinics were formed, composed of a nurse, doctor or dentist to visit the rural schools annually. I believe there were about 28 schools altogether.



SCHOOL REPORT

Weiss SCHOOL NO. 3089 MUNICIPALITY OF [illegible] Lake

Number of Children Attending 10 Number on Register 12

SCHOOL ROOM

Dimensions 22 x 26

Lighting Left windows

Ventilation windows open top and bottom

Screens no

Cleaning System dry sweeping

Heating System coal stove

Condition of Blackboards good

Condition of Desks good

Are there Inside Closets? no

WATER

Source of Supply well in yard

Condition Poor

Drinking Facilities common drinking cup

Washing Facilities basin, common towel

GROUNDS

Sufficiently Large yes Well Kept fair

OUTBUILDINGS

Arranged for Sexes yes Sanitary Condition fair

Is Scavenging Regularly and Properly Done? no

Are There Proper Receptacles? no

Are Closets Properly Screened from Flies? no

Are Closets Secluded from Observation? no

REMARKS: Closets require rearranging

Sec.-Treas. of School Board J. R. Robertson

Address R.R. #1 Hanna

Date Nov 7-22

E. Stevens
Nurse

A typical report by a Public Health Nurse

We would examine the school children. Then later as a "follow up", minor surgery such as removing tonsils or adenoids, or dental work was performed in the school room. I remember with awe, helping the doctor remove tonsils or perform minor surgery with our limited supplies at hand. Afterward the child patient would be laid on a makeshift bed, lovingly prepared by the parents present, to recuperate. Later in the evening the child would [illegible] taken home by team and buggy, or sled, to be cared for by mother. To my knowledge there were never any serious complications — something parents today will find hard to believe.

"I have many memories of my days at the hospital; one mother instructing me regarding the special laundering care of her boy's (a patient) home knit, long woollen underwear; one father who would bring his children in for hospital care, with various accompanying colorful (?) oaths.

"I remember the special gold pieces the staff members received every Christmas, accompanied with a note of appreciation [illegible] us, a special thank you from the Hospital Board.

"Another fond memory concerns the Board meetings. The members who often had to drive over nearly impossible snow or mud-bound roads, or in blizzard conditions, rarely missed a meeting. Mr. J. McDonald Taylor and Mr. J. Corry were two of these stalwarts, who with the other board members would discuss and thrash over the ever present problem of financing in those depression years. Often the hour of dismissal was in the "wee small hours" of the second day. To allay some of these troubles and help soften their anxieties, thus helping them "get on with the job", I would hastily prepare bacon, eggs and coffee as a break period for them. It was not unusual in those hard years for staff members to have to wait for their pay until two or three months had passed, and funds for financing could be obtained.

"Whenever news of the Hanna district arrives at my door, courtesy of friends, fond memories return. Often I have deep longings to meet some of these old friends, the pioneers and others, to refurbish memories as we knew each other in those good old days."

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent to the school boards in 1930: "The Clinic comes to the district fully equipped for the work to be undertaken. Those responsible are notified of the date; parents may bring any children they wish to the Clinic, including pre-schoolers.

"To help meet the cost of the service, the charges are as follows: Removal of tonsils and adenoids $15.00, (Other minor surgery in proportion). Dental Services: Extractions 50¢ to $1.00, Fillings $1.00 to $2.00. Vaccinations against Smallpox, free of charge."

Some of the first dentists in Hanna were Dr. Sandercock, Dr. W. Honey and Dr. Scott. In this field there weren't very many home practitioners. Carl Welch had a pair of dental pliers and did extractions. The tooth-ache had to be unbearable to have [illegible] pulled without any freezing or anesthetic. Carl was also a handy man in other areas. He made a lot of caskets, and even prepared the bodies for interment, especially within the large Welch family.

Care of the elderly, mental patients, and the disabled, was swept under the rug as much as possible. [illegible] was considered shameful to have a member of the family mentally disturbed and they were kept hidden most of the time. The same went for the older members of the family when they became senile

It would be utterly impossible for any of us to imagine what it would be like to live under the conditions that our pioneers did. Still they accepted things as they were, without much question. Perhaps it was the staunch faith most of them had, and the belief that whatever happened was what the Almighty had decreed for

them, be it injury, sickness or death. There was a peace of mind prevailed that we have lost in the struggle to make things easier and more secure for ourselves. We have almost instant communication, modern hospitals, wonder drugs that we rely heavily upon. They had each other.

CHAPTER IX

COAL

Indians, no doubt, discovered coal in the area and used it to fire their pottery cooking vessels. Perhaps they used the black "stones" around their campfires and found they would burn and give off more heat than buffalo dung, their only other source of fuel on these treeless plains.

In 1858, when Captain John Palliser noticed a coal seam burning along the cut banks of the Red Deer River, he asked the Indians how long it had been burning. They replied, "As long as we can remember." Cut banks, in what we call the bad lands, could be the remains of burned out coal beds from long ago.

Men seeking homesteads rode through the area, now known as Garden Plain, as early as 1905 and saw out-croppings of coal along the banks of Berry Creek, noted [illegible] location and returned to dig their winter fuel supply — a welcome change from buffalo chips: John Grove says, "I dug and hauled my first load of coal from Garden Plain in the summer of 1907. No mine was in operation then as no settlers were there, not even a sod shack could be seen."

In 1909 a mine was opened on 1-34-14 and was operated by Thomas A. Kane, assisted by Martin Siverson. This soft lignite coal had much moisture and little carbon but was a most welcome winter fuel. Two other mines were opened, one on 6-34-13 by Donald Cattanach and the other on 18-33-13 by Thomas McCafferty.

At the mine on Bert Kirkeby's homestead on 3-33-16 in 1914 Austin Ludlow recalls: "With the help of Bert's brothers Gilbert and Alfred, a shaft was sunk straight down and a bucket arrangement brought up the coal. Later a grade and tunnel were dug, and first a horse and quarter-ton cars and then a horse-powered winch and half-ton cars pulled the coal to the surface, where it was loaded by hand onto wagons which lined up from daylight to dark.

"A mud seam divided the top three feet of coal from the bottom foot. This mud was dug out with a pick, the top coal knocked down and then the bottom coal dug out.

"Trevor and Bill Wiles and then John Keehn took over the mine, followed by Hjlmar Holgren, Alfie Donald and in 1920, by Louis Anderson and Scotty Edwards.

"In 1928 Berk Kirkeby opened a new mine on Fred Borell's homestead on the southwest quarter of 3-33-16. He used a steam engine to hoist coal up from his mine, where tunnels were so low miners could not stand upright but had to pick coal from a kneeling position. This was most uncomfortable as the mine was always wet. This mine was soon closed down because it could not meet government safety regulations.

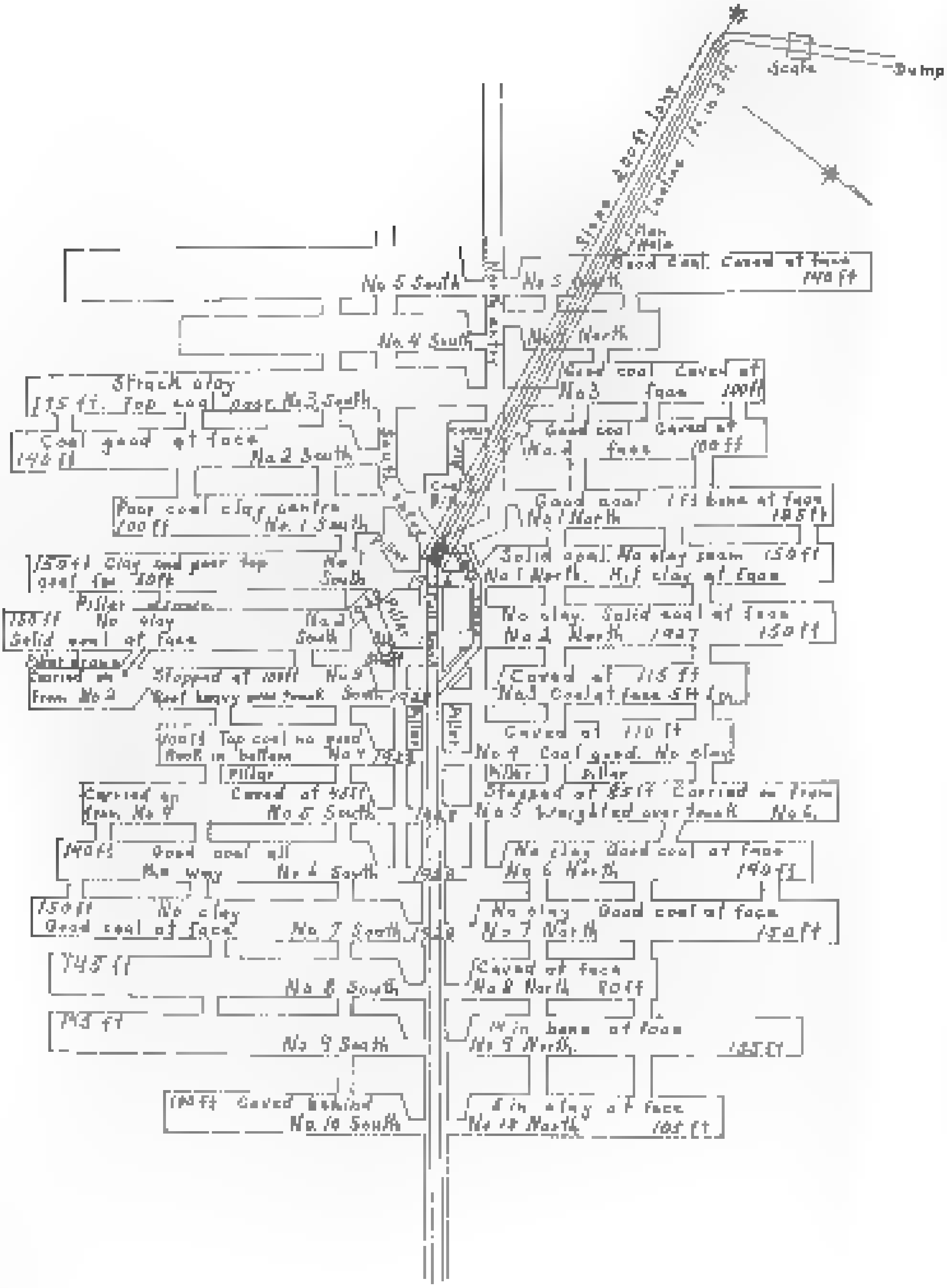
"In 1934 Bert opened a strip mine, where George Grosse drove twelve horses on a road grader to strip twenty-seven feet of dirt from a five-foot coal seam.

"Some other miners were Fred Gelde, Clyde Wooden, Bert Ludlow, Ed and Fred Rogers, Tom Samson, Conrad Hansen, Mack Sobolewski, Emil Kammerle, Clyde Coons, Louis and Martin Johnson, Melvin Kirkeby, Hicks Cole, Jim Clancy, Paul Wesdel and Elmer Holgren."

A strip mine on 29-33-13 was opened by Jo Zehner who sold to Bill Glover, who in turn sold to Clarence and Louis Defoe, who operated the mine until 1926.

MINE No. 1236 GARDEN PLAIN

Location: L.S. [illegible] 25-33-14 W4
Operated by R. J. Unsworth, and Owned
Strata Horizontal
Thickness of cover 70 ft.
Thickness of seam 4 ft. 6 in.


Scale
Dump
Slope 260 ft long
Incline 1 ft in 3 ft
Man Hole
Good coal. Caved at face 140 ft
No 5 South
No 5 North
No 4 South
No 4 North
Good coal Caved at face 140 ft No 3
Struck clay
115 ft. Top coal poor No 3 South
Good coal Caved at face 100 ft No 2
Coal good at face 145 ft No 2 South
Good coal 1 ft bone at face 185 ft No 1 North
Poor coal clay centre 200 ft No 1 South
Solid coal. No clay seam 150 ft No 1 North. Hif clay at face
150 ft Clay and poor top coal for 50 ft
No 1 South
Pillar
No clay. Solid coal at face No 2 North 1927 150 ft
150 ft No clay Solid coal at face
No 2 South
Pillar drawn
Carried on from No 2
Stopped at 100 ft Roof heavy over track
No 3 South 1928
Caved at 115 ft No 3 Coal at face 5 ft 6 in.
100 ft Top coal no good Rock in bottom No 4 1928
Pillar
Caved at 110 ft No 4 Coal good. No clay
Pillar
Pillar
Carried on from No 4
Caved at 50 ft No 5 South
Stopped at 85 ft Carried on from No 5 Weighted over track No 6.
1929
140 ft Good coal all the way No 6 South
1929
No clay Good coal at face No 6 North 190 ft
150 ft No clay Good coal at face
No 7 South 1930
No clay Good coal at face No 7 North 150 ft
145 ft
No 8 South
Caved at face No 8 North 80 ft
145 ft
No 9 South
14 in bone at face No 9 North 155 ft
140 ft Caved behind No 10 South
6 in clay at face No 10 North 165 ft

As this coal didn't slack easily it was stock piled in summer for sale later in the fall and winter. The dirt and sand stone was removed with a fresno pulled by four horses. They would drill a hole in the coal with a coal auger about an inch in diameter and put in a charge of black powder with a fuse on it, light the fuse and get back out of the way. The coal chunks were then loaded into the wagons by hand.

One late fall when there had been no snow, a blizzard blew up suddenly and caught men with loaded wagons at the mine. They had to stay in the bunk house for three days, then unload their coal and return home with empty wagons and difficult wheeling, to come back later with sleighs.

Before the Dafoe Brothers sold [illegible] Charlie Brown, who had a mine near by, they stripped dirt from five hundred tons of coal which are still there, covered with mud and water, as the seam is lower than the Berry Creek bed.

Some workers in the Dafoe mine were: Harry Lumsden, Charlie Overton, Ralph Cleary, Fred and George Whaley, Ed Cleary, Ed Loveday and Murl Wright.

Another operator of a mine in that area was Russel Hemstock.

Frances Unsworth tells of the coal mining experiences of her husband Bob.

"While trying to locate a water well, he struck a seam of coal and in 1925 he and a hired man worked all winter sinking a slope down to it. He started putting out coal and worked for over fifteen years in his own mine.

"He was unlucky enough to meet with an accident and got his back broken. After eight weeks in a Hanna Hospital bed he surprised his physician, Dr. Baxendale, by getting up and walking.

"After that he leased the mine out and was an overseer.

"Many a car of coal I hauled to the top with a team of horses, and weighed it and pushed it out to the tipple [illegible] dump it into the farmer's wagon.

"If you ever were caught in the dark you should try walking in a mine and have your light go out. Black is black and dark is dark, but [illegible] really gives one a funny feeling to try and grope one's way out long entries to get to daylight. I have helped load cars, helped drill holes [illegible] the face for shots, made paper dummies for tamping shots, and pushed a car of coal out while Bob was lighting the fuse. Believe me, that is when you feel your strength, as I was [illegible] scared I'd be on the run before I'd gone far.

"Other mines opened up around us and began cutting coal prices with the result that no one made a living. Coal was sold at first for $3.00 per ton, then $2.50 and then $2.00. The miners were paid $1.50 a ton to dig it, so that left only fifty cents a ton for timbers, fuse, powder, tracks and tools and hauling to the top. The mines began to close down and the owners moved away. We also had to close down.

"Men from the mines department still come and check over our mine, perhaps with a view to reopening [illegible] in this time of energy crises."

Henry Finkbiner in 1927 opened a mine just north of Unsworths where they mined a seam about fifty feet underground. With a two ton truck they hauled coal to Hanna and to country schools. A royalty of ten cents a ton was paid [illegible] the government. In the depression years, coal was traded for cattle, grain or whatever they had. The mine closed in 1936. All that remains is a small mound of dirt.

Alfred Pahl tells us: "In 1930 seven farmers in the Solon area worked together to strip a small area of coal bed so they could have coal for their own use. Digging down about four feet resulted in some flooding so each morning the water was pumped by jacking up a model T Ford and running the pump off the back wheel. [illegible] 1931 my father, Fred Pahl, applied to the provincial government and was granted the right to legally operate a coal mine. In the hard years of 1933 to 1936

the government issued vouchers to residents of the area which they could use to buy coal. The mine owners sent the vouchers to Edmonton and a cheque was received back. People came for coal from as far as the Saskatchewan border with horses and wagons or sleighs. In the war years it was difficult to obtain powder and dynamite. When times improved heavier equipment was used and up to 3,000 tons were stripped each year. When gas was installed in Hanna and farmers switched to stokers, which required crushed coal, Fred Pahl and sons Alfred and Otto closed their mine in 1952."

In the Glenbow Institute in Calgary the following information was found.

Mine Number	Operated By	Year	Address	Location
375	T. A. Kane	1912	Garden Plain	1-34-14
398	Baxter & Camp	1913	Fertility	16-33-13
398	Tom McCafferty	1914	Fertility	16-33-13
466	Charlie Brown	1915	Hanna	29-32-13
467	Fred Giede	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
468	Zehner & Unsworth	1915	Garden Plain	6-33-13
490	Ken Bryanton	1915	Garden Plain	16-33-13
492	Don Cattanach	1915	Garden Plain	6-34-13
496	Bert A. Kirkeby	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
646	Harry Trentham	1916	Garden Plain	1-34-14

Hanna's First Coal Shipment was [illegible] 1912

Hanna Herald: January 2, 1913 — "As Hanna is situated [illegible] the centre of one of the best coal districts in Alberta it is a surety that in a very short time this will be one of the most important coal shipping points. The first shipment of coal from this town went out last week by C. [illegible]. R. consigned [illegible] Alsask.

The car contained thirty tons of high grade lignite coal from the Brown mine north of here and Mr. Brown, proprietor of this mine, has the honor of being the first man to ship coal out of this district by rail."

Early miners were fortunate in having an experienced English coal miner in the area. He was Robert Unsworth Sr. Whenever they had a problem he was there with willing help.

When Walter Mansfield was trapped under a frozen overhang which collapsed on him at the Brown mine, the first thought was to send for Mr. Unsworth, but his help came too late and young Walter Mansfield lost his life.

A coal mine was started by Clyde Wooden the summer of 1914 on land owned by Nick Lund on the NW¼ of 18-33-15.

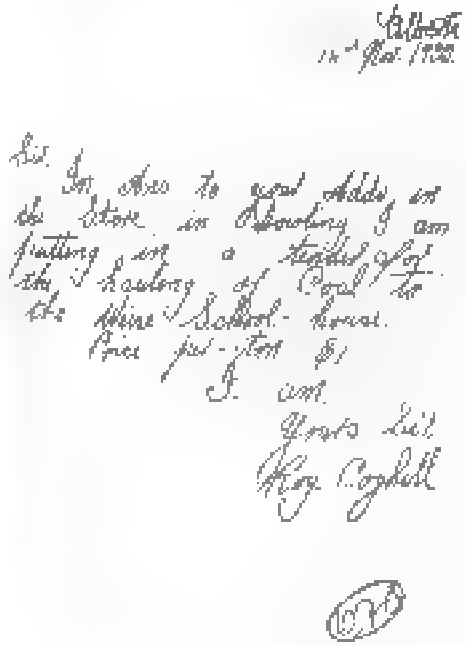
Attention was first drawn [illegible] this spot by the appearance of coal in a small spring at this site.

The entrance was at the foot of a steep high bank on the south east side of a seventeen acre slough where a tunnel was dug about 350 feet to a room where several tunnels branched out [illegible] search of a thicker seam of good coal. There were approximately fourteen inches [illegible] good coal with a thicker seam of poor coal on top. Coal was pushed out by hand in small low cars on rails. Among others who worked in this mine were Harold Lund and Gene Flanders. [illegible] operated during the winter of 1914-15, but was abandoned in the summer of 1915.

1910 Tom Kane's Garden Plain Mine. Note the poles holding up the frozen coulee bank as coal is loaded into the sleigh box.

1939 — George Unsworth and Rudy Hoover at new slope of Three Star Mine. Children are Gordon and Albert Unsworth.

1940 — George Unsworth and first car of coal out of new slope at Bob Unsworths' Three Star Mine.



Alberta
14th Nov. 1932.

Sir.
In ans. to your Adds. on the Store in Dowling I am putting in a tender for the hauling of Coal to the Mine School-house.
Price per ton $1
I am
Yours Sir.
Roy Coghill

1932 — Letter of Tender.

CHAPTER X

SPORTS

By W. L. Storch

The pioneers had [illegible] make their own entertainment; and would drive for miles to attend a stampede, a ball game or other sports event. They were family affairs with something for every age group.

The first U.F.A. picnic in the area was [illegible] Buchan School in 1912. The next year it was held at Corinne and when Garden Plain Hall was built in 1914, picnics were held there where they had baseball, football, horse races and every other kind of races and even bucking horses without benefit of chutes or corrals. Just good pick up horses to rescue the contestants.

This is Charlie Seefeldt's story of the 1914 picnic. "I am going back to some of the things that happened around Hanna in the early days. I can remember of an incident in which I was involved.

"When the Railroad came through this district in 1912, things began to bloom as the saying goes. New towns sprang up all around us and the same could be said for the districts away from the railroad.

"In the summer of 1914, the district known as Garden Plain came to life. Word got around that they were going to have [illegible] big picnic, baseball, football, and a big dance. It was to be their first big picnic. They sent word to Hanna to have somebody bring out a ball team. Hanna's best ball team, of which I was a member, were playing at Big Valley for a purse of $500.00 so the manager asked me if I would pick up a team to go to Garden Plain. This certainly sounded like a big deal to me. I got word around that I was going to take a baseball team [illegible] Garden Plain for a big celebration.

"Now in order to get to the picnic, we had to find someone to take us, so we got in touch with a fellow by the name of Bill Vowel. Bill came in with a four horse outfit on a hayrack equipped with a few wooden boxes to sit on. About twenty-six or twenty-seven people got aboard. This was an overload to start with. The result was some of his horses played out and he had to go to some farmer to borrow two horses to get us to Garden Plain. A number of us walked and got there ahead of Bill.

"We got [illegible] sandwich and immediately started to play baseball. We won the baseball game quite easily, so later [illegible] the afternoon we were asked if we would like to play a game of football. We started [illegible] play. I got the ball and ran the hundred and ten yards, the length of the grounds and demanded a touchdown or six points. I was overruled and was told [illegible] no uncertain manner that the game would be played the same as it was in Europe. At the end of the first half the score was 37 to 0 against us. So while we were resting a team of horses got loose and in no time [illegible] all a lot of other horses broke loose. A number of buggies were upset and three or four horses started north-east as fast as they could go. Some of these horses ran all the way home, some sixteen miles distance to the north-east of Garden Plain. So by the time things quieted down, darkness had set [illegible] and they called it quits and we were durn well pleased because we did not want any more of that kind of football."

Margaret Welch Foss gives a child's impression of her first Garden Plain Picnic.

"The very first annual First of July picnic and celebration at the site of the Garden Plain Hall that I attended was one of the big events in my life. This was due mainly to the fact that the Big Band from Castor was in attendance and playing a March as we arrived. As we were approaching the main gathering, with me holding hands with my parents, I couldn't walk because the music went straight to my feet and I danced every step I took that day. No one will ever realize how full that band music made my day and being outdoors made the music even more beautiful. I couldn't really guess as to the actual size of the band, but to me it was huge. I guess it really was to a four year old. Those picnics were always filled with fun and good fellowship. They usually had a baseball game or two, all kinds of foot races for all ages from toddlers to the oldest adults, including sack races, three legged races, relays with potatoes on a spoon and every other type devised by man. Of course, they had a food booth with popcorn, peanuts, ice cream and other food items. Later in the day everyone pooled their picnic lunch they had brought, put it on a tablecloth spread out on the grass. No one could ever forget the delicious fried chicken, potato salad, pies and cakes to eat and enjoy, and to return to for added snacks later on. The day wound up with a dance in which children of all ages took part. The children didn't just dance with each other but rather with the kind adults who were so willing to teach us all kinds of dances. No wonder so many grew up to be extremely good dancers."

Clear Lake was the centre for a unique kind of picnic, which included water sports. Mrs. George Grosse tells the story of that area:

"The Clear Lake Community Club was formed in the early twenties, everyone working together. They had a real picnic, an annual affair; people from far and near were there. To start with everyone brought their lunch and a huge picnic supper enjoyed by all. There was every kind of dish you could think of and then to end up with, home-made ice cream for everyone. Yum was that good! Mr. Banner was a real swimmer and he gave lessons to most of the young ones, so we had some real good swimmers in the community.

"There were swimming races, a greased pig, horse races, fast and slow. In the slow event, anyone could get on an old horse, which there were lots of there, and try to come in last in this race. There were bucking events with no pick ups, no corrals, and some very good local talent, I can tell you; foot races for young and old, fat man's race, tug of war, three legged races and jumping contests, boxing matches, baseball and football. These were, of course all local people entering which made it more interesting, so different from this day and age. There might be a prize of anywhere from twenty-five cents to one dollar and chocolate bars for the kiddies. After this day came to a close, everyone travelled by horses east to Lee Doyle's or Jim McGuire's barn to a dance, which was packed. The music was supplied by Art Wales, Mrs. Benson and I think Miss Raisbeck from Hanna. We also had a local orchestra from the west at times which was very good consisting of Buckley Limpert, Charles and Frank Applegate, Herb Burrows, Roye Dechenne, Russ Bradford, Netta Limpert and Bill Limpert. It was one of the best, all played by ear.

"Everyone seemed to get behind this project, and there was a booth built out in the open with trees over the top, where ice cream, pop and lemonade was sold for five cents.

"As the years went by, in 1927 there was enough money raised to build a dance hall and two dressing rooms for the swimmers so again everyone pitched in. George Grosse and Elvin Churchill hauled all the lumber from Hanna with two four-horse outfits 10,000 feet of it, and I don't know how many shingles, so up went the hall. The Banners, Doyles, Lunds, Schultzs, Weiss, Bob Holloway, Fred Trottier, Hicks Cole and numerous others around all helped. Then for a short while they had a dance each week, which was well supported, and every Sunday ball games and a booth on the grounds.

"For the annual picnic then, up went the prices to fifty cents each. Mr. McCrea of the Hanna Herald did the advertising and printed real tickets and he was a great help; he just charged barely the cost, which was very much appreciated. Hanna was a great supporter of the club at [illegible] times.

"As years went on the hall was [illegible] paid for, and then in the hungry thirties the Lake went dry, the trees which had been planted died, and that was the end of all the good times there. The hall was finally auctioned off and sold to Carl Schultz, I think around 1939. The money was divided I believe between Craigmyle, Endiang and Hanna, all supporters of the project."

One resident of the Hanna North region entered a professional sport. Here is his story.

MY WRESTLING CAREER

By David Ruhl

In the winter season of 1946-47, I worked out [illegible] the north-east Calgary Y.M.C.A. wrestling with many light heavy and heavy weight wrestlers including Hubert Pelzer and Bob Kitchen before having my first match as a professional, in Acme, Alberta. I did farming in the summer months and wrestled in the winter, living on the farm until I started professional wrestling, this was in 1951 when I moved to Calgary turning [illegible] full time wrestling.

In 1955 I defeated Al (Mr. Murder) Mills for the Canadian Heavyweight Championship. In the years that followed I wrestled across the U.S.A. from San Francisco to New York City, and in Alaska. I have also wrestled all across Canada.

I wrestled for the World's Championship six times; these were with Lou Thesz once with whom I drew after 58 minutes, a one hour draw with Gene Kiniski, and four one hour draws with Dory Funk Jr. I won the Pacific Southwest Title from Abe Kashey in Phoenix, Arizona [illegible] 1959 and the North American Title from Abdulah the Butcher in 1970. I wrestled in Japan and Korea.

I retired with the Canadian Championship upon returning from my second trip to Japan in 1973.

I was married to Martha Miller in 1940. We lived on the west ½ 22-33-15. Martha and I have two children; a daughter, Diana Lynn, born in Hanna in 1945 and a son, Glenn David, born in Calgary in 1953. We make our home at 5848 Thorncliff Drive, Calgary, Alberta.

EXCERPTS FROM THE HANNA HERALD

Garden Plain — January 1923: The Rabbit Hunter's dance is reported to have been one [illegible] the most successful affairs of the season.

Chain Lake — February 8, 1923: We understand from reliable sources that the grounds at Clear Lake have been secured by the community for picnic or sports grounds for the nominal rental of $1.00 per annum. This was first taken up by the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local and afterwards it was found necessary to find a body acceptable to the government by the Municipality.

Greystone — December 11, 1914: A masquerade given by the young people of the district took place in Garden Plain School. They danced until 11 o'clock, had costume judging, then danced some more and had a big supper; it was said the bachelors shouldn't have to cook for a week. Dancing continued until 6:30 A.M. W. E. Rickel served breakfast. The dance went on until sun-up. Music was supplied by Mrs. Huskins and E. Himmelrich.

Greystone — May 27, 1915: A dance will be given in the Wiese School on Friday, June 11 under the auspices of the Greystone Football Club. Ladies are asked to bring refreshments. The proceeds will be given to the boys. All are welcome to attend.

July 4, 1915: At the July first picnic at Garden Plain the Greystone and

Garden Plain Football teams could not reach a winning point. The score was a 1 - 1 tie.

July 15, 1915: A football game will be played at Wiese School grounds on Friday evening at 6:30 between Greystone and Garden Plain. A dance will follow.

SPORTS IN SCAPA

By Earl Burt

Scapa was able to field a good baseball team until the late forties when baseball slowly died from a disease of fast cars and T.V.

Crow Hill junior team became the nucleus of Scapa seniors. The first game played was in 1926 with Scapa against Endiang with the score of 2 - 0 in favor of the latter. At Sports Days at places like Castor, Coronation and Hanna, Scapa came away with top money. In 1933 they were in a league with Hanna, Craigmyle and Delia. Scapa was coached by Harvey Burt and the team was a real power house, losing only two games all season. The Hanna Herald says: "At the Clear Lake Sport's Day the pitching of Stan and Wes James was too much for Harvey Burts' heavy hitters."

One Scapa boy said he could pitch well because he had strong muscles in his wrist from milking ten or fifteen cows by hand twice a day.

Another league was formed with Hackett, Byemoor and Endiang in the late thirties and into the forties with a new generation and a few old pros. One game this club lost which will never be forgotten was played in Coronation on July first 1940. Jim Boehlke was behind the bat, Reinhardt Welch on the mound with seventeen strikeouts to his credit and we lost 1 to 2.

When one thinks back to all the boys who played just for the fun of it; supplied their own uniforms; rode in the back of a two ton truck, rain or shine, for the love of the game and the club they represented; we wonder if they might have become super-stars if they had the opportunities that are here today.

It would be impossible to name all the boys but we should give credit to the coaches: Harvey Burt, Jack Temple, Charlie Lohrmann, Eddy Graham, Fred Slemp and Bud Hanson.

The Burt family presented a trophy to the No. 9 league in honour of their dad, Harvey Burt, who was widely known for his baseball knowledge.

In the early thirties, Scapa also had a men's softball team in the Byemoor league under the eagle eye of Eddy Graham.

Girls basketball was started in 1926 and lasted three or four years. Mac Slemp was their coach, Harvey Burt made the back boards and hoops, and the court was south of the hall where the Catholic Church now stands. Games were played with Fleet and Corinne.

The sport of Hockey was not too important in this area in the twenties and early thirties, broom ball played on sloughs was more popular, with an occasional game being played between Scapa and Garden Plain.

In the late thirties the Hein boys started a rink in their yard where Eddy Graham taught the basics of hockey having played with some of the best hockey men in Canada in his younger days.

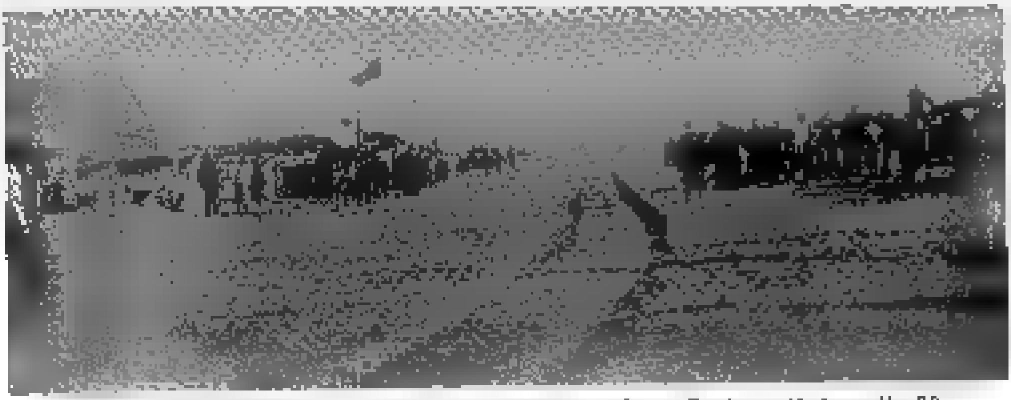
In the early forties a rink was built north of Scapa beside the east section site where water was brought in by the C. N. R. to start the base of the rink. After the base was formed water was then pumped from a well to flood the ice. A four foot wall on the sides and an eight foot wall on each end made this a fine out-door rink with blue lines and good goals.

One of the big problems was trying to keep the snow off the ice when it blew in to a depth of five feet and had to be shovelled off by hand.

In the early fifties with players from Endiang, Dowling, Garden Plain and the surrounding area Scapa entered a team [illegible] the highway number [illegible] league which consisted of teams from Delia, Hand Hills and two teams from Hanna. During these games in Hanna the arena would be packed mostly with country people.

Interest in hockey in this area [illegible] growing; Scapa is once again forming a team with help from Dowling, Garden Plain and Endiang. As yet it is a fun thing but who knows what may develop as time goes on.

SPORTS

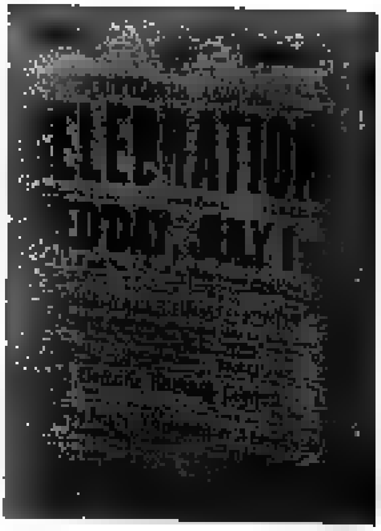


1918 — First of July picnic at Garden Plain. Horse race on Castor Trail, now Highway No. 36.

Letting the duck out of the box at Clear Lake picnic. You had to walk a greased pole to release the duck.

1911 — A Sunday ball game at Garden Plain complete with uniforms.

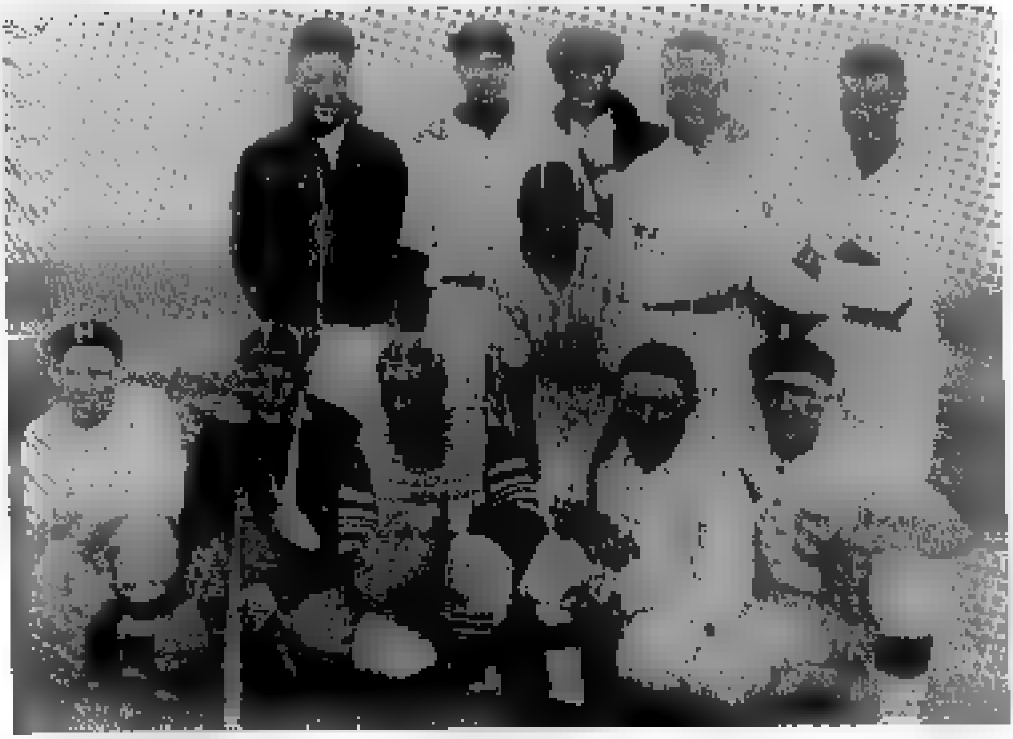
Dave Ruhl. Canadian Champion Wrestler 1955 until retirement in 1973. Pacific Southwest champion 1959 - 1961.



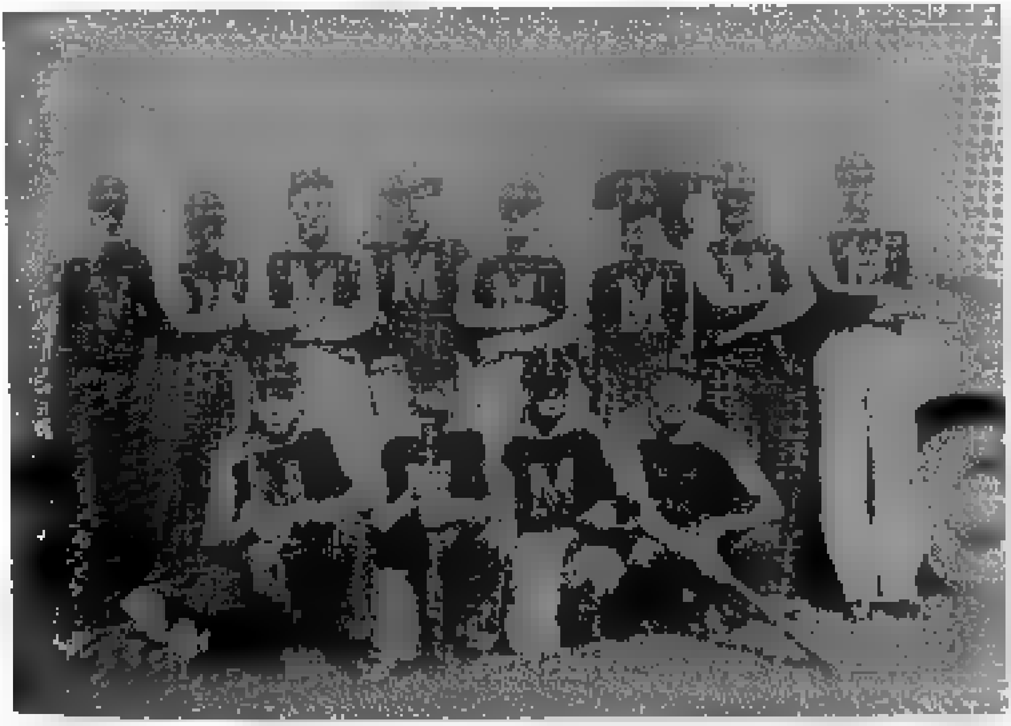
A poster from the collection of Ben Zeamer.

Clear Lake Picnic. Left to right: Agnes Burt, Luena Baxter, Nina Wiese, Edna Johnson, Lucy Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Bert Smith, Harry Wiese.

1950 — Winter fun on the farm. A sleigh riding party with skis and sleds pulled behind the horse-drawn sleigh.



1939 — Scapa Baseball Team. Back Row, left to right: Reinhardt Welch, Earl Burt, Eddie Graham (manager), Albert Storch, Fred Stamp. Centre: Bill Riddle. Front Row: Walter Jensen, Bud Hanson, Liddie Newman, Bill Storch, Rudy Hein.



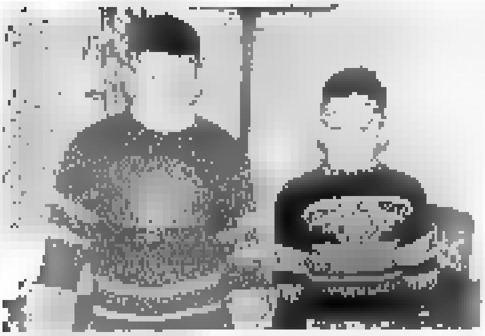
1949-1953 — Meadowlands Softball Team. Back Row: Cliff Kern, Bill Mackenzie, Wes James, Walter Kern, Ross Smyth, Al Sinclair, Leonard Smith, Jack Schmidt. Front Row: Albert Kern, Lawrence Wells, Ross McGuire and Stan James.

1925 — Corinne Basketball Team, Coached by Jim Meyne. Back: Alberta Kennedy, Lenora McCafferty, Violet Williams, Jane Wallace. Front: Helen Kennedy, Gladys Hamilton.

1971 — Scapa - Garden Plain Choral Group. Back: Glenda Diegel, Mrs. Bill Diegel, Mrs. Tom Pattinson, Mrs. Gus Mattheis, Mrs. Walter Viste, Mrs. Dan Welch, Mrs. Fred Hill, Mrs. Carl Smith, Mrs. Arnold Fecho. Front: Tom Pattison, Gus Mattheis, Fred Hill, Art Mattheis, Wm. Storch, Reinhardt Welch. Missing from the picture is Mrs. Cyril Unsworth (director).

Garden Plain goose hunters. Harold Strandberg, Albert Storch and son Kenneth, Clifford Corey, Wm. Storch Jr., Jo Ferguson (grain buyer), Eric Strandberg.

1927 — Jack Temple, Scapa baseball pitcher.



1957 — Scapa Hockey Boys. Pat Burns and Allan Harvey.

CHAPTER XI

THE WAY IT WAS

LIGHTING SYSTEMS

By Bob Rehill

Sometimes when the power goes off and it is necessary to resort to a coal [illegible] lamp, one wonders how the pioneers used to be able to read or sew by their light.

I can remember my parents using the old coal oil lamps. They had to polish the glass chimneys, fill them with oil and trim the wicks. Occasionally they would get a bad batch of kerosene, and the lamps would smoke, yet they sat around the table, with the lamp in the middle of it, and read or played cards, and it seemed that they could hardly see each other.

Next came the Aladdin lamp, which was a big improvement as it gave a much brighter light. It had one disadvantage; when the room got warm the flame had a tendency to smoke and blacken the chimney.

Gas lamps were the next. Air was pumped into the tank which held the fuel, and under pressure produced a brilliant white light. They gave off a hissing sound, and the mantles were very delicate. A moth flying against them could make a hole from which a flame would shoot out.

The first electricity [illegible] farm homes came from wind-powered generators. Some men connected the generator from an old car to a windmill, and obtained six-volt power. Later six- and thirty-two volt generators powered by wind or motors could be bought. The electricity from these plants was sufficient only for lights and small appliances. Complete modernization of farms was possible only after power lines were installed throughout the country.

In the early years, only a few dim lights would be visible at night. Today, blue or yellow yard lights mark the location of many farm homes.

THE DAYS OF THE BALING WIRE

When the first hay balers were invented there was no such thing as an automatic trip to make different sized bales. They were hand-fed from [illegible]acks; the baler pressed the hay into the chamber and the operator would drop a heavy board into the chamber [illegible] divide the bales into the desired lengths. The bales were tied by hand. The operator would push two wires through at one end, bring them to the other end, circle the bale and twist the ends of the wire together.

When the bales were fed, the farmer accumulated a lot [illegible] wire . . . the handiest repair item a farmer had. For in those days money was scarce, repairs were hard to get and it was a long slow trip to town. So when a farmer went into the field, he always had a supply of wire tied to the outfit and a pair [illegible] pliers in his pocket.

Makeshift repairs made in this way before farmers were able to have electric welders gave birth to the expression, 'a hay-wire outfit.'

BEEF RINGS

Fresh meat for the farm, George Wright and Len Hagg.

In the early years it was hard to keep much fresh meat on hand. A small amount could be kept in ice houses or down wells, but when a farmer butchered an animal, the women had to preserve most of the meat. This was done by pickling and curing, canning in jars, or sometimes, in the case of pork, by frying it down and covering it with lard.

In order [illegible] have a constant supply of fresh meat during the summer, the farmers started a meat ring. There would be ten or more members, and every two weeks one of them would contribute an animal to be butchered. One man did all the butchering. The meat would be allowed to hang overnight; the next day the butcher would cut it up and share it among the members in such a way that at the end of the summer, each farmer had received all the roasts, steak, stew, etc. from an entire beef. Members took turns delivering the weekly shares to the members. The ring operated until each member had contributed one animal.

In later years the Grover Butcher Shop started a meat route, and housewives could buy the cuts they wanted right at their doors.

The convenience of modern deepfreezes has put an end to the old time meat rings.

THE RAWLEIGH MAN

No account of the early days would be complete without mention of the Rawleigh man. Bob Johnston was the agent for years; he drove a buggy made into a van, with a big sign on the side. One never knew when he was coming, but everyone looked forward to his visits.

In the early years people didn't get to town very often during the winter, and they would depend on their Rawleigh man for their supplies of cold remedies, stock medicines, and spices. The products were good. Mr. Johnston always carried a supply of Rawleigh's chewing gum for his customers' children. That was a real treat for them as they didn't get pop, chocolate bars, chips and such that the children [illegible] today are accustomed to.

The Rawleigh man always stayed overnight at whatever home he happened to be visiting when darkness fell. In return he would give the lady of the house some of his products.

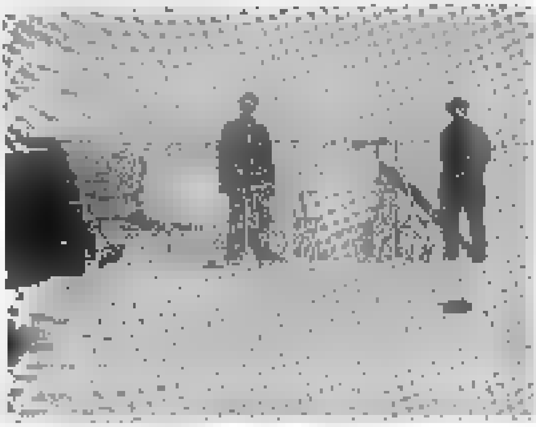
The travelling salesman of that era were not merely peddlers; they were often the only link with the outside world. So an overnight stay would allow the family to catch up on the news of the area and affairs in the world.

Bob Johnson was really missed, and people will always remember the excitement that his visits brought [illegible] their rather drab existence.

PUTTING UP ICE

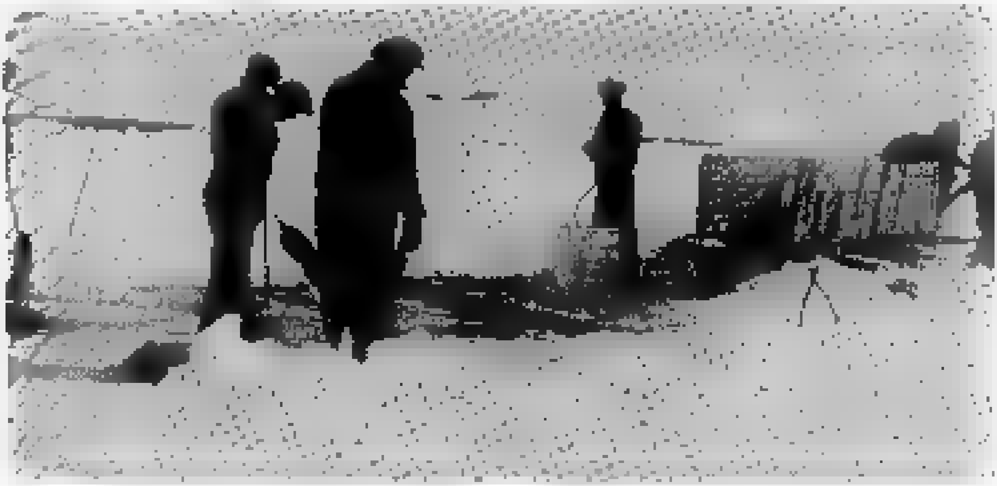
In the days before electricity, the only way [illegible] keep food cool in the summer was to lay in a supply of ice during the winter.

Bill Glover and Ken Williams with their ice tongs and saw, ready to cut a hole [illegible] the ice to saw blocks.

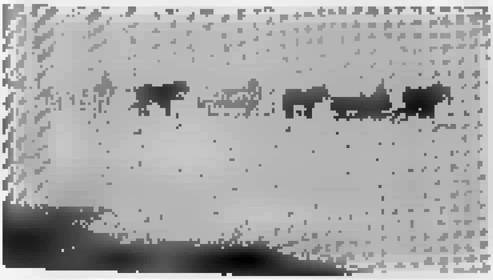


Bill Glover, Ken Williams

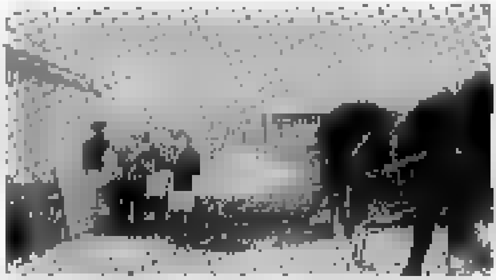
Jack Greenwood, putting up ice.



Putting up ice in 1938 at Pahl's mine. Bill Glover, W. R. Greenwood, Carl Rehill, Dave Temple, Ken Williams.



Putting [illegible] ice 1939. [illegible] Glover, Carl Rehill, Sid Grimes.



Harvesting a load of ice. Lorne, Bill, Edwin and Margaret Wright.

The blocks were hauled onto the ice, loaded into sleigh boxes and taken to the farm, where they were stored [illegible] an ice well, or in a building, well covered with straw for insulation.

If the ice was carefully stored, it would last throughout the following summer.

THE LITTLE HEN OF THE PRAIRIE

By Blanche Johnston

Remember when farm wives tried [illegible] raise chickens for farm use and a little pin money? Sometimes it happened quite by accident, if a hen hid her nest and came out a few weeks later trailing a brood of chicks.

The more methodical housewife took the broody hens from the nests, put them in apple boxes on fifteen or sixteen eggs each, and locked them in some dark building. They were given feed and water and watched carefully. A setting hen turns her eggs, and her body moisture provides the humidity necessary for good hatching. After a week or so the eggs could [illegible] tested for fertility by shaking them or holding them up to a strong light.

If all went well, the little chicks would break their way out of the shell in about three weeks. They were fed hard-boiled eggs, chopped up, until they could eat grain. The hen would take her brood on excursions around the farmyard, becoming very excited when she found a tasty morsel for them. A manure pile was a great place for them to scratch in.

At night the hen would go to shelter and settle down, with the young chicks safely hidden under her. The growing period was not without its dangers. Mortality rate was high if the farm wife did not keep a watchful eye out for hawks, coyotes, badgers, skunks, or even the occasional cat. The watering trough, rain and hailstorms were additional hazards. If the chicks survived, the housewife had done her job well.

Predominate breeds were Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, White Wyandottes, Buff Orpingtons and Dominiques. Today we would call them a general purpose bird. They laid fairly well, and were good meat birds. To reduce inbreeding, neighbors would exchange roosters, a practice which produced some very colorful birds indeed.

In later years incubators became more common, but these involved work too. The temperature had to be kept regulated and the eggs turned by hand and sprinkled with water several times a day. When the chicks hatched, many people who did not have brooder houses kept them penned under the cook stove for a couple of weeks. As they got older, they would be put outside in a pen during the day, and gathered in again in the evening. One couldn't wait too late to gather them up or they would get cold, bunch up and smother.

The care necessary to raise chickens put the housewife and her flock on close terms. Each woman had some ingenious method of calling her chickens for feed or to shut them in. One woman made a pet of a young rooster which she called Johnny. One evening she called him but he did not come. That was when she remembered that he was in the frying pan!

CHAPTER XII

DO YOU REMEMBER?

. . . an Endiang ball game at which the Scapa left fielder was accused of carrying an extra ball in his pocket?

. . . the time that Wes Howery Sr. pitched a nine inning ball game wearing a heavy overcoat?

. . . the time Jack Temple said "Give me a catcher, a first baseman, and this center fielder and we will beat you guys?"

. . . when Eddie Graham studied the rule book every Sunday morning before a ball game?

. . . when the managers of the two local ball teams came to blows on July first at Scapa?

. . . the time Eddie Graham chased Reinhardt Welch from third base to home plate to make the winning run?

. . . when the elastic broke on the bloomers of one of the girls [illegible] a Garden Plain basketball game?

. . . when baseball suits for the Clear Lake ball team were made by the wives of the players [illegible] the home of C. L. Sittlington?

. . . when Charlie Hockel rode a bucking horse at Garden Plain picnic and pulled leather?

. . . when Charlie Johnson Sr. always hauled the brush for the roof of the booth at Clear Lake picnics?

. . . when Johnnie Stewart's wooden leg creaked with every step, as he gave a whole package of Rawleigh's gum to each child?

. . . two trustees who exchanged blows at a school board meeting?

. . . what it felt like when the seat of the two-holer was covered with frost on a January morning?

. . . when a gentleman from Garden Plain made for the door after the store keeper had traded the peppermint jar for a jar of mothballs on his counter. He also would cut the ends off the bananas before [illegible] would allow the store keeper to weigh them?

. . . when Fred Bloxall sang "Slap Dab, Slap Dab," and "When They Broke the Bank of Monte Carlo?"

. . . when Mr. Josley Olsen at sixty-eight years of age in 1924 missed only one trip in eight years, when he drove the mail from Castor to Garden Plain and Fertility?

. . . when Hugh Campbell had a different humorous story to tell at every gathering he attended?

. . . when John Vanderberg, Buchan teacher, was champion checker player of Alberta?

. . . when 2% beer was sold at picnics, some called it "Silver Spray," others had a different name for it.

CHAPTER XIII

CHURCH SERVICES

By Mrs. [illegible] Grove

In the early years church services and Sunday school were held at many points in the country, which gave everyone a chance to attend without having to travel too many miles.

Presbyterian services were held from May, 1910, to 1912 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hannah. The first service was led by Mr. J. T. Warwick, a student appointed to the Copeville Mission Field by the Home Missions Committee. His Text was "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." Genesis 32:26.

Among the many ministers who held services at the country schools were Rev. Tenahill, Rev. McNeil, Rev. Derby, Rev. Hartley, Rev. Gourley, Rev. W. G. Shaw, and students M. D. Oliver, Mr. Walker, Mr. Farquerson, and others.

Church [illegible] Christ services and Sunday School were started in the Garden Plain area in 1913, and held in the homes [illegible] the Livingstone and Unsworth families.

In 1946 Rev. and Mrs. Fred Pahl held summer Bible schools in schoolhouses

around the area, and had a Bible school picnic at the Gaugler farm buildings to complete the summer session.

Margaretta Nelson, who taught Wiese school in the early Thirties, had some Salvation Army training and held church and Sunday school services. After she left the district she went back to Salvation Army work and spent some time as a missionary in Africa.

Netherby Sunday School - 1913. Back Row: Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Miss L. A. MacDonald, Miss M. Fisher, Lizzie Caruthers, Lily Watson, Frances Lewis, Mrs. Corry Sr., Frank Sturgess, Mrs. Tom Waugh, Lewis Sturgess, Tommy Watson, John Waugh, Reg Waugh, Mrs. W. Wright Sr. Front Row: Jim and Herb Taylor, Mary Waugh, Iona Wright, Dolly and Gerty Sturgess.

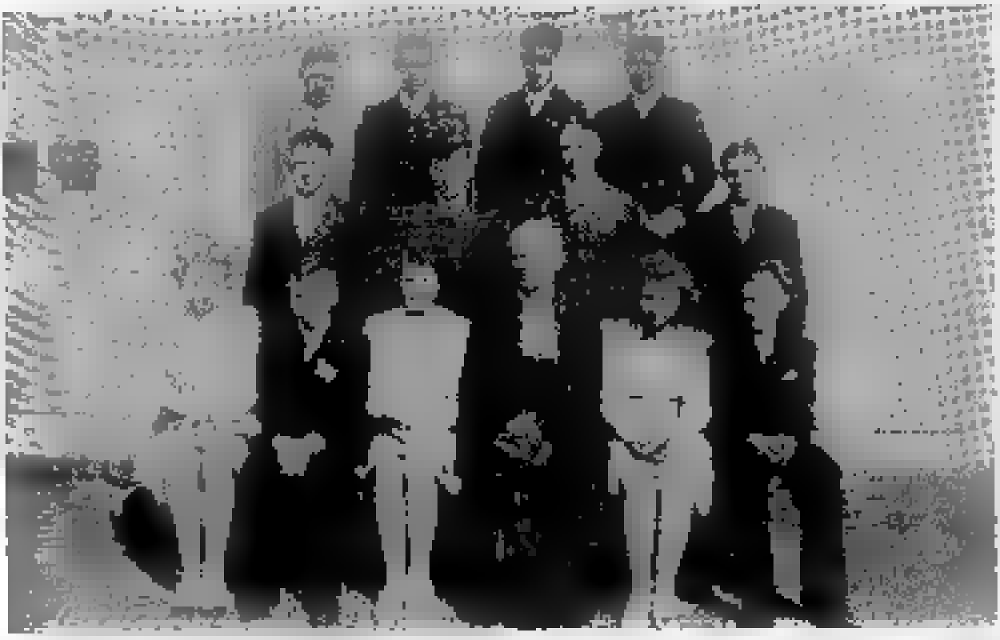
1952 - Sunday School at home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson. Back Row: Inza, Sandra, Gordon, Dennis Mattis. Others: Marilyn and Mabel Ironside, Hope and Fraser Wilson, Rosemary Mattis, Donald, Stephen, Brian Greenway, Miller boys.

Father La Conte and Father O'Halloren of Castor conducted masses at Garden Plain hall and at Corinne School.

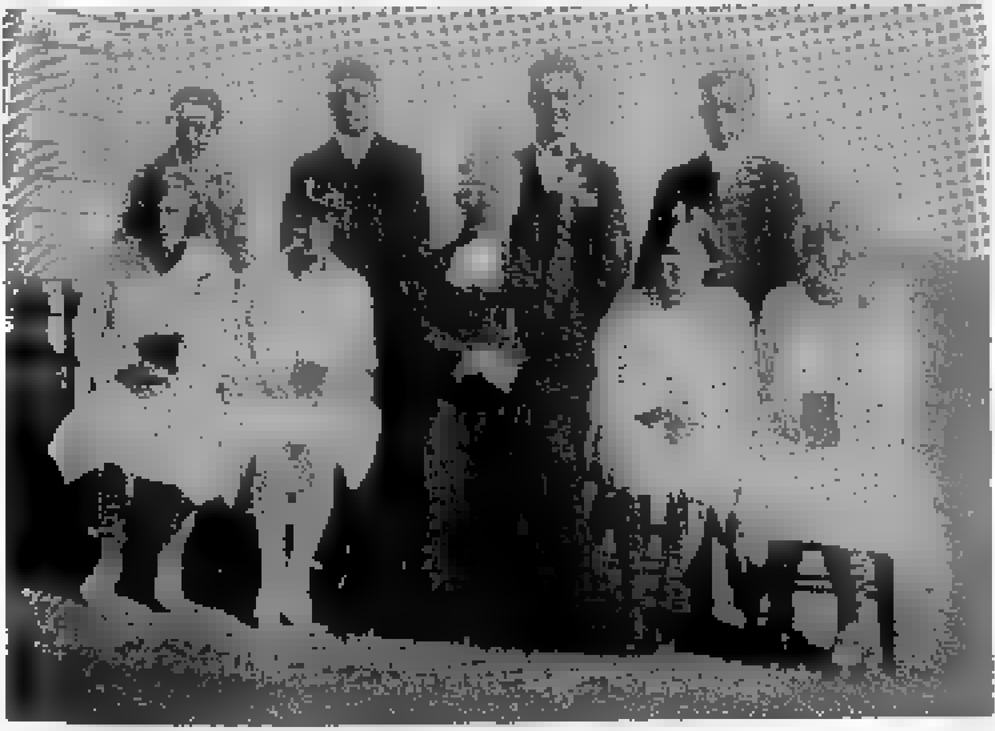
Catholic Church services were held at the Scapa hall by Father Harnett. In the 1940's a small building was moved into the village of Scapa to be used as a church.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church was opened in 1921, south-west of Scapa. Services have been held there since that time, and many former members of the

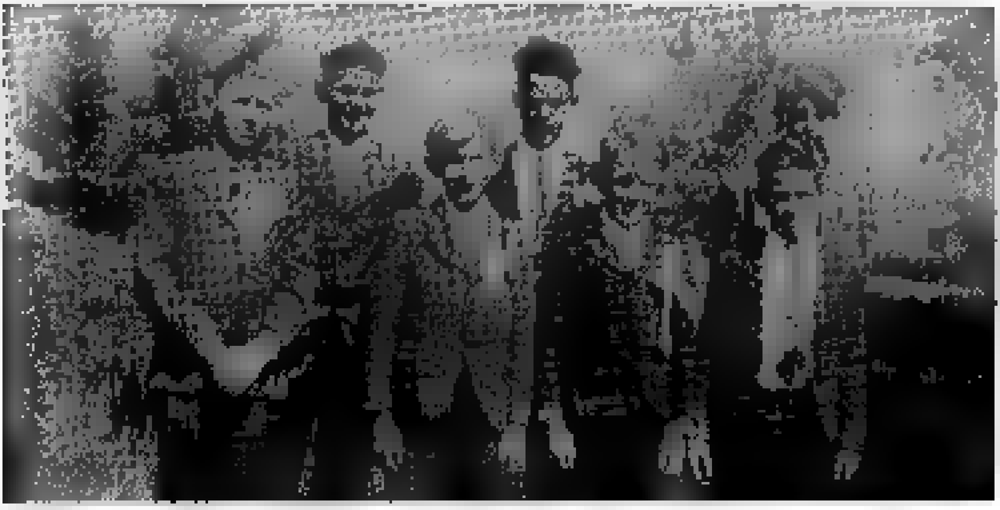
congregation are buried in the little cemetery which adjoins the church. To celebrate their golden jubilee, special anniversary services were held on August 1, 1971, and many oldtimers returned for the occasion. During the picnic in the afternoon many old acquaintances were renewed.



Pastor John Abs and Confirmation Class of November, 1943. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa. The Confirmands. Samuel, Christ and Reinhold Hintz, Nelson Annas, Reinhardt Welch, Ewald Otterstadter, Henry Nill, Archie Degel, Bernard Kading, Art Matthais, Katie Glubrecht, Emma Glubrecht, Pauline Hein.



The Rev. Henry Bietsch and Confirmation Class of 1928. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa. Back Row: Rudy Hein, Gottfried Glubrecht, Herman Schultz, William Storch. Front Row: Elna or Ida Welch, Mary Schultz, Elizabeth Bietsch, Carolina Stulberg.



Confirmation Class, Scapa, Catholic Church. Back Row: Herb Wimmer, Philip Brunner, Leo Wiens, Aloys Brunner. Front Row: Alfred Brunner, Ken Hausher, unknown.

Sunday School Group taken at Solon School - 1924. The visiting minister was Rev. Green.

Netherby School also served as a church, and many Sunday school, church and funeral services were held there. Land adjoining the school grounds was donated for a cemetery in 1911; the first grave was that of William Lewis.

The following account of the history of the Anglican Church in the area was compiled by Mrs. E. Hanlon:

In 1913 Rev. H. E. Scallon left Castor by saddlehorse to survey the area between the CPR line to the north and the CNR to the south, and decided [illegible] build a Mission House at Hartshorn, near the present hamlet of Byemoor. The first buildings were destroyed by a severe hailstorm, were rebuilt and served until 1920, when they burned to the ground during Rev. Scallon's absence. Once again it was rebuilt.

It was from this centre that Rev. Scallon came to conduct services [illegible] the Netherby and Garden Plain areas. Services were held once a month. He also visited the sick, and performed weddings, burials and baptisms. He served this

area for twenty-five years. He often married young people whom he remembered holding in his arms for baptism.

The beautifully carved oak altar that travelled with him for many thousands of miles folded up into the space of a suitcase, and contained all that is necessary for the celebration of sacraments, including silk robes, vases, cross and candlesticks, altar vessels and a portable font. This altar converted many an out-of-way spot into a Sanctuary of God.

Memories of the Garden Plain area are recalled by a former minister in the area, J. Mayne:

In May, 1923, I was appointed to the Garden Plain Mission Field. Conditions were dry, but with western optimism the fields were seeded. On Sunday, May 27, as I was going [illegible] my morning service, the rain started. A nearby farmer, Don Cameron, called me to take shelter in his home. After about twenty minutes the rain stopped, but by then the roads were too muddy for my bicycle, so Mr. Cameron offered me his horse to ride the remaining four miles. It was raining again when I reached the school where the service was to be held, but there was no one there. I returned [illegible] the farm. The rain lasted all day and I stayed till morning. Mr. Cameron was a Soldier Settlement Board man from Toronto, and had been five years in the area. This was [illegible] first rain he had seen in Alberta. He moved from one window to another saying, "This is great!"

The result of the rain was a bumper crop. I knew that help would be scarce and if I didn't do something I would be called a lazy preacher. I was not that. I got work on a farm and stooked barley, wheat and oats for five weeks. I hadn't stooked for many years and found the partly hailed barley hard work, and the heavy wheat and oat crops were not easy. My last stooking there was a twenty-four acre oat crop which took four days to do. The next spring the owner, Frank Kennedy, told me that he had threshed over twenty-four hundred bushels of oats from it. No wonder it took four days to stook!

I carried on Sunday services as usual. There was no Sunday work in the fields and congregations kept up very well. I can call my summer at Garden Plain a good experience.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth supplied the following information regarding Rev. Martin Holdom. He was a young Anglican minister who was stationed [illegible] Castor about 1910. A young nurse who worked in Castor asked him if he would ride to the nascent townsite of Hanna in January, to marry her to Jim Parker. He consented, and set out the day before the wedding, wearing a fur cap, sheepskin coat, chaps and felt boots, and riding a mare which he said could do about eight miles an hour, all day. It was fifty miles to the ranch, so he set out early in the morning, in twenty below weather with a breeze. He stopped at Garden Plain for dinner, but darkness fell before he reached the ranch and he missed the trail. He followed a fence for some time until he found a gate and eventually arrived at his destination.

The next day he performed the ceremony and rode the fifty miles back to Castor.

The homesteaders were not the only ones who braved hardships and danger when the west was being settled.

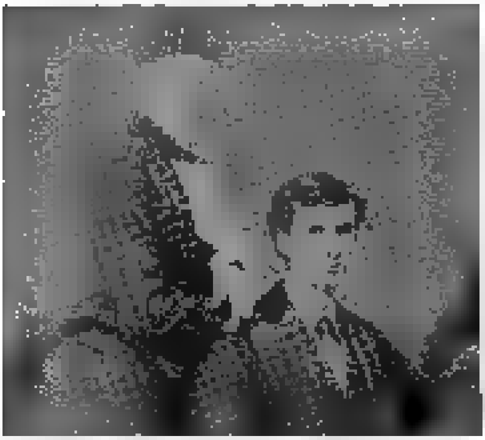
Mrs. Crowe recalled Rev. Scallon: "A very colorful person of that era was Rev. Scallon . . . It was he who married Aubrey and me. Mr. Scallon drove a team of horses and a cutter in winter, and weather permitting, an old car. He was constantly getting lost, stuck or broken down and was usually late for services, but he arrived sometime. He was a dedicated, well-loved man, and gave of himself and his worldly goods to the mission he served."

Hanna Herald, February 25, 1926: It is intended to hold a radio church service

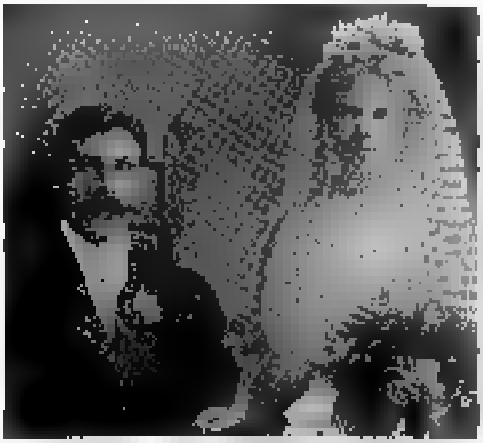
in the Crow Hill school house in the near future. Any interested people should see Mr. C. A. Hill.

Later reports in the Herald indicate that the first service was very successful, and many such were held subsequently. One of these was an Easter service.

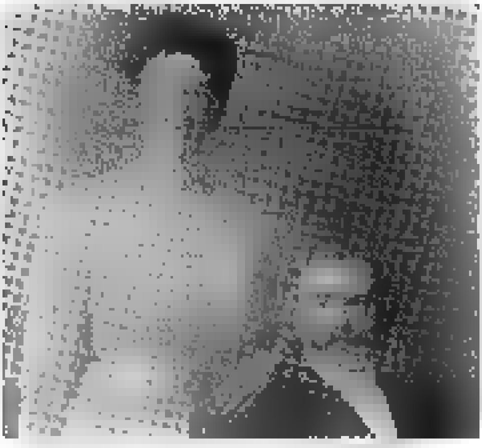
WEDDINGS



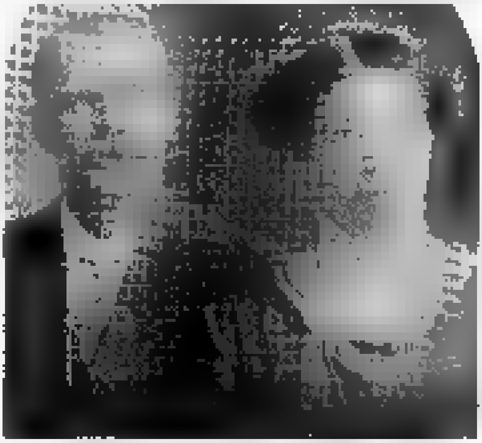
1875 — Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Guthrie.



1905 — Karl M. (Charles) and Seda Strandberg.



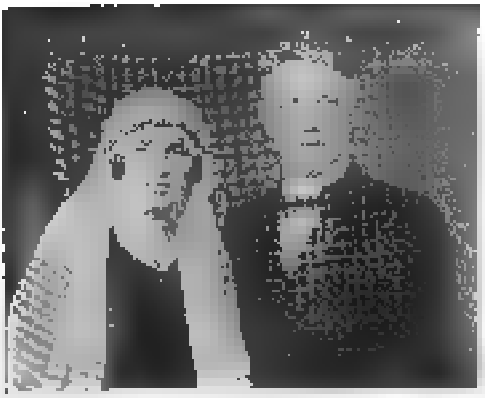
1909 — Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson.

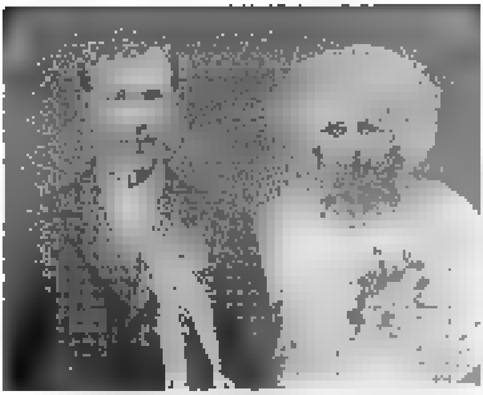


1911 — Mr. and Mrs. J. J. [illegible]

1916 — Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hanson.

1918 — Mr. and Mrs. George Wright.


1926 — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel


1924 — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brunner.

CHAPTER XIV

ORGANIZATIONS

MUSICIANS OF HANNA NORTH

By Ellen Ironside

Anyone who could play an instrument in the early days was really an asset to the district for without some form of music there could be no dancing.

Among the very early musicians were, Mr. Jack Lepard, (an uncle of Mrs. Elechia Chidley), Clyde Wooden, Mr. Charlie Halverson and Jack Campbell as well as the Richardson brothers.

[illegible] 1912 the Garden Plain Hall was built and one [illegible] the first orchestras to play there included Mr. and Mrs. Earl Himelrich, Al Bowman, Jack Leicht, with Harry Wiese and Bill Sim taking part at different times.

Mr. and Mrs. Leech played for the first of July picnics at the Garden Plain Hall. They were from Castor where Mr. Leech owned the Pekin Theatre. They would bring extra musicians down as [illegible] taught music [illegible] Castor and it was an opportunity for his pupils to practise!

Roy Embree played for dances during this period also, accompanied by Bill Sim. He is well known as an old-time fiddler by everyone and down through the years has played with Gottfried Glubrecht, Marion (Taylor) Fox and George Gwin as well as many others.

In the Lake Thelma district, George Vigen on violin, Alfred Anderson on bass violin and Ingwell Vigen on guitar made a harmonious trio.

Farther east, the Johnson brothers played for dances. Their father was the Rawleigh dealer at Whatcheer.

In 1922 George Unsworth and his brother Bob played for many dances. Through the years till George left Garden Plain he played for dozens of dances from Spondin to Endiang and south to Wiese and Annesheim and eastward to Centre Point. He was accompanied by Bill Sim on piano and at times by Joe Fielding on trumpet. Walter Jensen, Bennie Weller, Bob Unsworth and George Jr. were on hand at various times to provide music for wedding dances, barn dances and at house parties.

In 1923 Tiff Ironside and his sister Belle Cooper on violin accompanied by Ed Berg on guitar played many peppy tunes. Other names to remember at this time were Gen Sans on violin, Thorcliffe Wangsness on guitar and Mr. Chappell. Then came Thorcliffe Bergum, Harry Wiese, Joe and Mac Lepard, Elechia Chidley and Jim Cuthbert followed by Butch and Will Ironside.

Around 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Benson played drums and piano with Reg

Wismore on violin. At this time Bill McLaren and Bob Rehill were called upon to supply music.

By 1945 a five piece band had started playing for dances in the district with Fred Johnston on violin, Herb Wimmer playing accordion, "Shorty" Glubrecht on banjo, Jack McLaren on piano and Bud Hansen on drums. When Jack left to teach elsewhere, Betty Herold replaced him, then later she left to be replaced by Ellen Ironside. When Shorty left Hanna, George Gwin took his place and this band played together for quite a few years.

Music was supplied north of Hanna in the late thirties by Sam Gall, his daughter Mrs. Smart and his granddaughter Helen Smart. George Gwin was on hand to play banjo or guitar.

Harry and Winnifred Parker, George Gwin and Bill Curtis played for dances at Wiese, Alps, Meadowlands and elsewhere. Later, Harry and his wife, Marion teamed up to provide good music for dancing.

Pat and Stuart McRae, Bill Burt and Bud Hansen played for dances at Garden Plain school and at Scapa also.

Harry Zimmerman came down from Castor to play violin at the Garden Plain Hall and Mrs. Harry Sear from Spondin gave of her talent also.

In later years Shirley Lumsden, Alex Garrow, Herb Pfahl, Joe Martin, Albert Benco, Danny Gall and Bert Childley have given of their talents to supply music for dancing.

My apologies to those whose names I have missed, or for errors in dates and spelling.

GARDEN PLAIN LOCAL U.F.A. NO. 310

By Fred Johnston

At a joint meeting held in Edmonton in September of 1908, the Alberta Farmers Association and the Canadian Society of Equity amalgamated to form the United Farmers of Alberta. It was not till 1914 that the Union was incorporated.

The Garden Plain local was formed in August of 1911 at a meeting at Garden Plain store and post office with T. A. Kane, president, John Graham, vice-president and T. F. Ironside, secretary-treasurer. Directors were: John Hutchinson, Martin Gulseth, Fred Stickney, George Gibb, Martin Siverson and Bob Livingstone.

Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall - 1914. Left to Right: Laughlin Campbell, Steven Wagner, George Claypool, Albert Kennedy, Olaf Larsen, Martin Siverson, Frank Kennedy, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charles Lohrman, Bill Vieschie, Bob Livingstone, Bill Collins, Hugh McRae, Charlie Stanfield (kneeling).

At first they met at local farm homes and at the Buchan, Corinne and Netherby schools, but the members wished to have a meeting place of their own

and so a committee was formed. They chose a site at the Diamond mine, Donald Cattanach's homestead, to erect the hall. All materials were freighted from Castor. On February 21, 1914 work commenced on the hall and it was completed in time for the first meeting to be held there on March 7. Later on, there was talk of moving it to a more permanent location. In 1920 ten acres of land was purchased from the C.P.R. on NW-31-33-13 for $35.00 per acre. The hall was moved on July 7, 1920 to its present location. The kitchen was built in 1922. In 1945, with the co-operation of the district, a huge renovation project was undertaken. Monies received from dividends applied to purchases were put into the general fund for this job. The interior was lined with plaster board and the outside stuccoed with a porch added. Later a new floor was laid and a foundation poured. Electric lights were installed in 1954 and a propane heater in 1963. With aid from a Government Grant more renovations were done in 1975.

Through the years a variety of functions were held, dances; hard time, wedding and benefit dances; card parties; box and pie socials, minstrel shows; debating contests; Burns nights; St. Patrick's and New Year's Eve celebrations; Christmas concerts, Chataquas, and showers. Everyone's favorite was the annual picnic which at times featured bucking contests. One incident pertaining to the picnic was a motion to sell beer; this was defeated. Ball games and the "Old Timers" picnics of the last few years are still very popular. And of course there were U.F.A. (Unifarm) meetings, ratepayer meetings and polling booths.

The Garden Plain Local for many years ordered and distributed many farm supplies for its members' needs. Such a list would include, barrels of formalin, binder twine, car loads of posts and coal, barrels of machine oil, plow shares, flour, oatmeal, apples and even gopher poison. Through the years various trustees were elected to oversee the purchase and distribution of these items. Jack Corry held this position for many years.

Over the years, hundreds of resolutions were directed to the proper authorities on varied matters. Some such resolutions were in regard to the war effort of 1914-18, the influenza epidemic of 1919, the need for more threshing machines in the district, the erection of rural telephone lines in 1922 and subsequent transfer from A.G.T. to farmers' mutuals. There were also resolutions regarding U.F.A.'s action when it was involved with politics.

Until Highway 36 was highgraded and gravelled many resolutions were directed to Edmonton for its immediate construction. It was not till 1943 that construction commenced.

During the thirties a resolution directed to Dowling Lake R.M. was regarding removal of wire from abandoned farms. The Local was successful in petitioning for a Pool elevator at Garden Plain siding in 1939. In the late thirties this Local sponsored the local A.I.A. (Agricultural Improvement Association). Little Round Lake U.F.A. amalgamated with the Garden Plain local in 1939.

At one time or other almost everyone in the area belonged to the U.F.A. A membership of fifty to sixty was quite common. Many people served the Local faithfully for years. It would not be amiss to mention just a few: Jack Corry, Jack Campbell, Bill Harvey, Frank Kennedy, Pete Jensen, J.W. Taylor, Rudy Moore, Charlie Noyce, W. [illegible]. Storch, Fred Johnston and Sandy Donaldson. There were numerous presidents but secretary-treasurer F. W. Johnston held that position for twenty-eight years and Hugh Campbell had it for eighteen years. Today, our Unifarm Local 113-22 is still active, with Louis Unsworth as president and Ed Storch as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Garden Plain Community Club, registered under the Friendly Societies Act, now takes care of the needs of the Hall. Our hope is that the Garden Plain Hall

will serve the needs of the people for years to come.

This short history is gleaned from the minute books and materials preserved by the Local.

GARDEN PLAIN THRESHERS

By Fred Johnston

In 1923, eight farmers organized a co-operative called "Garden Plain Threshers." Members were: Fred Blaxhall, Ken Bryanton, Russel Chidley, George Forster, Pete Jensen, Fred Johnston, Steve Wagner and George Wright. George Forster was president for the first two years and Fred Johnston for the remaining years. Fred Blaxhall was secretary-treasurer at a salary [illegible] $25.00 per annum.

Some of the men looked at an all-steel Case outfit. The Case tractor used kerosene, the 28" steel separator was small enough to require only six or eight teams to operate it. However, they agreed to purchase a Sawyer-Massey from Mockett of Hanna. As events later proved, this was an acknowledged mistake.

The more expensive Sawyer-Massey was something else again! The steamer had to have a boiler inspection every year, required an engineer, a coal hauler and a tankee to keep it going. The steamer was a used one but in good shape. The thresher had a wooden body, a 32" cylinder and required eight teams and two field pitchers to keep it going, when it went.

None of the owners really understood the mechanics of threshing. Mostly through inexperience, some of the jobs done were pitiful. More chaff than grain in the bin, or too much grain thrown over. Eventually, the co-op had to hire a separator man. Sandy Hilts, Morgan and Lorne Hannah were hired different years. Even at that, the machine would break down at the most inopportune time, necessitating a trip to town, usually with a team. Very few had cars to make a hurried trip for repairs. Jim Hannah was engineer one year, but Pete Jensen was usually the engineer.

Coal at two dollars per ton was hauled from local mines. The water from Pete Jensen's well was used because it was more suitable for the boiler. Average wages through the years were seven to eight dollars per day for the engineer, ten dollars for the separator man and teamsters, bundle, coal and water haulers got four to seven dollars per day. Threshing charges were fourteen cents for wheat, twelve cents for barley and ten cents for oats. Meals were paid for at the rate of thirty-five cents per meal.

1923 was the year of the bumper crop, 1924 poor, 1925 good, 1927 hailed out, 1928 damp and tough, 1929 no crop. By this time farm prices had declined rapidly compared to prices after World War 1.

At the time of purchase the outfit cost $4,500.00 but by 1929 the co-op still owed almost the same amount. Miss a payment or two, add interest and compound interest; it was hopeless! About 1935, the remaining few members went through debt adjustment, sold the boiler to the Memorial Hall, Hanna, as a heating unit and were clear of the debt.

As of December, 1978, Pete Jensen is the only surviving member of the Garden Plain Threshers.

RHYMES OF A THRESHERMAN

By J. W. Taylor

In Sunny Alberta, the year twenty-five,
I hired for the threshing to keep things alive
To a place north of Hanna, they call Garden Plain
Where the fields are all yellow with plump, golden grain.

So I hired with a rig, a so-called Syndicate,
The farmers who made it comprised number eight,
The man at the head was a fellow called Fred,
And when he bawled you out, you wished you were dead!

The Engineer was a chap called Pete
And when he moved the engine, it sure was some feat,
With the crashing of gears and the hissing of steam
And a bill for repairs was soon on the scene.

The Separator man was a fellow from Sweden,
With a look on his face like the Garden of Eden,
With a pair of pliers and a greasy oil can,
He kept up his end as long as she ran.

Johnson, the farmer, a man from B.C.
As nice a young man as you would e'er wish to see;
But the weeds and the worms from his crop took a toll
And sadly depleted his fat pocket roll.

Our crack bundle man was a fellow called Steve,
The first to begin and the last to leave,
While his wonderful knowledge and visions afar
Have earned for him, a large golden star.

The coal man went by the name of Ken,
His time of arrival you always knew when,
But, boys, oh boys, he was full of old Nick,
And by his line of talk he was some Bolshevik.

George Wright was the name of the Tanky,
And he was surely lean and lanky,
And unless he slept in on a frosty morn,
He was Wright, alright, as sure is you're born.

The only one who had a car,
And made trips both near and far,
Was little George Forster, a happy Papa,
But the bumps we got on his farm
Made a lasting impression far from calm.

The outside men were a tough looking bunch,
Hungry for dinner and worse for lunch
But they stayed on the job and looked for the day.
They could pack their valises and drew their back pay.

GARDEN PLAIN A.I.A.

By Fred Johnston

A federally-sponsored organization called the Agricultural Improvement Association was formed under the auspices of the local U.F.A. group about 1935. Many of the members of the executive of the local U.F.A. were also on the A.I.A. directorate. The A.I.A. was a movement to help farmers and needed the co-operation of the farmers to succeed. The association was responsible for the distribution of Sweet Clover, Wheat grass, Brome grass, potato and Fall Rye seed. The government provided trees, accompanied by instructions as how they should be planted; and aided any farmer wishing to put in a stock watering dam, dugout,

or small irrigation scheme. Fruit trees and bushes were also supplied to be irrigated from these dugouts.

The Garden Plain and Hanna Locals of the A.I.A., in co-operation with the Neutral Hills Livestock Association and the Goose Lake Livestock Association, sponsored the sale of livestock by public auction at the local Hanna stock yards. A committee was set up to look after the details such as listings, advertising, hauling and selling. With assistance from the Provincial government a policy of distributing herd sires was also undertaken. One year, with the assistance of the local D.A. and federal engineer, a field day was held, demonstrating the setting of tiller seeders for ease of draft and coverage. The Regional Conferences of A.I.A. locals was hosted by the Lethbridge Experimental Farms of Lethbridge. This Local, having outlived [illegible] usefulness, was disbanded about 1943. The P.F.R.A. took over some of the projects initiated by the A.I.A.

GARDEN PLAIN JUNIOR GRAIN CLUB

By Fred Johnston

The Junior Grain Club was formed in the spring of 1940 under the auspices of the local U.F.A., and sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool. There were approximately twelve members, farm boys from the area from the age of fifteen [illegible] twenty. Each received five bushels of registered Marquis wheat. The grain was seeded on a summer fallowed plot isolated from other wheat varieties. A field day was arranged when [illegible] plots were inspected. Through arrangements made by Ken Walker, D.A. of Youngstown, another field day was held at the sub-experimental farm of Casey Pals of Castor.

Judging of the threshed samples was done in the Garden Plain Hall in November. Who won the competition and the trip to Olds has long been forgotten. The Club was [illegible] operation for that year only; however the use of this foundation seed in following years resulted in a decided improvement in yield.

SULLIVAN LAKE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

By Fred Johnston

On February 11, 1952, W. L. Marsh, Rural Supervisor of Canadian Utilities, Drumheller addressed a meeting of interested farmers in the Scapa Hall. His discussion centered around the procedures involved in setting up a Rural Electrification Association. The chairman for the meeting, Jack Corry asked for a show [illegible] hands and all who were present agreed that an R.E.A. should be formed.

The board of directors included Jack Corry, chairman; Ernest Haessel, vice chairman; and Fred Miller, Charlie Lohrmann, Manley Viste, Stewart McRae and Albert Galarneau. Fred Johnston was secretary-treasurer. W. [illegible]. Storch's suggestion of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. as the name of the association was approved. The directors, in a canvass blitz, successfully signed some fifty subscribers in a month's time. On October 1, 1952, the Master Contract between Canadian Utilities and Sullivan Lake R.E.A. was signed. As the Association was required by Co-op Activities Branch to pay half cash on the signing of the contract, the Provincial Government loaned the Association the balance. The money was to be repaid [illegible] ten yearly installments, plus no more than three and a half percent interest. The first payment was for $36,370.06.

Meanwhile a crew were busily surveying the actual route and sometime during July 1952 the contract for actual construction was let, with Harkness Construction of Calgary as the successful bidder. The members were also busy wiring or rewiring their farmsteads for the actual turning on of the power by Christmas 1952.

In 1954 the Spondin branch was constructed, nearly doubling the number of subscribers, bringing the total to some one hundred and thirty users of power. As the times changed, there was a drop in the numbers due to one farmer buying out another, and other reasons; and now the Association has approximately eighty customers.

The Sullivan Lake R.E.A. has always been a member of the Alberta Union of R.E.A.'s. The directorship has changed through the years; many of the original directors are no longer with [illegible].

The board of directors of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. for 1977 are: Albert Storch, chairman; Erbin Grove, vice-chairman; Herb Pfahl, W. L. Storch, Harold Strandberg, Henry Nielson and Bob Rehill. Raylord Johnston is secretary-treasurer.

NETHERBY GIRLS 4-H; 1953-54

By Mrs. George Standing Jr.

In the fall of 1953 the first 4-H group organized in the Netherby District, consisted of the following girls (who had to be the age of twelve years or close to it): Annabelle Hassel, Janet Standing, Inza Mattis, Sandra Mattis, Muriel Strandberg, Lois Miller and Verna Tetz. The Club leader was Mrs. Battryn, school teacher at Netherby; the assistant leaders were Mrs. George Standing Jr., and Miss Lorraine Shatz, the Hanna Home Economist.

During the fall and winter the girls learned the 4-H pledge and how to conduct the meetings, prepared handicrafts and project books, studied and practised etiquette, listened to speakers and gave speeches; and served tea [illegible] their mothers.

Netherby Girls 4-H - 1954. Back Row: Mrs. George Standing Jr., Annabelle Hassel, Inza Mattis, Lois Miller, Sandra Mattis, Verna Tetz, Mrs. Ernestine Battrym. Front Row: Muriel Strandberg, Janet Standing.

On May 19, 1954 they held their first Achievement Day. Miss Lorraine Shatz judged their work and the results were as follows: Lois Miller won first but was too young to attend Club Week. Annabelle Hassel was Efficiency winner, Inza Mattis was the alternate winner, Lois Miller received the T. Eaton award. Annabelle Hassel was unable to attend club week at Olds, due to a holiday trip with her parents to Peace River, so Inza Mattie became the first girl from our group to attend Club Week at Olds.

The Efficiency winner must be fourteen years of age at the time of the Achievement Day. Expenses involved in sending the Efficiency winner to Club Week are borne by the Department of Agriculture or another sponsoring organization.

A Garden Club was their project for the spring and summer of 1954. The President was Lois Miller, Secretary, Annabelle Haessel. On July 29, 1954 they had their garden tour and they were judged by Mr. Ness, Wheat Pool Representative, and Miss Lorraine Shatz. On August [illegible], their Achievement Day was held at Netherby. The results were: Annabelle Haessel, first with seventy-nine percent and Janet Standing runner up, who was too young. Annabelle attended Club Week at Olds in 1955.

During the summer of 1954, Janet Standing, Inza Mattie and Annabelle Haessel attended 4-H camp at Bar Harbour for one week with leaders Miss Lorraine Shatz and Mr. Ness and assistants and girls from other groups. The girls were all happy with the training and experience they received in 4-H; but as some of the girls left to attend school elsewhere, the group was disbanded.

DUNDEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Doreen Rehill

Knowing the need for a Ladies Group in our area north of Hanna, Mrs. George Wright, Convener of the Acadia Constituency, asked some of the ladies of the district to meet at the home of Mrs. Robert Rehill on the afternoon of June 18, 1958. Seven interested women joined the Institute at the fee of twenty-five cents per member: Mrs. Rayford Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Roderick Standing, Mrs. Clifford Corry, Mrs. Wilf Lumsden, Mrs. Helen Standing and Mrs. Robert Rehill. The name of our Branch was decided upon and sent to Edmonton for approval. We received our Charter by registered mail later on; from that day we were legally formed and named The Dundee Women's Institute.

Our first President was Mrs. Rehill, secretary was Mrs. Johnston, Vice-President was Mrs. George Standing. We have held regular meetings once a month ever since we organized. We have had as many as twenty-two members, but now are only ten of whom three are charter members: Evelyn Standing, Eileen Standing and Doreen Rehill. We held our meetings for several years in Dundee School, and when it was sold to Mr. Halverson for use on his farm, we moved our meeting place to Netherby School. After a few more years our membership decreased, so we could accommodate the group [illegible] our homes, which was more convenient for our hostess of the month. At one meeting there were twelve ladies present, with thirteen pre-schoolers to add liveliness to our meetings.

At our meetings we have birthday gifts, tea prizes or amusing roll calls, to try to hold the interest of our members. Our Christmas Party has always been the highlight of our year. We used to hold them in the school to entertain the non-members with music, poems and the exchange of small gifts. Now we are a smaller group, we have a Christmas dinner [illegible] a member's home. We usually take a picture of the group which [illegible] amusing to look back [illegible] after a few years have rolled by. We still exchange gifts and each member is responsible for an entertaining item for our program. At our Christmas meeting we have a very short business session and pay our annual dues which are now three dollars per member.

Our Pioneer Picnic has been held every July since we organized [illegible] 1958, and

It has now become very popular. People travel miles to meet their old friends at the Garden Plain Hall. Our W.I. Ladies usually try to present a program and we always serve tea in the hall, to those who wish to be our guests. The visitors always compliment us for our good day. The last few years we have had a Strawberry Tea in June to honour the Pioneer ladies of the district. We always have a very good turnout [illegible] enjoy the hospitality of our hostess, Mrs. Fred Johnston, who has always opened her home to us on that day.

In 1963 we published the Garden Plain Story, a history of the district and the pioneer families who lived there.

Dundee Women's Institute - 1973 - 15th Anniversary. Mrs. W. L. Storch, Mrs. Alex Wolfert, Mrs. Erbin Grove, Mrs. Rod Standing, Mrs. R. J. Rehill, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Frances Unsworth, Mrs. F. W. Johnston.

The serious business of our group [illegible] to work for home and country. We have a hospital committee to send cards and gifts to the hospitalized neighbours of the district. We have helped to plan bridal showers; served lunch [illegible] auction sales in our district; usually have several card parties a year; and have sponsored pot luck suppers. We are very active [illegible] attending our own W.I. conference and annual conventions, held at different places in Alberta. We [illegible] enjoy them and always bring back valuable information [illegible] use in our own district.

We are a small group, but really enjoy every meeting and one another's company. We try hard to live up to our W.I. Creed standards; we feel we can be very proud of what our local Dundee Women's Institute has accomplished.

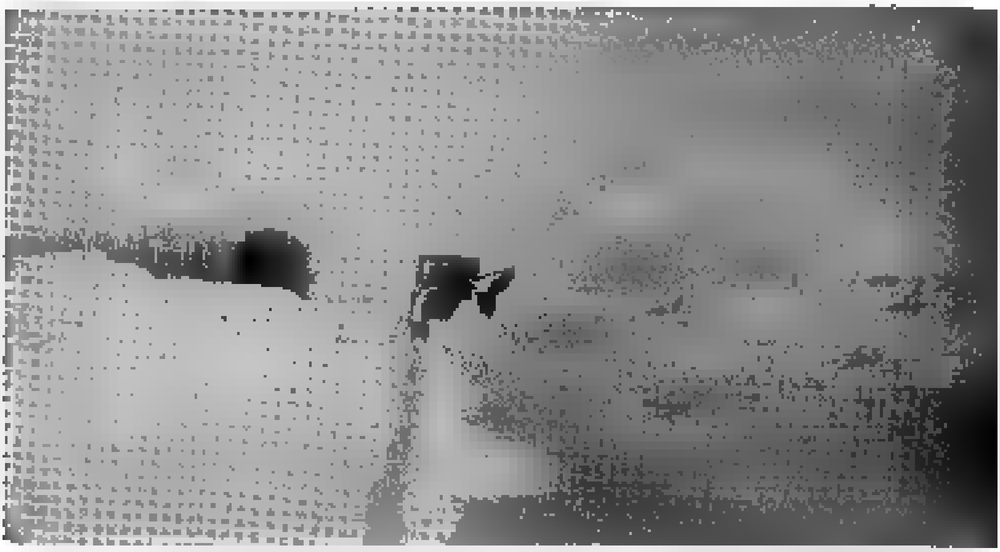
SNOW PLOWING

By Fred Nill

The first snowplow associations were formed about 1955 and carried on until 1964 when the Special Areas began plowing roads. Each member of the association paid from five to ten dollars each year, the amount varying with the amount of snow to be moved. The Special Areas matched this money to a maximum of five hundred dollars.

Six associations were formed, Annasheim, Chain Lakes, Scapa West, Hudson Bay, Wiese and Garden Plain.

The Annasheim and Chain Lakes plows were operated by Ervin Schultz, Albert Bass, Irvin Bossert, and Ken Robertson. The Hudson Bay and Wiese associations hired Faschner, Kirby, Grover or Gaugler to plow their roads with a bulldozer mounted on a cat. The Garden Plain association plow was driven by Albert Storch. The Scapa West plow was driven by each of the members in turn, using their own tractors to operate it.



Albert Storch with snow blower on front of Case Tractor.

School bus roads were the first to be opened after a storm; then the others were plowed out. The wage for snow plow operators was four dollars an hour, to a maximum of one hundred and twenty-five hours.

RURAL TELEPHONE LINES

The first rural phone lines were built in the area north of Hanna in 1921 and 1922. During the depression years many farmers were forced to do without this convenience; with fewer subscribers on each line and the resulting lower income, the government had difficulty keeping the lines in repair. Eventually the government decided to discontinue being responsible for rural lines; at meetings held in February, 1935, residents of this area followed the path taken by all rural areas if they wished to have telephone service. They formed Mutual Telephone Companies, and bought what was left of the old government lines in their area. With very little capital, and volunteer labor, they built a line in their area and in to the nearest telephone exchange; in this case Hanna.

There were several Mutual Telephone Companies in the Hanna North Region.

Hanna North East Mutual: The first chairman was Mr. Blain and Mr. Grimes was secretary. Members were S. Herring, W. Storch, J. Litke, B. Howery, A. Mattis, D. Mattis, A. Wilson, S. L. Grimes, E. Blain, G Thomas, J. Trefz, and H. Smith. Over the years a number of others joined.

One member on the circuit acted as central for anyone who had a barbed-wire phone. This person would take messages from the barbed-wire phone line and relay them over the main line; and periodically collect ten cents per call from the barbed-wire phone users. This amount was turned over to the Hanna North East Mutual to help pay their expenses.

A main trunk line came out of Hanna to the three mile corner, up the Castor trail to Garden Plain hall, and one mile west. This gave service to several mutuals,

and a representative of each formed the Board of Directors responsible for the trunk line. Each mutual company paid for pin space on the trunk line, according to the number of circuits each mutual had.

Shareholders paid from one dollar to a dollar and a half per month for phone service, excluding long distance calls. Occasionally a mutual would build up a little surplus, and then shareholders would have their phones rent free for a few months.

There were three circuits in this mutual, numbers seven, nine and eleven. Each had its own trouble shooter. [illegible] 1945 the line was extended further east to take in the Spondin district. The lines were rebuilt in 1960 in preparation for conversion to dial service the same year. In 1972 the lines were put underground and the government took over the operation of them. The old lines were torn down, the poles and wire sold, and the proceeds were turned over to the mutual for distribution among the shareholders.

The Garden Plain Mutual was formed on July 8, 1935. John Corry was elected President and Ralph Greenway Vice-President. Directors were C. W. Noyce, J. [illegible]. Hemstock and Mr. Donaldson. On a motion by R. Greenway, seconded by Eric Small, it was agreed that the secretary should not be called upon to work on the line. Shares costing $24.00 each were issued; the down payment was $4.50.

A meeting was called August 14, 1936, with representatives from the Meadowlands, Hanna North East, Scapa and Garden Plain Mutuals. One person from each mutual was chosen to act on the committee to look after the trunk line and collect pin money from each mutual. The men selected were Mr. Steeves, Wm. Storch, Mr. R. Unsworth and Ralph Greenway.

The Watts Mutual had thirteen subscribers and three rentals. The same men served as officials of the mutual during its entire existence. They were President, Ted Quaschnick; Vice-President, George Fleck; Secretary-Treasurer, J. L. Boyd. Directors: Albert Hutton, Jack Leech, Henry Quaschnick. Jack Phibbs served as lineman for many years, followed by George Edwards.

The Dowling Mutual, or Line 14 as it was commonly called, was formed in 1935. Early records are not available but men who figured prominently in its formation were Jack Robertson, Manley Viste, Christ Viste, Harold Lund, Harry Wiese, and of course there were others.

Line 14 served a large area east and north from Dowling, extending west and north-west into the Chain Lakes district, and after 1960 to the Annashiem district. With the advent of dial phones in 1962, Line 14 was split into three separate circuits with a total of over thirty subscribers.

Some of the presidents down through the years were Harry Wiese, Roger Doyle, Tom Pattison and Louis Welch.

In 1955, Carlton Viste took over from Bill Grantham as Secretary, and served in that capacity until the mutual was dissolved when underground lines were built in 1974.

The Scapa Mutual, formed in 1935, paid the government one dollar per mile when they bought the old line from Garden Plain hall to Scapa. In 1960 the line was extended east to Louis Unsworth's and Henry Nelson's, and west to Fred Nilf's. The Scapa Mutual had two lines, No. 15 and No. 16. Erbin Grove acted as secretary for twenty-one years.

The Scapa South Mutual was formed at a meeting on August 20, 1950. President was Emanuel Erion, Vice-President, Stuart McRae, Secretary, Henry Ruhl; and directors were Fred Welch, John Wimmer and Lyman Grove. The mutual obtained material for their line by buying from the C.N.R. the old telegraph

line from Scapa to Spondin. Pin space to the Hanna exchange was on the Dowling Mutual poles from Wiese school corner.

Original members were F. Haessel, E. Haessel, Ralph Gaugler, F. Welch, S. McRae, L. Grove, J. Wimmer, E. Erion, H. Ruhl, E. Ruhl, O. Pahl, J. Sexsmith, Ed Glubrecht, F. Brunner, W. Gaugler and J. Steinbrecker.

In 1958 Scapa South joined with Lines 14 and 17 to build a trunk line to Hanna in preparation for conversion to dial phones. The company was dissolved in April, 1973.

CHAPTER XV

WAR VETERANS OF HANNA NORTH

Compiled by Cliff Kern and Margaret Nelson

Lest we forget the brave men and women of "Hanna North" area who served in the Boer War, World War 1, and World War 11, we have researched names and pictures of same. Regretfully, some will be missed, not intentionally, but because of lack of information.

Some of these servicemen are homesteaders, former residents, present residents, and their sons and daughters. "Hanna North" had her heroes; some decorated for bravery, while others paid the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for King and country. May their memory linger in our hearts.

We pay tribute also to the Women's Divisions in World War II who served faithfully and well by the side of their soldier brothers.

THE BOYS OF THE MAPLE LEAF

Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to call of the Motherland the young Canadians came,
Eager to show their mettle, ready to shed their blood,
They bowed their neck to the collar and trained in the Salisbury Mud,
Shipped in the fulness of time, across to the other shore,
Heard a deep hum in the distance, the volley and thunder of War.

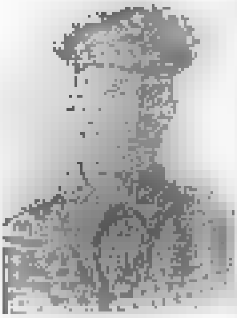
Fretted to get to the business, chafed for the firing line,
Forward with throbbing pulses, like pilgrims who near their shrine,
Spoiled for a fight and got it, lurid, merciless, red,
Trifled with death in the trenches, braved, battled and bled,
Then at a given order, gathered together and backed;
Not because they were bending, but to keep the line intact,
Four of their guns defenceless, left in the enemy's hand,
That was a bitter buffet, more than the boys could stand.

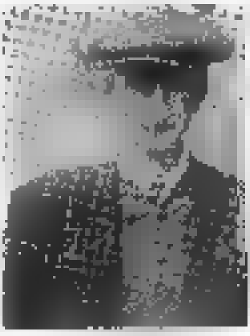
Back charged the men of the Maple, routed the jubilant Huns,
Captured a peck of Germans, and saved their precious guns,
Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to the call of the Motherland; the keen Canadians came,
Hurrah for the young Dominion, cheer them with heart and voice,
The maple shall never wither; brave Canadian boys.

Thomas Smeed.
The poet of the Plains,
June 9, 1915.

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I

(* those who were killed in action)


Bert Brown *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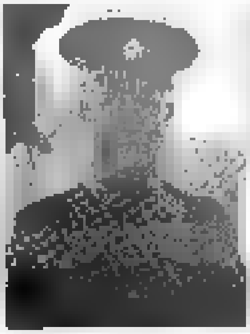
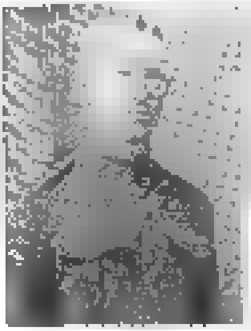

Albert Coghill *

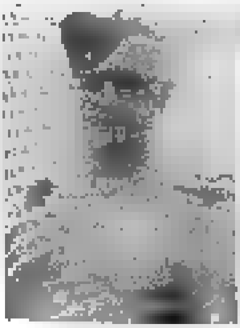
Frank Evans


Ed Elm

Gene Flanders

George Forster

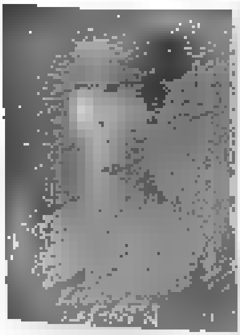
Sid Grimes


W. Glover

Ray Grantham

B. Heptonstall

Tom Hannah

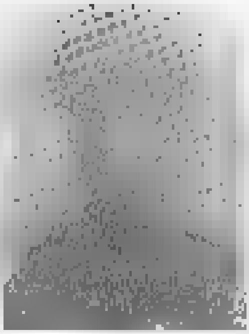

Fred W. Johnston

John Knudson

M. G. Lepard

John Lepard

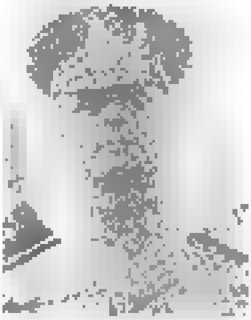
Alick McLean


Elmer Olsen

W. Pattinson

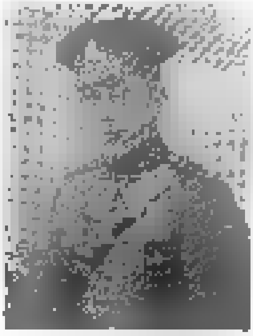
W. Rahill

George Standing


Ernest Standing

J. W. Taylor

Len Taylor


R. J. Unsworth

SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed in action)

Andy Alspaugh
Jim Boyd
Stan Boon *
Gibb Brown
Jack Blumore
David Boles
Edgar Burkholder
Fred Bottomly
Dan Campbell
George Crossfield
Donald Cameron
W. R. Curtis Sr.

Donald Campbell
Cyril Doyle
Lou Doyle
H. B. Dunn
Edgar Dean
Raymond Frederick
Ralph Gaugler
Jim Glover
John Glover
Andy Glover
Robert Gordon
Frank Hutton

Fred Hoig *
Clyde Holbrook
Ernie Howe
Bert Jones
Curry Johnson
Scott Johnson
Joe Lidgett
Sydney Linley
Ed Loveday
Bob Livingston
J. B. McKenzie
Jack McEwan

Joe Moulding
Bill McLaren
Bill Mowatt
Allan McKinnnie
Andrew Murdoch
Mack McMillan
Stan Peake
R. S. Penny
Jimmy Ridell *
Willie Ridell *
Mike Ries
Joe Robinson

James Riddle
W. W. Ryan
Clarence Roney
Bill Rutherford Sr.
F. J. Sim
Bill Sinclair
Thomas Smith
Robert Smith
Milton Stuart
Neville Thomas
R. J. Tait *
Bill Waring
George Wright
Harry Wiese
Jimmy Weir
John Wilson
Melvin Walker
B. S. Wenbush
Charlie Wood *
Charlie Wigley Sr.
Art Wigley

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN WORLD WAR II

(* those who were killed in action)

John Anderson

Freddie Anzenbacker

Earl Burt

Jerry Boyd

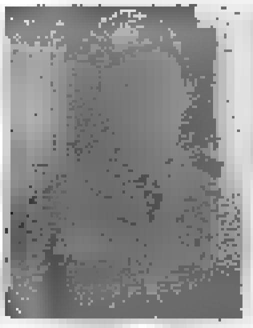
Richard Brunner

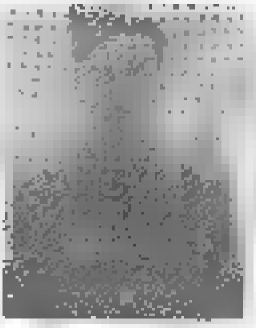
Frank Brunner

Hugh Campbell

William Chidley

Arthur Camp


Roy Chee Choo

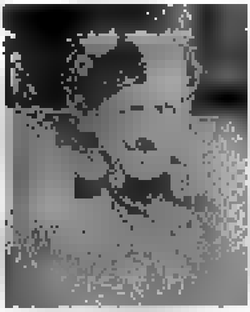

Albert Chee Choo

Irene Chee Choo

George Campion

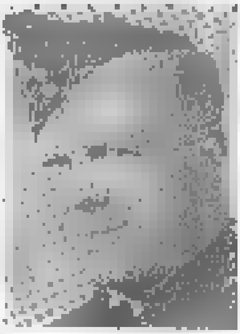
Elvin Churchill

C. L. Elm


James Elliot

C. W. O. R. Edwards

Irena Ehm


Luther Faupel

Edwin Fox

Clifford Fox

Katrina Glubrecht

Ed Glubrecht

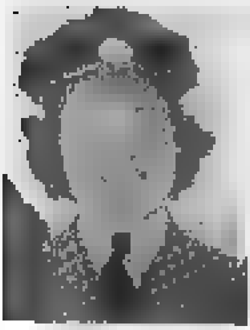
Jack Greenwood

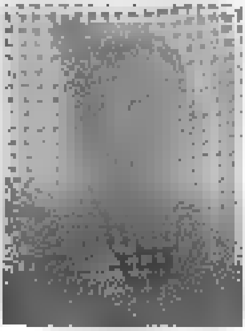
Norman Greenway

Donald Grimes

Margaret Graham

Marjorie Graham

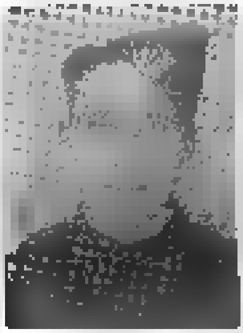

Ruby Grantham


Walter Hein

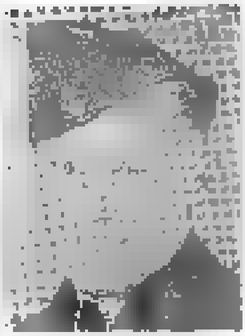
Edwin Hein

Rudy Hein

Ivan Hannah

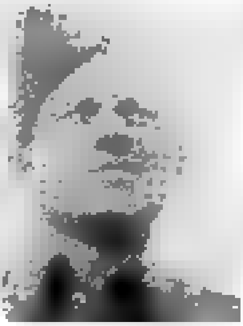

John Hannah

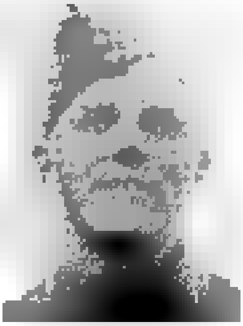
Ronald Hannah


Roy Hutton

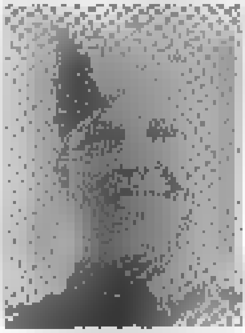
Walter Heptonstall

Sid Herring


Martin Johnson


Charles Johnson

Gunnar Johnson


Walter Kern

Cliff Kern

Harold Kautz

William Kautz

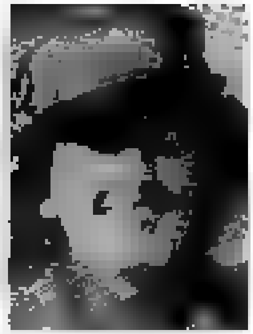
M. A. McCuish

Aubrey McCuish

J. M. McCuish

M. E. McCuish

J. A. McCuish


J. R. McCuish

Arvid Malm

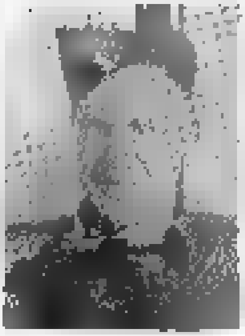
Nancy Olsen

Tom Parker

Ben Parker

Margaret Riddle

William Riddle

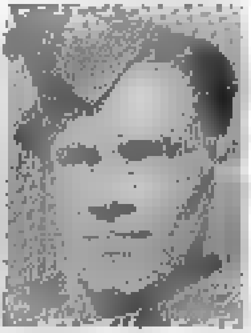

Kenneth Riis *

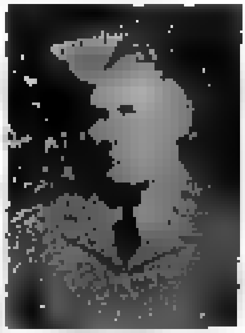
Harold Riis

Peter Ruppert

W. Ruppert

Hugh Riddle


Wilfred Smith


G. E. Scott

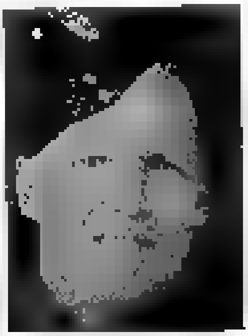
Stanley Scott

R. H. Storch

Glen Smart

Harold Strandberg

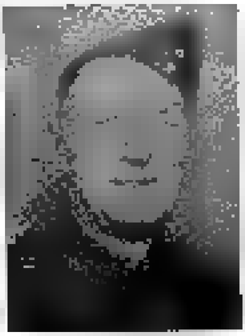
E. G. Taylor


George Taylor

James Taylor

Marion Taylor

Jim Temple

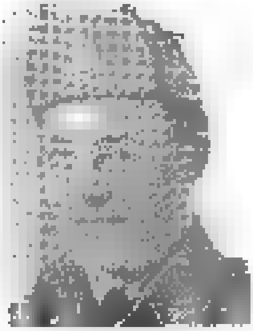

Tom Welch

Bud Williams

Ken Williams

Keith Williams

James Williams


Roy Unsworth

SERVICEMEN OF WORLD WAR II WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed in action)

Jim Bond
Margaret Bond
Bill Burns
Austin Bye
Calvin Bye
John Belch *
W. R. Curtis Jr.
Sam Diegel
Andy Duff
Art Evans
Arnold Erion
Jim Fielding
Charlie Fielding

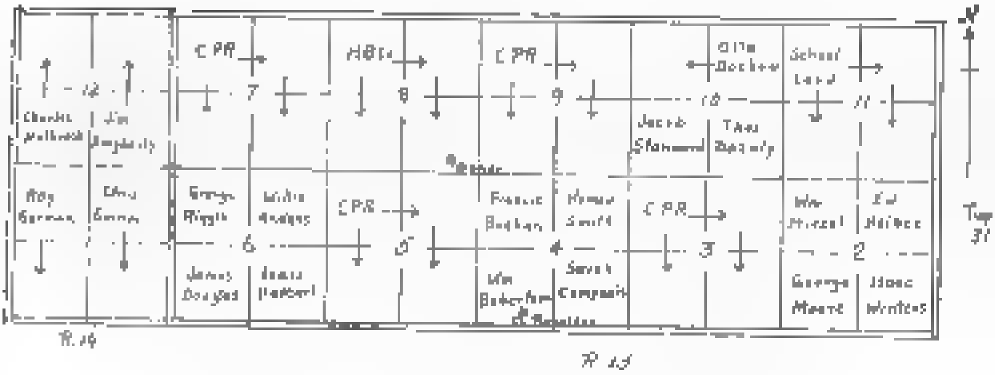
Fred Fano
Lloyd Fleck
Dave Fano
Sam Giltner
Jack Giltner
Roy Giltner
Jack Glover
Russel Glover
Hank Hildenbrand
Phillip Herring
Roy Johnson
Ernie Johnson
Wes James

Henry Johnston
Alfred Litke
Will Lumsden
Robert Loveday
Lionel Loveday
Bill Miller
Ed Pahl
Helmer Pederson
Louis Pederson (U.S.)
Frank Parker
Edmund Pfahl
William Rutherford Jr.
Alex Rutherford *

Albert Schmidt
Gotthold Schmidt
Ed Schmidt
Lionel Thomas
Ward Thomas
Bill Temple
Louis Welch
Art Welch
Jim Wright
Norman Wright
Fred Wigley
Bill Wigley
Charlie Wigley *

DISTRICT & FAMILY HISTORIES

ROYALTON No. 3072



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS & RENTERS

Section 2
NE-2
Ed Heinze
Jim Hannah
R. A. Evans
NW-2
Wm. Miesel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans
SW-2
George Moore
Wm. Miesel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

SE-2
Isaac Winters
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans
Section 3
C.P.R.
R. A. Evans
Section 4
NE-4
Homer Smith
Mrs. Peterman
R. A. Evans
NW-4
Francis Buchan
Frank Hoskins
Abe Miller

Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans
SW-4
Wm. Robertson
H. C. Harder
Adam Hahn
Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans
SE-4
Sarah Campeais
Mrs. Peterman
R. A. Evans
Section 5
C.P.R.

E ½-5
H. Van derWeyer
John Sinclair
W ½-5
Wm. Adams
G and K Stewert
Section 6
NE-6
Willie Anders
Mrs. H. Shore
H. Siewert
NW-6
George Riggle
L. E. Pierce
G. and K. Siewert

SW-6
James Douglas
G. and K. Siewert
SE-6
Louis Hascarl
John Grove
Dan Pahl
G. and K. Siewert

Section 7
N ½-7
Lindsay McLiesh
Bob Regner
Bob Bimer
R. Kautz

S ½-7
W. S. Douglas
G. and K. Siewert

Section 8
H. B. Co.
N ½-8
W. and B. Sloan
H. H. Mann
Thompson Brothers
Bob Fraser
George Hamilton
Ida Kautz

S ½-8
W. & B. Sloan
Gibb and Bill Thompson
Bob Fraser
Mrs. Brashear
R. Kautz

Section 9
C.P.R.

E ½-9
Harry Winters
George Peterson
Bert Nash
Buckwalters
Dan Dyike
Jack Kennedy
Mel Lambert
R. A. Evans

W ½-9
T. B. Peterman
R. A. Evans

Section 10
N ½ 10
Otto Dochow (Scrip)

Joe Marton

SW-10
Joe Stannard
Mel Lambert
Joe Martin

SE-10
Thos. Bazely
Joe Martin

Section 11
School Land
N ½-11
Joe Martin
S ½-11
R. A. Evans

ROYALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3072

By Fred Johnston

To meet the educational needs of the children of the area, Royalton School District No. 3072 was established on December 10, 1913, with William Booe as secretary-treasurer, and William Miesel as senior trustee. In April of 1914 approval was given for borrowing the sum of $1200.00 to build the school. It was erected and ready for occupancy that same year.

The school site was on the SW 4-31-13 and consisted of the lands shown on the map, which were north of the correction line (No. 9 highway), as well as land south of the correction line which are not included in this history.

Due [illegible] the same problems that faced most school districts during the thirties, Royalton became a part of Sullivan Lake school division and was eventually closed. The building was sold to a group [illegible] interested persons who moved it to Hanna where it served first as a rest room, later as a library, and more recently as a meeting place for the Hanna Pioneers Association. Called 'The Hut,' it is owned by the Town of Hanna but maintained by the Association, and is available to other groups as well.

Some of the teachers at Royalton were Mr. Moss, Miss Somme, George Burkell, Miss Lewis, Leona Goodfellow, Vera McCarthy, Miss [illegible]. Marquardson, Norine Maynes, Mary Morrison, June Smith, Virginia Thomas, and Frank Jacob.

The last Board of Trustees were Charlie Dyike as secretary-treasurer, John Evans as Chairman and John Evans Jr.

John Grove recalls some of the early homesteaders in the Royalton district. He had homesteaded on the east side of Sullivan Lake in township 35, range 15, about 1907. He and Alex Falconer established the Commercial Livery in Hanna in 1912, and claims that he was the first person [illegible] go bankrupt in Hanna. He dissolved his partnership with Alex in 1914, rented Andy Mackey's farm for a year, and then Louis Hascarl's farm.

Louis Hascarl, a miner from Carbon, homesteaded the SE 6-31-13 in 1909. In 1914 he became a partner in the Commercial Livery and eventually owned it outright. He traded it and his farm to Dan Pahl and moved to Esten, Saskatchewan. The Hascarl children were among the first pupils of Hanna school, and Louis was Hanna's first bandmaster. While threshing on Hascarl's land in the [illegible] of 1914, the straw pile caught fire and the new threshing machine belonging to George Burkell and the Parker Brothers was destroyed.

George Riggle homesteaded the NE 6-31-13 in 1910. He became manager of

the Beaver Mercantile Co. store which was established by C. A. Walters of Castor east [illegible] the present townsite of Hanna. Chris German and Harry Long (who had clerked at Garden Plain) were working in the store. When the town of Hanna was established, the store was moved there and George continued as manager. He was elected to the village council and later moved [illegible] California.

On the NE 6-31-13, Willie Andus proved up and left. Jim Douglas, on the SW 6-31-13, had come with his brother Fred to homestead in 1909.

William Miesel also came in 1909, to the NW 2-31-13. The Miesel girls, Isabel and Irma, attended Royalton school. Irma married Harry Dalton, a World War I veteran, and they farmed the Miesel lands.

George Moore, a son-in-law of Charlie James, came in 1909 to the SW 2-31-13. Ed Heinze, who was the cook at the Sam Wadsworth mine, filed on the NE 2-31-13.

Three bachelors homesteaded on section 10. Thomas Bazely had the south-west quarter and Jacob or Joe Stannard the south-east quarter. Otto Dochow got the north half of it as scrip, but never resided on it; his home was on the south half of 14-31-13. The siding of Alness was on land purchased from him.

Frank Moulding recalls that Lindsay McLiesh, a bachelor from Illinois, purchased the north half of 7 from the C.P.R. He erected a tarpaper shack on the property but nearly smothered during a blizzard. The snow drifted in the cracks in the house, and if it had not been for a neighbor passing by, Lindsay would have perished. He sold the land to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bitner from Leader, Saskatchewan, who remained for a few years and then went to Medicine Hat.

On section 6, Hudson Bay Company land, William and Bert Sloan built a farm site, and their sister kept house for them. Later Gibb and Bill Thompson and their mother lived on the place, and later Bob Fraser and his housekeeper, Mrs. Brashear, lived there.

Today, almost all this area is a grazing lease. The only residents are the Art Evans and Reinhold Kautz families.

JOHN R. KENNEDY STORY

By Rosella Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kennedy and their three children, Helen, Archie and Rosella, came from High River to the Royalton district in 1912. Their fourth child, Tillie, was born [illegible] 1914. The Kennedys had come originally from [illegible]. Paul, Minnesota, and were accompanied to the Royalton district by Mr. and Mrs. William Boos and their eight children; Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart and their three children, Elizabeth, Robert and Francis; and Uncle Charlie Stewart.

The school opened in 1914 with Mr. Moss from the Philippines as teacher. Archie Kennedy was allowed to start school at age five in order to have enough pupils to open the school. Rosella and Tillie attended Royalton school until 1925 when the school was closed because of a shortage of pupils; they boarded in Hanna and went to school there for one year until Royalton was re-opened.

Church services were held at Royalton. There were usually Catholic services as these people were all of that faith, but as in other districts, everyone attended regardless of denomination.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy moved to the Buckwalter place, now owned by Art Evans. After a few years there, when the family were all gone, they retired to Hanna. Mr. Kennedy passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Kennedy made her home with her daughter Tillie Faupel until her death. She was loved and respected by all who knew her, and was very devoted to her family and her church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, John, Tiny and Lizzie Schulties. Uncle Bob Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy. John and Margaret Simpson, Robert and Rosella Anderson (just married), Frank Moulding, unknown, Jean Anderson. Myrtle Stewart, Tillie Kennedy, Marlene Schulties, Billy Simpson, unknown.

Helen married Dan Dylke of Royalton and they had three girls, Florence, Veronica and Patricia. They retired to Edmonton where Dan passed away, and Helen still lives there.

Archie married Mae Perdue and they have three girls, Thelma, Jean and Joan.

Rosella graduated as a nurse from Edmonton Misericordia Hospital. She married Robert Anderson and they had two boys, Joe and Jim. Robert passed away in 1962 and Joe in 1963. Jim lives in Hanna. Rosella nursed for several years in Hanna Hospital and is now retired and living in Hanna.

Tillie married Luther Faupel and had three children, Sharon Groat, Stanley, and Teresa Liggett. During World War II they lived in Calgary while Luther served with the Air Force, then moved back to Hanna where Luther passed away in 1972 and Tillie in 1974.

THE JACOB BUCHWITZ FAMILY

By Nat Buchwitz

After losing all their property as a result of a cloudburst and flash flood, my parents decided to leave the little farming village of Leipzig, Bessarabia, and move to Canada. A land agent, a native of Bessarabia who had settled in the Craigmyle district some time earlier, had been hired to encourage immigration to Canada, and he painted a rosy picture of life in the new land. My folks packed a few personal belongings and sailed for Canada, arriving [illegible] Hanna, where they had friends, on June 23, 1929.

Somehow it never occurred to my family that a different language would be spoken in the country they had immigrated to, and it was very difficult for the children to start school with only a few words of English. Through their friends, my father obtained part-time work on the C.N.R., and my mother got a job washing dishes [illegible] a circus which was in Hanna at the time. Both started work the day after their arrival.

The depression and drought of the next eight years belied the land agent's stories. My parents worked at any job that was available, and in 1934 moved to the

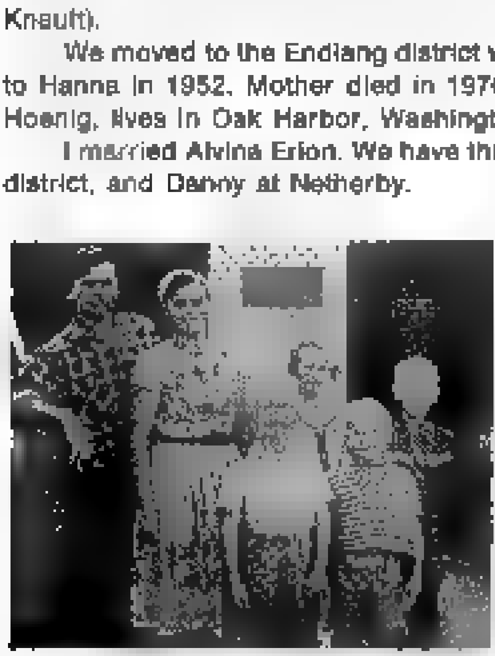
Chris German farm three miles east of Hanna. They milked cows and raised poultry; the first year they threshed 360 bushels of wheat from their half section. The next year the crop yielded six hundred bushels, but it had been frozen, and brought only sixteen cents a bushel, and cost four cents a bushel to thresh. In 1936 all they got was two level rackloads of feed, and they decided that it was time to move elsewhere.

My older sister, Pauline, had married John Engel and remained in Hanna. They had four children and still make their home there.

While we lived on the Chris German place, my sister Frida and I attended Royalton school, which closed the year we left the district because there were not enough children left to keep it open. The last teacher was Catherine Steven (Mrs. Knault).

We moved to the Endiang district where my parents farmed until they retired to Hanna in 1952. Mother died in 1970 and my father in 1975. Frida, Mrs. Ben Hoenig, lives in Oak Harbor, Washington.

I married Alvina Erion. We have three sons, David and Robert in the Endiang district, and Danny at Netherby.



Reinhold Kautz Family. Left to Right: Reinhold, Ida, Jurgen, Anne, Karl, Wilfried.

REINHOLD and IDA KAUTZ — Reinhold Kautz and Ida Baumann arrived in Hanna on February 14, 1951, and went to the home of our sponsor, my cousin, John Yasman. We were married in March of that year, and moved to Edmonton where we both worked.

In 1952 we moved back to Hanna, where we were happy and proud to work for John and Leah Yasman for $160 a month and our board. In the fall we made arrangements to purchase three quarters of land four miles east of Hanna. With the money we had saved from two years in Canada, we bought three milk cows with calves, and three brood sows; and John Yasman and Ida's cousin, Fred Schniller, each loaned us a cow to milk for a year.

Milking our own cows and raising our own hogs made us feel very worthy. Although there were a lot of things we went without, we said to ourselves, "We have nothing to lose, but all to gain." Cousin John let me use his machinery to prepare the land, sow the crop. In return I did manual labor on his farm. That autumn we purchased milk quotas from Bill Mackenzie, Chris German and Joe Martin, which were large enough to give us a good income.

Our first child, Anne Marie, was born while we lived in Edmonton; our second, Reinhold Wilfried, arrived in 1953. In December, 1956, Jurgen George was born to us. Our last child, Karl Heinz, was born in 1967.

In 1955 crops were poor and we lost several good cows due to milk fever. The next year crops were much better and we were able to regain a substantial part of our losses. We accumulated more modern machinery, and purchased another four quarters of land. We still had problems in the winter months as the roads were poor and drifted in much of the time. Many times I shovelled snow for two hours to go the four miles to town. This particular spring, I had to build a wooden platform on the tractor, to set the milk cans on to take them to the dairy.

During the next ten years we built a dairy barn and a milking parlor, installed

milking machines, bought another half-section of land, and milked about fifty cows. When the Central Alberta Dairy Pool closed in Hanna, we sold several dairy cows and bought range cows.

In 1969 we left Anne Marie and Wilfried to manage the farm, and taking our two youngest with us, we visited our homeland, West Germany. When we returned, Anne Marie went to Germany [illegible] live for eleven months, and worked there as a secretary. When she came back to Canada, she worked as a nursing aide for a few years before marrying Alan Harvey of Scapa. They have one son, Jason, and live at Sarnia, Ontario, where Alan is an accountant.

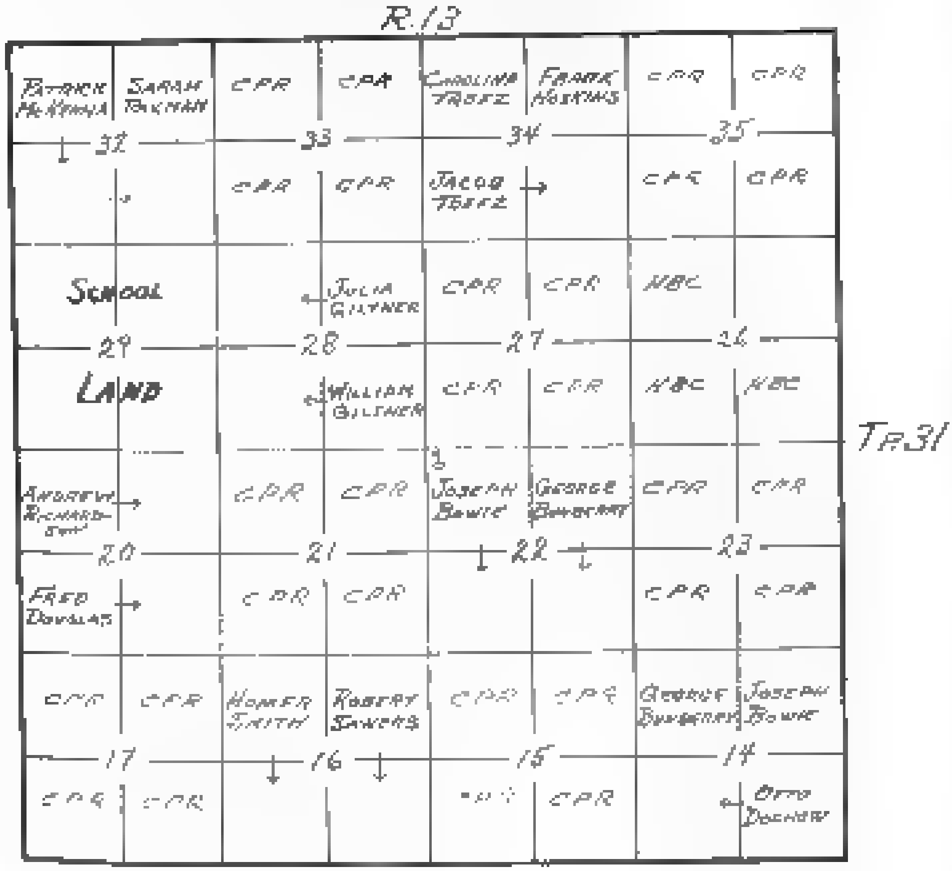
After graduating, Wilfried travelled [illegible] West Germany to meet his relatives, took on a factory job and remained ten months. While he was away, we bought for him Alfred Pahl's farm. [illegible] 1974 he married Thyra Riddle of Hanna, and has since resided on his farm northeast of Hanna. We are working and farming together as one family.

Jurgen wished also to be a farmer, so he quit school, and for him we bought, in 1974, the Dan Kautz farm. In 1976 he married Bonnie Jess, and they live on their farm.

Karl Heinz graduated from high school in 1975 and started working for the C.N.R., as well as farming with the family. In 1976 he decided to become a plumber, and now lives [illegible] Calgary.

For all the years we have seen come and go, we have no complaints, but give all thanks to the Lord for this good land of Canada and the province of Alberta in which we have prospered. To me and my family there is no equal to it in the world.

CENTREPOINT No. 2568



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS
CENTREPOINT 31-13-4

Section 14
NE 14
Joe Bowie
R. A. Evans

NW 14
George Bunbury
Glen Ives
Ivan Michael
Mike Litke
John Dischuck
Henry Hoover
R. A. Evans

S ½
Otto Gochow SAV
Robert Giltner
Joe Martin and C.N.R.

Section 15
C.P.R.
E ½ A. L. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

W ½
Wm. Anderson
R. Kautz
Section 16
E ½
Robert Sawyer
H. R. Smith
Joe Martin
W ½
Homer Smith
Fred Fecho

Section 17 C.P.R.
NE 17
Douglas Brothers
Mike Litke
Freda Fecho
SE 17
Mad Gosselin
Mike Litke
Elsie Hien

W ½ 17
A. J. Lauer
W. Hamilton
Edwin Hien

Section 20
N ½
Gibb Richardson
Bob Fraser
Herb Pfahl
Wellington Hamilton

S ½ 20
Fred Douglas
Mrs. Brasheart
Edwin Hien

Section 21
C.P.R.
NE 21
Charlie Giltner
Leon Knapp
Fred Fecho

NW 21
George Thrish
H. R. Smith
Fred Fecho

S ½ 21
Homer Smith
Fred Fecho

Section [redacted]
E ½ 22 SAV
George Bunbury
Wm. Anderson
Frank Moulding

W ½ 22 SAV
Joe Bowie
Joe Moulding
Frank Moulding

Section 23
C.P.R.
NE 22
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans
NW 23
A. Buckwalters
John Littau
Wm. Anderson
Bob Wishart
R. A. Evans

S ½ 23
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

Section [redacted]
H. B. Co.
Neville Thomas
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section 27
C.P.R.
N ½ 27
Jack Litke
Elmer Pfahl
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 27
W. H. Giltner
Otto Stern
Frank Moulding

Section 28
N ½ 28
Julia Giltner
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

S ½ 28
Wm. Giltner
Otto Stern
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section 29
School Land
Hanna Farms
Fred Elm
Andy & Tony Mosher
Elmer Pfahl & Doug Motz

Section 32
NE 32
Sarah Pakaree
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz
NW 32
Pat McKenna
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

S ½ 32
Pat McKenna SAV
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

Section 33
C.P.R.
J. C. Buckwalters
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

Section 34
NE 34
Frank Hoskins
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

NW 34
Caroline Trefz
Neville Thomas
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 34
Jacob Trefz
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section [redacted]
C.P.R.

N ½ 35
Homey McCullough
Frank Hoskins
Dan Trefz
Don Mattis

S ½ 35
Dan Mattis
Don Mattis

CENTREPOINT
By Margaret Hage

Centrepoint School No. 2588 was built in 1912 on the northwest corner of Section 22. The first teacher was Miss Douglas, who lived with her brothers who had homesteaded two miles west and south of the school. The first pupils were Joe, Ruth, Charlie and Harry Giltner; Elizabeth, James, George, Lydia and Esther Trefz; Dan, Martha, Albert and Fred Mattis; and Ben and Mary Come. Teachers who usually boarded at Giltner's, Moulding's, Anderson's or Thomas' were Hilda Meadows, Miss McKinley, Sarah Hourihand, Margaret Sangster, Lavina Raymond (Mrs. Honey), Catherine Strong, Miss Martin, Mr. Evans, Freda Sterling, Vera McCarthy, Norman Lambly, Fred Barber, Virginia Thomas (Mrs. P. Collins). School

trustees were Neville Thomas, William Giltner, Mrs. William Anderson, Joseph Moulding and Homer Smith.

Back Row: Evelyn Giltner, Viva Giltner, Virginia Thomas. Middle Row: Bob Anderson, Lionel Thomas, Jack Giltner, Raymond Thomas, Frank Moulding. Front Row: Ronald Thomas, John Anderson, Delbert Giltner

Many good times were had at Centrepoint, in and out of school. Boys and girls, which were always few, played games together, carried our lunches in syrup or lard pails and often exchanged with others. One time Henry Mattis brought the can of Roger's syrup instead of his lunch, so the rest of us shared ours with him. The teachers usually shared our lunch hours and our games and put up with a lot of our nonsense.

Dances were held occasionally in the school. Just a few girls, (we were popular then) and plenty of men and boys, particularly bachelors who would come quite a distance if we had a lady teacher. Musicians played violins, mouth organs, and fiddles and guitars. Sometimes someone played the school organ. Among those I remember were "Wild Bill" Wilkinson, George Gwin, George Unsworth, and Benny Weller.

Christmas concerts were always a real event as the teachers had a way of drumming up a lot of good entertainment. Mrs. W. Anderson filled in as Santa Claus many times. She usually gave the bachelors and teachers a bad time.

Centrepoint School

During the summer months we usually had church services at the school, which were well attended by all denominations. They seemed to give the people new hope and courage during the poor years. Ministers I recall were Rev. Scallon, Rev. Hammit, Rev. Finkbeiner, and Rev. Westaway.

Our school entered in the school fairs which were held in Hanna. The girls baked and sewed articles and the boys took vegetables and handicrafts. Penmanship and stories were entered in the school work section.

The C.N.R. came through our district in 1912 and we had a station, Alness, one and a half miles south of us, and Bonar station was south and west about four miles. These stations had houses for the station agent and the section men. The elevators, two at each station, also had living accommodation for their men and their families.

The passenger trains, one east and one west, went through at 1:30 A.M. and 3:30 A.M. We would go to the station before the train was due and flag it down to stop and pick us up, which wasn't too often, mainly when teachers were travelling back and forth to their homes. After Alness elevators were closed, and later Bonar, we hauled our grain by team and loaded it on boxcars which were left at the station for that purpose.

Back Row: Margaret Anderson, Virginia Thomas, Martha Quast, Emmanuel Trefz, Josie Trefz, Delbert Giltner. Front Row: Mary Quast, Patricia Thomas, Jean Anderson, John Anderson, Lionel Thomas.

One young man from Dundee was showing our teacher around, so when she was to go home for holidays in the winter time, he came to take her to Bonar to catch the train at 3:30. I guess he was short on time and made too quick a turn around the slough at Bonar and upset sleigh, teacher wearing a fur coat, and all into the slough which had a thin layer of ice on it. Consequently she had to be returned to our place, dried out and warmed up. He also had to have a change of clothes so he could drive home and return the next night to get her safely away. What a razzing they got!

Several prairie fires started because C.N.R. workers were burning weeds along the track right-of-way. It took only a bit of wind to carry the sparks to the very dry grass and stubble of the thirties. One bad fire went nearly to Spondin before it could be stopped . . . through sloughs where the grass on top was dry, into grain fields, and only by very hard work were the firefighters able to save buildings. Everyone dropped their work, men took teams and plows, barrels of water and sacks to fight the blaze. My mother phoned to Hanna to the R.C.M.P. and to Joe Winkler, who rounded up men and brought them out to help, along with food supplies which the women made into lunches. This, and making gallons of coffee, kept the women busy too. Often firefighting had to go on for hours and into the night.

Telephone lines came through our district around 1920. The telephone crew camped in tents in our yard so that they could get fresh water, milk, eggs and butter. They were there most of the summer. Occasionally my brother and I would be invited to eat in the big cook tent. The telephone lines went along the road allowances, beside the roads which were built and maintained by the men of the district using fresnos and scrapers drawn by teams.

The young people of the district learned to skate on sloughs, Giltner's and Moulding's dams, and Trefz' creek. We also had sleigh riding and tobogganing on the hill on Thomas' farm. After one of these parties, no one at school wanted to sit down when the teacher said, "Seats!"

I remember a few bad blizzards when Dad wouldn't let us go to school, and everyone was phoned to stay at home. One blizzard about 1927 or 1928 lasted all day and most of the night, filling every crack in the old shacks and even in the

better ones, so that when the thaw came, all the ceiling paper came loose, and tubs just couldn't catch all the water.

We had mail delivered twice a week from Hanna, by horses and later by car. We had mailboxes on the mailman's route, which went as far as Spondin. In the winters he often brought groceries or medicine to people who couldn't get to town. Everyone looked forward to getting the Hanna Herald, the Free Press, the Family Herald and the Country Guide.

We had a big slough which extended through our farm for over a mile, and when hunting season opened in September, we could expect hunters from three or four o'clock in the morning. Mother kept the coffee and breakfast on for hours, as well as a supply of dry socks. In the evening it was supper and more dry socks. Visitors were always welcome, no matter who they were or why they came.

Although it is several years since I left the Centrepoint district and there are very few people left there I did learn many valuable lessons and have wonderful memories of neighbors and the good times we had.

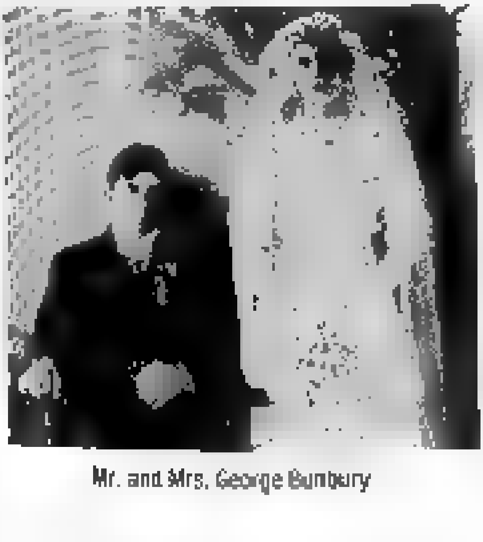
The schoolhouse was removed from the district about the year 1949.

GEORGE BUNBURY, By M. Hage — George Bunbury was born September 10th, 1888 in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1906. His parents in Ireland paid a monthly wage to a rancher, Bill Channel (near the Bow River) to teach George how to become a rancher.

During the winter of 1906 he made extra money skinning dead cattle and other animals, and selling the hides.

George homesteaded on northwest of 14-31-13 in 1909. He freighted lumber from Castor to Hanna by team.

On April 2nd, 1913 he married Greta Lyness at Hanna and they had two children, Lawrence and Kathy. In 1917 they moved to the Painteearth district, where their son Robert was born in 1918.



Mr. and Mrs. George Bunbury

Four Generations. George Bunbury, Lynda Storch (granddaughter), Bob Bunbury (son), Allen Storch (great grandson).

BILL GILTNER, By Harry Giltner — William Henry (Bill) Giltner came to Alberta from Missouri in 1902. He shipped his effects to Lacombe and took up a homestead about fifty miles east of there. He proved up on his homestead in 1906 and farmed there until 1909, when he had a chance to purchase two South African scrips near where Hanna is now, section 26-31-13.

In the summer of 1910 he and Jonas Schaus went down and built a sod house and barn and put up some hay. That fall he moved the family down. I don't

remember what month it was but we moved on sleighs. We had a small caboose built on the frame of a hay rack. What a trip it must have been for my mother, as there were six kids then, Joe, Ruth, Charlie, Harry, Roy and Viva. Joe and Ruth had been born in the U.S.A. and the rest of us on the homestead near Stettler. Joe was eleven years old, so was some help, but the rest of us were just underfoot all the time.

Ruth, Mr. Giltner, Joe, Mrs. Giltner, Harry, Charlie, Roy.

My Dad had brought four head of horses with him from the States, and he had bought two more horses and a team of mules, so this made the trip faster than if we had had oxen, but it still took three days. He left what cattle he had with a neighbor to winter, but must have taken a couple of milk cows.

There was no one living for miles around. I don't think my mother saw another woman all winter, just snow to look at for miles. It's a wonder she didn't go out of her mind. It was some time that winter that George Bunbary settled on the NW 2-31-13, so we had one neighbor, but he was a bachelor as most of them were that settled there first.

My Dad had done some breaking so put in some crop in 1911. It looked pretty good, but around the first of August there came the worst hail storm I ever saw, stones as big as hen's eggs and a terrific wind. We all ran for the sod house as the wind couldn't hurt that. The wind picked up my mother's wash tub and started it rolling across the prairie. We watched it as far as we could see but never did find it afterwards. The crop and tub were a total loss.

Several people moved in the next year or so, Trefz, Gib Richarsons and Joe Bowie. Bowie was a bachelor. He was there only a short while when he went to visit his sister in California, took sick and died there.

In the fall of 1911 the family moved to Castor so the kids could go to school. Dad and the hired man, Willis Evans, stayed on the farm and looked after the place for the winter. Evelyn was born in Castor. When we moved back the next spring I remember the almost steady stream of homesteaders who were moving out to that location and farther south.

A school district was organized about this time and Centre Point school was built in 1912, the same year that the railway came through and the town of Hanna

was started. They used [illegible] hold dances at Centre Point and there would be about twenty-five men and four women, so the women never sat out a dance. For square dances, they would tie a handkerchief around a man's arm and he would take the part of a woman. They kept going till daylight as the dances were the only social gatherings there were. Some of those bachelors rode a horse twenty miles to get there.

My Dad was the first to get a gang plow around there, and he used to do breaking for others. He built a new house in 1913 and a new barn in 1916. Both 1915 and 1916 were good years and prices were good. [illegible] this time my Dad had about one hundred head of cattle and forty head of horses. The next three years were not so good but grain and cattle were a good price so most people did [illegible] right. There was a good crop in 1920 and those were about the best times in that country.

Dad had bought a steam threshing outfit in 1916 so he did most of the threshing around there for several years. He also did a lot of breaking for others.

Our home was the gathering place on Sunday and we always had a crowd there. There would usually be twenty-five or more for dinner. We would play ball or horseshoes or run in a bunch of range horses to see who could ride the best or get thrown the highest. No one was ever hurt very badly but there were a lot of bruises the next day.

In 1921 the crop was almost a total failure. Farmers didn't get their seed back and prices dropped on both cattle and wheat and that was the end of the good times for that country. The next year was also dry though better than 1921. In 1923 there was lots of rain at the right time and we threshed for forty-four days that fall and only lost three or four days because of rain. In 1924 most of the crops weren't worth cutting. There was a fair yield in 1926 but we had frost and the grain was a poor grade, so there wasn't any money made that year. Although 1927 was good, frost and a wet fall took most of the profit out of 1928. The next years were worse. Worst of all was 1933.

It never rained all summer and most of the wells went dry. At one time we were driving cattle eight miles every day for water, and the water was so thick with mud you could almost cut it with a knife. Then one well that had gone dry started producing again for some unknown reason, for we had no rain. We had no more water troubles, but there was very little grass and no feed for the winter.

We left our home that fall and moved to Erskine, not far from where Dad had homesteaded in the first place. We leased the Ewing Ranch twelve miles south of Erskine. Prices were poor but at least we had feed and water for the cattle.

Mrs. Giltner died suddenly in January, 1935 and Mr. Giltner died of a stroke in 1937. None of us stayed farming long after that.

Joe had a blacksmith shop in Nevis that he operated until he retired in 1967.

Jack and Delbert (Sam) and Roy (Cap) all joined the army when war broke out, also Viva's husband Olaf Volker. Jack was sent to Italy. Sam and Olaf saw service in France. Roy was kept in Canada in the Provost Corps. They were all lucky enough to get back alive.

After the war they all took up mechanics. Sam lived in Alix and worked in the gas plant at Content. He was killed in a car accident in 1976. Jack is shop foreman for Battle River Coal at Forestburg. Roy took up welding, worked for Bertman's in Hanna and then for Battle River Coal until he retired and moved to Nevis. He died suddenly in 1972.

Viva lives at Nevis and Evelyn at Kelowna, B.C. Charlie went to Ontario in 1926 and is still there. He was a butcher until his retirement.

I (Harry) went up on the Alaska highway for a while, then worked on highway

construction. In 1949 I went to work for the County of Stettler and was grade foreman for twenty years. I am retired now and live in Stettler.

GIB RICHARDSON FAMILY, By Clarence Richardson — My parents settled in the Centre Point district in 1910, but because there was a shortage of water there, he bought the Leithhead ranch, five miles north of Endiang, from Mr. Arne Larson [illegible] 1914. Dad moved his stock to the new ranch that summer, and mother and my brother Gordon and I spent the summer there. My sister Florence was born in September, and as mother was afraid that the log house on the ranch would be too cold for the baby, she took us children back to the Centre Point place for the winter.

In the spring of 1915, Gordon, who was five, and I who was seven, attended Centre Point school for two weeks. Then we moved to the Endiang area.

My clearest memory of the Centre Point farm concerns the trip we made back there. I rode bareback all the way, driving two milk cows, and had a good blister when we arrived.

My parents retired to Calgary [illegible] 1938. Mother died December 12, 1961, and dad on December 13, 1966.

THE GUY V. GIBBS STORY, By M. Hage — Guy V. Gibbs was born near Woodland, California on March the fourth, 1892. He received his early grammar and high school at Woodland. He later went to the University of Southern California to study law. He completed his course and opened his own law office at the age of twenty-one, being the youngest attorney in California.

[illegible] 1913 [illegible] was married to Estella Harris. In 1915 they went to Alaska where he worked for the United States Government on new railway work. In 1917 he moved to Hanna area and took up farming on the Richardson homestead which was the north half 20-31-13. In January of 1919 he died of the flu and his widow, his son Guy Gibbs Jr. who was born [illegible] 1914, and his baby girl went back to their old home in Woodland.

LIVING IN CANADA, By Hilda Adam Thomas — My folks, William and Katharina Adam, my brother Dan and I, Hilda, moved to Alberta from North Dakota.

We lived in a large house which was later used as a barn. Somehow, somewhere, Dad bought a house and moved it to our place which was close to the Mattis farm. We had a horse and a cow. Dan and I started school, and had to walk four miles each way. I was eight years old when I started.

From there we moved to Grandpa and Grandma Adam's farm. In the meantime Alvina was born, then Leona and Mabel. We remember Charlie Litke, Fred Litke and their families, and we remember that the highway went right through Gillner's farm. We all went to Centre Point School. Then another school was built north of our farm and we had to go there, but I don't remember the name of it. Hanna was the closest town and that was ten miles from our place. Dad used to send Dan and me to Hanna for repairs for the machinery whenever we needed them.

Dad had a pair of jackasses, the onery ones. We called them Jack and Jill and when we hitched them on the stoneboat they would take off like a bat out of hell, but not the way you wanted them to, only the way they wanted to go. Dan and I tried to drive them [illegible] school one day. Halfway there they made up their minds to turn around and go home. We had to walk the rest of the way to school and all the way home.

Leona, Alvin, Dan, Hilda, Mabel and John Adam, Karolina and Bill.

We helped stook the wheat or oats when it was cut. Dan, Dad and I cut hay, and hauled it home for the cattle and horses. That was fun.

Just about everyone, including us, had the flu. Grandma Adam died of it. Grandpa Adam was driving the horse and buggy to town and the horse was scared by a bird and started to run. The buggy tipped over, and Grandpa was taken to the hospital. Dad said he had a broken collar bone, but pneumonia set in and he died.

In 1919 John was born. Mother was ill for a long time. Soon after that our house burned down. Mom and Dad were visiting Fred Litke, so Dan and I tried to carry a few belongings out and the rest of the girls hid in the grainfields. No one knows how the fire started. We moved into Grandma Adam's house.

Two baby girls were born and died. We moved to Saskatchewan where we lived for a year. Another girl was born and lived for a day and a half. [illegible] 1926 another girl was born.

Dad died in 1958 and mother in 1961.

The Tretz Family: Josie, Emmanuel, Esther, Ruth, Dan, Lillian, Lydia, James, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tretz.

RECOLLECTIONS, By Dan Tretz — I was barely a year old when my father, J. J. Tretz, filed on his homestead on 34-31-13, almost ninety miles southeast of the nearest town, Stettler. How or why they picked that particular section is beyond me; perhaps they drew the numbers out of a hat at the Land Titles Office in Calgary.

They drove out from Stettler by wagon late in October, then walked to a spot nearly in the middle of the section near a tributary of Berry Creek. Noticing a spot where the grass was considerably

greener, Dad thrust in a spade and found that the ground was moist. He dug deeper and struck water at three feet; to this day that well has been a good source of water for the farmsite which was built around it.

Dad and mother had filed on a homestead each and a pre-emption each. Because homestead regulations required at least six months' residence on the land every year, my parents decided to pitch the tent and later build the house right on the line dividing the quarters. I can never remember one parent telling the other to go live 'in your half of the house'.

There were twelve of us in the family, seven girls and five boys. Carrie married Frank Hoskins; both are deceased, their son Francis is in Chicago.

Elizabeth married a minister who later went into the bakery business. He developed the Butter Gem Roll which lured the whole Tratz family off the farm, for the duration of the Hungry Thirties at least, and into the baking business. Jim had a very successful baking business in Washington, D.C. Lydia, a nurse, and Joe, a medical doctor, reside in New York State, Esther in Tennessee, Ruth and brother Mannie in California. All are more or less retired, as I am here at Creston, B.C. But our thoughts often revert back to Centre Point days.

And they were memorable days to be sure. While we did not attend local dances or social functions as a rule, we did enjoy picnics and sleighing parties. Centre Point School was usually well attended, especially when the school could boast of a particularly attractive teacher. Then all the eligible bachelors such as Joe and Charles Giltner, Reg Moulding, Albert and Fred Mattis, Emil and Leonard Gosselin, would make themselves available for further learning. There is also the memory of strap-swinging, yardstick waving Miss McNeil; and of Viva Giltner making faces at me to invoke me to laughter that usually resulted in the teacher expressing herself on the palms of my hands.

Teachers usually boarded with the Mouldings or Andersons, but Miss McNeil stayed with us, for as long as she could stand it. We drove the two miles to school in a democrat, and as I had a hard time avoiding the badger holes along the road, I sometimes upset the occupants of the rear seat. That, of course, spelled my finish as the driver.

I've been told that times were pretty hard in the early days. A neighbor, Homer McCullough, kept quite a few horses. I recall his barn being pretty well chewed up, especially the mangers. In fact, Homer had to drive nails into the studdings to keep them from being chewed clear through!

One night when my father was hauling a load of lumber from Stettler, he hoped to make it home after dark but his horses were tired. There were only trails across the prairies and few landmarks to tell you where you were, certainly none after dark. Dad felt he must be near home, but his horses refused to go any further. So he unhitched the team, tethered them out for the night, rolled into his blankets under the wagon and went to sleep. As light broke over the horizon early in the morning he realized he was within shouting distance of his tent, and home.

On another occasion he took Jim with him to walk ahead of the horses with a sheaf of oats, and lure the team on.

Frequently whole caravans of neighbors travelled together to do their shopping in Stettler. On one such caravan a Mr. Lawrence composed a poem describing the trip. I have heard the poem read and would give a considerable sum for a copy of it. It mentions the names of all the people involved.

During the flu epidemic just after World War I, we had all been sick except sister Beth. Through the seige she had nursed us all, and some of the neighbors as well. One day when we were just about to be up on our feet again, she called, "Come see this!"

We scrambled to the window just in time to see Frank Hoskins, our brother-in-law, come around the corner riding the stoneboat and clutching the water barrel. The stoneboat was tied to the tail of his milk cow! The cow knew exactly where to come for she knew where our oat bin was.

As the outfit circled the fence corner the stoneboat struck the gate post and came to a full stop, while the cow, minus her tail, kept going straight for the chop bin.

Frank and Carrie had also been down with the flu and had turned their horses out to pasture. Now that they had recovered somewhat, and the water barrel was empty, they had pressed the cow into service.

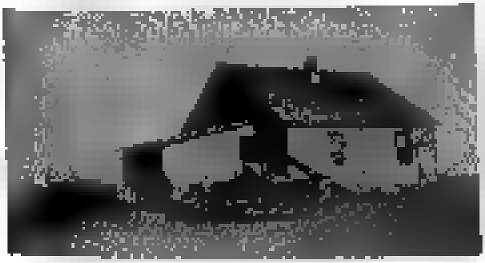
And that's what pioneers were made of!

William Anderson, Bob, John, Jean, Mrs. Anderson, Margaret.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, By Margaret Anderson Hage — William Anderson was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1880, and went to Vermont, U.S.A. when he was twenty-five. There he met and married my mother, Jessie Mitchell, who had been born in Brockville, Ontario, and had moved to Vermont with her parents. Their son George was born in 1910.

William came west in 1910, worked for the railway company in British Columbia for nearly a year, and then returned to Vermont to bring my mother and my brother George to the homestead at Lone Butte. My brother Robert and I were born there in the little tarpaper shack with a neighbor woman in attendance.

As there was no school there, my father moved in 1918 to the Centre Point district, to the former George Bunbury place. He later moved the buildings from the south-west quarter of the farm to the north-west quarter, one-half mile from the school.



W. Anderson farm house - 1932. Bob Anderson, Ted Hasse.

My brother John was born in 1919 at the home of Mrs. Thompson with Dr. Nixon attending. My sister Jean was born in 1922 at home with Dr. Baxendale and Mrs. Giltner attending. My brother George passed away at the age of eleven years, from cancer.

The rest of us attended school at Centre Point as far as grade nine. Bob later went to Technical School in Calgary. He married Rosella Kennedy in 1939 and was employed by the C.N.R. until his death in 1962. He had two sons, Joe and Jim. His widow nursed for several years in Hanna and is now retired there.

My brother John attended business school in Calgary, served in the army and the air force during the Second World War, and now works as a bookkeeper at Domtar in Calgary. He married Ruby Mortimer and they have one daughter, Jo-Ann.

My sister Jean also attended business school and during the war worked in

an office as part of the clerical staff for the armed forces. She married Bob Ellingson and they and their three children, Donna, Robert and Kathy, live in Calgary.

I attended high school in Hanna and in 1931 I went to work at the Hanna hospital. Except for a few years when my children were small, I have been there ever since. I have four children by my first marriage, William Simpson in Hanna, George in Leduc, Roberta in Vulcan and Margaret at Camrose.

My mother once said that she would not go homesteading again for a thousand dollars, but that she wouldn't take a thousand for her experience, either. One time when Dad was away during the slim years, she shot what she thought was a duck. She cooked it practically [illegible] day without much success. When Dad came home he took one look at it and had to tell her it was a mud hen. She said her recreation was riding horseback and shooting ducks or gophers; at least it broke the monotony. She always seemed to be able to make the best of things, helping out with chores and driving a team on the binder at harvest time.

In 1930 my uncle, Robert Anderson, who lived with us for several years, rented the John Buckwalter land and we moved to that place as there were new buildings. My father bought the north-west quarter of section 15 and my mother bought the south-west quarter [illegible] 24, the former Lyness place. They farmed this land until 1939, when they sold to Mr. Lambert from Munson, and moved to Calgary. They had an acreage there for about fifteen years and then moved into the city.

My mother passed away in 1957, my father in 1971.

There were many happy years spent in the Centre Point district. Neighbors like Giltners, Mouldings, Trefz and Mattis were so helpful in time of sickness and lasting friendships were formed. Mrs. Giltner, Mrs. Moulding and mother often took the team and buggy to town for a day's outing, a little shopping, and a treat at Harry Grummit's bakery and ice cream parlor.

THE STRINGERS, By Cecil Stringer — My family arrived in the Centre Point district in the late fall of 1920, and rented the J. J. Trefz farm for three years. My folks had come to Didsbury from Kansas, looking for a homestead, but as they were [illegible] taken up in that area, they moved to Hanna to rent an already-established farm.

My Dad, assisted by his brother Oliver Stringer who had homesteaded in the Bullpound district south of Hanna, trucked out belongings from Didsbury to Centre Point with two teams and wagons, while my mother and her family of three arrived by car, owned and driven by [illegible]r. Trefz.

As I was only four when I arrived at Centre Point and had just turned eight when I left, I can give an account of only those things which affected my own small world. I was always interested in horses. After I started school I drove the teacher who boarded at our place to school each day in a single buggy drawn by Topsy, an old thoroughbred mare who was always skinny but never lazy.

Another horse was Flash, a blue roan which was a wonderful kids' pony. Flash was also a very able cutting and working horse but she loved [illegible] pretend to shy at the least provocation. Consequently my brother Wayne rode her with spurs, [illegible] make her tend to business. I remember Dad donning spurs and leading Flash out of the barn to mount her. I said to him, "You can't ride her with spurs."

"Why not?" he wanted to know.

"She'll buck you off," I said. I was only six at the time and perhaps he didn't believe me. At any rate, she did buck him off, so he removed the spurs, remounted and rode away. He often laughed about that afterward.

Mr. Trafz owned a threshing machine and during the time that we operated the farm, he and his son James would come out every year to thresh the crop.

He also owned a mechanical stook loader, and I remember that one fall my mother ran the stook loader pulled by four horses. I drove the bundle racks to the loader which filled them up, then took them to the machine where Dad and my brother Wayne pitched the bundles into the machine while I went back for another load. That fall's threshing was very much a family affair, for my sister did the cooking.

I remember the Thomas family who lived a half-mile from us. The year I started school their house burned down and they stayed with us for several weeks. While Dad was helping Mr. Thomas dig a new well, they found a petrified fish, twenty feet below the surface of the ground.

Other neighbors were the Mouldings, the Giltners, the Andersons and the Ives. One young couple I remember was Frank Hoskins and his wife Caroline who was one of the older Trafz girls. To help make ends meet, Frank bought the odd beef from local farmers, butchered [illegible] and sold the meat to his customers. As we had no way of storing fresh meat in those days, farmers could butcher their own beef only after the weather was cold enough to freeze it.

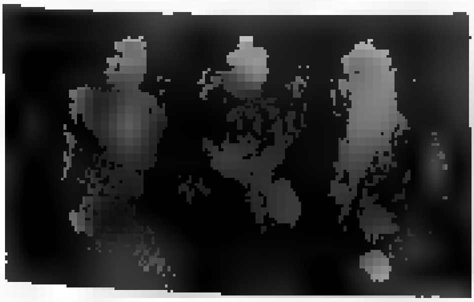
Frank had no saddle or saddle horse, so he brought his live purchase home by riding a work horse, complete with harness, and tying the cow or steer to the harness. It could not get away and he would proceed to haze the critter home.

Just as children today want to experiment with trucks and tractors, so did we with horses. Before I had started school I had the urge [illegible] drive a team, so one day when Dad was not at home I chased a team into the barn, put them in their stall and proceeded to harness them. It took a long time as I had to push the harness onto their backs and then get on the manger and the side of the stall to pull it into place. When I eventually got them harnessed, bridled and hooked to a stoneboat, I was the proudest kid in the country.

In the spring of 1924 Mr. Trafz decided [illegible] come back to his farm, so before spring break-up my Dad moved us to the O. P. Stringer farm south of Hanna. My Uncle Oil was leaving the homestead to make his home in San Francisco where he ran a streetcar till he retired.

On the day we moved by team and wagon I had a high fever and everyone thought that I had the flu. Several days later they began to suspect something more serious, so my uncle rode to Hanna to get the doctor. As the snow was very deep and the spring thaw had started, it took a relay of three teams to get the doctor to our home twelve miles from Hanna. When he arrived he diagnosed my illness as diphtheria, and told my folks it would have been too late to save my life if he had been one hour later in arriving.

This is an example of the trials that pioneers had to put up with, even in the twenties, and it must have been much worse when the homesteaders first arrived.



Louise, Jackie and Jack Litke.

JACK LITKE, By Louise Litke — Jack was born in Emerson, Manitoba, [illegible] 1901. He moved with his father and mother, four sisters and seven brothers to the Solon district, where he received all his schooling. He then went [illegible] Hanna to work for the C.N.R., first in the shops and then as a brakeman.

He married Louise Engel in 1925. Their son Jack was born [illegible] 1926. [illegible] 1928 they moved to the Gosslin place and lived there for thirteen years. Jack continued working for the C.N.[illegible] until he retired in 1963. He passed away in 1973.

Jack and Louise had four children. Jack, at Barrhead, has a Men's Wear Store. Kathy lives in Edmonton, Norman operates a barber shop [illegible] Stettler and Stanley lives in Calgary.

Louise still lives in Hanna, very active in church and pioneer affairs. Jack also worked with community organizations; after his retirement he worked with the Museum committee and at the Pioneer Hall. He was a well-liked and respected person and did much for his community, sportswise and socially.

THE QUAST FAMILY, By Helen Quast Dyke — My Dad, Christian Quast, was born in Besserabia in 1881. My mother Magdaline was born [illegible] Roumania in 1886. They were united in marriage in Roumania in 1904. To this union were born eleven children.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Quast.

Back Row: Mary, Dorothy, Martha. Middle Row: Ida, Mrs. Quast, Helen. Front Row: Diana.

My parents came to Canada in 1910. With them were two of my Dad's cousins, C. Quast and J. Quast, with their wives and families.

My parents had two sons who were born in the old country, my brother Jack born in 1906 and a brother Ferdinand, an infant who became ill, died aboard ship and was buried at sea. This was my parents' first tragedy and sorrow before arriving in Canada.

They came directly to Calgary by train and lived there until 1916; my Dad worked for Burns' as a meat cutter and also did carpenter work. [illegible] 1916 they moved to Saskatchewan where they lived until 1926, then moved [illegible] Hanna. They lived in town until April, 1928, when they moved to a farm twelve miles east of Hanna, to try their luck at farming.

Times were hard and the land was poor. Because crops were often hailed out or dried out, my Dad did carpenter work [illegible] try to put food on the table for his, by now, large family. He helped build the first Hanna Hospital and the Church of Christ, as well as several homes, some [illegible] them still in the town. Dad and my brother Jack built East Point School. Dad also built caskets and church pews.

Our home was a two-room tarpaper shack and we can all well remember when it rained outside it rained inside too. In the winter the drinking water froze solid in the pail. In the summer time we girls would move beds out to a granary and sleep there until it was needed for grain.

Mother used to roast wheat in the oven until it was brown, roll it with the rolling pin and use it for a substitute for coffee, which we couldn't afford to buy. According to neighbors and friends, Mom was known for the excellent bread and coffee cakes she used to bake, and of course we children thought she was the best cook in the world. Mom used to make noodles for the neighbors as well as for her own family. Although she never learned to read or write, she could turn out the best darn cake and cookies anyone ever tasted.

Mom used to make dresses for us girls out of flour sacks, and we used to argue about who was going to get the next new dress.

I can remember walking three miles to Centre Point School, and for lunch having thick slices of bread spread with lard that Mother had rendered down. If we were real lucky we would have syrup spread on the bread. It would soak in and get all hard and dried out.

My older brothers and sisters attended school at East Point; it was closed down in later years and then we went to Centre Point. One of my first teachers there, and always one of my favorites, was Virginia Thomas.

Our closest neighbors were the William Andersons and many a time in an emergency we called upon them for help. Mrs. Anderson used to give our family preserves for the winter, and butter and milk; I can remember Mother saying years later that if it hadn't been for the Andersons, she wouldn't have been able to keep going. Mrs. Anderson used to play the part of Santa Claus at our Christmas concerts, and what a disappointment to us younger girls when we found out that Santa wasn't a real person.

In 1936 my parents moved to the Grassy Slope district. Our home was much better but times were still hard for my parents, although my older brothers and sisters were away from home now and making their own livings. We were then into what a lot of old timers call the dirty thirties. Our crops were either dried out or hailed out and Dad had the misfortune of breaking his leg twice, so Mom had to do the best she could.

Our parents never owned a car, but our good neighbors were always there to help if we needed them. Dad used to plow a fire guard for the railway, and get old ties for firewood. In the winter, if he was lucky enough to get a coyote for its hide, he would take it to the store at Richdale and bring back flour, sugar, coffee, and at times even a box of apples.

In 1943 our parents sold their farming equipment and moved back into the town of Hanna, where Dad again did carpenter work. In 1945 Mother became ill and Dad retired and stayed at home to look after her. They lived in Hanna until the fall of 1962 when they moved to Edmonton to live with their daughter Dorothy. Mother passed away there in November, 1963, and Dad died in January, 1966, in the Camrose Nursing Home.

They were predeceased by a son Ferdinand and a daughter Matilda as infants, a son Emanuel at the age of eleven, and a son Jack, at the age of fifty-one. Jack left four daughters.

Surviving members of the family are William, a bachelor who lives in Vancouver; Martha, who married Ronald Beach, makes her home in Calgary; Mary married Dmiler Dayton, was widowed in May, 1976 and lives at Gunn, Alberta; Dorothy married Robert Dyke. They live on their farm at Mundare, Alberta. Ida married Ervin Heyd, they live at Medicine Hat. Helen married Clarence

Dyke and lives in Hanna; Dianne married Albert Sibley. They live in Whitehorse, Y.T.

We girls keep in touch with each other and have many a laugh about things that happened over the years, shed a few tears at the hard times and sorrows we have all lived through, and then think how lucky we have really been over the years.

MOULDINGS OF CENTRE POINT, By Frank Moulding — Dad and Mother, Joe and Minnie Moulding, were born in Manchester, England in 1872 and 1873 respectively. They and Reg, just a baby, immigrated in 1903 to Richmond, Ontario. From here they went west to a homestead at Radisson, Saskatchewan where Dad spent the winter of 1906-07 in a tie camp. It was here that brother Leonard was born in 1909. In 1910 the folks, Reg and Leonard came to a homestead in the Parr district. Rancher Gowan, whose land adjoined the folks, sold out in 1911. The family moved to the ranch site and ran the stopping house. I was born at the ranch in 1912.

Mrs. Minnie Moulding.

Back Row: Joseph, Minnie and Reg Moulding. Front Row: Leonard and Frank.

In the summer of 1914 Dad purchased the land of the Joseph Bowie estate, and we made the move to the Centre Point district in the spring of 1915. Joe Bowie had homesteaded the west half of 22-31-13 as South African Scrip in 1909. He had also purchased a homestead, the northeast of 14-31-13. Joe Bowie died at Redding, California in 1913.

When we came to this area the Centre Point School, which had been built in 1912, was in operation. Guy Gibbs was the first teacher. Reg and Leonard went to the school which was located on our land on the northwest corner of the northwest quarter, just a short distance from home. Both had attended Parr School before coming here. When I became of age I also attended Centre Point. We three boys completed our education at this little white school. We boarded several teachers, one I remember best was Lavina Raymond who married Sid Honey, a neighboring bachelor, about 1923. In 1923 we acquired a Concert Grand piano which my mother could play. We entertained our neighbors with house parties after we got the piano. Lavina Raymond could also play the piano. The school was used for dancing, playing cards, fall fairs and church services. The highlight of the year was the Christmas concert. We used to put mice, butterflies and frogs in the teacher's desk. For our troubles we had to stay in and write a five-hundred word essay on how not to pester the teacher. Due to the economic conditions people moved away, lowering the school's attendance, necessitating the closure of the school in 1936. Virginia Thomas was the last teacher. She had only the Christ Quast, Mike Litke families and Marie Diachuck as students; far from the forty students who attended in the early twenties. The school was torn down by Sullivan Lake School Division and was used to build the School Division Office in Hanna.

In 1916 we lost most of our possessions in a barn fire caused by a smudge getting out of control. Our things were being stored there while an addition was being built on the house. This was a serious loss for we had to replace our clothing and furniture and build another barn. All the while we had to break new land. Dad and Reg broke it with horses. Later on we got the Giltners [illegible] break with their Case steamer. All together we got one hundred acres under cultivation. The stock grazed on the open sections around the country. We cut our hay off these same sections. The best hay land was . . . "section 37."

Dyke Brothers, Giltners, Andy Portiors and Fred Whaley [illegible] name a few were the ones who threshed our crops. We hauled our grain in a double box wagon with horses to Alness and later Bonar and Hanna. Also loaded over the platform at Alness. Home Grain owned the elevators at Alness and Bonar. Bonar, a sixty thousand bushel elevator, was built [illegible] 1914 with D. S. Greer as manager. Alness, smaller at forty-five thousand bushels was built about 1916 with C. [illegible]. Philips as one of the managers. I learned to play crib from him. Alness was dismantled in 1925. Bonar eventually became part of the Searle Grain Company and still later, part of the Federal elevator system. Alberta Wheat Pool acquired Federal's assets and demolished the Bonar elevator in 1972. Some salvage materials were used in the new Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. Ian Grosset was the last elevator agent at Bonar.

As I remember, 1923 was a good year with thirty-five bushel crops quite common. Our crop suffered hundred percent hail damage [illegible] 1926. Both 1928 and 1932 were banner years but the prices were ridiculously low.

In 1921 Reg, who had steam papers, ran the steamer for Scotty Glover of Garden Plain. He fired Giltner's steamer when they were breaking land in 1923. One winter Reg fired the boilers at the round house in Hanna. Then [illegible] 1929 he went to work for Sandy Foote who managed the pool elevator in Hanna. Sandy had the North Star Oil Agency and Reg's job was to deliver fuel [illegible] the customers with a Ford truck. Otto Lindstrom, who had the contract of supplying power [illegible] Hanna, engaged Reg to operate the plant. In 1932 he met Kay Alstott when he was grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific [illegible] Watts. She was hauling grain by truck from the threshing machine for her father. They were married in 1933. During the grasshopper years he bought grain at Dorothy. He worked for the Alberta Pacific [illegible] different locations until the beginning of World War Two when he hired on with Standard Gravel of Calgary as a paver. In 1969 he retired from Standard Gravel and is still residing in Calgary. Reg and Kay have a family of two, a son Jack and a daughter Marjorie. There are several grandchildren.

Leonard, after completing his education at Centre Point, worked for several people in the district as a hired man. [illegible] 1929 he operated a dump wagon for the contractors who were building the railway line from Scapa to Hemaruka. After two years construction working in the States, he came back [illegible] go farming at Erskine until 1936. He and his wife went to Edmonton where he was employed as a guard [illegible] Belmont Correctional Institute, retiring in 1973 to live at Rimbey. The Leonard Mouldings have a son Jerry and a daughter Mary.

After leaving school I stayed home and worked on the place with Dad. I spent

the fall of 1930 on the Watts flats driving four horses on a fresno putting in a grade. That same fall I drove eight head on a plough, cutting a drainage ditch from the Number [illegible] highway north-east to Watts so the water would drain into what is now known as Fox Lake. The fall of 1931 I worked off taxes putting in a slough-fill north of the Greeks on the township line. This was known as relief work. I remember the plagues of grasshoppers, army worms, the dust storms and the Russian Thistles. One year we put up Russian Thistles mixed with straw for feed. During the hungry thirties I went threshing five different falls around Coronation, Veteran, Bulwark, Fleet and Ponoka for winter's grub stake. The folks cared for the farm while I was gone. Mother died in 1938 leaving Dad and me alone. I continued farming with my Dad until he passed away [illegible] 1947. Both are buried [illegible] the Hanna Cemetery.

In January 1947, Milt Rickelt brought seventy head of cattle here, which Bob and I fed from the old straw piles sitting around. In one of these stacks we hollowed out the good straw leaving a shell. When I jumped on the shell the whole shebang caved [illegible] and Bob came a-running, wondering where I had gone. After the straw piles were used up we fed from my barge stacks which had been left out because of the early winter.

I helped Dad Trefz build a few barges during the winter months during the late forties. I used a barge of Dan Trefz' patent for five years. I pulled this with a 22-36 International. I purchased my first new tractor, an Oliver 88, [illegible] 1952, continuing to use it for years. I even bought a threshing machine which was used only a short time, then got a combine as it was hard to get help. I have been with cattle all my life and some years they were the only income that I had to carry on with.

In 1929 I purchased my first car, an old Model T. Bob Anderson, Ralph Cleary and myself plus others travelled over rough roads and prairie trails to dances and ball games [illegible] Richdale, Stanmore, Clear Lake, Grande Ridge and other places. Through the years I have owned at least six cars and four trucks. The one I would like to have today for an antique is the 1927 Model T with the wire wheels.

I spent several years as a telephone repair lineman on the North East Mutual. I never knew when I would have to go out, and the weather was often not in my favor. I had no regrets about A.G.T. installing the underground system.

I was married [illegible] 1949 [illegible] Florence Greenwood, and have one daughter Caroline Hume of Calgary, and a son Phil at home.

HANNA FARMS LTD.

By Clarence Elm

Ed Elm on Tractor, Hanna Farms - 1921.

In February, 1918, a group of Hanna businessmen formed a farming company. The first regular meeting was held February 28, 1918; officers and

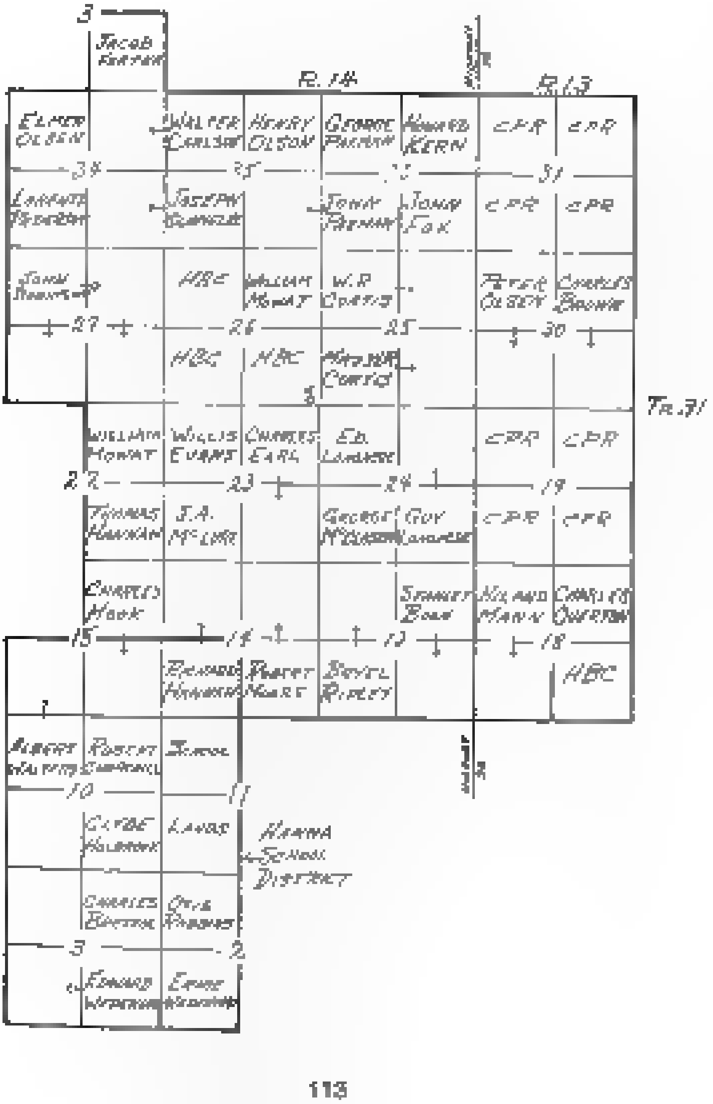
directors were C. A. Coughlin, president; G. W. Flemming, vice-president; J. C. Trenaman, secretary-treasurer; J. G. Odell, Arthur Burrows; The company secured the services of Fred Elm as farm operator.

The company purchased eight hundred acres of land, including section 28-31-13. It also bought machinery, and an 'All Work' tractor. These tractors were sold by Arthur Burrows. The company capital was $20,000.00, and the plans included expanding in the fall with the purchase of more land.

Fred Elm broke the first hundred acres in 1918 with the All Work tractor. The last part of the breaking was done with a Fordson tractor, which was obtained through the government. Fred said that it was a dry year! He operated Hanna Farms until 1922.

Andy Mosier was operator in 1923, when five hundred acres were sown. The following year William Sinclair was operator, and in 1925 the company ceased operations.

MEADOWLANDS No. 4057



RESIDENTS AND PRESENT DAY OWNERS OR RENTERS

NW-34-31-14
Art Campion

SW-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

SE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NW-35-31-14
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman
Bob Paxman

SW-35-31-14
Jim Parker
Rudolph Kiest
Fred Werner
Fred Engel
Gordon Robertson

NE-35-31-14
Hilda Paxman

SE-35-31-14
Cliff Paxman
Hilda Paxman

NW-36-31-14
Isabel Paxman
Levi Kennedy
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman

SW-36-31-14
Hilda Paxman

NE-36-31-14
Andy Duff

SE-36-31-14
Levi Kennedy
Melvin Pfahl

N½ & SE-31-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

SW-31-31-13
H. Macropol
Rudolph Doering
Ed Elm

Ernie Pfahl
Otto Stern

W½-30-31-13
Walter Nobleton
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

E½-30-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

NW-25-31-14
Bill Curtis

NE-25-31-14
Hilda Paxman

S½-25-31-14
Percy Flood
Annie Costyk
Hilda Paxman
NW-26-31-14
Jim Parker
Les Martin

NE-26-31-14
Jobe Martin

S½-26-31-14
Cliff Kern
Hank Hildenbrand
(acreage)

Section-27-31-14
Albert Kern

NE-22-31-14
Jobe Martin

SE-22-31-14
Jim Parker
Mr. Oldham
Art Gwin
Mike Litke
Ed Zarbuck
John Diachuck
Cliff Kern
Andy Duff

NW-23-31-14
Howard Kern
Albert Kern

SW-23-31-14
Theodore Pederson
Joe Berry
George Scott
Fred McGowen
Henry O'Neil
Dick Hannah
John Hannah
Lorne Hannah

NE-23-31-14
Josephine Curtis
Bill Curtis

SE-23-31-14
Stan James

NW-24-31-14
Fred Saes
Jim Parker
Bill Curtis

SW-24-31-14
E. Simpson
Ted Sams
Stan James

E½-24-31-14
Ted Kinder
Joshua Flood
Harvey Flood
Chris Pfahl
Herb Pfahl

W½ & NE-19-31-13
Herb Pfahl

SE-19-31-13
Freda Fecho

W½-18-31-13
Bill & Gibb Thompson
Lorne Hannah
Jack Litke
Elsie Hein

NE-18-31-13
Mr. Thompson
Wellington Hamilton
Mike Litke
Ed Hein

Doug Hein

SE-18-31-13
Reinhold Kautz
W½-13-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-13-31-14
Herb Pfahl

W½-14-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-14-31-14
John Engel
Bill James
Orpha Wright

E½-15-31-14
Jake Kessel
Doc Sim
N. E. Steeves
Fred Miller

NE-10-31-14
Thomas Bond
Fred McGowen
Ferg James
Stan James

SE-10-31-14
Stan James

SW-10-31-14
Lee Price

W½-11-31-14
Stan James

NW-2-31-14
Fred McGowen
Fred Werner
Stan James

SW-2-31-14
Stan James

NW-3-31-14
Lee Price

NE-3-31-14
Airport
S½-3-31-14
Fred & Wayne Schmitz

MEADOWLAND S SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4057

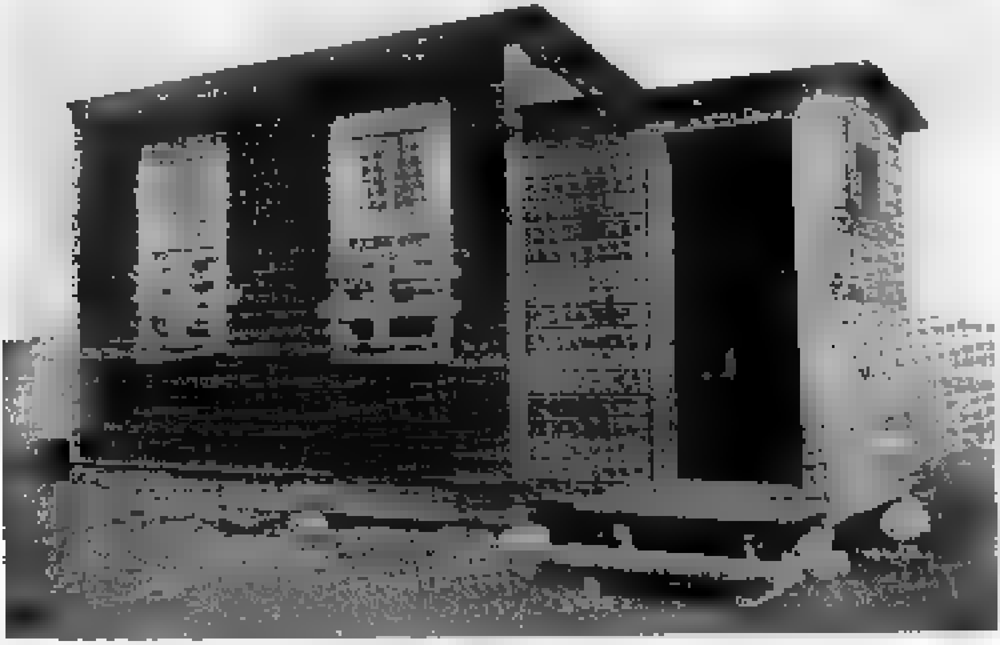
By Bill Curtis

Probably because this neighborhood seemed to be populated by many bachelor homesteaders, the Meadowland s School didn't organize until the spring of 1922, when a summer term was started in the homestead shack [illegible] Chas. Earl, which was located on the north side of the N.W. 23-31-14. A few weeks earlier a meeting of interested residents of the immediate area had been held [illegible] the home of W. R. Curtis, and the preliminary planning started. The Jim Parkers, William Mowat, Walter Carlson and John Paxman were probably those who attended; and after several names were suggested, they finally agreed on the name "Meadowlands", which was suggested by Mrs. Curtis, as it was the name her

mother, Mrs. Mary Earl, had given to the hayfields on the farm when she visited from Ontario in 1919.

A neighborhood work-bee lined the homestead shack with beaverboard, added a small porch, and built two essential "Little Houses" from the small barn that was on the place. The first scholars: Harry and Winnie Parker and Billie Curtis, were already nine or ten years of age, but this fact did not seem to hold them back for in a couple of years they were up to grade five standing.

The first teacher, Mrs. Jack Telford boarded at William Mowat's and the second summer term a Mrs. Ruddy skilfully and speedily coached the small class in the three "R's". During the second term, Marion Parker and Harold and Ethel Fortna joined the little class, which by 1926 finally outgrew the twelve by sixteen room.



Meadowlands First Schoolhouse

It was then that Ed Elm and his great "pioneer" tractor was hired to move a real white schoolhouse out from Hanna. This building, which had been known as the "Grade Seven Room", and had stood on the northeast corner of the east school grounds at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Third Street East, was hauled to the southeast corner of the S.E. 26-31-14 and placed on a three acre plot, provided by H. V. Kern, who was one of the original school trustees. Eventually, this building was deemed unsafe, structurally, since the north wall seemed to wobble in an alarming manner when the north wind blew, and it was purchased by J. P. Fortna, who moved it to his farmstead. Through the efforts of Vic Swanson and his School Division Repair Crew another cottage-type, imitation brick building made its appearance on the same site, complete with a teacherage and a bigger barn.

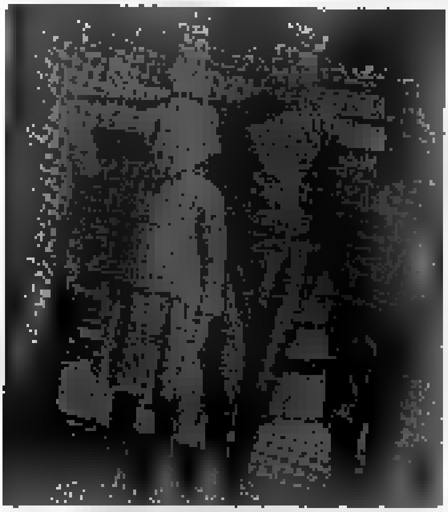
After consolidation and school bussing came into effect in the fall of 1961, the Meadowlands community acquired the school building for a very nominal sum of money, and have turned it into a very active community center known as the "Meadowlands Mutual Recreational Club".

The old-time community togetherness seems to be brought back when

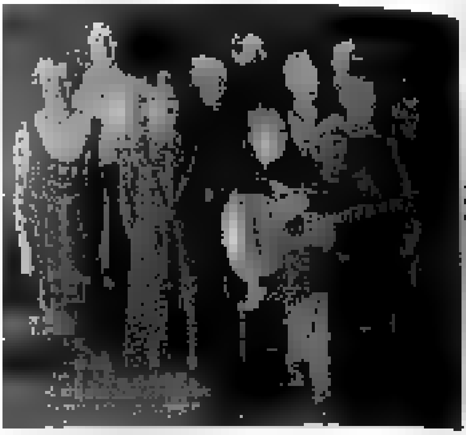
dances, card parties, picnics and ball games are organized, and the neighborhood enjoys a few hours of fun and frolic.

From 1922-1928 school was held during the summer months only. In the

of 1928, regular school terms started in September of each year.



Meadowlands First School Class 1922: Winnie, Marion, Harry Parker and Bill Curtis.



Meadowlands School Class 1936. Back Row, Left to Right: Elsie Pfahl, Linda Pfahl, Bernice Paxman, Albert Forina, Cliff Fox, Cliff Kern, Phyllis Hannah, Cliff Paxman, Herbert Pfahl. Seated: Jean Curtis.

Meadowlands School Class 1944-45. Back Row, Left to Right: Leonard Pfahl, Mary Paxman, Elsie Litke, Irene Paxman, Elsie Elm. Second Row: Eva Paxman, Verna Paxman, Carol Paxman. Third Row: Marie Pfahl, Louisa Pahl, Eileen Engel. Front Row: Geraldine Engel, Edna Pahl, Gerald Engel, Eddie Pfahl, Otto Litke.

Following is a list of teachers who taught at Meadowlands from 1922 to 1961: 1922, Mrs. Telford; 1923, Mrs. Ruddy; 1924, William B. Cromarty; 1925, Lorne Trace; 1926 and 1927, Edith Kern; 1928, Mr. Sketchly; 1928-30, Kathleen Allen; 1930-33, Gwen Rose; 1933-36, Irene Lewis; 1936-38, Myrtle MacDonald; 1938-39, Betty Wallace; 1939-42, Violet Stewart; 1942-43, Mrs. Grimes; 1943-44, Mrs. Bardseth; 1944-45, Mrs. W. [illegible]. Curtis (Supervisor), October until December.

Phyllis Morton, January until June; 1945-46, Mrs. Dave Harvey; 1946-47, Verda Hoffman; 1947-48, Sylvia Robinson, September until December, Mrs. Allison Barton, January until June; 1948-52, Mrs. A. M. Peterson; 1952-53, Alex Proudfool; 1953-56, Mrs. Betty Lumsden; 1956-58, Catherine Durand; 1958-59, Myrtle Moench; 1959-60, Mrs. Housch; 1960-61, Donald Moench.

TEACHING AT MEADOWLANDS SCHOOL - 1925

By L. M. Trace

I was not an oldtimer in the district but I taught at Meadowlands School in the summer of 1925. School was held in the shack of the original homesteader, Charlie Earl. My class consisted of Billie Curtis, Lloyd Campbell, the three oldest of the Parker family, two Gwin children and one boy from Kern's Dairy farm. There was just enough room to crowd in eight desks. I boarded with Captain and Mrs. Curtis. I played ball with the Garden Plain ball team, playing around Solon, Scapa and Endiang. I am now retired and living in High River.

MY YEAR AT MEADOWLANDS 1938-1939

By Betty Wallace MacKenzie

In the fall of 1938, I came to Meadowlands to teach the children of that district. The school was under the direction [illegible] The Sullivan Lake School Division, with the main office situated [illegible] the town of Hanna and with Mr. H. K. Fielding as the secretary. My home was in the community of Gem about sixty miles south, and I had taught at St. George, a school not far from Meadowlands, the previous year.

My boarding place was with the Kern family, well known dairy farmers of the district. They made my year with them very welcome and happy, and they all helped in any way possible. Their home was approximately one mile from the school. This distance I usually walked in the company of Agnes Kern who was one of my grade two students. If the weather turned extra cold or stormy we often were given a ride in the milk wagon by Mr. Kern which was used to deliver the milk and was warm and comfortable. I remember that it was a lovely fall and we really enjoyed walking to school, often taking a short cut through the newly cut stubble.

I had about fourteen or fifteen children as students and grades one to nine inclusive. These children were Carol, Irene, Mary, Cliff and Bill Paxman; Agnes Kern; Herb and Elsie Pfahl; Russel Costyck; Herb, Elsie and Frede Litke; George "Sonny" Kennedy; Rita, Carry and Jim Parker and Art Campion who attended only part of the year.

Rita Parker did the janitor work, keeping the school neat and clean and looking after the fire when the weather turned cold.

This was a real help for me as this had been my duty at the previous school. Salaries were not very high, but were improving over what they had been under the local rural school boards. I think my salary was an all time high of seventy dollars per month and as board and room was only twenty dollars a month was able to save quite a bit as of course clothing, etc. was very little as by today's standards.

Recess time was always fun, ball being the most popular sport. And we often hosted other districts at a ball game and in turn went [illegible] play at other schools.

The children and I soon got to know each other and I know I had a very enjoyable year with them. They were all very helpful and did their best to complete assignments, with discipline at a minimum. Reference material was not plentiful, and duplicating machines were unknown at our school, so it was necessary to put most all exercises on the much used blackboard. The big social of the year was the Christmas Concert. For this every one worked very hard, including the parents of the district. The mothers helped with the costumes and the Christmas bags for each child and we held [illegible] box social before the concert to raise money for the extras needed to fill the bags and purchase the tree and the few gifts for the children. After the concert, the men soon cleared away the stage and benches in readiness for the old time dance, which we all enjoyed.

School closed with the usual annual school picnic, which consisted of races and contests for children of all age groups, peanut scrambles, prizes and a picnic lunch to conclude the day and so the end of another school year. In the fall, Miss Violet Stewart took over as the new teacher as I had resigned in favor of marriage to Bill Mackenzie. My memories of teaching at Meadowlands will always be remembered with fondness.

THE MEADOWLANDS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

By Cliff Kern

As early as 1916 the farmers [illegible] this area were meeting with the Alberta Government Telephone Company in order to construct a rural telephone system but because of the war this was not accomplished until 1922. The telephone was a great help to farmers, saving them many miles of travelling with a team and wagon to do their business and communicate with their neighbors. Due to the depression and poor crops of the thirties, the farmers of this area were unable to pay their telephone bills. As a result, the Alberta Telephone Company decided to dispose of all rural lines.

On the evening of June 14, 1935 [illegible] meeting of all rural subscribers on lines "16" and "6" was called in the old town hall in Hanna to consider purchasing these lines from the Alberta Government. The meeting was called to order by Mr. A. M. Blackburn, a representative of the Alberta Government Telephone Company who gave a very detailed explanation of the reasons the government had for disposing of the rural phone systems in Alberta.

After considerable discussion a vote was taken to find out whether the meeting was in favor of forming a company and purchasing the lines. The vote was favorable and a company was formed under the title, "The Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited." The following officers were duly elected: President – N. E. Steeves; Secretary – Ferg James; Directors - T. A. Campion, H. V. Kern and W. Carlson.

On July 1, 1935, the President and the Secretary met with Mr. Blackburn and an agreement was drawn up for the purchase by the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited of all [illegible] line "16" and part of line "[illegible]." The purchasing price was $262.50 payable to the Alberta Government in $24.00 cash at time of sale plus two annual installments of $119.25. The cost was [illegible] be divided equally between the shareholders. A $3.00 initial payment was collected from each shareholder to cover the first payment.

The first shareholders were: T. A. Campion, J. Fortna, W. Carlson, R. Hannah, J. [illegible]. Hamilton, Ferg James, [illegible]. V. Kern, W. Mowatt, E. Olson, [illegible]. Paxman, W. Riddell and N. E. Steeves.

At a meeting on August 10, 1935, it was decided that the fees be set at seventy-five cents per month per member. As times were hard, the first note which was due on July 1, 1936 could not be met so the secretary asked the Alberta Government for an extension. This was the trend for the next three years as they

could only make part payments on the note when it was due, but in the fall of 1939 the note was finally paid in full.

The two trunk lines running to the north and east of Hanna connecting the Scapa-Dowling and Garden Plain-Spondin areas to central exchange were copper wire instead of the usual galvanized type in order to overcome line resistance. Since these lines passed through or along side the Meadowlands Mutual territory there developed a problem concerning the responsibility of servicing them. The various servicemen who looked after the Meadowlands phones had no desire to [illegible] involved. The problem was finally solved by Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited paying for pin space on the trunk lines.

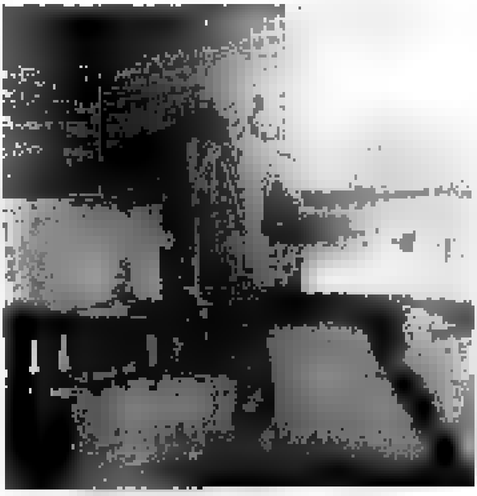
Other subscribers and shareholders on the line were: Mrs. Wirth, Chris Gasper, Otto Mix, Art Campion, Bill Miller, Fred Engel, W. [illegible]. Curtis, Louis Pahl, Brian Gladdish, Andy Duff, John Diachuck, Albert Galarneau, Bill MacKenzie, Dave Temple, Cliff Paxman, Albert Banco, Stan James, Lorne Hannah, Albert Kern, Cliff Kern, Bill Paxman, Dooley Allen, Jobe Martin and Hank Hildenbrand.

When the Alberta Government Telephone Company completed the underground phone system in 1973 the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company was dissolved after being in business for thirty-eight years. At dissolution the share value was $22.50.

The poles and wire lines were all dismantled and stock piled in the schoolyard and usuable material was divided equally among the shareholders. For some time the road allowances seemed bare and unfamiliar when one drove through the neighborhood, but perhaps this was nostalgia rebelling against progress.

THE DAIRYMEN OF HANNA

By Cliff Kern



Howard Kern bottling milk and cream.

When the village of Hanna sprang up in 1912 there was an immediate need for milk. This was a boon for the nearby farmers as most of them had a cow or two. Some of them could see the opportunity for a thriving business. One such man was Charlie Glover who homesteaded four and one-half miles northwest of town. Sometime in 1912, Charlie decided [illegible] start [illegible] milk route, bringing the milk in every day in cans. These cans had a quart measure in the [illegible] and he would go from door to door measuring out the required amount of milk each person wanted. He first named his dairy the Hanna Dairy but in June 1914 changed it to the City Dairy. He carried on his business until May 1916 when he sold out to the Ferguson Brothers south of Hanna. That summer milk was selling at twelve quarts for a dollar.

The Hanna Creamery took over this business from the Ferguson Brothers but did not stay with it too long and in April of 1918 decided [illegible] discontinue selling milk. The town then was without a milkman.

In June of 1918, W. [illegible]. Dolbier, who lived on the Con. Lawlor homestead one

mile north of town had milk for sale but it is not known whether he actually started a milk route.

In August, 1916, Joe Berry, who lived on the McLure homestead two miles northeast of Hanna, started a milk route but he delivered milk for only about a year.

In December of 1919, H. C. "Doc" Sim who moved from the Lonebutte area south of Hanna onto the Charlie Hook homestead announced his intention to go into the dairy business on a big scale as Hanna had been hard put for an adequate supply of milk for several years. A modern plant was installed and the cows were milked with milking machines. In November 1921, his dairy barn and milkhouse were totally destroyed by fire but by February of 1922 were completely rebuilt. He delivered milk until 1934 when he sold out to N. E. Steeves, who carried on until he left the district in 1937.

Jim Hamilton, a farmer from north of Hanna, moved into Hanna and started a dairy in the early twenties. He kept a dairy inside the town limits but when a by-law was passed he had to move his cows out to his brother Ernie's place one mile west of town. Ernie Hamilton milked the cows and brought the milk into town where Jim bottled and peddled it. He sold out to Beard Tucker in 1938, who ran it for a time then resold to Johnny Patzer.

Early in 1920 Howard Kern also started in a dairy business. This was the longest running dairy in the town's history. He peddled milk in town from the time of starting until his death in October of 1958. When a by-law was passed in 1947 requiring all milk delivered in the town of Hanna to be pasteurized, he moved a building into town from Chinook and set up the necessary machinery to do the job. Before he got it into operation he sold this part of the business to Leo Benson and Johnny Patzer, but continued selling milk to them. When Benson and Patzer sold out to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, Howard again started peddling milk. This milk was not pasteurized and the town council put pressure on him many times to stop, but he kept on just the same.

Several dairies have been started with more or less success but all have sooner or later withdrawn from the field. Harvey Howatt who was living on the O. E. Payne homestead north of town bought out the dairy business of J. Hamilton in April of 1922 but only stayed with it for about one year. In April of 1922, A. J. Campbell entered into the dairy business. He also purchased the milk route of S. [illegible]. Holbrook in May of 1922.

In September of 1922, A. F. Gwin moved from the Golden Hill district to the Oldham place northeast of Hanna and bought the dairy herd and business of A. J. Campbell. He peddled milk until 1925 when he moved out of the district.

Ferg James moved onto the Robert Churchill homestead and started a dairy in 1931. He made a real success of this business and was in operation until 1943. He sometimes delivered milk in the evenings instead of mornings as was the custom.

When Kern's Dairy closed down, that marked the end of the era of the dairy farmer who milked the cows, bottled and delivered the milk. For several years many of the farmers of the area sold bulk milk to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool but they eventually closed down and the dairy herds were sold. Today most of the farmers who at one time had milk to sell by the gallons now are buying milk shipped in from various mixed farming districts in other parts of the province. It seems strange that the dairying industry, which must have contributed a lot to the economy of the area, has now completely disappeared.

Milk usually sold for about eight to ten cents a quart, but in 1932 the dairymen of that time started cutting prices and the milkman's war was on. It was the case of

there being too many milkmen and not enough customers. Milk was selling for as low as five cents a quart for nearly a year. This can be better described by the following poem:

THE MILKMAN'S WAR

By Ferg James

The Milkman's war broke out today
They slashed the price, there's hell to pay
They gnashed their teeth and then turned grey
For the milkman's war is on.
Put out your pails and pots and pans
And leave five cents for the old milkman.
He'll fill them all and an extra can;
For the milkman's war is on.
They're putting it out with cars and rigs,
In wagons, trucks and one horse gigs,
And snorting around like Mag and Jiggs,
For the milkman's war is on.
They deliver at morn and at evening too,
In the pale moonlight and the sparkling dew,
When it's pelting rain, or the skies are blue,
For the milkman's war is on.
The beer resorts are on the bum,
Folks are drinking milk instead of rum,
The breweries are going broke, by gum,
For the milkman's war is on.
Those boys are rich, they don't need dough,
But the lacteal fluid still must flow,
It gives them a thrill, and makes them glow,
For the milkman's war is on.
And pulling "teats" is a nifty job,
When old Brindle swings you on the gob
And makes you swallow your old corn cob
When the milkman's war is on.
I wish my bottles were filled with rye
I'd sit in the wagon and drain them dry,
Bid Howard and Doc and Jim, goodbye,
Till the milkman's war is done.

THE JIM PARKER STORY — Jim Parker was born in Milner, North Dakota on November 29, 1884. He was the youngest boy of a family [illegible] five boys and one girl. His father, Thomas Parker and mother, the former Mary Ann Strickland, and family, with the exception of the eldest brother, Herb (who was married and living in Montana) moved from Dakota in 1901 [illegible] Coal Banks, Alberta. Coal Banks was near where the town of Ardly now stands. Brother Frank, who had been in ill health due to a bout with diphtheria passed away here at the age of nineteen years.

In 1903 the Parker brothers, John, Ed and Jim moved down to Watts and established themselves on what is known now as the Lamb Brothers' farm. They also had another camp at the springs in the Hand Hills which is now the Don Benedict ranch. Here, they kept calves and young cattle until the hard winter of 1906-07 when they lost most of their herd. They also had a bull pasture which is now called the Watts Flats, but they called this the Bullpound. The creek runs just south of the town of Hanna. In 1908 there was a terrible prairie fire in the area which destroyed hay for miles around.

In the spring of 1909 they all took up homesteads in the Copeville area.

In 1911 Jim was married [illegible] Carrie Brown Harris and the couple resided on the groom's homestead and pre-emption, the west half of section 9-31-14. The homestead house was near where the C.N.R. tracks and Roundhouse were later built. In 1912 this half section along with the George Burkell quarter was purchased by the Canadian Northern Railway, and incorporated into the present townsite of Hanna.

Children of Jim and Carrie Parker. Boys, Left to Right: Frank, Ben, Harry, Jim Jr., Alvin, Tom. Girls: Winnifred, Kaye, Carrie, Rita.

[illegible] December 24, 1912 a son was born to Jim and Carrie — Dr. James Mason in attendance and they called him James Harry Fredrick. He was the second boy born in the Hanna area.

Jim and George Burkell, his brother-in-law, became Implement Dealers — stocking machinery for farming and haying in this community. In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent in Hanna and he and Ed ran a taxi service [illegible] Castor. A runabout car at that time cost about $675.00, a touring car $750.00 and a town car $1,000.00. Jim also bought the Tom Hannah farm in 1913. This was the SE 22-31-14 and not far from town. He also took the SW 22-31-14 as a purchased homestead.

A daughter was born to them [illegible] July of 1914, Winnifred Frances. In 1916 another daughter, Marion Alberta arrived.

In 1917 Jim's brother Ed and Frances and family went back [illegible] Colville, Washington so Jim and Carrie and family decided to go back also, but didn't find things and times as interesting [illegible] they thought it would be so both families moved back. Then [illegible] 1918 a second son was born to the Jim Parkers but lived only a few days. This boy was christened Ray. We were still on the Hannah farm at this time.

On this place Jim (my Dad) had a well dug and a windmill put up which I can remember we were warned [illegible] stay away from. It is recorded in one of Dad's books that he got water at this place in April 1918, at a depth of 129 feet; water in centre of twenty-eight feet of rock and the cost to dig the well was $163.00. In 1918 Dad sold this farm and bought the Schmelkie farm north of Kerns and farther from town. Also sold at that time were the following items as they were entered in Dad's book — piano $200.00; cookstove $50.00; heater $10.00; sideboard $15.00; dresser $15.00; brass bed $30.00. two common beds $10.00. lounge $10.00; hallrack $10.00; extension table $6.00; cupboard $3.00; gramophone $25.00; binder $100.00; drill $100.00; two sets of double harness $50.00; sulky plough $40.00; and five head of horses and one colt $900.00.

In 1919 a son Ben Colin was born on the Schmelkie place. Here, the house was a good one-third of a mile from the well so my folks moved the house nearer to it.

In 1922 Meadowlands School was started in a shack on the Charlie Earl quarter (which later belonged [illegible] Mrs. J. Curtis). There were only four pupils to start the school — three from our family, Harry, Marion and myself and Bill Curtis. Mrs. Telford was our teacher and school was only held in the summer months. Earlier Dad had driven Harry and me to town school for a while but that was a long jaunt with team and wagon. Dad rigged us up a one-horse shay for old Blue and that worked real well until one day as we were getting ready to go home and had our horse hitched and ready to go a car came around the bend and away went old Blue and cart and my little sister. Luckily a man driving down the road saw her coming and managed to stop her. My sister wasn't hurt but badly frightened.

Also in 1921 a son Thomas Maxwell was born. In 1923 a daughter, Rita Juanita was born. That summer we lived on the Day place over by the Ed Parkers to be nearer school. Here we attended the Silver Valley School. It was here that Harry and Hale (cousin) put Faith (Hale's sister) on a calf which bucked her off and broke her wrist. It was also here that Ben and Tom, two and four then, were riding around the house on Louie, our old pet horse when they went under the clothesline and the line caught the saddle horn, scaring the horse and she jumped and Tom fell off on a rock and broke his arm. Ben managed to stay on but when we got him off his chin was all skinned so I guess he was riding pretty low. I also remember we kids caught a badger in a trap and could not pull the trapped animal out of the hole so we decided to get the milk cow, old Sally, as we could catch her and we put a rope around her neck and tied the end to the trap and one of us led the cow and the others stood around the hole — each armed with a big stick and as the badger and trap was pulled out — we all let him have it. Good thing our cow didn't take off with badger, trap and all.

In July 4, 1925 twins were born to mother on the Schmelkie place. They were James Leske and Carrie Elizabeth. In January of 1926 my sister Marion became ill and passed away due to a ruptured appendix. She was nine years old at the time. Only mother and myself were with her when she died. I was eleven. We had no phone, no ploughed roads. I walked up to Walter Carlson's place early in the morning to phone my dad to let him know. He had been travelling back and forth by saddle horse to work but hadn't been coming home every night.

In 1927 my Dad sold the Schmelkie place to F. A. Mathe of Hanna. Then we moved over to the Longacre place near Harvey Floods (later Chris Pfahls). Times were hard and there were so many dry years we could barely raise any garden but kept milk cows and chickens.

In 1928 we moved into town and lived in one of Mr. William Riddell's houses. Dad brought in a team of horses and planned to haul coal from south of Hanna for the winter — that is until [illegible] could get something better. We went to school in Hanna. Miss Howard was teacher for Harry and I and Ben had Miss Winning. Dad hauled two loads of coal, one for a Mr. Talmage who was the Rawleigh man. From him he got a big buffalo coat in payment and which would have been ideal if he had stayed with coal hauling, but he had an application in to work on the railroad and was called to work. We were all very happy about this as Dad could stay home and work near. He took the horses back out to the farm and worked on the C.N.R. until spring when he got laid off.

In the spring of 1929 we moved out of town to the Robinson place north of Hanna and owned by Howard Kern at that time, I think. Dad had a crop to put in and we managed to grow a good garden that year. We stayed here a summer and then moved back to the Longacre place.

[illegible] 1931 Dad's brother Ed and family (Hale, Faith and Bob) left their farm at Hanna and moved to the Peace River country. Then Dad and family moved over to the Ed Parker place and tried to farm it. [illegible] was nearer to town and handy to work for Dad as he worked every winter on the C.N.R. The biggest drawback on this place was the drastic shortage of water. Here we lost a horse that walked right over a well and fell in. We ended up shooting the horse — Fly was its name and Dad had to get a big chain and pulley from town to get the horse out of the well. The horse didn't drown — there wasn't enough water for that.

It was on this place that Kay Marlene was born [illegible] 1933. In the summer of 1935 Dad moved Mom and the youngest ones of the family to Critchley for the summer. Here Alvin Douglas was born. [illegible] was here that Tom, fourteen, broke his wrist again while up at Ronny Glass's place riding calves.

In 1936 Winnie was married to Lash Callison of Montney, British Columbia. They had two boys.

In 1937 the plague "sleeping sickness" hit the horses in and around the Hanna District. Dad lost four or five head. Brother Tom tells of an incident when Harry went into the stall and was trying to get this horse to take a drink when she was standing there with her eyes shut and would take only a taste. He finally got disgusted and threw the pail of water over the horse's head. The horse jumped and opened her eyes and from then on improved. She was one of the ones that lived.

In 1937 a son, Frank Dale was born, this making a family of ten children. In 1942 Mom passed away in the Hanna Hospital following an operation at the early age of fifty years and Dad died [illegible] 1957. The family at that time were spending the summers either on the Longacre place or on the Hudson's Bay quarter north [illegible] Kerns and the winters in town.

In 1941 Ben and Tom went overseas with the Armed Forces and didn't return until 1945. Harry was at home and did most of the farming with the help of brother Jim. After mother's death the family stayed in town. Harry also worked on the railroad and Rita and Carrie worked for Mrs. Chadbourne who had a general store. An aunt of ours stayed with the family quite a lot. She was Jennie Harris, Mom's sister.

In 1945 Harry married Marion Bertz of Big Valley who was a school teacher and taught near Hanna. She and Harry played piano and violin for many of the dances around Hanna for years. They had a family of four boys.

In 1946 Tom married Irene Greenslade from a pioneer family from Rose Lynn south of Hanna, and went to Fort Nelson and worked with R.C.O.C. there in 1949. They had a family of three, two boys and one girl.

In 1948 Ben and Jim went to Fort Nelson where Ben immediately got work with R.C.O.C. there. Ben married Adeline Birkbeck of Greencourt, Alberta who

was working at Fort Nelson at the time the Highway was under construction. They had a family of two girls.

In 1951 Jim married Nancy Lee. They had a family of three - two girls and one boy.

In September 15, 1951 Carrie married Stan Meares. They had a family of five - two girls and three boys.

In 1952 Kay married Frank Dolan. They had a family of six - four boys and two girls.

In 1956 Alvin married Kathleen Schornhut. They had a family of four - three girls and one boy.

Rita married Logan MacLean in 1960. They had a family of seven - four girls and three boys.

The whole Parker family settled in and around Fort Nelson with the exception of Harry who remained in Hanna.

In 1953 Frank enlisted in the Army and west overseas and was in Egypt for a year. He returned in November of 1957 to civilian life at Fort Nelson where on July 3, 1965 he married Gail Reid who was a teacher there. They had a family of three - two boys and one girl.

Harry passed away August 16, 1970. He had had a hip replacement operation the summer of 1969 but with having had rheumatism since he was the age of nine years, the operation didn't seem to help much and as he got older he became worse. His wife, Marion was just recently married in 1976 to Charlie Whaley of Hanna and Jim was also remarried in 1976 to Betty Birrel of Fort Nelson.

Walter Carlson

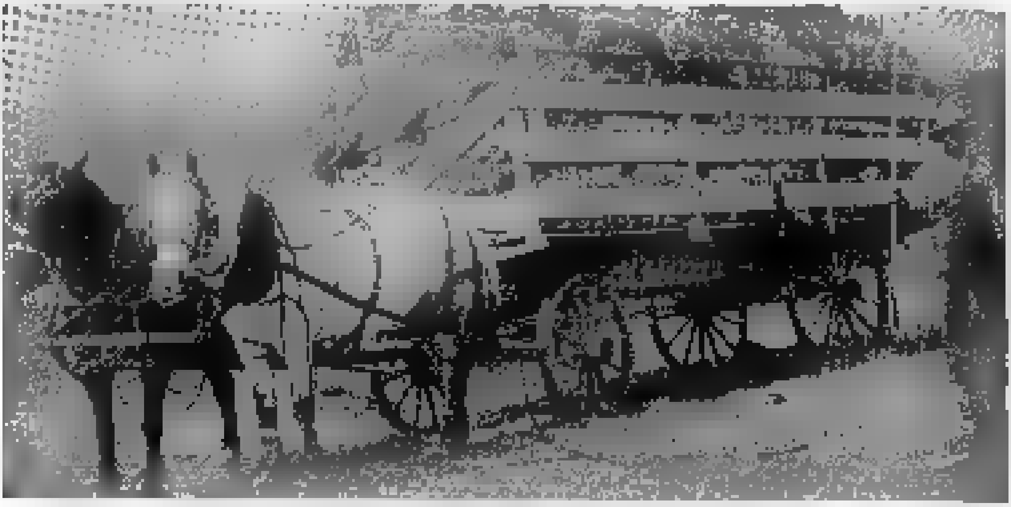
C. W. CARLSON STORY, By Nancy Rutt and Freda Dahl — Charles Walter Carlson was born on January 11, 1878 in Smaland, Tingsryd, Sweden. The exact date of his immigration to Minnesota is not known but it must have been in the early 1900's. He spent several years there before coming to Canada where he homesteaded northeast of Hanna, NW-35-31-14.

We have no knowledge of his experiences in those early years prior to and during the First World War. Our memories of him begin in the 1920's when he had already become "Uncle Walter" to us all and godfather to at least one of us. He and our father, Elmer Olsen became life-long friends. In fact, being a bachelor with no relatives in this country, he really adopted our entire family. Our aunt and uncle, Joe and Charles Stringer, were married at his home and lived with him for a time. This friendship lasted until his death, age eighty-five on April 27, 1963 in Calgary, Alberta.

In the late twenties his nephew Harold came over from Sweden. Again the exact date is not known but he appears in snapshots taken in 1929. He lived with his uncle for several years but seemed unable to adjust to life in Canada and returned home to Sweden, probably in the early thirties.

Uncle Walter farmed all his life with horses and to the best of our knowledge never owned a car. He seldom drove his horses anywhere around the

neighborhood, preferring to walk summer and winter. During the depression years when it was difficult for many parents to provide any sort of special treats for their children, he could always be depended upon to arrive with gifts of oranges, candy and nuts just in time for Christmas.



Walter Carlson haying

In 1949 he sold his farm to Bill and Pauline Paxman, held an auction sale and returned to Sweden. He arrived home on July 15, 1949, intending to spend the rest of his life there with his two sisters. In letters he wrote back to Canada it was obvious that he was homesick for Alberta — Sweden was not his home anymore. In one letter he wrote, "Alberta is a powerful magnet trying to bring me back — with good years, and not so good, with droughts and dust storms and crop failures — Alberta is still very dear to me." After less than a year in Sweden he returned to Canada and bought a few acres in the Ogden district of Calgary. Here he grew a large garden, raised a few chickens and welcomed his old friends and neighbors from Hanna whenever they dropped in for a visit.

George and Isobel Paxman

THE GEORGE PAXMAN STORY, by Ida Paxman Preston — My parents, George and Isabelle Paxman, with their year-old daughter Mabel came west in 1909 from Dundalk, Ontario. My uncle, John Paxman, and grandmother came also and the two brothers filed on adjoining homesteads about seven miles northwest of what later became the town of Hanna.

Dad had shipped a team of horses, household effects, lumber, etc. ahead to Stettler, the nearest town at that time. They travelled by horse-drawn wagon to the homestead and both humans and horses suffered greatly from the mosquitoes. They built a small wooden house which later housed chickens after they were able to afford a larger one. They purchased a cow from Jim and Ed Parker to supply milk for my sister. Being a range cow it didn't take too kindly to being domesticated.

My father broke a good portion of his land with a small plow with a single share — "foot burners" they called them. His first crop was a good one but unfortunately was destroyed by hail in the terrible storm of 1911. It was heartbreaking to watch all his work being destroyed. To make some money he went to work [illegible] the coal mine near Garden Plain which incidentally was their Post Office.

When he was bringing food supplies that fall from Stettler, the bags of flour came into contact with a leaky oil can and their bread all that winter was flavored with coal oil.

I was born in the fall of 1910 with my Grandmother Paxman acting as midwife. She died when I was seven.

For my parents, those first years were filled with hard work and loneliness, far from family and old friends.

Other families came — the Curtis', Wheleys, Rices, Mark Pope, Walter Carlson, John Fox and many others.

Dances, picnics, and other socials were held at Solon, our first school which also served as a church under the guidance of Reverend Oke. We became a close-knit, friendly, prosperous community.

Dad served as a member of the Dowling Lake Council for several years. Because of failing health he was advised to move to California, where we remained for some five years. We returned to the farm, and following a lengthy illness, Dad died July 2, 1932 at the age of forty-eight.

My Mother, truly a pioneer, passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1974 after having lived almost one hundred years. My sister Mabel, who married Levi Kennedy in 1928, died in the Hanna Hospital in July 1974.

I am the only remaining member of my immediate family. I married Jack Preston in 1934. We farmed in Richdale for seven years, then moved to Calgary. In 1952 we came to Victoria, B.C. where we still reside.

John Paxman playing his fiddle

DR. JOHN STANLEY PAXMAN, By Bernice Paxman Zelmer and Mary Paxman Smith — John Paxman was born in Dundalk, Ontario in 1886. In April 1909 he came west with his widowed Mother, Sarah Paxman, and two sisters Mary and Virginia, also a brother George and family, and homesteaded in what later became the Meadowlands School District, northeast of Hanna on SW 36-31-14. There they built a sod house to live in until they hauled lumber for a house.

Sarah Paxman died in 1918 of the flu and Dad went back east in 1920. He entered the Devenport School of Chiropractic [illegible] Davenport, Iowa. [illegible] December of 1921 he married Edith Gamey of Grey Country, Ontario. [illegible] 1924 he came west again to the homestead with his wife and two small sons, Bill and Cliff.

Dad took up farming which I believe was his first love and did chiropractic only as a sideline for many years. I remember the many people who came on Sundays for treatments. [illegible] 1935 he opened an office in Hanna and commuted between his farm and town for seven years.

Mother died [illegible] 1939 at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving eight young children. Dad moved into Hanna about 1942 or 1943, where he was an active practitioner until his death in 1961, at the age of seventy-five years.

I don't think the generation of today could ever understand what the pioneers of those days must have gone through. I can remember my Mother's lonesomeness for her family back east. She was going to make a trip back home to see her mother in June of 1939, but she passed away in March of 1939.

In December 1936 our farm home was destroyed by fire and we spent the winter of 1937 in Hanna, and moved back to the farm in April onto the preemption, the SE 35-31-14, one mile north of the Meadowlands School. Dad was severely burned in the house fire saving the children and Mother, none of whom were burnt at all, but Dad suffered many months from those awful burns to his hands, arms and face.

I don't think Dad was ever off duty, because I remember the throngs of people coming on Sundays for treatments even after he opened his office in Hanna. I think it could be said he had a magic in his hands.

The children of John and Edith Paxman were: William Joseph Paxman was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1922 and came west as a child [illegible] the Meadowlands district. He married Pauline Camp in 1944 and they moved onto the George Paxman homestead. Later he bought Walter Carlson's place which was one mile west and moved over there. A few years later, needing more land, he bought a half section four miles north which was the S 27-32-14. Bill and Pauline were always willing to help in the community as well as any neighbor in time of need. Bill spent several years as secretary of the Meadowland's Mutual Telephone Company and drove [illegible] school bus for several years. Pauline was secretary of the Meadowlands Recreation Club for a time. They have three children, Bobby, Beverly and Brian. Bill passed away March 22, 1973 at the age of fifty. Pauline is living in Hanna and their oldest son, Bob is operating the farm.

Clifford John Paxman was born in Clarke Township, Ontario [illegible] 1925. He came west as an infant to the Meadowlands district. He married Hilda Welch and they lived on the home place. Later Cliff acquired several other quarters of land. They were NW 26-31-14 from Jim Parker, the S 26-31-14 from Mrs. Costyk, the NE 25-31-14 from Bill Curtis, the east half of 1-32-14 from Albert Kern and the NE 36-31-14 from Sayle Brown (the Howard Kern homestead). Clifford helped construct the first Hanna swimming pool, the Lutheran Church and the Co-op Locker Plant. They have four children, Patricia, Stanley, John and Betty. Cliff passed away May 5, 1976, age fifty years.

Bernice Paxman married Albert Zelmer and lives at Endiang; they have two daughters, Linda and Brenda.

Mary Paxman married Leonard Smith of Craigmyle. They live in Hanna and farm at Craigmyle. They have four children, Jane, Judy, Greg and Karen.

Irene Paxman is married to Walter Sarabin and lives in Edmonton. They have one son Timmy.

Carol Paxman is married to Jack Stulberg and they farm at Endiang. They have two boys, Leslie and Larry.

Eva Paxman married Ray Ergang of Fort St. John, B.C. They have six children, Gordon, Cathy, Debbie, Keith, Judy and David.

Verna Paxman married Joe Engleman and they live in Edmonton. They have two children, Diane and Daryl.

We want to specially thank Levi Kennedy for his assistance [illegible] compiling this story; also Pauline Paxman (Bill's widow) and Hilda Paxman (Cliff's widow).

THE LIME KILN

Sometime around the fall of 1926 or 1927 John Paxman who had homesteaded on the SW 36-31-14, finally decided he was going to make good use of some of those pesky boulders that had been getting in the way of his farming operations and built a lime kiln. It is very likely such lime burning kilns were used by many of the farmers of eastern Canada, since the walls of many of the large barn walls there were built of stones cemented together with lime mortar, and almost every farm house had a stone fireplace and chimney. These homemade kilns or furnaces were built into a steep sidehill by excavating a vertical well-like shaft with an enlarged room below, allowing easy horizontal access at the bottom. The vertical shaft was lined with slabs and pieces of limestone, and when a roaring fire was built at the bottom, a forced draft was created, causing the flames to rise up through the limestone-lined flue. The action of the heat drove out the carbon-dioxide from the rock leaving a white crumbly powder known as unslaked lime, which could be mixed with water and fine sand to produce lime mortar.

With the help of his hired man, a true son of Erin named Pat Murphy, John built such a kiln on the edge of the field in the center of his homestead, gathering up lime stones from the stone piles and fields, and using the willow brush from the several sloughs which were conveniently close to make the fires. This operation required continuous firing for several days and nights, and proved to be a herculean task, causing Pat Murphy to complain bitterly about "building the fires of hell while still here on earth."

When allowed to cool quite a quantity of unslaked lime was found at the bottom of the flue, but most of the limestones in the upper part of the furnace were not changed much because of underfiring. Probably the hardwoods of the eastern Canadian woods would have produced more heat and more satisfactory results. However, this story vividly illustrates the initiative and ingenuity found among many of the settlers of the west and bespeaks the indomitable spirit of the pioneers.

THE RICHARD HANNAHS, by Elsie Hannah Scott — Richard Hannah, better known as Dick, was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, in March 1874. At the age of ten he moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba. On November 27, 1901 he married Ellen Churchill, who had come to Killarney from Clinton, Ontario. They had four children, Lorne, James, Elsie and Robert.

They came to Alberta in April 1910, and settled on the homestead one mile east of where the town of Hanna now stands, the W½-14-31-14-W4.

We lived in a tent that first summer. Our first and nearest neighbor then was Bob Moore, a bachelor, living in a sod house a mile east. Another bachelor, Charlie Hook, also had a sod house northwest of us, on the farm now occupied by the Fred Millers, and before them by the Kessels and the Sims. Just north of that place was the homestead of Tom Hannah, where the George Hannah family lived for a time until moving into Hanna where he operated a flour mill. Later in the year 1910 the Rob Churchill family came and homesteaded on what is now the James place.

A frame house was built and ready to move into that fall. Poplar two-by-fours used in the building were brought from Manitoba. Some of the people helping to build the house were father's brother George, mother's brother George Churchill, and the Lathams who also helped with the moving from Castor.

Household effects and farm implements had come by train to Castor and then were hauled with horses and wagons to the homestead, about forty miles south. We had six horses, a cow, some chickens, and a dog and a cat. Dad and

Mother had brought some trees, currant bushes, and other plants from Killarney, and we always had a big garden.

My father used a walking plow to break the land, the same plow used by his father in Ontario. It is now in the Hanna Museum. The following year he got a steam engine and a gang plow. Later he had [illegible] threshing outfit, and for several years did the threshing for all the farmers [illegible] the district.

The rest of the family, Isabelle, John, Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis were born on the homestead. Lorne went to the Red Rose school for a few weeks; later we all went to school in Hanna. In 1930, the family moved from the homestead to a farm one mile north, and Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis went to Meadowlands School. Former residents of this farm were the McLures, Pedersons, Berry's, Scotts and McGowans.

The Hannah Family — 1945. John Ivan, Robert, Ronald, Lorne, James, Isabelle, Elsie, Phyllis, Mr. Richard Hanna, Mrs. Hannah.

Church services were held in our home from May 1910 until July 1912, with a student Presbyterian minister, Mr. J. T. Warwick in charge. Mother played the organ for the hymns. Many social gatherings were also held in our home in the early days.

The first store and Post Office was Copeville, but many of the supplies were brought from Castor, with stop-overs at the home of the Lewis family in the Garden Plain district.

The C.N. railroad was built in the area in 1912. The camp was across the road from our place, and the crew got water from our well.

My father and brothers hauled coal from Sheerness, starting out at three or four o'clock in the morning and getting home late at night, mostly using a four horse team. They also hauled coal from a mine north of Solon, and from the Morse mine south of Hanna. [illegible] the first years they got it from the cut-banks southeast of where Hanna now [illegible].

Mother passed away in December 1950, and Dad [illegible] February 1965. Lorne lives on the farm; Ivan, Bob, Isabelle (Mrs. Jack Schmidt), Johnny, and Elsie (Mrs. Joe Scott) live in Hanna. Jim passed away in May 1969 in Big Valley. Ronald lives [illegible] Rocky Mountain House, and Phyllis (Mrs. Arnold Anderson) at Donalda.

THOMAS H. HANNAH — Tom Hannah was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on April [illegible], 1879. He moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba in 1884 and to Alberta in 1910. He homesteaded on a quarter about two miles northeast of the present location [illegible] Hanna. This was the SE 22-31-14. Later he sold it and bought a farm in the Red Rose district. He enlisted in the Army in World War I and went overseas with the 175th battalion.

In 1918 he married Alice Austin in England and returned to live in Hanna for about two years, where their son Harry was born. At this time Tom worked in the flour mill with his brother George.

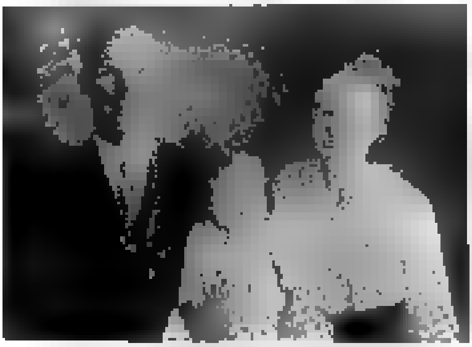
In 1920 they bought land through the Soldier Settlement Board from Charlie Wylie in the Garden Plain district. Harry began his schooling at Garden Plain. They sold out about 1926 and went to British Columbia where he worked [illegible] real estate for a time.

He came back to Alberta around 1928 and farmed on the place south of Hanna until he retired and moved in to town.

Later he moved to the Acadia Lodge, where he resided for seven years. While there he made a gift of a piano to the Lodge which has been much enjoyed by the residents. In 1971 his eye sight failed so much it was difficult for him to look after himself and he went to the Palliser Nursing Home.

He passed away in the Hanna Hospital, February 22, 1973 at the age of ninety-three.

Tom was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 25.

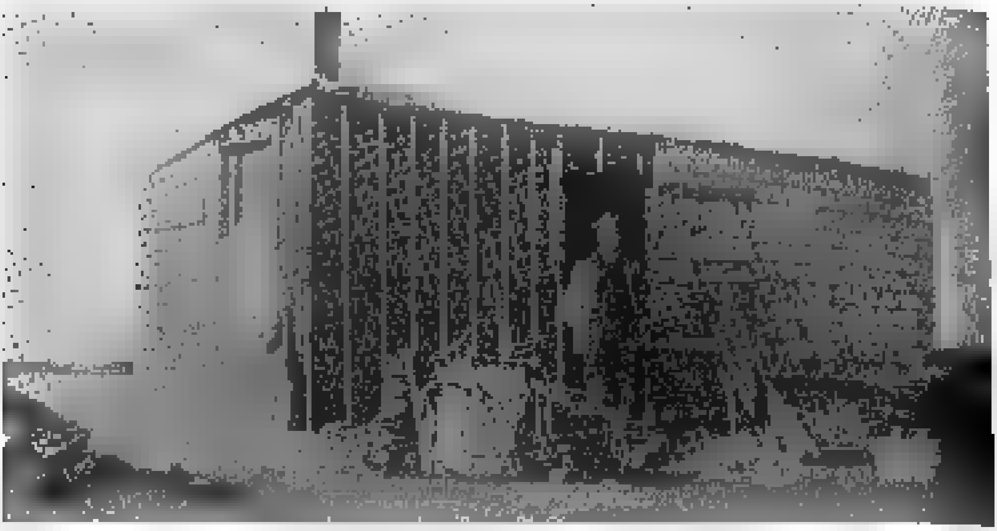


Howard and Emma Kern and son Robert

THE HOWARD KERN STORY, By Cliff Kern — Howard Kern came from the state of Michigan with his family to Gadsby in 1908. In the spring of 1909 he filed on his homestead which was the N.E. 36-31-14 and took the S.E. 36-31-14 as his preemption. He cancelled his pre-emption in 1911 but proved up on the homestead quarter by 1914. He built a shack on this land but stayed most of the time with his father who had [illegible] homestead across the road. A well was dug but the water was unfit to drink because of too much alkali. By this time he had around sixty acres broke. He sold this land to Sayle Brown, taking a Maxwell car as part payment. He then bought from Willis Evans the N.W. 23-31-14 which was three miles northeast of Hanna. Willis had previously homesteaded farther east in range 13 but cancelled [illegible] and filed on this place. The buildings were situated in the North East corner and the homestead shack was actually sitting on the next quarter east, which was the Charlie Earl homestead. Dad said he did not like the place where the buildings were so he moved them to their present location.

In 1917 he was married to Emma Burgemeister who was working for Jim Parker at the time. They had five children. Robert, born in 1918, passed away in 1923 at the age of five. Walter was born in 1920, Albert in 1922, Clifford in 1924 and Agnes in 1931, making the family complete. The children all received their education at Meadowlands which was one mile east.

There was not a good supply of water on this place so in 1917 Howard had Al Hutton drill a well. Later on another well was drilled to a depth of one hundred twenty feet and then there was lots of water. They milked cows and sold cream, but eventually got into the dairy business which they carried on for many years, and when times were rough they always had a steady income. There was always lots of work on the dairy farm so as a result there were one or two hired men around at all times. Some of these were Jim Parker, Ed Ryckman, Adam Schmidt, Herman Hansen, Gottlieb Ferworn, Fred Burgemeister, Hubert Handy, Henry Belch as well as many more.



Howard Kern and his homestead shack

In the early days milk had to be delivered seven days a week as there was no fridges to keep it from spoiling. Dad missed very few days taking the milk in, and as a result he and the hired men suffered many frost bites when battling the snow drifts getting the milk into town. He was asked why he went out in terrible blizzards when the temperature was well below zero and he replied, "There are lots of babies and small children that are depending on me coming in with this milk." He used a team and covered milk wagon until the early thirties when he bought a truck ■ do the job during the summer months. In the winter the snow would be too deep for the truck and he would have to go back to team and sleigh.

One day, while talking over years of dairying with one of his neighbors, he said he hand't intended getting into the dairy business, but some of the people who had gotten meat from him talked him into bringing milk to them. One customer led to another — soon he had a regular milk route. He built a milk house and installed many pieces of equipment ■ help keep the milk fresh and sweet, as well as to cut down on the work. One of these was a cooler to chill the milk ■ soon as it came from the cows. This gave it a better taste.

The first bottler he had was quite a big thing where he could fill the quart size bottles on one end and the pints on the other, but he had to cap the bottles ■ hand. He soon bought another one where the quarts and pints were filled at the same place just by raising or lowering the table. It also had a semi-automatic capper which made the job much easier. A bottle washer was also installed. He bought a steam boiler so he could have all the hot water he wanted to keep the bottles and utensils clean and sanitary, and steam to scald the pails and cans.

Sometimes there would be a surplus of milk so we would separate it and make the cream into butter in a big barrel churn. The butter then would be printed into pounds and sold on the milk route.

A gravity water system and a 32 volt light plant was installed, giving running water and electric lights in the house, barn and milk house. The milk would be stored in a walk-in cooler that was cooled by ice. The ice would be hauled in the

winter time and stored in an icehouse nearby. It was a once-a-week job to bring the 400 pound blocks of ice out of the icehouse, wash them off and put them in the cooler.

A hipped roof barn, thirty-six by forty was built to house the dairy herd, with the intention of making it another forty feet longer at a later date, however, in the meantime the house burned down and the family lost all of their possessions. By the time a new house was built and furnished times were getting hard and as a result the extension on the barn was never finished.

After the new house was built lots of parties and dances were held there. Some of the people that made music were. Bill Hunter, Reg Wismer, Bill Schuler, Henry Balch, Hank Kroeker and his wife, Johnny (Slippery) Rosin, Mrs. Smart and her father, Henry Ball. Some of the hospital girls and nurses often walked out to our place for the various forms of entertainment. In the summer time a bonfire would be built in some trees that were close to the buildings and we would have a wiener roast and sing songs well into the night. Toboggan and skating parties would be held in the winter time, ending up with wiener roasts and a singsong. Many of the single hired men would court these girls and in some cases they married them. It might be said that my folks were unintentionally running a matrimonial bureau! One year they held the Christmas Concert there because there was more room in the house than in the little school. Mother used to board some of the Meadowlands teachers because the new house had a spare room.

In the hungry thirties many people in town could not pay their milk bills. The ones who were willing to work came out and worked for the milk they received, but I believe many of the bills are still outstanding.

Dad often told the story of the young fellow he saved from starving. It seems this baby was lying in his carriage by the back door of his parents' home, crying. Dad filled his bottle with milk and gave it to him and he immediately stopped his wailing. Now whether his mother planned this or whether it was coincidence, the baby got a free drink of milk every day for some time.

Walter worked on the farm until the war broke out and he joined the Army in 1940. He went overseas and was wounded in action. Upon his discharge in 1945 he returned to the farm. In 1946 he bought a half section of land from the Hudson Bay Company and started farming on his own. After two years he decided to quit the farm and go into the seismic drilling business and soon became a driller. He married Mavis Bye and they travelled to many countries of the world, wherever his job took him. He finally came back and settled down in Kamloops where they are presently living.

Albert stayed on the dairy farm helping his dad. He married Lily Temple in 1943 and they have three children — Gordon, Donald and Linda. Albert still farms the home place and is also employed by Wes James at the U.F.A. Bulk Station. Gordon was married to Yvonne Gehrke in 1966 and they have two boys, Kevin and Keith.

I (Clifford) worked for dad on the farm until 1944 when I joined the Navy. Upon my discharge I returned to the farm. In 1948. I bought Walter's half section and started farming on my own. I married Violet Tetz and we have two children — Wesley and Diane. We moved into town and I spent eight years working for the C.N.R. as well as farming, and upon being laid off in 1956 built a house on the farm where we are presently living. Wes was married to Doreen Bennick in 1975. Diane married Ken Welch in 1970 and has two girls, Misty and Marsha.

Agnes married Leon Mehl, They have one daughter, Donna. Leon operated the Hanna Tire Shop for several years. Agnes, who had taken a secretarial course, worked at several places in Hanna and is now employed at the Town Office.

Dad passed away in 1958 [illegible] the age of sixty-eight. Mother was sixty-two when she died in 1963.

CHARLES ORA OVERTON, *by Fred Johnston* — Ora, as he was affectionately called, was an early pioneer of these parts coming in 1909 to his purchased homestead the NE 18-31-13. He and his family lived on the homestead until such time as the townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912. Ora was among the first business men of Hanna, building the White Foot Livery Stable which opened [illegible] August 11, 1912. He was also a horse trader and he supplied the teams for the fire wagon housed on his property. At the first Empire Day celebrations held in 1913 he supplied the horses for the bucking contest. Ora was very effective in taming some of these outlaws and even had some good rope ponies. Along with the livery barn he also had a draying business. All the coal he supplied to his customers came from the Sam Wadsworth mine. He disposed of the draying business in 1914 and the livery barn to Fitzsimmons and Seckman, local auctioneers, in 1915.

Overtons then went back to the farm and did some ranching, but as the Herd Law was in effect by this time, he hired neighbors boys to herd the cattle. Mrs. Overton was treasurer of the newly formed Metropolitan Church in 1913. The boys Fred, Ralph and Clifford attended Hanna's first school. Two of Ora's brothers, Joe, a bachelor, and Al, a married man with a big family came to live in the Solon district.

THE CHURCHILL STORY, *by Elvin Churchill* — In the year 1910, my Father and I set out from our home in Killarney, Manitoba for Calgary. From there we came by railroad to Castor and by stage coach to Dad's homestead, which was the NE 10-31-14 and is one mile directly east of the present town of Hanna.

We stayed [illegible] my Uncle Richard Hannah's who had also come from Killarney earlier in the year. We remained there until my Dad got lumber hauled out from Castor and built a shack on his homestad.

It was getting on in the fall when my Mother and sister Olive sold our belongings in Manitoba and came west. They also came in from Castor on the stage, about an eight hour trip.

There was a great deal of snow that first winter, but we were fairly comfortable [illegible] our shack. There were some problems heating the place. A group of the homesteaders went down to the Cut Banks south of us and stripped a coal seam and hauled the stuff home. I think sometimes there was more smoke than heat in it. We got our kindling and wood from the trees and brush north of our place.

I am sure I will never forget our first Christmas on the prairies. My Grandpa and Grandma Churchill came from Killarney. They were [illegible] Richard Hannah's, Mrs. Hannah being their daughter. We all had Christmas together. There were no turkeys or geese to be found so we had roast beef. It smell good and looked good but was it ever tough . You had to have good teeth and lots of perseverance to cope with it. I don't think the ranchers would pick a very good animal to butcher, or could be they resented the homesteaders cluttering up their range land.

We had lots of company as the settlers were coming in droves. Everyone was talking about the railroad approaching from the east with a townsite near at hand. During the winter of 1910-11 a survey crew arrived and worked between here and Munson. My Dad got a job as teamster with them for the winter. They lived in tents and my Dad said the only warm place [illegible] camp was the horse tent.

The Hanna townsite was bought up in 1912 and the railroad grade and steel was completed into town that fall from the east. Everyone was happy. Soon there would be no more long hauls for supplies from Castor with horses and oxen.

My Grandma Grantham came to visit us from Ontario that fall and she and Mother cooked for a railroad construction outfit who were building grade just to the west of town. Chester Shoults and Frank Gibson from the Hand Hills were the contractors. They had also come from Killarney, Manitoba.

During the summer and fall of 1912, there were shacks and other buildings springing up all over the place. Most people lived in tents or other temporary dwellings until they had a more permanent place built. When you consider that all the lumber and building supplies had to be hauled from Castor by team and wagon, it was quite an undertaking. It took a day and a half to freight in a load.

When Stephen's Bros. Store was almost completed, my Dad hauled in their very first wagon load of groceries from Castor. I was a ten year old and was along with him, sitting up near the tail end of the load or running around the outfit when I got bored riding. I noticed a carton of raisins on top getting a little closer to the edge each bump we hit. I was getting pretty hungry and we had several miles yet to go so I just may have given that carton a little shove with my foot. Anyway it went over board and was damaged when it hit the ground. The result was I had all the raisins I could eat the rest of the way. Dad even ate a few and didn't ask any questions as [illegible] why I let the box get so close to the edge.

School opened in Hanna in the fall of 1912. My sister, Olive and I were among the first pupils to attend. We were all there bright and early that opening morning. I forget how many kids there were, but not many. The school was just one room with classes all the way from grade one to eight. Our first teacher was Mr. Deboe. We all liked him very much. He was very strict as far as discipline was concerned but had a real sense of humor. He was later Principal when the four-room brick school was completed in 1914.

Well, let's get back to the days on the homestead in 1910-11. There were lots of families and quite a few bachelors. Some of the single fellows would live and work on the homestead in the spring and summer and spend the winter back home. We heard of a few [illegible] the single boys over in the Hand Hills who would mount their saddle horses and spend the winter near and far visiting among the married homesteaders. They called it "riding the old grub line."

Our store was about a mile east of our place and was in operation when we came in 1910. Bill French was the manager. He used to get a weekly newspaper from Chicago and always saved the comic section for the Hannah kids and us and some news sections for our parents. It was a real big deal when that paper arrived.

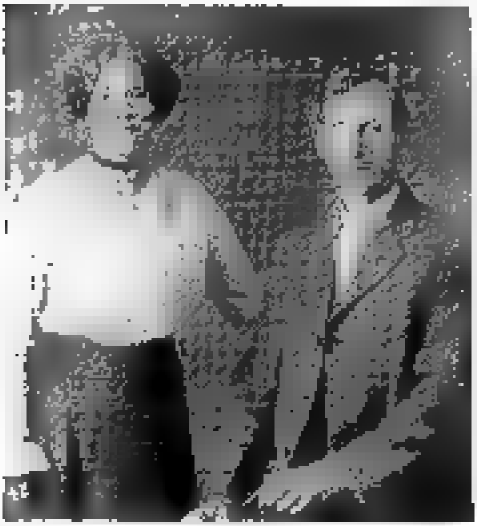
The Hannah boys and I used to roam around the area on foot, mostly barefoot in summer. Our main problem was to keep away from cactus patches, which were numerous. When you stepped on a cactus in your bare feet you were in deep trouble. You just had to sit down and howl while your companions seemed to take great delight in pulling the needles out of the soles of your feet. Another thing we had to contend with was range cattle. We found those old range cows would really get disturbed and put the run on anyone who got too close to them on foot. Anyway we had a fine time exploring the country around our parents' homes and visiting neighbors.

We moved into Hanna in 1919. My Dad rented the Commercial Livery Barn from the owner, Mr. Beltas. My Father passed away in the fall of 1920 from a sudden illness. My Mother remarried in 1922 to John Parker and lived in Hanna until 1955, when she passed on at the age of eighty years. Mr. Parker stayed in Hanna and was one of the first residents of the Senior Citizens' home. He passed away in 1967.

My sister, Olive married Scott Johnson. They made their home in Winnipeg. She died in 1939 at an early age. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

I married Rena Elizabeth Davey in 1943. We had two boys, Robert and Wesley. Robert lost his life in a truck accident in 1968. He was only twenty-two years of age. Wesley lives in Edmonton. He married Sandra Darlene Krenz in 1970. They have one daughter, Carley.

When you look back to the early days on the homestead and in Hanna, it seems a long way off, but if you just take the time to sit down and think, many incidents and events come to mind. It helps to have a chat with some of the other old timers. One will always come up with something the other had forgotten. Those pioneer days were sometimes pretty rough but the majority of the people were young and had the vitality and drive to cope very well with the problems that arose.



John and Beatrice Fox

THE JOHN FOX STORY, By Lily Fox — John Fox was born at Madoc, Ontario, on August [illegible], 1891. He came west as a young man and stayed with his brother James, who had homesteaded earlier northwest of Hanna, by the lake which now bears his name. In 1912, John homesteaded the S.E. 36-31-14.

John married Beatrice Carr from Bury, Quebec. On January 4, 1917, he set out in a raging blizzard with a horse and cutter, to bring the doctor from Hanna to deliver his first son. There were times he didn't think he would make it.

In 1924, he started working for the C.N.R. in Hanna, and spent many years driving back and forth when the roads were passable. When the weather was bad he would stay in town. Finally he moved his family to town where they lived in a box car near the railway tracks. Later he bought a little white shack, which still stands across from Jimmie's Service Station. He lived there until he retired from the railroad after thirty-five years' service.

John loved dancing as well as all kinds of sports. He would play his mouth organ, or call an old time square dance. Even after his retirement, he was still very active and full of ambition. One year he decided to go camping, packed his tent and supplies, and spent the summer months on the shores of Buffalo Lake.

In the fall of 1961, he pulled up stakes and went to Calgary to stay with one of his sons. He took a job with the village of Montgomery, which is now part of the city of Calgary. In 1965, he was injured in a car accident and could not return to work. He passed away on June 17, 1967. Mrs. Fox died in January, 1974, at the age of eighty-seven.

John and Beatrice had four sons. Harold married Lily Bowers of Hanna. They have two sons, and live in Calgary.

Edwin married an English girl when he was overseas during World War II. They and their six children live in London, Ontario.

Clifford also served overseas. After his discharge he married Vivien Marks of Sheerness. They have six children and reside in Calgary.

Clarence married a girl from Ontario, where they and their five children live.

John Fox lived in Alberta for fifty-six years, making his contribution in his own quiet way, as so many of the pioneers did.

THE GEORGE McCLOSKEY QUARTER, by Bill Curtis — George McCloskey and his wife Julia-Anne pioneered [illegible] this area where he homesteaded the SW 24-31-14 and built a two roomed house on the hill above the cut bank coulee, about 1910. However, on May 8, 1914 Mr. McCloskey suddenly passed away. On July 14, 1915 his widow, Julia-Anne McClosky and a Joseph Vincent O'Neil as personal representatives of the deceased received the Certificate of Title to this land.

In August of 1918, Mr. Archibald Bertren Simpson and his family moved onto this farm. Mr. Simpson had a badly crippled arm as the result of an unfortunate accident with the blower belt of a grain separator. The oldest son Archie farmed the McCloskey place and the Stan Boon half section with a Big Oil Pull Tractor, breaking land with a five bottom plow. He also graded some of the roads in the district. A younger son "Vic" was a very adept horseback rider, and would often dress up in a silk clown suit and put on quite a trick riding show.

A few years later after the Simpsons left, Ted Sams lived on this place. His main power source was a bunch of long eared mules who always seemed to move along quite well when headed for home but had a great aversion to going [illegible] the opposite direction. Bill Curtis, Jr. remembers distinctly how Ted got him to ride the stub tongue of a Massey binder and persuade the four mule team with a willow stick to make one more round on a strip of wheat so he could finish the field.

After Ted Sams left, Robert M. Moore acquired title to this land on May 7, 1929.

The McCloskey house was moved north across the creek to the Longacre yard, and the Jim Parker family lived there for a few years.

[illegible] 1939 the McCloskey quarter reverted [illegible] the Crown and during recent years has been held as a hay lease by Stan James.

Jake Fortna Family: Harold, Mrs. Fortna, Florence, Jake, Albert and Ethel.

THE JACOB (JAKE) FORTNA STORY, By Jake Fortna — I was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on August 20, 1890 where I got my schooling. I did not like going to school so quit [illegible] an early age and got a job training and caring for race horses. I also worked in a printing press and obtained my journeyman printing papers. Leaving the eastern states I worked my way west ending up in Seattle and then went by boat to Vancouver. In 1910, I took the train to Calgary and then to Castor.

In Castor I got a job at the livery stable where I drove landseekers south and east looking for homesteads. While on one of these trips we stopped at Jud Doran's stopping house which was north of where Harry Lumsden now lives. Jud told me about a quarter of land that was vacant southwest of there, and after looking at it I thought I would like to file on it for myself. The land in question was the S.E. 3-32-14, but I was unable to get it as there was a reserve on it by Daniel Gifford, who did not return after filing. After trying several times, I was about to give up and was interested in a parcel of land north of Richdale, but when I went to Calgary to file and waited in line for some time, I found out that the first place I was looking for was now open and I obtained my file on my homestead quarter in 1913.

Later I bought the quarter east of me which was the S.W. 2-32-14; a team of horses and a set of harness for $750.00 from Mrs. Beard whose son, Albert Ditton homesteaded in the Solon district. The next land I bought was the Myles quarter to the west which was the S.W. 3-32-14. Over the years I acquired several other quarters of land as the homesteaders left due to poor crops and hard times.

The first house which I had on my homestead was a cook car that I had brought down from Castor. Later a house twelve by sixteen was built with the help of Howard Kern and the cook car was traded to Howard for some breaking which he had done for me. One day while plowing Howard saw a storm coming up so he unhitched the horses and quickly put them in the barn and came running to the house where I was. I asked him what he had stopped for and he said, "A hail storm is coming." I didn't know what he was talking about as I had never seen a hail storm in my life, but I was soon to find out. It was not the worst storm I was ever to see but it was my first.

The mosquitoes in those days were real bad and the stock would be covered with them so you could hardly tell what color they were.

In 1916, I met and married Mattie Hanson who was a sister of Anker Hanson, a homesteader southwest of Hanna. This was the year of my first good crop, as prior to that I was busy breaking land and getting it ready to sow, and most of the grain I grew was used for seed and feed. Water was not too plentiful in the shallow dug well I had, so in the dry seasons we had to drive the stock some six miles to a creek where they would drink their fill, and I would fill a tank of water to take back with me. By the time the stock would get home they would be thirsty again and ready for another drink. In 1924, I had Frank Rupert drill a well for me which was two hundred feet deep and after that we had lots of water.

Over the years, to gain additional money, I used my experience in printing to get a job at the Hanna Herald Office, and also I cooked at Slinn's Restaurant for a time.

In 1926, I purchased my first threshing machine which was a Fairbanks that I ran with a 10-20 Titan. Later a Rumley Oil Pull was bought to run the separator as well as to do the farming. In the latter part of the thirties I bought a fairly new Case threshing machine which I still have, and in 1940 bought a new Minneapolis tractor. Over the years I threshed for all of my neighbors although some of the crops were poor and I barely met expenses. Some of the men on my threshing crews were: George and Art Campion; Fred Engel; Levi Kennedy; Louis Pahl; Walter, Albert and Cliff Kern; Bill and Cliff Paxman; Harry, Ben, Tom and Jim Parker; Lorne, Jim, Bob, John, Ronald and Ivan Hannah; Morris Olsen; John Yeaman; Ole Price; Bob Sloan; Len Sloan and Albert Banco. In 1946, the combines came in and the old threshing machine was retired.

In 1917, our son Harold was born. Ethel was born in 1919, Albert in 1924 and Florence in 1932.

Harold married Mae Lamb and lives on their farm north of mine. Their children are: Vivian, Ed, Doug and Marjorie.

Ethel married Vince Bourbonnie and they are living in Calgary. They have five children - Marilyn, Terrance, Karen and twins, Joyce and Joan.

Albert married Minnie Wardle. They lived on the farm with me for a time, then moved to Lady Lake, Saskatchewan where Albert helped run a machine business. He did not like it there so moved back to the Hanna area and got a job in the Sheerness coal mine as a shop mechanic. It was there that he passed away in 1959. They had four children - Delbert, Esther, Peggy and Ruth. Minnie is presently living with her mother at Lady Lake, Saskatchewan.

Florence marrie Albert Banco. They are living on their farm northeast of

Hanna. Their children are Ronnie, Cheryl and Audrey. All of our children got their education at Meadowlands School.

In December of 1924, when Albert was born, I took my wife to the hospital with the team and sleigh and then left Harold and Ethel with their grandmother southwest of Hanna. On the way home a blizzard came up and I had to leave the team and sleigh at Doc Sims' just east of town. The snow banks were not hard enough to walk over and were too deep [illegible] walk through so as a result I had to roll over them. While walking home I stopped at Jim Parker's to get warm, and helped Mrs. Parker to milk the cows as Jim couldn't get home on account of the blizzard. I arrived home around midnight after leaving Doc Sims in midmorning. About a week later a wind came up and blew all the snow off the road and I was able to pick up my team and sleigh from Doc Sims and bring my wife and son home from the hospital.

We took a great interest in the community, taking in school picnics, parties and dances. I was floor manager and called square dances at Meadowlands School for many years. For several years I was secretary and later president of the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company. I was also committeeman for the trunk line and secretary-treasurer for Meadowlands School. We visited many of the neighbors using a team and buggy but in 1919 I bought a Model T Ford car which we used for transportation in the summer time, but still had to use the team and sleigh in the winter.

My wife was a great help to me through the years, working by my side especially doing the chores, raising a big garden, as well as looking after the children and the house. In the early forties, I bought a bigger house and moved it to the farm, making it easier for her as there was more room for the family.

We thought [illegible] moving out many times because of crop failures and one time I drove many miles with the team and wagon looking for a better place, but found nothing I liked better than what I had.

My wife passed away in 1953 at the age of sixty-two. I lived on my homestead quarter from the time of filing in 1913 (except for a short time when I worked at the Hanna Herald Office) until the winter of 1975 when I moved into Hanna. During the summer months since moving to Hanna, I drive out nearly every day to the old place which was home to me for so many years.

I was asked if I would do it all over again and even remembering the many hardships suffered, crop losses due to droughts, hail and grasshoppers, summer dust storms and winter blizzards, I replied, "I believe I would."

HISTORY OF THE SIM FAMILY, by Lillie Schmidt — Mr. and Mrs. H. C. (Doc) Sim moved to the farm one mile northeast of Hanna, the E½ 15-31-14-W4, in the winter of 1918-19. He had bought the farm from a man named Kessel. Their children, Mildred, Lillie, Lawrence and Clarke were born in the Lonebutte District, and Lloyd and Edna were born at Hanna. On January 27, 1927, Mrs. H. C. (Sarah) Sim died very suddenly. Doc Sim ran a dairy farm for years and delivered milk every day in Hanna for twelve cents a quart. He also raised a large number of hogs and hauled buttermilk in large tanks from the Hanna creamery to feed them.

Our neighbor to the east of us was Richard Hannah, north were Burdetts, northeast Howard Kern and to the south, Richard Bond and later Ferg James. Mildred married Gordon Weatherill in 1935 and has two children, Joyce and Ronald. Mildred lives in Rocky Mountain House. Lillie married Emil Schmidt in 1934 and has four children, Robert, Fay, Fern and Connie. She lives [illegible] Okotoks. Lawrence who now lives at Tees married Elva Ferguson [illegible] 1940. They have four children, Coleen, Harvey, Jean and Joan. Clarke, of Vancouver, married Doris

Carter in 1939 and has two children, Marilyn and David. Lloyd lives in Barrhead. He married Julie Gaumont in 1947 and has one daughter, Shirley. Edna married Claude Halpin in 1941 and has one son, Douglas. She lives in Red Deer. H. C. (Doc) Sim died in 1944.

THE GEORGE GWIN STORY, by George Gwin — A. F. Gwin moved from south of Hanna in the spring of 1921 to what was called the Oldham place — land number S½ 22-31-14-W4. There was besides my mother, me (George), Robert, Pauline, Ernest and Corine the baby. My father bought out A. J. Campbell who was peddling milk in Hanna at that time and with what cows he had, started up the Gwin's Dairy. I went to school in Hanna the rest of that year. I used to peddle milk till the school bell rang, then run like hell to get there in time. Sometimes didn't make it either! Then in 1922 I went to Meadowlands School. There was Bill Curtis, three Parkers, three McGowens, Lloyd Campbell, Harold Fortna and I. In September that year my brother Robert started to school. He was only five years old but his birthday was September 15th so they let him in. He was a funny little guy — always showing off — till one day the teacher went out and she saw him through the window and made him get up in front of the class and do it again. He didn't know he was being punished; he thought he was showing them how to do what he was doing.

One day while going to school at Meadowlands we were playing ball. Some of us were barefooted. We used an old ash pile for home base. I ran from second base to home and slid in just as the bell rang. We all marched in to school. The teacher said, "George, what have you got on your foot?" I said, "I don't know." She looked and darn near fainted — my foot was cut from my toes to my heel from a piece of glass or something. She sent me up to Curtis' place — the closest house to the school. Mrs. Curtis put my foot in a pan of disinfectant and gave me one of Mr. Curtis' felt shoes to go back to school in.

Then another time I was going to show the kids how to pole vault over the fence. I ran and went up but not over as the pole broke in mid-air and I landed on the barb wire fence. Tore my pants and about four inches of hide. The blood was running down my leg so the teacher told me to get home. I was riding a pony. The other kids got me on his back and away I went, but when the sweat and dirt off that horse's back got in that cut it sure did hurt and smart, but lots of things like that happened at the old country schools. Just like one time the McGowens were going home, all three on one old horse going down a hill on the run. The horse stumbled and fell. Flossy went rolling down the hill, George went over the fence and Carry hit a fence post injuring her shoulder, but they all climbed back on and went on home. They lived on the old Stirling place where Lorne Hannah lives now.

Gwins had the dairy till the spring of 1925 when they moved up to the Hamilton place, a half-mile east of the Antelope Hill School six miles north of Hanna. All that is left of that old school is a broken cement foundation. The old school is in the yard at the old Al Wirth farm seven miles north of the town of Hanna.

I worked as a hired man all over this country for many years and I will say this: there were a lot of good people in this area, but once in a while you met up with a miserable outfit.

In 1938, I married Alice Scott and we have two daughters, Jessie Irene and Dorothy Marie St. Denys. We moved back to Hanna in 1941 and have been here ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bond and Margaret

THE THOMAS BOND STORY, By Freddie Bond — Thomas James Barrett Bond was born in London, England 1877. He came to Canada when he was eighteen years of age. He worked for John D. Rockefeller Sr. before coming to Alberta. He also worked cattle south of the Red Deer River with John Ware and other ranchers in that area.

In 1909 he married Alice Osmond from Berry Creek and took up a homestead at Clivale. During the First World War he had a horse ranch at Crawling Valley.

They moved from Clivale, now known as Homestead Coulee, to the farm of W. E. Fitzsimmons in the fall of 1921 and in the spring of 1922 they moved to the Churchill Farm now owned by Stan James. They farmed there until the fall of 1924. During that time Dad hired on at the C.N.R. as carman at the rip track. They had three children. Margaret now at Victoria, Jim at Calgary and Fred residing in Hanna.

Their neighbours at that time were Dick Hannah, Al Sim and McGowan. There were many good times had by his children while on the Churchill farm. They had a swimming hole north of the road and the Penny, Taylor, Martin boys and many others would swim there in the summer months. One time when the C.N.R. built their new dam, the bridge across the road was washed out and the children had to get to school by crossing the water on a raft.

In 1924 the family moved to Ontario for three years and then in 1927 moved back to Hanna. Dad continued to work for the C.N.R. until 1942 when he was retired. They moved to Victoria where Mom passed away in 1953 and Dad in 1969.

THE FLOOD STORY, By Cliff Kern — Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Flood and their three children Percy, Edith and Harvey came from Ontario to the Fort Macleod district in 1910. In 1913 they took out a homestead north of the Red Deer River near Hutton. Crops were poor in that area and after having only one good crop, which was 1915, they decided to move out. They came to the Meadowlands district in 1923 and settled on the east half 24-31-14, this being the Guy Longacre homestead. Joshua was a blacksmith by trade.

Edith, who married Ben Campbell also came north and they lived for a time on the Chris German homestead and later moved over to the Hodds place. Here they kept a weather station and shortly after the New Year in 1924, they recorded fifty degrees below zero. They had two children, Lloyd and Juanita. When their mother died, they went to live with their maternal grandparents. Lloyd went to Meadowlands School for a time. Lloyd and Juanita are presently living near Winterburn, Alberta.

Percy, the oldest son, stayed on the homestead for two years. In 1925 he married Elizabeth Ramsay and they moved onto the Jim Fox homestead in the Silver Valley district.

In 1927, Harvey married Margaret Ramsay and he took over the farm when his folks moved into Hanna. Percy in the meantime had moved to Hussar but came

back to live with Harvey. In 1927 he bought the south half 26-31-14 and moved there. There was a shortage of water on this place so he moved the buildings from the northwest corner of the place to one half mile east of the school where he found an abundant supply of water.

The Floods were a great asset to the community and made many friends. The school teacher boarded at Percy's for several years. Harvey played the violin and his wife "Meg" played the steel guitar. They played for many dances at Meadowlands School.

In 1935 the Floods sold their land here and moved north to Winterburn, near Edmonton. There they made a real success of farming.

Harvey and Margaret had one daughter, MaryAnne who was born in 1935 at Winterburn. She married Don Currie and has three children, Anne, Bob and Edie. They are presently living at Westlock, Alberta.

Joshua and his wife eventually moved back to Fort Macleod where they passed away in 1937 within two weeks of each other.

Harvey's wife died in 1964 and Percy's wife in 1970. After the deaths of their wives, Percy once again moved in with Harvey and they still live together. They are retired now and are both enjoying good health. Percy is eighty-eight years of age and Harvey is seventy-five.

MR. RUDOLPH DOERING STORY, by Pauline Doering Lehnert — Mr. Rudolph Doering, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Doering, immigrated to Odessa, Washington from Russia, as an infant. In 1906 the Dan Doering family with five children — Rudolph, Ted Ida, Pauline and Hilda came to Mayton, near Olds, Alberta. Emma was born there. Then in 1910 they sold the farm and took up a homestead in the Hand Hills, southwest of Hanna. Sam and Adeline were born in Hanna, thus making eight children in the family.

Bindering on Greek Farm 1926, Rudolph Doering on push binder with Hilda and Pauline behind.

In 1924, Rudolph and his father Dan rented one section of farm land six miles northeast of Hanna which was called "The Old Greek Farm." This land had been under cultivation previously, but was very neglected when they took it over. They summerfallowed almost all the section that summer with the help of one brother and three sisters, using twelve horses and two gang plows.

I recall, we used a lot of plow shares to get the land back in shape, as the pig weeds were as high as the horses' bellies and the land was quite dry. I believe we had a couple of horses to spare but twelve horses were in harness every day for the plowing that summer. How hard they had to work in the heat, and they were long days, sometimes starting as early as seven a.m. to seven or eight p.m. We

bathed many a sore shoulder on the horses. Some horses had to walk through those dry pig weeds which scratched and cut their feet. After work, the horses were put into a night pasture in the northwest corner of the section. There was a large slough in it and hoards of mosquitoes plagued the horses and in a very short time all horses appeared to be the same color. Great was the invention of the tractor.

The following year was well rewarded by a bumper crop. We cut the crop using one of the first push binders with six horses, and a smaller binder with four horses. Ida and Pauline spent many long and hard laborious hours in the heat getting the bundles into stooks.

Mr. Whaley, Sr. and sons helped with the threshing. The grain had to be hauled away to Bonar as quickly as possible because of a shortage of granaries. The grain was hauled away in four wagons, two hitched together, the trailing wagon with a stub tongue, and four horses on each. These wagons were driven by Pauline and Hilda. The following years also brought fairly good crops.

Mr. Rudolph Doering married Augustina Geisler on February 8, 1925, ■ Sweet Home, Oregon. When they were moving with their possessions to their farm north of Hanna, he gave his bride a real Canadian welcome, with all its beauty of blustery winter weather and snow drifts, by upsetting their bob-sleigh and all their possessions.

During their stay at this farm two girls were born to this union, Alma (Mrs. Henry Karg) and Ella (Mrs. Victor Karg).

■ June of 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Banco and three children Walter, Lila and Pauline arrived from Bessarabia, Romania. They stayed with and helped Mr. and Mrs. Doering over the summer and fall harvesting. When the Doerings moved to the Parr district, Mr. and Mrs. Banco continued farming north of Hanna. Their fourth child was born in Hanna.

After three years, Mr. and Mrs. Doering moved back to south of Hanna where they lived the rest of their lives. Mrs. Doering passed away in 1938. Mr. Doering lived until 1976.

THE TED SAMS STORY, By Ted Sams — I was born in Athens County, Ohio in 1903 and came ■ Canada in 1910 with my parents who settled on a homestead ten miles southwest of where Hanna now stands. I took most of my schooling in the Alpha School. Before the railroad came to Hanna Dad and I hauled freight from Castor to Hanna with oxen.

Ted and Mary Sams with son Harry

On December 26, 1926, I married Mary Karg and we started farming on the Joe Wade place which was fourteen miles straight south of Hanna. In 1926, we moved to a farm one mile south of Meadowlands School which was S.W. 24-31-14 and also farmed the [illegible] ½ 13-31-14. I used mules to farm with as I liked them better than horses. I only stayed on this place one year because the one hundred twenty acres of wheat that I had seeded were completely hailed out. We then moved to the Rose Lynn district for a while, then up to Meanook where we took up a homestead and stayed for twenty-eight years. When we retired we went to Rochester where we still reside.

Some of the neighbours Mary and I remember were the Flood brothers, Bill Curtis, Bob Moore and the Howard Kerns — where we always went for ice cream.

Our children and birthdates are as follows: Harry born May 13, 1928; Bill born November 10, 1929; Julia born May 13, 1933; Lawrence born January 9, 1936 and Pat born May 4, 1941.

Mike Litke Family. Standing, Left to Right: Herb, Freda, Otto, Elsie, Alfred. Seated: Mike and Mary.

THE MICHAEL LITKE STORY, by Freda Litke Fecho and Herb Litke — Mr. Michael Litke came to the Hanna District in 1927 from a German settlement in Bessarabia, Romania with his wife Mary and two small sons, Alfred age five and Herbert age two and one-half years. He settled one mile north of Hanna on the Oldham place which was the [illegible]. ½ 22-31-14-W4. In 1928 a daughter Freda was born. The family then moved about twenty-five miles south of Hanna to the Cudmore place, but moved out the same summer because of crop failure. Dad also decided there were too many snakes there to suit him. The next move was seven miles straight east of Hanna to the SW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here in 1930 another daughter Elsie was born. There were miles and miles of open prairie with cattle and horses running at large. We owned between three and four hundred sheep. One winter during a severe snow storm we lost quite a number of our sheep.

In 1933 because of drinking water shortage the family moved one mile north across the tracks to the NW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here the youngest son Otto was born. The school that the children attended was Centre Point which was about three miles away. Our teacher was Virginia Thomas.

Because of various unfavourable conditions we moved back one mile south again. The children then attended Royalton School on Number Nine Highway. The teachers here were Virginia Thomas and Frank Jacob.

In 1936, Mike bought the Hamilton farm four miles east and one mile north of Hanna, the NE 16-31-13-W4. Finally things began to prosper. Now the children attended Meadowlands School. The teachers here were Miss Betty Wallace, Violet Stewart, Phyllis Morton, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Peterson and Miss Verda Hollman.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Litke moved to Hanna. Alfred married Alma Welch and they have two children. Alfred lives in Calgary. Herbert married Ruby Peterson; they have three children and reside in Hanna. Freda married Fred Fecho; they have one child and live in Hanna. Elsie married Edwin Hein; they have three children and reside [illegible] Calgary. Otto married Ruby Engel; they have two children and reside in Vernon, B.C.

Mrs. Mary Litke died on November 29, 1963. In 1967, Mike married Rebekka Revienous and the same year retired to Calgary, where he remained till his death on January 5, 1973.

Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl

THE CHRISTLIEB (CHRIS) PFAHL STORY, [illegible] Herbert Pfahl — Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl with their family of five children, Erna, Elmer, Linda, Elsie and Herbert immigrated from Bessarabia, Romania to Hanna in July of 1929, via ship and C.N.R. In Canada five more children were born — Leonard, Edmund, Marvin and his twin sister, Marlene who died in 1937, and Marilyn.

From 1929 to 1933 the Pfahl family rented the Emmanual Burgemeister place south of Hanna. They then moved to the Frank Olson farm until April 1935 when they moved northeast of Hanna and bought the E½ 24-31-14 in Meadowlands School district.

Crops were poor in those days so as a result they had to milk cows to eke out a living. In 1938 they had a fairly good crop and things started to look a little better. In the early forties he purchased a new tractor and threshing machine in order to thresh his own crop as well as many of the neighbours'.

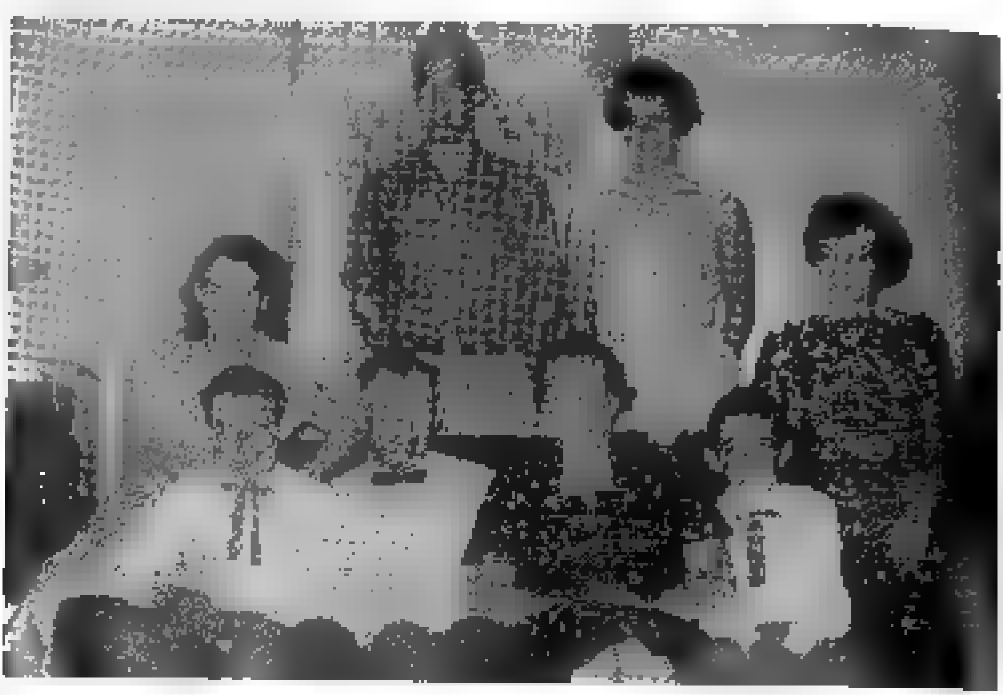
Erna married Otto Stern and are living on their farm northeast of Hanna. Elmer married Erna Geissler and they raised a family of five. Some of these children attended Meadowlands School and later went to Hanna. Elmer purchased the Shorty Nettleton place and later the Pat McKenna farm and farmed for many years. He sold out in 1975 and moved to Penticton, British Columbia. Linda married Robert Regner. They have two children and are presently living in Hanna. Elsie married Bruce Mitchell; they and their three children are living in Edmonton. I (Herbert) married Mable Roth [illegible] 1949 and started farming in the Garden Plain District, later buying my dad's farm where we still live. We have two children, Karen and Bryan who are attending school in Hanna. Leonard married Shirley Wilson. They are living in Prince George. Edmund married Kay Sawler; they and their four children are living in Ottawa, Ontario. Edmund joined the Air Force in 1951. Marvin married Elsie Jane Peterson and they live in Vernon, British Columbia. They have a family of five. Marilyn married Ron Henderson and they have one child. Ron was killed in a plane crash in 1976. Marilyn is living [illegible] Edmonton.

The first five children started school at Golden Hill and finished their education at Meadowlands.

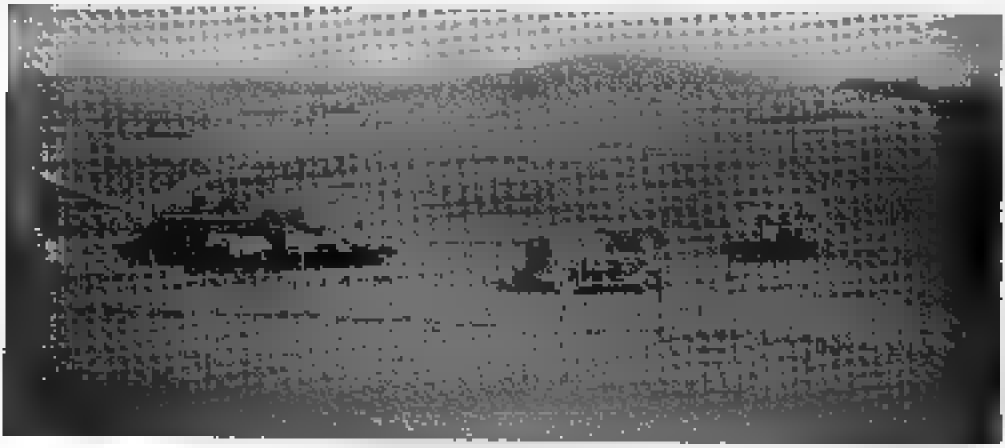
Chris and Rebecca moved to Hanna in 1949 but continued to farm until 1953 when they moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Chris passed away at the age of seventy-two years on December 29, 1964. On February 21, 1969 Rebecca passed away at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE LOUIE PAHL STORY, by Amanda Pahl — Louie Pahl came to the Scapa district with his parents in the fall of 1927. In 1936 he moved to a farm three miles north of the Meadowlands School where his brother Fred had been living.

He was occupied in mixed farming and raised good crops in the rolling land he had. He started out with three quarters of land but later acquired another section one mile north. For several years he farmed the land owned by Mrs. Orpha Wright nearer to Hanna. At one time he owned a threshing outfit along with his brother-in-law, Otto Mix.



Louie Pahl Family. Standing: Edwin and Rosie. Seated, Left to Right: Louise, Jim, Louie, Amanda, Arnold, Edna.



Louie Pahl and Otto Mix threshing — 1945

In 1937 he married Amanda Emma Schneider and had six children. They all attended Meadowlands School. We were really in the Solon district but because of better roads we had our place changed into the Meadowlands district.

Our children are: Louise born February 5, 1938. She married Allen Storms in 1959 and they had four children. In 1965 Allen passed away and Louise remarried Bill Pendrake and they have one son. They live at Pickardville, Alberta.

Edwin was born January 23, 1940. He married Donna Marks in 1966. They have two children. His family live at Duncan, British Columbia; Edwin is in the [illegible]vy.

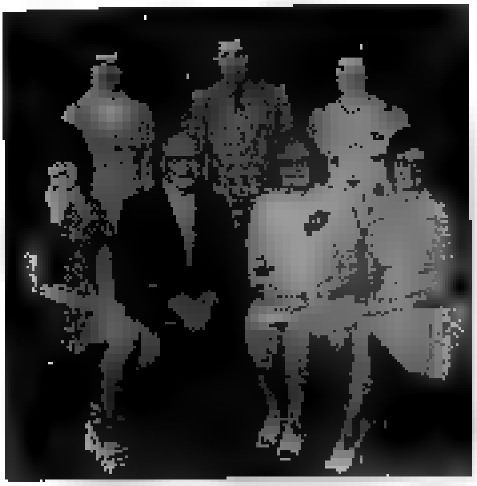
Edna was born December 18, 1940. She married Herbert Selwert in 1962. They have two children and they live at Dugald, Manitoba.

Rosemarie was born October 26, 1944. She married Ross Wolfe [illegible] 1964. They have three children and live in Hanna.

James was born February 4, 1946. James married Doreen Miculous in 1971. They have two children and his family reside at Fort Macleod.

Arnold Garry was born in June 26, 1949. He married Jean Alyss Flewin in 1971. They have two children.

When Arnold came back to the farm, Louie and I moved to a mobile home in the same yard, where I still live. Louie passed away in February 1977.



Fred Engel Family. Standing, Left to Right: Geraldine, Gerald, Gladys. Seated: Jeanette, Fred, Alma, Eileen.

THE FRED ENGEL STORY, By Fred Engel — I was born and raised in the Fraserton District, July 16, 1911. I farmed with my dad and worked for many of the neighbors. In 1934, we moved to the A. Sims farm in the Red Rose district. On November 22, 1936, I married Alma Kautz and we moved to the Joe Schmelke homestead in the Meadowlands district. SW 35-31-14 and SE 34-31-14 that I had rented earlier in the fall.

My first crop in 1937 was a total failure as were most crops in the area. My neighbor to the north, Walter Carlson had some crop that was mostly pigweed and he had cut it with the poverty box. I helped him separate the weeds from the wheat. We did this by having a rack on each side of the window and putting the weeds on one rack and the wheat on the other one. We got about three or four rack loads of weeds for each rack load of wheat. For my pay Walter gave me all of the weeds, which was all I had to feed my milk cows. We sold milk to Howard Kern for five cents a quart. This was all the money we had to live on. [illegible] 1938, our crop went close to forty bushels to the acre but it was all lodged and I had to cut [illegible] one way. In the early forties I bought this half section and in the late forties I bought the Clarke quarter section from Stirling which was the NW 22-31-14. Over the years I rented several other places some of them being the Diachuck place, Ernie Piehl's and Walter Carlson's.

In 1936 and 1937 coal at Pehl's Mine was worth $1.50 a ton but we had no money so as a result I took my four horses over to the mine and helped strip the coal. For one day's work he allowed me two tons of coal. I was getting $3.00 a day for myself and four horses plus I had to supply my own feed. As we stripped the dirt off the coal we backfilled the hole left from the previous year's diggings. The hole was about ten feet deep and was full of water. We had to crowd our horses as close as we could so the dirt would fall over the edge when the fresno was dumped. One trip I drove too close and the bank gave way and my whole outfit ended up in the waterhole! I had to jump in and unhook and separate the horses and Bee Howery, who had an outfit of horses there as well, pulled them out by their necks with a logging chain. When hauling our coal home there would be a line up of wagons and trucks. We always had to help the men ahead [illegible] us load their coal so we would have to shovel many tons before it would be our turn. One day when we got to the mine gate we saw two trucks coming. We galloped our teams to the mine so we would get ahead of the trucks and we would not have to help them load and they would have to help us for a change!

Our first child, Eileen was born in 1937. [illegible] 1958, she married Roland Dux. They had two girls, Debra and Wendy. Eileen and Roland were separated and [illegible] 1971 she married Steve Kucher, who had two daughters, Robin and Kathy. They live in Calgary.

Gerald and Geraldine were twins and were born June 22, 1940. Geraldine married Larry Jameson from Byemoor. They have three children, Connie, Glenda and Brian. They live [illegible] Innisfail.

Gerald married Armella Ham from Calgary on February 8, 1964. They have three children, Kevin, Kelly and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Gladys married Walter Fedoruk on July [illegible], 1966. They have three children, Denise, Barbara and Michael. They live on their farm at Hairy Hill.

Jeanette, the youngest daughter graduated as an Operating Room Technician from the Alberta Vocational Centre [illegible] Calgary on July 18, 1972. She was formerly a Certified Nursing Aide [illegible] the Holy Cross Hospital [illegible] Calgary for four years, and is now working [illegible] the Medicine Hat Hospital. Our children received all of their education [illegible] Meadowlands School, except Jeanette, who had to finish her education in Hanna.

All of the community activities were centered around the school. We always had dances, parties, Christmas Concerts, ball games and picnics. The first year we were in the Meadowlands district I can remember going to the Christmas Concert with the team and buggy as there was no snow on the ground at the time and the weather was fairly mild.

We enjoyed living in the Meadowlands district and had wonderful neighbors. There was always a community spirit with everyone helping each other in times of need. We lived there for thirty-six years, selling out in 1972. Gordon Robertson bought the home quarter, Bill Paxman one quarter and Jerry Martin bought the other one. After leaving the farm we moved into the new home we built in Hanna on Eighth Avenue. For three years after moving into town I did some carpenter work but am now retired.

Fred Miller Family. Back Row, Left to Right: Dorothy, Jeanie, Jack Ross (Dorothy's father), Ross, Bruce, Fred. Front Row: Joan, Garry, Billy, Ronnie, Jimmy.

THE FRED MILLER STORY, by Fred Miller — I was born November 18, 1903 at McKluskey, North Dakota. My parents and all of their family moved to Canada in November 1909, settling [illegible] Stettler, Alberta for the winter. In April 1910 my father filed on his homestead four miles west of the present town of Hanna. My brother Abe, myself and my sister, Anne drove our stock on foot from Stettler to our homestead, following our father who had our furniture and lumber to build our house. My mother also drove a team and buggy with the little ones who were too young to walk. My youngest brother George was only two weeks old.

We had many good times and dances at St. George School. I stayed

home helping farm and with chores till my folks moved to Hanna in 1924 when I took over the farm.

I was married to Dorothy Ross on August 9, 1930. When we went to Calgary to get married we had a beautiful crop of wheat standing. It hailed while we were away, which was only four days, but it damaged our crop about forty per cent and before our crop was ripe enough to cut we had five different hail storms go through it. When we threshed our crop we got about fifteen per cent of the crop that was there the first week [illegible] August, and the price of wheat was from thirty-one cents to nineteen cents per bushel.

On August 28, 1931 our first child a son was born, Ross Alexander. We continued farming on my father's farm and on December 11, 1932 our second son Bruce was born. In the fall of 1933 we moved to Hanna and ran the Feed Mill for Fred McAurthur and hauled the relief feed for my father-in-law, Jack Ross who was the Pool Elevator Agent in Hanna at that time. On March 23, 1934 our first daughter Jean was born and we stayed in Hanna hauling coal and draying for people around town.

On August 12, 1935 our second daughter Joan was born. In the spring of 1935 we moved to the Dan Smith farm south of Hanna in the Lonebutte district. We were going to buy this place but our children would have had to go six miles to school so we just stayed there one year. We had a fairly good crop that year. In the spring of 1936 we moved to the John Parker farm south of Hanna. We stayed here till the spring of 1939 when we bought the east half of 15-31-14 where we are still living. Our son Ronnie was born while we were on the Parker place, on July 18, 1937, a bouncing baby boy. We milked cows and sold milk to the local dairy men Ferg James and Howard Kern. On March 3, 1941, our fourth little son, William Henry was born; on May 15, 1943 our fifth son, James Harvey, and on August 13, 1944 our sixth son, Garry Wallace. These are the three little sons we lost on November 30, 1946. And our oldest daughter Jeannie died September 19, 1947. Though it is over thirty years ago since we lost our four darlings the ache is still in all or our hearts.

On September [illegible], 1948 our seventh little son was born, Gordon who was [illegible] great comfort to us all.

On April 11, 1950 our third little daughter was born, Shirley who we were so proud to have.

On June 6, 1951 our youngest daughter Margery was born. We were so grateful that God was so good to us after our great loss.

Our oldest son Ross was married [illegible] Gwyne Morris of Tees, Alberta on October 4, 1953. They have had four children, two sons and two daughters, but they lost their youngest little son when he was just a tiny baby. In May of this year, 1977 my wife and I will be great-grandparents to Ross and Gwyne's second daughter Cathy who is married to Gordon Sim of Tees. They now reside in Bashaw, Alberta.

Our second son Bruce was married to June Hale of Bassano, Alberta on August 27, 1965. They have one son and are farming and ranching in the Scape, Alberta district.

Our second daughter Joan was married to Dan Boettcher of the Lonebutte district and they have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Our third son Ronnie was married to Linda Pugh of Dorothy, Alberta on December 5, 1964. They have four children, one son and three daughters. They farm and ranch south of Chinook. The children go [illegible] school [illegible] Cereal, Alberta.

Our seventh son, Gordon was married to Kathy Anderson in May [illegible] 1969.

They live in Calgary where Gordon and Alfred Frick own and operate the Twiligh Construction.

Our third daughter, Shirley married Gordon Robertson August 23, 1969. They farm and ranch in the Meadowlands district north and east of Hanna and have two children, a daughter and a son.

Our fourth daughter, Margery married Stan Moench on January 2, 1971. They have two children, both sons. Stan is a carpenter and is employed at present time with Knoblauch Construction.

We still reside on our farm and are interested in farming and ranching as always.

Jobe Martin Family, Left to Right: Jerry, Gail, Jobe, Freda and Les

THE JOBE MARTIN STORY, by Jobe Martin — My parents, Fred and Maria Martin, came to Canada [illegible] May 1927 from Liepzig, Bessarabia. I was four years old and my sister Alma was two years old when we arrived. Alma is Mrs. Jack Bessler of Keremeos, British Columbia. My parents settled in the Parr School District where we lived for seven years. Alfred, my brother, was born here in 1928. He was killed in an automobile accident on September 12, 1963. In 1934, we moved to the Lone Butte School District where we lived for seven years. My youngest sister, Elsie, was born here. She is now Mrs. Barry Johnson of Coquitlam, British Columbia. Then in 1941 my parents moved to the Peter Bauman farm in the Olive School District.

On October 19, 1943, I married Freda Karg. My folks moved to Vancouver, British Columbia while my wife and I stayed on the place. Our oldest son, Leslie, was born here on October 24, 1944. He is now a brakeman on the C.N.R., helps me farm, and farms his own land in this community. Leslie married Elizabeth Watts of Toronto, Ontario. They live in Hanna and have two children.

In the spring of 1946, I bought the old Milton Rickett farm, four miles north of Richdale. Times were hard and the weather was dry. Gale, our only daughter, was born here August 17, 1947. Gale is now a computer operator for a trucking firm in Calgary. Gale is still enjoying single bliss.

During the winter of 1947-1948 the snow was so deep that I only got out to haul feed. Once every week or two I went to Richdale on the saddle horse for the mail and groceries. My wife didn't leave the farm for five months because the snow was so deep and the temperature so cold.

In the spring of that year, 1948, on a very foggy morning, a small plane crashed near our farm. The plane hit the deep snow which cushioned the crash and saved the pilot's life. The plane was carrying baby chicks and they were scattered [illegible] over the snow. These chicks were being delivered to the neighbourhood because it was impossalble to go to town to pick them up. The horses couldn't travel any distance through that deep snow. They just played themselves out and couldn't go on. The plane wreckage was picked up by a large truck that spring after the snow was gone.

We became tired of all the snow and cold so in September 1948 we headed for Vancouver, British Columbia. I went [illegible] work inside a large warehouse for eight hours a day, five days a week, carrying a lunch bucket, while my heart was out in Alberta with [illegible] that fresh air, sunshine, and those deep snow banks. Our youngest son, Jerry, was born [illegible] Vancouver on September 22, 1950. He now works for Ducks Unlimited, helps me raise cattle, and farms on his own in this community. Jerry married Linda Fury from Lethbridge, Alberta and they live in Hanna.

On April 4, 1951, I took my family and headed back to the sunshine and snow banks of Hanna. When I crossed those Rockies and breathed that fresh Alberta air again I knew I was back where I belonged. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mowett, oldtimers of the Meadowlands School District, had their farm for sale. After looking at those beautiful trees and hills we couldn't resist buying their farm and we have now spent twenty-six years in this wonderful community. I have enjoyed life to the fullest here with my family and my two hobbies — raising cattle and curling in the winter to keep in good shape.

THE ERNIE PFAHL STORY, By Elaine Nunweiler — Ernie Pfahl was born in June, 1930 at Hanna and was the son of Alix Pfahl who lived in the Hand Hills. He received his education at Hand Hills Lake School.

He bought the Edward Elm farm northeast of Hanna and on June 8, 1952 he was married to Elaine Pogson of Hanna. We tore down a big two storey house on this place and built a new one. In the meantime we lived in a granary.

We had two daughters, Joan born May 27, 1955 and Janice born on April 9, 1957. Ernie passed away on August 27, 1959 and I moved into Hanna. The farm was then rented out to Ernie's father who farmed it for quite a number of years.

Ernie and Elaine Pfahl with daughters Joan, 2 years and Janice, 6 months.

[illegible] 1964 I married Norman Nunweiler and we moved to his farm at Laporte, Saskatchewan. We sold the farm at Hanna in 1975 to Melvin Pfahl and Otto Stern.

THE ORPHA WRIGHT STORY, by Orpha Wright — We came to the Meadowlands district in the spring of 1959 from Patricia, Alberta where my husband (Dean) had died on June 6, 1958 leaving me a widow with six small children.

I bought the Bill James place just east of Hanna which was the original Bob Moore homestead. This place wasn't that fancy but it was close [illegible] school and had electricity on it and a good well. When we arrived in this area, my family were too small to help operate the farm so I rented the cultivated land out to Lorne Robbs for about five years and then to Louie Pahl for the next ten. There was quite a bit of pasture land on this place, so when my oldest son Herschel became old enough to help me we kept more cattle. It was quite a struggle putting the feed up in the summer months and looking after the cattle in the winter time. My youngest son Forrest is now looking after the farm.

Although we were in the Meadowlands district my children attended the Hanna schools because of the distance and road conditions. There they all received a full education.

My oldest daughter Gladys was born June 14, 1947. She married Archie

Kittler of Hanna and they have three nice daughters Shauna, Kristy and Angela.

Her twin brother Herschel married Vicki Olsen and they have one son Dean Bradley. They are located at Rainbow Lake in northern Alberta.

Hope was born May 4, 1946. She is still single and works in Edmonton.

Joy was born June 7, 1949. She is married to John Garrel and they live in Hanna.

Forrest was born April 1962 and is married to Karen Annas. They have one son Stuart Dean and live in Hanna.

Adeline my youngest daughter was born September 1960. She is in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where she is finishing her education.

Four years ago when our house caught fire and was destroyed, the Meadowlands and surrounding communities were a pillar of support to get us back on our feet. Many thanks to you all.

THE HANK HILDENBRAND STORY, by Shirley Hildenbrand — Henry "Hank" Hildenbrand was born in 1919 at Horsham, Saskatchewan, where he farmed until joining the Army during the Second World War.

Upon his discharge, he came to Hanna in 1946, where he was employed by K and B Motors for a number of years. In 1950 he married the former Shirley Carrier, a native of Hanna.

In 1956 they moved to the Watts district, where they lived on the Tommy Scott farm for twelve years. While there Jo Ann was born in 1959 and Shelley in 1961.

During this time they purchased land from Clifford Kern in the Meadowlands district; in 1969 they moved onto the property. In 1973 Hank took over the Operation of Shell Canada Limited Bulk Plant in Hanna.

THE DOUG MOTZ STORY, by Doug Motz — I was born April 4, 1955 at the Hanna General Hospital. I lived in the Spondin area from that time up until June of 1975. There I helped my Dad on his farm and learned many tricks of the trade. I attended Spondin School from grades one through nine. And I really appreciated those years in that country school. The first year that I attended, there were grades one to twelve, then each succeeding year, the grades declined down to grade nine. The year after I finished grade nine all the grades were bussed to Hanna, as the school was closed down. From then on it was more competition as far as studies were concerned, but those were also well spent years. In my last year of high school, I had the privilege of driving the kids to Hanna, instead of being driven! But that was a terrible winter for us bus drivers because of all the snow — I'll never forget it.

Then after I graduated from high school, I was able to attend Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat for a year. There I learned more about the Bible, and there I also met my good wife. Joan was born and raised on a chicken farm at Carstairs. Later she and her family moved to Three Hills where she finished her high school years at Prairie High, and later spent three years at H.C.C. and graduated with her diploma and E.T.T.A. (teaching certificate).

We were married in June of 1975 in Three Hills. We bought Elmer Piehl's place in the spring of 1975. I have been farming this place now for two years as well as driving school bus on the Meadowland route. On December 28, 1976 we had a little son born to us, named Arlen Douglas.

THE GORDON ROBERTSON FAMILY — Gordon was born and raised in the Hanna and Endiang communities. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm (Huck) Robertson farmed north of Endiang. In November 1953 Gordon's Dad passed

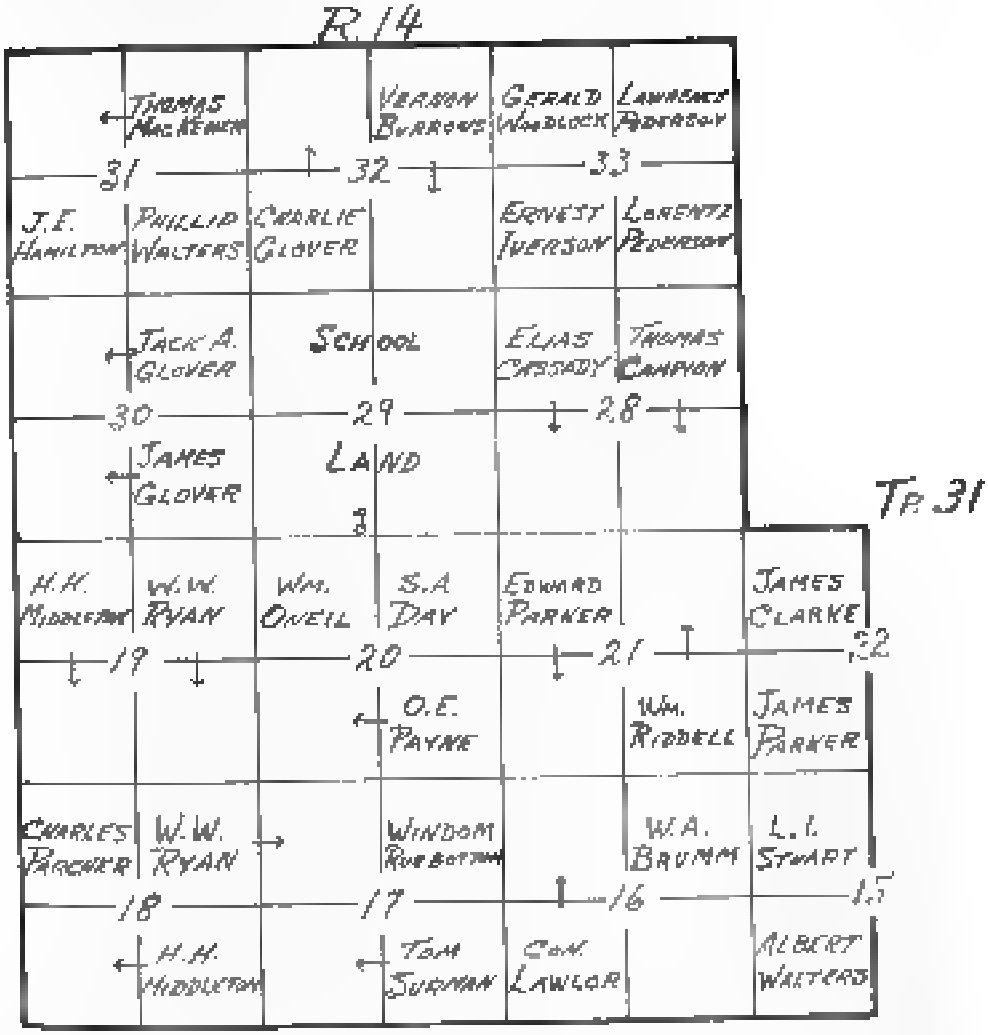
away and in 1956 his Mother remarried Mr. Walter Stulberg. His mother and step-father reside in Calgary.

Through the years of growing up Gordon's family moved from Endiang to Hanna. While in Hanna Gordon had a hand at quite a few jobs, but he always went back to butchering at Central Meat.

Gordon was married August 23, 1969 to Shirley Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller. Shirley was born and raised in Hanna. Her parents live on a farm one mile east of town.

After we were married we both worked in town for a couple of years. In November 1973 we purchased the Fred Engel farm where we have set up a feedlot operation. We have two children, Lori Ann, who was born June 1, 1971 and Donald Edward who was born February 20, 1973.

SILVER VALLEY No. 2886



OWNERS AND RENTERS, TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 14

N½-31-31-14
William MacKenzie
Al Hutton

S.W. 31-31-14
John Price
Art Gwinn
Al Hutton

S.E. 31-31-14
Stan Grant

Bill MacKenzie
Al Hutton &
Bill MacKenzie

N.E. 30-31-14
Jim Glover
Elmer Glover
William MacKenzie

N.W. 30-31-14
Elmer Glover
Al Hutton

S.E. 30-31-14
John Price
William MacKenzie

S.W. 30-31-14
John Price
Al Hutton

N.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

S.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

N.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Ost
Gotlieb Schmidt

S.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Ost
Gotlieb Schmidt
William MacKenzie

E½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
William MacKenzie
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

W½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
Hutton & MacKenzie
William MacKenzie

N.W. 20-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 20-31-14
Mr. Horner
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 20-31-14
Alec Coburn
Harvey Howatt
Muriel Cranston
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.W. 20-31-14
Harvey Howatt
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

W½-17-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Jim Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 17-31-14
Alec Bordula
Mike Lrike
R. Pfahl
Al Hutton

S.W. 17-31-14
Bert Mott
Bob Sloan
John Nixon
Alberta Housing

W½-28-31-14
Will Glover
Martin Bye
Fred Cook
R. Steinbracker
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

E½-28-31-14
Arthur Campion

W½-21-31-14
Jim Parker
Al Desilets
Albert Galarneau
Russ Mayberry

E½-21-31-14
Frank Huff
MacBeans
Roundollar
Dan Banco
Albert Galarneau
Art Campion

W½-16-31-14
Alex Bordula
Mike Lrike
Reinhold Pfahl
Alberta Housing

N.E. 16-31-14
Fred Miller
Bill MacKenzie

S.E. 16-31-14
Golf Course

Sec. 15-31-14
Doc Sims
N. Sleaves
Fred Miller

N.W. 33-31-14
Coughlin
Morris Olsen
Art Campion

N.E. 33-31-14
Jake Forma

S.E. 33-31-14
Elmor Olsen
Esty Holmes
Dave Temple
Dooley Allen
Art Campion

N.W. 22-31-14
Bill Sterling
Art Pincombe
Fred Engel
Jerry Martin

S.W. 22-31-14
Oldham
John Olachuck
Cliff Kern
Fred Engel
Andy Duff

SILVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2996

By B. MacKenzie

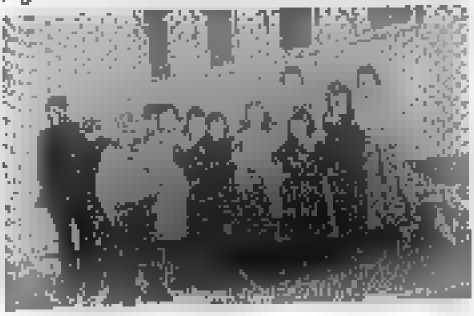
Silver Valley School - 1914 Back Row, Left to Right: Bert Johnson, Ken MacKenzie. Middle Row: Zelma Samson, Margaret MacKenzie, Lorene Glover, Virginia Johnson. Front Row: Charlie Glover and Bill MacKenzie

Silver Valley school district was established on January 25, 1913. It included sections 17-21, 28-33, the west halves of 22, 27, and 34, the north half of 16 and the northwest quarter of 15, all in township 31-14; and the east halves of 13, 24, 25 and 36 in township 31-15. The Senior trustee was Chas. Glover of Hanna, the treasurer, E. G. Cassedy.

The site of the school, in the southeast corner of S.W. 29-31-14, was selected by the school trustees, and approved on February 14, 1913. In June of that year, approval was given to borrow the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for

purchasing the school site, erecting the building, furnishing it and digging a well. The latter was never accomplished, as water was never found.

In 1936 Silver Valley School was included in the Sullivan Lake school division. It ceased to operate in 1938, and the building was moved to Watts to serve as a high school there. Sale of the site was approved on November 27, 1968.



Silver Valley School. Left to Right: Ken MacKenzie, Charlie Glover, Bill MacKenzie, Bill McEwan, Alma Fox, Dorothy Paulson, Emerline Glover, Freddie Paulson, Beatrice Glover, Teacher Miss Dack, Mildred Paulson, Olive McEwan, and Margaret MacKenzie.

No record of teachers prior to 1930 can be found, but some of them were Maria McKay (1914), Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922), Pearl Finkbeiner, Miss Maclean, Miss Dack, Hudson Hoover, Mrs. Prothrowe, and Maud Henderson. Teachers from 1930 to 1937 were Mrs. [illegible]. Portfors, Faye Tillotson, Amanda Walli, Minnie Wiese, Muriel Cranston; during this time attendance varied from a high of twenty-five pupils to a low of eight.

Children who attended Silver Valley School were from the Glover, Samson, MacKenzie, Ost, Bye, Price, Fox, Johnson and Paulson families.

Silver Valley School served its purpose well during the time it was in operation. The building is gone, and there is nothing to remind the passer-by of the many times it served the community well; but an old timer might imagine, if he pauses a while by the old school site, that he can hear the ringing of the bell, the shouts of the children, and the lessons which the teachers so painstakingly prepared.

THE ED PARKER STORY, By Faith Parker Fell — The Parker Brothers, John, Ed and Jim came originally from North Dakota in 1901. For a few years, while Alberta was yet a district of the North West Territories, they had lived at Coalbanks (near where the town of Ardley now stands) helping their father, Thomas Parker get established on a homestead there with their mother, Mary Ann, sister Lucy and niece, Mabel Smithman, and brother Frank who died.

Mrs. Ed Parker, nee Frances Harris - 1911

Ed Parker and second wife Eva in Calgary after wedding - 1952.

From 1903 the boys had ranched in the Hand Hills and Watts area and being among the first settlers there, they had their choice of location for their buildings while the cattle grazed the prairie wool and the lush meadow hay [illegible] will.

In 1909 their lives changed: the ranchlands were surveyed and opened for

homesteads which meant an end to ranging cattle. Their sister Lucy, who had been keeping house for them, married George Burkell and they settled on a homestead which was northeast 9-31-14, where the town site of Hanna now stands. The Parker boys took homesteads too — Jim's was the west half 9-31-14; John's three miles south and Ed's was one and one half miles north. Their parents moved into a sod shanty near their daughter.

Just south of town, along the Bull Pound Creek, Claude Harris of Salmon Arm, British Columbia filed on a quarter of land and soon his young brother, Fred and sister, Carrie came to live with him. Carrie went to Castor and nursed at the hospital with her sisters, Jennie and Frances.

The Harris family were to play an important role in the lives of the Parkers within the next few years, for in 1911 Jim married Carrie Harris, the next year Ed married Frances Harris and Claude Harris married Elsie Smithman, a niece of the Parker boys. The address on the marriage certificate was "Copeville" so named after G. R. Cope who had a post office in the vicinity.

Of interest here is the account recorded in the memoirs of Reverend M. W. Holdom, a young Anglican clergyman of Castor. He tells that in December of 1911 he arranged to ride horseback south forty miles to perform a marriage ceremony. A blizzard caught him midway and all he could do was to give the horse its head and hope for the best. The horse floundered its way against the blinding, cutting snow and wind for hours. The preacher was so cold and numb that he was only hanging on with difficulty when the horse carried him into the yard of a house. It was his intended destination! The bride and groom were still waiting and the ceremony, though delayed, united Jim Parker and Carrie Harris in Holy Matrimony.

In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent and he and [redacted] ran a taxi service to Castor. Previous to this the trips had been with horses which necessitated an overnight stay at the sod house of "Lewis' Stopping Place" at Garden Plains. Frances told of one such trip when arriving there late at night from Castor en route to Copeville, Mrs. Lewis had to build a fire in the range before she could prepare any food for the weary travellers. No paper could be found with which to kindle the coal until Mrs. Lewis realized she could get some by tearing the paper label off the box of Cow Brand baking soda. With that she soon had the fire going and supper cooking.

Before the rails came to Hanna the lumber for houses was hauled from Castor, so it was very precious and the shacks were either built of sod with lumber roofs, or as small as possible. Many young wives mentioned how forlorn the wind sounded at night as it whipped around the corners and flapped the tar paper under the eaves.

A story is told about [redacted] Parker and Claude Harris going early one morning to get wagon loads of coal from the Black Diamond mine eleven miles south of town. At noon the men ceased their digging long enough to eat lunch but Claude, on opening his ten pound Roger's Syrup pail, found it filled with ginger snaps! He'd picked up the wrong pail.

Ed Parker had two quarters of land with the house situated near the line between the two (one and one-half miles north of town) where he farmed and raised cattle. Water was always a big problem and at the edge [redacted] every slough there was a shallow well which went almost dry in the summer months. The "house well" provided enough water for their home use and for whoever was living at the time in "the Payne house" across the road. This memorable house was hexagon shaped. It was said the builder declared he constructed it thus so the Devil couldn't catch him in the corners!

At the north end of Ed's farm was the hay slough around the edge of which lay rocks in circles where Indian tepees had been erected, and on the hill was a sunken rectangular depression which was suspected of being an Indian grave. All over the pasture lay whitened buffalo bones and horns — relics of the Indian era years before.

Between 1915 and 1919 Ed and Frances had three children: Hale, Faith and Bob who were all born at home with Dr. Mason and nurse Kate German in attendance. Later the children attended Silver Valley School which was a mile northwest of their home. During a wind storm one day the roof of the barn blew off and was carried outside the page wire fence of the school yard. The walls of the school were weaving back and forth so the teacher moved the children away from the windows [illegible] case they crashed.

Among the teachers at Silver Valley during the twenties were Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922) who with her husband lived in the Horner house which was the original Day homestead (one-quarter mile north of Ed's house). Mrs. Fred Portiors, Pearl Finkbeiner and one who got fired for wearing men's riding breeches to school. (The poor girl had to walk a mile to school through snow drifts.)

Among the pupils during this period were: Freddie Paulson; (the original Dennis the Menace). Beatrice, Emerteen, Elmer and Harold Glover and their cousin, Walter; Gussy, Rosie, Ted and Red Price; Austin and Mavis Bye. There were also the three little Derr children whose father, uncle and grandfather were all killed at the same time by lightning as they stood in the door of a barn watching the storm. For a while the Burkell children, Howard, Erma and Ted attended as well as the eldest of Jim Parker's children, Harry, Winnifred and Marian.

The little country school room was in those days the essence of economy — a back bench crowded with lard pails which had wire-bale handles which served so conveniently for children [illegible] carry lunches and drinking water to school; a big coal stove encircled by a tin jacket to prevent burns, oiled board floors, slates on the primary desks, the brass hand bell on the teacher's desk, meagre blackboard space for eight grades and the bare necessities for teaching the "three R's". One "must" was a MacLean's Writing Book for each child and many a time little fingers got smacked for using finger muscles for moving the straight pen instead of arm movement.

There was no playground equipment as such so the children played "Steal Sticks", "Tug-of-War", etc. A favorite game was "Ante-I-Over" during which, for the big kids, the ball was thrown over the little white schoolhouse but for the little ones it was over the shanty-type barn or over one of the two outdoor toilets near the back of the schoolyard.

The boys, up to the age of ten or so (depending on size) wore "knicker" pants which buttoned below the knee over long underwear and long wool socks, felt shoes and rubbers and the usual jackets and toques; but for little girls in the early twenties the outfits were much more complicated — long fleecelined underwear because chilling was deemed to cause consumption; long black or brown wool stockings held up with a garter belt; felt boots which were still buttoned in 1922; fleecelined bloomers, obtainable at Eaton's mail order in dark grey, navy or plum color; and a petticoat and a wool dress to well below the knee. Pinafore aprons were worn over the dress so they could be washed, but usually there was only the one school dress, worn all winter. With long coat, toque, mitts and a scarf it was a wonder a child could move, let alone run to play games.

Among the souvenirs of my childhood [illegible] a bronze medallion dated 1927 which was presented to each school child in Canada, commemorating Canada's Diamond Jubilee (sixty years since Confederation). On this occasion the teacher and the class walked about two miles north to the home of Charlie Glover to listen via battery radio (likely the only one in the district) [illegible] a speech by a representative of the reigning monarch, King George V. How awesome was that "wireless set" that from the air waves could capture a voice so far away!

Leisure times were usually spent [illegible] self-made entertainment, for although Shaker's Theatre in town showed black and white, silent films, there was no spare money to squander on tickets. As a means of advertising this new form of entertainment, complimentary tickets were sent to families and it was one of the highlights of the late twenties when our family went in to see "Sweethearts on Parade".

In the early twenties, highlights of an ordinary week would be when we drove by horse and buggy into town on Saturday night. Stores were always open to eleven o'clock. We would visit other farmers and buy the week's supply of groceries with a pound [illegible] bologna as a special treat, for sandwiches when we got home. Sunday afternoon was usually spent with a gathering of relatives or friends, in summer a picnic, and in winter, weather permitting, cards, and music with violin, piano or mouth-organ.

One memorable event in the winter of 1927 was the wedding of Beulah Kruger whose parents lived on the Payne Place, to Walter Lewis of Garden Plains. When the bridal party were ready to leave after the celebration, they, along with Mrs. Lewis Sr. and Walter's sister, climbed into a bob sleigh and cuddled down under the robes. Well wishers gathered around showering rice on the newly-weds and shouting last minute advice. The team jumped and started to run, whipped around the corner on to the road and over went the sleigh box spilling gifts, blankets and gasping occupants into the snowbanks! Everyone pitched in and soon had everything loaded again and they went quietly on their way, but strangely, it was only a couple of years later that Walter lost his life as a result of a run-away accident.

Toward the end of the twenties, automobiles became the accepted mode of transportation and Sunday outings extended to surrounding towns and to Clear Lake where on the beach, some brave girls introduced the "shocking" newest fashion — brightly flowered, wide-legged Beach Pyjamas! Daring drivers in the latest model cars travelled at the breakneck speed of forty miles an hour. The cars enabled the ball teams of the various districts to play together with a cheering squad of neighbors. On one such occasion when the game was being held in Ed's pasture, a summer storm broke and everyone rushed to the buildings for shelter. The hailstones, like small snowballs, pelted so hard that some went right through the canvas top of a touring car; shattered windows and hopes as crops and gardens were battered into the mud.

Ed took time from his farming operations to serve on the school board and on the town council for several years during the twenties.

During the latter half [illegible] that decade the rainfall lessened, resulting in light yields of grain, very little water in the wells and skimpy grass for the cattle, so most of Ed's cattle had to be sold. The boys earned pin money by collecting bounty which was paid for gopher tails, crows' eggs and crows' feet. Hale, in 1931, won a provincial prize for the most crows' feet and eggs collected — a twenty-two Browning rifle and a cheque for fifty dollars.

These events leading to the depression years are best described by the following verse:

When the drought came, disbelieving farmers watched,
And more each day —
Saw their prairie like a maiden stricken,
Wasting fast away —
Then the wind came, howling, lashing,
Like a fiend the Devil sent, —
Like a giant black with fury, it ripped and roared
On Destruction bent.
It lifted soil from bare fields parching,
Filled the air with dirt and sand,
Beat her, lashed her, with no mercy,
Languid, helpless, hopeless land!

In 1931 when the Government of Alberta offered the residents of the stricken area free railway transportation for family and effects to any point [redacted] Alberta, Ed bade a sad farewell to his beloved prairie and moved his family to the opening Peace River country.

Twenty years later, several years after Frances passed away, he returned to Hanna, married Mrs. Eva Meehan and lived there until his death in 1954.

Hale Parker is now a barber living with his wife, Alvina in Fort St. John, B.C. Their only child, Mrs. John Desemone and family live in Dawson Creek.

Faith and her husband, Percy Fell live [redacted] Abbotsford, B.C. One of their children is married to Jim Parker (no relation).

Bob Parker and wife, Gwen, live on a farm in the little town of Montney, B.C. near where [redacted] established his family in 1931. Ed's homestead there is held by Bob in trust for his son and daughter. The old building site amid the trees is reserved for community use and is known as "Parker's Park".

THE SAMSON FAMILY, By Zelma Samson Milne — Ernest Gregory (Bob) Samson came to Canada from San Jose, California, in the spring of 1909, because times were hard and jobs were scarce there. He was a blacksmith by trade, and his first job was working for a Mr. Flett, I think his name was, [redacted] Gleichen. That smithy is now in Heritage Park in Calgary. He was put to shoeing horses all day long but could not stand that as a horse had fallen on him during his apprenticeship years and injured his back. [redacted] later years [redacted] built a small blacksmith shop on the farm and sharpened his own plow shares, shod his horses and mended his machinery. He also did quite a bit for the neighbors.

While in Gleichen he learned of the chance to get a homestead for a ten-dollar registration fee, so went [redacted] Calgary and filed on a quarter section four miles due north of where the town of Hanna now stands. He did the necessary improvements and so later was able to pre-empt another quarter section adjacent to the homestead, and later on bought another quarter across the road from the pre-emption. My father also leased some land from the Hudson Bay Company, and used it for pasture. It was quite hilly and not much use for crop.

When mother and I came, we travelled from Castor to Thompson's by stage, I think. Thompsons lived three or four miles from our place and had a stopping house. My father was working for Fatty Thompson at the time. The next day he borrowed a horse and buggy and took us to the car-roofed, two-room shack he had managed to build and furnish during his first year.

The first plowing to prove up on the homestead was done by the Thompson

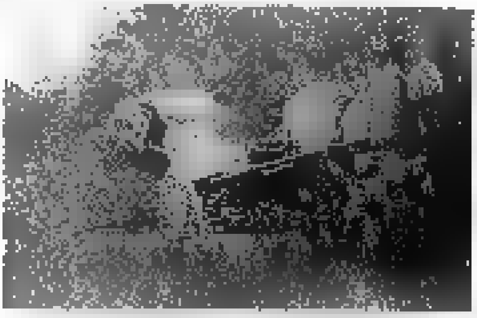
outfit. The huge steam engine pulled a plow that turned sixteen furrows at one time. The next year more ground was plowed by Mark Pope and his oxen.

The first animal we had was Dolly, a buckskin cayuse that we could ride or drive on the buggy. She was soon followed by Daisy, a Jersey-Ayrshire cross cow, a real treasure as a milk producer. Water came from a well about one hundred yards from the house. It was good tasting water, but hard.

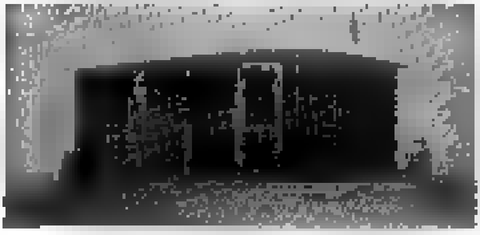
We had no horses or wagons at first so had to depend on others for supplies. Mark Pope lived east of us several miles. He had oxen at the time and would go to Castor for supplies. It took most of a week to make the trip. One time the heel flies took after the oxen and they ran into a slough to escape them. The wagon got stuck in the mud and I think he was most of the day getting it out. He had to wait till evening to unhitch the team and pull the wagon out backwards. He switched to a team of white horses as soon as he could.

Once the railroad went through, Hanna sprang up like a mushroom. That ended the long trek to Castor for supplies. We were now five miles by road away from the stores.

Zelma Samson and dolls - 1910



Mrs. Bob Samson (Edna) and old Buck.



The Samson's Shack — July 1910

Charlie Glover had a dairy that furnished milk to the town people. One woman complained that the milk was too thin. He replied, "I can't help it if the cows wade in the sloughs."

Our first neighbors seemed to be mostly bachelors. Mike Sullivan lived close, north and west of us. He had a long-legged ox that he used to hitch to a buggy and it would trot to town as fast as a horse. There was Lyle Gifford east of us. He was an English gentleman and knew nothing about farming so didn't last very long. East of us there was Walter Carlson and later Jake Forma. Families came later, Knudsons, Glovers, Burrows, and MacKenzies.

The first fall my mother and father went to take care of a place near Castor. People by the name of Clymie went back to England to visit for a couple of months. Mrs. Clymie had frozen several large pans of milk for us and we hauled them home stacked one on top of the other in the sleigh. Dad put them in a large wooden box with a lid on the north side of the house and they kept there just fine. Dad went out every night and cut a wedge of milk like a huge piece of pie and brought it into the house to melt in a bowl for breakfast the next day. Breakfast was

rolled oats and milk as long as the milk lasted, then we ate it with butter spread on it. We got the butter from Thompsons.

The potatoes were stored on the foot of my bed, which was hung from the ceiling over my parent's bed. During a cold spell they froze, even though they were covered with extra sacks. [illegible] the morning the blankets would be white with frost where we had breathed on them.

Samson's Shack. Mrs. Samson, "Buck" and Zelma.

The first year or two were pretty grim. Food was very limited. Rolled oats, beans, bacon, and bread which my mother baked were the main fare. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat at times. There was the odd can of tomatoes and some dried fruit to liven the fare a [illegible]. Later my dad cut a trapdoor in the kitchen-living room floor and dug a small cellar beneath it. A ladder-like stair was fashioned so that we could get down to the space below where we stored vegetables and pans of milk. No more frozen potatoes after that!

These hardships did not bother me too much, but they must have been terrible for my parents, who were used to city living where they had hot and cold water taps and indoor plumbing. The luxury of a bath tub must have seemed like a dream, rather than a reality they had forfeited to become Alberta pioneers.

There was very little in the way of entertainment for the first year or two. Mark Pope played the banjo by ear and could sometimes be persuaded to play. Neighbors came occasionally. We played cribbage and dominoes [illegible] the evenings during the long winter months. Later there were dances in the school houses. Those who could play and had fiddles, accordions or mouth organs brought them to the dances and provided the music. I had to go along with my parents as they wouldn't leave me home alone, so I learned [illegible] dance, and by the age of thirteen was a good dancer.

I can remember going to a dance at Solon School with my parents. It must have been [illegible] the late fall, but there was very little snow so we went with Dolly and the buggy. After midnight the weather changed and a blizzard came up. Everyone stayed till daylight so they could see to get home. There were quite deep drifts in the low places. My parents put me in the bottom of the buggy and covered me with a blanket. The blizzard had subsided but the temperature had dropped to ten degrees below zero. I was out of the wind but my feet were so cold that I couldn't feel them, and when Dad put me down on them I fell over.

My Dad got a summer job working for the railroad at Fleet, blacksmithing, I think. Later he worked at the Hanna Trading Company store long enough [illegible] get money to buy some horses and machinery. Mother did the farming, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens, and raising a garden. She sold the butter, eggs, and some vegetables to the store where Dad worked as well as [illegible] some of the town restaurants.

Between what Father earned and borrowed he finally got enough equipment [illegible] start farming in earnest. He had very good crops of Marquis wheat, for a couple of years, anyway. He got two dollars a bushel one year during the war, and I think he was able to pay off most of his mortgage. Eventually we had thirty head of cattle, seven or eight horses, up to thirty pigs and possibly a hundred chickens.

Mother got some duck eggs one year and put them under a hen. She brought up seven ducklings. There was a slough near the barn and they lived there. I can remember the mother hen frantically running up and down the edge [illegible] the water, trying to call them back from danger. She soon gave up and let them fend for themselves.

Dad had well-bred Clydesdale horses, three of which took prizes at the Hanna Fair every year, especially 'King' and 'Queen'. Prince was a long-legged Percheron, the only horse that could begin to keep up to King. The six work horses ranged in weight from 1800 to 2000 pounds. They were huge.

I acquired Buck to use as a saddle horse to get the cows and ride to school, and to drive on the buggy whenever Dolly was busy having a colt. My Dad sometimes rode him to work at the store on Monday morning. Then the milkman would lead him back as far as the fork in the road. He would tie the reins to the horn and start him on the road and he would come on alone. He often carried groceries on his back. One time he brought medicine for Daisy when she had a touch of milk fever after having a calf. He would not let anyone touch him until he got to the home barn. He would also wait for me all day at school without being tied.

I can remember going to one picnic when I was ten years old. I came down with the measles that day and was very ill by the time I got home. I gave them to the other children there. They must have hated me about then! My cousins from California had brought them to me.

Coal was mined at Garden Plain. We were fortunate to have wood on our own farm. There were a number of willow and poplar trees on the edges of several sloughs. There was always enough deadwood [illegible] make kindling and some large pieces to use for cooking in the hot weather.

After several years, Dad built another room onto our shack. It served as a livingroom and bedroom for me. There was a small heater in it that burned coal as well as wood. It could be banked to hold fire all night so the house was more adequately heated and we had a comfortable place to sit in the evenings. It was nice to sit by the stove and read on long winter evenings.

Minnie Burrows kept house for her father and brother Vernon. She was the first school teacher as well. She had classes for the neighbors' children one summer. I think there were five of us, Lorne and Charlie Glover, Kenneth and Margaret MacKenzie, and myself. She married a Mr. Portfors and that ended our first school. The next year I rode Dolly to Solon School, until the mosquitoes got so bad I could not control her. Then Mother took me each morning and came after me each afternoon, but that didn't last long as mother spent most of the day on the road and Dolly got pretty worn out doing twenty miles a day.

Then I was out of school until the Silver Valley School started. My mother spent a good deal of her time in those years teaching me the three R's. She used some books I had received at Solon School, as well as some that my schoolteacher-Aunt Ada sent out from California. Another school started in the district north of us. I went there for about six weeks; I think I was in grade five. The teacher

seemed pretty inadequate and pupils were scarce, so it folded up after a few months.

When I left Silver Valley School in the fall of 1917, I was [illegible] grade seven. I spent six months in that grade in California and then went to Hanna School. After four years at Hanna, I graduated from High School there, then went to Camrose Normal School for eight months, graduating from there as a second-class teacher. I taught at Crow Hill and later at Silver Valley. Silver Valley School always closed in the winter as the children came so far.

My father decided he didn't really care for farming, as compensations were few, money-wise, for the effort expended. [illegible] the fall of 1917 he sold the farm to some people by the name of Lane. He got a house and lot in town on the deal. We went back to California for the winter, where I went to school and Dad worked at whatever he could find to do.

He came back to Hanna at Easter time in 1918 and settled in the house which was just behind the school. It was still there the last time I was in Hanna. The dry years came and my father got the farm back. He was unable to pay the taxes that had accumulated so turned [illegible] back to the government. Jake Forins bought it later.

I married Jack Milne in 1924 and moved [illegible] Trail, B.C. Our first child, Yvonne, was born there. We moved to Princeton in 1926, and had three more children there, but lost a daughter Margaret, aged ten years. Gregory was born in 1935 and Esther in 1940.

My brother Stanley, who was born in Calgary in 1920 and adopted by my parents, lives in Vancouver. He has one son, Paul.

We had two celebrations [illegible] mark our golden wedding anniversary in 1974. One was in Penticton in August when all our family were able to be present; the other, on the actual date, was given by our church and our friends at Princeton.

My father died [illegible] 1949, my mother in 1959.

THE VERNON BURROWS STORY, By Vernon Burrows — I came from London, Ontario on June 2, 1910 with W. Lumsden. When we reached Calgary there were two inches of snow on the ground. We went to the end of the railway at Castor where we both got jobs. Later we filed on homesteads. Mine was four miles north of the west side of Hanna. Bill Lumsden homesteaded about twelve miles north-east of Hanna and is still living on his place in the Solon district.

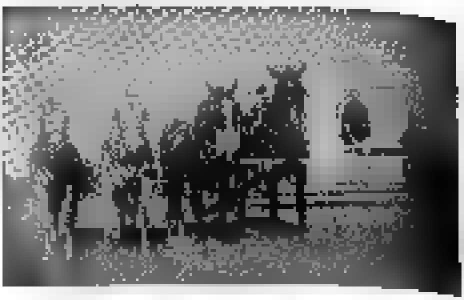
I was working for a lumber company in Castor, and later they sent me to run a lumberyard in Drumheller, so I didn't go on to my homestead till 1912. I got a team of horses and a wagon and hauled everything forty-five miles from Castor . . . lumber, machinery and fencing materials. I built a house fourteen by eighteen and built a sod barn to hold eight head of horses. In 1913 my dad and family came out and settled about fourteen miles north of Hanna.

In 1915–16 I had a crop of wheat that yielded forty-five bushels of number one wheat to the acre. I proved up on the homestead and the pre-emption, put a mortgage for eight hundred dollars on the homestead, and drilled a well. We went down one hundred and sixty feet, and put a windmill on the well. I built a two-storey addition to the house, sixteen by twenty-six.

In 1918 I sold the farm and moved to Clive, where I bought a half-section and later lost it. I moved to Stettler and got a job with the Crown Lumber Company. I ran lumber yards in East Coulee, Tofield and Consort. Then I bought a hardware store at Clyde, north of Edmonton, but was only there for four years when I sold out and bought another one at Innisfail, where I still live.

I am eighty-eight years old and retired now. My son Clifford is running the store.

Vern Burrows and his horse and dog.


Vern Burrows and binder.

Vern Burrow's home on the homestead.

I married Maude Walters in 1913 and my son Clifford was born when we lived on the homestead. My daughter, Eva, was born at Clive. They are both living at Innisfail.

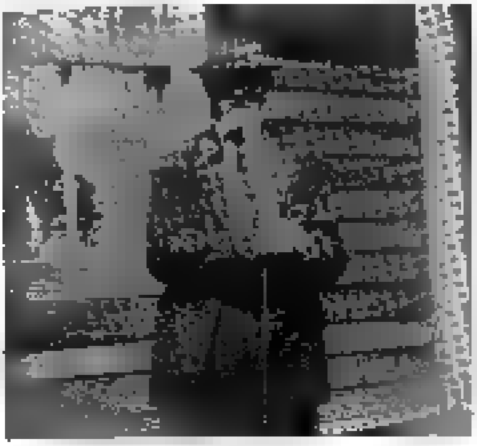
THE MacKENZIE STORY, By William and Betty MacKenzie — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Christine MacKenzie came from Scotland in 1906 and after a year spent in the States, they moved [illegible] Calgary where my Dad worked [illegible] his trade as a stone mason. My brother Ken and my sister Margaret were born in Scotland. I was born in Calgary [illegible] 1908. In 1910 my parents took up a homestead on Section 31-31-14. This was the southeast end of Dowling Lake.

My Dad bought four horses and a wagon in Calgary and we shipped by train to Castor. Then we trailed to our homestead. As there were no buildings we had to live in a tent until a sod shack was built. My Mother used [illegible] tell about the terrible times we had with the mosquitoes, everyone said it was a record year for them, and smudges were kept going night and day using bull chips for burning. This was the only means of protection we had from these biting insects.

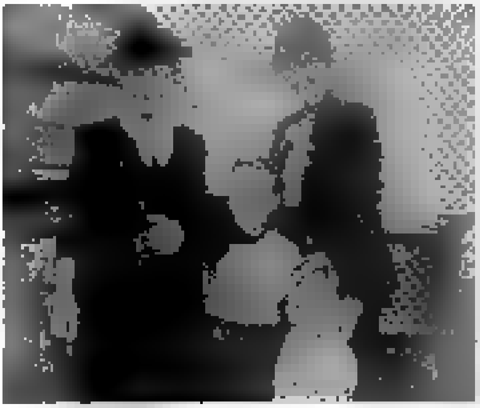
We were fortunate to have good neighbors living near us. The Glovers lived to the south. Dan Ross and Jack Robertson to the north, Al Huttons and MacKewans to the west [illegible] us and the Samsons to the east. Our closest neighbors were the Glovers. There were four families of them — Will's, Jim's, Charlie's and Jack's. They all lived close to each other and to us. Mrs. Jack Glover (Nellie) and my Mother were the very best of friends. They visited back and forth, and helped each other in so many ways. She was one of the kindest women that I ever knew. She often had treats of lemonade and cookies for us when we trudged wearily home from school. She always seemed to have time to spend with us and, of course, we all loved to go to "Nellie's"! Life was never quite the same when the Glovers as well as some of the other neighbors left the district [illegible] search of a better place to live in the early part of the thirties.

When we first arrived at the homestead there were no fences so as [illegible] result cattle roamed at large and sometimes hundreds of these herds would come milling around our place. Some belonged to the Parkers and some to the McCuishs and until the land was all surveyed and opened for the homesteaders these cattle were allowed to stray afar.

There was no school until 1912 when Silver Valley was opened so our early education was taught to us by Minnie Burrows. She lived about one mile and a half east of us and taught us half days in her home. By 1912, we had a house built, and my father also built a stone barn and chicken house in 1916. He also built most of the chimneys of the district and helped build the foundation for the old Hanna High School.



Tom MacKenzie (Bill's Father)



Left to Right, Mrs. Tom MacKenzie, her daughter Margaret and Bob and Don, her grandchildren.

About the worst things that I can remember were the long cold winters and the blizzards that raged for three or four days. One of the coldest winters that I can remember was in 1924. Winter set in early that year. The temperature dropped to as low as fifty degrees below and it stayed well below all winter. My father had the misfortune of freezing his hands very badly and was not able to do any of the chores, so I had to take over the hauling of the feed and the other farm chores. We were very short of feed and had to haul it across Dowling Lake from Stan Kuzes and from Doyles. I had to leave early in the morning, before daybreak, and did not reach home until after dark. The wind blew fiercely and each day the trail had to be broken. It was a long tedious haul. Levi Kennedy who lived where "Smitty" now lives was also hauling feed from north of Watts, so sometimes we met on the lake and had a visit. My lunch of course was usually frozen so was not very edible. Somehow we made it through the winter and spring arrived. By this time the hardships of the winter were soon forgotten and my Dad's hands were nearly better.

Towards spring in 1924 big timbers were hauled in as the railroad was starting to go in that summer. Ten big four-horse outfits did the hauling. In 1925 they started building the grade for the railroad. It was quite a sight to see so many animals; there were about two hundred horses and one hundred mules. The main camp was quite close to our buildings. Most of the work was done with elevator graders and dump wagons. To make some much-needed extra money most of the neighbors including myself worked on the dump wagons. We made four dollars a day which seemed like a lot of money in those days. We used three horses and worked ten hours a day but it was an exciting time for us. I recall vividly the chaos that followed when the first train roared down the track. Horses and cattle stampeded in every direction!

The Wm. MacKenzie Family from [illegible] to right: Billy, Bill, Betty, Nell (and Jim on his knee), and Donna.

Bill MacKenzie, Betty MacKenzie, Angus MacFadyen, and Jimmy MacKenzie, at Jasper - 1962.

Even though we had tough times, I have fond memories of our childhood. Sleigh riding in the winter, horseback riding in the summer, and as our neighbors were close we often met to play games of all kinds. We skated on the sloughs when the ice was right, skied down our big hills on home made skis. When we grew older there were always school dances, surprise parties, and get togethers of all kinds. Sometimes Charlie Glover and I would ride ten or twelve miles to go to a dance. Even after I owned my first car in 1928, sometimes I left it at home and rode as money for gas was scarce.

In the thirties most [illegible] our neighbors left to try to make a living elsewhere. It was very dry so grass was scarce and the crops dried up and blew away. The government gave them free freight so many of our neighbors loaded their few belongings in boxcars and went north to the Peace River. Some of them went by wagons, loading their stock and other belongings and headed north.

As there was no further need for a school, the Silver Valley School was moved to Watts in 1936 to serve as a high school.

My brother Ken left home at the early age of fourteen and hired on to help freight some cattle to Seattle. Then he became a sailor, travelling all over the world for many years. He finally settled in Glasgow where he met and married Alice. He worked as a journalist for a Glasgow paper and also wrote a couple of books. They had a family of three girls, Alice, Chrissie and Margaret. Ken died as a result of an accident in 1940. His widow still lives in Glasgow and his three daughters are married. Chrissie and Margaret live [illegible] Scotland and Alice lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

My sister Margaret trained to be a nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. She nursed for a while in Hanna, and was Matron of the Hospital which used to be at Craigmyle. She married Stan Crowe in 1937 and they have a family of two sons, Bob and Don. They are both married. Bob lives in Brisbane, Australia, where he has his own manufacturing business and Don teaches school [illegible] Kelowna, British Columbia.

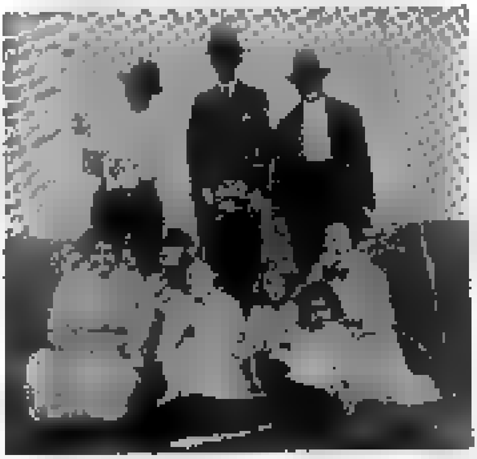
Included [illegible] our family was Angus MacFadyen who lived with [illegible] for a number of years after his parents died. He is now retired from the C.N.R. and lives at Jasper, Alberta.

My Dad passed away in 1927 leaving Mother and me to run the farm. By this time the dry weather was starting so we had some tough times. Dealing in horses kept the wolf from the door as crops were scarce and the price of cattle was very

poor. Mother was a very hard worker and her hands were never idle. She must have knit a thousand pairs of socks during her lifetime as well as mitts, sweaters, etc. She would quite often get the cows in for milking, knitting while she walked along. She was a devoted community worker, helping out in confinements and sickness. She fed many a hobo and as we lived close to the railroad track our place was a natural stopping place for them. Mother moved from the farm in 1939 to live with Margaret and Stan in British Columbia. Later on she moved to a suite of her own in Hanna and she passed away at the age of ninety years in 1959.

In 1939, I married Betty Wallace who came from Gem, Alberta and had been teaching school at Meadowlands. We have four children. Donna, who graduated as a nurse in 1962 and married Brian Willows of Vernon. They have two children Jerry and Rhonda. Neil our oldest son lives in Calgary and is in the [redacted] business. Neil married the former Doralis Bérubé. They have one child Ryan. Bill, our second son, lives at home and runs the ranch. Jim, our youngest son, is at present attending technical school in Calgary.

We live on an acreage close [redacted] town, having moved here thirty years ago. I still maintain my interest in the cattle business and enjoy going to the thriving local auction market. We will likely spend the rest of our lives here as I can't think of any place I would rather be.



From left to right, Standing: unknown, Jack Glover, Tom MacKenzie. Seated: Nellie Glover, unknown, Margaret MacKenzie, Beatrice Glover, Emeline Glover, Mrs. Tom MacKenzie

THE JACK GLOVER STORY, By Elmer Glover — My mother and father, Jack and Nellie Glover, came from London, Ontario in 1910 and settled on a homestead four miles northwest of the present town of Hanna. The northeast 30-31-14 was the homestead quarter and the northwest of 30-31-14 was the pre-emption. They brought three horses with them and lumber was hauled from Castor to build the house. A sod barn was also built.

We [redacted] tramped one mile to Silver Valley School and our main entertainment was surprise parties, playing ball and dancing. Some of our neighbors were Tom McKenzie, my uncle Charlie, Paulsons, Parkers and many more.

The winters at that time were real bad. I remember one blizzard when the snow piled up against the door of the house and we had to crawl out of the bedroom window and it took Dad and I until noon to dig our way to the barn. One time my sisters were visiting Dorothy and Mildred Paulson who lived east of our place about a mile when a blizzard came up. I was sent to walk them home, but I got lost. All of the neighbors searched for me and found me the next morning walking in circles on Dowling Lake which was northwest of our place.

When my father passed away in 1930 I farmed the place for two years until my brother Harold was old enough to take over. Then I went to work in the Morse Mine which was twelve miles south [redacted] Hanna. Harold farmed for another two years with very little return for his work and in 1934 they decided [redacted] move out and Irma was their destination. The first year that I farmed I had sown one hundred and forty acres of wheat. [redacted] the fall I threshed a three decked wagon box of grain amounting to approximately seventy bushels. The next year was [illegible] little better; I got two hundred and forty bushels.

I remember when Pete and Bob Kennedy had the meat market, they would come out and buy cattle. They gave us eight dollars for a yearling steer and twelve dollars for a two-year-old. Water was scarce on our place so we would have to drive our cattle down to Bill McKenzie's to water them, a distance of one and a half miles.

My father was forty-six years of age when he passed away [illegible] 1930. Mother passed away in 1945 at the age of fifty-six. As I look back I remember my father [illegible] being a very witty man. He always had a ready answer. My mother was a very kind and considerate woman and had many friends in the neighborhood, both old and young.

There were seven children [illegible] our family:

Beatrice was the oldest and was born in 1910. She married W. J. Morse and they now live at Granum, Alberta.

Emerteen was born [illegible] 1912 and passed away in 1967.

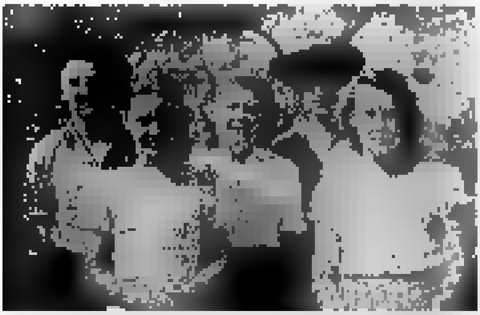
I was born in 1914. I married Myrtle Haner and we live [illegible] Drumheller.

Irene arrived in 1916 and passed away in 1919.

Harold was born in 1918 and is married to the former Lillian Haner and now lives at Wainwright, Alberta.

Jack was born in 1920 and passed away [illegible] 1974.

Russel the youngest in our family was born in 1922 and now lives [illegible] Drumheller. He is married to the former Vera Kolinchuck.



Charles Glover Jr. Family, left to right: Charlie Glover Jr., Anetta, Martha, Clarence and Pat.

THE CHARLES GLOVER STORY, By Charlie Glover — Charles Edward Glover was born December the twenty-eighth, 1880 in London, Ontario. On October the thirtieth, 1901, he married Evelin Irene Abel who was born July the twenty-first, 1881 in London, Ontario.

Charles Glover and family moved to the Hanna district and took up a homestead in 1910, on the west half of 32-31-14, about five miles from Hanna. Charles Glover had a dairy in the east and so decided to start a dairy in the Hanna district. He was the first milkman to do this and delivered milk to the residents of Hanna for a number of years.

As hard times came and the drought of the thirties began Charles Glover and family moved to the Irma district, hoping to find a better farming area. Here he farmed quite successfully until 1946 when they retired and moved [illegible] New Westminster, B.C. Here he passed away in 1953 and his wife Eveline passed away in 1966.

Charles and Eveline Glover had a family of four children. One of their sons, Roy, passed away in London, before they moved west.

Charlie, their oldest son, grew up [illegible] the Hanna district and attended the Silver Valley School. He loved to break horses and spent a lot of his young manhood trying [illegible] tame wild broncs. On December the twenty-third, 1927 Charlie married Martha Burgemeister. They lived on the Fox place and here their son Clarence was born [illegible] 1929. They also moved to Irma where he trucked for [illegible] living. Two daughters, Annetta and Pat were born to them while they lived at Irma. In 1947

they too moved to New Westminster and at present are contemplating a move back to Hanna to be near their daughter, and their other relatives.

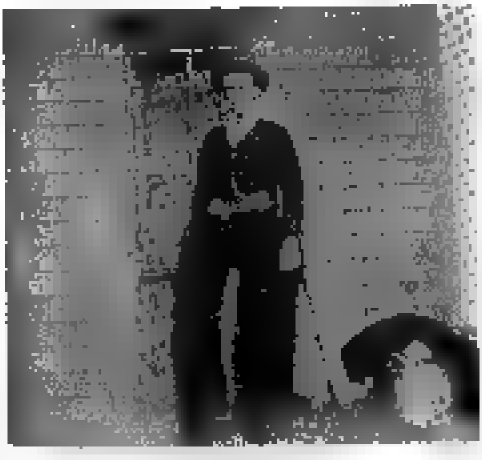
Lorene, Charles and Eveline's daughter, married Harold Mansfield but died at an early age in 1929, leaving a daughter Evelyn whom her grandparents raised.

Charles and Eva Glover

Charlie Glover and "Brownie"

Walter, the youngest son also grew up in the Hanna area and moved with his parents to Irma. Here he was engaged in farming. He married Meta Cooper and they had four children. He moved his family to New Westminster in 1955 and still resides there.

Annetta, Charlie and Martha's oldest daughter, moved to Hanna in 1951, with her daughter Debra. Here she married Lorne Robbs. They have one daughter Peddy. Annetta still resides in Hanna and is looking forward to having her parents join her in Hanna in the near future.



Morris Olsen

THE E. T. OLSEN FAMILY, By Freda Olsen Dahl — My father, Elmer Theodore Olsen, was born September 15, 1878, in Donna, Norway. Like many other young men of that area, he went to work on the fishing boats in his early teens. Looking, I suppose, for an easier way of life, he and his younger brother Conrad decided to emigrate.

A few years earlier, their sister Bergetta and her husband, Theodore Pederson, had come to the United States. Elmer and Conrad joined their sister in Wisconsin, and married sisters named Jensen. On December 25, 1906, my oldest brother was born. His mother died in 1908, and he was cared for by our aunt, Bergetta Pederson.

In 1910 Dad came to Canada and homesteaded four miles north of Hanna on the NW 34-31-14. The Pederson family came at the same time, bringing three-year-old Morris with them. To bring in some much-needed cash while proving up on his homestead, Dad often worked for others. One of his first jobs was breaking horses on the Benedict Ranch in the Hand Hills. He also drove the mail coach from the Copeville post office to Castor.

In February, 1916, Dad enlisted in the army and went overseas with the 31st Battalion, C.E.F. He served in France, taking part in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and was awarded the Military Medal at Passchendaele. He was discharged in May, 1919.

While in England during the war he met our mother, Nellie Wilkins. Mum came out to Canada in the fall of 1920 and they were married on her arrival on October 5. Within the next few years several of her brothers and sisters came to Canada, [illegible] of them spending enough time [illegible] the Hanna area to be remembered by the early settlers.

One sister, Ada Wilkins, was one of the first nurses in Hanna; she later moved to the United States and married. Another sister Jo and her husband Charles Stringer spent some time here, eventually settling in Calgary. A third sister Effie Ford lived and worked here. She had two children, Tim and Kay. After Effie died, Kay came to live with us, and Tim went with two of mother's brothers, Arthur and Eric Wilkins, when they moved to Barons and Taber.

Kay Ford, Walter Carson, Elmer Olsen, Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Mowatt, Morris Olsen (in back), Desmond Olsen, Mr. Mowatt and Freda Olsen.

Dad acquired Soldier Settlement land across the road from his homestead, and that is where we made our home. This land is now owned by Art Campion; the Brian Gladdish family has lived on the place for several years now.

In 1921 my sister Nancy was born, [illegible] 1924 my brother Desmond, and myself in 1929. We all attended Hanna school, getting there in various ways. At first Nancy, Kay and Des rode horseback, but by the time I started school we drove a buggy pulled by the Old Grey Mare. If that old horse ever had another name, I never heard it. She was completely dependable and simply could not be hurried. No one really drove her; we just hitched her up, climbed in the buggy, and she did the rest. In the winter Dad would take us to school with a team and sleigh. Some winters when the snow got too deep Mum and us kids would move into town for two or three months, leaving Dad to batch it on the farm.

One very special friend of the family was our Swedish bachelor neighbor, Walter Carlson, who owned the land now farmed by Bob and Diane Paxman. He spent so much time with us, walking across the fields to visit, that he became 'Uncle Walter' to us kids. No special occasion was complete without his presence.

Dad had a blacksmith forge where he shod horses and sharpened plow shares for himself and the neighbors. I was a real tagalong and spent many hours in that hot, dirty shop turning the blower to keep the forge hot for him.

Dad also had a talent for witching water wells. He would hold a forked willow stick in front of him and walk until the stick dipped down. Many of the wells found in this way are still producing today. In 1958 when he was eighty years old Dad witched a well for Jim and me; we found lots of good water at 165 feet.

Both Mum and Dad loved music. Mum played the piano and organ and Dad loved to dance. One of my earliest memories is of dancing with him at Meadowlands. I was probably four or five years old. Agnes Kern and I would dance together at these gatherings until we were tired out and put to sleep on a pile of coats on the teacher's desk.

During the depression years Mum sold cream, eggs and butter to customers in town. Mum had been a governess in Germany before the war and she must have been totally unprepared for the life of a pioneer wife. But like many others she learned to make do, make over and do without. Once Dad took a crate of eggs to town, hoping to exchange them for a few groceries. When he couldn't find anyone willing to do this, he traded the whole crate [illegible] a family [illegible] exchange for a little mongrel pup. For obvious reasons the little dog was given the name of 'Swap', and was part of the family for years.

In 1940 we left the farm and moved to Hanna where Dad worked first for Chris German and later for the Town. He was very fond of young people and found many ways to be around them. For two or three winters he ran the old outdoor skating rink and for several years took tickets at the Legion Saturday night dances. Many young people who didn't have the price of admission were able to sneak in for a dance or two while Dad looked the other way.

In 1949 Mum and Dad retired to Calgary where he passed away on November 22, 1961, at the age of eighty-three. Mom continued to live there until her death in September, 1968, also at the age of eighty-three.

I am the only one [illegible] the family still living here in Hanna. Morris suffered greatly from asthma and moved to Victoria for the different climate. He and his wife Norah are now retired in Castlegar, B.C.

Nancy joined the Air Force during the war, later attended U.B.C. and married Byron Ruff. They farm at Coaldale, and have four children.

Des married an American girl and has three children.

I married Jim Dahl in 1949 and we farm five miles west of Hanna. We have three children.

Kay married Dan Ruhl and lives at Surrey, B.C. They have three children.

THOMAS CAMPION FAMILY, By Art Campion — Thomas Alexander Campion was born in Ireland in 1872. He came to Canada [illegible] 1904, settling first in Manitoba, then following the gold rush to Nome, Alaska, the land of the midnight sun. In 1911 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead, the N.E. 28-31-14, where Rosenau had previously lived as a squatter. In 1912 he worked on the C.N.R. grade east of Hanna.

He also was the Rawleigh man, and covered a route as far north as Scapa, as far west as Rowley where he stopped at McKee's, then went to Martin's at Delia,

Schultz's in the Hand Hills, and back home. He made his rounds with a horse and a covered buggy.

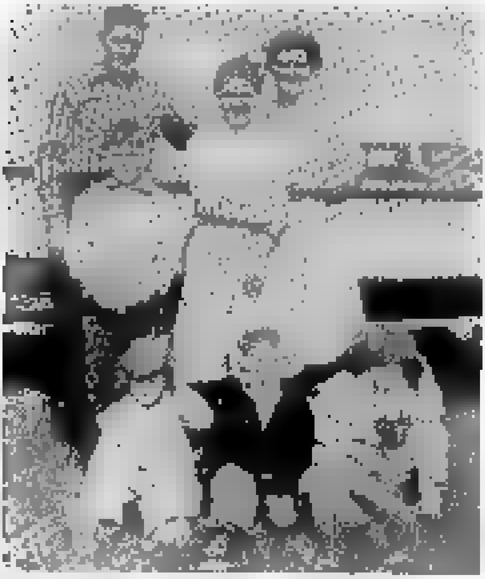
In 1916 he married Eva Louise Graves, who was from Ontario. The ceremony took place in Calgary, and the young couple honeymooned in San Francisco. On their return they built a home, and in 1924 Frank Ruppert drilled a well for them, a two-inch hole, 180 feet deep.

Eva Campion, Tom Campion and George

Thomas and Eva Campion had two sons, George born [illegible] 1922 and Arthur (Art) in 1924. Mrs. Campion passed away in 1928. For a time Mr. Campion tried to batch and look after the boys; he finally hired a housekeeper, Lenora Cox. They were married in 1935; Thomas joked that it was cheaper to marry her than to pay her wages.

T. A. Campion raised good quality Shorthorn cattle, upgrading his herd by the use of registered bulls. He farmed with horses until 1939, when he bought a 18-32 cross-mounted Case from Joe Robbs.

The boys started school at Silver Valley. Once, when walking through the Kirby place, they were chased by Kirby's rams and had to hide in some trees until the animals gave up the chase. Art and George played hookey quite frequently and once walked across Dowling Lake when it was dry. They were surprised to see the store, elevator and stock yards of the village of Dowling, which they did not know existed. Bill MacKenzie noticed the truants but luckily for them did not report them [illegible] either their teacher or their father.


The George Campion Family. Standing left [illegible] right: George Campion, Patrick, Barb, Laura. Sitting: Valerie, Gerald and Carol.

The Art Campion Family. Back Row: Vera and Art Campion. Front Row: Ken, Keith, Norman, and Roy.

They often carried a rifle with them on the trips to and from school, shooting rabbits and gophers. They sold the gophers to William Riddel who used them to

feed the foxes which he raised. The boys helped their father deliver eggs and cream to customers in Hanna twice weekly. They remember calling at houses which bore quarantine signs, and going in to make change and to get warm.

In 1939 both boys left home. George worked at Byemoor and made five dollars a month and his employer received five dollars a month for hiring him. This was a government plan to help combat unemployment. Although not old enough to join the army, George lied about his age and served throughout the war. When he was demobilized in 1945 he worked for the C.N.R. at Hanna, Edson and Calgary. He married Laura Grauman in 1946. For a time they operated the Dry Cleaning plant in Hanna. He now lives in Prince Rupert where George is with the C.N.R.

George and Laura have five children: Patrick, Carol and Barbara who live in Calgary, Valerie in Lethbridge, and Gerald in Hanna.

Thomas Campion died in 1945 at the age of seventy-three. Art Campion bought the farm, which included a half section of deeded land and one and a quarter sections of lease, for $2500.

Art and Vera Granthum were married in 1947. For eight years they lived in the original farm home, spending the winters in Hanna. He worked for the C.N.R. until 1957; started a propane delivery service in 1958; and sold it in 1967. He bought the Madge ranch at Richdale and stocks it with as many as a thousand head of cattle. He had previously bought the Riddel place from Albert Galarneau, and this is where he and Vera make their home.

Art and Vera have four boys: Roy of Hanna; Norman, teaching at Three Hills; Keith, who lives on his grandfather's place; and Ken, Keith's twin, who lives at home.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN STORY, By Willie Hoffman — I will start with my grandfather, who as far as I know came from Germany to Illinois as a small boy. My father, Ferdinand Hoffman, was born in Illinois. Later the family went to Nebraska where they saw some bad times with dry weather and grasshoppers. There my father married Mable Cramer and in time four children were born, my sisters Ethel and Hazel, my brother Fred and myself.

In 1901, my brother Fred and I came to a homestead fifteen miles east of Lacombe. We came in a boxcar with three horses, some chickens, cows and machinery. Until we had a house built we stayed with my Grandmother Cramer, whose family had come to Alberta in 1900. My mother and two sisters came from Nebraska in 1902, and in September of that year my brother Robert was born.

I stayed home until 1912, the year that I homesteaded near Hanna. We travelled there with team and wagon, and it took three days for the trip, which I made a good many times after that.

I will tell you what the house looked like . . . two granaries placed side by side. The post office was called Copeville which was about three miles south-east of where Hanna is now. I hauled lumber from Castor and also helped dig the basement for the Imperial Hotel. I remember a school two and a half miles north-west of Hanna, and I remember just one dance; it was west of Dowling Lake.

Farming was hard as the soil was mostly gumbo and the weather usually dry.

I would like to tell you about the well I dug. I dug a pretty big hole about seven feet deep. Then I took an auger and in the south-east corner of the hole I went down about fourteen feet. I hit sand, gravel and water, which came up about four feet. Then I dug a smaller hole, deeper than the one I made with the auger, and hit hard blue clay. I had to go nearly eight more feet, but I got lots of good water.

Our neighbors were Glovers, Skimmerhorns, Philip Walters and a big Irish

fellow . . . I forget his name. Philip Walters and my sister Ethel were married on Christmas Day, 1913. Six or seven years later he took typhoid fever and died.

I never had much luck farming and in 1941 I joined the Armed Forces. I was in the Tenth Field Engineers for five and one-half years. After my discharge I took up carpentry and made a success of it; now I have a nice home in Calgary.

OMA S. PAYNE, By Bill Curtis — O. S. Payne came to the Hanna district several years before the townsite was surveyed or the railway constructed. With his devoted wife Margaret he settled on a half section of land just north of the present site of the town, and for several years he engaged in farming. He received the proved-up title to his homestead, the SE 20-31-14, in October, 1914. His pre-emption, the south-west quarter of the same section, was registered on December 5, 1916.

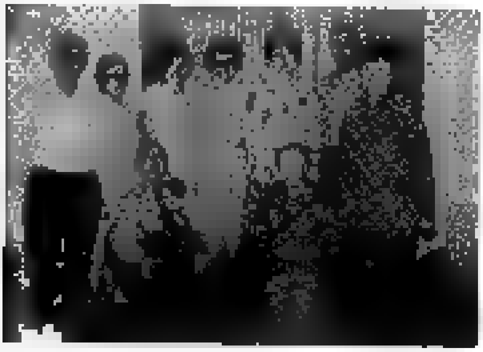
He was a man of great intellect, a fluent speaker, and a capable writer. He contributed much of his time and energy to religious work, and several books and articles from his pen were published.

About 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Payne moved in to Hanna, where they resided for about two years, during which time he was on the staff of the Hanna Herald. Later they went to the United States, and in 1923 travelled to South Africa as missionaries. In 1925 Mr. Payne became ill from strain and overwork in his chosen field, and passed on to his just rest.

The title to the land near Hanna passed to his widow.

The Payne house, situated across the road from the Ed Parker place, was a curious structure, built with six sides, and so appeared to be roughly round. In the early twenties Harvey Howet lived there and operated a dairy business. Wally Olmstead worked for him. Later the house had other tenants: Alex Coulbourne who worked on the C.N.R., and Miss Muriel Cranston, who taught at Silver Valley School.

A man named Kruger lived on the farm during the 'dirty thirties', and among other activities he carried on a one-man livestock dealer and butcher business from the back of a dilapidated truck. Eventually the farm was acquired by Courtney 'Buck' Buchanan, who operated the Model Dairy for a number of years. The land is now part of the Hutton ranch.



The Christian Ost Family. Standing: Christian (Jr.), Hilda, Emma, Marian, Bertha, Oscar, Ida. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Ost.

OUR STORY, By Christian Ost Sr. — My wife and I and five of our children came to Hanna from Romania in the fall of 1927. We chose Hanna as our destination because many of our friends and relatives had settled in the area previously. We were met at the station by Pastor Bietsch and some of our Old Country friends, who provided us with shelter and found me a job. We had very little money when we arrived, but by the spring of 1928 my brother-in-law, Gust Roseneau, and I managed to buy a half-section ten miles south of Hanna.

The house was small. The Roseneaus and their five children lived in half the house; my wife and I and our family had the other two rooms. It was very crowded, and in 1929 I had the opportunity to rent the Burrows place about four miles north of Hanna on the snake trail, so I sold my share of the land to my brother-in-law. and moved.

I had no machinery to work my land so I took jobs with the neighbors so that I could use theirs. I did custom work with four head of horses and a binder that were rented to me for thirty cents an acre. I built six miles of fence for J. Gartner for fourteen dollars, and by milking cows and selling cream and eggs, we were able to get by. During the seven years we lived on this farm we were blessed with two more children.

During the depression we experienced many hardships, drought, dust storms, a shortage of water. I built and sold sleds and cutters, and although I couldn't speak much English, I had to learn the language. We never owned a car or truck in those years, but travelled with horses.

We used to drive to Hanna to church, but when we didn't have a minister there we would take turns at conducting services at different homes. Our children attended Silver Valley School.

In 1936 we rented the John Steeves place, five miles west of the Burrows farm, and the children went to St. George School. But again drought was a problem; the land was poor and the water supply much worse than on the previous place. In 1941 we rented the Reissler farm south of Watts, and lived there till 1948 when we moved [illegible] Calgary. I worked at various construction jobs until I retired in 1966. We celebrated our golden wedding in January, 1970.

We had seven children. All are married now.

Christian married Alvina Moench and live [illegible] Calgary. Only three of their ten children are still single.

Hilda and Willard Diegel had four children.

Emma and Melvin Albrecht lost three children as infants, and have two adopted children.

Maria and Sam Diegel live at Gadsby. They have three boys.

Bertha, Mrs. Walter Radke, lives in Hanna. She has two sons.

Oscar and his wife Pat live in Calgary. They had three daughters.

Ida and Ernest Schnell and their two children are in Calgary.

My wife and I are thankful that we are able to enjoy our health and our home, after [illegible] the hardships we experienced after deciding to make Canada our home.

MR. AND MRS. FRED COOK, By Louise Cook — Fred Cook, son of Fred and Minna Cook, was born in Borg, Germany. As a child, he came with his parents [illegible] the Craigmyle district in 1910.

I was born [illegible] the Chain Lakes district, the daughter of the late Charley and Theresa Johnson. My parents had come to the district in 1916. I lived most of my life in the district north of Hanna, and received all my education at Chain Lakes school.

Fred and I were married in 1939. During the first year of our marriage we lived on the Joe Northey farm about a mile west of Chain Lakes school. In 1940 our daughter Joan was born and the following year we moved to the farm of my uncle, Casper Bartsch, three miles south of Scapa.

In 1942 we moved to Hanna, where Fred was employed with the C.N.R. During those war years farmers were in demand, and when Fred was laid off the railroad, we leased the Maihe farm, three miles east of Solon school. We farmed there for one year and then leased the Leo Kirby farm, three miles north of Hanna on the road familiarly known as the Snake Trail.

We farmed there for five years. We lived in the house which had been the

Fletcher Lumber building, and which had been moved out from Hanna. It was a high building with a store front and had Fletcher Lumber in large letters across the top. It had been used to store grain, and there were mice everywhere; but in spite of the mice and the smell of grain the building was warm and made a good home.

I recall the winter of 1948 when the snow was as high as the trees. The drifts looked like pyramids and the tips of the trees were just looking out of the top of the drifts. On the fourth of April it was twenty below. Our baby chicks had arrived at the Hanna station. We had to bring them home in the bobsleigh; we put two cream cans of hot water in the sleigh and covered them with a feather tick; it made a warm tent under which we placed the three-day-old chicks. The snow was so deep that it took over an hour to go the three miles, but we got the chicks home, safe and warm. We had to refuel the brooder stove every three hours, day and night. Every morning during the cold spell, we put a small shot of Rawleigh's Red Liniment in the drinking water, and in spite of the cold those were the healthiest and friskiest chicks we ever had.

Fred Cook and daughter Joan in 1945. The house is the Fletcher Lumber Building. It was three miles north of Hanna on the Snake Trail. It was a land mark for many years. In about 1975 the buildings were all demolished and the land mark was gone. Fred, Louise and daughter Joan made their home there from 1943 until 1948.

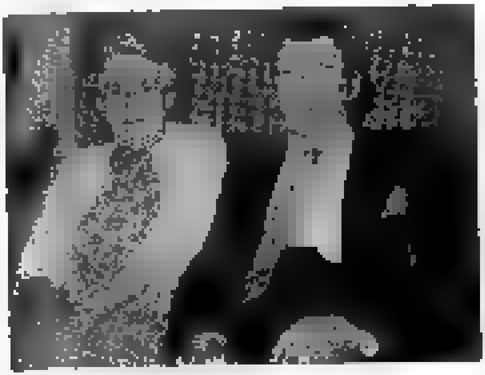
As there was no school nearer than Hanna, we regretfully left the farm and purchased a home in Hanna in 1948. Fred worked for the C.N.R. for fifteen years, until the railroad converted to diesel power and he was laid off. He then was employed as caretaker at the Hanna Elementary school for ten years. Now we are enjoying retirement, and make our home in the house we originally purchased.

Our daughter Joan married Jack Marlow. They have one son, David, and live on the farm in the Garden Plain district.

MR. and MRS. A. L. DESILETS, By Joan Scott and Rita Galarneau — In the spring of 1946 Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desilets bought the west half 21-31-14 formerly owned by Mr. Ed Parker; and moved to this location approximately two miles north of the town of Hanna.

Al Desilets was born in Quebec in 1886. He came west in 1909 and homesteaded twelve miles west of Sunnynook and twenty-eight miles south of Hanna. His bride-to-be from Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. came west by train and they were married in Hanna, February twenty-second, 1914. They lived on the homestead for

thirty-four years, experiencing some good years as well as the depression years and complete crop failures of 1930 and 1931. In 1931 many neighbors moved away, leaving a sparsely populated area. [illegible] Desliets chose to stay; it took great faith to remain behind. Though their friends left, their local schools closed and their business community diminished, their pioneer spirit did not let them down, and they still enjoyed a good life. The deserted homesteads were leased to the remaining farmers, and the entire district turned to ranching more than farming.


Mrs. and Mr. Al Desliets - 1958

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desliets raised three children, all born on the homestead.

Arthur (Art) born November twenty-fourth, 1914 married Alice Flynn of Hanna. They reside in Calgary.

Joan, born December thirty-first, 1916, married Tommy Scott and resides in Hanna.

Rita, born October sixth, 1919, married Albert Galarneau and lives one mile south of Hanna.

Al Desliets sold his holdings south of Hanna and he and his wife moved to a smaller farm north of Hanna where he was engaged in mixed farming for a few more years. They retired to the town of Hanna in 1950 and then to Calgary in 1954. In January 1962 Mrs. Desliets passed away. In 1965 Al moved back to Hanna and lived with his daughters, Joan and Rita, until his death in September 1966 at the age of eighty-two years.

The Albert Galarneau Family - 1958. From left to right: Jack, Rita, Albert, Ray. Front Row: Terry, Mary Lou, David.

THE ALBERT GALARNEAUS, By Rita Galarneau — Albert and I and our family moved to the Hanna area in the fall of 1948 when we bought the east half of 21-31-14, about one mile north of Hanna, from Mrs. Hull.

Albert was born in Bassano on January 22, 1913, of pioneer parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doan Galarneau, who had come from Idaho to the Bassano and later the Finnegan areas. His early years were spent in those districts, and as a young man he took part in the horse and cattle roundups on the open range between the Red Deer and Bow Rivers. He followed the rodeo circuits for years, competing in Canada and in the United States, and won many championships, including the North American calf roping which he held for several years.

I am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desliets of Sunnynook, and Albert and I were married in the spring of 1937. In 1941 we bought the holdings of Y. F. Dove, nine miles west of Sunnynook, now the Stampede Ranch. As there was no school there, we moved our family to the Hull place in 1948, and our children attended school in Hanna. In 1950 we bought the west half of 21-31-14 from A. L. Desliets, which was formerly owned by [illegible] Parker. We lived here until 1956, when we sold

our interests in Alberta. The east half of section 21 was sold to Art and Vera Campion, the west half to Dean and Russ Mayberry.

We ranched extensively in Saskatchewan for the next ten years, then returned to Hanna. Albert and our sons Ray and Terry formed the Galarneau Land and Cattle Company, and acquired farm and ranch interests north of Craigmyle where they operated until the fall of 1973, when they sold to the Brower Cattle Company.

Retirement wasn't for Albert. He and our son Ray still operate the company, raising purebred Welsh Black cattle, a British breed they imported from Wales, and live one mile south of Hanna, on land purchased from Walter Ganong in 1975. Albert has always had a pioneer spirit and even in his autumn years would still welcome a new adventure. As the old saying goes, you can take the boy from the country, but you can't take the country from the boy. As long as Albert is well, I'm sure he'll always own a few cows and ride a good horse.

Albert and I have five children. John (Jack) married Rapheale Bachmeier; they have two children, Sandy and Gary. They live in Hanna where he operates Hanna Auto Specialists.

Thomas Raymond, (Ray) works with his dad and lives at home.

Terrance Donald (Terry) married Brenda Clark of Empress and had two sons, Gene and Derek. Terry lost his life in a tragic farm accident on October 5, 1973.

David is employed with the P.F.R.A. in Saskatchewan.

Mary Lou teaches school and resides in Calgary.

RUSS AND DEAN MAYBERRY — Russ purchased the half section known as the Desilets place from Albert Galarneau in June, 1956. On September 22 of that year, he and Dean Courts were married and moved into the old shack that was on the place. There they lived without power, water, or any of the other conveniences now known to farm living, until they got the power in in 1965. In 1961 they built a barn to house the horses, and in 1965 commenced work on a new house. On December 26, 1965, they moved into the new building, which was not finished inside, but had just the studs for partitions, and gradually finished the work on the inside themselves.

When they got married they began raising purebred and partbred Arabian horses, starting with Fahfaha, the stallion that Dean had purchased from the Cross U Bar Ranch in Wyoming in 1954, and Husla Wedan, the mare that Russ purchased from the same ranch in March, 1956. Today they have twelve Arabian horses, with all but three related to their two foundation horses. All the years have been spent attending as many horse shows under as many judges as time allowed, and the many trophies and ribbons in the house speak for the quality horses raised on the Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch.

In 1968 Russ started a Charter Bus business and has driven groups to the northern United States, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, as well as to many, many points in Alberta. In 1973, Dean became a spare driver, and drives when Russ is unable to do so.

The Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch has had many welcome visitors to see the horses and the old Desilets place, which was previously owned by the Parker family. It is a nice place to live, with small groves of trees, some hills, and the Scapa road right at our doorstep; and we are just two miles from the town of Hanna.

The Walter Radke Family. Left to right: son Ryan, Walter and Bertha, Geraldine (daughter-in-law), and granddaughter Danielle. Missing: son Reg.

BERTHA RADKE, By Bertha Ost Radke — I was born in April, 1927 in Romania. I came to Canada with my parents Mr. and Mrs. Christian Ost Sr. in September, 1927. The first school I attended was Silver Valley. I started when I was seven years old. I couldn't speak English very well; I remember my sister Emma very patiently teaching me. We walked to school, as for me it seemed very far, and Emma felt sorry for me and used to let me sit on a rock or something to rest awhile. No doubt I made us late for school once in awhile.

My dad had a mare called Minnie, and she had a colt. I was all excited about the event, and of course I had to tell all the children at school about this, and they [illegible] laughed. Along came the teacher and asked what was so funny, so I told her "Minnie had a colt this morning," and she laughed too. I finally realized what I had said as the teacher's name was Minnie also.

I also remember we had syrup pails for lunch buckets, and on the way home, we'd drown gophers and tear off the tails and put them in our buckets. Can you imagine! Well, in those days they were worth money, one cent a piece.

[illegible] 1936 my folks moved to the Steeves farm and my second school was [illegible]. George. The first day there, we were greeted by all the boys; when they realized that we were girls they hurled rocks at us, some welcome, eh! We had boys' black pants on. We walked to school, unless weather conditions were bad, then Dad or my brother Chris would drive us with team and bob sleigh, and pick up Ruth Steeves on the way, as we had to go through their place for a short cut. My sister Marian and I were janitors for a while. When there were any school functions in Hanna, we would walk to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Huttons and go in with them; they were very good neighbours.

In 1941, my parents moved south in the Hand Hills district, where I finished my education.

In 1946 I married Waldemar Radke. We bought a farm [illegible] the Hand Hills district, and lived there until we sold to our youngest son, Ryan, and moved to Hanna in October, 1976. We have two sons: Reginald, married Patricia Gladwin of Bentley, and are now living in Edmonton, and Ryan married Geraldine Harvey of Scapa; they have a daughter Danielle.

WILLIAM RIDDLE STORY, By Jeannie Ritchey (Granddaughter) — William Riddle, his wife and daughter came to the district in the spring of 1912, and homesteaded one mile north of where Hanna now stands. This was on the S.E. ¼ of 21-31-14. They came from Okotoks where he and his son Jim were employed as carpenters with the C.P.R.

They came in by way of Castor and hauled their lumber by team and sleigh. This they used [illegible] build their first house. Mr. Riddell built a second house in 1915 which was considered one of the better homes of that era. This home was later moved to Hanna and served as a home for numerous families, and was finally demolished in 1977.

William Riddell worked as janitor at the old brick school in Hanna for many

years. He was well known for his interest in flowers and trees and for his wonderful gardens. Some of the spruce trees that he planted so many years ago still live today on his old homestead, now occupied by Art Campion. Mr. Riddell raised Shorthorn cattle which won him numerous ribbons at the Fairs in Hanna.

Mr. Wm. Riddell (left) and Mr. Peter Riddell (right). Taken in the fifties.

Mr. Wm. Riddell's home built on the farm - 1915. Moved to Hanna later.

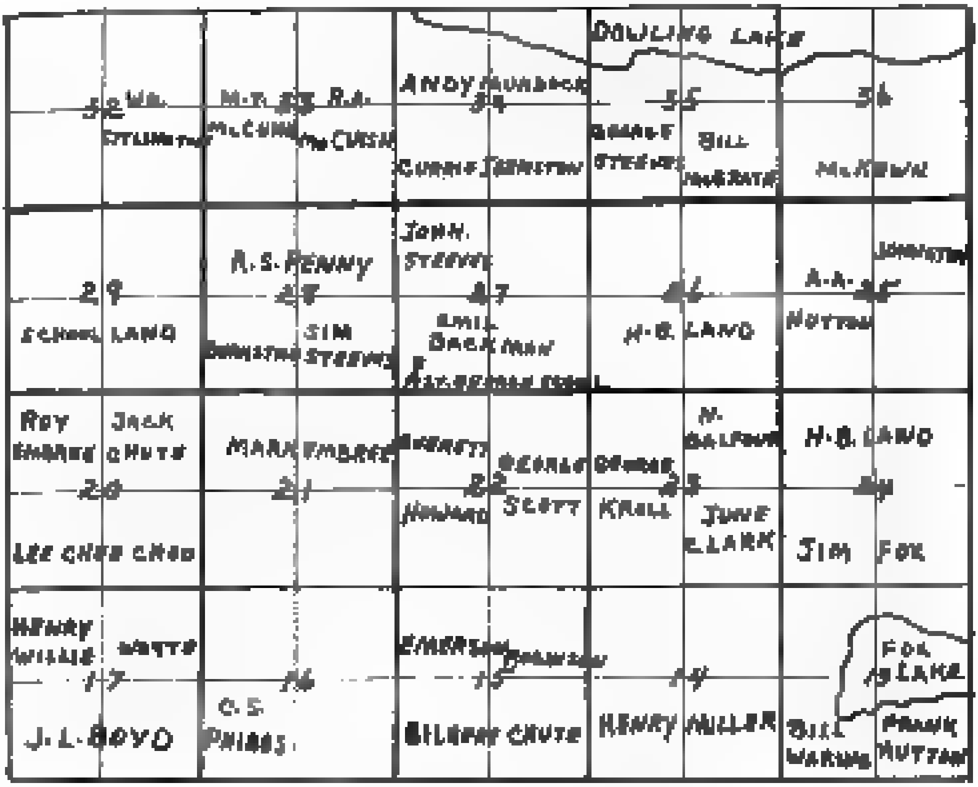
Mr. Wm. Riddell, his wife and granddaughter. Their first home and garden in 1912. 1 mile north of where Hanna now stands.

Mr. Riddell donated part of his land to Hanna for the cemetery.

His two sons, Jim and Willie, lost their lives serving in World War I.

Mr. Riddell's first wife passed away and he remarried. William Riddell and his two wives rest side by side in the Hanna Cemetery.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3226
TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 15, WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN



OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIP 31 RANGE 15

Sec.-32-31-15
Wm. Sitlington
Jacob Fleck
George Fleck
Leslie Hutton

N½-34-31-15
Andy Murdock
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

E½-35-31-15
Bill McGrath
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-28-31-15
R. S. Penny
A. A. Hutton
A. E. Hutton

S½-27-31-15
Emil Backman
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-24-31-15
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S.E.-23-31-15
June Clark
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

W½-22-31-15
Everett Howard
Lamb Brothers

N½-20-31-15
Roy Embree
Jack Chute
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

W½-33-31-15
Murt McCuish
Stan McCreight
S. McCandless
A. E. Hutton

S½-34-31-15
Currie Johnston
Truman Steeves

Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-36-31-15
McKewan
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S½-28-31-15
Burnstien
Jim Steeves
Henry Steeves
A. E. Hutton

Sec.26-31-15
H. B. Land
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
T. R. Scott
Scott Farms

S½-24-31-15
Jim Fox
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

W½-23-31-15
George Kroll
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

N½-21-31-15
Mark Embree
John Fleck
Jack Phibbs

S½-20-31-15
Lo Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

E½-33-31-15
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

W½-35-31-15
George Steeves
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

S-29-31-15
School Land
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

Karl Hoffman
Barry Hutton

N½-27-31-15
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-25-31-16
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

N.E.-28-31-15
[illegible]. Balfour
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

E½-22-31-15
George Scott

Joseph Lamb
Lamb Brothers

S½-21-31-15
Clifford Philbbs
Jack Philbbs

W½-16-31-15
Clifford Philbbs
Jack Philbbs

N½-17-31-15
Henry Willie
Dennis Neiner
Larry Neiner

E½-16-31-15
Thomas Edwards
George Edwards

W½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
Fred Miller
Emerson Robinson

E½-13-31-15
Frank Hutton
Dr. Baxendale
Lamb Brothers

S½-17-31-15
J. L. Boyd
Martin Dahl
Gus Annas

W½-15-31-15
Gilbert Chute
Carl Johnston

Wes Robinson

E½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
George Miller
A. E. Hutton
Emerson Robinson

W½-13-31-15
Bill Waring
Martin Dahl
L. Maetche
C. Franklin

E½-15-31-15
Emerson Robinson
Robinson Brothers

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. GEORGE S.D. No. 3256

By Albert Hutton

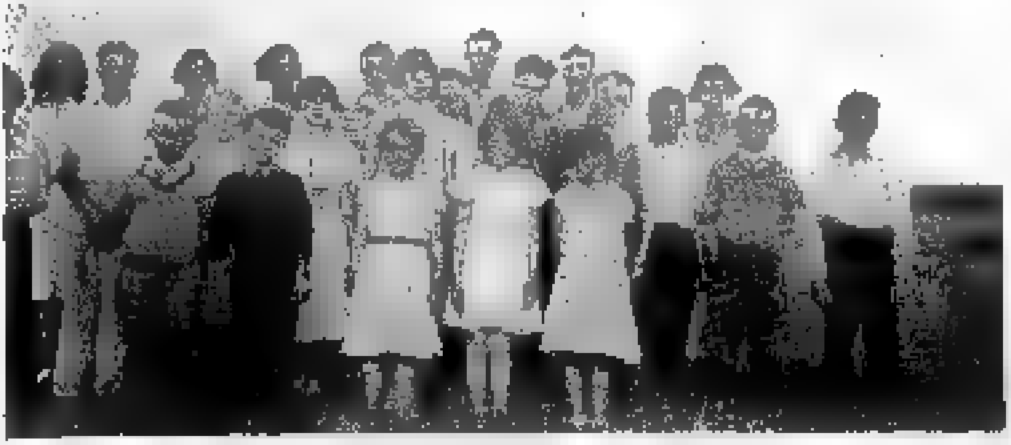
Florence Bennett (first teacher at St. George School) sitting on first well dug on the Robinson homestead.

When many oldtimers arrived with their families in the early teens, there was not any means of education for their children and no place for meetings of local interest, so G. Scott, H. Steeves, R. Penny, H. Miller and [illegible] Robinson, to name a few, got their heads together. After several meetings, they formed a school district, known as St. George, eight miles northwest of Hanna, to be located S.W. 27-31-15. On August 14, 1915 the new school was opened. The first teacher was the lovely Florence Bennett, who boarded at the Robinson's. As winters then were colder and snowy, travel was by horseback, sleigh or walking.

Some of the students that attended the first years were: Joe and Alice Scott; Joe, Lily, Phoebe and Fay Robinson; Abraham, Annie, Fred, Emma, Mae, Johnnie and George Miller; Herbert Penny; Tom, Roy, Lily, Eva and Irene Chee Choo; Delpha, Elva, Lorna and Marian Steeves; also Pearl Chute.

Times were trying with the teacher's maximum pay being sixty dollars a month. Often teachers were behind in receiving their wages, but school carried on with grades one to eleven being taught in one room by one teacher. This school remained open until 1943, when it was forced to close its doors, as families in the district were getting fewer and smaller. In 1945, St. George was moved [illegible] Watts, and used as a central public school. Verda Litke was the first teacher. In 1958 high school students were taken to Hanna. Then in 1969, this school was closed again, due [illegible] centralization of schools

in the Sullivan Lake School Division. With improved roads, all the children were transported to Hanna schools by bus. St. George School was then moved to Youngstown, to help them out, as a fire had destroyed their school.



St. George Class, 1935. Back Row, Left to Right: Alberta Boyd, Joyce McCuish, Joan McCuish, Jean McCuish, Tommy Scott, Lewis Steeves, Freda Steeves. Middle Row: Lloyd Hutton, John Steeves, Catherin Scott, Rose Fleck, Margaret Fleck, Lloyd Fleck, Roy Hutton, Alfred Scott, Arnold Nitschke. Front Row: George Edwards, Ken Fleck, Marg Edwards, Betty McCuish, Peggy McDonald, Ron Edwards, Larry Boyd.

During the years of existence in this community, St. George was a great centre for church services, concerts, box socials, ball games and dances. Music was usually supplied by Roy Embree and his band. This centre drew people from near and far, for entertainment of their choice. In the earlier years, there was a small charge of ten cents a man, to cover the cost of coffee and sugar. Ladies supplied sandwiches and cake and got in free.

Names of some of the teachers were: Florence Bennett, Mr. Marr, Nellie O'Connor, Miss Mclean, Mr. Hope, Mr. Walsh, Miss McDevitt, Mrs. Phibbs, Kathleen McDonald, Mrs. Murphy, Dorothy Foster, [illegible] Wood, Dorothy Wood, Ilene O'Brien, Miss Forsyth, Betty Wallace, Joan Scott, Mildred Harvey, Emily Beamish and Frances Glacier.

THOMAS EDWARDS, by George Edwards — Thomas Edwards was born in Norwick, England, in 1882 and worked in London in a dry goods store, then came to Canada in 1910. He came to Brandon, Manitoba, and spent about a year there with his brother, then moved west.

He looked at some land in the Hardisty and Holden area but the price of land was too high. He bought a quarter section, six miles south-east of Hanna. Later he went up to the foothills near Bragg Creek (west of Calgary) spending a year there, then returned to his land near Hanna.

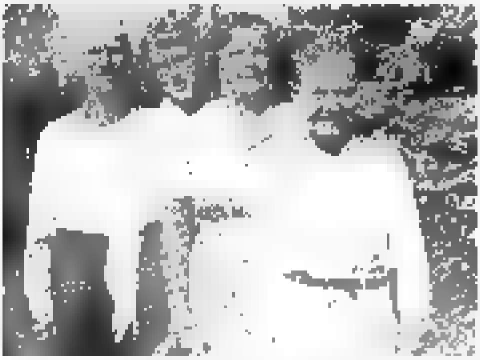
His home was built of lumber hauled in from Castor and was a one room shack. He had a good well, with lots of water. The well was only twelve feet deep with about two feet of water, and it could not be pumped dry.

He travelled to Castor for their food supplies, machinery, lumber and repairs. It was a two day journey one way.

In 1923 Thomas married Hannah Birkett, who had come from northern England to see her ailing sister at Noblelord, also sisters at Gadsby and Hanna. They then moved to a farm five miles west of Hanna, which is still [illegible] the family today.

The eldest son Ronnie, is married and serving in the R.C.A.F. The second

son George, is on the farm, and also works for Rangeland School Bus Servicing at Hanna. The daughter Margery is married, with three children and living [illegible] Edmonton.


Mark Embree Family

MARK EMBREE, by Brother Roy — Mark Embree was born in 1893, in the state of Washington. He came to Castor with the family in 1907. In 1910 he filed on a homestead, the north half 21-31-15, near Watts. He farmed here until 1933, then sold this farm to Jack Phibbs, and moved to Summerland, B.C. He had a fruit farm and also did custom spraying. He got married in 1937, and had two children, Ronnie and Marilyn. He passed away [illegible] January, 1957.

JACOB FLECK, by George Fleck — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Fleck came to Canada from Russia in 1910 to a farm in the Fox Valley area [illegible] Saskatchewan. In 1926, I with my parents and nine brothers and sisters, loaded machinery and household effects in wagons and herded and drove livestock a distance of two hundred miles, to settle on a farm south of Veteran, Alberta. In 1932 we moved to the Watts area, where my father rented the Sittlington farm, located three miles north of Watts. My sister, Olga was attending Normal School at the time, and returned to Watts [illegible] take her first teaching position at the Chain Lakes school. Her salary for that year was five hundred dollars. Olga, now Mrs. Fred Stretton of Edmonton, is still with the education department. My sisters Carrie, Margaret and Rose and a brother Lloyd all attended elementary school at [illegible] George school. Carrie, Mrs. Albert Engelhardt, lives in Merritt, B.C.; Margaret Hamilton is widowed and living in Virginia, U.S.A.; Rose Monahan, also widowed, lives in Vernon, B.C.; Lloyd served with the Canadian Navy in World War II, and is now a realtor [illegible] Toronto. My brothers Ken and Norman, born after leaving Saskatchewan, spent some [illegible] their younger years growing up on the farm at Watts. My brother John, his wife Ida, and five children, lived for a time on what was known as the Mark Embree place, before moving to Calgary [illegible] take a position in the Ogden Shops during the war. My sisters Lydia-Jean and Emily are working in Calgary. Another sister Elizabeth remained in Saskatchewan. My parents retired from farming in 1952. Mother died in Edmonton in 1954, and father in Calgary in 1965.

GEORGE AND MAY FLECK, by George Fleck — In 1938, my parents returned to their farm [illegible] Veteran. I stayed on the farm at Watts. I married the former May Long of Veteran, Alberta in December of 1939, and in January 1940 May and I took up residence on the Sittlington farm. We rented for a year or two before entering into a purchase agreement with one dollar down payment. Full purchase price of section 32-31-15 was ten thousand dollars — a high price at that time. In 1951, I bought three quarters from Anna Steeves, the southwest quarter of section 9-32-15; the quarter referred [illegible] as the Hartt place. Across the road was the east half of section 8 and commonly known as the Spencer Burns farm. Purchase price for the three quarters was nine thousand dollars, with one thousand dollars down payment and the balance at crop share with a four percent interest rate. In 1955, I acquired approximately seven hundred acres of grassland around Dowling Lake. In 1968 I sold these lands to Leslie and Barry Hutton.

Going back over some of the events of those twenty-nine years in the Watts district, I recall the evening the Watts and St. George community surprised May and me after our marriage, with a good old fashioned Chivaree. Being unable to accommodate everyone, we all went to the St. George schoolhouse, where someone stoked up the old furnace that stood in the corner of the classroom; moved the desks along the wall, and to music volunteered by anyone who could play an instrument, enjoyed a couple of hours of dancing. The grand finale — plenty of sandwiches, homemade cakes and cookies and coffee provided by the ladies.

We had a lot of snow that winter of 1940. Jack McDonald trapped weasels. He checked his traplines every day, riding horseback. No matter what the weather, he would arrive at our place every morning about the time I was getting the fire going in the old coal and wood cookstove. Most of the time ice had formed on the water pail, and on occasion the water in the reservoir would have ice on it. The house on the Sittlington farm had burned prior to 1930, so a couple of granaries were pulled together, and with some wallpaper and paint on the inside, was home to us until 1967, when we built a new home, almost on the same spot where the previous house had burned.

I remember a blizzard we had in the late forties, the snow had blown into the attic of our old house. We were not aware of the situation until we were eating breakfast the following morning, when we heard a loud crack, and we had three feet of snow on the kitchen floor, as well as the plasterboard from the ceiling, narrowly missing our infant daughter, Beverly, as she sat in the high chair.

We hauled all our household water with a barrel and stoneboat, mostly from the Rufus McCulsh farm, a mile to the east until in 1946, when we had a well drilled and got a good supply of water at one hundred and ten feet. Lots of water could be found at the sixty foot level, but it was of such a high concentration of alkali and nitrates, it was completely unfit for human consumption. The water would eat holes in the galvanized pipes in about five years.

We have two daughters, Beverly and Diane. Beverly was born in the Hanna Hospital April 17, 1944, two months premature and weighing three pounds, thirteen ounces. Dr. Argue was the attending physician. An improvised incubator was made, by using electric light bulbs in a lined crib in the hospital nursery where she remained for some six weeks. Beverly attended school in Watts and Hanna, going on to the University of Calgary for teacher training. She taught elementary grades in Youngstown, Craigmyle and Delia. In 1964, Beverly married Art Bergman of Craigmyle, where Art was grain buyer for the National Grain Company. In 1973 they purchased the Bob Geissinger farm, located just east of Craigmyle. They have three children, Laurie, Corey and Donna May.

Diane was born in Hanna hospital, August 31, 1952, weighing two pounds, fifteen ounces. By this time, through the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Hanna Hospital an oxygen-equipped incubator had been placed in the nursery just a month or two before. Without this lifesaving equipment, it is unlikely that Diane could have been kept alive. She remained in the incubator and on oxygen for some three weeks before getting to three pounds. Shortly before Christmas she was able to come home. Diane attended elementary school in Watts and Hanna, high school in Hanna and in North Surrey, B.C., going on to teacher training in Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. Her first teaching position was in Quesnel, B.C. where she met and married Hubert Ducette. They have one son Jamie. Incidently, the incubator I spoke of earlier, is now in the Hanna Museum.

On August 31, 1945 a bad hailstorm wiped out our entire crop, which was

standing, except for one round with the combine prior to the storm. I had about forty bushels of wheat for that year; not even seed. By doing custom combining in the Endiang and Halkirk area that fall, I was able to make enough money to put a crop in for another year. That year turned out to be a good one. Because the crop was standing when the hailstorm hit, the kernels were shelled to the ground. The following spring I double disced the stubble, and that fall I harvested a thirty-five bushel to the acre volunteer crop of wheat.

Stories are told of the co-operation and community spirit that encompasses life in rural areas, and the Watts and Hanna areas were no exception. The spring of 1953 brought an epidemic of Bang's Disease, resulting in a major calf crop loss. As a result of handling these infected animals, I contracted the human form [illegible] the disease, "Undulant Fever," and was hospitalized for a considerable time. That fall my neighbors, aware of my situation, assembled forces, and took over my entire harvesting operations. Bruce Hutchinson and Ken Gullekson, (K and B Motors) and Leon Mehl were on the job of getting my combine [illegible] good working order. Leon operated the combine. Karl Hoffman, Albert Hutton, Jack Sutherland, Martin Dahl, Ted Quaschnick and Henry Karg brought swathers, combines, trucks and the grain was soon in the bins.

Following disposition of the farm to Leslie and Barry Hutton, and an auction sale in the spring of 1968, May and I, along with our daughter Diane, left the area to make our home in Surrey, B.C. No life story is complete without the proverbial "Believe it or Not" type of experience, and here is mine; in 1967 I lost my eyeglasses while feeding cattle in the corral of the farm, as I had a habit of carrying them in my shirt pocket. I was never able to find them. A year or two after Leslie had purchased the home place, [illegible] accidently came across the glasses, still in the corral, and completely intact. It is anyone's guess how many cattle could have trodden on them.

One may ask what it was that motivated May and I to pull up stakes and leave a lifetime of pleasant memories and good associations. We often ask ourselves this same question, always answer, we aren't sure why. Some retirement experts claim that adjustments are less traumatic in a completely new environment, although lack of farm help and declining stamina probably was the main reason for giving up farming. We have enjoyed and are still enjoying our retirement here in Surrey, B.C. and the winters are a little milder.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fox

MR. AND MRS. JIM FOX, By Alma Fox Van Horne — Mother and Dad were married at Madoc, Ontario in 1899. [illegible] 1909 they travelled west, and settled south of Halkirk in the Lanes Lake district for two years. They spent the first year in a tent. In 1911 they took a homestead on 24-31-15, near Hanna. Dad was employed by the C.N.R. at Hanna and worked for various machine companies. They recalled the winter being very cold that year. After four years with the railway, dad decided to devote his time to farming, and continued here until 1934, when they returned to Halkirk, due to lack of water supply on this homestead. He did his farming with mules.

Mother and dad took great pride in their garden. They were also ardent radio fans, and enjoyed the hockey games on broadcast. Mother worked diligently for the Red Cross during World War I. In dad's earlier years, he was keenly interested in big game hunting.

My parents, had one daughter Alma, Mrs. Frank Van Horne, now living in Calgary.

ALBERT A. HUTTON — I was born on November 10, 1893, on a farm six miles east of the town [illegible] Rich Hill in Bates County Missouri, U.S.A. I lived there with my family until I was eight years old and during the years 1900 and 1901 I attended Happy Hill School. In the spring of 1902 my parents sold their farm and moved to Canada, landing in Olds, Alberta in April with six children, Elva, Harley, Frank, Charlie, Pearl and myself. Father shipped two carloads of settlers' effects, including ten cows, four horses, machinery and household effects, which arrived a short time later along with my two half-brothers Will and Ira. Shortly after we arrived in Alberta, mother developed pneumonia and she passed away just one month later. When we first arrived we lived on a rented farm, but later that same summer Father bought a farm six miles east of Olds.

In November 1902, father took the family back [illegible] Missouri, leaving the farm and cattle with my older half-brother Will, on shares. In the spring of 1906 we moved back to Alberta and took over the farm and cattle, and that was our home until father passed away in September 1911.

The A. A. Hutton Family, 1932. Roy, Margery, Lloyd, Al, Albert.

On May 10, 1910 I filed on my homestead and pre-emption the west half of section 25-31-15. During that year I hauled freight from Olds to Trochu with four horses and a wagon, as there wasn't a railroad through Trochu. [illegible] the spring of 1911 I moved onto my homestead along with my brother Frank who homesteaded the south-east quarter of 13-31-15. We built a shack twelve by fourteen feet to live in. We did some breaking and fencing on the homesteads and returned to Olds in August to take care of the crop and put up feed for the winter on our father's farm.

In May, 1912, Frank and I left Olds again to make our home and fortune on our homesteads. At that time our closest town was Castor to the north, which was the end of the railroad. To the west the towns of Morrin, Munson and Drumheller were springing up as the railroad was coming through. Shortly after we arrived on the homesteads, contractors started to set up camps along where the C.N.R. line is now. During that summer the railroad grade was built and late that fall they were laying the steel and the Town of Hanna started [illegible] spring up on an area which until then had been the Parker Brothers Ranch. During that summer of 1912 I worked on the C.N.R. grade, part of the time for Harry Shoults and part of the time for Welman Brothers. I earned thirty cents per hour for myself and a team of horses. The next spring (1913) I hired on with Harry Shoults to go to Saskatchewan, where they were widening the grade on the C.P.R. to double track the road from Swift Current to Moose Jaw. Another pioneer of the district, Jake Engle, worked with us on that job. We earned so little that on rainy days we had to pay for our board and horse feed. From May first until August first I cleared a hundred dollars for myself and four horses.

Later in the fall of 1913 I hired on with Nixon and Brooker of Craigmyle, to haul bundles [illegible] their new threshing machine. It was there that I met Margery (Dottie) Nixon. She was cooking on the cook-car for her brother. By the time threshing was over we were going steady. Two years later we were married and for over sixty years we have lived happily together, and at the time of writing we are both enjoying good health.

By the fall of 1910 all the vacant land east of the Red Deer River to the Saskatchewan border had been taken up by homesteaders. The ranchers who had come in previous years before the country was surveyed, some [illegible] early as 1900, were forced to sell their cattle as the homesteaders had forced them off their grazing and hay land. Most of them filed on the land where they had been living and made their homes there. The Parker Brothers, Jim and Ed, homesteaded section 9-31-15, where they had operated their ranch for several years. They sold their land in the spring of 1912 to the Town Site people and the town of Hanna sprung up. What had previously been a cattle ranch became a prosperous and thriving business centre and a very important C.N.R. Divisional point.

In the spring of 1914 I bought a water well boring machine which bored a hole twenty-four inches in diameter and was powered by two horses. [illegible] the next two years I dug quite a number of wells in the Hanna and surrounding districts. In 1916 I quit the well drilling and settled down to farming, growing grain and raising horses and cattle.

During the following years we had several crop failures due to drought and things were tough. It was a good thing we always had a few cattle and horses to sell which kept us living. We didn't get ahead very fast but we always expected to do better next year. I guess that's how we got the name "Next Year Country." However, during the period from 1916 to 1940 we lived on the farm and raised our family [illegible] three boys, Albert, Roy and Lloyd. They received their elementary schooling [illegible] St. George School, two miles west of our farm, and their High School in Watts and Hanna. Albert got married in 1940 and took over the farming operations and the rest of the family moved into Hanna. I then went into the Farm Machinery and Car business. Roy enlisted in the Air Force and was sent overseas, while Lloyd went to University. In 1945 both returned home and joined me in the business and from then on the business went under the name of A. A. Hutton & Sons. When I retired from the business the boys operated under the same name.

[illegible] the fall of 1947 along with a few others I became active in an oil well drilling company, Canada West Drilling. We bought three rigs from the firm of Snider and Head who had drilled the first gas well in the Hanna district, just south of the C.N.R. Dam. Our company operated mostly [illegible] Leduc, Devon and Red Water, and during the next three years we drilled some hundred wells. In 1951 the Company was sold to Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.

A couple of years later four friends and myself organized a company known

as Modern Packaging Company and began making polyethelene and cellophane bags. The company grew and prospered and three and one half years later we sold our business to some people from Winnipeg, who still operate the same place and under the same name, [illegible] south-east Calgary.

As time went on Dottie and I started looking for a warmer climate to spend the winter months. After holidaying in different places we decided Arizona was very much to our liking. We became acquainted with some people from Alberta who lived in Arizona so after a short time we were able to rent a trailer and move into the same trailer park as many other Alberta couples. We have spent the past sixteen winters there in our own trailer home and have gathered a host of friends, and it is really like a second home to us now.

In 1971 I disposed of my interest in both farm and business to my sons and decided to take life a little easier.

In conclusion I might say, while we have had our ups and downs during our active years, Dottie and I still enjoy good health and feel that this "Next Year's Country" has been good to us.

ALBERT E. HUTTON JR., by Albert Hutton — I was raised on a farm southwest quarter 25-31-15, northwest of Hanna. I attended public school at St. George, then rode five miles daily to Hanna, in all types of weather, to get my high school education, and also helped at home with the chores. My parents usually boarded the school teacher, and with hired help, along with neighbouring boys and girls my own age, and a lot of relatives around, we just never seemed to have any dull moments.

[illegible] 1940 my parents moved to Hanna, to attend to the machine business they had acquired, so I stayed on the farm. In December of that year, I married Doris Dahl, and worked at that farm for seven years. When time came for our oldest son to attend school, we found it very trying to get him the eight miles to and from school. [illegible] the fall of 1947, we bought five quarters of land, (the McCuish farm 33-31-15), then owned by the Stuart McCandless family, who retired [illegible] Chilliwack. By this time buses conveyed our children the three miles to the Watts school.

Our sons got their public and high school education [illegible] Watts and Hanna, then each took a year at the Olds School of Agriculture.

The spring of 1948 was very late. There had been a lot of snow, which had been blown into huge drifts, blocking [illegible] roads and railways; some were impossible to get through with snow plows. Then when spring finally arrived, we had floods, roads under water, washouts and erosion. The field work had been delayed and machine line was limited, so we found that year very trying.

Wolf Creek flows through our pasture into Dowling Lake. In 1970, Ducks Unlimited built a dam on this creek.

I have worked on executives of the F.U.A., Watts Mutual Telephone Company, Local school boards and the Special Areas.

Our oldest son Leslie married Linda Fadden and have two children, Cheryl and Harley, both attending Hanna Public school. We bought the George Fleck farm 32-31-15, where they live, just across the road from us. He also has grassland at Sheerness. Barry our youngest son married Diane Nelson, and have two boys, Gordon at school and Kieth at home. They live one mile north on the east half of 8-32-15. With the high cost of machinery and reliable help at a premium, we appreciate the convenience of working together. Along with the farming we each run a cow-calf herd of grade hereford stock. Barry and I have a few purebred Limousin cattle, while Leslie decided to branch out to Salers.

CARL JOHNSTON, by Nettie Gusechalak — Carl was the only son of the late J. B. Johnston. Carl bought land east of Hanna from Roy German in 1926, and later sold it to Dan Martin. He then purchased the Gilbert Chute homestead [illegible] 1928.

He lived with his parents part of the time and farmed this land along with his father's. On his dad's passing in 1940 he took his mother home with him, where she remained until her passing, [illegible] the spring of 1954. He then sold this land to Wesley Robinson and retired to Hanna. He was interested in sports, and was an ardent curler. He passed away suddenly in February, 1969.

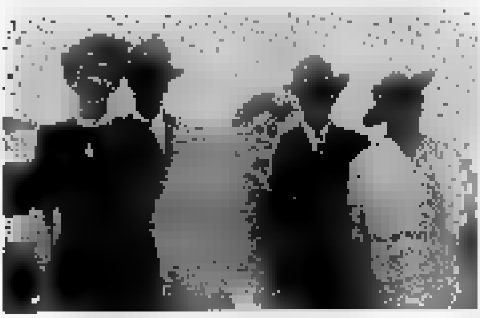
CURRY JOHNSTON, by H.D. Johnston — Curry Johnston was raised in Welford, New Brunswick. Curry was a Boer War Veteran. In 1908, he filed on a homestead in the area north of Watts; south half 34-31-15.

Curry and family moved from the homestead to Calgary several times, then moved to Sardis, B.C. Eventually they settled on a farm [illegible] Aldergrove, B.C.

Curry and wife Ethel (Steeves) had a family of eleven children, nine boys and two girls, three boys are deceased.

Curry passed away in August, 1955.

GEORGE KROLL — George Kroll came out from Germany and filed on a homestead in the St. George school district; west half 23-31-15. George batched until his marriage to Mrs. Kellerman in 1935. They retired to Hanna in 1939 and Tommy Scott purchased the property.


The Lamb Family. Margaret, Joe, Mrs. Lamb, Johnnie, Sadie.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH LAMB, by Margaret Lamb — Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lamb and family came from the Hexham district of Northumberland, England in July 1919. They kept both cattle and sheep in their farming operations there. We came [illegible] our father's sister and family; the Emerson Robinson family, and stayed with them for several weeks. We bought our first half section of land from George Scott, east half 31-15. A few years later we bought the west half of the same section, which had been Solider Settlement land, owned by Everett Howard. In 1928 another quarter was bought, on the south side of what is now the No. 9 Highway, and was formerly owned by Len Waring. Another quarter of land was purchased, which is a half mile east of this piece of land. Also [illegible] quarter section was rented from Ken Morton of Calgary, and farmed for a number [illegible] years. It was recently sold, so reduced the cultivated acreage to work.

Joe and John started to raise Purebred Hereford stock, after buying several registered heifers [illegible] get a start. They have been members of the Canadian Hereford Association and the Calgary District Club, and a few years ago were presented with Memberships and pins in the Quarter Century Hereford Club of Alberta.

After coming to this district, John and Margaret attended St. George School, which was situated at the north side of our home section. For several weeks of that first winter, John was the only pupil who braved the extra cold weather and snow, so he and the teacher, Mr. Marr, kept the school fires burning, and no doubt got through a considerable amount of school work. Mr. Marr, wife and family lived in what is now a very dilapidated old house on the side of the road, a mile north of

Watts. Three of their children went to school while their father taught there.

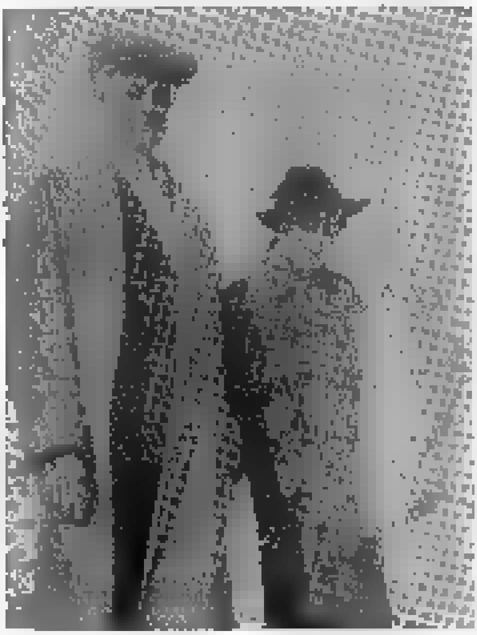
At that time and for several years afterwards there were railway section families at Watts. I recall a girl named Anne Juclpink; and Charolette Creighton, daughter of the Home Elevator agent, attended our school. I mentioned these as they lived in our community for a limited time. Margaret attended St. George School until June 1926, Miss Foster being her last teacher.

The family have been active members of the First United Church in Hanna, following the purchase of our first car in 1926.

Our father passed away suddenly on March tenth, 1937, and mother also passed away suddenly on July twenty-fourth, 1957.

The family, Sarah (Sadie), Joseph, John and Margaret still reside on the original farmstead and carry on the usual farming operations.

We have never returned to England for a holiday, but have had the pleasure of a visit from three of our former neighbours, who were impressed with the vast distances which we can see in this country.



Edgar and Emily Lloyd and baby Deborah

EDGAR AND EMILY LLOYD, By Emily Lloyd — Edgar W. Lloyd and Emily (nee Adolf) purchased a house from Tom Scott Sr. in the St. George School district, where they resided until they moved to Hanna in 1945. In 1942 Deborah came to her new home in the country; mother and daughter were generously brought home from the hospital by Mr. Scott in his pig truck.

Edgar's work was with the C.N.R. in Hanna and found winters trying when the snow took over, but we loved our little country place, and the peace and quiet. Edgar met his death on the C.N.R. in 1946.

Albert Huttons lived to the east, Tom Scotts to the west and John and Lewis Steeves to the north. They were wonderful neighbours, and never any dull moments.

Hector our son, arrived soon after we moved the house into Hanna, and grew up to be a wise and ambitious young man. His interest always brought him back to Hanna, where finally cupid captured, and Sherry Steeves became his bride. They still reside near Hanna and have a wee newcomer, Casey. Deborah married Ron McKane, now residing at Vancouver with McKanes three: Katherine, Jennifer and Robert.

Emily, daughter of Henry Adolf, was born in a sod shack north of Hanna, near Gooseberry Lake School. Edgar's parents immigrated from Shrewsbury, England, when he was five years old and prospered in the city of Calgary. I still make my home in Calgary.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY MILLER, By Annie Dahl — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller came from Bessarabia, to North Dakota. Seven children were born there. The older children attended school there, but many nights had to be spent at the

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller

school, on account of blizzardy stormy weather. The teacher boarded with us. Mother usually put in extra lunch, in case we had to stay [illegible] the school until dad could come and get us, probably the next day.

In the fall of 1909, Dad and family came to Calgary from North Dakota, then later moved to Stettler. We spent the winter there. My youngest brother was born there.

Dad filed on a homestead, five miles west of Hanna 9-31-15. Horses, machinery, cattle, etc., had to be purchased. In the spring of 1910, we moved to the homestead. My oldest brother and dad built [illegible] small house, which we lived [illegible] for a few years, then a larger house was built. Dad had to haul supplies from Stettler and Castor, which took days for a return trip. In later years there was a small store to the southeast of us, called Copeville where we purchased our groceries. Then in 1912 Hanna came on the map.

Our farmstead was located near the C.N.R. railroad, which was very interesting. There was also a train wreck close by the house. Of course there were tragedies also, when horses, cattle or pigs would get on the track and get hit by the train.

We kids walked three miles to Earltown School, where Mrs. Leech was our first teacher. Later St. George School was built, which was some closer. For entertainment we had box socials, picnics, ball games and Christmas concerts, and church services at the school.

Dad and mother moved to Calgary in 1926, and dad passed away in 1932 at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at the age of seventy-three in 1942, one daughter [illegible] 1973 at the age of eighty-four, and one son, age seventy-one in 1974.

There were eight children born to this marriage: Philip, address unknown; Annie (Mrs. Dahl), Hanna; Abe, deceased; Fred, Hanna; Emma (Peggy) (Mrs. Milton Lieberman), Chicago, Ill.; Mae (Mrs. Adam Schniedmiller), Calgary; Johnnie, Vancouver, B.C.; George of Calgary.

RUFUS McCUISH FAMILY, by Jean McCuish Blank — Rufus Aubrey McCuish was born in 1874 in Kentville, Nova Scotia. He homesteaded in the area northwest [illegible] Hanna [illegible] 1906. The closest shopping centre at that time was Stettler.

Miss Mabel Hawkins was born in London, England in 1884. She and her friend Miss Bee Henley (who later married Jim Boyd) came [illegible] Canada in 1913 and worked in Calgary. Miss Hawkins, visiting her brother Henry Hawkins and his wife who farmed north of Craigmyle, met her future husband. Rufus McCuish was a brother of Mrs. Mae Hawkins. They were married [illegible] 1914 and went to live on his farm, east half 33-31-15. Six children were born:

Aubrey Hawkins McCuish — Attended St. George School. He farmed, and worked around Hanna, Cochrane and Golden before moving to Vancouver in 1956 where he lived and worked until his death [illegible] 1970. He also spent some time in the army.

Jean Renee Blank — Attended St. George School, also school started in

Watts in 1937. Worked in Calgary [illegible] 1941 and took a machinist's course in 1942 and moved to Hamilton, Ontario that same year to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, Jean joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp. and after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario, she was stationed in London, Ontario for the duration of the war. Jean was discharged from the army [illegible] September, 1946 and took a stenographic course in Calgary. Married John Arthur Blank in December, 1949. Jean retired from work in 1960 and in 1970 her husband took an early retirement and they moved to B.C. [illegible] live at Anglemont on Shuswap Lake.

Joan Audrey Sherriff — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Worked [illegible] Calgary and in 1942 took a machinist's course and went to Hamilton [illegible] August to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Joan was stationed in London after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario and a drafting course in Toronto, Ontario. Discharged from the army in May, 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951 as an architect after four years. She was then employed by the Department of Northern Affairs and Public Works in Ottawa. Married Norman Sherriff in September, 1958. Their son Eric was born on November 21, 1959. They moved to Red Deer in 1962 where they still reside.

Malcom Angus McCuish — Attended St. George School. Farmed until he joined the army in the spring of 1942 — sent overseas in September, 1942. Discharged in January, 1946. Worked around Golden until 1955 when he moved to Vancouver where he still resides.

Joyce Muriel McCuish — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Joyce joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1943, basic training at Vermilion, Alberta, stationed at Suffield, Vancouver and Calgary, before being posted to Ottawa. She was discharged in Calgary September 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951, as an architect. Employed by Departments [illegible] National Defence, Justice and Transport in Ottawa since 1952 where she still resides.

(Betty) Mabel Elizabeth McCuish — Attended St. George and Watts High School. Joined the army in 1945, took her basic training [illegible] Kitchener, Ontario, stationed [illegible] Ottawa and London, Ontario. She was discharged in May, 1946. Betty resided [illegible] Calgary until 1951 when she moved to Vancouver.

Rufus McCuish died in September, 1925. Mabel McCuish remarried in December, 1926 to John S. McDonald. Two more children were born:

(Peggy) Margaret Josphine McMillan — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Worked in Hanna until 1947 when she moved to Calgary. She moved to Vancouver with the company she worked for in 1949. Peggy married John [illegible]. McMillan in June, 1951. They have three children — Doug, seventeen, Don sixteen and Shari fourteen.

Lois Hildreth Giles — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Moved to Calgary in 1948 and lived there until she moved to Vancouver [illegible] 1951. She moved to Salmon Arm in 1962 and resided there until 1968 when she moved to Cranbrook where she still resides. She has three children; a son Gerry and two daughters, Kelly and Debbie.

Mabel McDonald moved to Vancouver [illegible] 1952 where she resided until her death in 1959.

Dad's brother, Murdock McCuish lived a quarter of a mile northwest on a farm adjoining our land. He died [illegible] 1933 and in 1937 the farm was rented and the family moved to Eckville, Alberta. The farm was later sold to Stuart and Bertha McCandless. Evan and Alma McCandless lived north of us. Roland and Levinia Penny, son Herbert and daughter Mildred, lived to the southwest; they moved to

B.C. in 1937 and resided at Armstrong. Truman Steeves lived to the southeast of our farm. Our pasture land ran down to Dowling Lake and Wolf Creek flowed through the pasture to the lake. Other close neighbours were John Steeves family; Spencer Burns and family; also the Harry Steeves and Jacob Fleck families.

St. George School was a mile and a half from our home; which we attended by walking, buggy, democrat, horseback, Bennett buggy, sleigh or car.

Everyone went to Hanna Saturday night, if possible, to see the movie, shop and visit with neighbours and friends. Most of the clothing was purchased through the Eaton's Mail Order Catalogue.

We used [illegible] attend the Hand Hills Stampede and other gatherings held in Hanna and district. A picnic was held every year at Clear Lake about seven miles northwest. Everyone took their lunches or dinners and spent the day there. Baseball games and other activities were there to be participated in or just watched. Dances were held often at St. George School. Christmas concerts were a yearly affair followed by lunch and a dance. Most children were put to sleep [illegible] a corner while their parents enjoyed themselves until the early hours when it came time to depart for home (in the early days) by sleigh. With this form of transportation you could be sure you'd get there. Many families had bells fastened to the harness and on a still cold night, they could be heard for miles. They were company on many a sleigh ride.

The first cars used in the winter were a real hazard — you never knew whether you'd get to your destination or not. If they didn't freeze up, they usually got stuck in the snow.

THE M. J. McCUISH and W. E. McCREIGHT FAMILIES — By Stan McCreight — Murdoch Joseph (Murl) McCuish was born in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. He and his brother Rufus A. (Ruf) McCuish settled about a mile and a half southwest of Dowling Lake in 1905 when they moved [illegible] with a herd of cattle from Crossfield. This was later known as the St. George School District. They ranched in partnership for quite a number of years and were known as McCuish Brothers. They, as well as many other ranchers in Alberta at that time, lost very heavily in the winter of 1906-07 when many of their cattle starved or froze to death from the severe weather. The many bones lying in the coulee for years after were a grim reminder of that hard winter. When this district was thrown open to homesteaders, Ruf took up the east half 33-31-15, which was the place where their ranch headquarters was located. Murl homesteaded the west half of the same section.

They gradually cut down on their cattle herd as they started farming, and continued to operate as a partnership until the end of 1913. This year McCuish Brothers shipped the first car of wheat through the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. from this district on September 14, 1913. It was the Marquis variety and graded number one.

Mr. and Mrs. William Edmund McCreight and their two children came to Alberta in 1910 to take up a homestead. While Wm. McCreight and his wife's brother, Andy Murdoch, looked for land, Mrs. McCreight and two small children, Winnifred and Stanley took a trip to Ireland to visit her father. Wm. McCreight and Andy Murdoch located land on the north side of Dowling Lake. Wm. McCreight took up the south half 23-32-15, and Andy Murdoch took up the north half of that section. Andy farmed for a few years and then sold out to Joseph McBurney in 1916. Andy Murdoch will be remembered by many of the oldtimers as he built many houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He passed away [illegible] Ireland [illegible] 1974 where his widow still resides.

Back Seat Murt McCuish, Mrs. Henry Hawkins and son Albert, Nora McCuish and Stan McCreight. Front Seat Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCuish, son Bill. Standing: Henry Hawkins. In Wagon: Andy Murdock.

Wm. McCreight's farming career was short lived when tragedy struck and he was drowned in the well that first summer. Mrs. Minnie McCreight and two children, accompanied by her father, returned from Ireland after her husband's death and carried on with the homestead duties. Her father remained with her on the farm for some months before returning to Ireland. About this time her sister-in-law, Martha McCreight, from Ireland, arrived and stayed with her for a year.

During these years the settlers got their mail at Dowling Lake Post Office which was located about ten miles to the northwest. Castor, which was about forty miles north, was their main shopping centre until Hanna became established.

Mrs. Minnie McCreight and Andy McCuish were married and lived in the district for many years, where their two children Nora and William were born. Mrs. McCuish's eldest daughter, Winnifred McCreight, passed away in 1916.

A school district was formed and St. George School was built in 1915. The school house was used for [illegible] kinds of gatherings, such as elections, school meetings, church, parties and dances as well as the very popular Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by adults as well as the children. By 1917 a grocery store and post office were opened up at Watts by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newton. The business was operated from the annex of the Home Grain Co. for several months while the store was being built. Newtons later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Lund in 1923.

Murt McCuish bought his first tractor in 1916 which he used mostly for breaking. The following year he came out with a new Ford car which was quite an advance over riding behind a team of horses. As time went on he acquired more land, and by 1925 had his own threshing machine. Later he went [illegible] the more modern method of harvesting when he changed over to the combine.

Murt McCuish farmed in the district until his death in 1933. After this, Mrs. McCuish carried on with the farm until the fall of 1937 when she and the family left the district and moved to Eckville. Mrs. McCuish and her daughter Nora drove the car while Bill McCuish and Stan McCreight took the livestock, machinery and household effects by train.

Nora married Jim Hartley and they had one son James. They lived in the

Eckville district for many years before moving to Calgary where Jim died in 1968, Nora and her son James still reside in Calgary.

Mrs. Minnie McCuish lived at Eckville until her passing in 1967.

Stan McCreight married Betty DeLong and they had two children, Joan and Bob. I sold this farm in 1972 and with my wife and family moved to Calgary where we now reside.

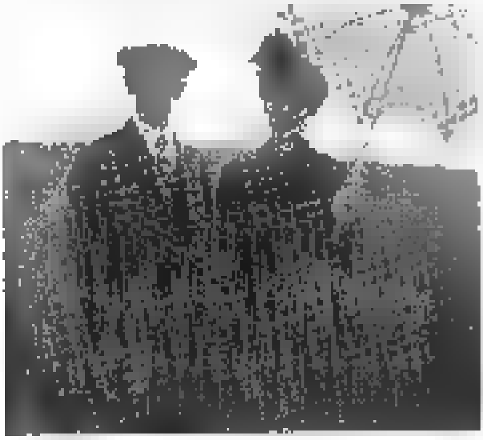
Bill McCuish also sold his farm in 1972 and moved to Calgary and lives with his sister, Mrs. Nora Hartley.

ROLAND S. PENNY FAMILY — Roland Penny was a veteran of the Boer War. Mr. Penny homesteaded the north half 28-31-15. About 1934, the family moved to Armstrong, B.C. Their daughter Mildred Hallowatty still resides at Armstrong. Their son Herbert lives at the west coast.

Mrs. Penny passed away in 1936, and her husband, Roland passed away in 1976, at the age of ninety-eight.

EMERSON ROBINSON FAMILY, By Joe Robinson — My father, Emerson Robinson was born in County Durham, England, in 1863. He came to Iowa, U.S.A., early in the 1880's. My mother, the former Hannah Lamb, was born in Northumberland, England, and came to Iowa with her parents as a child. My parents were married in Kalo, Iowa, in 1892. They had six children, Lydia, Margaret, Joseph, Thomas, Phoebe and Faye.

The whole family came to Stettler, Alberta, in March 1911. Dad filed on southeast 15-31-15 in March 1911, but the family remained on the Stettler farm until the spring of 1913, when they moved to the homestead here. Joe Robinson still lives on the farm here.



1916 — Father and Mother, Emerson and Hannah Robinson, standing in wheat crop at homestead.

Joe Robinson Family. Wesley, Shirley, Dad, Sylvia, and Emerson.

In the interim between 1911 and 1913, Mr. Robinson travelled back and forth from Stettler by horse and wagon to make improvements on the homestead. We brought two cows and two teams of horses from Stettler. At that time we dug a shallow well which kept us well supplied with drinking water, and the cattle watered at the creek. As time went by my father, and later, my brother and I acquired more land, and in all the years that we have been here, we have had only one complete crop failure. The C.N.R. rail tracks were laid through our land in 1912.

The first wheat I remember my father selling in 1911 was sold, some for forty-

eight cents a bushel and some for sixty-eight cents a bushel. In 1916 we couldn't get the wheat threshed until the spring of 1917, when Mr. Nyeheim did the job with his big outfit. Wheat in the fall of 1916 was ninety-eight cents a bushel, and in the spring of 1917 when we threshed, we were getting two dollars and forty-six cents on the market, until a Government Board set the price at two dollars and twenty cents at the elevator. Around this time good cows were selling at forty dollars and sixty dollars per head. A team of horses was selling around three hundred and twenty-five dollars [illegible] four hundred and fifty dollars. In 1915 the Stubbs Brothers' outfit threshed our grain.

St. George School was built in 1916. Prior to this, the children went to Earltown school. Mrs. Leach was then the teacher [illegible] Earltown, and the first teacher at [illegible]. George school was Florence Bennett, who boarded with my parents.

Our nearest neighbours when we homesteaded were — on the east, Henry Miller and his family, on the north was George Scott and family; to the south, Andy McKay, and to the west the Gilbert Chute family. There were also the Al, Charlie and Frank Hutton Brothers and Bill Waring to the east. We used to get mail at Magee's Store which was two miles to the southwest.

My sister, Lydia, married Harry Bealstow in 1914, and they lived [illegible] Coronation. They had one child, Patricia, who now lives on Vancouver Island. Sister Margaret married Reg Vose in 1915, and lived in Winnipeg until her death. They had one son, Reg, who served twenty-seven years in the navy, and now resides in Vancouver. My brother Tom and I farmed [illegible] partnership until his death in 1969. My sister, Phoebe, married Harold Lund. They farmed and operated a store in Dowling, until they moved to Hanna where they operated various businesses. They had two children, Frank and Betty. Phoebe still lives in Hanna, as does my nephew, Frank.

Sister Faye married Ed Bell in 1932, and they lived for a long period in the Handhills, until they retired to Hanna, where Ed still lives.

I married Catherine Fitzgerald in 1927. She taught many schools in the district. Catherine passed away in 1946, leaving me with four children, Sylvia, Emerson, Wesley and Shirley. Sylvia became Mrs. Claude Hunter. They had one daughter, Linda who is married to Larry Nelson, now residing at Michichi. Claude Hunter passed away and Sylvia is now Mrs. Bert Marshall. They have two girls, Janet and Brenda. Emerson and his wife Martha of Hanna, have four girls; Ginny, Catherine, Connie and Tammie Lynn. Emerson is an engineer on the C.N.R., and with his father farms about three sections of land. Wesley and Ruby with their two children, Blake and Sherrie live on a farm one mile west of me. Shirley and her husband Brian Olson, have a daughter, Patricia. They live at Carstairs. Shirley is a registered nurse in Calgary, and Brian also holds down a good job with the Calgary airport.

WESLEY ROBINSON, By Wesley and Ruby Robinson — I got my education at St. George, Earltown and Watt schools, and for a few years, with the shortage of teachers, I had correspondence lessons, with mother's assistance.

In 1957, I worked for the P.F.R.A. [illegible] Hanna. That same spring I married Ruby Bossert of Endiang, and continued living in Hanna, and worked at various jobs, at the C.N.R. Shops, A. A. Hutton and Sons garage. Then in January 1958, I started to work for K and B Motors, and am still employed with them.

In 1962, I bought a quarter of land from Irene O'Rourke. Then [illegible] 1964, I bought the Carl Johnston farm, west half 15-31-15, and moved from Hanna to the

farm. In 1972, I purchased another half section of land from Sam Branum, formerly the Andy McKay homestead.

We have two children, Blake and Sherrie, who both attend school in Hanna.

The Scotts. Mother's eightieth birthday, 1964. Back Row: Joe, Mrs. Margaret Scott, Stanley. Centre Row: Ellen, Hannah, Mabel, Alice. Front Row: Archie, Ernest.

GEORGE SCOTT STORY, By Joe Scott and Alice Gwin — In 1910 we came from Stettler with my grandfather, Joseph Lamb and stayed at his place, until we moved to the homestead east half 22-31-15, in what was later called the Watts and St. George school districts.

I sat on the door step and watched them build the railroad past our house.

Mother baked bread for five bachelors for awhile; Clifford Phibbs, J.K. Sutherland, Andy McKay and the Burdett brothers.

Alice stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leech to attend Earltown School until St. George was built.

We had a good crop in 1911, so dad went to Castor to get a binder, and before he got back, a hail storm had flattened the crop. By the way, that binder cut my thumb off at the last joint, leaving a half inch of skin on the back. I had a stiff thumb for twenty years, until a spill with a saddle horse, broke the joint loose.

A few years later, a prairie fire early in the spring burnt every blade of grass we had. The railroad grade was new, and stopped the fire from spreading any further south.

We dug a well and got good water at about eight feet, but in the fall the garter snakes denned up in it, and they came every fall as long as we lived there.

Two of my sisters were born here. Mabel, Mrs. Bruce Taylor of Mirror, and Hannah, the late Mrs. Jerry Taylor. Hannah passed away in Calgary at the age of fifty, on January first, 1965. My brother Ernest, lives at Merritt, B.C. Mother is ninety-two years of age and lives in Kamloops, B.C. with her youngest son Archie. She still enjoys fishing and coming to Hanna to visit.

After we left the homestead in 1917, my brother Stanley was born in Hanna and now ranches on Rose Hill, inside the Kamloops city limits.

My sister Ellen, Mrs. Dan Verigin, was born after we moved to Kamloops, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C. I am retired, and still reside in Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Scott in 1917.

THOMAS R. SCOTT, By Catherine Scott Johnson — Dad was born in 1888 in Norfolk, Nebraska, the son of Elizabeth and Harrison Scott. When he was nine the family consisting of ten children moved to the Innisfail area, where another daughter was born. Dad grew up and went to school in the Huxley area and eventually bought land there and married Katherine "Kit" Steeves.

Mother wanted to be nearer her family; her brothers Truman, Harry and John were farming in the Watts district as were her parents George and Adelaide

Sleeves. So Mother and Dad undertook to move all of their worldly goods across country to the Trum Sleeves farm. They brought along all their livestock and Dad said the hens even kept laying and supplied them with eggs for the trip.

In the family home in Hanna a glass china cupboard is still [illegible] use that made that trip in a lumber wagon, packed with prairie wool.

While living on the Trum Steeves place my brothers, Thomas Allen ("Tommy" to differentiate from "Tom", my father) and James (Jimmy) were born.

In 1923 Dad had a severe loss by fire. The grain elevator at Watts had been plugged but some cars came in, so Dad brought his six best horses into the barn in readiness for hauling the next day. That night somehow the barn caught fire. He lost his six horses, some milk cows, a loft full of feed, equipment and even a rack of feed which was in the yard.

About 1924 my parents bought Mother's parents' farm (The George Sleeves farm) and Alfred and I were born there.

Our brother Jimmy, aged six, died in 1926 of pneumonia. In 1928 during the flu epidemic we were all hospitalized and we lost our mother and our newborn baby sister.

Dad was left with us three children, aged two, four and nine, to raise alone, so our aunt, Betty Scott (Greig) came to help us out and she told Dad in the fall that if he could get her a school to teach she'd stay with us for awhile, so Dad did — and the school was Silver Valley. Dad bought his first Model A so Aunt Betty could get to her school.

[illegible] the following years, Dad, Tommy and Alfred batched a lot of the time, helped by hired girls and our aunts — Betty Greig and Lucille Sleeves. I asked Tommy about amusing anecdotes about their batching years and he said nothing was funny about batching.

In 1935 Dad went to B.C. and brought back a former Hanna girl, Ethel Stirling, as his wife. They arrived in November after a snow storm and had to go the last mile home by horse and sleigh. Mother wondered what she was doing back in this cold country.

She must often have wondered what possessed her to come back to the Hanna district in the following years as she helped to raise us three children, and contended with the hardships of those times. Drought, grasshoppers, dust storms and depression. A town girl set down in a house with no electricity or running water, and a coal stove.

Our neighbours got together and had a chivaree for Mother and Dad. Mother remembers being awakened by what she took to be coyotes but was in reality the neighbours making a great commotion outside the house. We quickly got up and took down all the clothes drying on lines in the kitchen, so we could let people in.

Tommy, Alfred and I [illegible] went [illegible] St. George School and Alfred and I later went to Watts school. Alfred was janitor one year at St. George (for which he was paid a princely sum). Alfred's idea was that he look after the fires and I do the cleaning, and I still can't remember how he conned me into that.

In 1939 we moved to the Kroll place and in 1943 Tommy married Joan Deslets; my brothers took over the farm and Mom, Dad and I moved east of Hanna to the place where Bill and Betty MacKenzie now live.

Alfred didn't stay on the farm too long as he found he was allergic to the dust so he started [illegible] the logging business around Cochrane.

In 1946 my parents bought a hundred acres from Mr. Lindstrom, that area west of third street west in Hanna, they had a house built on the property and Mother still lives there. In that area there are now two schools, the civic centre and [illegible] number of homes.

Our parents have always been actively supportive of the Church of Christ in Hanna. Dad was an elder and treasurer for fifteen years and Mother taught Sunday school for many years, was in the choir and president of the W.M.S. and is still as active as she can manage.

Dad farmed two hundred and twenty-five acres west of town and continued to run a feedlot, buying and selling cattle, until his health broke down in 1968 and he had to give up the farm.

In 1975 Mother and Dad celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary, with a small party at the Palliser Nursing Home and all our immediate family attended, also Betty and Jock Greig of Calgary; some of the grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Father passed away in the Hanna Hospital December the twenty-sixth, 1975.

Tommy and Joan have three children, all grown up and married. Tommy and his son Allan still farm in the Watts district. Alfred is in the lumber business in Revelstoke, married Francis Pepper of Cochrane and they have eight children and three grandchildren. Catherine (that's me) married Stan Johnson [illegible] Edmonton; we have three children, one married.

THOMAS ALLAN SCOTT, *By Tommy Scott* — I was born on the farm, attended St. George School, and have lived in the Watts and Hanna districts all my life.

I remember the lean years of the "thirties." In 1935, I helped my uncle, Jock Greig, move and trek cattle from the Gage place west of Clear Lake to his new location just south of Calgary. Thanks to the grasshoppers, we had no crop the fall of 1937, so I went harvesting northwest of Airdrie.

I started farming operations on my own in 1939 when I rented the George Kroll place. That year, [illegible] partnership with my Dad we purchased our first tractor, a fifteen-thirty International on steel.

In 1943, I married Joan Desllets, a school teacher who had taught Dowling Lake School for three years. Dad moved to a place on the eastern outskirts of Hanna and Joan and I lived on the Kroll place. Those were the war years when sugar, gas and tires were rationed. A son, Allan was born in 1945.

My brother, Alfred lived with us and we farmed together until the fall of 1945. That year a hailstorm completely harvested our crop and Alfred left the farm and began lumbering operations at Cochrane.

In 1949, I started a new home on the western outskirts of Hanna. Joan and I and our son, Allan took up residence in Hanna [illegible] February, 1950.

Still in partnership with Alfred, we opened a lumber yard, known as "Scott Lumber" on four lots west of our house.

Alfred operated lumber camps at Cochrane and points [illegible] B.C. and the yard primarily was an outlet for some of his material, but later we expanded to handle other building materials. With hired help on the farm, we managed the lumber yard and the farming operations.

A son, Randy was born in 1952 and a daughter, Judy in 1953.

In 1955, I sold Scott Lumber [illegible] the Revelstoke Lumber Co. and the yard was moved to the corner of second Avenue and Third Street West. I agreed to stay on as manager for one year, and ended up by doing so for thirteen years. During those years, I was involved with many of the building projects in Hanna, as well as being a trustee on the Hanna School Board for twelve years.

In 1968, I quit the lumber business and concentrated on expanding the farming and ranching in partnership with my son, Allan, who purchased the adjoining holdings of Lewis Steeves. The lands we now farm once belonged to

several oldtimers and are still referred to as such — the Kroll place, the Fox place, the Steeves place, etc.

Joan and I still live in Hanna and our children are all married.

Allan married Diane Charlton of Hanna and they have a daughter, Shannon. After attending S.A.I.T. for two years and obtaining his automotive license, Allan worked as a mechanic in Hanna for three years before going farming. They now reside on their farm [illegible] the Walls district.

Randy married Ann Wallace of Hanna. After graduating from University at Calgary, he worked as a geologist at Elsa, Yukon for two and a half years before returning to the family farm.

Judy married Bruce Pennock of Hanna. They live in Calgary where Bruce [illegible] employed with A.G.T. and Judy is a Judicial Clerk at the Court House.

George and Adelaide Steeves

MR. and MRS. GEORGE STEEVES, By granddaughter Delpha Howatt — George and Adelaide Steeves, with three of their daughters came from Washington to Olds, Alberta, in 1908. They lived with us for a year. Grandpa came to this district to file a homestead on south-west quarter 35-31-15. Dad and his brother John came to help build [illegible] house. Father helped them bring their cattle across country.

Ethel, the eldest daughter married Currie Johnston in 1911. They lived on south-west quarter 4-32-15. His brother Dave lived with them. They moved to British Columbia in 1918. They raised a family [illegible] twelve children. Aunt Ethel still lives in Vancouver.

Sarah married Fred Borel in 1914, and lived north of Craigmyle, until they retired to Calgary in 1945. They had one girl, Louise, who married Archie Blair.

Katherine, better known as Kit, married Tom Scott in 1917.

Grandma and Grandpa lived here until 1920, when they moved north to Blackfoot for several years, then came back to the former place, and lived here until his death; Grandma went to Calgary to live with Sarah and Fred, where she stayed until her passing in March 1950, at the age of ninety-six.

Grandpa had a keen interest in his horses. Grandma was always there; quiet, cooking, scolding grandpa or reading her Bible, which was the only thing that she ever read. She always seemed real old [illegible] me, but she really wasn't. She would walk over to our place many times, a distance of two miles.

HARRY and ALBERTA STEEVES, By Delpha Steeves Howatt — Harry Steeves came to Olds, Alberta in 1900 from North Dakota, where he had worked as a well driller for many years. He took a homestead eleven miles east of Olds. He married Alberta Abel, commonly known as Berty in December 1902. Five of us children were born there, Delpha, Elva, Lorna, [illegible]arian and Elroy was three months when we came to the St. George district. I remember the trip across country very well. It was November 1913. Dad had a large democrat with the organ, dad, mother and the two babies rode in it. He pulled the buggy behind and we three

girls rode in it. It took two and a half days to make the trip. We forded the river at Munson. I'll always remember how frightened we were. We were afraid that our old dog (Bounce) would drown.

However, on November the sixth we arrived at Granddad's in the dark. We lived with them until dad, mom and his brothers built a house on Uncle John's place where we lived until the spring of 1916. By this time father had purchased south-half 28-31-15, and built a house and barn on it. The winter of 1916, dad was working on the house and mother had gone to the States for a visit and myself, then eleven and Elva, nine, stayed home with dad. Well, we did the cooking and took it over every day on the stone boat, with our old crippled horse, Pearl. I'm sure that there must have been some queer meals. We had a gray enamel coffee pot that held a gallon, and we always had that. We cooked meat and spuds and sometimes beans. Grandma baked our bread, so that helped. It would not have been so bad, but we had well drillers as well; so there were three extra men to feed. I wonder what kids would do nowadays. We were not in school, as it had just opened in August and always closed in the winter months.

Those were lonely days for two girls, who were expected to be grown up. There were no close neighbours, except our grandparents.

In the spring of 1914, my father was in town, the snow was all gone except a few patches. Mother saw a very large smoke in the west, she had never seen a prairie fire, and was alone with us children. Soon grandfather, Uncle Jim and Emil Backman came running to help. They tried to stop it before it got to our buildings, but were not successful. Mother sent Elva and Lorna, who were quite small, across the plowed field to grandma's. She took the two little ones and me out to a plowed field and I sat and held my baby brother and cuddled Marian for the whole afternoon. I remember it was Mert McCulsh, who came to bring us home after the fire was past. My father's new barn and feed went, also ten brood sows and the new pens. The cow was found a couple of days later. Granddad had to blindfold the horses to get them out of the barn. I never saw a distant smoke after that, without being terrified.

When we arrived there was not a school for us to go to. However on August 14, 1915, our new school was opened. There were four of us girls that started the same day. Half the time I carried Marian piggy back, as she was only five and I was eleven. We really had fun there. Very few of the children had scribblers at first, so Mrs. Bennett went out to the scrap pile, where the workmen had left pieces of building paper, and we all used that to write on. Finally it got settled down to normal. Then chicken-pox broke out in school. For me this was torture, as I hated to miss school. When it got cold we drove old Pearl horse on a stone boat.

Those were hard years in some ways. My dad hauled coal from Sam Wadsworth mine, and it was a long cold trip in the winter.

After my father had moved his parents out from Olds, he saw the need for a threshing machine in the area, so he shipped his big steam outfit to Castor by rail, and drove it over land the rest of the way. To my knowledge it was the first outfit in the district, and he ran it until the fall of 1921, when he sold it to Emil Backman.

As teenage girls there was very little entertainment for us. We went to a few dances, some surprise parties in the winter, but there was nothing much else to do in those days. I went out to work at the age of fifteen.

In 1921, I married Harvey Howatt. We had six children, three boys and three girls. Harvey passed away in August 1976. I now live in Lloydminster.

Elva married Ray Grantham and raised three girls and two boys. She passed away in May 1967.

Lorna married Bill Bolton. They had five boys and two girls. She still lives at St. Thomas, Ontario.

Marian married Elmer Grey. They had two boys and two girls. Elmer passed away in June 1972. Marian lives at Smithers, B.C., near two of her children.

Elroy married Maggie Nixon. They had a boy and a girl. He lives at Victoria, B.C.

Alice married Lorne Slack. They had two girls and three boys. Lorne died in 1952. She resides at Quesnel.

Hazel married Johnnie Kessler, they had six boys and six girls. Johnnie passed away several years ago. She is living at the present with Alice.

Ila, the baby, who was born after I was married, has a family of four boys and four girls. She lives at Kamloops, B.C.

Father and mother lived on the old place until 1934, when they moved [illegible] Bluffton. They were there until 1945, when they moved to Edmonton. [illegible] the spring of 1947, they moved to Summerland, B.C. Father passed away there in May 1948, at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at Bonnyville, where I lived at that time, [illegible] November, 1957, at the age of eighty-four.

JOHN STEEVES, By Freda Steeves Vertall — John Steeves came from Chamberlain, South Dakota in 1900 to Medical Lake, Washington, then in 1909 to the Olds area and [illegible] Hanna-Watts area. In 1910, he filed on a homestead, the north half of 27-31-15.

He married Lucille Elizabeth Scott in 1916. The Scott family had come from Nebraska in 1905 to Knee Hill Valley, where dad and mother met through Ken Steeves. After their marriage they moved back to the homestead. Dad ran a Candy Store in Innisfail in 1920.

They had four children; Lewis, Freda, Johnnie and Ruth. Mother passed away in 1938.

In 1946 dad sold his holdings to his son Lewis and retired [illegible] Aldergrove, B.C.

Lewis Steeves, 1965. Grand Champion Bull [illegible] Lacombe Bull Sale.

LEWIS STEEVES, By Lewis Steeves — Lewis Steeves, son of John and Lucille Steeves was born in 1917 on my father's homestead. Dr. Mason was the doctor in attendance. I got my education at St. George school.

In 1940, I bought the George Steeves (grandfather) homestead. In 1944-45 I ran the Hamilton Dairy; milking twenty-five cows by hand and later I bought a milking machine. I sold this milk [illegible] cans to John Patzer in Hanna, who bottled and delivered the milk.

In 1946, when my dad retired to Aldergrove B.C., I purchased his homestead and continued farming.

In 1953, I acquired my first registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, which later became one of the top herds in Western Canada. It was then known as "Sherry Farms" — named after my daughter. Foundation stock were sold in [illegible] the prairie provinces and many parts of the U.S.A. I continued farming until 1969, when I sold

the farm to cousin Tommy Scott and son. I retired to Hanna, but found life very boring.

Then in 1970, I purchased a farm at Ponoka, Alberta, where I re-established some granddaughters from my old Sherry herd, which again have become well known for foundation breeding stock.

We had four children: Marcia, Sherry, Richard and Valerie. Marcia married Bob Tychy of Edmonton and has three children; Sherry married Hector Lloyd and has a son. They reside in the Hanna area. Richard passed away in 1976 and Valerie is at home.

THE WARING STORY, By Wilma Waring Cheney — William and Mary Jane Waring were both born in England; they came to Canada around 1887, and settled in Victoria, B.C. William worked as a Steam Engineer at the Tuxedo Coffee and Spice Mill. They had six children, William, (my dad), Florence, Mable, Leonard, Harry and Bob, as far as I know they were all born in Victoria.

When at work, my grandfather met a man by the name of Jack Mograge. It seems as though Jack had bought land in Hanna that he had never seen. He moved his family there, and discovered that some of the land was a lake, Fox Lake. He built a sod house. Mr. Mograge was very lonely, so he wrote to his friend William in Victoria, and told him about sunny Alberta, and how great things were there. In 1910 the Waring family left Victoria on the C.P.R. which took them to Castor; they went the rest of the way by wagon. Six miles west of Hanna (now owned by T. [illegible]. Franklin) is where their homestead was.

My uncle Harry says, "The first summer we were there, all we had to use for fire was prairie peat, as there was no wood for miles around. In the winter we dug our own coal at a place called the Cutbanks. It took a full day to go, dig it out, and return. The first restaurant, a tent on the west side, but I can't recall the name of it. Copeville was the Post Office at that time, two miles east of Hanna. Things I remember vividly were the mosquitoes and the rain, it rained and rained, I thought it would never stop."

In 1916 Mrs. Waring and family bade their husband and father good-bye, he left for the battle-field; was a sergeant in France and Germany until the First World War ended. He then returned to Hanna.

The coming of the railroad made the walk to and from Hanna shorter as they went via the tracks. Dad helped the cook on the construction gang, when the railroad was being built; it went right in front of their farm.

William Jr. had his homestead closer to Watts. One of his friends was Roy Embree, in 1921 while he was staying with Dad he became ill, and dad nursed his friend through some very sick hours.

The Salvation Army came to Hanna; in 1924 dad married Lieutenant Victoria Ede. They left the farm and moved to Summerland, B.C. When grandpa died on May 22, 1926 as a result of a kick in the stomach he received from a horse, my parents returned to Hanna.

I was born on February 27, 1928. Two weeks later my dad was grief-stricken as they laid my mother to rest in the Hanna Cemetery. Hard as it was, life had to go on, his mother helped him with the baby. Later on he married Jean Maire from Winnipeg.

The younger members of the Waring family grew up and left for homes of their own. In 1929 my grandmother and her youngest son went back to Victoria.

Dad was living in Hanna by this time, where my half-sisters Ora and June were born. June died when she was eighteen months old. I remember how often we moved when we were growing up. Dad went wherever he could get work during

the depression years. He drove garbage and water wagons, he lathed and shingled many buildings.

My parents moved away from Hanna for the last time in 1951 [illegible] make their home in Calgary. I became a Salvation Army Officer in 1947, serving [illegible] Canada and India for fifteen years in all. I came back to Canada in 1960. I married Ralph W. Cheney, of Drumheller in 1962. We have two boys. Ora married James Pickering, and has one son.

Dad passed away in 1968 and mother in 1975. My uncles Len and Harry are the only two left of the Hanna homesteaders. They live in Victoria, B.C.

DAVID SCHMIDT, By Helen Schmidt — David Schmidt was born April 19, 1909 at Butte, North Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Simon and Marie Schmidt, in 1910. They homesteaded north of Watts on the west side of Dowling Lake.

David went [illegible] school at Dowling Lake whenever possible. One of his teachers was E. K. Neil. Others who attended at the same time were Levi and Philip Kennedy, Mac Fuller, Philip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartt, Antonia Hoffman, Pauline, Martin and Bertha Siezie.

After working out at different jobs such as running threshing machines for Doyles and Siezies and trucking for many years, he came back and bought one half section of land from Stuart McCandless, and started farming for himself in 1944. [illegible] 1947 he married Helen Weich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Weich.

We have four children; they [illegible] attended Watts school until it closed, then they were bussed into Hanna.

In 1960 we bought his father's farm; moved our house over there, and built up a farm yard. We got the power put in, which was very nice. Now there are rural gas lines that show things have come a long way since coal stoves and oil lamps, and carrying water from the pumps and wells.

We have four children: Lawrence married Paulette Campbell. They live in Calgary where he works under the name of Larry's Contracting. They have two children, Michael and Kari-Ann.

Leslie married Wendy Alspach; they are living in Hanna. Marvin married Mary Warminski. They live in a trailer home on the farm with us. Marvin is a mechanic for E. O. [illegible]arry and also farms. Gerald is still going to school taking his grade eleven. He does wood work and loves to take old cars apart and rebuild them.

HOFFMAN FAMILY, By Karl Hoffman — Julius Hoffman (Dad) was born October 9, 1867, [illegible] German-occupied Poland. In 1889 he was married to Eva Augusta Weiss who was born November 15, 1872 in Warsaw, Poland. To them were born four sons and four daughters.

That area of Europe was then dominated by Prussian militarism and ruthless warfare. Not wanting to live under this military pressure, and having heard of the free country of Canada where Julius had [illegible] brother [illegible] Edmonton studying Theology, they decided [illegible] move.

In the fall [illegible] 1907 with seven children, Ottilia, Sammuel, Rosella, Karl, Sigmund, Augusta and Antonia, they embarked on the ship Bresslau and after two weeks of ocean travel arrived in Baltimore, Maine, then went on to Edmonton by train. In the spring they rented land south-west of Edmonton.

Here we lived until 1909 when Dad went to Stettler to find a homestead where there was less bush, as clearing land of trees was hard work in those days. After filing on the south half of 17-32-15, we trailed three horses, a colt and several cows

to the homestead where there was not a building or fence in sight. We set up a tent, which was home until August, when Dad built the house which was added onto over the years and still stands today, overlooking a steep coulee where we kids spent happy times exploring for Indian Arrowheads and in winter sleigh-riding. Tillie and Sam stayed in Edmonton where they had jobs. I, Karl, eleven years at the time had to help look after things when Dad was away to Stettler or Castor. Once I had to help Mother butcher a pig — I never liked meat after that.

Julius and Augusta Hoffman

Karl Hoffman, 1918

In 1911, Albert Kellgren, a big Swedish carpenter and Dad, also a carpenter by trade, built the Dowling Lake School on two acres in the south-west corner of Hoffman's land. It was handy as the three younger ones, Sig, Gusti and Toni went to school there. Being fourteen years old I was considered of more help on the plow than in school. Some of the kids going to school then were the Kennedy's, Whitaker's, Howard's. While I was plowing near the school, out of sight of home, I would stop the horses, run over to the school, play ball with the kids until the bell rang, then back to my tedious job of plowing. The sod was torn open with a breaker plow and a willow tree nailed on a two by six dragged behind like a harrow [illegible] smooth the land. Oats was seeded by hand — harvested and stacked for feed — also wild prairie "wool". There were lots of rocks on the land so in 1912, Dad built a barn with a seven-foot wall of stones, cement and lime which stands as a memorial to a lot of hard work. Hope for the future was realized in 1914 with a good crop that year.

For the young folks in those days entertainment was not "ready made". No fancy arenas or such — we skated for miles on Dowling Lake in the winter; [illegible] the summer we made rafts. We thought nothing of riding twenty or thirty miles to visit the Kelbel's, Boehlke's and Michael's at Endiang; often were caught in a rain or snow storms but our faithful ponies Dewy, Pete and Frank used good horse-sense and brought us home. My brother Sig and I were always together and spent a lot of time hunting; everything from gophers to coyotes.

When I was married in March 1920 we lived on the Tingle place. After the terrible hailstorm in June 1923, I decided to leave the farm and in 1925 moved my family to Cold Lake northeast of Edmonton. Then in 1930 we came back again, and when Dad passed away I took over the home place and farmed it until 1974. I am now retired in Hanna and my youngest son Fred has the farm. I'm sure each oldtimer could write a book of his own about all the trials and tribulations and of course also the good times as a pioneer.

Julius Hoffman passed away March 12, 1934. In 1941 Augusta married Anton

Steldl, now deceased. Augusta died May 16, 1952. Both Julius and Augusta are buried in the Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Their children were:

Ottilia (Tillie) born 1891, married Edwin Clark in London, England during World War I. After his death she married Charles Atwater. She had three children. Tillie passed away at Castle Rock, Oregon in 1966.

Adolph was born 1892, died at the age of four of smallpox.

Sammuel born 1893, married Magdalene Rink, both now deceased. They had two children, Arthur and Violet. Arthur is married and lives [illegible] Edmonton. Violet lives in Delia.

Rosella born 1895; married Paup Vollbrecht of Oyen. She died in 1950.

Sigmund — born 1899 — married Marie Michael, lived in Three Hills, then Edson. Both are deceased. They had three children, Betty, Fred and Stanley.

Augusta — born 1901 — married Luther Schuetze. They lived in Manitoba where Luther was a missionary on the north shore of Lake Winnipeg. They had nine children.

Antonia — born 1903, married Roderick Schuetze and had three children. They are now retired at Duncan, B.C.

Karl was born in 1897. He married Emily Ruff and had six children; Antonia, Erna June, Norma, Verda, Raymond and Donald. Emily died in 1932.

Antonia married Ted Quaschnick, they had three sons. Ted passed away several years ago. Antonia and the boys and their families live in the Hanna area; Rod married Vivian Fortna, has a girl and two boys; Wes married Margaret Talmage; Merle married Linda Hutton and has one girl and one boy.

Erna June married Nester Svarich; lives [illegible] Calgary. They have one son and one daughter.

Norma married Elmer Thiessen — teaches in Calgary. She has two girls, Shelly and Cindy.

Verda is married [illegible] Emil Lilke. She teaches in Kelowna, B.C. She has one daughter, Rhonda.

Raymond married Lorraine Mossey and has a daughter, Susan. He teaches in Calgary.

Donald married Doreen Kane and lives at Cessford. They have one daughter, Geralyn, and sons Brent and Mark.

In 1946, Karl married Georgina Harris and had four more children, Richard married Shirley Graden, Fred married Bev Kurtz, Debbie and Corie are at home.

WATTS VILLAGE, By Doris Hutton — Survey of the C.N.R. railway came in 1912. A store and post office were built in 1914, by the Page Newton family. This store was later sold to Nick and Ada Lund in 1923, who operated the business for many years, then sold [illegible] to Jim and Alberta Boyd in 1945. They stayed with the business about twenty-five years, until the mail service was transferred [illegible] Hanna.

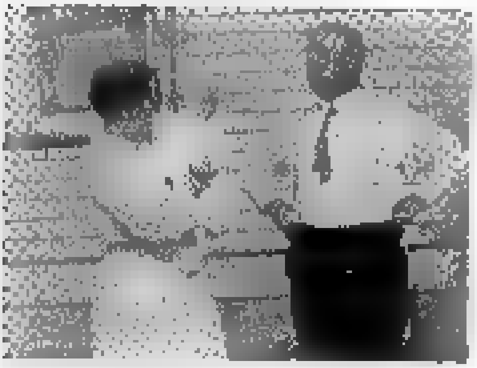
The Home elevator was built in 1914. In later years, it was known as the Pool Elevator. The National Grain Company built an elevator in 1915, the next year the Alberta Pacific was erected. These companies had accommodation in Watts for their agents.

Rienhold Rosenbaum was the first section foreman of Watts in 1916-17. Then a section foreman by name of Steve Greech and his family of two children, Sophie and Jake had residence here. Sophie married John Jucypink, a section labourer, also of Watts. Jake also worked for the C.N.R.

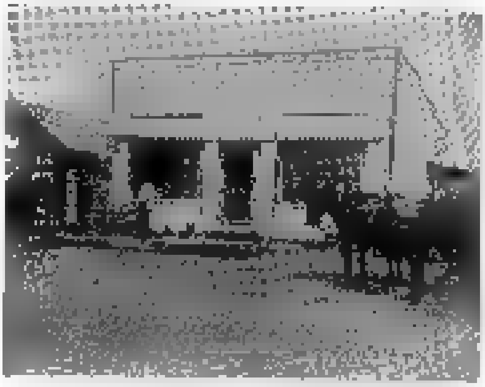
In the years 1926-35, Roy Embree had a garage and service station, where he

did mechanical work, well drilling and was the nucleus of our musical entertainment.

In 1937 with the co-operation of the newly formed Sullivan Lake School Division, a petition of interested parents was taken, and after much planning, a high school was opened in a little house left vacant by a section foreman; known as the "Grech House".

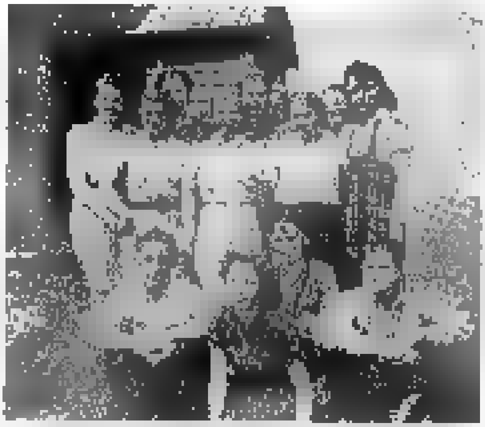


Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Newton, 1918, and Jack Phibbs.



Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store, 1923.

Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store.



Watts High School, 1941. Standing, Left to Right: Ruby Quaschnick, Annie Stuber, Marie Durand, Mildred Dahl, Edna Lund, Viola Dieter, Phyllis Cole, Joyce McCulsh, Mary Lund. Seated: Bill Burns, Blanche Coutts (teacher), Roy Phibbs, Larry Boyd.

The first teacher was Mrs. M.D. Cook, who used the National Grain Company house as her teacherage, which she shared with some of the students. Others batched in the Embree house and a little shingled shack, moved in by Oliver Durand for his family. Some pupils walked, rode horseback, or went by sleigh to the centre. Students came from St. George, Earltown, Eaton, Dowling Lake, Chain Lakes, Annasheim and Rocky Hill.

A piano was purchased for the school with money received mainly from raffles, box socials and dances. Mrs. Cook also gave piano lessons for twenty-five cents a lesson, and she donated these proceeds to the piano fund.

Classes increased in the little "Grech School" during the terms of 1937-40, until lack of space became intolerable. In the fall of 1940, the Silver Valley school, which had been unused for a number of years, was moved to the present location on the hill at Watts. Children were then picked up by school vans.

In 1941, the old Martin Dahl house was moved to the school yard to be used as a teacherage. In 1945 St. George was moved to this yard to be used as a public school; giving grades one to twelve being taught. [illegible] 1964 [illegible] grades were conveyed by bus to Hanna schools. St. George was moved to Youngstown, after their school burned, and the teacherage was moved elsewhere. Silver Valley building remains as the Watts Community Centre. All that remains of the "Greech" house is a vivid memory of "Watts High".

To mention some of the teachers: M.D. Cook, Verda Litke, W. Reichenbaugh, Armina Peterson, Kenneth Reeder, Marlene Shouldice, Marjorie Sugden, Beverly Bickle and Miss Ambury.

Due to progress of the country, population of Watts has depleted greatly. The only citizens are Mrs. Boyd, the William Lentesty family and Tom Chee Choo.

WATTS COMMUNITY IN THE 1930'S

By Tom Payne

Before beginning the writing of this article on the Watts community, I've had to analyze the conditions leading to the formation of an active community. I believe there must be sufficient people, with a large percentage of them adults. Secondly, there must be a common desire to find an outlet for self expression; and thirdly, there must be a nucleus of interested elders to start the organizing. With modern cars, and T.V.'s, I feel the great cycles of community life have come to an end, except in more isolated areas, but fifty years ago recreation and entertainment was a local product.

Clear Lake was a popular centre for summer recreation in the 1920's until the dry years turned the water alkaline. There was good swimming, and many good ball games were played there, by ball players like Lou and Cyril Doyle, Hicks Cole, Ed Burrows and Harold and Dan Lund, to name just a few. People came there from miles around.

The end of the Clear Lake era left a void, and as Watts had a lot of young people in the vicinity, a community spirit began to form. Roy Embree had a small dance band for some years, which livened up the winter entertainment in the country schools. Now soft ball games were started, and the nucleus seemed to centre around the elevator men, Sandy Orr, Hank Gorr, Allan Murray and Roland Griffin, all ex-ball players. We played just south of the tracks, on Jim Boyd's land, and every Sunday, weather permitting, saw many cars converge on the area. Usually enough people turned up for two teams plus spectators. We played mainly for fun; didn't enter any tournaments but did play Hanna and Silver Valley.

Remembering the names of people involved [illegible] the Watts community in the years of the thirties gives me a feeling of nostalgia. McCandless, McCulah, McCreight, Gorr, Miller, Hutton, Chee Choo, Leech, Johnston, Nixon, McAuliff, Alstott, Embree, Lund, Griffin, Orr, Moulding, Phibbs, Hoffman, Dahl, Scott, Stevenson, Nyhelm, Flett, Payne and many more.

We did try to start a hard ball team one time, and collected seventy-five cents for a bat. Hank Gorr had a ball, and a few gloves were collected here and there. Our first game was with Georgetown school and during the first inning, Carl Johnston broke our one and only bat. That was the end. We couldn't afford another.

The community also became more active during the winters, and some good plays were put on in the local schools. These, with the house parties, made our community second to none.

Hockey became quite popular also, although ice was always a problem, and it

seemed that the only time we had good ice was after a spring thaw. So as a hockey team, we were never a threat to the Maple Leafs. Hand Hills could always beat us, and so could Craigmyle. We just didn't get enough practice.

Alas, young people and families began to move away, and the cycle began to change, so by the end of the thirties only a few were left to carry on.

MR. and MRS. J. L. BOYD, By Mrs. Alberta Boyd — In 1908 Jim helped with the roundup of the buffalo, near Chicago, where he resided at that time. He was included in the group of men that drove the buffalo to Canada. Upon arriving here and looking the country over, he decided that he would like to remain here. In the spring of 1909 he went to the land office in Calgary. While checking the map over, he presumed a railroad would go near this special property south-half 31-17-15, which he chose to file a homestead on. After arriving in this barren country, he had many ups and downs. It took several days to go to Castor, which was the closest trading centre in those years, to bring home supplies. He spent a lot of time breaking horses for the neighbours. He worked on the rail grade near Drumheller. He purchased a well machine and for years drilled many water wells in the country. Jim also took his turn at roundups for stampedes, in his early years.

I came from Oxford, England, with a good friend, Mabel McCuish. I remained in Calgary and did housework for the Bruce Robinson family. After a time, I went to spend my holidays with Mabel. I had written a letter so asked if anyone was going to the post office. Mable said that Jim would likely be going, as he was at the McCuishes breaking horses. Jim asked me [illegible] go along for the ride. I was not familiar with horses then; it seemed [illegible] me that the horse was going too fast, I was so frightened that I fell off and broke my jaw.

Cupid seemed to hit us both at first sight. Jim being concerned, came to Calgary to see me. We were married at the Robinson home in December 1916. Jim was called to the army, and saw services overseas. He suffered shell shock and was almost gased. On his return from services, he picked me up, as I was still with the same people, and we came out here to start housekeeping. I became a lover of animals, and had a beautiful horse that I used for my transportation.

We were blessed with two children, who got their education at St. George, Watts and Hanna High Schools. Our daughter, Alberta, furthered her education, and became a Registered Nurse. For the love of her profession, she continued working at Trail Hospital, B.C., after her marriage to Winston Hallman. On her way to work on a frosty, foggy night, she met with a tragic auto accident, that left her husband with six small children; Boyd, Jay, Keith, Judy, Jim and Bruce. Our son, Larry and wife Yvonne have two children, Shawn and Lorna. They are [illegible] the Kenmac Automotive and Industrial Parts business at Gibson, B.C.

Jim had a lengthy chore as secretary for Watts Mutual Telephone Co. and St. George School district. He was also a member of Alberta Wheat Pool, Imperial [illegible] of Canada Ltd., as well as the Hanna Legion.

[illegible] 1945 we purchased the Watts store and post office from the Nick Lunds. Jim met the train daily at 1:10 A.M. to collect and dispose of the mail. We operated this business for twenty-five years, and Jim continued his farming. In 1968 we closed out the store, when postal services were centralized to Hanna. We then sold the farm to Gus Annas, and decided to enjoy our later years. We still made Watts our home.

We loved [illegible] travel in our own car, we covered many miles through the States and Alaska. We drove out several times a year to visit our son Larry and family, also many friends along the way, until illness overcame Jim in 1971. He passed away in March 1973.

I raised turkeys all my farm life, and many folks enjoyed them on their Christmas menu.

I enjoy good health at age ninety-two. I still reside at Watts, and do my housekeeping and entertaining. I enjoy sports and rarely miss any, on my colored television. I raise a garden in the summer and with my plants and cats in the winter, I keep my time filled.

My nephew, Frank Grover, makes his home with me, when he is off duty from his work with an oil company.

SPENCER BURNS FAMILY, By R. W. (Bob) Burns — Our Dad, Herbert Spencer Burns was born at Greenbank, Ontario and moved west with his parents and seven brothers in 1901. They first settled in the Didsbury area and later our Dad moved with his parents and some of his brothers to the Hanna area, I believe the district was called Maunders.

Our Mother was born in Sheridan, Montana. She and her parents came to Alberta a short time later and in 1917 they moved from the Lone Butte area to a farm on Wolfe Creek about three and a half miles north of Watts. She lived with her parents Newton and Addie Hartt until her marriage to our Father. Mother and Dad took up farming on a quarter section of land about a half mile north of the creek. My brother Bill and myself were born during the time that our parents lived on this farm, and our sister Marianne came along later, during the time that we lived in Watts.

My earliest recollection of this area, probably about 1932, concerned [illegible] terrible dust storm that blackened the sky; Dad was away and Mother was visiting her parents just across the road, and my brother Bill and I had to stay in the house by ourselves as Mother couldn't make it home because the storm was so bad. We were two frightened kids by the time Mother did get home.

We lived on the farm until 1935 when Dad got the job as elevator agent for the Alberta Pacific Grain at Watts, and that summer we moved into a rented house there. In 1937 they transferred Dad to Jenner, Alberta and in 1938 we moved back to Watts at which time Dad took over as agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool. At this time he again started to farm our land north of Watts. This particular venture suffered quite a set back when all the horses Dad had bought died from some disease. Dad was then forced into buying [illegible] tractor which turned out to be a far better investment than the horses. [illegible] 1939 both of my grandparents (the Hartts) had passed away, and we took over their half section of land.

In later years it became the social event of the week to drive into Hanna on a Saturday afternoon or evening. Much visiting was done by the older folks while the young folks thought up ways [illegible] make the older folks older, however Joe Winkler, our town police, never bothered with us so I guess we weren't too bad.

We farmed and Dad ran the elevator until 1945 when dad sold out and moved to Carstairs where he took over the Cockshutt agency for a period of one year, and in 1946 we bought a farm at Delia. Dad kept this farm until 1947 when I left home, he then sold out and moved to Didsbury. About 1952 or 1953 Dad and Mother moved to Vulcan where dad was field Supervisor for the County until his death in 1960.

Mother is living in Lethbridge, as well as our sister Marianne and her family. My brother Bill and his family live at the coast, while my wife and I live in Calgary.

THE CHEE CHOO FAMILY, By Tom Chee Choo — My father Lo Chee Choo, and my mother Mary and four children, Tom, Mary L. (Lily), Eva and Roy came from Calgary to Stettler in 1911, where we lived for a while, then we moved to Castor where father operated a restaurant. In 1913 through a friend of his, W. Waring, who homesteaded northwest 9-31-15, he heard of land in this area, so dad homesteaded in the south half 20-31-15 and the family moved here from Castor [illegible] September 1913. There were two children born here later, Irene and Albert.

I remember how we children had to carry our drinking water from a spring one mile down the creek, in ten-pound syrup pails, for the first two years. We used slough water for washing, then dad bought a cow which we trained to pull a barrel of water on a stoneboat.

I recall a prairie fire that started in the north near Endiang and swept south to the railroad grade at Watts. This new grade stopped the fire from spreading any further.

Another incident I recall, was when the Home Elevator was under construction. They hired me [illegible] use my saddle horse to pull lumber by ropes up to the scaffold.

We children all attended St. George School. The rest of the family all left this area. I still live on the home place; Albert lives [illegible] Sooke, B.C.; Irene Beauregard resides in Toronto, Ontario; Lily Basasco lives [illegible] California; and Eva Locke is in Seattle.

Mother lived with me until her passing in 1964 at the age of sixty-seven.

ROY CHEE CHOO, By Bertha Chee Choo — In 1913, Roy came from Castor with his parents, Lo and Mary Chee Choo, brother Tom and sisters Lily and Eva to the homestead at Watts. He attended St. George School. Roy worked at home on the farm. He also worked at the Hemstock mine, and the Sheerness and Drumheller coal mines.

In 1940, Roy married Mrs. Bertha Erickson. They lived [illegible] Watts, where her son Gerald attended school for a while.

In December 1942, Roy enlisted in the army and after basic training was sent to work at the mines at Morinville, as there was a shortage of reliable help. The Government granted leave to those experienced men [illegible] work in this mine. In 1945, Roy got his discharge from the army. We lived at Edmonton and Trochu. We were planning to open a radiator shop in Three Hills, but were called home due to the illness of mother. The next three years we spent on the farm. We raised a bountiful garden and Roy worked with his brother on the farm.

In 1949, we moved into Hanna where Roy operated a Radiator Shop until his sudden passing in June, 1964. I still raise a large garden in my yard and enjoy doing handicraft.

We have four children: Gerald lives at Alabama U.S.A.; Mrs. Pat Grismer of Blackfalds has three children; Mrs. Joan Elm of Hanna has two boys and Douglas, an ardent hockey player in his school days [illegible] now employed in Oilfield work at Swan Hills.

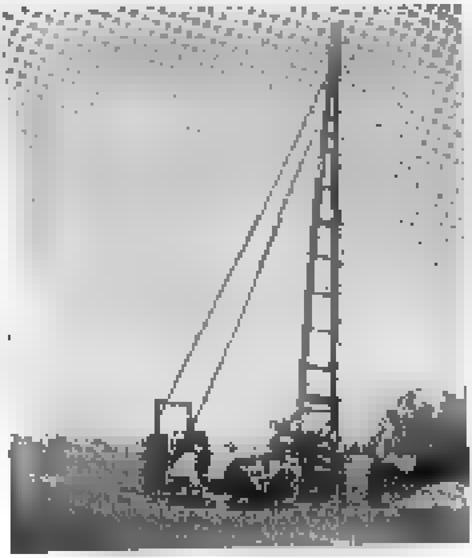
ROY EMBREE, as told by Roy Embree — I was born in the state of Washington [illegible] 1895. The family came [illegible] Castor in 1907. Then in July 1913, I filed on a homestead, north-west quarter 20-31-15, and batched with brother Mark. I did mechanical and repair work for Louis Payne and Ed Parker. I worked for S. Halbrook [illegible] 1915 on his threshing outfit, until harvesting was finished here, then went to Suffield to complete the year [illegible] the same type of work. I operated a threshing machine for George Banner from 1922-24. My experience with threshing machines also took me to Vermilion.

My musical talent started to show at age seven and a half years. I seemed to have a unique ability to repair and restore anything, especially violins and guitars.

During a festive season in my bachelor days, I was riding horseback to play for a dance when I developed a sore throat, but my enthusiasm kept me going for three nights. I finally arrived home dreadfully ill. Mark called Dr. Mason, and his diagnosis was smallpox, and ordered quarantine for six weeks. Before the year ended I contracted mumps, measles and pleurisy.

[illegible] 1928 I built a house and small garage at Watts, where I did mechanical work for the neighbours. I went to Summerland B.C. to visit my brother and met Jean Duplet. We were married in 1929. We had four children. Doris Bolt lives in Saskatoon and has two girls and one boy. Ruby Tunke of Peace River has two boys and a girl. Yvonne Fawcett resides in Calgary and has three boys. Leslie, [illegible] son, died in infancy.

Roy and Jean Embree


Roy Embree's well machine

I purchased a Rock tool machine and later a Rotary for drilling water wells, some of which are still pumping today. We moved into Hanna 1936. I continued with this business, but had gotten pipe fitting tools with the outfit, so I decided to take a swing at plumbing, and sold the well outfit. In 1941 wages for plumbing were fifty-five cents an hour. In 1943, I travelled back and forth to Castor to work with brother Tom, making munitions (airplane parts) for ninety cents an hour. I continued my plumbing business and became interested in giving of my time to repair and restore antiques at the Hanna Museum.

I attended the first stampede at Jack Miller Ranch in 1917, and many others including the Diamond Jubilee of the famous Hand Hills Stampede in 1976. For many years my orchestra played for the stampede dance.

My love for music caused many hardships getting to and from dances. We had to go many miles in all types of weather and road conditions. Transportation was by sleigh, horseback, buggy, walking and in later years by car. I recall leaving home [illegible] mid afternoon, early in spring, to play for a dance at Hand Hills Club House, twenty miles from home. Just after midnight a blizzard blew [illegible], and the president ordered no one to leave, and bargained with us to continue playing. We entertained the folks until six in the morning, then shared a bit of lunch that was left from midnight, and tried to rest in corners and on benches. A few hours later, the storm subsided a bit, and we started out on our long cold journey home. The horses had eaten [illegible] the hay out of the box, and all that remained to sit on was a few Russian thistles. The horses found it hard to cope with the cold wind at thirty-seven degrees below zero. On our arrival home, we realized that we had been away for twenty-four hours. Our hours of playing in the early days warranted seventy-five cents to one dollar and a half each plus lunch, for an evening's entertainment. In the early thirties my orchestra included Fred Edwards, Tom Payne, George Alstott, Jack Leech and others.

I recall playing for dances and parties at Wiese, Eaton, Annashiem, Garden Plains, Chain Lakes, Hand Hills and Craigmyle to mention a few. As the years passed, we were blessed with a few more dollars for the folks' fun.

In two of the later years we played for two hundred and fifty-five dances, from Delia to Youngstown, Cessford to Garden Plain, including Saturday night dances in Hanna.

I suffered a stroke in June 1975. After a couple of months hospitalization, I was allowed to come home in my wife's care. We still enjoy the dignity of living in our home, and enjoy visits from relatives and friends.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

By Tom Payne, as told by Roy Embree

This little vignette of youth took place about sixty years ago, around 1917-18. The stage was set when Jack Sutherland, a young bachelor farmer, who lived south-east of Watts, bought a spanking new high-topped buggy, a thing of beauty. The first act of the drama began when he went over, one Sunday, to the home of Mrs. Annie Johnston, one mile west, to visit her attractive daughter. James, the son of Mrs. Johnston, persuaded Jack to let him try out his new buggy, and then drove north-east of Watts, to the home of Mark Embree.

Visiting there that day were Joe and Tom Robinson and Roy Embree. Whose mind first dreamed up the devilish scheme doesn't matter now, but all were accessories to the fact. They removed the pole and tied a rope to each side of the front axle. Two boys stood in front, each with one of the ropes, and two stood behind. They were cautious to start with and coasted several times down a small hill east of the house without a mishap. All was well. They looked around for more thrill, and more fields to conquer, and found what they were looking for on a large hill on the main road three-quarters of a mile north of Watts. I believe Jim Johnston and Tom Robinson were the steering committee, while Roy and Joe stood on behind. All started fine, and they began their adventure. As they picked up speed, though, it became increasingly harder to steer, they began to drift over to Tom's side, so Jim said, "Ease up on your rope a bit." Tom eased up, and Jim pulled over to his side too much. Tragedy struck, and they overturned into the ditch. The boys were not hurt, but oh, that beautiful buggy; the top was completely demolished.

A chastened group of boys hauled the buggy back to Mark's, and surveyed the situation. The outcome was that they spent the rest of the day repairing the top, and did such a perfect job that Jack Sutherland never knew it had happened.

Mark Embree had a well near his house, equipped with a windlass to haul up the water. It may have been the same group of young adventurerers who removed the pail, and hung in its place a length of railroad iron, six or eight feet long. The boys took turns striking the iron with a large sledge hammer. It made a lovely gong that could be heard for miles around. Unfortunately the rope finally rebelled, and let the iron fall to the bottom of the well. They found another piece of iron to tie to the rope, but in the process of striking it, accidently dropped the hammer into the well, where they both lie to this day. Mark was not at home that day, and what he remarked when he found out is not on record.

WELL CHARGED

As told by Roy Embree

In 1926 or 27 one of the local lads was Simon Geetz. Roy recalls he sported a large felt hat with a floppy brim, torn across [illegible] one spot. One day he visited Roy [illegible] Watts, and Roy gave him some radio wire to mend his hat. He wove the wire around the brim, and also mended the tear. Sometime later [illegible] was busy working in the field when a storm came up. This super hat attracted a charge of electricity and gave Simon a terrific jolt. He tore off the hat and threw it to the ground, but I can well imagine Simon had the first Afro hair style in Alberta.

Jack, Laura, Clifford, Roy

LAURA and CLIFFORD PHIBBS, By Jack and Roy Phibbs — Clifford Stacey Phibbs was born of Irish ancestry [illegible] Hagersville, Ontario, March twenty-first 1872, a happy event on the first day of spring anywhere. He was raised on a farm and was the youngest of a family of eight. In his youth he apprenticed with a local blacksmith for seven years, becoming a master blacksmith. He immigrated to the United States in 1894 and became an American citizen in the County of Polk, Minnesota, [illegible] 1896. For several years he blacksmithed in the woods and [illegible] various mines, and also homesteaded and worked westward. In season he followed large steam threshing machines, one of which gave the crew [illegible] oyster supper anytime they threshed five thousand bushels in a day.

By 1909 the desire to homestead in Alberta brought him back [illegible] Canada. From Stettler he came down into this area, which later became known as the Watts district, where he filed on the northwest quarter 16-31-15. In the spring of 1910 he left Bear Creek, Montana for Calgary and on April the fifth bought four "broncs", a wagon and box, some farm equipment, and a blacksmith outfit and trekked eastward to the homestead site. He maintained that by the end of the first day out [illegible] Calgary the "broncs" were well broken. At that time Stettler was the main business centre and from there his building supplies were hauled.

By 1913, his homestead being proved up and pre-emption paid for, he became a British subject again, by way of a Certificate of Readmission to British Nationality, his address being registered as Obelisk. Besides breaking up his land he raised horses and chickens, and had a local blacksmithing business. He often spoke of helping Andy McKay in his shop in Hanna during the slack times and to get there he would walk seven miles in and seven miles home each day.

The railroad survey came through in 1912, and some of the survey work was done in the winter. Harry Shoultz was the contractor and Dad was hired to haul the survey gang around in his bob sleigh.

Having become interested in breeding horses, in the fall of 1915 he went to Edmonton in search of stock. It happened that he stayed at a boarding house where a young school ma'am was staying and so a romance began. It is unclear whether the original purpose of the trip was carried out.

The young lady in question was Miss Laura Evans, who was born in Chicago, U.S.A., on October the ninth 1883, of Scotch and Welsh parents. By the age of ten she and her sister and brother were orphaned and they moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where they were raised by relatives. By 1902 she had acquired her grade eleven diploma and a third class teacher's certificate in Nova Scotia. This started her on a career of teaching and upgrading her own education. By 1909 she had grade twelve and also a first class teacher's license in Nova Scotia. She was also interested in painting and horticulture, both of which she studied in Chicago, and Guelph, Ontario. By 1914 she had succumbed to the call of the West and went to Edmonton where she taught under the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Carpenter, who later became Dr. Carpenter, principal of the Technical School in Calgary.

The year of 1916 must have been quite momentous for Mother and Dad as they were married in Calgary in August and spent their honeymoon in Banff. Incidently Mother often mentioned that Dad carried a few heads of wheat in his pocket which he examined periodically. You guessed it, the morning of August the fourteenth there had been a severe frost.

In the spring of 1917 Mother and Dad were expecting a blessed event so the building of a new house was undertaken with Andy Murdoch as carpenter. In spite of everything it wasn't finished before the stork arrived and John Clifford was born in the homestead shack, which has since gone through the process of being a chicken house, granary and a garage. Dr. Mason arrived in a buggy for the event and Mrs. Henry Wallie, a neighbour lady, was midwife.

At this time, namely late teens and early twenties, Dad and Mother with the vision of raising a family and helping to establish a viable community, built a new barn in 1918, bought a new Chevrolet Baby Grand car in 1919, had a thirty-two volt electric light plant installed in 1920 and the telephone installed in 1921. During this same period of time the northwest quarter 9-31-15 was acquired from W. Waring and the southwest quarter 21-31-15 was acquired from Clarke Renn.

The municipality was so short of money that teachers could not be paid and so some schools were closed. In the winter and spring of 1923 Mother taught the local school, St. George, her wages, whatever they were, to be paid later.

At approximately this time, Dad put in his time as councillor in the Dowling Lake Municipality.

February first 1926, Roy Stacey was born in the General Hospital in Calgary. We had moved to Calgary for three months. Jack went to Bankview Cottage School, just off seventeenth avenue southwest. Dad couldn't sit around all winter so he took a course in farm mechanics at the Institute of Technology and Art. He maintained that he was the oldest student in the school. Mark Embree, a bachelor neighbour, looked after the farm. We all arrived home by train in early April, in the middle of the night. Mark had the bob sleigh to drive us home and it was very cold with a lot of snow. In the excitement Mother's bowl of goldfish was left on the station platform and that was the end of the bowl of fish, for even though Mark went right back they were frozen.

In the early years the families were not nearly as self-sufficient as they are today. Machinery was not plentiful, and help was scarce so each family helped each other with whatever manpower and machinery was available. This was especially true in haying and threshing times when extra hands were necessary. Dad's closest neighbours were Tom Edwards, Horace Payne, Mark Embree and Jack Sutherland. They pooled their resources each year as circumstances dictated.

Another community effort, especially during the thirties, was roadwork. Each farmer would take a four horse team and move dirt with a fresno at some point on his local road where repairs were necessary. Someone would be foreman and supervise the job. In July or August when this work was usually done, it would be hot and dusty and men and beast would enjoy a rest now and then, the length of rest depending largely on the mood of the foreman. One foreman was said to have admonished his crew with this observation, "I don't care how slow you move, but keep moving." The money that was earned from the work was applied towards paying the taxes of the crew members. Sometimes someone would have ice left from last winter's ice harvest, and this would be used to keep the drinking water cool.

By 1937 the depression was about at its peak and as money was very scarce, a great many schools were closed or didn't have facilities for high school. Through the years Mother and Dad remained staunch promoters of education, especially further education for those rural young people whose one room schools were limited to grades one to nine.

Their two sons Jack and Roy grew up on the farm. We got our public school education at home by correspondence and at St. George. Jack got his high school at Mount Royal College [illegible] Calgary, then went [illegible] Provincial Institute of Technology and Art and graduated with a diploma in Industrial Electricity in 1936. Jobs were scarce. Dad had an attack of pleurisy just as spring work was beginning so Jack settled into the routine of the farm. [illegible] the spring of 1940 we bought the north half 21-31-15, from Mark Embree and the die was cast for a life on the farm for Jack. The winters seemed longer and tougher then, partly because the municipality and government did not have equipment to keep the roads open. One winter we built a small plough on the tractor and at one time even had to use it on number nine highway to get the neighbours and ourselves to Hanna for supplies.

[illegible] December of 1949 Jack married Isabel Forbes, who worked in the Special Areas Office in Hanna. Jack and Isabel built a house in the same yard with Mother and Dad's house.

Isabel and Jack have been involved with the Earltown Local F.U.A., Jack as past president, Isabel catering with the ladies. With the First United Church of Hanna; Jack took a turn as chairman [illegible] board of stewards, Isabel, president of U.C.W. In the days of the mutual telephone company Jack was troubleman for the Watts Mutual Telephone Company, he is an advisory committee man with local U.F.A. Co-op Limited; farm supply and bulk fuel, also committee man with the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Jack, believing that clean pure seed is very important [illegible] a farming community, became involved in the formation of the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant in Delia. He is a charter member of the plant and also a charter member of the board of directors representing the Special Areas shareholders. The Plant cleaned [illegible] excess of four hundred thousand bushels of grain in 1976.

Jack and Isabel have two sons, Robert John and William Stacey. Bob got his education in Watts and Hanna, then went to Olds and took a farm mechanics course. This led to various jobs with farm machinery dealerships and eventually a permanent job with the city of Calgary as [illegible] mechanic. He married Lorna Groves, who also works for the city. Bill went to Watts, Hanna and Drumheller for his education and farms with his dad and when time permits he has worked with Olmsteads, moving buildings. He has spent some time on the pipeline.

Roy graduated from Watts High School in 1943 and having developed a little of his parent's early desire to see new places, spent the next three years working [illegible] Drumheller, Hanna and Calgary during the summer and attending Business College during the winters. After working in a service station at Olds, a yen for general stores led Roy to employment in Halkirk. Roy and Marian Laarz were married in 1950 and operated a store, post office and telephone exchange in Endiang. In 1969, they settled [illegible] Stettler, to be associated with Gulf Oil for fourteen years and then with Alberta Power project at Battle River. Marian worked with Roy

in the business ventures and later worked with an accountant in Stettler. They have three children; Gerald, Gwen and Doug. Gerald graduated from Stettler High School. He had various jobs to finance a world tour and is now a gas plant operator. Gwen married Terry Stenberg and moved to Olds, where she is a cashier in a drug store. Doug is attending Junior High in Stettler.

Dad used to enjoy taking his twenty-two rifle and his old dog out to the fields to check on the cattle and the crops and to raise cain with the gopher population. Later, when his health wouldn't allow him to walk so far, someone would take him around in the truck or car. These little pleasures came to an end when he passed away in April, 1952.

Mother continued to live alone in her house, corresponding with pen pals the world over, reading, playing cards, watching television, tending her garden and house plants. Her health stayed reasonably good until December, 1964, when she passed away after a short illness.

Our parents gave us a good start by being good citizens; we are trying to carry on in the same tradition.

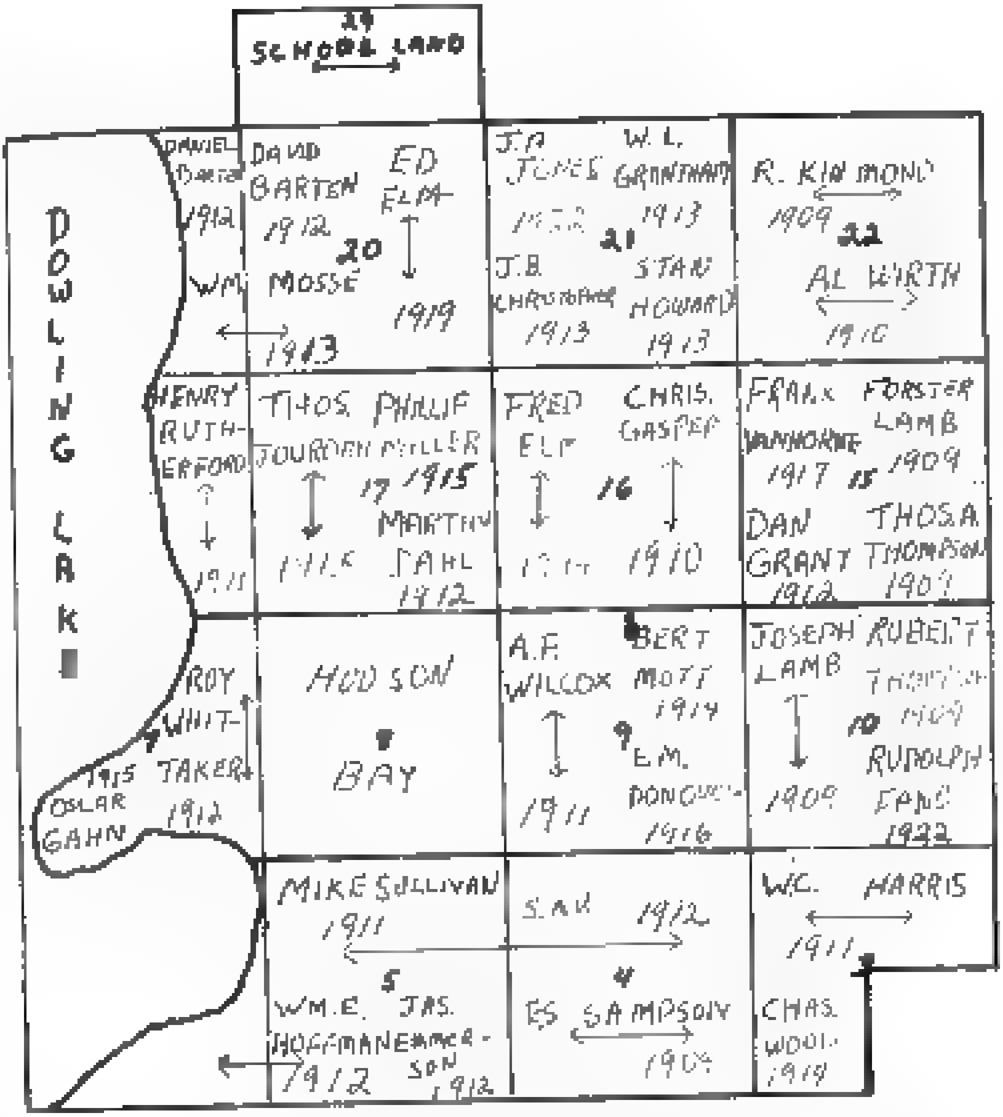
MR. AND MRS. HENRY WILLIE — Henry Willie was a trolley operator in Germany, prior to coming out to the Watts district to file on a homestead; northwest quarter 17-31-15. He was the quiet type, but always enjoyed a game of five-hundred, when friends dropped in.

Mrs. Willie with a kind heart, was always ready to give of her services as a midwife in the arrival of little newcomers, or other illness in the early 1900's.

They had one son, Fred. They retired to Hanna in the early forties.

2nd Avenue, Hanna, Alberta, 1930.

ANTELOPE HILL S.D. No. 3296



ANTELOPE HILL DISTRICT, OWNERS AND RENTERS
TOWNSHIP 33-14-W4

W½ 10
J. Lamb
F. Lamb
L. Sloane
H. Fortna

N.E. 10
R. E. Thompson
C. White
A. Faulkner
H. Oneal
R. Clayhold
R. Fano
H. Fortna

S.E. 10
R. Fano
Fortna

N½ 6
MacKenzie

S.E. 6
Wm. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

N½ 5
M. Sullivan
M. Dahl
J. Gartner
H. Schmidt

S.W. 5
W. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

S.E. 5
Jas. Emmerson
MacKenzie

N½ 4
Mike Sullivan
G. Schmidt

S.W. 4
E. S. Sampson
H. Schmidt

S.E. 4
E. S. Sampson
F. Lane
F. Kraft
J. Gartner
T. A. Campion

N½ 3
W. C. Harris
Frank Harris
Ronald Fano
J. P. Fortna

S.W. 3
Chas. Wood
T. Myles

J. P. Fortna

N.E. 19
Daniel Barten
Louis Grantham

S.E. 19
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
Louis Grantham

S½ 29
School Land
A. Fecho

N.W. 20
David Barten
H. Salbe
S. Brunner
Louis Grantham

S.W. 20
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
L. Grantham

N.E. 20
Ed Elm
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S. E. 20
Ed Elm
L. Doyle
A. Fecho

N.W. 21
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S.W. 21
J. B. Christopher
A. Mix

N.E. 21
W. L. Grantham
H. Weise
A. Fecho

S.E. 21
Stan Howard
Chris Gasper
O. Mix
A. Mix

N½ 22
R. Kinmond
G. Crossfield
G. Schmidt

S½ 22
Al Wirth
J. McClusky
A. Mix

E½ 18
H. Rutherford
Pearl and Stan Viste

W½ 17
Thos. Jourden
Pearl and Stan Viste

N.E. 17
Philip Miller
Ed Elm

Levi Kennedy
G. Schmidt

S.E. 17
Martin Dahl
J. Gartner
G. Schmidt

N.W. 16
Fred Elm
Thos. Ross
C. Gasper
A. Mix

S.W. 16
Fred Elm
Louisa Ross
A. Mix

E½ 16
Chris Gasper
D. Temple
F. Werner
O. Mix
A. Mix

N.W. 15
Frank Vanhorne
Al Wirth
A. Mix

N.E. 15
Forster Lamb
R. Clayhold
Al Wirth
A. Mix

S.W. 15
Dan Grant

J. Hamilton
Ed Wilder
Art Gain
B. Smart
F. Vanhorne
Fortna

S.E. 15
T. Thompson
Fortna

S.W. 7
Oscar Gahn
Wm. MacKenzi
P. H. Bay

E½ 7
R. E. Whittaker
D. Renke
MacKenzie

W½ 9
A. F. Wilcox
M. Dahl
M. Kennedy
F. Schmidt
G. Schmidt Sr.
G. Schmidt

N.E. 9
Bert Mott
G. Schmidt

S.E. 9
E. M. Donough
G. Schmidt

ANTELOPE HILL SCHOOL

By Mae Fortna

Antelope Hill School

Excerpts from a Hanna Herald of 1914 state, "The Antelope Hill S. D. was organized in the summer of 1914. It was situated in the south-west portion of township 32, range 14. From all reports the school should be built and operating by the spring of 1916." A school site was approved December 31, 1915, to be located thirty-two rods east of the south-west corner of section 16, township 32, range 14, W4. E.G. Sampson and Al Wirth were elected trustees of the Antelope Hill school.

Another excerpt from the Hanna Herald states, "July 20, 1916: At last the Antelope Hill school has been opened. This school has been the bone of contention between opposing factions for the last four years."

There are no records prior to 1920 available to show what attendance the school had, or who the teachers were. It was said that the school was opened for three students.

The teacher for the months of August and September in 1920 was D.M.

Thompson, followed by Mrs. A. Thompson, thought to be the wife of the T. Thompson who lived on the south-east of [illegible] at that time. There were six pupils for that term.

In those days, the school term ran from mid-July or August until the end of November, and the new term began in March. It seemed that there was a holiday break for the first two weeks in July. The school fair was held in mid-August.

There was occasionally an incident where the Department of Education questioned the teacher about the absenteeism of some of the students. Children were required to attend school from the age of six to fifteen, but it seemed that as they reached the age where they could be useful elsewhere, they did not attend school regularly.

Attendance records show from six to nineteen pupils, quite often about four or five to a family, and seldom more than four or five families representing the area. The peak attendance was reached in the late twenties and early thirties when ten grades were taught to about nineteen pupils. With the depression and drought, several of the larger families left the area in 1934. Attendance gradually dropped off until there were only four pupils left in 1936, at which time it had opened to operate only two weeks, and then closed permanently.

The original site of the school was on a hill overlooking Dowling Lake. It operated at this site for about ten years, and then it was moved down to a valley about half a mile away, on the north-east of section 9. It was about this time that the school term was changed to include winter months in the school year. In the late thirties, another school was brought in to replace the old one, but it was not used for a season before the school closed permanently.

The old school became a granary on the Al Wirth farm, and the new one was moved to Scapa.

Names of school inspectors who visited the school were Dobson, Haverstock, and Thurber.

Teachers were D.M. Thompson, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. E.J. Lane, Miss Violet Holmes, Miss Eva Jagoe, Miss Eva Hart, Miss Marion Chamberlain, William Hendrickson, Miss Agnes King, Miss Norine Maynes, Harold Ruskin, Miss E. Forbes, Miss Ernestine Stewart, and Miss Doris Amber.

JOSEPH LAMB and FORSTER LAMB, By Joe Scott — In 1909 Joseph Lamb came to Canada to take up a homestead. Accompanying him were his son Archie and his daughter Margaret Scott and her two children, Alice and Joe. They were met in Edmonton by Forster, who had already been in Canada for two years. Forster had been living in Edmonton where he had worked for a dairy and later drove a taxi, with horses and carriage. Forster went with them to the farm. They travelled by rail to Stettler, then by ox team to the homestead, in the company of the Lewis family who had settled in the Garden Plain district.

The homestead was the west half of 10-32-14, about five miles north of where Hanna now stands. The first dwelling was a 9' x 12' wooden frame with a tent for a roof. In the following weeks they built a four-roomed house and a barn. The only water was from a nearby slough, and what they hauled from some of the neighbors for cooking and drinking. They managed this way for nearly two years; during this time a well had been drilled down to about eighty feet without getting water, so they gave it up. Finally they found a patch of 'joint grass'. They dug for water near there and got a plentiful supply at only ten feet.

About this time, another daughter and her husband, Dan Grant, homesteaded just north of the Lamb's. They didn't stay there very long, but moved

back to the States, and [illegible] the age of ninety-five she still lives in Coventry, Connecticut.

Archie stayed only a short time and left for Lethbridge to ply his trade as a blacksmith; Margaret and her children moved to her husband's homestead in the Watts area. Joseph Lamb and Forster continued [illegible] live on the land. Forster had filed on land near there, the NE of 15-32-14 and the NW of 14-32-14, but in 1916 he traded his homestead to W.O. Stevenson of Richdale for a team of horses, and continued to work with his aging father. Joseph Lamb passed away in 1922.

Forster stayed on and worked his father's land. Later his niece, Alice Scott, kept house for him for several years until she married George Gwin. They moved to Cheadle for a short time, then back to Hanna where they still reside.

In the early days, 1911-12, he and his brother-in-law, Dan Grant, hauled lumber and other building supplies from Castor to Hanna. They took in one of the first loads of bricks.

Forster Lamb with a load [illegible] coal in 1920's.

Forster was meticulous about his work. On the farm he made [illegible] thorough job of picking stones off the cultivated land. He never used [illegible] tractor, nor had engines or motors of any kind on the farm. He kept accounts of his sales of butter, eggs, and chickens, and of expenses. He sometimes kept a journal of daily activities. One such entry reads: Hanna Fair, August 14, 1919, two first and one second and a special in grade beef classes, and a first for bachelor's loaf.

Forster was active in community affairs, taking a great interest in fairs, picnics, etc. He was on the Antelope Hill school board for most of the time from when the school was built until it closed in 1938.

In April, 1945, he rented out the farm and moved to Tofield where he made his home with his sister Sarah, Mrs. James Murray, for a number of years, helping with the farm work. When he came back to Hanna he sold the farm to Harold Fortna, and later moved to the Acadia Lodge.

Forster had a busy life in retirement. He enjoyed visiting his friends, attended church services, did a lot of reading, and wrote letters to friends and relatives. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneers, and the Historical Society. He also liked to work at the Museum. He was still interested [illegible] the cattle sales and attended them whenever he could. He liked to go to the Curling rink and watch the games.

Forster passed away in the Hanna hospital on May 16, 1972, at the age of eighty-six years.

THOMAS A. THOMPSON, ***By Mae Forbes*** — Thomas A. Thompson was a big man and is fondly remembered by the name Fatty Thompson. The Thompsons came here in 1909. The father homesteaded the SE 15-32-14; the son, Robert, homesteaded across the road from his dad, on the NE 10-32-14. There was a fairly large family, Kate, Ruby, Veva, Doris, Robert and Fordy.

Fatty Thompson had a steam outfit and did breaking for some of the neighbors. It is not known how long the family stayed here, but Fatty Thompson died in the C.N.R. pumphouse fire in Hanna on January 20, 1916. The family remained in the area until about 1920, as the names of both Mrs. A. Thompson and D. W. Thompson appear as teachers in the Antelope Hills school register.

Kate Thompson taught school in Hanna when the first school opened there. Later she married Chris White. They lived on the Bob Thompson homestead for a while and then moved to Red Deer.

There is no information available as to the whereabouts of any of the members of the family at this time.

CHRISTOPHER GASPER, ***By Dorothy Gasper Ward*** — Christopher Nicholas Gasper was born in Dancy, Wisconsin, on October 31, 1882. He came to the Hanna-Dowling area in 1909 by riding the rails. In search of a homestead, he carefully read the survey stakes in the area of his chosen home, but after filing his claim, he discovered that he had transposed the numbers, and instead of filing on the flat land [illegible] the east which he wanted, he had filed on the rougher, hillier land. The homestead that he acquired [illegible] 1910 was the NE 16-32-14. He later acquired the SE of 16 as well. Stan Howard, his neighbor to the north, homesteaded in 1913, but not intending to stay, never put up any buildings, but lived with Chris Gasper while [illegible] proved up on his land. He sold it to Chris in 1916.

Chris Gasper

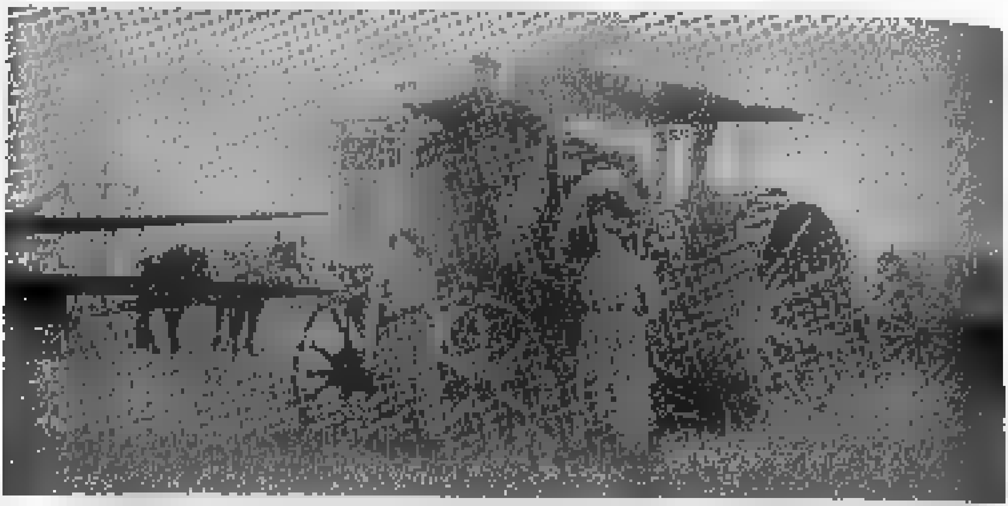
Chris built his house in 1914. In the early years, there was a syndicate composed of Gasper, Wirth, Weiss, and Young, which owned a threshing outfit. Even while Chris lived [illegible] Oregon, he always came back in the fall to run the threshing outfit.

Nellie Gay was born in Kansas [illegible] 1897. She and her mother came to Canada in 1900, lived at Tees until 1903, returned to the States where they lived for the next ten years, and came back to the Dowling district in 1913.

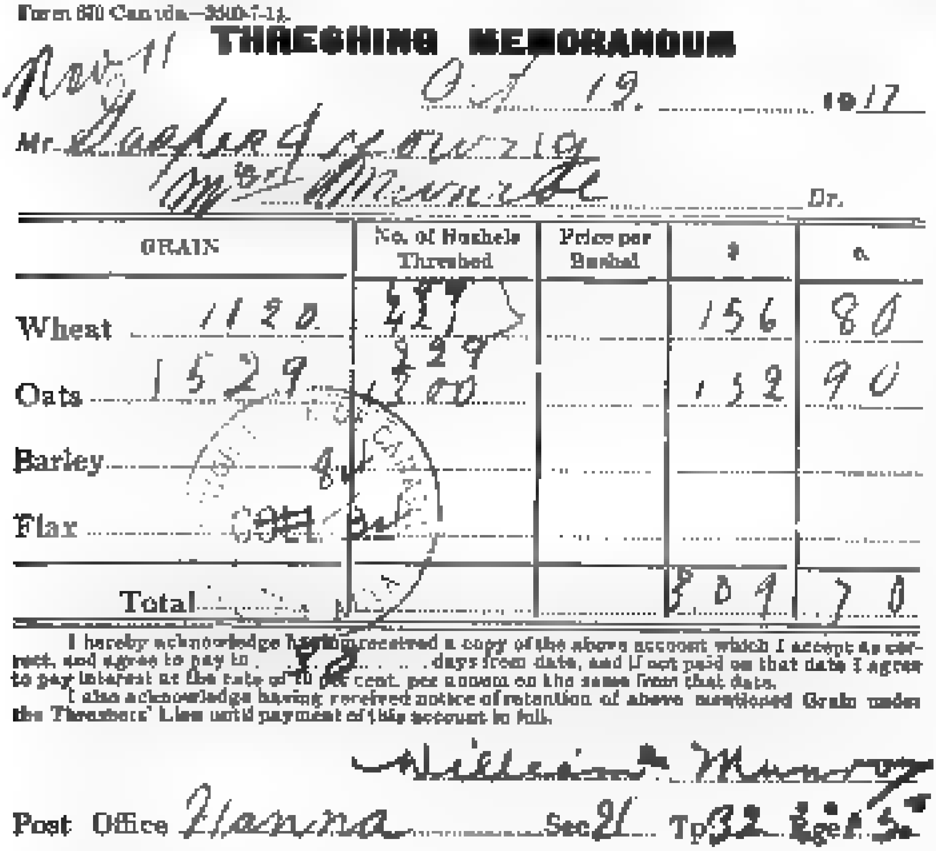
Chris Gasper and Nellie Gay were married in Hanna in 1921. A daughter, Daisy, was born a year later. Chris rented the farm to Dave Temple and the family

spent most of their time for the next few years in Oregon. A second daughter, Dorothy, was born while they were there.

The Gaspers returned to the farm in 1932. The girls attended Antelope Hi school, where Miss Beth Forbes was [illegible] teacher in 1936, and Miss Ernestine Siewert was the teacher in 1937. Those teachers boarded at the Gasper farm. Ou classmates were Albert, Gottlob, Hugo and Freda Schmidt, and Martin Baer' son. In 1938, because Daisy was going into grade ten and high school grades were no available in the country, the family moved [illegible] town.



Chris Gasper, Nellie Gasper, and Daisy Gay Wirth, taken with the old International tractor used for harvesting in 1915-16.



Form 690 Canada—3340-7-14.

Nov 11

THRESHING MEMORANDUM

Oct 19 1917

Mr. [illegible]

[illegible] Dr.

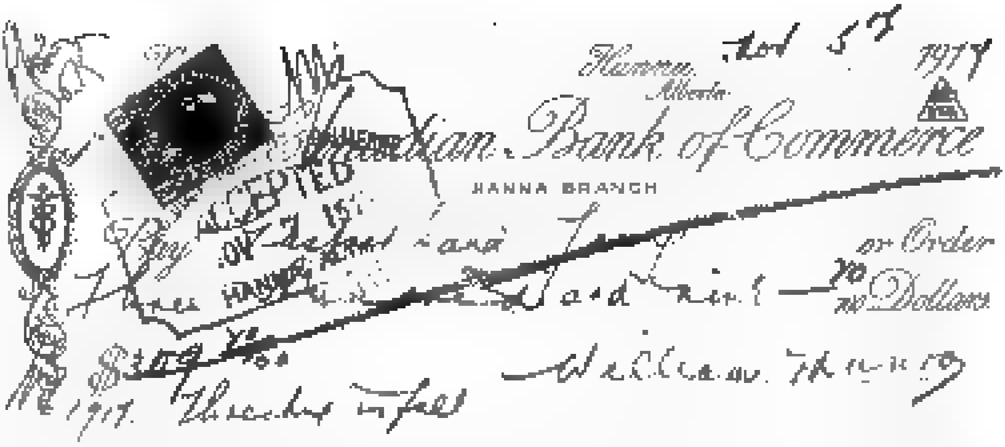
GRAIN		No. of Bushels Threshed	Price per Bushel	$	c.
Wheat	1120	227		156	80
Oats	1529	329 300		152	90
Barley		8 bu			
Flax	391	bu			
Total				309	70

I hereby acknowledge having received a copy of the above account which I accept as correct, and agree to pay in 90 days from date, and if not paid on that date I agree to pay interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the same from that date.

I also acknowledge having received notice of retention of above mentioned Grain under the Threshers' Lien until payment of this account in full.

William [illegible]

Post Office Hanna Sec 21 Tp 32 Rge 15



Hanna, Alberta Nov 5th 1917

Canadian Bank of Commerce

HANNA BRANCH

ACCEPTED

Pay or Order

HANNA

Dollars

$309 70/100

1917.

Chris continued to farm for a few more years, then rented the land and moved to town. In 1940 he was hired by the Town of Hanna as town engineer. He supervised the job of installing a waterworks system for the town. Chris was still working as town engineer when the water plant was completed in the fall of 1949. He worked by himself in the operation of the plant in 1950, then Joe Scott became his assistant.

Times were hard on the farm in the thirties and we welcomed the apples and whitefish shipped in from B.C. Piano lessons were paid for with cream and eggs, and we always had a big garden which we canned, pickled and preserved for the winter.

Chris Gasper died in Hanna on November 16, 1957, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery there. Daisy Gasper Cook died in Stettler in 1959 and Nellie Gasper died in Calgary in 1969. Both are buried in the Hanna cemetery.

Dorothy Gasper Ward lives with her family in Calgary.

Daisy and Al Wirth

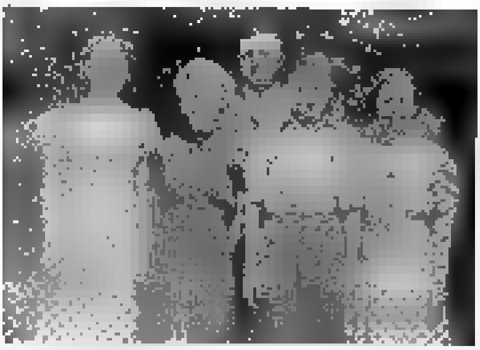
ALBERT LUDWIG WIRTH, By Mae Fortna — Since information on Al Wirth is very limited, I have compiled this story from an obituary which appeared in the Hanna Herald in 1926.

Al Wirth was born in Wisconsin. Later he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he was employed by the Stone Piano Company for several years.

He came to Alberta in 1910, and settled seven miles north of Hanna in the Antelope Hills area. He homesteaded the south half of 22-32-14. He was a close neighbor and friend of the Block family; he arrived in Hanna with them and lived with them for a while. In 1912 he freighted many loads of lumber when the town of Hanna was being built.

About 1920, Al Wirth married Mrs. Daisy Gay. He passed away in the Hanna hospital on April 20, 1926.

MARTIN DAHL, By Annie Miller Dahl — Martin was born at Trondheim, Norway, on June 4, 1892, the youngest of five children. He arrived in Saskatchewan in time for the fall work, unable to speak English. He came to Hanna where



Doris, Mildred, Martin, Jim and Annie Dahl.

he filed on a homestead seven miles north of Hanna and a half-mile east of Dowling Lake.

The town of Hanna had just come on the map, and being eager to go to work, he helped to build the Seymour Hotel and some of the other buildings that were being erected in Hanna. In the early days he worked at several other jobs as well as on the homestead. At one time he tended bar in the National Hotel.

On March 10, 1920, Martin and I were married. A few days later we had a blizzard which piled snow fifteen feet high. We were living on the Wilcox place at the time, where Schmidts live now.

In the spring of 1920, we built a house on Martin's homestead. That fall we moved into Hanna for the winter, and Martin went to work on the B & B gang. Our oldest daughter, Doris, was born.

In the spring we moved back onto our farm. We also rented the Mac Sullivan place, one mile south of us. Our own land was very rough and such a side hill that it was very difficult to farm it. During harvest time it was very hard for the bundle racks to pick up all of the bundles without upsetting. We later moved down to the Sullivan place but continued to farm our land also. There was only a small shack there so we built two more rooms on it.

Our second daughter, Mildred, was born in 1923, and our son Jim, in 1925. Times were not good but we had good neighbors. At the time Martin took me to the hospital to have my children, our bachelor neighbor, Henry Rutherford, stayed at our place with the children until he got back. Mr. Rutherford was a bachelor, but he taught me how to make bread! He harvested with us and was really a good neighbor.

For entertainment we had surprise card parties. We were surprised many times by our good friends. If it hadn't been for that, life would have been dull and lonesome. When a number of neighbors would come we would turn on the radio and dance to the oldtime tunes of W.W. Grant on CFCN. One time the batteries went dead on the radio, so Martin got out his fiddle and my brother George his mouth harp and we kept on dancing. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

One night a few men came over to play a card game called 'King Pedro'. They were so interested in the game that they pushed the lamp onto the floor. Luckily it didn't break as it was the only one we had.

There was a lot of 'home brew' made in those days. On one occasion, a neighbor having heard that the police were coming out to investigate, decided to bury his two gallon jugs. He slipped them onto the spade handle, but one broke. He looked at his wife and said, "Look, Mamma, what I have done."

She replied, "Now pull the cork on the other one and we won't have any more trouble." He did.

Another homesteader made a bunch of home brew, and thinking it so wasteful to throw the mash away, decided to feed it to his pigs. When he went back to the pigpen a few hours later, he discovered his pigs staggering around, falling down, with all the symptoms of being drunk. There was nothing to be done but leave them alone. The next day they were a very sick, very tired looking bunch of pigs.

We moved to the Waring place west of Hanna in 1926. Later we lived south of

Watts, retiring to Hanna in 1952. We had moved many times, always looking for something a little better. We had depression, low prices of farm produce, and we too tasted cheese, dry cod, beans and apples sent out by the government.

After we moved to Hanna, Martin built our new house that I now live in. He did carpenter work for several more years. He liked dancing and would manage the floor for most of the dances. He also did some square dance calling. He suffered a stroke in 1962, and passed away in 1967 at the age of seventy-five years.

Our family are all near. Doris, Mrs. A.E. Hutton, lives twelve miles from here. Jim farms at Hanna. Mildred, Mrs. Harold Veno, lives at Sunnynook.

DAVID D. LEICHT — David Leicht was born in 1885. He came to Canada in 1910, and settled in the Olds district, where he married Barbara Morlock in 1911. They came to the Hanna district [illegible] March, 1913, and lived on a farm south of Hanna; later they moved north to the Schultz place. They were not there for too many years before they moved into town where he worked in a garage. Dave Leicht retired to Wetaskiwin, where he passed away in 1957.

Fred Elm repairing an early magneto in the Hanna Auto Livery Shop. About 1920.

THE ELM STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Frederick Elm was born on January 8, 1887 and his brother Edward on May 16, 1888, in North Dakota, where their parents had settled after coming from Sweden. Fred and [illegible] worked in tractor factories in Minneapolis, and in 1912 headed north for Canada. They worked their way west through Saskatchewan, operating the large gasoline tractors of that era, which were used to break the land, seed, and haul grain. In 1913 they arrived in Hanna, bringing with them two of these large tractors built by the Pioneer Tractor Company; they were used for many years for farming, road building and house moving.

Fred and Ed were mechanics, and in 1914 purchased the Ford agency from Jim Parker. They set up shop with Mac McGowan in the building now known as Fano's garage, and named their business the Hanna Auto Livery. They hauled people and freight throughout the area with automobiles and trucks. Fred says that the roads and trails were not so good in those days and punctured tires and repairs on the road were standard routine. As mechanics, they plied their trade wherever there was a demand.

Fred filed on a homestead, the SW 16-32-14, and a pre-emption, the NW 16-32-14, in October, 1914. He sold this land to Thomas Rose in 1919. Also in 1914 he joined the Hanna fire department and became involved in the growing community of Hanna. Ferguson James tells in his book of Fred being deputized by the local policeman for a manhunt involving a deserter from the Canadian army. In 1918 Fred broke land for Hanna Farms Ltd., and operated this farm till 1922. In 1918 he married Anna Pederson and had four children, Clarence, Irene, Clara and Ella.

Fred operated the early projection machines used in the local theatre, and built some of the first radios used in Hanna. He was involved with photography as a hobby in the early 1900s when glass negatives and flash powder were used. He had the reputation [illegible] being a first class mechanic, with a vast amount [illegible] experience. During the thirties he operated the repair shop for E.A. Laughlin, the local Chevrolet dealer; and in later years for E.E. Holmes, the International dealer. He also operated custom threshing outfits, and built roads in the area.

His son Ellis died in 1945. Clarence and Irene served in the R.C.A.F. during World War II. Clarence lives in Hanna, Irene [illegible] Calgary, and Clara in Nanaimo, B.C. Fred [illegible] living with Clara and enjoys good health at the age of eighty-nine.

Edward Elm enlisted in the Canadian army in 1915 and served overseas as a Motor Transport Driver. In 1919 he returned to Hanna and the following spring filed on a homestead and pre-emption, the east half of 20-32-14, and a Soldier Settlement quarter, the NW 5-33-14. He farmed this land for many years, as well as working as a mechanic, threshing outfit operator and road builder. In the late twenties he bought the Macrapol farm along the Castor road, and operated it until [illegible] sold it in 1952. He also operated the ditching machine when the first water and sewer system was installed in Hanna.

In the early years he and one [illegible] his neighbors, Martin Dahl, were reputed to have produced some very good moonshine, some of which is still supposed to be buried in the hills north of Hanna. He also enjoyed big game hunting, and had a special interest in the Royal Canadian Legion.

Edward Elm died in February, 1956, and was buried in the Field of Honor in Hanna.

Annie, Cecile, Phillip, (cousin) Clara, and Bill Brunner.

STEVE BRUNNER JR. and FAMILY, By Cecile Brunner Scheltz — My dad, Steven Brunner, came with his family to Alberta in the spring of 1911. In 1924 he married Katie Neurberger of Moson, Hungary. It was a double wedding; the other couple was mother's brother Frank and his bride, Theresa Weiss, also of Moson.

We lived on the Daniel Barton homestead just east of Dowling Lake. My dad farmed 320 acres, the [illegible] 19-32-14 and the NW 20-32-14. There were eight children born while we lived in Alberta. During the thirties, three of my brothers died when they were quite young. [illegible] those days transportation was slow, and some of the better medicines we have today were unknown then. Adeline, my youngest sister, was born in B.C.

I remember my sister and I going to the Wiese school for two years, and after that we attended Antelope Hill. My Dad used to drive us to school often, as we had three and a half miles to go to either one.

Prices for farm products were low. Wheat hit a low of nineteen cents a bushel, and cows were less than one cent a pound. Cream brought as little as fifty cents for a five gallon can. The low prices of grain were complicated by low yields due to

the lack of rainfall during the thirties. [illegible] 1938 my dad decided he had had enough, and we made preparations to move to B.C. We had a farm sale and after the bills were paid we had two hundred dollars left. We had sold cows, horses, machinery and some household effects.

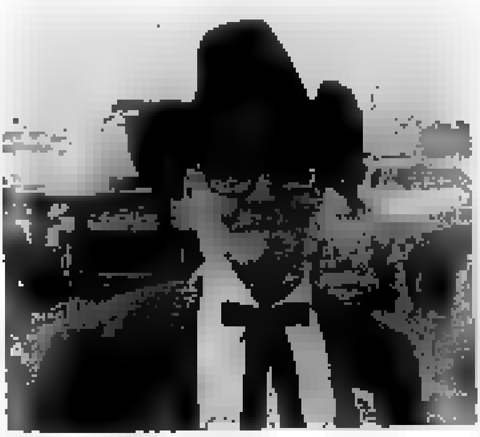
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brunner

We children really felt badly that we had to leave our Collie, Hans, behind, and my brother Bill shed lots of tears when our colt called King was sold.

When we arrived [illegible] Sumas, B.C., we had eighty dollars left. My dad got a job working in a saw mill, and at a dairy farm. Later he and mother opened a small bakery at Haney.

All of our family are married and have children. Cecille, Anne, Clara, Don and Adeline all live at Maple Ridge, B.C. Bill is retired and lives at Delta.

Steve Brunner, who was born in 1899, was accidentally killed when a truck struck his bicycle in a fog on October 23, 1966. Mrs. Brunner is living at Maple Ridge, B.C.



Levi Kennedy, taken at the 1976 Hand Hill Stampede.

MY STORY, By Levi Kennedy — I came to Stettler from the state of Michigan in 1908, with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kennedy, and my brother Jack. My father homesteaded on the west side of Dowling Lake. My brothers Philip and Aiden were born on the homestead, and we went to Dowling Lake school. In 1923 the family moved east of Dowling Lake to the Wilcox place, just south of Antelope Hill school. My younger brothers attended school there until 1928, when my parents moved into the town of Hanna.

I rented land up in the hills and

moved there to the NE 17-32-14, which was formerly farmed by Ed Elm, and lived there till 1929.

I married Mabel Paxman in the spring of 1929. After we were married, we went to Kinuso, Alberta, to homestead. We came back to Hanna and to the Meadowlands district in 1932, when we took over the farming of the George Paxman place. George had been sick for a while and passed away that summer. We farmed the place and lived there for ten years. My son George attended school at Meadowlands.

We suffered from drought and grasshoppers along with the rest of the farmers. I hired on the C.N.R. as a machinist in the roundhouse, and we moved to Hanna to live.

I was always fond of cattle, and rodeos. We used to have little rodeos on Sundays when we were kids on the homestead. Living near Clear Lake as a boy, I often took part in any horse riding events that they had at the picnics there. In 1925 I competed in a rodeo at Castor, riding bucking horses and bulls. I attended the very first Hand Hills Stampede in 1917 and have missed very few since then. I have always been pleased to ride in parades and help with the infield events. Rodeos have always been the highlight of the summer for me. When I was younger I competed in events in the Hand Hills too.

After I left the farm, I took up the hobby of wood carving. I have carved replicas of horses, chuckwagons, threshing outfits and steam engines. I have some replicas in the Museum in Hanna.

I enjoyed dancing, and called many a square dance in the old school houses. I am a life member of the Historical Society, and a life member of the Elks' Lodge.

I was laid off the C.N.R. in 1960, due to the increased use of diesel locomotives. At that time we acquired property in Richdale and moved out there. Then I became a cow hand for the K & B Ranch at Richdale.

My wife passed away in July, 1974. I have one son, George, who lives in Richmond, near Vancouver. He and his wife, Fern, have four boys and one girl. I still work for the K & B Ranch and still live in Richdale.

THE RUDOLPH FANO STORY, By Ivan Fano — Rudolph Fano migrated to the Olds district in 1909 with his parents, one brother and one sister, when he was twelve years old. From there they moved on to Hanna by oxen and wagon. The homestead was about nineteen miles south-west of Hanna. The first home the family had was a sod shack, and oxen were used to break the land.

Rudy, as most people knew him, married Clara Schottsneider in 1919. Clara was born in North Dakota and had immigrated with her parents and family to the Dowling Lake district in 1909. Clara recalled the hard times of 1910. The first summer was spent in a tent, and by fall a two-roomed shack was built from lumber hauled from Stettler. Later the tent material was used to make clothes.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano farmed for a brief time south of Hanna, not far from his parents. They then moved to the Sayle Brown place about seven miles north-east of Hanna. Rudolph homesteaded the SE 10-32-14 in 1922, but found it more feasible to live on the rented farm which already had buildings. They lived there for three years. I, the oldest, and my brother Fred and sister Mary were born there.

Grassy Slope area was to be our home for the next three years. The location of the farm was the east half of 22-32-13. I was the only one who went to Grassy Slope school, and then only for about six months.

In 1926 father bought the quarter of land which adjoined his homestead, the NE 10-32-14, so we moved there. This property had a two-roomed shack, a

granary, and a huge barn, large enough for eight horses. I well remember moving day in April, 1926. We started in the dark hours of the spring morning. About all I could do to help was look after my brother and two sisters while everyone else was busy. When we were settled in our new place, I had one and a half miles to go to school at Antelope Hill.

The original site of the school was up on a high hill, but it was later moved a half mile east into a pretty valley. The school was blocked up on large flat rocks, and in the winter it was banked with manure, to keep the cold off the floor. The stove never got the school warm till eleven or twelve o'clock on a cold winter day. Sometimes the ink wells would be frozen all day. It was told by oldtimers that the school was built there when there were only three students able to attend.

About 1930-32 there was a peak attendance of around nineteen pupils. There were not many families, but they were large. There were five in the Gartner family, five in the Gwin family, four of us, four from the Temple family, and Maurice Taylor, who stayed with Mrs. Wirth. Maurice rode a nice pony to school, and we boys really envied him.

Rudolph Fang Family taken in 1950.

In those days there was no need of a gymnasium for P.T. There were no school buses, so after doing two hours of chores in the morning, we would walk to school, carrying our drinking water in a syrup pail, and lunch in a three-pound Burns Pure Lard pail. We had no need for P.T. We did play ball in the summer time, and sleigh down the hills in winter. When we got home from school, we had another three hours of chores, pumping water for the stock, milking cows, feeding calves and pigs. Then, if there was any time left, we did our homework around a dim coal oil lamp.

I remember a number of teachers, among them Miss Story, Miss King, Miss Maynes and Mr. Harold Ruskin. At the time Mr. Ruskin was teaching he organized a good ball team. He was an outstanding player himself. We also had a young man on the team who worked on a farm. He was Ed Fischer, and was a good pitcher. The teachers really had their hands full trying to cope with so many grades in such crowded conditions, and many of the children were not able to speak English. At one time, grade nine and ten were taught there.

Times were hard when the depression hit. In 1930 we were hailed out, in 1931 it was drought. In 1932 we had a good crop, but wheat was only thirty-five cents a bushel. Some people sold it for half that price. The grasshoppers took almost everything in 1933 and 1934. We had turned to milking about fifteen cows and selling the cream. As I remember, three five-gallon cans of cream would bring in only about $2.25 each. This would be about fifty-five cents per week from each cow.

In 1934, many people moved out of the district. We went to Jarvie, about one hundred miles north of Edmonton. This enterprise did not last more than two years. Our stock could not cope with the environment, and died as the feed and grass there lacked the feed value of this area's.

In 1936 we moved into Hanna. We operated a draying and hauling business, and later expanded it into the auto wrecking and car repair business. My parents operated Fano's Rooms for about ten years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano had eight children, five sons and three daughters. I married Caroline Rust and have two daughters and one son. I have been employed by the Hanna Co-op and have lived in Hanna for many years.

Fred married Ruth Quast, and is employed by the Federal government in building maintenance. They have two sons.

Mary lives in Vancouver. Dave married Joan Carr and lives in Hanna where he operates Fano's Garage. He has three children.

William married Judy Rose. They and their three daughters live in Edmonton where he is employed with the C.N.R.

Kay and her husband, Ralph Resvick, and two sons live in Calgary. Tilly married Don Johnson. She is now a widow, has two daughters and one son, and lives in Vancouver.

Albert lives in Hanna. He has two daughters and one son.

Rudolph Fano passed away in December, 1959, and his wife Clara on Christmas Day, 1976.

Violet Baxter and Annie Schultz.

FRED SCHULTZ, By Katie Schultz Parr — My parents came from Russia to Canada in 1912. The two younger children were born in Calgary. We moved to a farm north-east of Delia in 1920. The following spring my mother passed away and we moved north of Hanna to the Rickett place.

Our dad remarried late in the year of 1922, to Mrs. Polly Leicht. At that time my oldest sister was already married, and the other older ones left home. The girls went back to Calgary to work, and Charlie went to work on the railroad in Hanna.

In the spring of 1924, we moved to the Leicht place, just east of Dowling Lake. We attended Antelope Hill school, which was two miles from home. Some of the teachers I remember were Violet Holmes, Miss Story and Miss Hart.

I took time from school to work with my step-mother in the cook car during harvest in 1923-24. After threshing was over, I went back to school. An incident still in my memory occurred at that time.

We were to have a Christmas concert that year, and had been practising for it. About a week before Christmas, we had a terrible blizzard. When the storm had cleared off, it was calm, but very cold. Ann and I decided we must go to school for practising and for exams. Father was in Calgary at the time, so we defied our step-mother and left for school.

The trip was terrible. We pulled each other out of drifts in our struggle to get there. When we arrived, no one was there, and there was no fire. I lit the fire, which was seen by Philip Kennedy, another pupil who lived about a half mile away, so he came to see what was happening. We got warmed up, but had an awful time getting Ann's shoes back on. Her feet were terribly swollen and frost-bitten. Then came the horrible nightmare of going home. When we finally got home, Ann's feet were so bad, all blistered and so painful she could hardly walk on them for two weeks. Mine were bad too, but I didn't dare complain because I knew what was in store for me when Dad got back.

I left Hanna in 1928. Two sisters have passed away, Mollie Sherman in 1964, and Annie Durnie in 1972. Charlie married Hilda Hanson and they still live in Calgary. Mrs. Millie Daly lives in Vancouver. Mrs. Mary Herman, (second marriage) lives in Calgary, as I do too. Jack continued to farm until 1957, and he now lives in Calgary.

Fred Schultz passed away in 1946, Mrs. Schultz in 1947.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, By Eva Hart Bember — I commenced teaching at Antelope Hill in the fall of 1926. Miss Eva Jagoe of Calgary was my predecessor, having taught there between her University semesters. She later became a very active high school teacher in the city. At this time the country schools were closed during January and February, and open during the summer months.

I had either six or seven grades with an enrollment of thirteen or fourteen pupils, ranging from grades one to seven. The families represented were mostly new Canadians from Central Europe. However, I remember a Philip Kennedy and several Schultz children. In later years a Schultz girl, I can't remember her by name, phoned me in Calgary, and if I remember correctly, she was attending Normal School at the time.

I boarded with Mrs. Temple, whom I frequently meet in Hanna. Her little ones were all under school age at that time. There was a childless couple by the name of Wirth, living across the road from the Temple farm. They had a piano, and out of sheer loneliness I went there to play the piano. Apart from school texts there were no books in the school. My family sent me some books which I used to read to the pupils during noon hour and recesses, and of course some for myself.

The school itself warrants little description. It was the size of two granaries, boasted two windows and the usual school furnishings. Something unique, even at that time, were the double desks. These were condemned as being conducive to cheating and whispering. I believe they were useful in country schools where older and more advanced and capable students helped the younger ones, and this was really desirable in the ungraded school, where sometimes eight or nine grades were represented.

At the time I taught at Antelope Hill, Mr. Lamb was the school board chairman, and Mr. George Haverstock the inspector.

There were a couple of incidents which I recall that you may find amusing. There was one family which came to school in a horse-drawn vehicle. The children evidently took a short-cut through a farmer's grain field. The irate farmer made a trip to the school for the purpose of telling me that his gates had been left down, and that it was my responsibility to teach them that gates should [illegible] closed.

The other incident occurred when, upon investigating a noise in the boys' outhouse, I discovered two lads talking in loud voices. I warned them that only one was allowed in the outhouse at one time. A small boy piped up, "Please, teacher, there are two holes!"

JACOB GARTNER STORY, By Erma Gartner Kelst — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gartner, came to Hanna in November, 1921. Until 1928 they lived south of Hanna, then moved north of Hanna to the Martin Dahl place, SE 17-32-14. My parents were of German descent but came from Roumania.

There were six of us children, Albert, Jack, Annie, Edna, Rudolph and myself. We attended Antelope Hill school. One of my earliest recollections is of my first day at school, and of not being able to speak one word of English.

There are too many memories of those years to put on paper . . . school concerts, summer picnics, and huge gatherings of friends and relatives. No one waited for invitations to visit.

I also remember our first car. It was a Model T. It could only be driven when the sun shone as it had no top.

My mother passed away in January, 1957. My father, who farmed all of his life, died in November, 1975. He had retired just before my mother died, and spent the last years of his life in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wetaskiwin.

Albert and Rudolph are still farming in the Ponoka area. Annie, Edna and Jack live in the town of Ponoka.

My husband and I are retired and live at Spruce Grove.

RONALD FANO, By Martha Fano — Ronald and I were married in 1925. We were living in the Hand Hills when Ronald's dad bought the farm north of Hanna, the north half of 3-32-14 from Frank Harris. We rented our own farm to August Kautz, and moved up there [illegible] the fall of 1928 when our son Billie was a small baby, as Ronald's dad insisted it was a better farm. There was only a shack and one outbuilding on the place. The house consisted of a big kitchen, a pantry and a bedroom.

We didn't have much, as we were just starting out. We had two milk cows, a few head of cattle and a few chickens. We sold a little cream. The Harris place had seven wells, but only one with water in it. We had to haul water from Ron's brother's place which was over a mile away.

In 1929 we got hailed out so Ron went [illegible] work on the Castor road. The pay was six dollars a day for four horses and a man, nine hours a day. Ron had to leave at four [illegible] the morning to get to work some nine miles away. When he got home late in the evening he would have to haul water for the cattle and chickens and household. One evening he came in from hauling water and said that a barrel had fallen on his toes. We phoned Art Gwin who took him in to see the doctor. His foot was all swollen up and he had to go into the hospital for almost a week. Ron's folks came out to help me. On the day that Ron came out [illegible] the hospital, I went in. Our daughter Iris was born August 11, 1930.

On August 16, a bad thunder and electrical storm came up. Lightning struck the Engel barn in the Solon district and three men and several horses died. We felt the jolt of that bolt of lightning all the way in to the Hanna hospital. It was terrible!

In 1930 we got very little crop; we got our seed back but little more. Ron took some wheat to the flour mill [illegible] Delia to trade it for flour. The trip with team and wagon could not be made in one day so he had to stay overnight.

In the winter we went playing cards with the Gwins, Fortnas, Temples and Forster Lamb. We had good times, poor as we were.,

Times really got bad in the dry thirties. The dust storms were terrible and we had to light the coal oil lamp by day. We canned all our meat as we had no other way to preserve it.

Since times were so bad and there was no water on the place, we moved to the Oldham place across from the cemetery, two miles north of Hanna. Pauline was born while we lived there. The crop wasn't too bad that year, but we decided to move back to our place in the Hand Hills. We rented, and later sold, the Harris place to Jake Fortna.

Our youngest daughter, Gladys, was born in 1935.

We are now retired and live in Hanna.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, By Norine Maynes Coad — I taught at Antelope Hill for two years beginning September, 1930. The school was situated in an isolated spot surrounded by low hills, about half way between two north and south roads. There was a trail past the school and every two or three weeks a vehicle might pass along the trail. The glass of the windows had been covered with white paint. When I enquired about it the children told me it was there so they would not look out the windows when they should be working. I told them I liked to look out windows. The paint disappeared as if by magic.

The building itself was very poor, plain and unattractive, poorer even than most schools around which were far from elaborate, but that was before we knew anything about today's magnificent, richly equipped structures. A teacher had to be resourceful then to make up for the lack of learning materials. I spent my weekends gathering up books and magazines from friends, and I would have ruined the week for the children if I had turned up Monday morning without a supply of Sunday School papers . . . Onward, Boy's Life, Girl's Life, Junior and Primary, splendid publications.

Harvesting was in full swing when the school opened that fall and the beautiful weather remained late into autumn. I recall having a Hallowe'en party outdoors and it was like a July day.

This was my first teaching experience and I probably learned more than the children. I began by making out a time table allotting the correct amount of time to each subject, then wondering how on earth it could possibly be done. During my training I had taught one lesson to one grade from carefully prepared lesson plans, and here sat five grades expecting to be taught simultaneously. Well, somehow it all worked out; we got through each grade and managed time for ball games, classroom decorations, Friday programs, Christmas concert preparations, Valentine making, all very important to children who at that time were pretty well confined to their own district.

The first time I passed around snaps which I had taken of the children, a little girl remained in the school at recess and asked me if she could look at them again. She found the grade one picture and pointed out one child and said, "This looks like me, Miss Maynes."

I assured her that it was and she asked me how I got her on that card. She spent a happy fifteen minutes pointing out each child in the school, and I had to confirm that each picture was indeed that person.

There were seventeen pupils in the school in five grades. There were four Gwins, three Temples, four Fenos, four Gartners, one Taylor and one Schultz. They were enthusiastic and full of energy and very capable in looking after themselves and their horses. I remember how well they got along on the playground; even when I was busy in the school they would organize games, and there never seemed to [illegible] any quarreling as often happens in schools. I recall, too, how co-operative the parents in the district were. When any special events were planned at school they helped in any way they could with materials, costumes, and of course lots of food. During the winter we enjoyed social gatherings at many homes in the district and I shall always remember how kind and friendly the women were.

One has to spend [illegible] few minutes recalling such a simple quiet period [illegible] realize what a changed world it is. The people have all gone now, the school is gone; perhaps there is not even a trace of the place where [illegible] sat. An era of western Canadian history ended when [illegible] the little white 'Antelope Hills' faded from the scene.

August Schmidt, G. Schmidt Sr. holding Freda, Mrs. Schmidt, Adolph Kiest, Rudolph Kiest; Grandma and Grandpa Kiest, Schmidt children.

THE SCHMIDT FAMILY, By Gottlob Schmidt — Gottlob Schmidt Sr., his wife Pauline, and children Alexander, age nine; Albert, seven; Gotthold, five; Gottlob, three; and Hugo, age one year, arrived in Hanna from Romania in the spring of 1927.

The first home for the Schmidt family was about nine miles north-east of Hanna, on section 23-32-14. They remained on that farm for seven years, and the children attended Solon school. A daughter Freda was born in 1928, and another, Ida, in 1929. Adam was born in 1931. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in 1933.

In 1934, my dad moved his family to a farm located six miles north of town, on the NW 9-32-14. The family then went to school [illegible] Antelope Hill. When I think back to those times, I feel my dad did very well to raise us eight motherless children back in those hard times, by himself. We all learned [illegible] take care of ourselves at an early age.

In 1938 the school board at Antelope Hill decided to replace the old school with another in better condition. There was much excitement the day the school arrived. We were all eager and curious to get a look at the school, and the men setting it down. The teacher forbade us to go near it. As soon as school was out, we all ran over there anyway. The teacher seeing this, called us back into the school [illegible] line up for a strapping. I was the first [illegible] get it, and immediately went back outside. Maurice Taylor had just arrived to pick up the teacher and the Gasper girls to give them a ride home. He seemed surprised that school was not out yet and asked why. I began to tell him what was taking place, but the teacher heard me, and stepped outside to call me back in for 'seconds'. Maurice informed her that if she wanted a ride home, she had better hurry up. I guess she thought twice about that, because she did not bother to whip me again, and dismissed the class as soon as she had finished.

[illegible] 1942, my dad married Mrs. Dux. She had five children of her own, Ella, Freda, Anna, Ed and Roland. In 1943 another daughter, Bertha, was born. In the fall of 1945, my dad and stepmother and the younger members of the family moved to a farm at Holden, Alberta.

My oldest brother Alex and I stayed on the farm here. We were in the cattle

business together for several years. In 1958, Alex decided to quit farming and moved to Calgary. I stayed on the farm and am still there today.

Both Albert and Gotthold Schmidt served in the Second World War. They both live in Edmonton. Adam lives in Holden. Freda, Ida and Hugo live in B.C.

Gottlob Schmidt Sr. still lives in Calgary. He is eighty-six years old. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in January, 1977.

OTTO MIX, By Emma Pahl Mix — We came to the Hanna district in 1944. We rented and later bought the Chris Gasper place, the east half of 16-32-14, which is seven miles north of Hanna.

Our neighbors were Jim McClusky, Gottlob and Alex Schmidt, and for a short time, John and Leah Yasman. They moved away and then Harold and Mae Fortna became our neighbors.

The worst part about living in the hills in those days was the lack of roads. After the first snowstorm, the roads were practically impassable till spring. Alvin and Arlene had to ride four miles each way to go to school at Solon. In 1959 the road was built up and gravelled. In 1961 the school bus began to take the children to school in Hanna.

We didn't have a phone in those years, so felt quite isolated. Our neighbor Jim McCluskey had one, but it seemed that every time we had to use it, we would have to drive down the road a few miles to set up the fallen poles.

We had some good crops, and quite a few poor ones. We had the crop completely snow under one year, and hail out a couple of times. We seemed to have survived the bad and the good times and in 1966 we left the farm to Alvin and moved into Hanna, where we still reside.

HAROLD FORTNA — I was born on the homestead, the eldest child of Jacob and Mattie Fortna. Although the farm was originally included in the Antelope Hill school district, we never went to school there, as it was four miles away. By the time I was old enough to go to school, the boundaries had been changed so that we belonged in the Meadowlands school district.

Harold and Mae Fortna.

The Fortna Children, Vivian, Marjorie, Doug and Ed.

The classes at Meadowlands were very small when I first started school. Among the pupils attending at that time were Bill Curtis, Harry, Winnifred and Marion Parker, and my sister Ethel. She and I used to walk to the Parker place, a mile from home; then with the Parker children we used to cross the Hudson Bay

land which was unfenced at that time, till we reached the road a mile east, and then continue on to school. We were plagued by mosquitoes on many trips across this native grassland.

As there was not a large attendance at the school, there were occasions when the annual school picnics were held jointly with Antelope Hill school. On one occasion it was held west of the Fortna buildings, and another time it was on the Ronald Fano farm farther north.

After I left school I stayed on the farm, and my younger brother Albert and I farmed with our father.

In 1944, I met Mae Lamb, who had come to Hanna [illegible] seek employment. Her home was [illegible] Rowley, about forty miles away. We were married in December, 1945, and spent the winter in Drumheller, where I worked in the coal mine. We returned to the farm in the spring. Our daughter Vivian was born while we were on the farm near my folks.

In 1946 we moved on to the Brown place, two miles north of my dad's farm. We lived there for eight years. Transportation and communication were poor in those days, and the heavy snows those next few winters left us quite isolated. At one time we had a barbed wire phone which, when it worked, gave us a sort of communication with my folks. What a boon the snowmobile would have been to us back then!

In 1952, Vivian started school at Solon, with Mabel Hel[illegible] as her teacher. We drove her to school by car as long as we could, then with the team and cutter. The next year she began to ride the saddle horse, travelling with the Mix children. There was a lot of snow that winter and the children had a lot of trouble getting to school on horses.

Our sons, Ed and Doug, and our daughter Marjorie were born while we lived on the Brown place. In 1957 we moved one half mile west to our present location. The new road was built soon after that, and then it was gravelled. In rapid succession during the next few years came electricity, telephone and the school bus. The children were able to go to school in town for a higher education.

In 1963 there was a bumper crop. After that farming conditions improved. We were able to purchase better machinery, a new house, and make many improvements in our way of living. We are still living on the farm today.

Our family have grown up and gone. Vivian is married to Rod Quaschnick. They live in Hanna with their children Shannon, Jason and Ryan.

Ed has a B.A. from the University of Calgary. He is married [illegible] Jean Watson from Airdrie, and they live in Calgary.

Douglas is apprenticing as an electrician. He [illegible] married to Carol Hausher from Endiang, and they live in Hanna.

Marjorie [illegible] presently living in Red Deer.

THE A.F. GWIN STORY — Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gwin were married July 16, 1916 and came to live in Hanna district the next year. Mr. Gwin had traded property in California for a farm south of Hanna. They lived on that farm until 1922, when they moved to the Oldham place north of Hanna, just east of the cemetery, the south half of 22-31-14. This was a dairy farm; milk was bottled and sold in town. As Mrs. Gwin was a city girl, this was a very difficult adjustment for her. About 1925 they moved four miles further north to the Hamilton place, one half mile east of Antelope Hill school.

There were eight children [illegible] the family. They recall that some of their classmates at Antelope Hill were Fanos, Gaspers, Temples, Gartners and Jack Schultz.

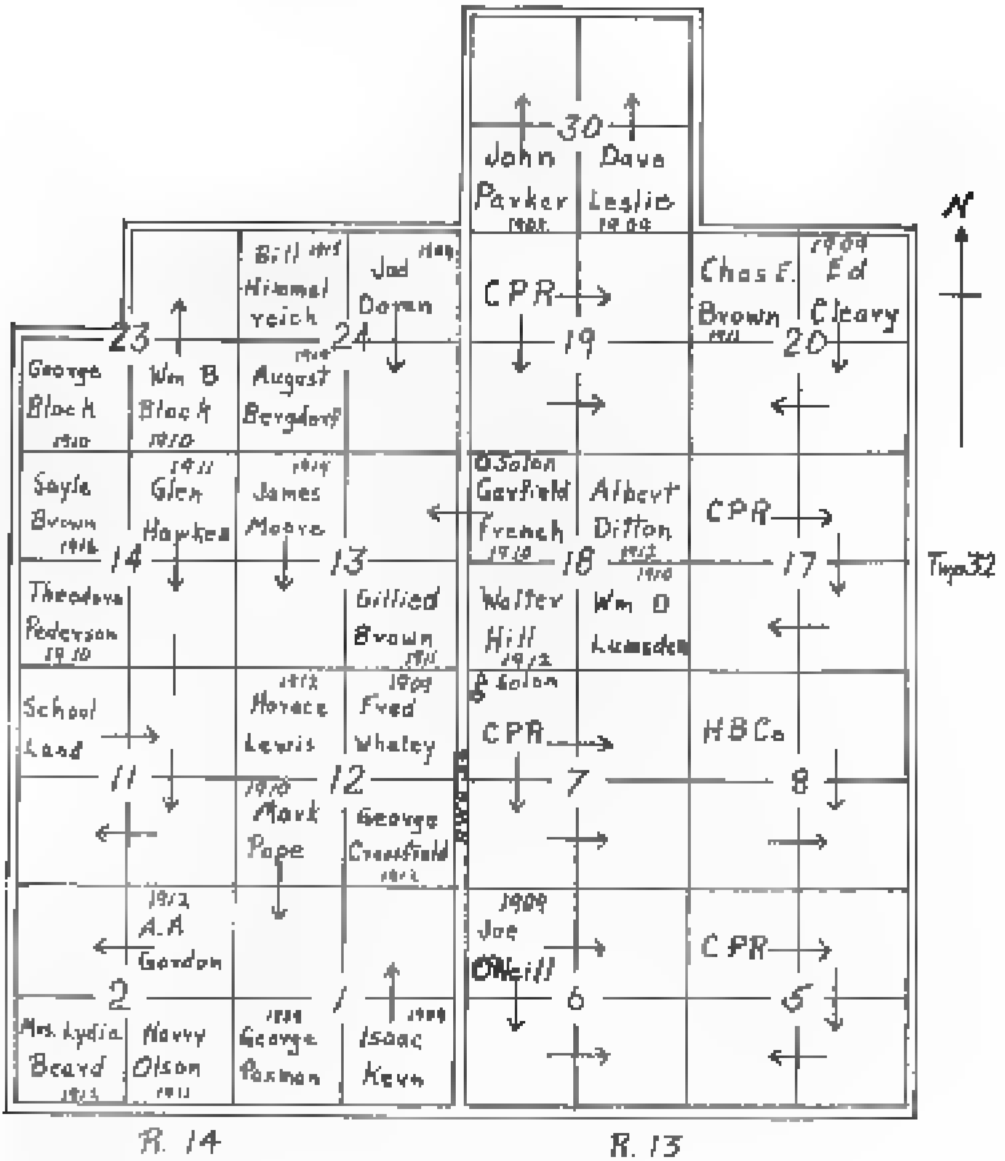
As the drought continued and prices fell, the Gwin family decided, in 1934, to move to Rocky Mountain House. Ernest quit school and helped to provide for the family for a year. Then [illegible] and Robert received an invitation to return to California and live with their uncle, Ira Gwin, and continue their education. The next year the rest of the family moved back to southern California, and raised chickens [illegible] the Mojave Desert for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Gwin of Beaumont. Married July 16, 1916 in Mattoon, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwin returned to Hanna for a visit at the time of the Hanna Jubilee. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1966. Mrs. Gwin passed away in 1967. Mr. Gwin remarried and returned to Hanna to visit once more in 1972. He passed away in 1973.

Of the eight children, Ernest, Robert, Willard, Eileen, Corrine, Pauline and Iris live in the United States. George lives [illegible] Hanna.

SOLON No. 2525



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS
SOLON 2525

TWP. 32 R. 13 W 4.

Section 5
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Sr.
Joe Gillner
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

Section 6
J. O'Neill (Script)
[illegible]. Readwin
Abe Miller
Pete Johnson
Keith Lumsden
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

Section 7
C.P.R.
[illegible] Macropol
W. D. Lumsden
Fred Whaley Sr.

N½ 7 Charlie Whaley

S½ 7 M. and R. Whaley

Section 8
H. B. Co.
W. D. Lumsden
Fred Kautz
[illegible]. Banco
A. Banco

Section 17
C.P.R.
Joe Gillner
John Engel
George Hoover Sr.
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 18

S.E. 18
W. D. Lumsden
Jim McCluskey
Harry Lumsden
Mrs. Martin
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

N.E. 18
Albert Dilton
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 18
Garfield French
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Harry Lumsden

S.W. 18
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Ed Loveday
Harry Lumsden

Section 19

W½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Jr.
George Whaley
Marian Wright
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

E½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

Section 20

S½ 20 (Script)
Ed Cleary
Ed. Kautz
Harold Kautz
N.E. 20
Ed Cleary
Ed Kautz
Jurgen Kautz

N.W. 20
Charlie Brown
Ed Cleary
[illegible]. Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 30

E½ 30 (Script)
Dave Leslie
Leicht Sr.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

W½ 30 (Script)
John Dalton Parker
Marian Wright
Charlie Wyatt
Will Lumsden

TWP. 32 R. 14 W 4.

Section 1
E½ 1
Isaac Kern
Bob Haase
Henry Green
Pete Johnson
Walter Kern
Cliff Paxman
Arnold Pahl

S.W. 1
George Paxman
Wm. Paxman estate
N.W. 1
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 2

N½ 2
A. A. Gordon
John Rice
Fredrick Pahl
Ludwig Pahl

S.E. 2
Harry Olson

Arnold Pahl

S.W. 2
Mrs. Beard
Jake Fortna

Section 11
School Land
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 12

S.E. 12
George Crossfield
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charley Whaley

N.E. 12
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 12
Horace Lewis
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

S.W. 12
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 13

S.E. 13
Gilliad Brown
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 13
Garfield French
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

W½ 13
James Moore
W. D. Lumsden

Section 14

E½ 14
Glen Hawkes
Jas. Weldon
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
John Yasman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

N.W. 14
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
John Yasman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

S.W. 14
Ted Pederson
Fred Berg
Sayle Brown
Martin Bass
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

Section 23

S.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Faler
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Faler
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

S.W. 23
George Block
Adolph Kiest
Herb Litke
Harold Fortna

Section 24

S.E. 24
Jud Doran
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

N. E. 24
Jud Doran
Bob Gordon
Al. Overton
George Hoover Sr.
Elmer Grey
Ken Williams
Betty Lumsden

S.W. 24
August Bergdorf
Joe Hogg
W. D. Lumsden

N. W. 24
Bill Himmelrich
W. D. Lumsden

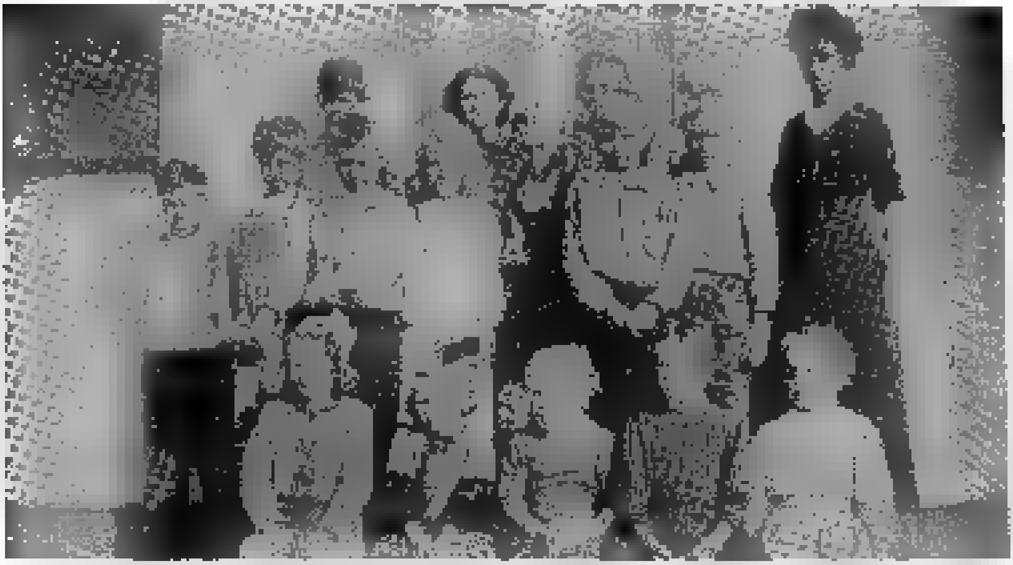
SOLON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2526

The Solon area, presumably named by Messrs. I. and H. Kern after a siding in Michigan, comprises sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the east half and south-west quarter of 23, township 32, range 14; and sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30 in township 32, range 13. It was sparsely settled until 1909 when the government opened the area for Purchased Homesteads. Within a year or two pioneers of various nationalities took up homesteads and soon a variety of abodes were

inhabited. By 1911 the Solon Post Office was in operation. Freight and mail were transported from Castor by horse-drawn vehicles. This route became known as the Castor Trail, and is still visible in much of the pasture land and in the school yard.

Solon School, 1913

With the influx of homesteaders with families came the demand for a school. Through the perseverance of Mr. Fred Whaley, chairman, and Mr. Joe O'Niel, first secretary of the elected school board, a school was erected by Mr. William Hill. The site chosen was the northwest corner of NW 7-32-13. Lumber and other material for the school was hauled from Castor. The material must have been unloaded off the wagons as they stopped along the road, for until quite recently, the old Castor Trail was quite visible, not twenty feet west of the school door. In time a barn was built and a well dug in the school yard.



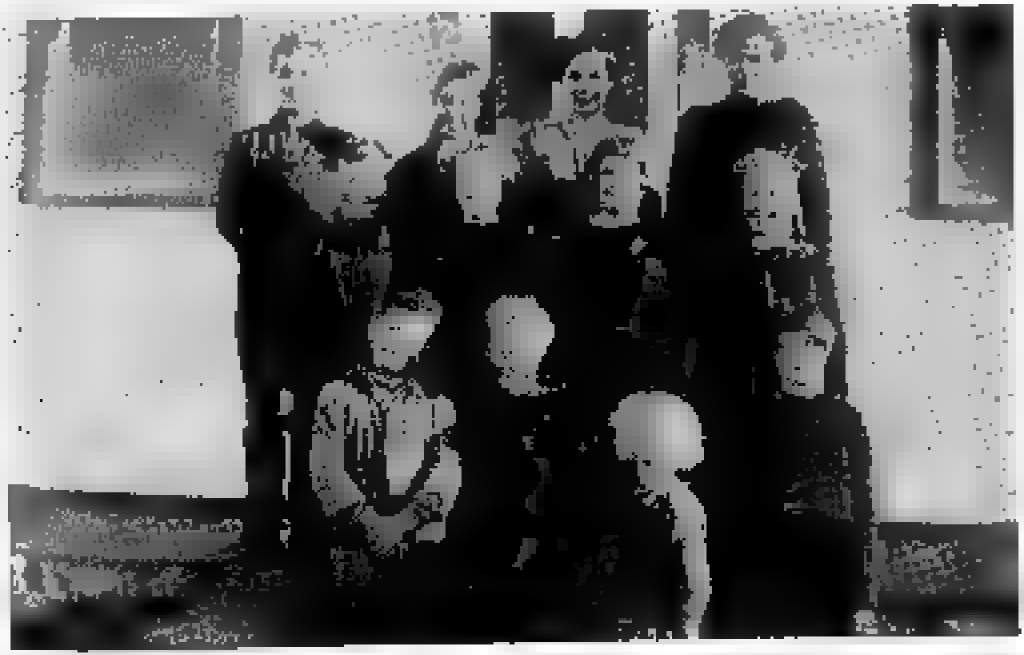
Solon. 1913 Back Row, left to right: Charlie Burns, John Gordon, Veva Thompson, Annie Pederson, Maud Whaley, Miss Laycock. Standing on step: Ford Thompson, Clyde Block, Doris Thompson, Mary Pederson, Lou Pederson, George Whaley. Seated: Zelma Samson, Gertrude Block, Mabel Whaley, Nellie Gordon, Mary Whaley.

By 1912 Solon school was in operation with Miss Gileanders as teacher. The first families represented were: Block, Burns, Gordon, Pederson, Samson, Thompson and Whaley. Since Solon was one of the first schools, some of these children had to travel five miles or more as their homes were outside the school district. However, within a few years more schools were built, and Solon was the centre of only the four-mile-square block as surveyed by the provincial government.

Solon school was the centre for socials, dances, U.F.A. meetings, and of course always the Christmas concert. What magic times for young and old alike, as whole families always attended, from the smallest baby to the oldest person!

Adults would decorate the interior of the school, set up the stage and hang glistening white sheets [illegible] serve as curtains, before the big occasion. Young people of the community participated [illegible] the program. Blanche Wright Bryce recalls, "I think the most exciting time of the school year was preparing for and presenting our annual Christmas concert. A friendly rivalry developed between neighboring schools. It was all so much fun."

Solon Students on Arbor Day, 1916. Back Row, left to right: Sam Litke, Maud Whaley, Violet Lumsden, Louis Pederson, Jack Litke, Mary Pederson, Velma Overton, George Whaley. Centre Group: Nikla Pederson, Dan Litke, Ruby Overton, Mary Whaley, Gertrude Block, Mary Litke, Charlie Overton, Anna Pederson, Mabel Whaley, Rose Litke. Front Row: Myrtle Whaley, Blanche Wright, Clyde Block (holding sign), Gladys Overton, John Whaley

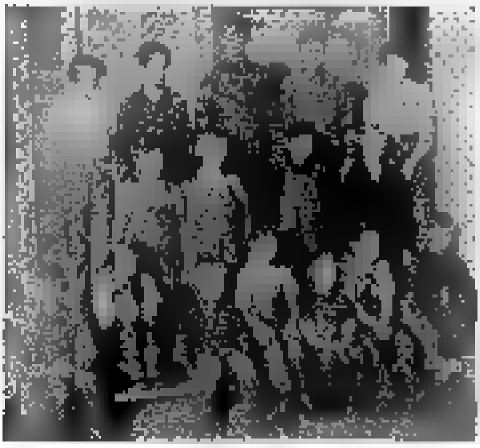


Solon, 1924. Back Row, left to right: John Whaley, Carrie Cleary, Gladys Overton, Blanche Wright. Centre Row: Robert Rehill, Elsie Rehill, Lucena Overton, Myrtle Whaley. Front Row: Loyal Overton, Charlie Whaley, Ada Whaley, Dorothy Rehill.

Of the social functions, the pie socials are well remembered by all the pioneers. The evening would open with a program of songs, recitations, a play or a

debate by the young people of the community. Pies would be auctioned and a dance would follow. At one such affair, the pies brought $37.00 which was used to buy library books for the school.

School Van. 1937. Marjorie, Wilfred and Keith Lumsden, Jack McLaren and Donnie McLaren.



Solon Students, 1938. Back Row, left to right: Norma Lumsden, Roy Johnson, Otto Pahl, Arnold Kautz, Marjorie Lumsden. Second Row: Keith Lumsden, Albert Bass, Earnest Johnson, Ruby Kautz. Seated: Wilfred Lumsden, Phyllis Johnson, Edwin Kautz, Julia Johnson, Eunice Johnson, Annie Johnson, Harold Kautz.

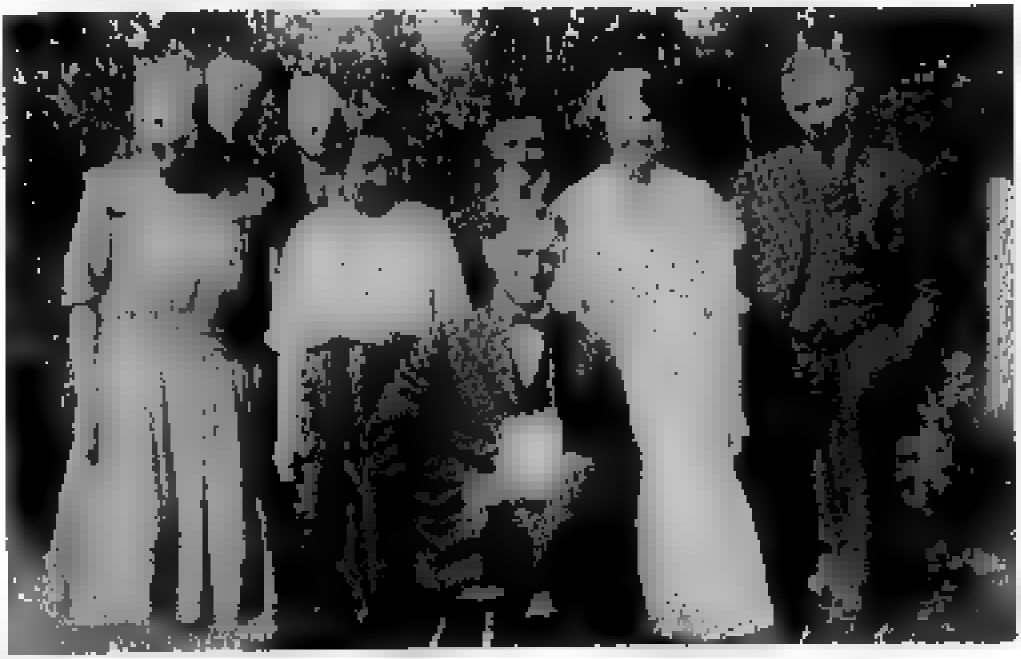
Solon's first teacherage, 1936. Eunice Johnson, Ruby Kautz, Annie Johnson, Julia Johnson, Phyllis Johnson and Frieda Schmidt.

A favorite community gathering during the winter months was house parties. All the families took turns in hosting the parties. There was never an idle Friday night. In the summer months there were baseball and basketball games. A baseball diamond and a basketball court were set up in the north-west corner of 19, just south of the Marian Wright place, where the teams could practise. Both the baseball and basketball teams became quite proficient.

Solon school was also a place of worship. Church and Sunday School were held each Sunday for many, many years with Mr. D. Oke the minister, Mr. M. Wright the Sunday School superintendent, and Mr. J. Faupel the teacher for the Young People's class. The church and Sunday school held an annual picnic, often including neighboring communities.

Little change was made to the school over the years, but methods of teaching

and living quarters for the teachers did. The first teacherage was built in August, 1938. It was a small, one-room, gable-roofed building approximately eight feet by ten feet. It was later moved to the Red Rose district south of Hanna, to replace their teacherage which had burned down. A second teacherage, comprising two rooms, was built in the spring of 1946. It was remodelled and enlarged in the fall of 1950. After the closing of Solon, this four-roomed teacherage was moved to the southern outskirts of Hanna, and became the home for two bachelors



Solon Young Peoples' Class, 1923. Mabel Whaley, Wesley Oke, Albert Oke, Annie Oke, Mr. J. Faupel (seated), Harold Oke, Mary Whaley, George Whaley.

Church Group at Solon School, 1924. Families represented: J. Taylor, Oke, M. Wright, Loveday, Block, Lumsden, Overton, Whaley, and Faupel.

Church Group at Solon School, 1949 Mrs. Whaley and Mabel; John Whaley family; Alex Wilson family; Blanche Johnston; Ralph Greenway family; N. Greenway family.

Teachers who helped instill some knowledge in the local youth were Miss Gileanders, Miss Laycock, Mr. Frederick, Miss J. Lewis, Miss E. West, Miss H. Hamilton, Miss A. Oke, Mr. H. Johnson, Miss Hourihan, Miss E. Summers who later taught as Mrs. Bill Lumsden, Miss C. Fitzgerald, Miss M. Smedstead, Miss L. Summers, Miss E. Ross, Miss I. Bigelow, Miss Duckworth, Miss Nan Herring, Mr. Wm. Ferguson, Miss E. Seidel who later taught as Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mrs. M. Williams, Miss A. Ellis, Mrs. M. Hein, Mrs. H. Chidley, Mr. Wm. Smith, Mr. J. Lentuk, and Mrs. P. Jager. These are not necessarily in chronological order. Our apologies for any omissions.

As time went on, settlers moved to other regions. Pupil population dropped. As early as 1938, some schools in neighboring districts closed their doors. Gradually more schools closed as there were not enough pupils to warrant their operation. Once again Solon became the school for children from nearby districts. A 1954 register shows attendance of children from Antelope Hill, Centre Point, Dundee and Grassy Slope districts. With the trend toward centralization, the doors of Solon school were closed in June, 1961, and the thirteen registered students were bussed to Hanna the following September.

The school now stands, not at [illegible] forgotten, as it has been renovated to accommodate larger crowds. Most of the material for renovation was trucked from Castor. Power, propane heating and indoor facilities have been installed. It is still the centre of community activities.

THE LAST YEARS OF SOLON

By Mrs. Pearl Jager

During the 1958-59, 59-60, 60-61 school terms it was my pleasure and privilege to teach [illegible] Solon.

Since the children were [illegible] grades one to nine there was a great difference in ages, but they were an extremely cooperative and nice group, as were the parents.

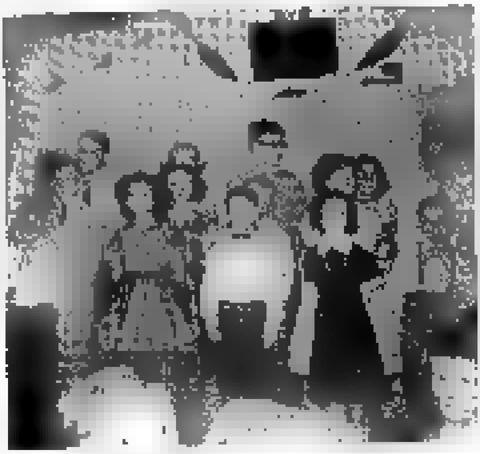
Those days were not without minor problems, a smoky pot-bellied stove, the

need for shovelling a path to the outdoor bathrooms as well as shovelling out the outdoor bathrooms during the winter months.

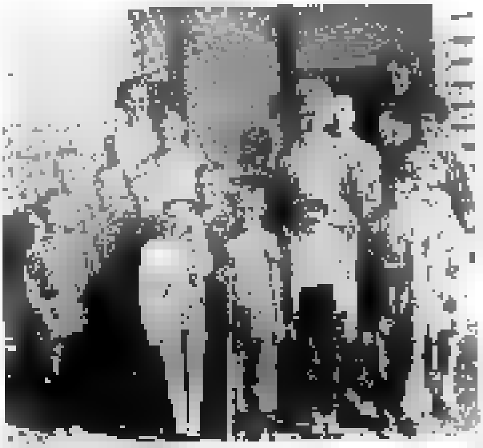
I drove from home, and for the most part the eight miles were usually quite passable. I do remember a bad period of snow when Kautz' hill was a one-way 'strip'. I stuck a pole with a red shirt on it near the top, visible from both sides. I held my breath there a few times. But if conditions were too severe, I had been assured of the kind hospitality of the Harry Lumsden home, and this kindness I did accept one night.

Highlights I remember were the fun we had playing softball in which all could participate, the building of snow men, the fun times and sing times. For one Valentine party we toured the Hanna Herald office where each child received a memento from the genial editor. On our agenda also was the creamery, then a skating party at the covered town facility, replete with hot dogs and hot chocolate.

As a group we participated in the Sullivan Lake Art and Drama Festivals. The children did win some laurels. We had a Junior Red Cross group and a 'do' for that. Our Christmas programs were a lot of fun and we always had a packed house.



Solon Concert, 1958. Back Row, left to right: Gerald Whaley, Vivian Fortna, Leslie Lumsden, Arlene Mix, James Whaley. Second Row: Dale Treiz, Rodina Pahl, Edward Fortna, Karen Lumsden, Clayton Whaley. Front Row: Ronnie Banco, Ronda Pahl, Russel Whaley, Marlene Pahl, Douglas Fortna.



Last Class at Solon, 1961. Back Row, left to right: Karen Lumsden, Ronda Pahl, Mrs. Jager, Rodina Pahl. Middle Row: Ed Fortna, Dale Treiz, Vivian Fortna, Arlene Mix. Next Row: Garth Miller (visitor), Ron Banco, Dougy Fortna, Ross Miller (visitor). Front Row: Cheryl Banco, Larry Pahl, Adeline Pahl and Marlene Pahl.

Solon School itself has been lucky. It still remains a landmark and is used as a Community Centre.

And the students? Two of them could have gone into the field of Art, but chose to be happy homemakers. One is a lab technician, two are teachers, one has a degree in the field of Social Work, and one is a banker. All have become worthy citizens of our Alberta. And as Tiny Tim might say, "God bless them, every one."

THE BANCO STORY, By Albert Banco — December 19, 1976, Sunday, blustery and cold, but quite seasonable. I decided it was as good a day as any to talk to my folks about their early day experiences, as today marks their fifty-seventh anniversary.

My parents came to the Hanna district on June [redacted], 1927, from Bessarabia,

along with their three children, Walter, Lila and Pauline. Dad worked for Rudolph Doering for the summer, and the following winter he worked for Mark Pope.

He bought a half-section of land, the east half of 21-31-14, one mile north of Hanna from W. Riddle, and farmed that from 1928 to 1936. During the rough times of the thirties they could not make a living, and they recalled the dust storms, the grasshoppers, and many other hardships. I was born in November, 1929, while we still lived on the Riddle Place.

When they left that farm, the folks rented a place thirteen miles north-east of Hanna from Mrs. Deere, section 4-32-13, and remained there for two years.

On March 21, 1939, we moved to the Mark Pope farm. (I am still living here now.) The folks rented this farm for five years until they were able to buy it. In 1948 they moved into Hanna and continued to farm from there for six more years.

I stayed on the farm batching for two years. That year Dad built a house in town, and during the next three years built two more houses. They still reside in the last one he built.

On November 14, 1943, Lila was married to Fred Kelm. They had three children, Kenneth, Lynn and Trevor. At present Lila and Fred are residing in Calgary, where Fred is employed with the C.N.R.

Walter was married December 31, 1944 to Ida Jess. They farmed for two years north-east of Hanna, then bought and moved to a farm west of Ponoka. They had four children, Donald, Gordon, Shirley and Caroline. A few years later they sold their farm [illegible] Don, who is a teacher, and moved into Ponoka, where they are engaged in the real estate business.

Pauline was married January 7, 1945 to Gus Schielke. She now resides in Vancouver.

I was married May 7, 1950 to Florence Fortna. We have three children, Ron, Cheryl and Audrey. Ron is employed by Plains Western Gas Company in St. Paul, Alberta. Cheryl is on staff [illegible] the Treasury Branch in Calgary. Audrey, in her eleventh grade at Hanna High school, is still [illegible] home with us.

In 1972 I was unable to continue farming due to a bad back, so now I have the farm land rented out. We run a few yearlings during the summer months. With good luck and good health we hope to be able [illegible] remain on the farm.

The N. Banco Family. Walter, Lila, Polly and Albert, with Mother and Dad, taken on the day of Albert's wedding, May 7, 1950.

Albert and Florence Banco on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, May 7, 1975, with their family, Cheryl, Ron and Audrey.

REMINISCING

By Gertrude Block

I am the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Block. We came to Canada in May 1910, from the state of Washington, where I was born. There were four of us children, George, Bessie (who stayed only a short time, then returned to her older sisters in the U.S.A.), Clyde and I.

My father and George had come on ahead of the rest of us to try to get a house started so we could move into it when we arrived. They met a young man by the name of Albert Wirth, who got a homestead near my brother's and lived with us for a while.

Our homestead was thirty-six miles from Castor, the SE 28-32-14. My oldest brother, George, was a few months under the age to file on land but it was arranged that my father could hold it for him until he reached the required age. Both he and my father each got a pre-emption too. This land all joined.

It seemed to be a long journey from Castor out to the homestead by wagon. There was a stopping house along the way where one could get a night's lodging.

Our land was fairly good black loam, rolling, but with some rocks. There were sloughs with willow and poplar trees around them. We had [illegible] start from scratch. We were able [illegible] get some livestock near Castor, and acquired four oxen, a team of horses, a cow, one hen of many colors, and a dog. Later we got a setting of eggs for our hen.

Our house was a two-storey dwelling made of lumber, with a large room upstairs and another room below. We had a pantry under the stairway and the first floor was used as kitchen, dining room and living room. There was a lounge in it for sleeping. Our house was not ready at first and we had to live in a tent. We had a cellar under the house and a milk house dug into the side of a hill to keep our milk, eggs, and so on, cool.

The first year we had [illegible] build the house and a barn, which had a straw roof. Also we dug a water well, plowed a garden, and plowed a fireguard around our land. We built a sod chicken coop. We were able to have a garden and some baby chicks the first year. One day our dog presented us with twelve puppies. What a time I had playing with them!

Since there were no fences our oxen and horses were hobbled and the cow picketed. We used a rope and a stake in the ground so we could tether the cow for grazing.

The first woman my mother saw after six months was Mrs. Bergdorf. They came to live just east of us on the SW 24-32-14. There were several children, most of them older than us two young ones. They lived [illegible] a sod house.

There were no schools when we first arrived. Schools were built as they were needed, when more settlers with families came into the country. Schools were used for many things; we gathered there for church and Sunday school, for dances and ball games.

In the winter time it was very cold and it seemed we were chilled through and through by the time we got [illegible] school. We would sit near the stove for a while, then take our seats. We put our lunch pails as near the stove as possible as our lunches would be frozen. Even at that there would be an icy centre in our sandwiches. We ate them anyway, and trusted that they would thaw out as they went down.

The first threshing machine, owned by Mr. Jack Young, was operated by horse power, and I mean horse power. There were several teams of horses hooked up to a bar attached to a gear that operated the threshing machine. The horses walked around in a circle to keep the threshing machine operating. They were the power that made [illegible] operate. However, over the years there were many changes in the type of power used for threshing, doing away with the demand for horses. Then they were used only to pull the racks of bundles to the separator, and [illegible] haul the grain to the bins.

The first few years we had quite a few prairie fires. Men and teams would turn out to fight the fire. We would have barrels of water and gunny sacks to work with.

When we first started school we rode Daisy, a horse from our team. She neck-reined and we did not need a bridle. When we got to school we tied the halter rope around her neck and she would go home alone to work in the field. She could go home easily as there were no fences to stop her. As I look back I think what wonderful animals those horses were!

We all had to work hard but it did not matter so much in the early years when the crops were good. Later on though, when pests and drought seemed to take over, hard times were everywhere. As we left one place some misfortune would plant itself on our doorstep as we tried to start again. I don't think we would have minded the work so much if something didn't always happen [illegible] our crop . . . hail, grasshoppers, army worms.

Then there were the tumbleweeds, and those dreadful wind storms when dirt would fly and pile up in places as high as the fence posts. The tumbleweed would come loose and go bounding across the fields, and some would get caught in the fence, and mix in with the dirt and swing on the fence until it would break down. More than once the hayrack on our wagon was picked up by the wind and dumped on the ground.

Before the fences, when men went to Castor for supplies and did not get home before dark, someone would take a lighted lantern up on the hill by our place and hold it up to guide them home.

Mr. Fraser, good friend and neighbor, was digging a well and his neighbors were helping him when [illegible] was caught in a cave-in. He was down under the ground and men worked frantically to get him out. We had some moments of fear and his wife was stunned when she heard of the accident. He was finally gotten out, a bit shaken, but he had felt sure the men would not give up until he was safely out.

My brother George and Lillian Lumsden were united in marriage on the first of June, 1918. The wedding took place at her brother Bill's place. In the evening there was [illegible] dance at Solon school. They had four children, but my brother died when his oldest child was eight years old.

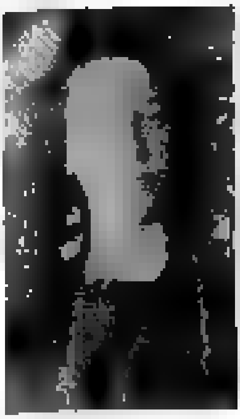
As time went on we came north to Bluffton and started once more on new land. Late in the spring my father died as the result of an accident caused by a runaway team of horses. My mother and I stayed on the place until we got rid of the belongings, then Mother went to my sisters in the States, where she died.

My brother Clyde died in 1972, his youngest daughter a year before that, and his wife a year later.

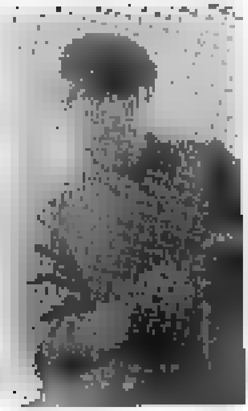
I came to Edmonton and have called it my home for years. Even when I was working elsewhere, I left some of my belongings here and returned time and again. I have worked at various jobs. I taught on Metis colonies. I did office work up north and here in Edmonton. I worked four years in the east. I have kept books in a small hospital and at one time I was made business manager. I was Matron of two Indian schools. Now I am retired and living in Edmonton in a senior citizens' high rise where I have a bachelor suite.

I often think of the old homestead and the folks there, and wish I could see them once more, but I have been told it has changed a great deal.

I am the only one left of our pioneer family and of the early days, and as time goes marching on I, too, must be on my way. So I shall say farewell [illegible] all. It has been nice to have known you.



Carrie Cleary, Jr.



Ralph Cleary

EDWARD ALONZA CLEARY STORY *from Information submitted by Carrie Cleary Hooton* — In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Cleary and their children Ralph, five years old, and Caroline (Carrie), ten days old, came from Hamilton, Ontario to settle in the West. With them they brought horses, farming equipment and furniture.

Accompanying the Cleary family were Walter and Jack Cleary, the Almas family and the Burkholder family, all from Hamilton.

They travelled by train to Stettler. When they arrived there Mrs. Cleary wanted to give baby Carrie a bath. To get enough water for the bath she had to pay fifty cents, which was quite a sum in those days.

From Stettler they travelled across country to their homestead, the east half and the south-west quarter of 20-32-13. Their home was a sod house. Water for the family was carried from a spring a quarter of a mile away.

Christmas at Cleary's, 1939. Left to right: Fred and Blanche Johnston, Effie and George Crossfield, Carrie and Ed Cleary.

The first year the Cleary family experienced a prairie fire. They lost their horses in this fire and then had to use oxen to do the farm work.

After the fire Mrs. Burns, a neighbor, brought some milk to Mrs. Cleary for baby Carrie. After Mrs. Cleary gave the milk to Carrie, Mrs. Burns told her that it was milk from a horse. Milk from a horse or not, it kept little Carrie alive.

After a few years the Cleary family returned to Hamilton to get more horses and cattle to bring west. They also brought chickens with them. When they left Hamilton on Good Friday the weather was lovely and warm, but when they arrived in Hanna it was about fifteen degrees below zero. They nearly froze getting out to the farm. Unfortunately neither the chickens nor the horses survived the year. Mr. Cleary believed the animals didn't survive due to the difference in altitude and temperature.

That same year a frame house was built on the farm. This house still stands on the old homestead. They drilled for water near the house but it had such a high mineral content that it couldn't be used.

During the early years the Cleary family experienced some hard times. Some crops were lost due to grasshoppers; other crops were lost due [illegible] hail. Sometimes they were so poor they didn't have shoes to wear so the men would snare muskrats and tan the hides to make moccasins.

One time Mrs. Cleary took sick. Dr. Mason came to take her to hospital in Hanna. That night there was such a big blizzard that Mr. Cleary, Ralph, Carrie, Mr. Defoe and his brother Louis, were snowed in for two weeks. They didn't know whether Mrs. Cleary was alive or not as there were no telephones then.

[illegible] summer the children snared gophers and collected crows' eggs for which the government paid a bounty.

Ralph and Carrie attended school at Solon. They usually walked the three miles to school. They helped milk cows and do chores before leaving for school.

It was not all hard work. They had their fun time, too. The Cleary home seemed [illegible] be one of the gathering places for parties as Mr. and Mrs. Cleary enjoyed dancing and card games. They attended socials at nearby schools. At these parties the children would recite poems or take part in plays. Then they would be put to sleep on a pile of coats in the cloak-room. The grownups played cards or danced till daylight before starting home.

One incident Carrie remembers well is a pie social at Alps school. Neighbors would travel together in a big sleigh to the party. This particular time Mrs. Cleary had made her favorite vinegar pie with whipped cream [illegible] take to the social. When they got to the school they discovered that Carrie had travelled the whole way with her feet in the pie.

[illegible] later years when the family went to Hanna for supplies, it was a highlight for Ralph and Carrie to be permitted to go along. A special treat was a lunch at the Chinese restaurant.

In 1928 the Clearys had a barn built on their homestead. To initiate it, a barn dance was held. Friends came from great distances to enjoy the merriment.

Their first car was a 1926 Chev coach. They took out the front seat on the passenger's side to make room for the can of cream which they hauled to Hanna. Mrs. Cleary sat in the back seat by herself. A few years later Mr. Cleary bought an International panel truck, formerly an old milk van, for transporation. They used this as a camper when attending the Calgary Stampede.

It was also a convenient vehicle when they went to pick saskatoons at Nevis and at Nose Hills. Mrs. Cleary is well remembered for her home made wine.

Carrie left the Cleary home in her mid-teens to complete her education in Hamilton. Later she married Arthur Hooton and is still residing in Hamilton. She has three children, Donald, James and Catherine.

Ralph stayed to help his father on the farm during the busy season. During the winter months he often worked in the bush, and also, at one time, worked in a Calgary packing plant. He was a member of the Solon baseball team and is known as a good skater.

Shortly after his mother's death he returned to Ontario. He is married and living [illegible] Marr, Ontario.

Mrs. Cleary passed away in 1946, Mr. Cleary in 1952.

ALBERT DITTON — Albert Ditton lived in a very well-built sod house, lined with building paper, on his homestead, northeast of 18-32-13. With him lived his mother, Mrs. Beard, who filed on nearby land, southwest 2-32-14. His sister also lived with him until December 1913 when she married, Bill Vowel.

He did breaking for Garfield French and Bill Lumsden.

When World War I broke out he sold his land to Fred Whaley and returned to the United States and joined the American Army.

TRAGEDY ON SECTION 17 — The John Engel Story as told by Louise Litke and Fred Engel — In the spring of 1929 Mr. John Engel, his wife, their sons Sam and Otto, and daughters Emma and Dorothy, moved from their residence in the Hand Hills to the SW 17-32-13, which was known as the International farm. The farmhouse and a large gable-roofed barn were located on a high hill.

On August 19, 1930, a tragic accident occurred causing Mr. John Engel, his son Sam, and his son-in-law Alex Derr, to lose their lives. The men were busy harvesting when they noticed an electrical storm approaching. They hurried home to stable the horses. While they were in the barn a bolt of lightning struck it, instantly killing the three men and their two dogs. Since the barn burned to the ground, all the contents, including five horses, a colt, pigs and chickens, were lost. The men were burned beyond recognition.

Otto Engel, who had remained out in the field, saw what happened and hurried home, but was able to save only three of the eight horses that were in the barn.

John Engel Family. Back Row: Louise, Pauline, Jean. Second Row: Emma, Mrs. Engel, Mr. John Engel, Otto. Sam in the chair.

THE SIMON FALER STORY, By Florence Faler Hannah — My parents, Simon and Elizabeth Faler, and family moved from near Spokane, Washington to the W. [illegible]. Block homestead in August, 1917. There was my half-brother, Bill, my brother David, my sister Glenn and myself. My father had traded our place twenty miles from Spokane to Mr. Block for his homestead, the east half [illegible] 23-32-14.

My father and Bill brought our belongings to Hanna in a railroad car of settlers' effects . . . I suppose he may have gotten the car cheaper than ordinary shipping. Some time later my mother and the rest of the family came by passenger train, the cheapest way possible with no sleeping berths, but it wasn't so bad. I was fifteen then, Glenn was nine and David six.

We brought in four horses, two cows, some chickens and some machinery. We lived in a small lumber house, just one room downstairs and one up. We divided the upstairs into two rooms for us kids and my father built a slant-roofed lean-to for the folks' bedroom. There was a barn of sorts, but we had to build a chicken house.

There was some cultivated land, and we had some wheat, and oats for feed. Of course we didn't have any the first fall as that crop belonged to someone else. We had quite a lot of hay land, and my father hayed with someone else on the lease land, so after that first year we had plenty of feed. The first year we hauled straw from one of the neighbors [illegible] one dollar a load.

Ours was a dug well, and we pulled the water up in a bucket for the stock and the house. The water wasn't too good. I guess it had iron in it [illegible] it gave all the white clothes a rusty tinge, and [illegible] those days girls wore white middy blouses and white skirts. I was never very proud of mine!

There were many neighbors in the area, some being bachelors. Dad often asked the bachelors over to our place for Christmas dinner. North of us lived the McLarens and their sister Effie. I used to be quite friendly with Effie and we had some good times together. One fall we went cooking on the Bartman and Sleen threshing machine, around the Garden Plain district.

My brother Dave and sister Glenn went to Solon School. They rode horseback, double. It was about three miles the way they had to go, and was pretty hard on them [illegible] the winter. Later they went to Alpa school.

The winters were quite cold with lots of snow and it would blow into huge drifts. One year, Jack Young, one of the bachelor neighbors, brought us kids a big hand sleigh for Christmas and we all had a lot of fun sliding down the hill just back of our house. We had hard times but we had lots of fun too.

When I got to be seventeen or eighteen I was allowed to go to the country dances at Wiese and Centre Point schools. And of course there was the Hand Hills Stampede. It was always exciting. We would go [illegible] groups and the girls would take a picnic lunch. Later on we'd have a hot dog, and were they good! They don't taste half as good now.

We used to get our mail and groceries in Hanna. There were no roads where we were so we had to go about fourteen miles [illegible] get to the well-travelled road past the Overton place.

In 1922 my parents and family moved to a rented place near Bentley. I helped them get settled there, then came back to Hanna where I had worked for the past three years. My parents and Glenn and David went back to the U.S.A. in the spring of 1928, travelling in an old Model T Ford. My father passed away in 1930, my mother in 1944. Glenn is married and living in California. David died last April at the age of sixty-five. Bill had returned to the States in 1919. He passed away about thirty-five years ago.

I was married to Carl Hannah on January 15, 1923. Carl was hauling mail

along two rural routes; R.R. No. 1 along the Castor trail is still in operation today. Later we moved to the Peace River country where Carl died in January, 1967.

We had a good life and no regrets. I am now living in a mobile home in Kamloops. I came here [illegible] 1970 to be near my three children, two boys and one girl.

GARFIELD FRENCH — In February, 1910, Mr. Garfield French homesteaded on the NW 18-32-13. At the same time he took a pre-emption on the NE 13-32-14. Most of his early farming was done with oxen, though he gradually replaced them with horses.

On November 1, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. French began operating the Solon post office in their home. Mail for the pioneers of the surrounding area was brought to Solon from Castor. On February 2, 1914, Mr. French resigned as postmaster, and Solon post office officially closed on April 18, 1914.

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. French moved on to their pre-emption and leased the homestead to Mr. Walter Hill. In 1919 Mr. French sold his pre-emption to Mr. Ed Loveday through the Soldier Settlement Board, and soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. French returned to Consecon, Ontario.

Solon Post Office, 1911. Mrs. French, Garfield French, Charlie Brown, Howard Kern, Gillied Brown.

ARTHUR ALLISON GORDON — A. A. Gordon homesteaded the north half of 2-32-14 in 1912. During his stay in the area he was correspondent for Solon news to the Hanna Herald. In 1913 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Solon School. At the same time he was Publicity Director of the Patriotic Society in Hanna, and sometimes had [illegible] miss meetings because of conflicting dates.

A prairie fire swept across his farm in September, 1915 destroying his crop and barn.

He was married and had one son. He left this area [illegible] 1917 after selling his farm to John Rice.

ROBERT GLENN HAWKES — In 1911 Glenn Hawkes homesteaded on the east half of 14-32-14. He was the first secretary of the Solon U.F.A. when it was organized in 1913. Neighbors remember the cunning manner in which he hunted the antelope which roamed over the prairies. It is said he enjoyed a good wrestling match with Bill Lumsden, who often helped Glenn with his field work. After they stabled the horses in the sod barn the two men would strip to the waist and have a wrestling match which usually ended in a draw. Mrs. Hawkes was their spectator.

In August, 1916, Glenn Hawkes sold his holdings to Sayle Brown and the Jas. Weldon family moved onto the place.

WALTER HILL — Walter Hill homesteaded southwest of 18-32-13 in 1912. He lived in a sod house on his homestead until the early part of 1916 when he leased Garfield French's homestead. Walter needed better living quarters as his sister, Ada, came to live with him. The fall of 1916, Walter had a beautiful crop of wheat and oats but was unsuccessful in harvesting it as in August a severe frost reduced its yield and his wheat graded number six.

He married Jean Lewis who taught at Solon.

After World War One he sold his homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board and took up residence in Hanna where he became a Life Insurance Agent.

SCOTT JOHNSON, By Elvie Churchill — Scott Johnson came to Hanna shortly after the end of the First World War. He acquired the SW 18-32-13 through the Soldier Settlement Board. In 1921 he terminated his contract with the Soldier Settlement Board and moved to Winnipeg.

He married Olive Churchill of Hanna in 1921. They lived in Winnipeg and other points in Manitoba for a number of years. Olive passed away in 1939. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

Scott came back west in the forties, and spent his later years in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. PETER A. JOHNSON, By Mrs. Vivian Holland — Pete Johnson, his wife Vivian, and their children, Roy, Earnest, Anna, Phyllis, Julia and Eunice, a baby of one year, moved into the Hanna North area from Youngstown. They spent the winter on the farm of Ed Elm (SW 31-31-13) while he visited in the U.S.A. The two boys attended school at Meadowlands, and in bad weather were taken to school by Harold Fox, who also took his brothers Clifford and Edward to Meadowlands.

Mrs. Johnson sang 'The Red Cross Nurse' at the Christmas concert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the song very much.

When Mr. Elm returned in the spring, the Johnson family moved to the Kern farm, and rented the east half of 1-32-14 from Howard Kern, on a half-share basis, all machinery and grain supplied. At that time the Johnson family owned three head of cattle, two brood sows, chickens and turkeys.

The boys were transferred to Solon school. During the summer Mr. Johnson did carpenter work for Kerns, so Mrs. Johnson often rode horseback to the Kerns for supplies while Roy baby sat. Mrs. Emma Kern and Mrs. Vivian Johnson became good friends.

In August of 1933, their neighbor across the road, Abraham Miller, wanted to rent out his place, as was. So the Pete Johnson family moved across the road to section 6-32-13. As there was not much hope of a crop that year, on September 4 Mr. Johnson decided to stack grain. Mrs. Johnson helped with the chore and on September 6 gave birth to a boy, Waldemar, in the farmhouse with Mrs. Kern and Mrs. Hoover in attendance, as Dr. Cross from Hanna was just not able to make it.

On the sixth day Mrs. Kern went to visit Mrs. Johnson and take her some home-made noodle soup, but Mrs. Johnson was out of bed by then and milking five cows.

In September, 1934, Mrs. Johnson went to Hanna with a team and horses to deliver a five-gallon can of cream. While she was picking up the mail the postmaster, W. C. Stirling, asked her if she would like some sheep as he had eleven ewes on the farm. The farmer who was looking after them was moving.

When Mrs. Johnson got home she asked her husband. Mr. Johnson loaded the hay rack on the wagon, went to the farm and brought the sheep home. As there were no corrals for sheep, they were all gone the next morning.

While Mr. Johnson was hauling coal from a local strip mine, Mrs. Johnson went to look for the sheep. She rode bareback. After about half a day's searching she found them lying down on a hillside about three miles from home, just north of Banco's farm.

To bring the sheep home she had to lead the horse. This she did until she got to Solon school, where she got her son, Earnest, to help her. Soon after this episode another baby, Kenneth, was born in the Hanna hospital with Dr. Argue in attendence.

During the next few years two more children were added to the Johnson family, a girl, Roxie, and a boy, Clarence.

At the beginning of World War II, Roy joined the Air Force as an Aero Engine Mechanic. He was stationed at Rivers, Manitoba, for five years. Earnest joined the army and was transferred to the Medical Corps as an ambulance driver. He was in Debert, N.S. when he met with an accident and was given a medical discharge.

Anna finished high school in Hanna, working as a ward aide at the Hanna hospital during summer holidays. After completing high school she became a Dental Assistant to Dr. Smith.

Phyllis, at the age of eighteen, became cook and general helper for Mrs. Codey, Matron of Cereal hospital. While working there she met and married William Ruppert and took up residence in Youngstown.

Julia took grade ten in Hanna and worked at the Hanna hospital during holidays. Later she went to work in Calgary. Eunice became a waitress in Lee's Cafe in Hanna. She also went to Calgary to work in the Wales Hotel.

In March, 1950, the Johnson family left the farm and moved to Taber. Waldemar started to work for the experimental station and then found employment in Vauxhall. Kenneth worked at a filling station and Roxie and Clarence attended school. Mrs. Johnson worked as a ward aide in the Taber hospital.

In 1954 Mrs. Johnson and Roxie both went to Calgary to take Nursing Aide courses. Clarence lived with his sister at Youngstown, took his grade nine and also worked at a grocery store.

During her training, Mrs. Johnson had one of her hospital postings at Hanna. Mrs. Kern was house mother there at the time and the two had some great visits. Mrs. Johnson was asked to apply for work in the Hanna hospital after her graduation as Aide, but she thought it better to go to Lethbridge.

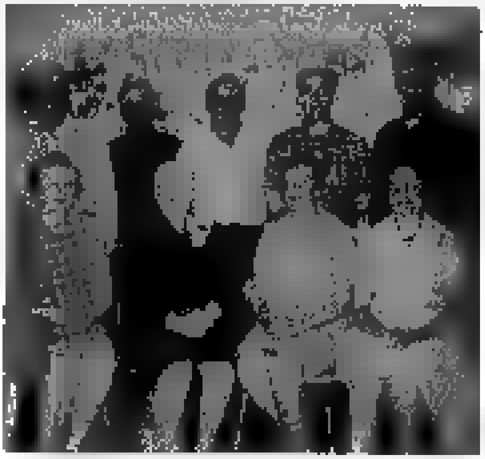
Roy Johnson passed away in 1966, Earnest in 1970 and Mr. Pete Johnson in 1976.

MR. and MRS. FRED KAUTZ, By Mrs. Harold Kautz — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz and their children Alma, Dan and Arnold emigrated from Leipzig, Romania, to the Hand Hills in May, 1927. They settled on the Oscar Graumann farm where daughter Ruby was born. In 1929 they moved to a farm south of Delia

where Harold and Edwin were born, then in 1932 went to the Golden Hills district. It was while they were there that Bill was born. In 1934 they went to the Red Rose area where Adelia was born and their oldest daughter Alma was married.

In the spring of 1937 they moved to section 17 in the Solon district where their youngest child, Fred, was born. This move was made by team and wagon and was a great adventure for the children of the family; they still remember and talk about it. It had been on this farm that lightning struck a barn which was burned to the ground and three men lost their lives. The farmhouse stood on the hill at that time and after the fire the house was moved down the hill to its present site as a safety precaution, as lightning strikes this high point of land quite frequently.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz


Grandmother Kautz's 70th birthday. Dan, Harold, [illegible], Bill, Fred Jr., Alma, Mrs. Kautz, Adelia, Ruby.

Shortly after moving to the Solon district they purchased their first car, a 1928 Chevrolet. This made the trips to town more comfortable than travelling with a horse and buggy.

In the spring of 1939 a major purchase of new machinery was made . . . a tractor, tiller and seed drill, [illegible] make farming easier and more efficient. Needless [illegible] say, the boys were happy with these new pieces of equipment. Then in the fall Mr. Kautz purchased a threshing machine, and in addition to threshing their own crops, they would hire out to other farms at harvest time.

In 1949 the Fred Weisse farm was purchased, and Dan and his wife Lena moved to this place on section 16. In 1953 he purchased what was known as the Cleary place, and Eddie and his wife Margaret moved onto this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kautz retired from farming in 1956 and moved [illegible] Hanna. Mr. Kautz passed away [illegible] 1959 and Mrs. Kautz is still living in Hanna where she maintains her own house and garden.

Alma married Fred Engel of the Red Rose district in 1936. They farmed in the Meadowlands area until retiring to Hanna [illegible] 1972. They have five children.

In 1950 Dan married Lena Schaupp of Rielingshaussen, Germany, and farmed until retiring to Hanna [illegible] 1976. They have two boys.

Arnold married Elma Faechner [illegible] 1946. They farmed in the Golden Hill district until moving to Hanna in 1956. Arnold died in 1967. They had two boys.

Ruby married Alfred Pahl [illegible] 1947 and farmed until retiring to Hanna [illegible] 1972. They have five daughters.

Harold married Frances Waite of Toronto in 1955. They and their two children are still living and working on the home place.

In 1953 Eddie married Margaret Gullason, and farmed until 1964 when they

moved to Hanna where Eddie works for the Special Areas. They have four children.

Bill married Margaret Barry in 1970, lives in Hanna and works for the C.N.R. They have two girls.

Adella married Harry Altwasser in 1960. They live in Calgary with their three children.

Fred married Margaret Grover in 1963. They and their two children are living in Edmonton.

HAROLD KAUTZ — I was born on June 18, 1929 south of Delia, and lived there and in the Red Rose district until moving to the Solon area, section 17-32-13. After completing my schooling at Solon, I worked at home and in the Edmonton area until 1952 when I joined the R.C.A.M.C. and was stationed at Camp Borden where I met Frances Wells. After service in Korea, I received my discharge in the spring of 1955, and in December of that year I went to Toronto, where Frances and I were married.

We drove back to Hanna after the wedding, and were caught in a blizzard in the Sunnynook area. One of the tires had gone flat, and when I opened the trunk to get out the spare, the strong wind caught a plastic bag and blew it out of the trunk. It happened that this bag contained Frances' wedding dress. As it was blowing so badly that we couldn't even see, we didn't bother to look for the dress and considered it lost; it was a good thing it had already been used! Eventually, with the help of another traveller on the road at the same time, we were able to make our way to the Sheerness coal mine where we found shelter with the mine manager and his wife. The next day we made it into Hanna and the following day arrived at the farm.

The next spring my brother-in-law, Alfred Pahl, and his family, were on their way to Carolside Dam to do some fishing when they spied a plastic bag lying in the ditch. When they investigated they found Frances' wedding dress inside it. It was still in good condition, undamaged by its winter under the snow.

We lived and farmed with my parents until they retired to Hanna in October of 1956, at which time I took over the farm from Dad. Our daughter, Deborah Ann, was born November 18, 1956, and our son Barry Allan on January 1, 1958.

I purchased section 17 from my Dad's estate and still live there. In time I also bought the Cleary place, the west half of 20-32-13; and also the SE 18-32-13. At the present time, Deborah is in third year Sociology at the University of Calgary, and Barry is apprenticing as a Diesel Mechanic in Edmonton.

Isaac Kern and his team, of one horse and one oxen, 1909.

THE ISAAC KERN STORY, By Cliff Kern — Isaac Kern was born in Ohio on January 27, 1859. In 1888 he married Myrtle Eckert, and to this marriage six children were born, Howard and his twin sister, Florence, who was stillborn, in 1890; Clifford in 1892; Ruth in 1893; Kenneth in 1895; and Edith in 1902.

Attracted by glowing accounts of the development of the Canadian west, Isaac and his son Clifford left Traverse City, Michigan, in 1907, and entered Canada to investigate the land situation at Stavely, Alberta, but found all the land was taken up. They returned to Traverse

City and in 1908, Isaac and his eldest son, Howard, came back to Alberta, settling at Gadsby.

As he was the proud owner [illegible] [illegible] team of oxen, Howard was employed in freighting from Stettler to Castor, while Isaac was kept busy building houses in town, as well as one for himself. In the fall of 1908 he sent for the rest of the family and they arrived in Stettler in January, 1909.

Before leaving Traverse City, Clifford had bought enough lumber to build a house sixteen by sixteen, as the household effects they had were not enough to fill the settlers' car which they had purchased. After moving the family, furniture and lumber to Gadsby, Howard hitched his team of oxen to a fringe top surrey which was also brought along in the settlers' car, and proudly displayed it along the streets of town.

Isaac had filed on a homestead, the east half of 1-32-14, seven miles northeast of where the town of Hanna now stands. In the spring [illegible] 1909 Isaac, Howard and Clifford freighted the lumber, some household effects and a plow to the homestead, and immediately set to work building a house and plowing the first furrows. On the way down they noticed that they had lost a bundle of shingles. Clifford, who had brought his bicycle along, went back several miles until he located them, and holding the shingles on his shoulder, pedalled back to where his father and Howard were.

Mrs. Kern stayed in Gadsby so the younger children could go to school, later moving to Edmonton where they were to get a higher education. Ruth became a stenographer and Edith a teacher. At one time she taught Meadowlands school. Kenneth was employed as a furniture salesman in Edmonton, later moving to Vancouver where he went into the insurance business, and where he still resides.

Clifford looked around for a homestead but found nothing suitable, so went back to Calgary where he was hired by the C.P.R. and eventually became a station agent. He was transferred to several stations in Alberta and finally was sent to Glenwood where he still lives on the small farm he bought after being retired.

Howard filed on a homestead next to his dad's, the NE 36-31-14. In 1916, Isaac rented his farm to a Mr. Readwin and returned to the States. He worked [illegible] various jobs, one being in the shipyards at San Francisco. He came back to Canada several times over the years to check on his farm and to help his son Howard build a house and a barn. He was a good carpenter.

Ruth passed away in 1918, Edith in 1973, Howard in 1958, Isaac in 1929 and Myrtle in 1935.

DAVE LESLIE STORY — Dave Leslie is remembered as one of the last pioneers to use oxen in the Solon area. He was still using them in 1916.

He settled on the east half of 30-32-13 in 1909. Just south of his frame house ran a small creek. This was a good place [illegible] stock fish, he decided, so he hired Joe Overton to build a dam. Joe Overton built the dam, approximately seven feet high and one hundred yards long, all by himself. But to no avail; the dam caused flooding of neighbouring farmland and had to be broken up.

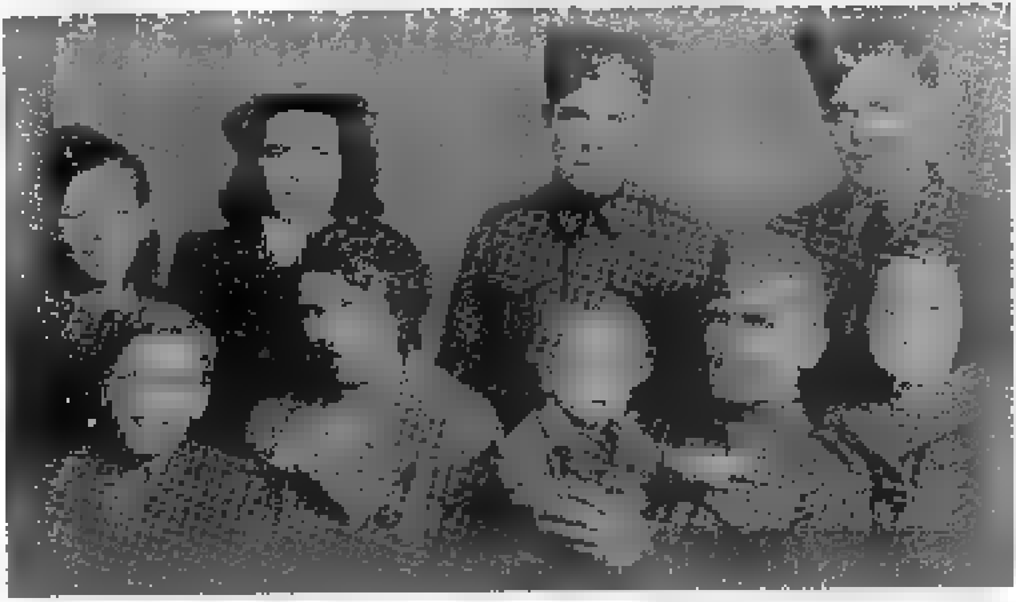
During his few years [illegible] the district he was poundkeeper. He was also road foreman for municipal roads. At harvest time he operated a Stanley Jones threshing machine. This was a very unique machine.

After selling his farm to Dave Leicht in 1918 he left this community.

HONEYMOON FARM, By Robert Loveday — Edward James Loveday and wife Eleanor arrived [illegible] Hanna [illegible] 1919 on their honeymoon, to settle on a Soldier Settlement Board farm later to be known as Honeymoon Farm. Edward, son of a

hotel owner in Norwich, England, had arrived in Cochrane in 1896, at the age of nine. After working in a brickyard, he acquired sufficient funds to buy a horse, and during his teen-age years he became a horse breaker. He was later to drive a stagecoach between Alberta and Montana.

In 1914, Edward enlisted in the army as a cavalry man. At the end of the war in 1918, Edward, who had been stationed in France, went back to England to visit the father he had not seen since he was nine years old, only to discover that he had died just two weeks previously. Edward's mother had died in 1913 in Conrad, Montana.



The Loveday Family. Back Row: Joyce, Bernice, Lionel, Robert. First Row: Ted, Mrs. Eleanor Loveday, Cameron, Mr. Edward Loveday, and Ruth.

During this trip he met Eleanor Williamson, daughter of a farmer from Hingham, England, and they were married on August 13, 1918. Eleanor and Edward, aged 23 and 31, respectively, headed for Canada where they would settle on a farm located three miles east and seven miles north of Hanna on Highway 36, the NE 13-32-14.

There was a small house on the land, and a well. During the first years more wells were dug by hand, but to no avail. Eventually a well driller found a plentiful supply of water, although it contained some alkali. The land was broken with a four-horse team and a sulky plow. Rocks were in abundance and were picked by hand and piled near the poplar bluffs. Buffalo beans, crocuses, wild roses, and a wide variety of song birds are well remembered by eldest son Robert.

From 1919 to 1927, Edward and Nellie and their children, Robert, Lionel and Bernice, managed with a straw-roofed barn which leaked when it rained. Edward built a hip-roofed barn in 1927. The neighbors gathered to have a shingling bee, and shingled it in one day, and had a barn dance afterward. Ice cream was provided by Ed and Nellie. When the barn was painted Nellie requested that a large sign, "Honeymoon Farm", be attached to the barn.

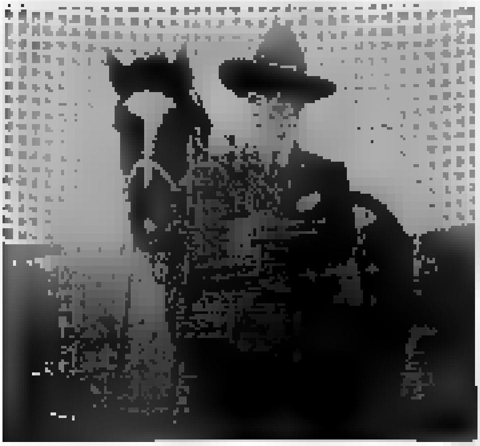
Transportation for the Loveday family was a democrat and a team of horses, which took them back and forth to church, to Solon school, and to deliver cream and eggs to Hanna. As the family grew, demands increased, and Ed started to haul coal from Daloe's mine to Hanna with a four-horse team. Nellie delivered corn and turkeys to the National Hotel, and purchased groceries with the money.

Ed hauled grain with an eight-horse team strung out, two, three and three. Comments were heard that the Loveday's heavily loaded wagons ruined the roads by making deep ruts.

Nellie read teacups, and many of the neighbors would call in to have their fortunes told. She was a member of the Board of Solon school which her five children, Robert, Lionel, Bernice, Joyce and Ruth attended. The youngest boy, Ted, was not old enough to go. In 1937 the Loveday family moved to Calgary where another son, Cameron was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Loveday had seven children, five of whom survive, twenty grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edward died in 1962. Eleanor, commonly known to people as Nellie, still resides in Calgary.

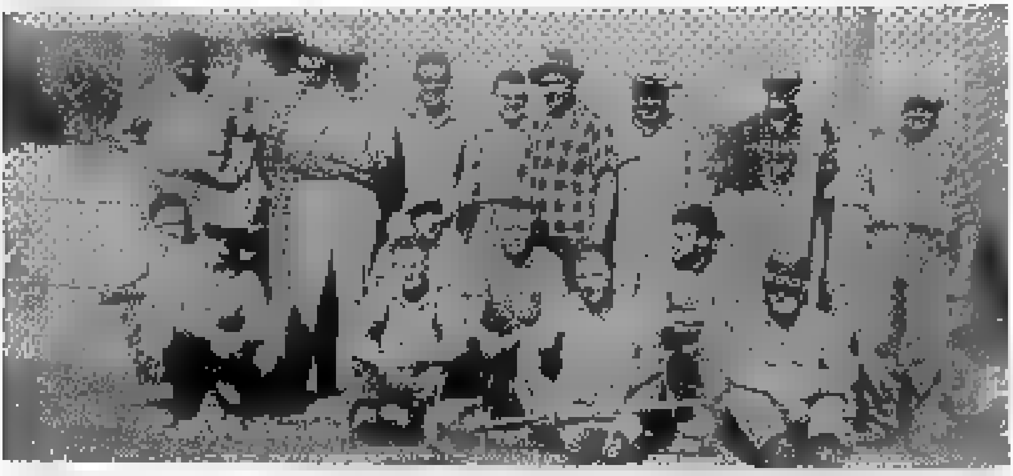


Harry Lumsden, 1919

HARRY JAMES LUMSDEN — Early the morning of March twenty-first, 1916, my mother, two sisters, Lillian and Violet and I arrived in Hanna. We had travelled via C.N.R. from Mount Forest, Ontario.

My brother William (Bill) met the train [illegible] take us to his homestead southeast 18-32-13. What a balmy spring day it was! I saw my first gopher as we drove along the Castor Trail in Bill's wagon. Ducks were swimming in abundance on "Mud Lake" as we cut across section seven just east of Solon school. It was quite a pleasant change from the cold blizzardy weather we had left behind just four days previously.

A few days after our arrival my sister Violet and I began attending school at Solon. I attended for two months, as starting in June I herded cattle for O. Overton, the Gosslen brothers, John Parker and for my brother. The herd of over three hundred head roamed over sections seven, eight, nine, five and seventeen; this was all open land.



Cement pouring bee at Harry Lumsden's, 1960. Back Row, left to right: Harold Kautz, John Whaley, Ed Kautz, Fred Johnston Jr., David Whaley, Gerald Whaley, Alfred Pahl, Bob Rehill, Sam Litke, Dan Kautz. Front Row: Leslie Lumsden, Harry Lumsden, Carl Rehill, Norman Greenway, Will Lumsden, Otto Pahl, Laurence Lumsden, Charlie Whaley.

To me this was the last of the great prairie wool as I have never seen grass like that again. It must have been the wettest June ever as I can recall only one day we didn't get some precipitation. Every lake, slough and burn-out was full of water. Naturally mosquitoes thrived. Cattle, my horse, as well as myself were continuously covered with mosquitoes. In the evening smoke smudges had to be made to give the animals some relief. It seemed like a long summer and I often wished I were back in Ontario, perhaps because I was rather young and inexperienced for such responsibility or perhaps I was just homesick. At any rate I was glad when fall came and the owners claimed their cattle.

My first winter (1916-17) in the west I helped my brother on his homestead. For the next several years I worked in the Dowling area. Incidents of particular interest to me were: In 1919 while working for Lee Doyle I looked forward to the evenings when I would practice baseball with Louis Doyle, who was a great ballplayer. In 1916, while working for Harold Mansfield, I had the privilege of going with him and Bill Himmelreich to put up two thousand tons of hay, on contract, at Lloydminster for the Lawson brothers.

In 1920, I left this area for the north. After spending three years in the Peace River country, where I took up a homestead ten miles south of Blue Sky, I returned to the Solon area.

The autumn of 1923 I acquired Garfield French's homestead, northwest of 16-32-13. Since my mother lived with me we were welcomed into the community by a surprise "hen" party. Friends of the Solon and Grassy Slope districts each brought nice young hens when they came for a surprise visit one evening.

In 1928 I purchased the southwest of 16-32-13 from the Soldiers' Settlement Board. As well as farming I did maintenance work on Highway thirty-six for twelve years. This work was done with horses.

We worked hard and experienced many hardships, but I would rather recall the many enjoyable times I had during this period, participating in Christmas concerts at Solon, Maunders and Alps schools; also playing baseball and basketball on the Solon team.

As we lived just a half mile from Solon school Mother boarded the teachers until 1937 when due to her ill health, she went to live with my sister Violet in Calgary. She remained there until her death on April the fifth, 1940, at the age of eighty-one.

In 1939 I bought a two ton truck. I was in the trucking business for ten years; at the same time I farmed. My farming was done using horses until 1941 when I bought a Ford Ferguson tractor, which is still in operation. A better or faster means of farming was required as we now owned and farmed five quarters.

Betty Seidel, from Trochu, Alberta, and I were married in 1940. We have three children, Laurence, a senior engineering technician for Alberta Gas Trunk Line; Leslie, assistant manager in Commercial Loans Department for the Royal Bank, in Vancouver. He married Darlene Brong from Fairview, Alberta. They are presently living in Surrey, B.C.; Karen is married to Gary Babcock from Calgary. She is presently a homemaker and residing at Warburg, Alberta.

At the present time Betty and I are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring so we can try our hand for another year of farming.

WILLIAM DUNCAN LUMSDEN, By Jim Lumsden — W. D. Lumsden (Bill) was born in Harriston, Ontario, on July seventh, 1888 coming west to Virden, Manitoba, in the fall of 1909. He came with Vernon Burrows to Coronation where he hauled lumber from Castor to Coronation. He homesteaded in the Kirkpatrick Lake area, but he abandoned his claim, due to sandy soil, and filed a

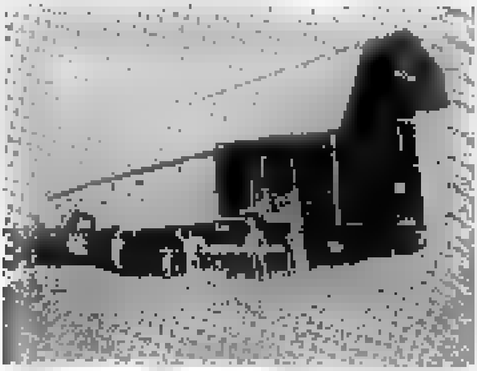
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden, 1923

claim east of Solon; southeast of 18-32-13.

He worked with his oxen in 1912 east of Hanna, when the railroad was built. Bill was very interested in wrestling, and [illegible] 1914, he wrestled in the Flemming Hall in Hanna, and won his match. In 1914 he bought his first team from Joe O'Niel for five hundred dollars, and chickens from Corry's. In 1916 his mother, brother Harry, and sisters Violet and Lillian came from Ontario [illegible] join him. In 1919 he bought the land (13-32-14) from Bob Moore.

Bill married Evelyn Mary Summers [illegible] Calgary in July 1923. In 1924 they bought a pair of foxes for seven hundred and fifty dollars and began to raise foxes. He bought all the old horses in the area for fox meat and also fed the foxes eggs, porridge, and milk. They sold their first pelt for three hundred dollars [illegible] London, England. In April 1924 a daughter Marjorie was born, now of Calgary; in December 1925 another daughter Norma, now farming in the Rumsey area. Born in June 1928 a son Keith, now of Carcross Yukon; Wilfred born in April 1930, is now living in the Hanna area. A daughter Merle was born in July 1933, now lives in Brisbane, Australia. James, born in 1936, is now living on the home farm in the Hanna area. In 1926 Bill was appointed as one of the delegates from the Welse local U.F.A. [illegible] attend the U.F.A. convention in Calgary. At a meeting on January the twenty-eighth, 1926 everyone enjoyed very much his report on the convention. He was appointed president for that year. In 1918 Bill bought his first car; a four door touring Chevrolet.

W. D. Lumsden Family, Keith, Marjorie, Jim, Meryl, Wilfred, Norma, Mr. Bill Lumsden, Mrs. Evelyn Lumsden, grandson Ross Miller.



Moving the barn off "Honeymoon Farm" to Bill Lumsden's farm, 1940.

Bill butchered beef, and sold it to the Liberty Cafe and Star Meat Market in Hanna, in the thirties.

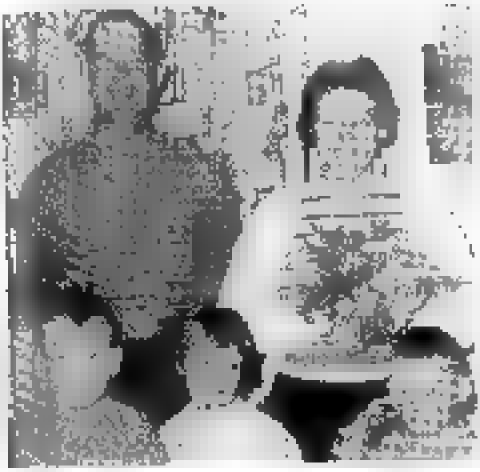
In 1937 he bought the Loveday farm, northeast of 13-32-14 and southeast of 24-32-14. They moved the barn and some other buildings from the Loveday farm in 1940.

He served on a jury in Hanna in 1940. In 1945 they sold all the foxes and raised cattle, chickens, turkeys and [illegible] few pigs.

Evelyn taught school at Solon and Bingo. She passed away in Calgary in 1965 at the age of sixty-six.

Bill has spent his last few years with his daughter Marjorie, in the winter months, and likes to take in the wrestling matches on Friday nights. He comes home to the farm and spends the summer with his son Jim and family. He has eighteen grandchildren.

Bill passed away April 13, 1977.



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lumsden, Steven, Kathy, and Myles, 1966.

JAMES CLIFFORD LUMSDEN — I was born in Hanna on March 6, 1936, and have lived all my life on the home farm, the NW 13-32-14.

In June of 1939 I was with my brother Wilfred and sister Marie hunting crows and magpies. I got tired so they decided to send me home. I got off the trail and got lost, and they had most of the neighbors out looking for me. Waldimar Banco found me about four miles from home, and took me to Ludwig Pahl's place. I remember I really felt big because Ludwig let me ride on the running board of the car when he took me home.

I started school at Solon in 1942, attended Meadowlands in 1950 and 1951, and Hanna [illegible] 1951 and 1952. I played ball for Dowling in the fifties.

In March, 1960, I married Shirley Mae Walle of Endiang. In 1960 we had a daughter, Kathleen Marie; a son Steven Barry in 1961; and another son, Myles, [illegible] 1962.

I enjoy curling, fishing and snowmobiling with my family.

WILFRED LUMSDEN — I was born in Hanna on April 17, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden. I attended Solon school for nine years, and then took three years of high school [illegible] Hanna. In April, 1948, I joined the Navy, and spent one year at the west coast and two years on the east coast.

In the spring of 1951 I returned to help on my father's farm, and purchased the west half of 20-32-13 from Charlie Wyatt in 1953.

That December Ila Mulgrove and I were married, and we have four children. Diana, married to Leon Paquette, lived in Calgary. Dwane is working [illegible] Hanna. Barbara, Mrs. Danny Bauch, is at Campbell River, B.C., and Lois [illegible] in Hanna.

In 1967 I started working for Ducks Unlimited, and although we are still living on the farm, we have rented the cultivated land to Ken Rehill since 1975.

ABRAHAM MILLER, By Fred Miller — Abraham Miller was born on April [illegible], 1902 at McKluskey, North Dakota. In November [illegible] 1909 he came with his parents [illegible] Stettler, where they spent the winter. The following spring the family moved to the homestead which his father had filed on, four miles west of the present town of Hanna.

His father bought section 6-32-13 in the Solon district for him, and Abe moved onto this place in 1924. In 1926 he was married [illegible] Jean Engel. They had three sons, Albert, Eddie and Norman.

Jean died when Norman was born. Abe stayed on the farm for about two years after his wife died, then moved to Calgary, where he resided until his passing in 1974 at the age [illegible] seventy-one years.

THE JOSEPH VINCENT O'NEILL STORY — In 1909 Joe O'Neill took possession of section 6-32-13, a South African Veterans' Scrip. He was a well-educated man who had come to Solon area from the United States.

Neighbors remember him as the man with no fingers who was most adept at driving a six-horse team.

In 1912 he reported harvesting six thousand and sixty-two bushels of oats from one hundred and ten acres.

In December, 1915 he left this area to take up residence in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pahl and two sons, Alfred and Otto, 1930.

THE FRED PAHL FAMILY, By Alfred Pahl — Fred Pahl was born in 1895 in Romania. He served for four years with the Russian army during World War I and was awarded several medals. After the war he was married to Christine Kranick. In 1927 the Pahls were dissatisfied with the political situation in their country, and this was a deciding factor for going to Canada, the land of hope in those years.

In May, 1927, Fred and Christine and their two sons, Alfred, age four, and Otto, age two, arrived in Halifax after a three-week ocean voyage from Leipzig. As was the case with most immigrating families, the Pahls brought few material goods with them, basically only what they were able to carry . . . mainly clothing and cooking utensils. They journeyed by train to Hanna, arriving six days later. This area of settlement had been chosen on the basis of information received from Fred's half-sister, Mrs. Jacob Stern, who was already living in the area.

The Pahls moved to a half-section farm thirteen miles north-east of Hanna. There was a three-roomed house, but it was unfinished. The 2 x 4 studs were still open on the inside and so they papered the walls with newspaper. Besides finding the house in poor condition, Christine was further disheartened [illegible] see it snow in June of that year. It was a harsh contrast [illegible] the green fields of wheat that they had left behind in Romania. The family could speak no English, and the final blow was the discovery of skunks (unknown in Romania) under the house.

Lack of funds was about the only thing that kept the family from moving on, but as they settled in and more families from Romania settled in the area, things improved. They were able to purchase an old Model T Ford, which still had kerosene lamps for headlights. Church services under the auspices of Rev. Beitch were started in the Garden Plain school, and later, in the thirties, the family joined the Hanna congregation.

Farming in the first years in Canada was on a small scale, basically wheat, and oats for feed for their few cows and horses. [illegible] 1930 the Pahls opened a strip coal mine. Neighbors were hired to strip the coal which sold for seventy-five cents a ton; they were paid two tons of coal for an eight-hour work day with a four-horse outfit. Sometimes Mr. Pahl would trade ten tons of coal for a three-year-old steer. Mine workers could be hired for fifteen dollars a month.

Fred served on the school board from 1934 to 1937. Both Alfred and Otto attended Solon school, which meant a three and a half mile walk each day. In later years they rode bicycles.

On one occasion when they were going visiting in their old Model T truck they arrived [illegible] their destination and discovered that the boys were missing from the

back of the truck. Going back over the route again, they found Alfred and Otto unharmed. They had been tossed out when the truck hit a hole on the prairie trail.

During the difficult years of the 1930s the whole family had to work extra hard to make ends meet. In 1934-5 Alfred was able to herd cows on the lease land, and while doing this he was free to collect gopher tails. The income from this was often greater than what the family made on milking six cows. By 1939 conditions had improved and Pahls were able to buy their first tractor. This meant that the tractor and scrapers could be used to enlarge the mining operation. In 1941 Fred Pahl purchased a steel-wheeled combine and later bought a self-propelled one. Fred and the boys then did custom combining as well as digging dugouts and making dams.

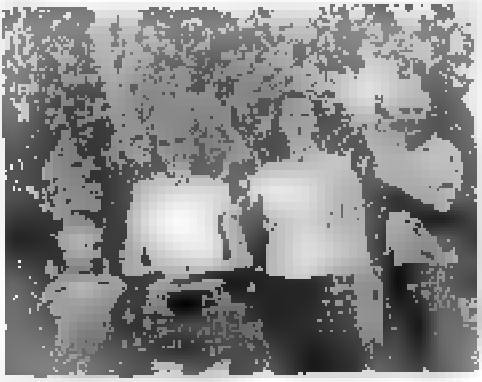
Fred continued to mine and farm until 1952 when he and his wife retired to Hanna. Mrs. Christina Pahl passed away in September, 1965, and Fred in November, 1967.

Both Alfred and Otto were married in April, 1947, Alfred to Ruby Kautz on April 13 and Otto to Laura Karg on April 20. Although they had separate farms, they continued to operate the mine together until 1952 when the advent of gas stoves and stokers made the business no longer profitable to run.

Alfred and Ruby lived on section 22, range 13, which Alfred had purchased in 1943. In their first years they milked several cows, but by the time the mine closed they were farming and ranching, and continued to do so until they sold the farm in 1972. They moved to a new home in Hanna where Alfred worked for the Alberta government as a hail and crop insurance agent and adjuster. During his farming career, Alfred held positions with the U.F.A. and U.G.G.

Ruby and Alfred had five daughters.

After their marriage, Otto and Laura took up farming on the home place. They moved the original farm home closer to No. 36 Highway, where it still stands. Otto participated in the U.F.A. and continued farming and ranching. The couple had one daughter and one son. They sold their farm in 1969 and the family moved into Hanna where Otto was employed. He died in 1972 and was buried in Hanna Cemetery where his mother and father had been laid to rest.


Otto Pahl Family. Larry, Ronda, Laura and Otto.

OTTO PAHL, By Laura Mahoney — Otto Pahl and I were married in the spring of 1947. My name was Laura Karg and I came from south-west of Hanna. We didn't go on a honeymoon until July as Otto and his brother Alfred had to work in the coal mine. It was very hard work. Otto, Alfred and their dad, Fred Pahl, put in many a long day digging out coal by hand.

The first year we had no car, so in the winter we either walked or took the horse and stoneboat to visit the neighbors. It seems to me that in those days the weather was much colder and there was a lot more snow. Many a morning we had to find our well before we could water the cattle, as it was halfway down a hill and would be blown over.

Between farming, mining and cattle we were very busy. After the mine closed, Otto worked with an electrician for several years, as well as continuing to farm.

In July, 1949, we lost twin girls, but in June of 1951 we had a ten pound baby

girl, Ronda. She is now married to Raymond Tschritter and has two little girls of her own.

In the spring of 1952 we decided to move our buildings closer to the main road, as we were always blocked in in the winter time, and we had no trees for shelter. So we dug a basement on the SW 19-32-13 behind a nice grove of trees which had been planted years ago. Then the neighbors all came and helped us pour the cement. A mover by the name of Mickey McBride moved the buildings across the fields to the new site, and the Special Areas built a road for us. Then we didn't have to fight the snow and the mud over the two miles to the highway.

In September, 1954, our son Larry was born. He became a licensed carpenter, and married Sandy Scott in 1975.

In October of 1954 we snowed in early and did not get all our crop off.

So the years rolled by, the good and the bad, and in June, 1969, we sold our farm, had a sale and moved to Hanna.

Otto passed away in February, 1972, at the age of forty-seven. I married Hubert Mahoney and am still living in Hanna.

FREDERICK PAHL, By Mrs. L. Pahl — Frederick and Emella Pahl immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1927. They settled on the NE 2-32-14, and the three oldest children, Alma, Fred and Frieda, went to Solon school. Mr. Pahl raised some cattle and did some grain farming.

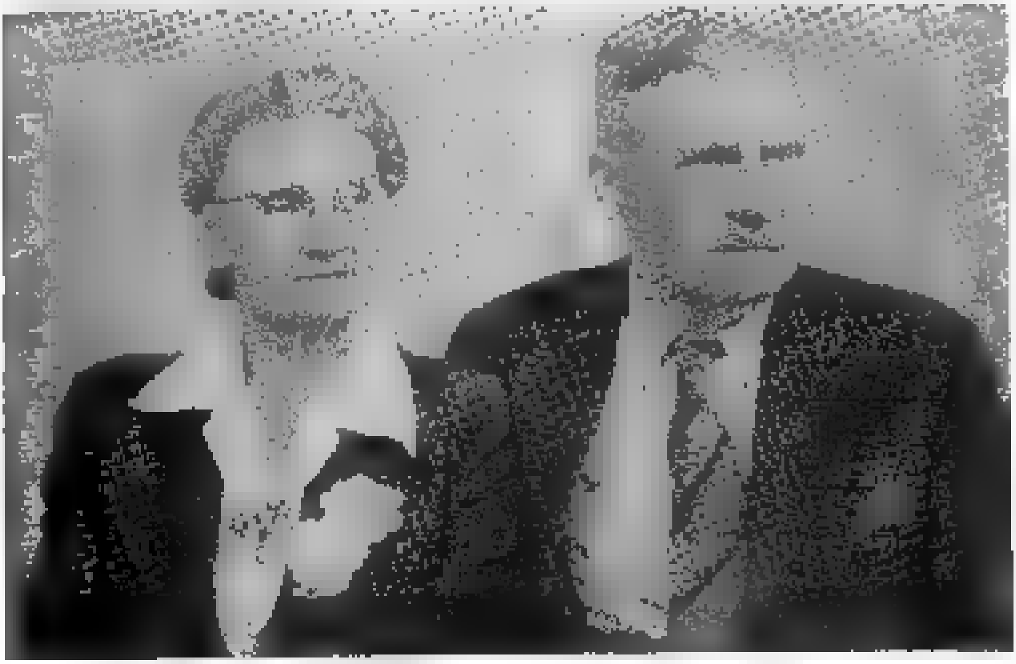
Frederick Pahl Family. Back Row: Art, Alma, Fred Jr., Frieda, Edward. Front Row: Olga, Mrs. Emmella Pahl, Mr. Frederick Pahl, Emma.

In 1934 the family moved to Lavoy, Alberta, and in 1937 to Chilliwack, B.C. Mr. Frederick Pahl passed away in December, 1973.

THE PEDERSON STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Theodore Pederson left Trondheim, Norway in February 1898, to join his brother, Iver in North Dakota. One year later they sent for Theodore's fiancee, Bergitte Martinson; their brother, Paul and his wife and two children; and their brother Lawrence. Theodore and Bergitte were married in 1901 at Coopertown, North Dakota, and the family established a farm some distance from Coopertown.

In 1907, Theodore and Bergitte with three children, Anna and Mary and Louis, returned to Norway for eighteen months. While there, another child, Nikola was born. They returned to the United States bringing Theodore's Mother and Father, Lorentz with them. In the same year another child, Dorothy was born.

In 1909 Theodore and Bergitte and family, his parents and brothers, Lawrence and Paul with his family came to Canada. The family travelled by train to Castor. While there, Lorentz cut and laid stone for the Castor School and after exploring the country, arrived at the location where Hanna was later built. During the summer and fall of 1910 they lived in a board-walled tent. While waiting for Theodore and the household goods and livestock, Bergitte worked with a Chinese family who operated a restaurant. A house was completed in November 1910 on the homestead and the tent and site were sold, and this later became the location of the first Bank in Hanna.



Theodora and Bergitte Pederson.

Theodore Pederson filed on his homestead April 22, 1910, the southwest of 14-32-14; and in 1914 a pre-emption on northwest of 14-32-14. The pre-emption was acquired by S.A. Brown in 1916.

Lawrence Pederson filed on his homestead and pre-emption on the north half 33-31-14 in June 1909. He later returned to North Dakota to farm.

Lorentz Pederson filed on his homestead in June 1910 on the southeast of 33-31-14 and pre-emption the southwest of 34-31-14.

Lorentz died in 1916 and his wife, two years later. They are buried at Hanna.

Bergitte's brother, Elmer Olsen and his wife arrived and filed in June 1910 on the northwest of 34-31-14.

Bergitte (Bertha) who is still living at Mirror, Alberta, recalls travelling with oxen to Castor for supplies, while Hanna was being built up. The return trip took about a week. The local store was at Garden Plain, and the storekeeper travelled, taking orders, and then delivering to his customers. Coal was dug nearby and Bergitte recalls being given coal by the miner's sons. They delivered the winter's supply of coal to the homestead because Theodore and some of the local men were in Saskatchewan harvesting. The first years were very dry, and Bergitte

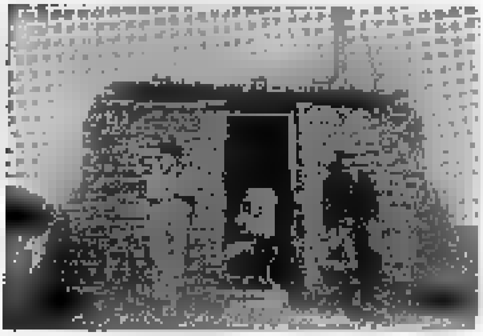
hauled water in barrels and cans on a stone boat to water the garden. She harvested the first crop of flax with a hand sickle, which she still has! The flax was flailed and cleaned by hand, and yielded one-half bushel. The garden, this same year, yielded forty-eight bushels of potatoes and two bushels of carrots.

Theodore travelled to Saskatchewan in the dry years to earn extra money harvesting and this left the operation of the homestead to Bergitte and the children. But with cows producing and cream to sell to the neighbors, the family made out. Theodore and Bertha moved south to the Stirling and Berry farm, now known as the Lorne Hannah farm. During 1916 and 1917 Bertha broke cows for Sterling and Berry while Theodore built the dairy barn.

While on the homestead, three of the children, Anna, Mary and Louis attended Solon School. Four more children, Jeanette, Alma, Laura and Helmer were born on the homestead north of Hanna.

Theodore and Bertha sold the homestead in 1918 to S.A. Brown and moved to Camrose and then bought a farm at Lamerton, north of Mirror. They later moved to Mirror, where Theodore died in 1948 at the age of seventy-four years. Bertha still lives at Mirror and is now ninety-seven years of age.

Theodore and Bertha had ten children, nine of them survived and raised families. Six of their children now are living and there are twenty-six grandchildren, seventy-one great grandchildren and thirty-four great great grandchildren.



Mr. Pope's Sod Shack. Bob Samson, Zelma and Mark Pope.

MARCUS LAFAYETTE POPE, by Blanche Pope Johnston — My brother Mark left home at a very early age. He was born in 1882 in Catawba County, North Carolina, fourth-born of a large family. He homesteaded in the Dakotas but conditions there weren't to his liking. Hearing reports of this area being opened up for homesteading, he arrived in Stettler in May of 1910. Purchasing a team of oxen, wagon and necessary settlers' effects he left for his homestead which was the SW 12-32-14. He also pre-empted NW 1-32-14 along with his homestead. He got his supplies and mail at Castor for a short while until Garden Plain store and post office opened. Later on he got his mail at the Solon post office.

He lived in a sod shack for a few years until he built his house in 1916.

When the railway grade was being built into Hanna, he sold the oxen, bought a team of horses and worked on this project. He also worked for Bob Sampson and got a few head of cattle as part of his wages. By using good Angus bulls he was able to upgrade his herd substantially.

In the fall of 1917, leaving the homestead [illegible] care of an elderly man, he came back to North Carolina. As I was the youngest of the family I had never seen him before. It was arranged that I would come to Alberta and keep house for him. I was also born in Catawba County. After completing my education I started working in a hosiery mill when I was thirteen years old. The wages were low and the days were long.

We left for Canada shortly after my eighteenth birthday [illegible] early March [illegible] 1918. We came to Buffalo, New York and then to Toronto. The further west we came the more snow became evident. We arrived in Hanna at 6 a.m. on March 16. We certainly were dirty after the long train ride, mostly from ashes sifting into the passenger compartment. After a wash and breakfast at the Seymour Hotel we went uptown. We met the Fortnas at the Stephen's store where it was arranged that they would take us home. Mrs. Fortna drove while I held young Harold. Jake and Mark rode in the back. This was my first sleigh ride.

That summer of 1918 we fenced the school section. It was a very dry year. We had to carry water for many of those post holes. Everyone remarked how straight Mark's fence lines were. This thoroughness in doing a job well was evident throughout his farming year. The crop that year was so short that Mark used his mower to cut what he could. He flailed out about sixty bushels of seed wheat for his efforts.

Mark bought a saddle horse from Jake Fortna with which I could look after the cattle on the school section during the summer months. Many loads of upland hay I helped him to put up. The grass in those days was very tall and anyone walking, especially after a heavy dew was sure to get wet.

Miss Gileanders, Solon's first teacher who boarded at Gordon's, would take a shortcut to school through Mark's pre-emption. He took his mower and cut the grass so that she would have a good path to walk to school on.

Around 1916, he had planted a shelter belt along the north side and one on the west side of his farmstead. I helped him plant the ones to the south, which he had grown from seed.

Mark purchased a Model T car from Esty Holmes which had originally been owned by Harry Macropol of Hellenic Farms. This was located where Otto Stern now lives. Anyway, to get back to the car, a rod burned out of it on the first trip to Hanna. Mark had forgotten to close one of the oil level petcocks on the crankcase. He brought it home and never used it again and as a matter of fact, he couldn't afford to run it.

The Lewis family of Garden Plain stayed at Mark's while they farmed their pre-emption. When they left after a visit, Mr. Lewis would say, "Get in, Mother", and when she was seated in the buggy he would leap for the seat and the buckskin team were off, bucking and jumping till they got to the road.

Mark and Katherine Mowatt were married in 1926. They resided on the farm until Mark's untimely death in 1931. There were no children. Katherine carried on for a year or two with kind help, then had an auction sale and eventually sold the place. Later, she married Don Elliot and resided in Hanna for a number of years until they retired to Victoria, B.C.

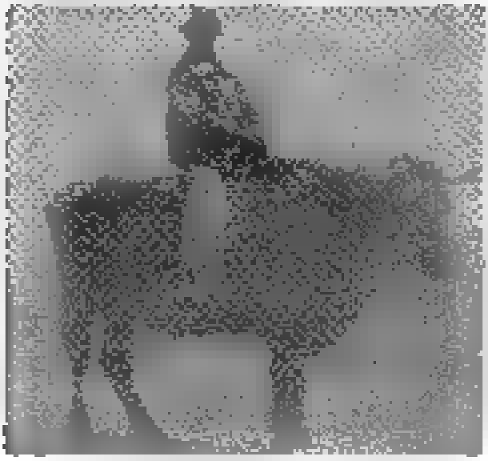
IRENE and GUS READWIN, as related by Mrs. Irene Readwin to Joanne Cody — In 1915, my husband and I came west on our honeymoon to Stanmore, Alberta. We had been married in Guelph, Ontario on February 15, 1915. Arriving in Stanmore, we stayed with my cousin, George Zinter. Two weeks later my brother Alex Schell arrived with a railroad car of supplies that included two horses, two cows, chickens and groceries.

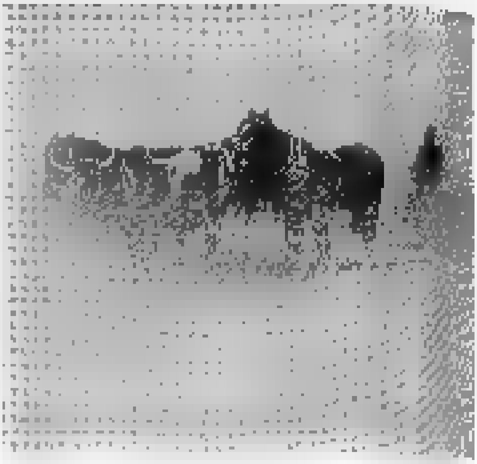
We moved to the Charlie James place which was on the west side of Berry Creek. Our nearest town was Richdale. The farmstead consisted of several shacks, one of which we lived in. We also farmed the land of Joe Schell, another cousin, on the east side of Berry Creek.

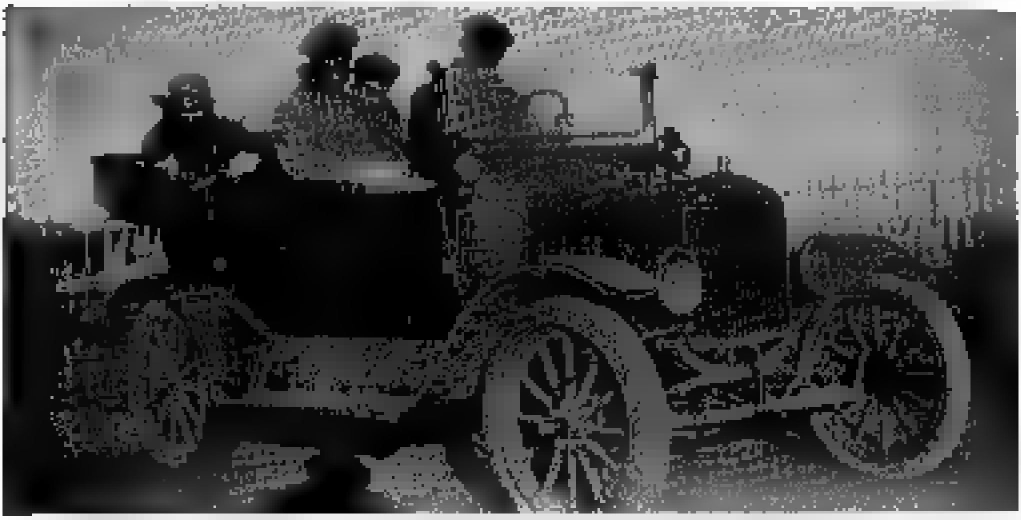
One day five of us were returning from Joe's with a hayrack, and had to cross the Berry Creek which was swollen by rains. The high water floated the hayrack off the wagon gear and the five of us floated down the Berry Creek. Luckily the

hayrack eventually caught [illegible] some bushes as we went around a curve and we got to shore safely. Another time I was taking supper by horseback to the men who were haying at Joe's, and my horse decided to sit down part way across the creek. Supper was not as planned that night.

From Richdale we moved to Joe O'Neil's place, 6-32-13, north [illegible] Hanna. This farm was on the east side of the road next to a large slough. Our daughter Madge was born there in 1916. Later on we moved to the Kern place, the east half of 1-32-14, which we had also purchased. This farm was on the west side of the road.


Gus Readwin


Gus Readwin and team, two horses and two oxen.


Readwin's first car, 1917. Gus at wheel. Jack Anthony in front. Irene, Madge, and Alex in back seat.

In 1917 we acquired a Model T touring car which I learned to drive. I recall being at Craigmyle at my uncle's place, as his wife was ill and I had gone to help. With the Zinter children in the back I was driving across the prairie to call the men for dinner, when a wheel hit a hole and one of the children bounced out of the back seat. I also recall picking up Mrs. Curtis and little Bill for trips [illegible] Hanna in the Ford.

One spring, perhaps in 1918, we made a trip to Little Fish Lake in the Hand Hills with my brother Alex Scheil and Mr. and Mrs. John Fox. We gathered five sacks of suckers from the pools in the creek and preserved them by layering the fish with salt [illegible] barrels. Gus and I also attended the first Hand Hill Stampede.

One Sunday Gus and I decided [illegible] drive by horse to Richdale to see the

Kramers. Coming home the mosquitoes were so bad that we lit a smudge pot to smoke them off. The horse's back was solid black with mosquitoes, they were so thick.

[illegible] 1918 we purchased a hundred head of cattle from Mr. Stinn of Hanna, and lacking pasture due to the Greek farm syndicate taking up adjacent land, we moved to [illegible] lease on the Battle River, some fifteen miles from Castor. Our son Desmond was born there in 1920.

When we were packing for the move to Castor, I put a bottle of formaldehyde in a box amongst the sheets and pillowcases. The hired man unpacked the box, and being fond [illegible] a nip, took a long swig from the bottle. He went out the door about the time I was coming in with a couple [illegible] pails of warm milk. The man was [illegible] agony, and lacking anything else, we poured fresh milk into him until he vomited, and repeated the treatment several times. He got up the next morning with the observation that he was amazed to find that he was still alive.

We moved from Castor to Olds in 1924, and to Calgary in 1949. Madge, who studied designing, worked for the C.P.R. in Calgary. Desmond served in the RCAF during World War II as a radio technician, and after the war became chief engineer with CKXL radio station.

Mr. Readwin passed away in 1956.

Editor's Note: During her years at Olds, Mrs. Readwin became interested in ceramics and pottery. When she moved to Calgary, she was very active with ceramics groups, and her work was widely recognized. In 1958 she judged the arts and crafts entered at the Calgary Stampede. In 1976 the first annual show of the Ceramics Association of Alberta was dedicated to her.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rice

JOHN and SARAH RICE, By Blanche Johnston — John Rice was a volunteer in the Militia that came out west during the Riel Rebellion. John and his wife Sarah were persuaded to leave their native Ontario to move to B.C. when they were both getting along in years. Joe Molton, an Englishman who was supposed to be [illegible] partner, also went to B.C. with them. He was much younger than they, and a very smooth talker. However B.C. didn't appeal to them so about 1917 the three of them came to Hanna and bought A.A. Gordon's land. When I arrived in 1918 they were already here. John was a lean and lanky man while Mrs. Rice was short and squatty. Whenever I ran short of flour I would go to Rices' to borrow some. This continued for some time and when it came time to repay them, my brother, Mark, gave them a sack of flour. Mrs. Rice also gave me my first clucking hen and setting of eggs. Shortly after Rices came here Joe Molton bought a Model T, and we bought this car from him in 1926.

Rices, then without a car, bought a new Model T from the local agent. His instructor showed him how [illegible] start and stop it. Roads in those days were not good, but even on the prairie trails he drove without care, not heeding safety or speed, and was always getting racked up. After one such ride with him I can tell you we

were glad that trip was over. Mrs. Rice took John's driving as a matter of course, it didn't fizz her one bit. She just kept on talking.

Mrs. Rice's spinster sister, Charlotte Shaw came to live with them about 1927. She was stone deaf, having suffered her afflication by not having proper attention when she had scarlet fever as a child. She was a lip reader and spoke in the manner that totally deaf people do, without tonal change.

About 1928 Rices sold out to Fred Pahl, a brother of the late Ludwig Pahl. They bought a small developed acreage on the north-east outskirts of Hanna from Bert Mott. Frank and Rose Powell live on the place now. They lived here for a few years, all receiving the old age pension. When John had to be taken [illegible] an old folks' home the two sisters sold the acreage and rented a suite [illegible] town. Mrs. Rice was 84 years old when she passed away [illegible] 1939. Miss Shaw, born in 1865, passed away in 1947.

Joe Molton left for Calgary after Rices moved to Hanna and eventually married a widow.

WALTER SHEATH — I was born in Spondin, Alberta, and took my schooling at Gooseberry Lake and Spondin schools, and later moved to Hanna where I was employed at Modern Service and at the Hanna Creamery.

In 1960 I married Vi Keim of Hanna and the following year we moved back to Spondin, taking over my dad's farm there. We lived in the Spondin area from 1961-1972.

In the fall [illegible] 1972, after selling our farm, we came [illegible] the Solon district and purchased the Weitman farm, southwest quarter of 19-32-13, formerly owned by the late Otto Pahl. Besides the duty of farm life, I have been driving school bus for Rangeland School Division for twelve years.

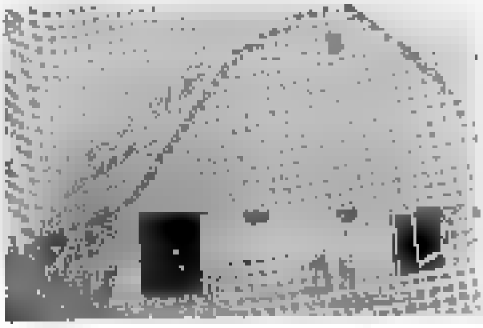
We have four children, Susan (1960), Barry (1962), Connie (1963) and Dale (1964), all presently attending school in Hanna. As a family we enjoy snowmobiling in the winter and do a considerable amount of camping in the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whaley Sr., 1897.

THINGS I REMEMBER ABOUT THE WHALEY FAMILY, By Mary Whaley Henry — When we first came to Solon there was no Solon school, and no Hanna either.

That was May, 1910. My brother John was a baby, scarcely a month old. There were six of us children, Fred, Maud, George, Mary, Mabel and John. We had lived on a homestead in the Clover Bar district, but the earliest memory I have is when we were coming from Castor. Mother and we smaller children were in a wagon which was very crowded. Mr. Gordon took me to [illegible] beside him on a board across the top of the wagon, and Mother was afraid that I would fall off, but Mr. Gordon put his arm around me and held me as he drove the horses. I now feel that Dad and my brother, Fred, were driving the stock.

It seems to me that we stayed [illegible] Gordon's place that night. It was two miles north of Dad's land, the NE of 12-32-14. I often went there after I was older as Nellie Gordon was the same age as I was and we were friends for many years.

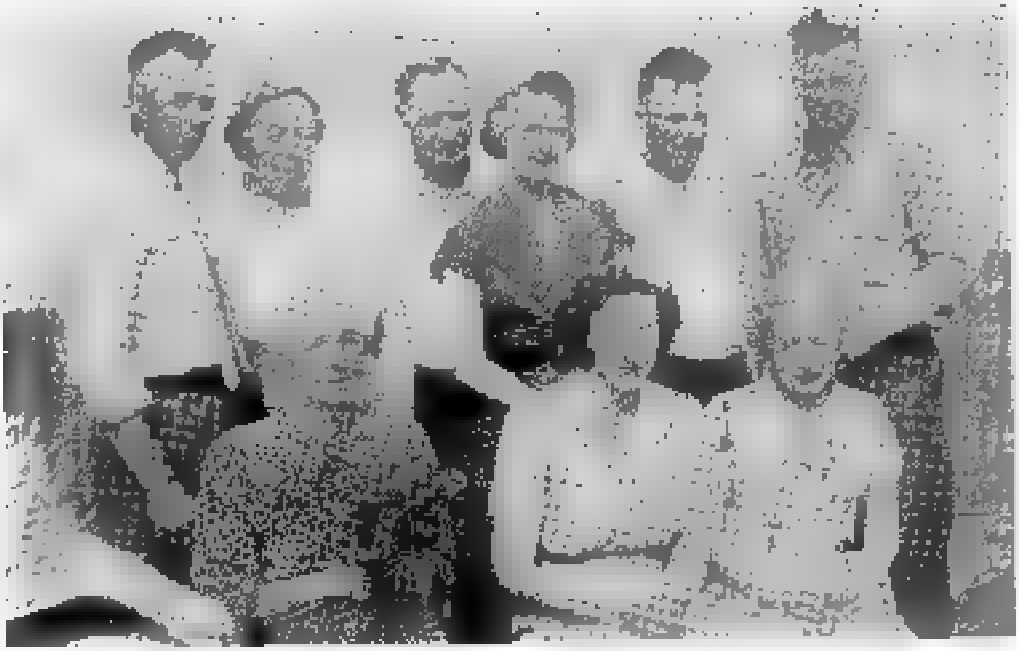


Barn building bee at Whaley's, 1928.

I remember living in a tent by the north slough, and Mother heating oats to put around John to keep him warm. While we still lived in the tent that first summer, some horse thieves came and took three horses. Dad spent a long time hunting them, and finally managed to get the horses back. Dad built the first part of the house that summer.

I don't know when Dad started talking about school, but I do remember him arguing about it with some of the neighborhood bachelors. They were not anxious to start a school as their taxes would go up.

However, two years later we were going to school. The first two teachers were Miss Gilleanders and Miss Laycock. I do not remember which teacher came first, but I do remember Miss Laycock best, so I suppose that she was the second. A Mr. Fredericks was third. He lived at Garden Plain and drove eleven miles every morning with a horse and buggy. Some of the first kids to go to Solon school were Viva, Ford and Doris Thompson; Zelma Samson; Annie, Mary and Lou Pederson; John and Nellie Gordon; Fred, George, Maud and Mary Whaley. There may have been a couple of Burns boys too.



Grandma Whaley and eight of her ten children. Fred Jr., Maud, George, Mary, John, Charlie, Mrs. Whaley, Viola and Ada.

Dad was always very good to us. He used to help Mabel and me dress when Mother was busy with the younger children, or getting breakfast. He often held Mabel and me on his knees and sang to [illegible]. Mother always raised a big garden so she taught us to do chores, to help weed the garden and look after the smaller children.

It must have been about 1914 when Dad built the second half of the house. He hired Mr. Peterson, a stone mason, to build the walls of the cellar for the west half of the house. Dad and Fred helping, of course. They must have finished it that fall, as I remember when Charlie was born on February 8, 1915, Mabel and I slept on a quilt by the heater in the west room, and Dad waked us, saying that we had a new brother.

Since my birthday was three days later, I always claimed Charlie as my birthday present.

Somewhere about this time, Dad bought the south quarter of 12-32-14 from George Crossfield, and later moved the shack from there home to the yard for the boys' sleeping quarters.

I don't know just when Dad put the engine and pump in the house. The engine was one and a half horsepower, with a line shaft on which were pulleys, so it ran the cream seperator, the churn, the washing machine, and the pump, and we were able to have water in the house.

We always milked a lot of cows, and in the earlier years Mother made a lot of butter. Then Dad got a butter mixer. It was about four feet long and maybe three feet wide at one end, and eight inches wide at the other end, with a metal part at the small end. There was a six-sided bar with a metal end which fit into the metal part at the small end of the butter table. It was a bit higher than a chair, and had three legs. By turning the long handle you could squeeze the buttermilk and water from the butter.

Mother also used to spin wool to make clothes. She first started when Fred was small, when Dad worked on the railroad in the mountains. He was out in the cold a great deal, and got sciatica. It was so bad that he was unable to feed himself. The doctor told Mother to put a towel on his back and iron him with a flat iron. Then he told her to make him some real wool underwear.

Dad got better, they moved back to Edmonton in 1900 and Mother got the spinning wheel. From then on, she made all the underwear for Dad and the boys. Later she got a knitting machine, and knitted strips and sewed them together, which was much faster than hand knitting. She also made socks for the whole family. I now have the spinning wheel and Charlie has the knitting machine.

In the winter evenings, Dad would read the newspaper or what story books we had. Mother would spin and we girls would knit, crochet, or mend. That was before the days of radio.

I don't know just what year it was that Mr. Oke and Marian Wright started having Church and Sunday School at Solon. Dad and Mother didn't go very often, but always wanted us to go, and we rarely went without collection.

As time passed by, Myrtle, Ada and Viola were added to our family. In spite of the fact that there were a lot of children to feed, both Dad and Mother were very generous, and I never remember anyone coming to our house and going away hungry. I must have been about fifteen when a couple of men came and asked for a meal. Mother gave them dinner and they offered to pay. Dad wouldn't accept anything: he just told them to feed the next man that came to their door.

Dad was a very public-spirited person, and he was active in the United Farmers' Association, and was also a firm backer of the Wheat Pool.

Sometime after Dad had bought the south quarter, he put the bathtub in. Before that the house was too full of children. Later he bought the Ditton quarter, the NE 18-32-13, also a Case threshing machine and a tractor. In the fall of 1926, while Dad, Fred, and George were out threshing, Mother, Mable and I milked twenty-seven cows. John carried the milk to the house. I took cream to town two or

three times a week with the team and wagon, and brought gas back to wherever they were threshing.

That was the fall I met Howard Henry. He came to work for Dad. We were married in June, 1926. We spent that summer on a rented farm at Mayerthorpe, coming to Grande Prairie in April, 1927. Both of us worked around Grande Prairie that first summer. Then we lived in the Bezanson district until we went homesteading in 1931. We moved to the homestead at Goodwin right after our daughter Edith was born in May, 1931. Our son, Bill, was born in November, 1932. We lived there until 1964, when we moved to an acreage east of Debolt and raised pigs.

Since Howard's health was getting bad, we moved to Grande Prairie in December, 1967, and he passed away in November, 1973. I have lived in Aurora Court, a senior citizens' apartment in Grande Prairie, since July, 1973.

Edith has been a widow for seventeen years. She has three grown sons of whom we are very proud. Edith works on the local paper.

Bill is a chemical engineer. He is married and has two girls and two boys. They live in Lloydminster.

Dad died in July, 1934, and Mother in March, 1960.

JOHN WHALEY'S FAMILY, By Mrs. Murray Whaley — I met Mrs. Fred Whaley for the first time in 1940, when her son John and I started keeping company. The Whaley family had come to the Solon district with their beds and belongings in the spring of 1910, when John was a tiny baby. Those were the years when many homesteaders were moving in, and tar paper shacks and soddies were popping up on nearly every quarter section.

John's parents had a fine herd of milk cows, and his mother made many hundred pounds of butter over the years, selling it, after Hanna was established, at Stephens Brothers' Store. John's father was very mechanical, and they jokingly called their house, in later years, the workmen's kitchen. They had a small engine which ran a washing machine and churn. They had lots of clear water and theirs was one of the first houses in the country to have running water, inside and out.

John's father passed away during the summer of 1934.

His mother always had a big garden and kept trying to grow her own fruit trees. Many the dishes of strawberries and cream I've enjoyed from her garden. The family kept a small flock of sheep, and often she would work far into the night, spinning the wool. Then they got a knitting machine and made socks and underwear. I have kept one of John's woollen undershirts just to remind me what was done in those early, hard years.

John and I were married in January, 1941, and spent the first year with Grandma, Mabel and Charlie. We got a house built, and while I was in the hospital with our first baby, David, John moved our belongings across the road, which is now No. 36 Highway, and into the house on the SE 7-32-13.

We got busy, the next summer, and made a sod chicken house. We kept up to three hundred laying hens, and one year I was able to hatch, with hens, around five hundred chicks. We milked cows, and added some pigs, and a garden. The family multiplied, and so did the work.

We had picnics and some of the most wonderful Christmas concerts. I recall when Mrs. Hein taught there was standing room only in the school for the concert.

The cream from our cows pretty well had to keep us, and at 43¢ a pound for butterfat, it took a lot of pounds. Cattle prices, too, were not that good. I still keep a stub, to remind me of those times, when we got $7.50 per hundred for steers.

As the children got into high school, we got a small truck and David and James drove into town.

We moved back to the south country in 1960, as the lake was dry, resulting in no grass for the cattle, and no water for us. In March of 1960, Grandma Whaley passed away, and we still miss her so much.

David went to the University of Calgary for two years and then taught at Cessford school. He went to the north country, took summer school courses and returned to Calgary for his final year leading to his Bachelor of Education. He taught at Grande Prairie for some years; now he, his wife Sheila and son Neil, live at Wainwright.

James took a journalism course at SAIT, and is now working in a print shop. He and his wife Debbie were married in 1976.

Gerald worked for several years as chainman for a survey crew, then took a surveying course at NAIT. He and his wife Sylvia have two boys, Jonathan and Jason.

Clayton, his wife Ellen and daughters MaryEllen and Michelle, live in Grande Prairie where he is a trucker.

Russell worked with a highway road crew for a year, then was with Alberta Government Telephones for three years. When John passed away in 1975, he quit his job to come home, and now works as a cat operator at the Sheerness mine.

Mary is attending Alberta Bible College in Calgary. I do not know what career she will choose, but I'm sure she will make a success of it.

All their pictures are in the rotunda of Hanna High School, and that has made me very proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Marian Wright and Blanche, 1915.

MARIAN WRIGHT FAMILY, by Bea Wright Bryce — Marian and Lona Wright were both born in Illinois in 1881. They had a son, who died at the age of six years, and a daughter, myself, born in Oklahoma. We emigrated from Oklahoma in 1914, entering Canada at Emerson, Manitoba, on August 14. Two of mother's brothers, Albert Overton and his family, and Joseph Overton, emigrated with my father, shipping our combined household effects, livestock and farm machinery by boxcar.

When we arrived at our Canadian home, the house was located on the north quarter of 30-32-13, near a little creek, with a lovely spring well. Later it was moved to the south-west quarter, added to, and remodelled as the years went by, to its present size and appearance.

The Overton family moved into a sod house that year, and stayed for a year or so, but I can't recall its location. [illegible] C. Massey and family, a sister and brother-in-law of mother's, were living on the half-section directly west of us. They bought the farm now known as the Greenway farm, and lived there until their return to Oklahoma. The Overton family then moved to the place vacated by the Masseys, lived there a few years, then moved to the house just south of us, staying there until they went to Oregon. Both of these houses were later torn down.

There were two colorful bachelors living near us. One, Bob, usually visited

each neighbor once a week, and was always available to lend [illegible] helping hand. I can't recall the name of the other one, but he owned the coal mine later owned by the Pahl family, I think. He was also a weekly visitor, and had many stories about the country in the early days. I can recall only one that he was fond of telling all newcomers about our wonderful chinooks.

He always started the story by recalling the day he drove the bobsleigh into Hanna. On his way home a chinook arrived, and his horses were soon wading in soft snow, The front bobs were running in water and slushy snow, the back bobs were in water and his dog was swimming behind.

All the home sites on the prairies in the early days had one thing [illegible] common, a fire guard all around the buildings, made by plowing ten or twelve furrows, as there was so much uncultivated land in those years, and prairie fires were always a grave danger. We never had any real close, but saw them in the distance several times.

Marian Wright, daughter Blanche and his team of mules, 1916.

In later years, as more and more land was cultivated and summerfallowed, the dust storm era began. I can remember walking home from school with my skirt over my face to enable me to breathe. After each dust storm the house would have to be cleaned. The window sills, floor and furniture were all covered with a thick layer of fine dust. The curtains and bedding nearly always had to be washed. These were very trying years, as there were very poor crops, little pasture land or garden produce. The farmers had [illegible] use different methods of farming to try to stop the loss of the rest of their topsoil, but it took many years.

Following this period, most of the old fire guards were planted to trees, supplied by the provincial government. The thinking was that it would help the soil erosion problem, and it certainly made the homes more attractive.

Dad did most of his work with horses and two mules which he had brought with him from Oklahoma, until the mid forties when he purchased his old John Deere tractor. Until the thirties he hauled most of his grain to the Boner elevator, but after that he drove four horses hitched to two grain wagons to Hanna. He bought his Model T Ford in the early twenties. I have many pleasant memories of that car which I learned to drive when I was thirteen years old.

My chores consisted [illegible] bringing in the cows from the pasture, and helping mother with the housework, doing as much of the heavier work as time permitted, such as churning, washing clothes, mixing bread and carrying [illegible] water. During the harvest season it was my duty to milk the cows and separate the milk.

I think the days that we had the threshers at our place were very special days to all children; they were to me. [illegible] was all very exciting to watch the steam engine

pulling the separator, followed by a cook house, a bunk house, water wagon and all the racks, many driven by neighbors, go through the yard and into the field. Later steam engines were replaced by gas engines, then they and the separator and racks all gave way to the combines.

We had a fairly good well beside the house, not too deep, but it supplied the house and livestock until it was spoiled by a company testing for oil. Many wells were spoiled in those years.

I started school at Solon in 1916. I don't remember who my first teacher was, but Annie Oke was a much-loved teacher in our early grades. I attended Alps school for a few years, finished up to grade nine at Solon, and took my high school at Hanna.

Mother and Dad moved into Hanna but continued to farm the land until they sold it in 1950. They moved to Vernon, B.C., where they spent their remaining years.

Mother loved the Okanagan Valley as it reminded her of her home in Illinois, but Dad longed to farm and was never content living in town.

My daughter Jean has so many happy memories of the summer holidays she spent with her grandparents on the farm. She and her family are living at Chilliwack, B.C.

My husband, Jim, and I have retired and live on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

TO COME OR GO

By Myrtle Whaley Matson

"Spring has sprung" said Mortimer Snurd
And I knew it was true by the voice of the bird
And a misty green hanging o'er the hills
Which my heart with homesick longing fills
For the hills of home and the crocus there
Bursting forth with its perfume rare
And to hear again the killdeer's cry
Ringing across the darkening sky.

But should I to that dear land go
There's something I'd miss, I surely know,
The touch of his hand — a voice so dear
The odor of the spruce in the evening air
The flicker's wild cry and the phoebe's call
Sheep bells ringing — I'd miss them all.
Still more, evening prayers together said
And a goodnight kiss ere we go to bed.

Oh life and love and laughter you see
Are bursting forth in this place for me
Though my heart may long to go
Back home to the land I used to know
Yet in this lovely spot I find
Security and peace of mind
And joy that can with none compare
A voice cries out "your home is here."

Written in the spring of 1944

THE OVERTON FAMILY, from information submitted by Velma Overton Harrison and Lucene Overton Papadakis — The Albert Overton family, numbering thirteen including Albert's brother Joe, left Oklahoma for Canada in October, 1914. Mr. Albert Overton accompanied the load of settlers' effects and the livestock, while the rest of the family travelled by passenger train to Hanna.

The first winter the family lived comfortably in a sod house which was warm and cosy but not too water-tight. The following spring they moved to Uncle E.C. Massey's place, SW 6-33-13. While they lived there, four of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie and Gladys attended Alps school. When Mr. Massey sold his place to Mr. E. Greenway, the Overtons took up residence on the NE 24-32-14. Mr. Overton leased this farm from Mr. Bob Gordon, who lived in Hanna.

While residing in the Solon district, Mr. Albert Overton mixed farming and did blacksmith work for himself and friends. His blacksmith shop was a sod shack. Mrs. Overton was a midwife in Hanna. Six of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie, Gladys, Lucene and Loyal attended school and Sunday school at Solon.

Overton's Sale, 1927. Back Row, left to right: Mrs. J. M. Taylor, Mrs. M. Pope, Mrs. A. Overton, Mrs. W. Gilmar, Velma Overton. Front Row: Mrs. J. Rehill, unknown, Mrs. G. Paxman, Gladys Overton, Mrs. G. Crossfield and Billy, Mrs. Loveday and Bernice, Mrs. R. Greenway, Dennis and Joan, Mrs. C. Noyce.

Lucene recalls both pleasant and trying times during their stay in the area. There was a neighbor who, with Mr. Hugh McLaren, used to love to play cards with her dad. She recollects, "One time Dad and Dave had gone to Hanna. They were late coming home as they had had a few too many drinks. On the way home Dave had thrown his false teeth at a rabbit and couldn't find them. They went back the next day and were successful in finding them."

Lucene remembers the family going to Garden Plain for the Stampede every year, but always had to go home to do the milking and the chores, never getting to stay for the dance. "For other entertainment we would have pie and box socials at Solon and Alps. At Christmas we always had a large program at school. Times were hard. We never went hungry but we sure didn't have any luxuries; grew all our vegetables and everyone worked."

"Hanna was our post office. We got all our supplies in Hanna. Every fall, after we got the wheat money, we would send an order to T. Eaton's for shoes, underclothes and material. Mother made all our clothes."

Mr. and Mrs. Overton remained in the Solon district until 1927 when they sold out and went to Oregon. Mr. Albert Overton passed away in May, 1930, and his wife, America Overton, ten years later in May, 1940. His brother, Joe, died in 1943.

The eldest girl, Goldie Messenger, lives in Oklahoma. She is eighty-six. Cleta, who did not accompany the family to Canada but followed later, met and married

Joe Zehner. They operated a coal mine in the Dundee district until moving to Oregon in 1919. Cleta passed away in 1972.,

Soon after their arrival in Canada, Sylvia was married to Loyal Bates in Hanna in December, 1914. She lived in Oregon until her passing in 1976.

Joe, the oldest boy and his wife Thelma lived at Klamath Falls, Oregon, until his passing in 1959.

Gertrude became an R.N. She took her training in Calgary and nursed for a time in the Hanna hospital. She later married Dr. R. Kines, and at present resides at Forest Grove, Oregon.

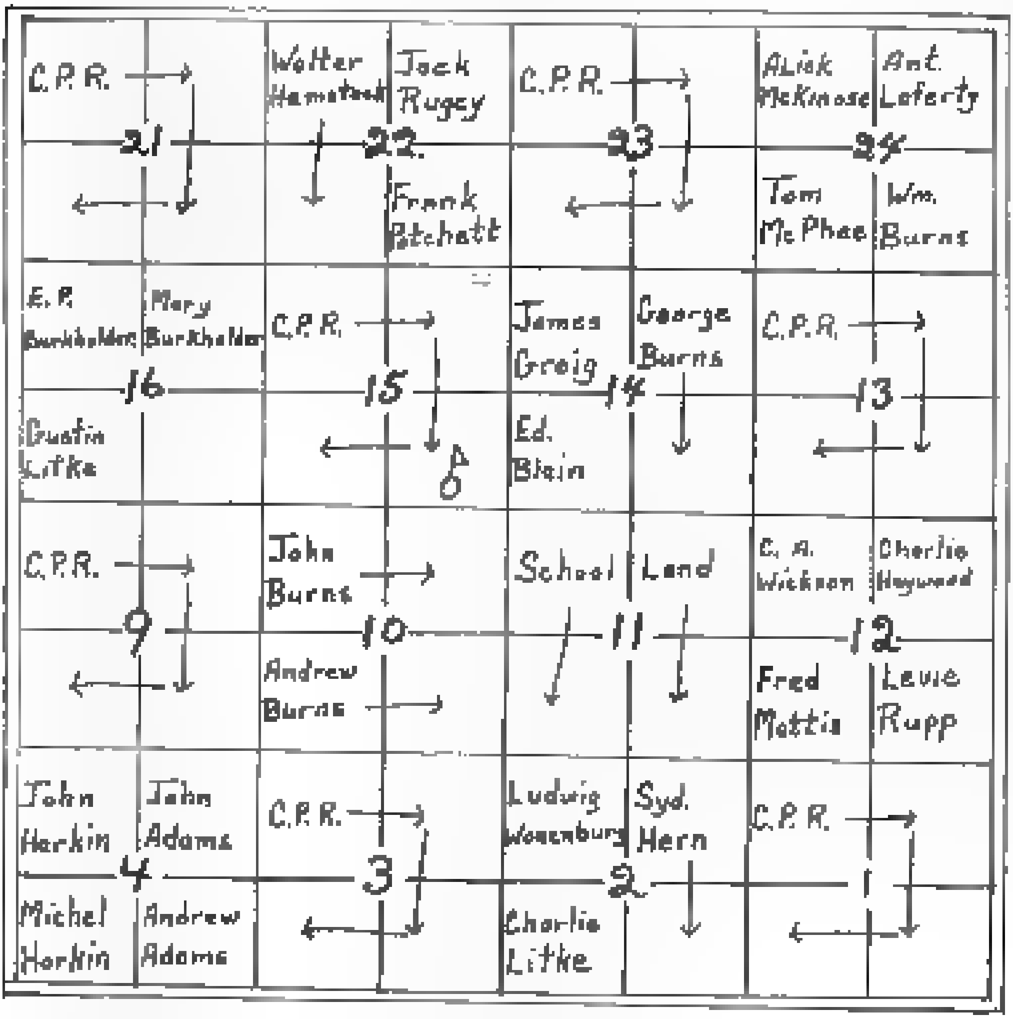
In 1923 Velma was married to Charles Harrison, who was working for the railroad in Hanna. She is now living in Terrace, B.C.

Ruby lives in Sandy, Oregon.

Charlie and his wife, Mabel, lived at Crescent Lake, Oregon, until their passing. Charlie died in January, 1975.

Gladys who at one time was correspondent to the Hanna Herald for the Solon news, and her husband, Emie, live in Salem, Oregon. Lucene and her husband, Albert, reside in Union, Oregon. Loyal passed away in 1972.

GRASSY SLOPE No. 3993



TWP. 32, R. 13

OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIPS 32 AND 33 RANGE 13

N.W.-1-32-13
Dan Mattis
Belle Mattis
Don Mattis

N.W.-3-32-13
Burkholder
N.H. Thomas

N.E.-4-32-13
Doering
Vossler

S.E.-4-32-13
Adams
Wayne Faupel

S.E.-9-32-13
Ed Blain
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.W.-10-32-13
Jack Noonan
Carl Tetz
George Jess
Ted Jess

E-4-32-13
George Burns
Harvey Walters
George Mattey

N.W.-14-32-13
Walters
Ed Blain

S.W.-14-32-13
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-15-32-13
Bill Knapp
Quast
Jim Bryce
Fred Cook
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

[illegible].-16-32-13
Burkholder
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

S.W.-16-32-13
Gustave Litke
B. Howery
Harold Kautz

N.W.-21-32-13
D. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-21-32-13
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

N.E.-21-32-13
A. Crowe
George Thomas
Jim Kennedy
Dan Mattis
Don Mattis

S.E.-21-32-13
D. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

N.W.-22-32-13
Ramsay
Walter Hemstock
Fred Pahl
Alfred Pahl
Ted Jess

N.E.-22-32-13
Jack Rugby
R. Fano
George Thomas
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.E.-22-32-13
Frank Patchett
R. Fano
George Thomas'
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-27-32-13
Gingra
A. Crowe
Clyde Block
Elmer Hongisto
R. Rehill
C. Rehill
Ken Rehill

S-28-32-13
Jim Burns
J.J. Rehill
Louisa Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-29-32-13
Glover
Clarence Dafoe
Charlie Brown
R. Hemstock
Coal Mines

N.E.-32-32-13
R. Hemstock
Shorty Bossert
Gordon Boyd

N.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
Wm. Glover
Keith Williams
Wes Thomas
Bill Greenwood
Otto Pahl
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.W.-35-32-13
S. Grimes
Sam Doering
Carl Tetz
Ben Welch

S.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
S. Grimes
Wm. Johnston
George Thomas
Otto Pahl
Leonard Faupel
R. Kautz

N.W.-36-32-13
Jim Doncaster
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.W.-12-33-13
Jim Wilds

N.W.-12-33-13
J.S. Larder
S.W.-2-33-13
G. Aune
Ervin Cox
Benny Weller
Cliff Doncaster
[illegible] Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.E.-3-33-13
Tom Hoodless

S.E.-4-33-13
W.R. Greenwood
George Callaghan
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.E.-4-33-13
Peter Boyd
Elmer Gross
Dan Buckwitz

N.W.-10-33-13
Mike Riis
Jim Cuthbert

N.E.-10-33-13
Wm. Goldsbury
Dave Temple
Henry Mattis
Art Standing

GRASSY SLOPE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill

The Board of Grassy Slope school district, Messrs Blain, Oke, Mattis, Noonan and Rehill, chose a lovely spot to erect their school in 1922. There was a lot of good green prairie wool in those days; and the school was so named because there was a green slope on the north side of a hill, with a creek at the bottom, and a large grove of trees. It soon became a favorite picnicing area, and people would come for miles to the annual school picnics. One summer they even had a bucking horse contest. Hardball games between local teams or against Hanna or Garden Plain were well attended.

Several political meetings were held in the school building, which was also used as a polling booth on election days. The school closed in 1948.

Teachers at Grassy Slope were: Wes Oke, Elsie Turtle, Gwen Rose, Elma Tingle, Miss Fitzgerald, Thelma Fisher, Dorothy Limpert, Irene Rickett, Betty Davies, Alice Bauer, Mary Hickey, Virginia Thomas, Esther Robinson, Mildred Walker, Eleanor Bauer and Dorothy Dawson.

TEACHING IN COUNTRY SCHOOLS, By Gwen Rose Rehill — I made my first appearance in the Hanna district in the fall of 1926 when I started teaching at the Grassy Slope school, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Blain who lived about two miles from it.

Two incidents while I was there come to mind.

One day when I went up to Mr. George Mattey's to get my cheque signed, Mr. Tom Harley, a garage man from Hanna, had just delivered to Matteys a new Ford coach. He was showing Mr. Mattey how to put the car in the garage when to our surprise the car went right through the end of the garage, heading straight for us at forty miles an hour. Mrs. Mattey ran to get out of the way but was run over by her husband. Luckily there were no bones broken, but she suffered bruises and shock.

Another time a bad storm came up during school hours, so several parents arrived to take the pupils home in sleighs. Along came Mr. Blain on horseback with a rope, to 'lead' me back to my boarding place. Fortunately for me the Rehills took me in their sleigh to their home for the night.

In the fall of 1928 I accepted an offer, with a raise in pay, to teach at Dundee. As the school was not quite completed, the Rehills, where I was to board, offered me their front room as a classroom until the school was completed in October.

Greenwoods moved up from Munson the fall of 1929 and built their house across from the school. Wilbert often lit the fire at the school, and it was nothing to find a mouse either under the bell or in the desk drawer. This was only one of the many pranks that were played on me, all in good fun.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rehill and son Reg.

Gwen Rose, teacher at Grassy Slope, 1927.

My next stop was Meadowlands school in the fall of 1930, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Flood. After teaching there a year I was asked to return at a salary of $850 a year, as times were hard. The next February, 1932, the Board asked me to accept a salary of $750 a year for the next five months, due to financial difficulties. This I did.

Mollie McMullen Bury and I were very good friends during those years so in

the fall of 1933 we decided to teach adjoining schools south of Hanna, Mollie at Lone Butte boarding with Younge while I went to Dalkeith and boarded at Hartis.

Bill Rehill and I were married in August, 1934, and went to live at Redland where Bill was a buyer for the Searle Grain Company. While we were there, Reg and Don were born. Bill was transferred to the Searle Grain Elevator in Morrin in July, 1938, and our daughter Esme was born in December of that year.

Reg and Sue, living in Edmonton, have two boys and one girl. Don and Joan and their three boys live in Cranbrook. Esme and Jim Schow live in Morrin and have two girls and one boy.

Bill and I are now retired and are living in Morrin.

THE JAMES BURNS FAMILY, By Kenneth Burns — James and Margaret Burns and their eight sons came west to Didsbury in 1901. They lived in a government tent in Didsbury for a month while a house was being built on their farm six miles east of town. They lived there for three years and then moved to a block of six homesteads, eight miles farther east on the Lone Pine Creek. The younger boys finished their schooling there, and in 1912 James Burns, his wife and sons Will, Spencer and Charles, came to the Hanna area where another son, George, had started farming in 1910. They settled on SW 28-32-13 and built the house and farm buildings on the farm now owned by Bob Rehill.

Jim Burns and his prize Shorthorn cattle. This is the Burns farm now known as the Rehill home. This was taken in 1918.

Jim Burns was an enthusiastic Shorthorn breeder and in time established a good purebred herd. He sold bulls at the Calgary Spring Sale and in 1915 took the champion ribbon and a silver medal with one of his entries.

The Burns family took an active interest in community affairs and for some time church services were held in their home, conducted by Mr. David Oke, who had been trained in the Methodist ministry. Mr. Oke and his family were neighbors on the next farm south.

In 1917 James Burns bought a McLaughlin car and at age sixty-five he learned to drive it. He never felt too confident behind the wheel so left most of the driving to the boys.

Their son, Will, completed high school, and after attending Normal School, he taught until he and Spencer joined the armed forces. They were still in Calgary

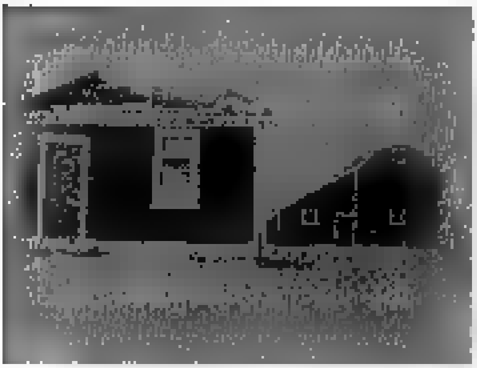
when the 1918 flu broke out. Will took the flu and died very shortly afterwards.

Following the war, Spencer and Charles worked with their father until he sold out. Spencer married Loraine Hartt in 1922 and they farmed for many years in the Watts area. Charles married May Ramsay in 1926, bought land south of Lloydminster and farmed there until Charles died in 1939.

This is a group of people taken after church service, at Jim Burns home. 1917.

James Burns sold his farm in the fall of 1920. He and his wife returned to Didsbury to live. They spent a few winters in Victoria while Granded was still able to travel. He died in 1928 and his wife in 1930. Their farm was first sold to a man named Clarke and a year later was bought by Bob Rehill's father.

All the sons of James and Margaret Burns are now deceased.



G. Burns first house and barn built in 1912.

GEORGE BURNS AT HANNA 1910-1921, By Kenneth Burns — Our Dad, George Burns, drove through the area north of Hanna by team and buggy in 1909. The land was being opened up for settlement, and the Calgary-Saskatoon line of the C.N.R. was being built. It looked like a promising location and he acquired the east half of 14-32-13. I believe this was scrip land, at about three dollars an acre, and he was able to lease another section of school land adjoining it.

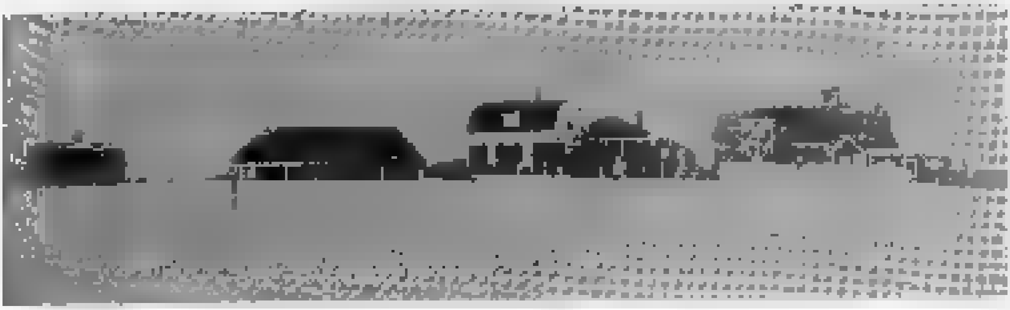
In the spring of 1910 Dad and one of his brothers left Didsbury with a carload of settlers' effects and went to Castor, where they unloaded and hauled their belongings to the new home site, about twelve miles north-east of where the town of Hanna was later built.

They built a sod shack and started to break the land. Dad often told us of the problems of working with oxen, and of the flies and mosquitoes. As the days grew hotter he found it necessary to start work at dawn and stop during the heat of the day, hitching up again when it cooled off, and working till dark.

During the summers of 1910-11-12 he was able to get considerable breaking done, as well as building a 16' x 16' cottage and a small barn. In December, 1912, he went to Didsbury where he and Alice Crowe were married. She had come west in 1905 and taught schools in the areas of Fort Macleod, Carstairs, Didsbury and

Lacombe. Following their wedding, Dad and Mother visited their former homes in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and arrived back in Alberta to settle on the farm in early 1913. The older three of our family, myself, Douglas and Marjorie were born at Hanna. Harold was born later at Didsbury.

The period from 1912–1917 was a time of great farm development in the area. Good crops and high grade wheat were common. The timely rains and excellent harvest of 1915 made it a banner year. Dad had a large acreage in wheat and like many others had difficulty in getting elevator space or cars to move the crop to market. In the fall of 1916, after a very wet season, all sorts of devices were used on binders to get them over the wet ground. Dad, and others around, bought four horsepower Cushman engines and mounted them on the rear of their binders to run the mechanism, so that the horses could pull them through the muddy fields. These engines and other wet field aids were never needed again. Starting in 1917, the seasons were very dry for several years.



This is the G. Burns farm taken in 1918. It is now owned by Fred Fecho.

Dad bought his first car in 1917, a McLaughlin six touring model. This provided some relief from the long trips by cutter and buggy, though many times when the snow was deep they had to revert back to horse power. There were many hazards to pioneer motoring. Tire punctures and blowouts, broken springs and mudholes marked many trips. For the most part, however, those early cars got people through and occasionally Dad made hurried trips for the doctor for someone before rural phones came in.

I understand that Dad and John Faupel, among others, made trips to Edmonton in 1917 or 1918 to petition the government for rural phones. The first rural phone lines north of Hanna were built in 1919 or 1920.

Dad had a horse shelter on another quarter, a mile from home. A man named Williams was caught in a storm and turned in there just as the roof blew off. It landed on his buggy. Somehow he managed to get on one of his horses and rode into our place just at dusk. Dad and mother took him in and the next day fixed a makeshift bed in the car and took him to the doctor in Hanna. He was found to have an upper leg fracture and was in hospital for many months.

During 1916-17 Dad bought a carload of fir lumber at $17.00 per thousand and built a large Ontario style barn with a driveway up into the hayloft. Grain storage was also built into the loft and a power windmill was put on the roof to run a grain grinder. As well as grain growing, Dad had a fair sized herd of cattle, and all the farm work was done with horses.

Several of Dad's brothers helped him on the farm, as did Mother's brothers, Francis and Aubrey Crowe. Alex McKinnon from Nova Scotia also worked with Dad for three years until he joined the armed forces and went overseas.

Some of my earliest recollections are of many neighbors gathering at our home and singing round the piano, especially at Christmas time. Our mother was a talented pianist and had a fine collection of old favorite music. Box socials,

concerts and dances were an important part of community social life. Sometime during 1917 or 1918, following a community picnic, there was a big barn dance in the loft of our newly completed barn. I remember there were two Negro singers with banjos entertaining before the dance started. Whole families went to these social events. Those who were too young to stay awake were bundled into coats or blankets and left to sleep while the fun went on.

Dad and his brother John had five quarters of land east of Didsbury, which John farmed alone until 1921, when Dad sold out and we came to Didsbury. Harvey Waters of Morrin bought our farm and a year later it was sold to George Mattie. They lived there many years, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fecho, the present owners.

I recall that all of us were very sorry to leave the Hanna district. We had many good friends there, as well as in the town. Dad often spoke of the very fine group of businessmen in Hanna, in particular Herb McCrea and the Hanna Herald which he founded and edited. The Herald was a real booster for Hanna and district.

My brother Doug and I, with my family, still live on the farm we came to in 1921. Marjorie and Harold are both married and live with their families in Didsbury and Edmonton, respectively. Mother died in 1931, and Dad in 1941.

THE JOHN FAUPEL STORY, By Freda Faupel Palmer — My father came from Ontario in 1910 and filed on his land. He sent a postcard to my mother telling her that when he got to the Land Office at five o'clock in the morning, there were forty-eight men ahead of him. The country was quite wild and dad slept with a revolver under his pillow. I believe Leonard still has it.

The folks moved to Alberta in 1912. Mom stayed at Didsbury and dad came with his 'settlers' effects' to Stettler. He had a team of horses, a cow, a dog, his wagon and machinery and seventy-five dollars in cash.

Luther was born in 1910 in Ontario and I arrived in 1914, right on the homestead. I didn't know until I received my birth certificate that one of my names was 'Alberta'. One of my first recollections was when Leonard was born. Al Sales got Dr. Wade out for the event, and Annie Oke came to help mom for a while. That was in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. John Faupel and family. Leonard, Freda, Catherine, Luther, Mr. and Mrs. Faupel.

Mom always boarded the teachers and we had a hired man during the summer months. There seemed to be something going on most of the time, what with breaking horses and branding cattle and [illegible] the chores. In the fall the farmers hauled coal from Brown's mine, and a good number of them stopped at our place. Mom could always find something [illegible] eat for them. I don't believe anyone ever left our home hungry.

Dad had a nice team and a top buggy and we used [illegible] go places in style. Luther and I sat behind the dash and when the horses switched their tails we were switched too. We used that same buggy minus the top to go to school. It lasted for all of us and must have gone many thousands of miles.

We got most of our education at Maunders and in later years at Grassy Slope. Luther and Kay went to Hanna also.

These were hard times. Mother baked bread for the bachelors, and made butter and sold it for twelve cents a pound to help buy groceries.

We lived through drought. I remember John Bye saying as the clouds rolled by, "They must be the empties going home."

Grasshoppers also. The government gave us some poison to mix for them. Dad mixed it and spread it around with his bare hands; he lost all his nails and was lucky not to have lost his fingers also.

And army worms. We dug ditches around the garden and filled them with water. Some worms drowned but others crawled on. At one time the house was a green crawling mass. There were worms everywhere, and when they were gone there was no foliage left. The wheat was far enough advanced that they hadn't damaged the heads.

And hail storms too. We had a nasty one in the thirties. Mr. Jess was helping us with his swather and header. It was hot and the storm came up real fast. One team ran away with the rake but we got behind a stack with the rest. The hailstones were big and where they hit they left welts. Albert Ergezinger was working for us and he had a dandy on his head. Needless [illegible] say harvest was over.

When we g[illegible] home Mom was wading through the slush gathering up half-grown chickens in a washtub. We took them into the kitchen and most of them survived, but the kitchen was a mess, to say the least.

And then there were the dust storms. I think they were the worst of all. It would get so dark around four o'clock that the chickens would go to roost and we would have [illegible] light the lamps. There was dust and grime everywhere. We had to put the dishes upside down or wash them again before we could eat.

Dad always had cattle and water was a problem. I remember the wells that he dug. One was right near the house and when we went out in the morning we discovered that a horse had wandered by and fallen in. With a good deal of difficulty and lots of help we managed to pull him out alive. I guess we were lucky that it was another dry hole. Later Dad made a dugout.

In those days [illegible] took a whole day to go to town, either Hanna or Richdale, and there was a good deal of excitement when Dad came home. He usually managed to buy us a few candies, and they were a special treat.

My sister Catherine (Kay) was born in 1925. She weighed only four pounds and was a real live doll for all of us. Only Leonard's nose was out of joint. He said, "I don't know why we had to have her; we've enough kids around here now." Kay married Dennis James and lives in Edmonton.

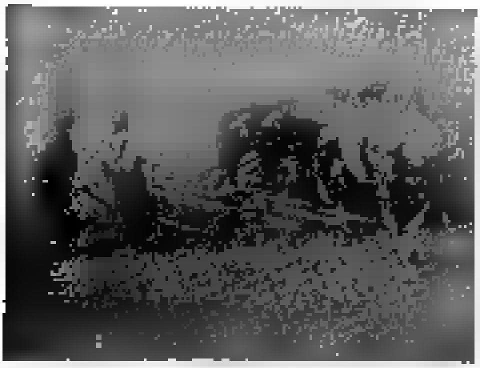
Leonard married Martha Tetz. He lives on the home place and is talking of retiring.

Luther married Tilly Kennedy. He was [illegible] the Air force, then built and ran the

Jubilee Service Station. He was Mayor of Hanna for a time. He passed on in 1969 and his wife is deceased also.

I married Arthur Patzer and we farmed his home place for ten years. We sold out and bought the Hanna Garage but [illegible] 1951 decided to farm again. We bought at Carbon and were there for fifteen years, and then retired to Okotoks. Arthur died in 1973.

Mom and Dad farmed till 1939 and then retired to Hanna. After a full and eventful life they both passed on, Mom on Christmas Day [illegible] 1952, and Dad in the fall of 1953.



Road work in 1928 Norman Oke, Mr. Rehill

THE STORY OF DAVID OKE, By Annie Oke Ramsay — Our parents, David and Nora Oke, farmed in Manitoba until 1913 when they moved to Medicine Hat. Four years later they bought a farm in the Grassy Slope school district, and moved there in the f[illegible] of 1917. The family consisted of five boys, Charles, Wesley, Harold, Albert, Norman, and one girl, Annie. The oldest boy, Charles, was serving his country [illegible] France during World War I when we moved there.

What a rough, jolting ride it was on the railway from Calgary to Hanna. Our new home was a very humble edifice with none of the modern conveniences, even water for drinking and daily use was hauled some distance. We were careful not to waste water. For fuel, we burned coal, I think lignite, which the farmers hauled from the surface mines not many miles away.

The days of the oxen were over; we used horses for transportation. The first car in the area was owned by James Burns, our near neighbor, who owned the farm later sold to John J. Rehill, now operated by Robert J. Rehill.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Burns was opened for divine worship. Our father, David Oke, worked hard all week, but Sunday to him was the Lord's Day. Mr. and Mrs. Burns shared the same belief, so father preached in their living room to the assembled friends and neighbors.

Later, church and Sunday school services were held in Grassy Slope school. Father also conducted services [illegible] Solon school, and I taught school at both Solon and Maunders in 1918 and 1919.

Farming was a precarious existence due to the many years of drought. Many farmers found that raising livestock was more dependable as there was a [illegible] of land that could be leased for grazing.

Near neighbors of ours were Mr. and Mrs. William Ramsay who rented land from Walter Hemstock for a few years. In 1925 I married their son, Henry, and we moved to the United States, residing now in Minneapolis. My brothers, too, are scattered. Charles started farming in Manitoba; Wesley and Albert became school teachers; Harold was agent for International Harvester in Didsbury, and Norman went into the ministry.

Our parents stayed on the farm until 1938. Due to our mother's [illegible] health and father's advancing years, it seemed better for them to retire. Mother passed away in 1943, Father in 1947.

First man not known. Mrs. Mattie and Mr. Mattie.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE MATTIE, By Bob Rehill — George Mattie batched for a number of years on the east half of 14-32-13. Then he hired a housekeeper from Calgary and a year later they were married.

George was very interested in politics, and formed one of the first Social Credit groups in the district. The members met every month, holding their meetings in the different members' houses.

One spring he decided to buy a Ford car. The salesman, Tom Harley, delivered the car and George decided to take it, and Tom, for a drive. When they returned he decided to put the car right in the garage, which was at one side of the lane. When he got in the garage he yelled, "Whoa, whoa!" but the Ford didn't stop and went right out the other end of the building. George turned the car back down the lane, but his wife and Gwen Rose were standing there watching. He couldn't stop the car and his wife couldn't get out [illegible] the way fast enough and he ran over her. By this time Tom had managed to take over the controls and stopped it. George was really upset as he thought he had killed his wife, but she wasn't badly hurt, just two broken ribs and shock. They kept the car.

George farmed until 1940 when he sold the farm to Fred Fecho. Mr. and Mrs. Mattie retired to Calgary where they both passed away.

STORY OF GUSTAVE LITKE, By Rose Litke Howrey — Gustave Litke was born in Russia, of German parentage in 1856. He and his wife and four children, Fred, Bertha, Charlie and Asa, immigrated [illegible] Canada in 1898 and settled at Steinbeck, Manitoba. Shortly thereafter his wife died and in 1900 he married Katherine Serfas. They had two sons, John and Sam. [illegible] 1903 they moved to Port Hammond, B.C., and two years later a daughter, Mary, arrived.

In 1906 they moved to Leduc, settling on raw, unbroken land. When the brush was cleared the seed was broadcast by hand, cut with a scythe, and flailed to separate the grain from the straw. Two more children, Rose and Dan, were born at Leduc.

In the spring of 1910 we moved to our homestead north-east of Hanna, the SW 28-32-13. Only our most essential belongings were shipped by rail [illegible] Castor . . . stoves, dishes, bedding, mother's spinning wheel and father's tools, several head of cattle, two oxen and one horse. We were met in Castor by a neighbor who loaded everything [illegible] his wagon and we set out over the rough prairie trails to our new home.

Dad and brother Asa had come on ahead several weeks before to erect a house. It poured rain all the way from Castor so we were glad to hear the neighbor, Mr. Trett, say, "There's your new home."

Fuel was quite a problem. We gathered all the dead trees from the brush patches. Dried buffalo chips were a great help to keep the fires burning.

Our first barn was made of sod, topped with poles and sod for a roof. It was nice and warm during the winter, but an awful mess in wet weather.

Dad broke the land with oxen and a walking plow. We all pitched in and

helped pick rocks and hauled them away on a stone boat. Dad had harness and lines to drive the oxen. The collars were buckled below the neck.

[illegible] 1912 another son, James, was born.

We got our mail at Fertility Post Office at first, and later on at French's. I think it was near the place where Harry Lumsden lives. We hauled our drinking water in a wooden barrel on a stoneboat from Adams, a mile and [illegible] half away.

We attended school at Solon. Mr. Frederickson was my first teacher. Pupils attending then were the Whaleys, Burns, Pedersons and Litkes. The school term was usually from March first to December 30. We had over two miles to [illegible] and during mosquito season it was agony. We wore large brimmed hats with mosquito netting around them for protection for our face and neck, but for us girls there was no protection for our legs, as no lady wore trousers or slacks in those days.

Everyone travelled across country as there were no roads or fences to guide them. Many times in the winter people would get caught in a blizzard and become lost. Generally they depended on their team to find their way home, as a good trail team would not leave the trail and would generally find the way home or to someone else's buildings. My brother Asa and Dad had a horn made out of a cow horn, that they blew on cold or stormy nights. This could be heard for miles and many times people who knew the sound of the horn would follow it and it would guide them home.

In 1914 our sister, Martha, was born, and in 1916 our sister Hannah. When Hannah was only nine months old my Dad passed away [illegible] the age of sixty-two years. In 1923 Mother remarried and moved to Crossfield; later moving to Calgary where she died in 1942. Three of her children are also gone. Sam died unmarried in 1946. John died in 1973, leaving his wife and four children. Martha passed away in 1964. She was married [illegible] Art Roberts and left four children.

Mary lives at Grand Forks, B.C. Dan, James and Hannah are all married and living at Forestburg. Rose married Howard Howery and they and three of their four sons live in Hanna.

We often pass the old homestead and recall many memories, some good and some not so good. We remember how plentiful and delicious the wild strawberries were . . . and the mushrooms. No one could cook them like my mother did.

We have made several moves since we were married, but always drift back to Hanna. As far as I am concerned, this is home.

MR. and MRS. ED BLAIN, By Bob Rehill — Mr. and Mrs. Blain homesteaded in the Grassy Slope School district on the SW 14-32-13. He was one of the early settlers.

Mr. Blain served his community as Municipal Councillor and road foreman. When Grassy Slope School was built in 1924 he was secretary of the local school board. He was a member of the rural telephone company and of the Grassy Slope snow plow club. He often acted as Master of Ceremonies for the school Christmas concerts.

Mrs. Blain was an active member of her church and of various ladies' groups. School teachers boarded [illegible] the Blain home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blain sold their farm [illegible] Alfred Pahl and returned to Barrie, Ontario, where they both passed away.

DAN MATTIS and FAMILY, By Belle Thomas Mattis — Dan was born in Leduc on September 17, 1901. He came to the Hanna area with his parents and three brothers, Albert, Fred and Henry, and sister Martha, and settled in the

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mattis and family. Dolores, Bella, Dan, Miles and Don.

Centre Point district where the boys attended school.

Dan had a farm in the Grassy Slope school district. He lived on the NW 1-32-13. On September 25, 1929, Dan and I were married. We had three children. One son, Miles, passed away in February, 1952 at the age of twenty-one. Dolores married Clarence Raugust of the Red Rose district and has four daughters and one son. Don and his wife have two sons and one daughter; they have taken over the farm now.

The children attended Grassy Slope school until it closed, then went to Maunders. In later years a school bus took them to Spondin.

In the earlier years Dan had a threshing outfit and threshed the neighbors' crops as well as his own. When it began to get hard to find men and teams and wagons to haul bundles, he bought a combine. The thirties were hard years but we all enjoyed the picnics and concerts that were put on.

Dan passed away in October, 1966. I remained on the farm until the fall of 1975 when I moved to Hanna.

Grassy Slope School Class, 1924. Walter Magee, Bob Rehill, Elsie Rehill, Dorothy Rehill.

MR. and MRS. JACK NOONAN, By Bob Rehill — Jack Noonan, a World War I veteran, and his wife lived on the north half of 10-32-13 in the Grassy Slope district. They had two daughters, Theresa and Christina.

Mrs. Noonan passed away in the early twenties, and Mr. Noonan hired a housekeeper, Mrs. Magee, a widow with two sons, Walter and George, and a daughter Vera. All the children attended Grassy Slope school.

Several years later Mr. Noonan and Mrs. Magee were married. In the early thirties they sold the farm and retired to the west coast. They have both passed away now.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz Sr., Martha (Tetz) Faupel.

MR. and MRS. KARL TETZ SR., By Martha Tetz Faupel — In April of 1934 I moved with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz, from Three Hills to the Noonan farm in the Grassy Slope district. I was the youngest of a family of seven and in grade eight. A niece of mine was staying with us to go to school and she was in grade one. It was through Reverend Finkbeiner that we heard of this place, and with the help of Mr. George Jess we were able to get a crop in.

As we lived close to the school we had most of the teachers boarding with us for the next few years, and this helped put food on the table. The teachers were Irene Rickett, Alice Bauer, Eleanor Bauer, Dorothy Dawson and Mary Hickey.

In 1939 we left the farm and moved into Hanna. Mrs. Tetz passed away in 1961 and Mr. Tetz in 1966.

I married Leonard Faupel in 1941 and we still live on his father's homestead. Our son Wayne lives on the original Trefz homestead and our daughter Lynette is in her last year of school.

GEORGE and CAROLINA JESS, By Ted Jess and Ida Jess Bange — George (Gotthilf) Jess moved to a homestead near Leader, Saskatchewan with his parents when he was eleven years old. Carolina Tetz and her parents moved into the same area at about the same time. This is where they later met and were married in 1920.

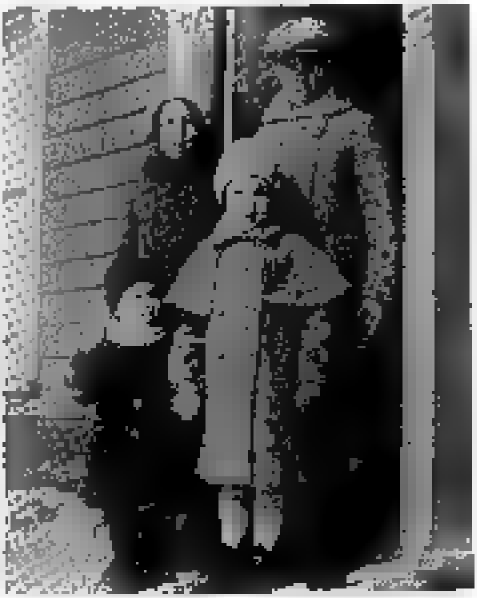
In 1926 the young couple and their two children, Ted and Ida, moved to the Three Hills district, and three years later settled in the Maunders district, north-east of Hanna. By this time another daughter, Clara, had joined the family. Ted and Ida attended Maunders school, where Miss McMullen was the teacher. While they lived on the Sayles place at Maunders, their fourth child, Ella, was born.

In 1934 the Jess family moved to the Grassy Slope district and lived on the Walters farm for many years. Ted and Ida attended Centre Point school for three months, driving a horse and cart. Mr. Evans was the teacher. That fall Grassy Slope school was opened, and then they went there.

George and Carolina used to tell [illegible] many experiences they had as children growing up [illegible] pioneer days . . . living in sod houses, the absence of schools, prairie fires, walking many miles to bring in livestock which had strayed because there were no fences, the shortage of meat, hauling grain with wagons to the nearest elevator seventy-five miles away, and plowing with oxen and wooden plows. And they often spoke of the years when they, like other young couples, were trying to survive the depression.

In 1949 George and Carolina retired [illegible] Hanna, where Carolina still lives. George passed away in 1971.

Geo. Jess family: Mr. Jess, Mrs. Jess, Ida, Ted, Ella and Clara.



Ida Jess, Ted Jess, Ella Jess, Clara Jess, 1938.

Ted, the only son, took over the farm in 1949. He married Irene Heller and they have one daughter Bonnie. She is married to Geogge Kautz and lives on a farm near her parents.

Ida Jess married Walter Banco in 1944. They farmed in the Ponoka area for thirty years; in 1974 they sold the farm to their son Don and moved into the town of Ponoka. They have two sons and two daughters.

Clara Jess married Otto Motz and lives in the Spondin area. They have three sons.

Ella Jess married Elmer Menke; they make their home at Vermilion where Elmer is a C.N.R. agent. They have three sons at home.

Memories are precious things,
Back to mind so much they bring,
Days of childhood with Mom and Dad,
One now gone, which makes us sad.

Mom and Dad different stories told
Of days when they too weren't old
Living in sod houses, no school to attend,
Helping to plow, plant, work to no end.

We kids in our turn had many a chore,
Wood to chop, coal to get, scrub the floor;
Chicks to lock in with old mother hen,
Pigs to slop, cows to milk, no machine then.

Walking across fields on a cold winter's day,
Lost at times as snow swept over the way,
To arrive in time at a prairie school
An education to get, one of life's tools.

Later, horse and buggy racing down the road,
Neighbor kids along to make a big load.
Don't tell Dad or a lecture we'd get
But fun it was, makes us smile even yet.

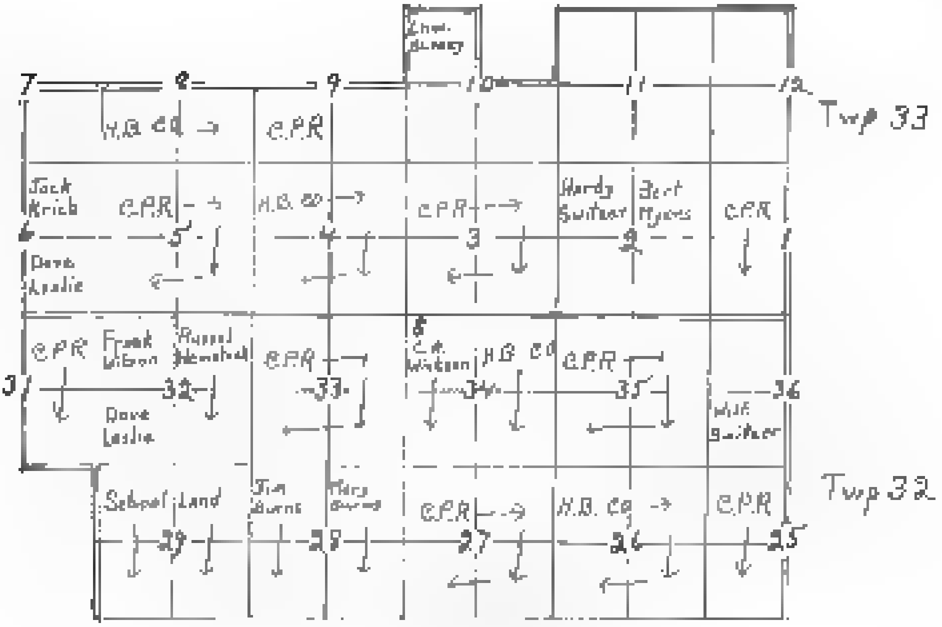
Swimming in dugouts, sliding on ice,
Riding horses to visit friends so nice;
Life then was a much different kind
To what we and our children have in mind.

A header Dad used to reap the grain,
Short crops cut close yield more to gain;
Nice neat stacks all over the place
Waiting for threshers, the weather they'd race.

Now we as adults are scattered far round,
Times again have changed, new ways are found;
But our ancestors' struggles were not in vain,
We appreciate your efforts; it's been our gain.

By Ida Jess Banco

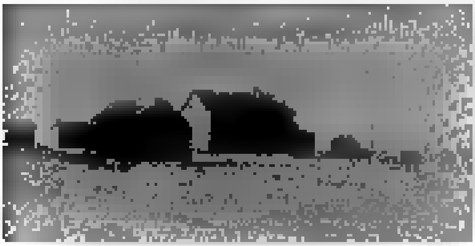
DUNDEE No. 4326



RANGE 13

DUNDEE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill



Dundee School - 1930

Dundee school was built in the summer of 1928. Mr. Williams was the carpenter, and Mr. George Taylor and Mr. Jones did the painting.

School board members were Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Crowe, Mr. Rehill and Mr. Grimes. Mrs. Hemstock chose the name for the school, after a city in Scotland.

The building wasn't completed in time for fall classes to be held there, so Rehill's residence was used as a classroom until the school was ready.

Just west of the school in a pasture across from Greenwood's buildings, there was a ball diamond. Softball games were held there every Sunday and Wednesday evenings during the summer, and once in a while both teams and spectators would finish the day with ice cream and lunch at Greenwood's.

Telephone Company annual meetings and municipal elections were held at the school, as well as the usual concerts and dances.

Teachers at Dundee were: Gwen Rose, Hilda Herman, Mrs. Sidney Grimes, Mr. Vic Trenaman, Berna Leggatt, Kathleen Eckeles, Olga Walil, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mrs. Lillian Bye, and Jack McLaren.

Dundee school operated until the early fifties.

Mr. and Mrs. Russel Hemstock's 50th Anniversary. Back row: Allan and Dianne Hemstock, Leo and Margaret Pearce, Alex and Emily Hemstock. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hemstock seated.

RUSSELL HEMSTOCK, By Annie Hemstock — James Russell Hemstock was born in Ontario in 1891. Russell's father owned and operated a mill, but the constant dust there did not agree with Russell, so he finally left home in 1909. He came west to work for his older brother, Walter, who had taken a homestead north-east of Hanna. When Walter decided to go farther north, Russell bought his land, the north-west quarter of 20-32-13. In 1915 he ordered lumber from Vancouver to build a house, and as the crop was good that year, he exchanged a carload of wheat for the load of lumber.

Eventually, he came home to Chatsworth, Ontario, to find a wife. I had just finished my course at University, and decided that homemaking would be much more rewarding than teaching, especially in a new home on a prairie farm. So we were married on June 13, 1918, and had our trip west by C.P.R. as our honeymoon!

The prairie did look very bare for a while, but Russell soon had a few hundred trees growing around the buildings, gifts of the Provincial government. (It wasn't Social Credit then). We named our farm 'Braeside', which means 'on the hill' in Scottish.

One of the advantages of our new district was the abundance of coal, which the farmers sometimes mined for themselves, paying only a minimal sum to the government. Russell operated one such mine. Obtaining water was sometimes a problem, as much of it was very alkaline, but eventually, most farmers found good wells or built cisterns for rain-water.

Another advantage of the district was that Braeside was on a mail route, with delivery once or twice a week. Saturdays were usually our shopping day at Hanna which was sixteen miles away. As far as church was concerned, we usually had at least one service a month from various denominations at a local school.

Our first child, Alex, was born in 1921 in the old Hanna hospital, which consisted of seven or eight small rooms. Margaret was born in 1926 and Allan in 1932 in the new, very modern hospital.

The school problem came up eventually; the nearest one was four and a half miles away. However, just two and a half miles away, were the Rehill children, and Bob Rehill was old enough to drive. So for that year Alex rode a big black saddle horse, Floss, to Rehill's and drove with them in their democrat to school. I thought I had never seen such a small boy on such a big horse as the morning when I waved good-bye to Alex and his lunchpail. There were lessons at home in the winter, and the next year brought a new school, Dundee.

Those were happy years until we realized that neither Alex nor Allan wanted to farm, and Margaret had fallen in love with an engineer. So we sold the farm and moved to Calgary in 1955. Alex had married and was living in the city by that time.

Russell passed away on December 23, 1970, and since that time I have continued living in our home.

MR. and MRS. JAMES DONCASTER, By Elizabeth Doncaster — James Doncaster was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1887. He came to Canada in 1910 and bought a quarter-section of land at Cochrane, but stayed there just a few months before returning to live and work in Calgary and area for seven years.

In the spring of 1918 he travelled by team and rack to Hanna where he bought a half-section of land approximately one mile south of Wild's home. He built a lumber and sod shack about twelve by twelve.

He met Elizabeth Wild; they were married in Calgary on July 23, 1919. They returned to Jim's farm, living in the shack while Jim built their two-storey home. Some years later they added a large kitchen and another bedroom. They had five children: Edna, Leone, Clifford, Evelyn and Shirley.

Jim recalls paying one hundred dollars for one cow in 1919, and in the thirties having to sell six three-year-old steers at fifteen dollars each in order to purchase winter clothes for the children. At another time he paid twelve cents a bushel to have his wheat threshed, and received only eighteen cents a bushel when he sold it.

In 1926, when Elizabeth was in the hospital giving birth to a daughter, Evelyn, there was a prairie fire, and Jim remembers having to leave Edna, Leone and Clifford in the car on the road while he went to help fight the fire. Some years later another fire started in a stack at Grimes' and was not stopped until it went as far south as Faupel's.

The first school Edna and Leone attended was North Berry Creek, three miles east. When Dundee was built two miles west, the family went there. The Dundee school was famous for great Christmas concerts, and crowds came to pack the school to see them. Cliff Doncaster will be remembered for his humorous monologues, which were enjoyed by all.

Jim and Elizabeth sold their farm in 1951 and had their final sale in 1952. They retired to Calgary where they are still living. Jim, at the age of eighty-nine, is still active, planting his own garden as well as those of Evelyn and Shirley. He had been driving his car until this year when he decided not to renew his licence. Elizabeth is realizing her life-long dream by every year taking a trip to a different country.

Edna is presently living in Vegreville, Cliff is in Williams Lake, B.C., and Leone, Evelyn and Shirley live in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WILD, By Elizabeth Wild Doncaster — James Wild came from England to Canada in 1909, first going to Nova Scotia and then to Three Hills, where he worked in a mine. His family joined him in 1911 and the next year they moved to Hanna, travelling by covered wagon and bringing with them three horses and a dog.

They were delayed for two days in Rumsey due to their horses getting away, but found them back at the ferry on the Red Deer River. On the way to the homestead they spent the night at a stopping place owned by the Lewis family.

The second day after arriving at the homestead they went to the Netherby store owned by Tom Watson to get groceries; when they returned home they found that many of their possessions had been stolen.

At that time the land was raw prairie and they lived in a sod shack. The nearest post office was Netherby and the nearest town with a railway was Castor.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Wild moved to Drumheller, where he worked in the mines. In 1917 they returned to the homestead and worked the land for five years. About 1922 they moved back to Drumheller, where they remained until retiring to Calgary.

Mrs. Wild passed away in 1968 at the age of eighty-seven. Mr. Wild died in 1974 at the age of ninety-five.

J. J. REHILL and FAMILY, By Bob Rehill — My folks came from Wawota, Saskatchewan, to Munson in 1914. In the family there were five boys, Bill, Carl, Clarence, Roy and Bob, three girls, Lena, Annie and Elsie, and on January 21, 1915, Dorothy was born. Lena married Joe Lucas and lived on his farm just north of Drumheller; Annie married Wilbert Greenwood and they lived near Munson.

Dad found the land awfully heavy to work and in 1921 he located in the Garden Plain country on 28-32-13. It looked really good at that time. There were only a few settlers and there was an abundance of prairie wool for grazing and to put up for hay. Dad and the boys drove the sleighs loaded with household effects and some feed, and the cattle. The machinery and the remainder of our belongings were shipped by rail. Mother and the younger children came up by train and stayed overnight at the National Hotel. A Mr. Cobb was manager at the time. We paid $1.50 for the room and I think our breakfast was $1.25.

The next day a close neighbor, Mr. Jack Corry, came in and took us out to our new farm. It had been owned by the Jim Burns family, who sold it to Tingle and Wade, and Dad bought it from them.

Mr. and Mrs. John James Rehill, 1938.

In order to make ends meet, the family had to milk cows. They had fifteen milk cows at that time and everyone had to pitch in and help. In order to keep the cream sweet they built an ice house in the backyard. In the winter time they would cut ice down in the creek and haul it home by sleigh and fill the ice house for the summer. Besides keeping the cream sweet, the ice house furnished ice for all that good old home-made ice cream.

There was no such thing as cream trucks in those days. Twice a week the folks used to churn all the cream into butter. On Saturday they would drive the team and buggy to Hanna and deliver the butter to private homes which were

regular customers. It was a long day as they left before daylight and it was always late when they got home with the week's supply of groceries. But we kids would always be waiting up to get our weekend treat, candy.

We attended Solon school, five miles away. On Sundays Mr. David Oke held church services there, and Marion Wright taught Sunday school.

On May 24, 1924, Dad purchased a new Model T Ford car. That was Queen Victoria's birthday and there was always a celebration and we got a school holiday. Mr. Campbell was the Ford salesman then; he drove the car out and took us to the sports day in Hanna, and that night Dad drove it home. We were so proud of that car. It served us for four years and it really was a treat for the folks to [illegible] able to make their deliveries in town with it.

When we moved up here we had a number of good horses, and had an outfit for each one of us to work in the field. We were always in the field by seven o'clock and worked till noon, then from one till six. We always had long evenings and the crops were always seeded in good time.

The crops were cut with binders. One binder usually kept two of us busy stooking. The hours were long and stooking was hard on the back. Neighbors would help each other out with no money involved.

Mr. Dave Harvey owned the first machine [illegible] thresh for us. He had a steam outfit, complete with fourteen bundle racks, water wagon, cook car and bunk house. We were really fortunate to have a good well as we pumped water for the steam engine and their teams as well as for our own stock and the house. We had a horse and a half International pump engine which ran all day long.

Then Mr. Fred Elm came in with his one-cylinder Rumley Oil Pull tractor. He used it for two falls until he got a two-cylinder. Most of the bundle racks were supplied by local boys. The outfit was later purchased by Aubrey Crowe who threshed with it until combines came in.

In 1928 Dad purchased his first tractor, a Model D John Deere which was the pride of the farm. The only trouble with it was that it had steel wheels with eight-inch lugs, and when they struck a solid rock it would jolt every bone in your body.

That same spring Dad bought a Dodge Brothers sedan with seats covered with the best of leather. In 1929 brother Bill took it on a trip to Banff. When he had it filled with gas in Calgary, the attendant left the top off the gas tank. Some of the gas spilled out, the car threw sparks when it was climbing some of the mountain roads, and the car caught fire. [illegible] the wiring and upholstery was destroyed. Dad had made only the one payment on it, but the dealer had neglected to insure the vehicle, so it was a total loss to us. Later we heard that the company had had it repaired at the Technical School in Calgary for only the cost of materials. After that we had to go back to our old Model T.

In 1929 we purchased a twenty-foot Rumley combine and did straight combining with it. It was a wonderful way to harvest, but we missed having our straw piles for the cattle in the winter time. Then the hungry thirties set in and we were unable to collect some of our custom work fees. Then we couldn't make our payments so had [illegible] [illegible] the combine go back. Then we had to cut with a binder, and we bought a threshing machine.

Dad passed away September 1, 1946. My brother Carl and I continued to farm the land for my mother.

We used to haul our grain to Sonar elevator five miles east of Hanna. In those days, if wheat weighed sixty-four pounds per bushel, it was number one without any dickering. But [illegible] those days wheat was on the open market, so you never knew when you went in with a load what the price was going to be.

For a number of years people loaded wheat into boxcars [illegible] Allness siding,

seven miles east of Hanna. They would put in an order for a boxcar, the C.N.R. would spot it on the side track, and the farmer had so long to load it before he had to pay demurrage on it. The farmers shovelled the wheat onto sleighs by hand, then hauled it down to the boxcars and shovelled it off by hand. While they were unloading they would feed the horses their oats. Not only did they have to shovel the grain into the cars, they had to get inside them and shovel the grain back.

There were no such things as grain augers. All we had was shovels and Manitoba half-bushel scoops. The scoop was a good thing as long as the bin was full, but when you got down to the bottom it was a back breaker.

Sometimes when the Bonar elevator was filled up we would haul into Hanna. We often got a better grade there as there were more elevators and there was more competition.

In 1929 the C.N.R. built a line from Scapa to Garden Plain and Spondin. The Pioneer elevator at Garden Plain was built in 1932, with Mr. Wilson as the first grain buyer. A few years later the Alberta Wheat Pool built an elevator; Stan Sanderson was the first agent. The C.N.R. suspended operations on that line in the late fifties, and the grain had to be hauled out of the elevators by trucks. In 1968 the Pioneer elevator was moved to Cereal. The truck and transport that the elevator was loaded on had sixty-eight wheels. It was quite a sight to see them turn corners with that outfit with the elevator loaded on it.

In the thirties the government shipped feed in to the Garden Plain siding. You had to get there early in the morning and wait your turn to load, but often there wasn't enough to go around.

Dad was always interested in sports and would go for miles to watch a ball game. Quite often he umpired the games at our own local diamond. He enjoyed the old time dances, and a good game of Five Hundred in cards. He liked working in the garden and always had enough vegetables for ourselves and for anyone else who needed them.

Carl farmed and lived at home. He passed away July 29, 1976. Bob is married and lives on the home place.

All the family is married. Bill lives at Morrin; Clarence at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Roy at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Elsie married Benny Weller and lives in Oyen; Dorothy married Albert Finkbiner and lives in Drumheller.

Mother is still alive and is in the J. Kramer Auxiliary Hospital in Drumheller. She celebrated her ninetieth birthday on June 30, 1976.

THE GEORGE THOMAS FAMILY, By Belle Thomas Mattis — My father and mother were married in North Dakota in 1906, and my sister Audrey and I were born there. The family left North Dakota in the late summer of 1909, and came by train to Bassano, bringing with them their machinery, livestock and household goods. They travelled by wagon as far as the Red Deer River, and spent that winter with Mr. John Smith.

In the spring of 1910 they, and Carl Johnson, moved to their homesteads about fifteen miles south-east of Hanna. The Olive school was about two and a half miles from our place. My two sisters, Olive and Violet, and three brothers, Leo, Ward and Wesley, were born on the homestead. Leo died when he was three weeks old.

My father and mother farmed there until 1926, then moved to the Grassy Slope district to a farm about two miles north of the school, which Ward, Wesley and Olive attended. Later the folks moved to a farm that my father had bought in the Dundee district, and remained there until they retired to Hanna in 1951.

Audrey, who has now passed away, married Lawrence Miller and had one daughter and five sons.

Violet, Mrs. Dale McDermott, has two sons.

Wes married Anne Simm. They have three daughters and one son.

Olive, who married Tom Wigg, passed away in 1954.

Ward married Joan McVicar from London, England. They have two daughters and one son.

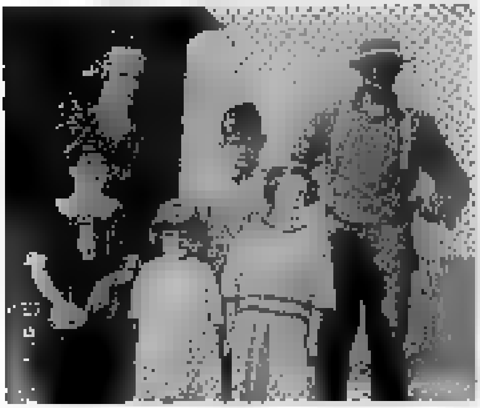
I married Dan Mattis, whose story is also in this book.

Dad died in the fall of 1968 at the age of eighty-six; Mother followed him three years later at the age of eighty-four.

THE WILLIAM GLOVER FAMILY, By Frances Glover Ripley and Kathleen Glover Hilyer — Our grandfather, William Glover Sr., arrived from Scotland in 1907 and settled on a homestead in the Buchan School District. In his first years there he hauled freight between Stettler and Castor with a team of oxen, and also hauled freight from Castor to the present townsite of Hanna in 1912.

He started raising purebred Hereford cattle, and one of his greatest moments of glory came in 1915 when one of his bulls took first prize at the Calgary Bull Sale. In the winter of 1922-23 a terrible blizzard swept over the prairies; he lost many of his cattle; many of them were found standing in sloughs, frozen solid. Grandfather was a tough old Scotsman and was able to survive this hardship as well as many others, and lived until September, 1944. He is buried in the cemetery at Netherby School.

Grandfather's eldest son, William Glover Jr., who was our father, also came to Canada in 1907. He worked in the Calgary area for a short while, then moved to Vancouver and joined the Police Force. In May, 1914, he married our mother, Margaret McGhee, who had come to Vancouver from Ireland in 1909. A year later our oldest sister Mary, better known as May, was born. She was retarded and was to be a great care to my parents all her life.



Mr. and Mrs. William Glover and family, May, Frances, Bill and Kay.

The mule took them where he wanted to go, not where they wanted to go. Bill and Kathleen Glover, and Katie the mule.

When war broke out our father enlisted in the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles and moved his wife and baby to Victoria before going overseas in October of 1915. Our brother, William John, was born in 1916.

After the war was over my father got a piece of Soldier Settlement land in the Garden Plain area. Kathleen was born in Calgary in 1920 as our parents were on their way to their new home, one mile east and one mile south of Buchan School. It was very poor land, really just a rock pile, and it was very hard to make a living on it.

Frances, the last of the children, was born in 1922. She was born in the old farmhouse with only our dad there to assist. A few weeks later she was baptized at Garden Plain hall where a Catholic priest from Castor used to hold services. Joey Higgins was baptized at the same time.

Our old farmhouse was a two-roomed shack to begin with, but two more rooms were added later. It was very cold in the winter when the snow would blow in the large cracks around the windows and doors.

Saturday night was bath night and a roaring fire was built and lots of water heated in boilers and kettles. The bath tub was the round laundry tub and it was placed very close to the stove. If you were small enough to sit down in the tub you had one knee in each ear, but things got very tricky when you stood up to dry yourself. If you bent over too far you ended up with the word McClary firmly branded on your buttocks . . . a very good identification mark to be sure.

The first one into the tub got the clean water and after that each one just got another kettle of hot water to warm things up. Our dad was always the last one in and by this time the water was quite murky, but no one spoke much about pollution in those days.

The Depression hit in 1929, the year that we moved to the Dundee area. We had very few good crops but by growing a large garden and raising chickens and turkeys and milking cows we managed to survive. It seemed that every fall we had to go on relief to get winter clothing and other necessities, and then the following summer our dad would have to do roadwork to pay back any relief we had received.

Our first teacher at Dundee was Gwen Rose who later became Mrs. Bill Rehill. Next was Mrs. Grimes who was teaching there at the time of her death and whose funeral was the first one I ever attended. It was a very sad day for all of us as we loved her very much.

Discipline was not always easy to maintain in a one-roomed school, for while a teacher was busy with one class, the others would sometimes raise a bit of hellery. I (Frances) sat in front of a boy named Jimmie Temple. One day he speared a fly on his pen nib, dipped it in his inkwell, and put it down the back of my neck. I let out a blood-curdling scream which brought the teacher on the run. There sat Jimmie looking very angelic, his halo in place, while I got two straps on each hand for disturbing the school. Afterward I said to Jimmie, "God will get you for this," and sure enough, God has removed all his hair!

Our Phys Ed program at school consisted of doing a few bend and stretch exercises while standing beside our desks every morning. There was one softball and one bat for anywhere from twelve to twenty-four pupils, so most of the time we played Scrub. For a change we would go to Greenwood's farm and get a bucket of water, (there was no well at the school), and off to the fields we would go to drown out gophers.

There was no such thing as Family Life education taught at Dundee or any other school in those days, so most of us grew up thinking the coyotes brought the babies. One day a girl who was a bit older and much wiser than the rest of us decided to tell some of us where we came from. I must say she went into great detail about the birds and the bees, but when she was finished I said, "I don't care what you say, I came from Buchan School!"

We remember with great nostalgia our yearly Christmas concerts. We would begin practising early and when the time came to perform we felt like movie stars. I remember one Christmas in particular when we were very hard up and didn't have a turkey. Our usual roast beef was cooking in the oven when Bob Rehill came along to invite us to their home for dinner. He sat down and had roast beef with us and then we all went to Rehill's for a lovely dinner and an enjoyable evening of cards. Such wonderful people and so eager to share what they had!

Our summer meat was usually chicken; only occasionally when we were in town we would buy whatever meat we could eat in one day, for there was no place to keep it. When the weather turned cold in the fall, my father would butcher a steer, which he cut up and stored in a shed outside. It would usually stay frozen until it was used up, but if a Chinook would blow in and the meat start to thaw, there would be a great rush for sealers and wash boilers to get it canned before it spoiled.

When World War II broke out in 1939, our father was anxious to get back in uniform so he went to Calgary and enlisted in the Veterans' Guard. He was on duty as guard at prisoner-of-war camps till 1945, then he made two trips to England taking prisoners back to Europe. He had a commission by now and was supposed to be saluted, so was very surprised when on his second trip home from England, someone came up behind him and slapped him on the back. He turned around to see Jim Temple, whose first words were, "I'm darned if I'm going to salute you, Bill Glover!", and they both had a good laugh.

Father had held a farm sale when he re-enlisted, and after his discharge from the army, he worked as a fireman for the RCAF until his death in 1955, at the age of seventy-two years.

Our mother and eldest sister May lived in Calgary until mother's death on her seventy-fifth birthday in 1961. At that time May went to the Deerhome in Red Deer where she passed away in February, 1964.

Kathleen, Mrs. Hilyer, lives in Burnaby, B.C.; Frances, Mrs. Art Ripley, resides in Edmonton. Our brother Bill, who was also in the army during the war, passed away in Hamilton, Ontario in 1969 at the age of forty-three years.

Only we two sisters are left of the family of six. As we look back at the hard times we seem to think more of the fun we had than of the things we were deprived of. Being poor wasn't so bad because most people were in the same boat. If we had to do it all over again we wouldn't change a thing, except maybe the seating arrangement at Dundee School.

Sidney and Hilda Grimes

THE GRIMES FAMILY, By Mrs. Hilda Franklin — Sydney Lawrence Grimes was born in Birmingham, England in 1891. After the death of his mother, he moved to Olds, Alberta to live with his brother Bert who operated a dairy farm there. When World War I broke out, he enlisted and served in France. After the war he returned to Alberta and married Nellie Brown.

Under the Veterans' Plan, the couple settled in the Dundee school district on a farm, the NW 35-32-13. Nellie continued her teaching career for many years in this area.

A son, Donald Leonard Grimes, was born in 1921. Ten years later his mother died, and in 1933 Sydney and Hilda Herman were married. Hilda continued to teach at the Dundee school. Their first child, baby Walter, passed away in 1936, and another son, Dennis Sydney Grimes, was born in 1939.

Donald joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 as Flight Sergeant Observer. A photo of him taken standing beside a 'Fairy Battle' aircraft was snapped by a Paramount Pictures cameraman during the filming of "Captains of the Clouds." This photo

appeared on the cover of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan publication, and was used in magazine advertisements for the Victory Bond drives. Donald was killed in aerial action in 1942 and was buried in Lincoln, England on November 11, 1942, with full military honors.

Sydney Grimes passed away in 1943. Hilda and Dennis moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1949. Hilda taught school for fifteen years and attended night and summer schools to obtain her B.Sc. in Education. Dennis became an accountant. After the death of her second husband, Hilda moved to Beaverton.

As I reminisce, many fond memories pass through my mind. First of all I want to express again my gratitude to our many kind neighbors who so willingly helped us when Sydney became too ill to carry on.

Next, I remember how well we managed without all the modern conveniences. We were content with burning coal for heat, riding in a Model T Ford, canning our foods, baking the bread, plowing with a six-horse team, pumping water for livestock by hand, walking to school and patching overalls. I did feel that we had many pleasures and joys that were shared by our neighbors, the softball games, Christmas programs, parties, picnics and the superb home-cooked dinners. I remember our old fashioned telephone, washing machine and treadle sewing machine.

Among many humorous incidents, one stands out [illegible] my memory. On Hallowe'en night, which was a few days after Sydney and I were married, we were wakened by a grunting pig slipping on the waxed floor as it ran from room to room, with Sydney chasing it and calling out appropriate expressions while I laughed too much to help. Weeks had passed before we found out that two young men had put the pig through an open window as a prank. Anyway, the owner of the pig just [illegible] it with us as a wedding present. That lonely pig often came to rattle [illegible] our door for attention, and one day there was that tapping noise again and Syd said, "There's that pig again!"

Can you believe that it was not the pig, but that dignified, serious bachelor, Tom Hoodless? We explained, but he didn't show any response, so we didn't dare laugh until he left. At this point, I must add that Sydney and Donald were gifted with laughs that rang through the house. The high school principal once said that he never chided Don for laughing in class; it was appreciated because it lifted people into a more cheerful mood. So let us, too, keep laughing!

[illegible] conclusion, Sydney Grimes, who eked out a living on an arid farm, who served many years as secretary-treasurer of Dundee school board and the rural telephone company, who sang solos, who suffered sorrows in the losses of Nellie and Donald and who experienced disability for three years, remained a true optimist. If only he could have seen what a wonderful son and grandsons he has given to this world!

MY STORY, By Bob Rebill — I was born in Elkhorn, Manitoba on April 19, 1912, and moved with my parents to Munson in 1914. It was there that I started school at White Rose. Miss Windell, my first teacher, boarded [illegible] our place and drove us kids to school.

It was there that I got the first and only strapping of my school years. One day the teacher wasn't feeling well, and at noon she laid down behind the stove to rest. I was standing on the outside step, and told the boys outside that the teacher had a belly ache. They all had a big laugh; I didn't know the teacher was standing behind me, but I soon found out, and the other boys didn't laugh so much when she called us all in. And we all went without recess for two days.

In 1921 we moved to the Hanna area and we attended Solon school. Rose Litke, who also attended Solon, stayed at our place and drove us to school for the first year. Then we got an old pony and a buggy and drove ourselves. We had to leave early in the morning; in the winters it was still quite dark when we left home, for it was a long trip and the old pony was slow. Sometimes we were darn cold when we got there, and had to sit around the stove to get warm. Some mornings the teacher would give us exercises to warm us up, for those old schools took a long time to heat up.

Bob Rehill family. Doreen, Ken, Jack, Bob.

My first teacher was Miss Evelyn Summers, who later married Bill Lumsden. She was a real good teacher and always kept law and order. She was noted for putting on a good Christmas concert. She generally started four weeks ahead of time, for there was a lot of work to it. We had to memorize our recitations and our parts in plays, and make stage decorations and costumes. We each had a recitation, and the pupils gained a lot of confidence by getting up in front of an audience to perform.

The parents spent the evening before the concerts filling candy bags and popping corn. They strung pop corn for tree decorations, and made popcorn balls to put in the candy bags. The morning of the concert they went to the school, decorated it with streamers, put up a large tree and trimmed it. They moved in extra benches for the audience, but the school was usually so packed that the ones at the back could neither see nor hear the program.

There would be recitations, monologues, dialogues, pantomimes, drills, dancing and singing of carols. When Santa arrived there was lots of excitement. He passed out the presents and the treats, and although there were no expensive gifts in those days, everyone appreciated what they got. Afterwards the parents passed treats, coffee and lunch to the audience.

In 1922 Grassy Slope school was built. Mr. Ed Blain was the secretary and Wesley Oke was our first teacher.

I spent my summer holidays herding cattle on the open land. Norman Oke and I herded our cattle together, and spent a lot of our time snaring gophers for spending money. We also raided all the crows' and magpies' nests. Mr. Wade at the municipal office bought the gopher tails for one cent apiece, and paid one cent apiece for the eggs.

In 1928 another new school district, Dundee, was started north of us. During the summer I helped haul the sand, cement and lumber for it; then that fall I had to go to school there, and that didn't make me very happy.

That same fall I went hauling bundles on a threshing crew for the first time. They gave me a big team and a 9' x 16' rack . . . most of the racks were 8' x 14'. I tried my best to put on a load like the others did. I worked as fast as I could but just couldn't get on a big load and get to the machine in time to hold my turn. Finally the boss told me that I had a much bigger rack, and that it held more bundles than the others. When I started counting how many bundles I had loaded, and how

many the others had on, I didn't feel so bad. I thought I was quite a man when they let me do that job, but boy, was I tired at night!

When I went back to school after harvest, Miss Gwen Rose was my teacher. She taught me two years at Grassy Slope and one year at Dundee, where I took my grade ten and finished my schooling.

I worked on the farm with my father and my brother Bill. We broke a lot of land with our model D John Deere. It involved a lot of work as when the ground was dry the plow shares would get dull. We used [illegible] sharpen our own shares and that took a lot of pounding, and the hot forge would sure draw the sweat. When the points would wear off we would take them to town and Mr. Andy McKay would put new points on them.

I did a lot of blacksmith work for the neighbors too. I sharpened plow shares for twenty-five cents each, and that was hard-earned money.

We used to have a lot of house parties for amusement. The girls would all take lunch, and anyone who could play an instrument would supply the music. Benny Weller played guitar, Ward and Wes Thomas played guitars and the violin, and Mr. Thomas helped out too. I played the mouth organ and the violin a bit. We also had card games, '500' parties and whist drives.

The school dances always drew a large crowd. We paid only [illegible] cents for admission as the music was reasonable; Benny Weller and Walter Jensen used to charge $2.50 each, and they would play from nine in the evening till three or four in the morning. Alex Raessler used to play with them sometimes.

In 1932 I went out to look for harvest work, and found a job at Botha with a family by the name of Bruning. They were real nice people and it was like a second home to me. I worked for them [illegible] that fall, and when winter came they told me that if I worked for them, I had to curl with them. So I started curling on the two-sheet rink at Botha. I had some good times there and met some wonderful people.

In 1935 I purchased a threshing outfit of my own on a bushel basis, paying [illegible]. A. Laughlin 2 cents a bushel until it was paid for. I paid only $600 for the separator, which doesn't seem much now, but was a lot [illegible] those days. I had six bundle teams and a spike pitcher. I did a lot of work with that machine; our run used to be about thirty days in a good year. We used [illegible] sleep in a tent and had a gas lantern for light. The days were long. We used to thresh eleven hours a day, and always had lunch in the forenoon and afternoon. When we finished up threshing, I used to put on a free thresherman's dance, for all my men and for the district.

In the winter, about March when the ice was fairly deep, we would have an ice-cutting bee. Four or five neighbors would get together and cut ice in a dam or a slough. First we opened up a hole with a crow bar and pick, large enough to put in the ice saw, which was about five feet long with very large teeth. We cut the blocks about twenty inches square. As soon as the block was cut and floating loose, we would pull it out with the ice tongs and load it on the sleigh boxes. Sometimes when the snow on the roads was deep, the heavy loads would cut down on one side and over would go the load. It was a real chore to re-load.

We all had large holes [illegible] the ground, about ten feet square and eight feet deep, for ice pits. We covered the ice with straw for insulation, and usually pulled an old granary over the hole. The ice pit served as our summer refrigerator, keeping the milk and cream cold. The cream cans were kept on the ice and when the cream man came on his route, he would go to the ice house to pick them up. We had ice boxes [illegible] the house to take the place of a fridge, and always had lots of cream and ice to make ice cream.

The winter months were long as the snow usually came early and blocked in

our roads in November or December. Then our cars were stored away for the winter, and our main means of transportation was a saddle horse or a team and sleigh. When there was a dance a distance away, we would gather up a sleigh load of neighbors, and sometimes if the roads were heavy we would have to change teams half way. The time travelling was spent in singing songs and telling stories. If we got cold we would get out and run behind; sometimes then the driver would speed up the team, and we would have a hard time to catch up. We had lots of fun in those days.

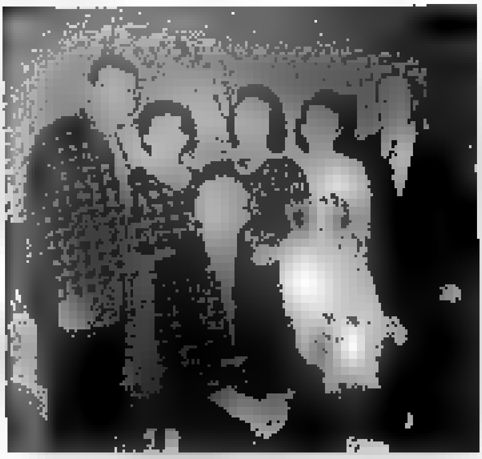
In the spring of 1949 I decided to make some improvements to our old house, so we tore part of it down and started to enlarge the basement. We were using a Ford tractor with a bucket on the back end, and hauled the dirt out a very steep approach. While I was taking a load of dirt out, the front end raised up in the air. It was a borrowed tractor and I was not used [illegible] the controls. I went to put in the clutch but instead I stepped on the left wheel brake; the tractor spun round and rolled over the embankment into the basement. and turned upside down. I was pinned under the tractor which luckily did not catch fire.

My brother got a shovel and dug a trench to free me and I crawled out. Some part of the fender or steering wheel had cut my ear almost off and loosened a large part of my scalp. Mother called our neighbor Mr. Hemstock who rushed me to the hospital. Doctor Argue stitched my ear back together and put a number of stitches in my scalp. I was in the hospital for two weeks and then went home and finished my basement, and built a new part on the house.

On July 7, 1950, I married our neighbor's daughter, Doreen Wright. We had a lovely wedding on a nice sunny day, but that evening, just before the dance started, it began to rain and it just poured. The dance was held in the Garden Plain hall with Roy Embree's orchestra, and I don't know how they ever managed to get the floor clean afterward, as there was mud all over everywhere. We went on our honeymoon in a ton truck with a home made camper on the back, to the Calgary Stampede, Banff, and Jasper, and home by way of Edmonton.

We have two sons, both living at home. Ken helps with the farm work and Jack [illegible] employed with the U.F.A. farm supply centre in Hanna.

I hope that everyone enjoys life as much as we do. We hope to live in the district for many years yet, as we have a lot of good neighbors and I wouldn't want to leave here. It's Home, Sweet Home.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple's 40 Wedding Anniversary. David, Lily, Elsie, Violet and Jimmy. Mr. and Mrs. Temple.

MR. and MRS. DAVE TEMPLE, By Mrs. Temple — In August, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple and two daughters, Elsie and Lily, moved from Fort Francis to Hanna. [illegible] the early spring of 1924 we took over the Chris Gasper farm located seven miles north of Hanna. Two more children were added to our family, Violet and Jimmy. A lot of hard labor and long hours was what it took to get a start.

The children attended Antelope Hill school. Elsie and Lily's first teacher was Miss Eva Hart, others were Norine Maynes and Agnes King. All these teachers boarded with us. One teacher, Mr. Ruskin . . . Old Ruskin, they used to call him . . . only stayed part of a term. I can remember how the children would slide down a hill near the school on scoop shovels in the winter time.

One time lightning hit our barn and another time it ripped our phone off the wall. The most frightening incident occurred when lightning started a prairie fire on our place. It was a dry year and we could see the smoke and fire rolling in real fast. Dave plowed fire guards around the feed stacks and the buildings, and we took our most needed belongings and put them in the middle of a plowed field. Neighbors came from far and near to help fight the fire, using wet gunny sacks. After a lot of anxious moments and hours of work, the fire was brought under control and our house was saved. Even the police arrived. We were excited because that was the first time we had seen a policeman.

In 1933 we moved twenty miles north of Hanna to farm the Goldsberry place. These were the days when hard times hit everyone, but we always had enough to eat. The kids would hitch old Foxy to the buggy and haul the cream to Spondin. It would take them all day. They would bring back a few groceries and we gave them each ten cents to spend. The children attended Dundee school.

Mrs. Temple (Katie) was kept busy sewing for the family. Hand-me-downs were altered, and flour sacks came in handy for underclothes. Sometimes Robin Hood was still visible on the garment. The girls wore basketball bloomers for special occasions at picnics.

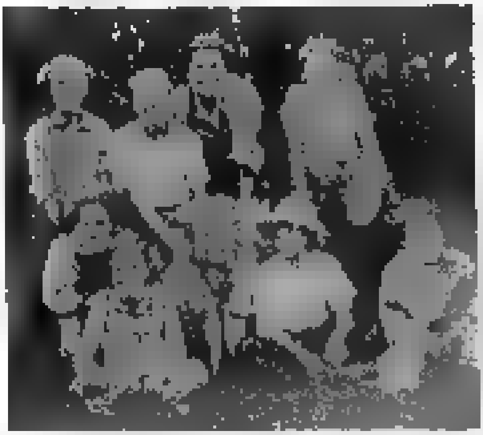
In winter we would go to dances in the bob sleigh. Foot warmers, rocks heated in the oven, and blankets kept us nice and warm for travelling. When we'd arrive home the house would [illegible] chilled and Dave would stoke up the fire and remove the clinkers and add more coal. Often the neighbors would get together for games of Five Hundred; afterward there would be lunch with home made bread and cookies and roasted wheat coffee.

There were long hours of work. Every drop of water had to be carried in and those slop pails were always full. The plow shares would have to be sharpened and the harness for the horses repaired. In the summer the haying was done with mower and rake, and stacked with pitchforks. After harvest a wagon box of grain was hauled to Hanna and groceries brought home; another load of wheat was taken to the mill to be made into flour.

In late winter the ice house was filled. Blocks of ice were chopped out of deep sloughs by hand, loaded on sleighs and hauled to an ice house. Straw was placed over the ice, which kept most of the summer, and was used to keep food cool and to make ice cream.

At harvest time, Dave would cut the grain with the horses on a binder, and Katie would be right there to start the stooking. When the children got old enough, they helped too.

With no fancy frills or extras we spent twelve years on the Goldsberry place. Then it was sold [illegible] Henry Mattis and we had to move. We bought the Almer Olsen farm just four miles north of Hanna. By now the four older children were on their own and David Jr., who was born in 1937, was taking his schooling at Meadowlands. The time came



Group of girls on a hike at Dundee trees. Violet Temple, Lily Temple, Freda Faupel, Martha Tetz Kathleen Glover, Elsie Temple, Kay Faupel, Ella Greenwood, Thelma Greenwood, Margaret Hemstock.

when farming was getting to be too much for Dave and Katie, so they decided to retire and live in Hanna, where they have resided for the past nineteen years. They are still active and enjoying life.

Their children all are married. Elsie Luft and Violet Milligan live at Olds, Lily Kern is [redacted] Hanna, Jimmie and David Jr. are in Calgary. There are sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE AUNE, By George Aune — We were married [redacted] October, 1920, and in February [redacted] the next year we moved from Morrin to our land seventeen miles north-east of Hanna. We came over back roads which were shorter than the main road, and travelled in winter because it was easier by sleigh than by wagon. We brought our furniture, ten or twelve horses, about thirty head of cattle, a few chickens, a pair of geese, one sow and a dog.

It was a long day's drive and we arrived just at dusk. We slept in the grain tank partly filled with hay and covered with a canvas. I was sure we would freeze, but it wasn't long until we had to open the canvas [redacted] the top . . . my first experience of pioneering.

There were some buildings on the place, a fairly good small barn, a shed we used as a chicken house, and a shack ten feet by twelve feet. When we put the couch, range, piano, washstand, etc. in there, there wasn't much room. At first, when we opened up the davenport to go to bed, we had [redacted] turn the table on its side and set the chairs inside it. Later, my father and brothers came out and helped build another room and shed on the shack. Then it was twelve feet by twenty-four feet, and we had lots of room!

Our hens were Red Leghorns, which weren't inclined [redacted] go broody, so when we found a wild duck's nest we took her eggs out and put four hen eggs in. She hatched them all but we found only three chicks. She had taken them nearly a quarter of a mile toward a slough. We raised them in a box and all three lived. The next year we got a 140 egg size incubator.

That first summer Oscar Engen from Morrin moved a half-mile south [redacted] us, and George's cousin, Bob Sunde, moved right next us to the west. They stayed only two summers and then left. We stayed one more year and then we went back to Morrin. There was a little better crop that year, but as one neighbor said, we had run out of seed by then. We never got enough hay so sent most of the cattle back to Morrin for the winters.

We dug a well about twenty feet deep with pick and shovel, but only got enough water for the house. We planted trees east of the buildings and hauled water to them in barrels, but I don't think any of them lived.

We got our mail at Garden Plain, and some groceries and coal. One summer, two of our neighbors and I dug our own coal, which helped out, as cash was scarce. We held card parties every two weeks and the prizes were usually groceries. Most of [redacted] enjoyed the card parties held at nearby schools, and I often played for the dances after lunch. In summer we had picnics and played ball.

We bought three dairy calves from Mr. Whaley, west of us, for seven dollars each. That got us into a lot of hard work for the rest of our days on the farm as we milked cows until about 1965.

[redacted] 1924 we got our homestead back, so returned and farmed there till 1933 when we moved to Rocky Mountain House. We lived there till 1967 when we retired to Vernon, B.C. Our son and daughter and their families live quite close to us so we see the grandchildren fairly often.

We often think back to our first years in the Hanna district, and have some very pleasant memories of good times and fine neighbors.

Carl Rehill hauling bundles, 1935.

CARL REHILL, By Bob Rehill — Carl moved to Hanna with his parents in 1921. He worked at home for a few years, then worked throughout the country as a farm labourer. He liked working with horses and took an interest in keeping them well trimmed. He used to enjoy a game of horse shoes after work. In those days we had the evenings to spend at ball games and horse shoes as the horses had to be turned out to rest.

In 1939, he and Tommy Tarrant took a job at Fort William working in the Searle Grain Company terminal. Help was scarce and they needed men to unload box cars. He worked there for two years, then returned to farming. He leased a half section and farmed on his own; and helped at home. He used to drive a bundle team each fall hauling bundles on the threshing rigs. In the early days he used to play hard ball and took an interest in all sports and country dances.

In 1954 he and a fellow by the name of Jim Kennedy had a grain cleaner and travelled through the country cleaning grain. In 1966 he retired and moved into Hanna.

Four Rehill brothers. Carl, Clarence, Bill, Bob.

Later he took the position of caretaker at the Hanna Museum. He took an interest in showing the tourists all the displays, and meeting people from all over. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneer Association and took part in all activities there.

He passed away July 29, 1976.

Building a grade over a slough in 1928. Bob Rehill and Aubrey Crowe.

MRS. CROWE and FAMILY — I was born in Toronto, the only child of William and Sussana Johnston. In 1906 we came to Edmonton, where my father was a motorman for the Edmonton Street Railway system. After an accident which left his right arm and hand crippled, we moved to the Endiang area, where my father had previously filed on and proved up on a quarter section on the edge of Sullivan Lake. My mother was not impressed by the prairie and she never did like farming.

I started to work in the Garden Plain store and post office for Mr. and Mrs. Wickson. I was there in the winter of 1918 when the Spanish influenza epidemic swept the country. All public gatherings were banned and each person was required to wear a home-made gauze mask. The store was heated by a large pot-bellied stove, and on it we kept a tin of formaldehyde constantly steaming as a disinfectant. There were a few deaths in the neighborhood, mainly men who contracted the flu but who continued to feed stock and care for animals. It was bitter cold that winter.

My parents bought the Wickson homestead and we moved there about 1919. South of us lived Aubrey Crowe. He had come out to visit his sister, Mrs. George Burns who was living in the area at the time. He worked in the district, then bought three quarters of land and was batching there when I met him. We were married at my parents' home at high noon on December 12, 1924, by Rev. Scallon. After the ceremony we left in our Model T Ford for Hanna and from there by train to Calgary for a short honeymoon. During our absence winter really set in with a fierce blizzard and a heavy snowfall. Our Model T stayed in Hanna until the following spring. Bill Rehill met us at Hanna. He had used two teams of horses in relays to travel the thirteen miles, and we went through the same procedure to return home, changing horses at Giltner's, who lived about halfway. I remember the men walked most of the way and I was bundled up in blankets in the bobsleigh. The snow was up to and in some places over the tops of the fence posts. The winters of the early twenties were bitterly cold with very deep snow, but followed by golden harvests and great promises for the future.

Our children were all born in the Hanna hospital under the care of Drs. Baxendale and Cross. As they grew older the need for a school became pressing. A site was chosen on the north-west corner of the Wickson property, and after many delays Dundee school was built and opened in September of 1929. Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Rehill and my husband Aubrey were the first trustees. Miss Hilda Herman, who later became the second Mrs. Sydney Grimes, was one of the first teachers. Margaret Hemstock, Thelma Greenwood and Gordon Crowe started together in Grade one. I well remember Gordon's first day at school. For some reason known only to small boys, he followed Donald Grimes through the schoolhouse door and out the open window, much to the annoyance of the teacher.

Prairie fires were a matter of deep concern and constant vigilance during the late twenties. East of our farm the open range stretched for miles to the Saskatchewan border. All farm sites were surrounded by a fire-break, a strip of ploughed land always kept free of vegetation. The prairie wool grew short and thick, and the fierce electric storms of those years often ignited the grass when lightning struck. All able-bodied men fought the prairie fires, and the RCMP provided transportation for men from surrounding towns to get to and from the burning areas. The women made gallons of coffee and mounds of sandwiches. I remember arriving at a fire break in our Model T, after bumping over miles of prairie with an eight-gallon cream can of coffee and a tub of sandwiches, to find my husband and several neighbors standing up to their knees in water in a slough, beating out the fire in the dry grass and rushes on top of the water. That fire burned close to our farm buildings before it was finally brought under control.

The depression of the thirties came, and with it the drought bringing devastating dust storms and plagues of grasshoppers. The sun looked red through the dust-filled air, but we always hoped that next year would [illegible] better. Our men worked on the roads to pay the taxes, and we had splendid roads, but they were little traveled. The school house became the centre of our social activities. Baby sitters were unheard of then. We just took our children with us, and they slept peacefully wrapped in blankets and lying on a pile of coats.

Despite the hail, drought and grasshoppers, we always had some harvest in our area. After threshing we would run some of our best wheat through the fanning mill to clean it of wild oats and weeds and chaff, and take it to the flour mill at Hanna to have it ground. The flour was rather dark, and made slightly heavy, but nutritious bread.

We made our bread dough with dry yeast, mixing it in the evening and placing it in a large covered bowl wrapped in blankets or even coats, and put it in the warmest corner of the kitchen [illegible] rise. Next morning it would be kneaded and baked. We would be blessed with lovely golden loaves ready to [illegible] sliced and eaten with our home made butter.

We did not lack essential food. Potatoes and root vegetables grew if they were well cared for. Meat was not always on the table because it was scarce and difficult [illegible] preserve without refrigeration. I remember that during our years at Endiang my mother often made delicious jackrabbit stew. I'm sure we did not have canned fruit or vegetable juice, but canned tomatoes were always on the grocery list and no doubt supplied our vitamin C.

At one time the government paid a bounty for wild horses picked up off the open range. Some of the young men of the neighborhood became picturesque cowboys during the winter months, with chaps, neckerchiefs, Stetson hats and a lasso draped over the horn of the saddle. Those horses were difficult to capture. Often one of the wild horses would be entered in the bronco riding contest at the Garden Plain or Hand Hills stampede, but more often it was the plain old plow horse that did the most bucking and unseated his rider.

During the depression years it was the custom for several neighbors to go together with horses, wagons and plows to the Badlands south of Castor and strip mine for coal, which was two or three feet below the surface. Any pieces of wood, broken whippletrees and such, were saved and piled for fuel. Most farmers applied for a permit to remove rotten and poor ties when they were replaced by railway crews; these made wonderful fuel.

One bitter winter morning my husband was called to investigate a bachelor's shack. No smoke was seen coming from the chimney, and that was always a cause for anxiety for the neighbors. Aubrey found the man unconscious on the floor, with frozen feet and hands. He had left the coal stove burning while he cleaned his stove pipes, and had been almost asphyxiated by the fumes. With the help of a team of horses Aubrey got the car started, and took the man to the Hanna hospital where he made a good recovery.

After my husband's death and due to the continued dry weather, I moved with

my children and my parents to a farm south of Vermilion. Bob Rehill helped us move and that experience would fill a book. Our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Welch, had moved to that part of Alberta some time before. We spent two winters there; then in 1936 we took a cow and some chickens and moved onto a small acreage west of Edmonton. That acreage is now a crescent of homes only blocks from where we now live.

Shortly after our move to Edmonton my father died, followed in less than two years by my mother. When my children were well established in school, I started to work for the Federal government and retired twenty-three years later.

My son Gordon has lived in the Grande Prairie district with his wife and family for many years. My three daughters are married and live in Edmonton with their families. I live with my eldest daughter Eileen. The other two, Phyllis and Audrey, live nearby. I have nine grandchildren.

I look back with nostalgia to the years on the prairie. Some call them the dirty thirties, but to me the good friends, good neighbors and sharing the joys and sorrows far outweighed the bad times.

Mr. and Mrs. Benny Weller and family. Standing: Bob Weller, Kenny Weller. Seated: Vera Lockhart, Elsie and Benny.

THE BEN WELLERS, By Elsie Weller — Benny and I were married on July [illegible], 1934 and began our married life on the farm formerly owned by Irvine Cox. Our house was only a one-roomed shack but two more rooms were soon added with the help of my father, John Rehill, my brothers and our neighbors.

Our closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]. Grimes. When they moved to Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Doering moved in and were still there when we left the farm.

We were blessed with three children. Vera married Ben Lockhart and lives south of Youngstown; Bob married Yvonne Wilson and lives at Ardrossan; Ken, who is employed in Calgary, is still footloose and fancy free.

After six years of farming and battling the drought and hard times of the Dirty Thirties, we left the farm and Benny went buying grain at Spondin, replacing Newell Jackson. We lived at Spondin one year, then spent two years at Torrington and then moved to Acadia Valley. By this time our packing almost did itself.

After two years we were moved again, this time [illegible] Oyen. Benny bought grain for five years there, then became a Civil Servant. He worked for the Special Areas, first as Chief Clerk and then as Fieldman, until he retired in 1975.

We built a home in Oyen, where we are living now.

WILBERT and ANNIE GREENWOOD, as told by Mrs. Greenwood to Mrs. Ella Gawn — My mother was born in Norway, my dad in Ontario. They met and married in Manitoba, and had six children. Mother passed away in Saskatchewan in 1907; Dad later remarried and had three more children. My stepmother is still living, and resides in a nursing home in Drumheller. My father, Jack Rehill, a well-known old timer in the Munson and Hanna districts, passed away in 1948.

Wilbert's folks came from Ontario. They were married in Alberta, but later

moved to North Dakota where Wilbert was born in 1889. They came back from the United States by ox team. Wilbert's folks retired to Vancouver and passed away when they were in their late nineties.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Greenwood on their 60 Wedding Anniversary. Taken in November, 1976.

Wilbert homesteaded in the Munson district where I met and married him, in December of 1916. We remained on the homestead until 1928 when we moved to Hanna.

We had some rough years in the thirties but managed to keep going by milking cows and selling butter. Later life became easier when we started to ship cream.

We had a family of five; they [illegible] attended Dundee school. Our oldest son lives in Winnipeg, one daughter lives in British Columbia and the other three are here in Alberta.

We retired to Stettler in the fall of 1964, and bought a nice home. Both of us are enjoying quite good health. We celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary [illegible] December, 1976, and enjoyed seeing our many good friends at that time.

Wilbert is still symbolic of the Greenwood boys, wearing his cuffs, cowboy henky, boots and hat every day. He, [illegible] were his brothers, was quite a bronc rider in his day.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Finkbiner and oldest son Bill.

ALBERT FINKBINER, By Dorothy Rehill Finkbiner — I am the youngest daughter of Mr. J. Rehill. I was born at Munson on January 21, 1915, and moved with my parents to the farm northeast of Hanna in 1921. I grew up there and took my schooling at Solon, Grassy Slope, and Dundee, and the last year in Mr. [illegible]. Harvey's home near Scapa.

On March 6, 1936, I married Al Finkbiner whose father operated an underground coal mine a mile south of Garden Plain hall. We lived there for two years and our eldest son Bill was born there. In the late fall of 1937, owing to the depression, we moved to Val D'Or, Quebec, where Al was employed at hard rock mining in the Siscoe Gold Mines.

That country was all rock, bush and lakes. Mining was the main industry. The first years we lived on a large island; our home was a three-roomed building with wooden walls and a large tent for the roof. There were no windows, and when the wind blew it was really something, as we had a lot of wet snowfall and the canvas froze and banged like thunder. The temperature never reached zero but with the dampness and the winds we found it very cold. Our transportation [illegible] the winter was by dog-sled and in summer by boat.

There were a lot of small islands that the Indians lived on and in the summer, after all the ice was gone, they turned all the sleigh dogs loose on one that they

called Dog island. They fed the dogs by boat. It was a noisy place and there could be no trespassing as those dogs were inclined to be vicious.

The people there had never heard of saskatoons, but blueberries and wild raspberries grew everywhere.

In the early spring of 1940 we decided to try farming at Brockville, Ontario, where our second son Melford was born. We stayed there for the summer but small acreage, milking cows and a two-horse walking plow weren't for us. The electric storms were terrible as there was so much rock and only about six or eight inches of soil covering it, and quite dry.

In the fall of 1940 we moved back to Val D'Or and lived in a suburb called "Little Canada". We made some very good friends there, especially young people from Saskatchewan who had gone east to escape the depression.

Owing to the war, we moved in 1941 [illegible] a suburb of Toronto, where Al worked in a munitions factory. The country around Toronto [illegible] beautiful, long summers, wet slushy winters and no wind. We did not care for the tree fruits, but really enjoyed their vine crops, as everything was ripened on the vine. We had a 1929 Ford and really made use of it as even the country roads were paved and there was so much [illegible] see.

The Ontario people were hard [illegible] get to know. As one of our neighbors told us, he guessed the old saying was true, that in the West you were everybody's friend until you proved otherwise, but [illegible] the East you were nobody's friend until you proved yourself so.

In the summer of 1943 a call went out for men with mining tickets, and as Al had his the government shipped us back to Drumheller. Our third son Ronald was only fourteen days old and the conductor said he was the youngest passenger he had ever had that travelled so far. It was a long trip as the troops were travelling back and forth and there were no sleepers to be had.

Our fourth son Victor was born in Drumheller [illegible] 1946. Al worked in the coal mines until 1949, but the last year he suffered several injuries so decided to call it quits. He took over the taxi business formerly owned by Mr. Griff. At Christmas, 1953, we finally got our daughter, Rose-Marie Holly.

In the spring of 1954 we took over the Twin Hill service station and with taxi, trucking and service station had a busy seven years. In 1961 we sold our other interests but kept the taxi business until April, 1976, when ill health forced Al to retire.

We make our home in Drumheller where our oldest boy Bill and our daughter, both married, live. Mel is in Montreal, Ron in Fox Creek and Vic is Calgary. We have twelve grandchildren, ten of them boys.

I wonder how many couples could match our record? In the first ten years of our married life we lived in twenty-five different homes.

Editor's Note: Albert Finkbiner passed away in the Drumheller hospital on April 22, 1977, at the age of sixty-four.

THE DAFOE STORY, By Clarence Dafoe — When the Dafoe brothers, Harmon, Will, George and Arthur brought their families to Alberta, they filed on land in township 32, range 9. As each family had one son who was over eighteen and could file on land, they took up a large part of the township.

They came [illegible] the spring of 1910 and lived in tents that summer, then some went back to Ontario and brought their families and another car of effects in March, 1911. It took many sixty-five mile trips to bring our effects from Castor, then houses and barns must be built and land broke up. That first summer I broke forty acres with a walking plow.

The mosquitoes were terrible that summer. I had built a house and barn on my homestead, but when I built a smudge to keep the mosquitoes away, a gust of wind shot a flame up the side and burned the roof off, so it had to be done over again. However, as the only material we could afford was sod, all it required was labor [illegible] put it back [illegible] shape again.

When dry weather and low prices came in the twenties, all of the four brothers left that district. My brother Louis and I took over the Solon coal mine from W. Glover in 1924. We had a lot of good horses and we used twelve horses on three fresnos during the summer, to strip two thousand ton of coal to be sold in the fall. The farmers came from as far away as the Saskatchewan border, driving four horses on steel-tired wagons, as none of them had trucks at that time.

We sold coal for $2.50 per ton. A lot of it went [illegible] Hanna, and many farmers made a few dollars hauling it in for the townspeople. Several of the local boys worked for us, Ed Clary and Ralph, Harry Lumsden, Fred and George Wheley, Will Rehill, Merle Wright, Charlie Overton, [illegible] Loveday, Bill Adams, Pat and Mike Agnew and many others. It was very hard work and in 1927 I sold out to Charlie Brown and moved back to the homestead, where I farmed with mediocre success until I retired in October of 1959, and my wife and I moved to Hanna.

They were fixing up the hall for the Oldtimers then, and I was asked to head the building committee; for six years I fulfilled this position to the best of my ability.

In 1965 Ferg James and some other interested oldtimers were having trouble getting the Historical Society Museum started. He and Roy Embree came and asked me to give them a few days work to get the fixtures in the building. I went for a few days, which stretched out till the present time. I took over the building operation for several years, then acted as vice-president. Since Ferg is gone I have filled the post of president.

At present my wife Ellen and I have six children, seventeen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

GORDON BOYD'S STORY — We are newcomers to the Hanna North community, coming in 1968 [illegible] reside on the NE 32-32-13. This quarter was homesteaded by Russell Hemstock in 1911; in 1916 he built the house we are living in today. He sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. William Bossert in 1955, and we bought it from them.

I grew up on a farm north of Lomond. When I was five, and my sister Verna three, we decided [illegible] climb the forty-five foot windmill. Up went Verna with me behind. About half-way up I decided that the ground was a long way down, and stayed there watching Verna climb onto the little platform at the top.

When Mom came out to see where we had got to, Verna called, "Hi Mommy, look at us!" Mother said her heart just stood still. She didn't know how she was going to get us down safely. When we did get safely to the ground, did we catch it! Mom hurt my dignity and lowered my pride.

I rode for fifteen years in the fall round-ups at the Majorville Community Pasture. I've seen cattle go home almost every way but fly . . . trucks of all shapes and ages, gooseneck trailers, cattleliners. Some chased them on horseback or with bicycles or motorbikes. A few did it the modern way, chasing them with a half-ton or car, and nine times out of ten the husband would be driving and the wife would be on foot with a long club to keep the herd together. Some of those women who had been charging around in a corral of cattle since daylight would make a good cutting horse feel bushed.

I met my future wife at Milo, and we were married there in the spring of 1953.

That fall I contracted polio, and during my stay in hospital in Calgary I met Lloyd Greenslade, knitting wool sweaters, fingers and needles just a-flying. We have two sons, Owen and Robert, and a daughter Pat.

Bob, Pat (Stubbs), Owen Boyd, Patsy (Boyd) Kolinchuck, Rockey Kolinchuck, Dorothy and Gordon Boyd.

The first year or two we were here it didn't really seem like home, but now we have made new friends. I'm always glad [illegible] hear the first wild geese on their way north in the spring; it means that another winter has become history.

Keith and Thelma Williams.

KEITH WILLIAMS — I was born on my father's homestead near Elnora in 1917. In 1920 our family moved to Calgary and in 1921 [illegible] Hanna where my father opened a vulcanizing shop in the garage now operated by the Hutton boys. In the fall of 1928 we moved to the Alf Larson farm in the Garden Plain district, and remained there till the spring of 1935, when we moved to the Bob Gordon place on the Castor Trail, just two miles north of Solon school.

In the fall of 1939 I rented the quarter of land where the Dundee school was from Mr. Wickson; at the same time I was buying the east half of that section from the Hudson Bay Company for ten dollars an acre, on crop payments. I had a good crop in 1940, but 1941 was a dry year. To make a few dollars I went to Hanna and worked in the C.N.R. shops.

In January 1942, I joined the R.C.A.F. I spent one year in Canada and three years overseas. [illegible] the fall of 1946 I returned to my job with the railway.

In July of 1949, Thelma Marjorie Greenwood of the Dundee district and I were married. We raised five children and are still making our home in Hanna.

THE CARL TETZ JR. STORY, By Violet Tetz Kern — Carl Tetz was born in Russia in 1901 and came to Canada with his parents in 1907, settling in the Leader, Sask., area. In 1922 he moved to Maidstone, Sask., where he married Pauline Rhinehart in 1923. They farmed there for several years and raised four children.

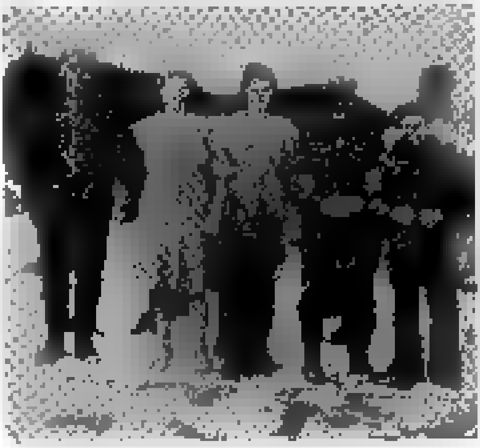
Clarence was born in 1926. He married Hazel Cox and they have nine children. They live in Lloydminster.

Violet, who was born in 1928, married Cliff Kern. They have two children, and live on their farm in the Meadowlands district north-east of Hanna.

Clifford was born in 1932. He married Dorothy Foster and has four children. They make their home in Calgary.

Verna, Mrs. Andy Lozeron, was born in 1939. They have one boy and live in Grande Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz, taken on their wedding day, 1923.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz and family. Carl, Pauline, Violet, Clarence and Hazel, his wife. Verna in front of Violet and Clifford beside Clarence.

In 1945 Carl Tetz moved his family to the Grimes' place in Dundee school district. Dundee school was not open at that time and Clifford and Verna attended North Berry Creek school for a while. Later on Verna received some of her education at Dundee, the rest in Hanna.

When some of their crops here were lost due to drought or hail, they wished that they were back in Saskatchewan where they had always had a good crop. To supplement their income they milked ten to fifteen cows and sold the cream at Spondin, making the twenty-mile round trip to the creamery twice each week, sometimes with a team and sleigh.

They moved into Hanna in 1954, where Dad worked for Fitzsimmons at the Auction Mart as well as on the farm; and lived in the house situated near the Auction Mart.

Mother passed away in 1957, and Dad spent another two or three years here. Then he went to Burstall, Saskatchewan, and in 1962 he married Bertha Hipple. She died in February, 1977, and once more, Dad is alone.

MR. and MRS. MIKE RIIS, By Bob Rehill — Mr. and Mrs. Riis lived in the Dundee district on the north-west quarter of 10-33-13. They had two boys and two girls who attended Dundee school.

They left the farm in the thirties and moved to Hanna. Mr. and Mrs. Riis have both passed away.

One son, Kenneth, was killed in action in World War II. Their other son, Harold, lives in Edmonton.

Their daughter Gwen became [illegible] nurse, married W. Smith and passed away some years later. Their second daughter, Margaret, lives in Hanna.

Group of girls at a party for Gwen Miller. Marion Taylor, Elsie Rehill, Rosanna Corry, Gwen Miller, Olga Bakker, Dorothy Rehill, Winnie Lewis, Laura Jensen, Frances Herring, Patsy Taylor, Margaret Alts, Ella Greenwood.

ELMER HONGISTO, By Bob Rehill — Elmer came into the area as a farm laborer. He worked for Russell Hemstock on the farm and in the mine. Later he rented a farm, the south half of 27-32-13, and farmed and batched there until the early forties. Then he moved west [illegible] Hanna to Andy McKay's farm. When his health failed he went to a home in Edmonton, where he passed away.

MR. and MRS. CUTHBERT, By Bob Rehill — Mr. Cuthbert homesteaded on the south-west of 14-33-13. He farmed there for a number of years, then moved over to the north-west of 10-33-13. His wife went back to Ontario where she passed away; he kept on farming for a few years, then retired [illegible] a pensioner. He loved to play his violin and used to help entertain at Christmas concerts. He was a baker in his early years and still made his own bread when he was batching. When his health became poor he returned to Ontario where he passed away.

TOM HOODLESS, By Bob Rehill — Tom bought the east half of 2-33-13. It was raw land, so [illegible] hired Bill Rehill to break up one hundred acres for him. He built a small shack on the land and had a well drilled on it. One evening he was cleaning his stove pipes and was overcome by the stove gas; he got to the door before he passed out, and he lay there over night. It was a cold night and when help got to him his feet were frozen. A neighbor took him to the hospital. He was very fortunate as he lost only some toes.

That spring Tom wasn't able [illegible] work his land, so the neighbors got together and worked the breaking down and harrowed it and then sowed the crop. Those were the days when everyone helped each other. The women brought dinner out to the field and served it picnic style.

Tom was unable to farm the land so he let it go back. He moved up to his brother's place north of Netherby, and he stayed there until he retired.

WILLIAM GOLDSBURY, By Bob Rehill — Mr. Goldsbury homesteaded in the Halkirk district before coming to the Dundee district, in 1915. He farmed through all the hard years. He had crop failures through drought, hail and grasshoppers. He helped a number of the early settlers who lived around him. He used to have a nice herd of cattle, but due to his eyesight failing him, he was forced to quit farming. Mr. Fitzsimmons conducted a farm auction sale for him and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple took over his farm.

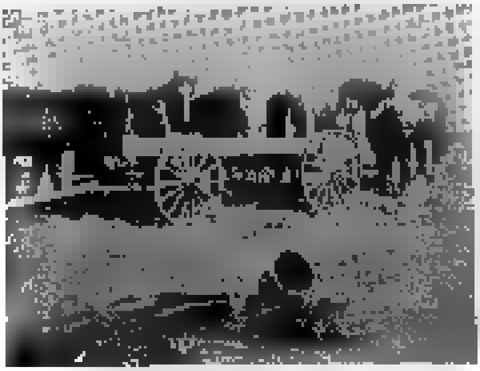
As far as we know he returned to the United States to retire.

DUNDEE RED CROSS

By Mrs. George Standing

During World War II, Mrs. Russell Hemstock organized the Dundee Red Cross. The ladies in the group were Mrs. Russell Hemstock, Mrs. Wilbert Greenwood, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. George Thomas, Mrs. Charlie Noyce, Mrs. Jim Doncaster, Mrs. J.J. Rehill, Mrs. Sid Grimes, Mrs. George Standing, Mrs. Sam Doering and Mrs. Pete Boyd. The meetings were held in their homes.

The ladies were busy knitting and sewing in their homes between meetings. One member, Mrs. D. Temple, learned to knit. After completing a pair of socks she put her name and address in the toe of one of them and received an answer from the pleased recipient. Every hostess supplied the material for one quilt top; the Red Cross supplied the other material and the yarn for knitting. The quilts would be quilted at their meetings. The finished articles were returned to the Red Cross to be sent to the needy. The ladies supplied goodies to be packed into food boxes which were sent to the local boys who were serving in World War Two.



Another day's work, John Diachuck.

JOHN DIACHUCK, By John Diachuck — I came to Hamilton, Ontario in 1912 as a young lad from Austria. My uncle paid my fare. My first job was in the Rolling Mills. Many single men were laid off when World War I broke out, I being one of them. I got a job working on Mr. Burniston's farm at Aldershot, Ontario. I drove a team for him when they were building the highway from Hamilton to Toronto.

Miss Alton, who was teaching at Aldershot at that time, offered to teach me English. She left to teach at Fitch school near Richdale, Alberta. Knowing my desire to work on the land and drive horses, she gave me the address of her cousin, Chib Wickson, NW-34-32-13. I moved west in the spring of 1916, worked for Wickson two months and quit.

My next job was with Fred Riddle of Red Rose district. I earned enough to buy a team of horses. They were outlaws, always trying to run away. With them I went threshing for Dyke brothers. They owned a George White steamer and threshing machine. They had a very long run that fall. We went as far north as the Corrine district. I also threshed with the Gilmer outfit of Centre Point district. He had a Case steamer and George White thresher. That winter I hauled grain for Charlie James.

In the spring of 1917 I worked for Charlie Wilson at Wildunn Post Office, south

east of Hanna. After three months at Wilson's I went to work for Russell Hemstock. That was the year Russell married, 1918.

After a few months, I went to work for Charlie Brown, stripping coal in his mine. The work was hard. Charlie had two sons, Amos and Ted, and one daughter, Selma. Ted stayed home, Amos joined the navy. Selma worked for George Burns and later married Cecil Veno. Amos died shortly after he came back.

I rented land at Taplow siding [illegible] 1919 but it was a dry year. I had a crop failure. Then, I went to work for Jesse Roberts in 1921. He lived near the correction line. My job was to break the many horses that he was raising at that time for sale. He had a Clyde stallion and cayuse mares. A lot of those horses were four and five years old and tough ones to break. Jesse also raised Shorthorn cattle and a few pigs. The pigs had no pen but rooted under granaries for protection. I gave them enough feed to keep them home. Jesse said I was feeding them too much so I quit feeding them. The pigs were never home after that.

I went back to working for Russell Hemstock [illegible] the mine. I got married in 1926. We farmed near Alness for awhile. Our daughter went to Centre Point school. Her teacher was Virginia Thomas. Some of her classmates were Dorothy, Ida and Helen Quast and the Mike Litke children.

In 1943 I moved to Hanna and worked on the rip track. While working for the railroad, I bought three-quarters of land from Zarbuck one and one-half miles north of Hanna. I retired from the railroad in 1960 and went full time farming. Later, I sold my farm to Andy Duff and retired [illegible] Hanna. Our daughter, Marie is married and lives in Calgary. She is a school teacher.

I have seen good and not so good times. I have met and worked with many people. I hope I have contributed something worthwhile to my adopted country.

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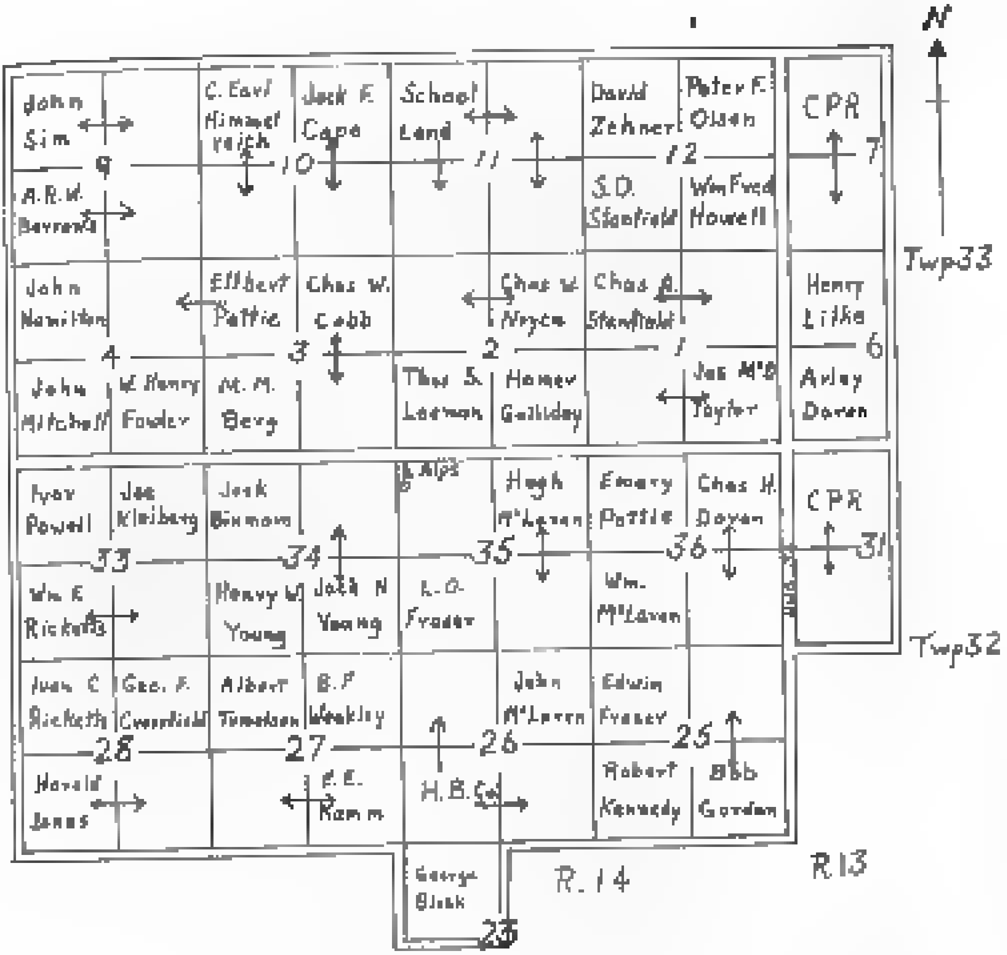


HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — ALPS

Twp. 32-14-4

Section [illegible]
E ½
Robert D. Gordon
Elmer Grey
Ken Williams
Betty Lumsden

NW 25
Edwin Fraser
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 25
[illegible]b Kennedy
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

Section 26
NE 26
John McLaren
Hugh McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SE 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 26
H. B. Co.
George Crossfield
Jim Lumsden

Section 27
NE 27
Ben F. Weakley
Wm. Hilber
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 27
Albert E. Tumelson
Jack Binmore
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

S ½ 27
E. E. Kamm
Bert Jones
Wm. McLaren
Will Lumsden
Wm. Paxman

Section 28
NE 28
George Crossfield
Jim McCluskey
Helen Annas

NW 28
Ivan C. Ricketts
John Robertson
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 28
Harold Jones
Bert Jones
Helen and Rudy Annas

Section 33
NE 33
Joe Kileberg
Calton Viste

NW 33
Ivor Powell
J. M. Williams
Calton Viste

S ½ 33
W. E. Ricketts
Fred Shultz
Jim McCluskey
Joe Kileberg
Calton Viste

Section 34
E ½ 34

Jack Young
Calton Viste

NW 34
Jack Binmore
Joe Kleiberg
Calton Viste

SW 34
Hank Young
Jack Young
Calton Viste

Section 35
E ½ 35
Hugh McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 35
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

SW 35
L. O. Fraser
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

Section 36
E ½ 36
Charlie Doran
Hugh and Wm. McLaren
Ivan Ricketts
Wm. Hill
David Haaz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

NW 36
Emery Pettie
David Haaz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

SW 36
Wm. McLaren
Rayford Johnston

NE 23
George Block
Adolph Kleat
Herb Litke
Harold Forina

NW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

SW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.

Jim McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

Twp. 33-14-4

Section 1
S ½
James McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

N ½ 1
Charlie Stanfield
Meryl Hill
Everett Dorman
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Section 2
N ½ 2
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rudy Annas
Danny Greenslade

SE 2
Ulmer Galliday
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Otto Miller

SW 2
Thos. Leeman
Robert Crabb
Charlie Noyce
Otto Miller

Section 3
NE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jim McCluskey
Manley Viste

NW 3
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SW 3
M. M. Berg
Joe Slepika
Archie Sloan

Section 4
NE 4
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Emil Miller

NW 4
John Hamilton
John Mitchell
Jack Binmore
Otto Miller

SE 4
Wm. F. Fowler
Rudolph Fecho
Arnold Fecho

SW 4
John Mitchell
Jack Binmore
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 9
N ½ 9
John Sim
Bert Sim
Charlie Lohrman
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 9
A. R. W. Burrows
Mrs. Weller
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 10
E ½ 10
Jack Cape
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

W ½ 10
Earl Himmelriech
Jack Temple
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

Section 11
School Land

NE 11
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

NW 11
Jack Cape
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

S ½ 11
Ben Bunce
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

Section 12
NE 12
Pete Olsen
Dan Wiegle
Fred Medche
Clyde Block
Norman Greenway

NW 12
Dave Zehner
Pete Olsen
Clyde Block
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

SE 12
Fred Howell
Charlie Stanfield
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

SW 12

Sarah Stanfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Twp 33-13-4
Section 1
SW 1
Arley Doran
E. C. Massey
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

NW 6
Henry Litke
Robert Unsworth Sr.
George Unsworth
Norman Greenway

SW 7
C.P.R.
Jim Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Harold Forina

ALPS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2866

By Fred Johnston

Early in 1911 the residents of this area petitioned the Department of Education for a school. Jack Young, who had been corresponding with Edmonton, called a general meeting for February 24, 1912. W. F. Howell was elected chairman and Ivan Ricketts, secretary. A resolution, "shall we form a school district?" was put to a recorded vote. Seven were [illegible] favor and three opposed. The name, "Highland", was chosen as the name for the school. The election for trustees then followed. Successful candidates were: Ivan Ricketts, secretary-treasurer; E. E. Kamm, chairman and B. F. Weakley as the third trustee.

Alps first teacher, Mary Ellen MacKay, 1913.

Alps School, 1922. Back Row, left to right: Margaret Noyce, Mary Hill, Katie Shultz, Jane Unsworth, Blanche Wright, Millie Shultz. Front Row: Earl and Murl Cobb, Bennie Taylor, Edward Cobb (behind Bennie), Bella Taylor, George Bunce, Jack Shultz, Ellen Unsworth, Annie Shultz (behind Ellen). (Teacher: S. Emma DeWolfe)

Alps School, Winter 1930. Cold outside, cold inside. Far Row: Ellen Unsworth, Bella Taylor, Margaret Noyce, Bennie Taylor. Near Row: Arther Noyce, Norman Greenway, Freda Temple. (Teacher: Vic Trenaman)

Alps School, 1932. Top Row, left to right: Lorne Weller, Bella Taylor, Ellen Unsworth, Margaret Noyce and Arther Noyce. Middle Row: Freddie Johnston, Tillie Hiller, Joan Greenway, Lena Hiller, Ruth Noyce, Billie Temple and Billie Crossfield. Bottom Row: Emil Miller, Freda Temple, Alice Weller, Dennis Greenway and Alma Miller. (Teacher: Lucy McLaren).

Ivan Ricketts as senior trustee had to call a special meeting for the election of a new trustee, due to the death of E. E. Kamm. On June 14, 1912, Charlie Stanfield was elected to fill the vacancy and he became chairman.

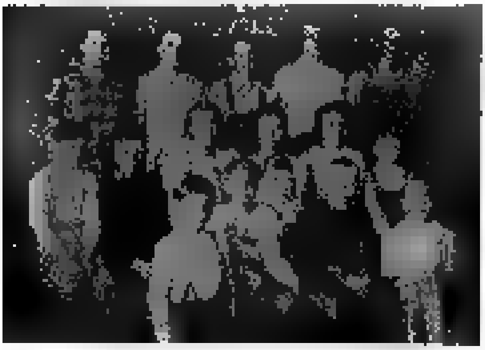
Meanwhile the secretary was notified by the Department that a different name had to be submitted as there was already a Highland school district in the province. Three names, including Alps, were sent to Edmonton.

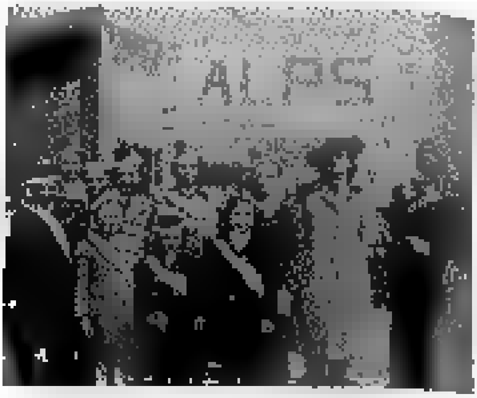
On March 28, 1912 the Deputy Minister J. T. Ross, notified the secretary that the Alps S. D. 2888 was the official name of the new school. The name, Alps, seemed appropriate as the school was to be situated on a hill in rolling country.

At a special ratepayers meeting held on May 1, a $2,000 debenture by-law was voted on, with eight in favor and seven against. Those opposing said that the by-law debenture was too high. The Department also opposed it stating that it would exceed twenty-five cents per acre of assessable land within the district.

Shortly thereafter the district ratepayers passed a $1400. debenture by-law

with everyone in favour. The Bank of Toronto, Waterloo Branch, bought the debenture, through the Merchants Bank of Castor. The loan was to be repaid in ten equal payments at six percent interest. The debt was cleared off in the required ten years.


Alps School, 1939. Back Row, left to right: Hilda Miller, Joan Greenway, Rayford Johnston, Bill Crossfield, Fred Johnston. Middle Row: Otto Miller, Jackie Temple, Vera Noyce, Eileen Johnston, Ella Miller, Jack McLaren. Bottom Row: Emil Miller, Edna Johnston, Donnie McLaren, Ross Temple, Greta Greenway. (Teacher: Charlotte Reevley)



Alps School, 1945. Banner won first prize in the VE day Parade. Back Row, left to right: Eileen Johnston, Allan Hemstock, Emma Miller, Greta Greenway, Emil Miller, Mrs. McLaren (teacher), Otto Miller. Front Row: Don McLaren, Ruby Kiest, Marilyn McLaren, Vera Miller.

The school site was situated in the centre of the district, seven hundred feet south of the north-west corner on the NW-35-32-14. This quarter was part of the estate of T. S. Lehaman who had filed on it. It eventually reverted back to the crown and Bill McLaren purchased it and lived there for many years. Purchase price of the land for the school was ten dollars per acre and through some measuring error 1.62 acres was used instead of the customary two acres.

H. E. Beumer of Castor was the successful bidder for constructing the school. A. L. Worth of Solon hauled all the building materials from Acorn Lumber of Castor. Beumer commenced work on September 3, 1912 and completed the work by the year's end. The school was built on top of a hill with the front door facing west. It was twenty feet wide, thirty feet long and ten feet high. It had a 6' by [illegible] porch, two windows on the west side, one in the south and six on the north. A 10' by 10' coal shed was attached to the school. Also in the contract were two 4' by 6' outhouses.

Equipment for the school was supplied by Alberta School Supply, Edmonton. These supplies were freighted out from Castor on January 28, 1913. Total audited cost for labour and building supplies was $1,021.35; equipment cost $224.95 for a total of $1,246.30.

Miss Mary E. Mackey from Nova Scotia was the first teacher. She and the trustees opened school on May 5, 1913. Twelve pupils were enrolled that morning: Everett, Vola, Eva and Grace Weakley, Jack and Margaret Howell, Jack and Nellie Gordon, Mildred and Perley Mansfield, Clyde and Gertrude Block. Miss Mackey received [illegible] salary of $65.00 per month.

To finance school operations taxes were levied on lands within the district; in 1913 the rate was $4.80 per quarter section. There was also a government grant paid at the rate of so many cents a day for each pupil who attended school.

After World War I, it became difficult to raise the money to keep the school open. People began moving away, leaving those left with all the burden of financing the school's operations. The laws had to [illegible] changed and the Alps school Board requisitioned the Dowling Lake Municipality No. 305 for funds to operate. Conditions became worse and [illegible] 1936 Sullivan Lake School Division No. 9 was formed. The division then undertook the financing of the school.

[illegible] those first ten years the school would [illegible] closed during the winter months and then open for the warmer months, with a two week holiday during July. Even in those days a school term consisted of two hundred days.

Some of the families who boarded the teachers were the Noyces, Unsworths, Crossfields, McLarens. Usual boarding fees in the earlier years were from eighteen to twenty dollars a month. A teacherage was moved onto the school grounds in 1938 but was only used for a short time. One year the Alps and Wiese teachers batched together in a vacated house.

The office of secretary-treasurer was held by: Ivan Ricketts, James McD. Taylor, John Sims, C. Himmelreich and F. W. Johnston. Charles Noyce was chairman for many years; Hugh McLaren, Ralph Greenway and Charlie Stanfield also held that position. The school operated for thirty-four years and had twenty-three teachers during that time. The teachers from 1913-1947 inclusive were: Mary E. Mackey, Edith M. Henderson, Lola McLatchie, Nellie Thompson, Lorenzo Fredricks, Nellie Cameron, Edna M. Burrows, Grace Cas Cadden, Emma De Wolfe, Mrs. Edith Williams, Betty Meece, A. W. Poland, M. Skine, L. Collin, Katherine Van Amburgh, Wm. Burke, Victor Trenaman, Lucy McLaren, Mildred Bender, Wilma Smythe, Elsie Harris, Wm. Ferguson, Charlotte Reavely, Elizabeth Siedel and the last teacher was Lucy B. McLaren.

Emil and Ruby Sieppert purchased the school building from the School Division and moved it down the hill to make a garage out of it.

MR. and MRS. JAMES McDONALD TAYLOR, By Bella Taylor Kerner — My father, James McDonald Taylor, better known as Jim Taylor, came to Canada from Scotland in 1906. He worked as a cook for the crew building the Goose Lake rail line.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Ben and Bella.

My mother, Margaret Anderson, came to Canada from Scotland [illegible] September 1909. She met five other Scottish lassies on the ship, all coming to Canada to get married. After three weeks of travelling by ship and railway she arrived in Calgary where she was met by her future husband. There they were married on September [illegible].

After they were married they went to live at the railway camp where Dad worked. When the weather got cold, Mother went to Calgary where she worked for the winter.

In the spring of 1910 they journeyed to Castor to prepare to go to their homestead which was thirty miles south. They loaded up their supplies and belongings on a lumber wagon to make the journey to the homestead. They rested the horses and had their noon meal at Hockett's stopping-house. Full of hope and adventure they arrived home, a small one-roomed shack which Dad had previously built.

All their supplies had to be brought from Castor which was the closest town. Soon there was a store and post office at Garden Plain. Mother often walked the six miles to the post office.

Dad began breaking the sod with oxen and a walking plow. Later he was able to get a team of horses and a plow. To make the shack homelike, Mother made curtains with material brought from Scotland.

Since money was scarce, Dad went back cooking for the railway construction crew, leaving Mother on the homestead for a time. She had quite a few good neighbors so was not too lonely. One time when she was alone, she needed some tea. She walked to the road and saw a team coming. She gave the driver some money and he brought back a pound of tea. She had never seen him before and never saw him again. [illegible] those days everyone was trusted.

After a few years my parents moved the shack from its location on the north side of the small lake to where the farmstead now is. The house was added to as the children were born. Margaret was born in 1911, Ben in 1913 and I was born in 1916.

In 1912 the Alps school was built one and a half miles west of us. My Dad was on the first school board, serving on it for many years.

In 1918, when Margaret had just started school, she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. Dr. Mason and Nurse Rock were called and he operated right on the kitchen table, since there was no hospital in Hanna. Nurse German came to look after Margaret but peritonitis set in and she died. As a result of this tragedy, Dad worked very hard with Dr. Mason to establish a hospital [illegible] Hanna.

About 1920 a hospital was opened and Dad was elected [illegible] the board. He served on the board for twenty-five years, most of these years as chairman. He also served as president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Hospitals for a number of years. The hospital work was close [illegible] Dad's heart and he worked hard on its behalf. In May, 1945 he was honored at a banquet for twenty-five years service. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health, presented him with a scroll from the government of Alberta in appreciation of his service.

Dad carried on his farming operations. He won several awards for grain and also in field crop competitions. He was a supporter of the local U.F.A. and served as president of the Garden Plain local.

Dad passed away November 4, 1945 [illegible] the age of sixty-four. Mother stayed on the farm until 1950 when she turned over the farm to Ben and moved to Hanna. Here she resided until her death in 1974 [illegible] the age of eighty-nine.

In 1958, Ben sold the farm to Rayford Johnston and moved [illegible] Sundre. My husband and I are residing in Hanna.

DORAN BROTHERS, By Fred Johnston — Arlington C., Charles Henry, and Judson Tyree, better known as Arley, Charlie and Jud Doran, and their seventy-eight year old mother Sarah, pioneered this area in 1909. They had all come from the state of Oregon, U.S.A.

Arley homesteaded the SW 6-33-13, Charlie the east half of 36-32-14 and Jud the NE 24-32-14. It is not known if Arley was married, but on February 12, 1914 Charles and Mary Costello were married by Will J. Miller at the home of Jud and his mother. Jack Krick, a bachelor neighbor on NE 6-33-13, and Valetta Wagoner supported the bride and groom.

Charlie worked in a Castor mine during the winter of 1911-12. Jud, the oldest of the three, and his mother kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail all the while they were here. When Hugh and Bill McLaren came in 1913 they lived in the dugout in which Charlie had lived when he came here. Charlie built a shack 12' by 16' and then built a two-storey addition to it in 1915. Hugh, Bill and Effie lived here for a while, renting the farm while proving up on their homestead.

The three brothers sold out sometime during World War I, Arley to the Masseys, Charlie to the Hills of Oregon who had purchased the place to keep their sons from being conscripted in the U.S. army, and Jud to the Al. Overton family. The Dorans went back to the States.

ROBERT D. GORDON, By Fred Johnston — Bob Gordon was born at Moosomin, Saskatchewan in 1871. He was one of the early pioneers of the future Solon district, coming to homestead in 1909. He and Mrs. Gordon, sons Jack and George and daugther Nellie settled on the east half of 25-32-14. Jack, age thirteen, and Nellie, age eight, were among the first pupils of the newly opened Alps school in 1913.

While proving up, Bob became a well known freighter along the Castor Trail. He had the distinction of having hauled one of the first loads of lumber to the new Hanna townsite in 1912, for J. E. Jones the harness maker. About 1914 he was in an accident which left him partially paralyzed. He had to dispose of his livestock and machinery to seek medical attention at Mayo Brothers Clinic. However they could not relieve his suffering, so on his way back home he stopped at Medicine Hat. There he got some relief and eventually recovered.

Having got his health back, Bob enlisted in the army during World War I and saw active duty overseas. After his discharge in 1919 the Gordons went to Hammond, B.C. to live. Bob came back to Hanna in 1920 where he was employed in the C.N.R. shops, retiring from their service in 1936. While working for the C.N.R. Bob added to his holdings by buying the Jud Doran quarter south of him. About 1930 a prairie fire burned the house on the homestead. He then built a new house from the lumber salvaged from the old house on the Doran quarter. The Elmer Grey family rented the land and were the first people in many years to live on the place.

Bob owned a Whippet car, which he drove, true to its name. When threshing on his place one year he took the crew home for dinner. They were mighty thankful that they arrived back at work in one piece. He remained single for many years after his first wife died, but eventually met and married a widow. He was a loyal Legion member of the Hanna Branch. Bob passed away suddenly on September 12, 1943 of a heart attack. He was 72 years old. Burial was in the Field of Honor, Hanna cemetery.

JACK N. YOUNG, By Fred Johnston — Jack Young was born June 8, 1873 in Clinton, Iowa, U.S.A. He had two brothers, Ed, who stayed on the family farm and Hank. There were two sisters Marie and Gertrude.

Jack and Hank went to Forest, Idaho to work in lumber camps. In late March of 1910, Jack, Hank and a friend left Forest for their homesteads in Alberta. They drove four head of horses on a mountain wagon, loaded with supplies. On April 1, 1910, they were at the customs office at Kingsgate. It was a long drive, but they made it, via Bassano to Jack's homestead, E-34-32-14, [illegible] early June. They were greeted next morning with the much talked about snow storm of June 1910! Their friend didn't like the reception, so left, walking back to Bassano then returning home.

The first year the two brothers lived in a dugout. In 1911, both freighted their building supplies from Castor. Groceries and mail were gotten at Kane's at Garden Plain. Fuel was scarce and buffalo chips were burnt. There were no trees because the prairie fires kept them down. Coal was later gotten [illegible] Kane's and still later from Brown's and Pahl's mines.

When Hanna became a town, they got their supplies there.

When both brothers got their houses built, they went back for their wives. Hank's came, but Jack's wouldn't. Thereafter Jack was very reserved with women.

There was talk of forming a school district, so Jack handled the correspondence with the Department of Education. He was always fond of children and had their welfare at heart.

Jack and [illegible]. O. Frazer, broke sod for those settlers who didn't have horses. From all accounts they had plenty to do.

To upgrade the quality of horses in this country, the Hanna Percheron Horse Company was formed. Jack was one of its shareholders. The syndicate brought in registered stallions and a well known one was "Alpine", a beautiful grey. The company dissolved in 1920 and Alpine was bought by J. [illegible]. Hamilton, one of the syndicate's shareholders. Alpine met an untimely death at an early age. However, he left his mark on the horse population. Jack obtained one of Alpine's colts for his own, and he had many grey horses. This horse eventually became blind. When Jack quit farming, he bought minerals for his horses out of his pension cheque. After he died, his few remaining horses were bought by W. E. Fitzsimmons. All were old and had never had a halter on them!

Jack raised Hereford cattle and won many ribbons with them at the Hanna Fair. When cattle prices dipped in the twenties, he disposed of them.

A threshing syndicate was formed [illegible] those early years and Jack became one of its shareholders. When it disbanded he bought a 10-20 Titan and wooden International separator for his own use. However, he found it much better [illegible] have Bill McLaren do his threshing when Bill got his machine in 1926.

Jack quit farming [illegible] 1943 and broadcast grass seed on his cultivated land. He had obtained his brother's land in 1913 when Hank had moved back to Paxton, Nebraska, where he farmed until [illegible] passed away in 1941.

In 1956 Jack had to have an operation. His doctor sent him [illegible] Calgary for it. The growth of the city was so impressive he could scarcely believe his eyes! When he had last visited Calgary it was only a small town.

Jack suffered a slight stroke [illegible] 1957 and Emil Sieppert took him to the hospital. When his condition improved somewhat, he went [illegible] the Camrose Nursing Home, where he passed away, October 22, 1961 at the age of 83 years. He [illegible] buried in the Hanna cemetery.

J. F. CAPE, By Doris Peters Yasoboski — Jack Cape, a silk buyer for the Hudson's Bay Company, immigrated to Canada [illegible] the spring of 1910, going to Calgary where his sister and her family, the Roland Peters, were living. Jack and Roland Peters left Calgary by oxen for their homesteads. The trip was long and arduous, and they nearly lost all their equipment while fording the Red Deer River.

Jack's homestead was the east half of 15-32-14. He lived in a sod shack until he built a house with materials freighted in from Castor. To supplement his income while proving up, he worked during the winter months in either Calgary or Edmonton.

In October of 1918 Jack and Miss Gee of Calgary were married. A big wedding dance was held in the Garden Plain school. In 1922 Capes rented their farm to Henry Temple and went to Lethbridge where Jack resumed employment with the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1925 they were blessed with twins, Vera and Vernon.

Jack passed away [illegible] 1967. Mrs. Cape lives with her daughter, Mrs. Vera Mason of Armstrong, B.C. Vernon and family live in Abbotsford, B.C.

Charlie and Mrs. Stanfield

CHARLES ARTHUR STANFIELD, By Fred Johnston — Charlie Stanfield was born April 12, 1874 in Fairmont, Indiana, the oldest of a family of three boys and one girl. He came to the Mount Pleasant district near Lacombe, then the North West Territories, in 1900. His parents Salathiel and Mary Ellen Stanfield, his brother John and family, and his sister Jennie and her husband William Bates, came in 1904 to homestead somewhere near where Stettler is today. Charlie farmed at Mount Pleasant until 1910 when he filed on the north half of 1-33-14 with Garden Plain as his post office address.

He left Stettler for his homestead in 1911 with his horses, farm equipment and supplies. The first few years he lived in a sod shack until a house was built in 1914. His mother Mary Ellen came at that time to keep house for him. She purchased a homestead, the SW 12-33-14, which the original homesteader had let go. The Howell quarter was purchased [illegible] 1915 giving him a section of land to operate. The old stopping house on the Howell place was moved to the building site and converted into a barn. His buildings were near a flowing spring. He and others who rented the place had to pack water up the hill for drinking and washing purposes. No easy task, especially in the winter time.

Charlie, being a progressive minded person, was soon involved in the community's activities. He joined the Garden Plain local of the U.F.A. and when the Hall was built in 1914 he was president of the organization. During the time that the Alpe school district was being formed and the school built [illegible] 1912, Charlie was elected to fill the vacancy on the board of trustees when the first chairman, E. [illegible]. Kamm, passed away.

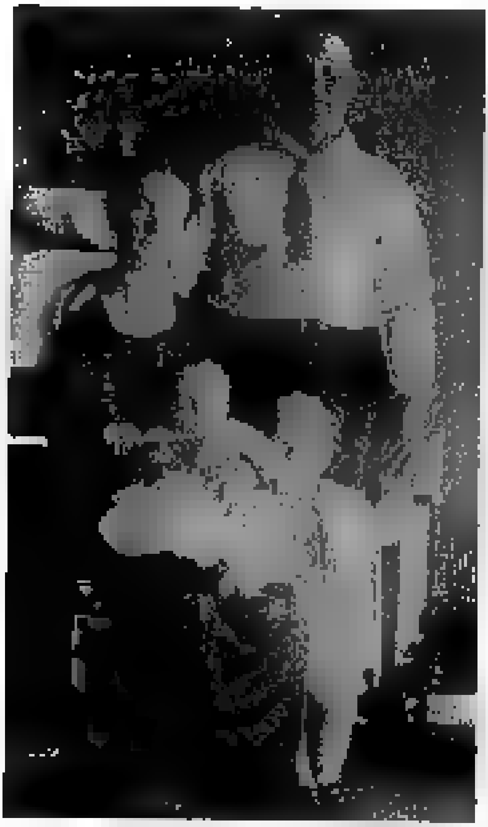
Brother John and family lived with him also for periods of time, and Alvin, the youngest of the family, lived with Charlie and his grandmother when he attended the Alps school in 1917 and [illegible]. Somewhere around 1920 Charlie rented the land to the Meryl Wright family for a few years when he went to work in the mines in B.C.

This is where he met his wife-to-be. He and Mary Ann Anderson from Glasgow, Scotland were married in Wilmer, B.C. in October, 1925. After their marriage they came back to the farm to live. They had a family of three, a boy who died shortly after birth and two daughters, Catherine, born in March 1928, and Margaret, born [illegible] June of 1929.

After an auction sale in the spring of 1932 the Stanfields went back to Wilmer to take over the Stoddard farm. The children took grade school at Wilmer and high school at Invermere.

Catherine, widowed and remarried, is Mrs. Higgins and lives in Wycliffe, B.C. She had five children. Margaret, Mrs. Collin, has lived at Westlock since 1948. She has three children.

The Stanfields retired to Cranbrook where Charlie passed away in July 1959, aged [illegible] years. Mary Ann died in September 1967 in her seventy-ninth year. The Stanfields lived to see [illegible] their grandchildren.


Mr. and Mrs. George Block, Evelyn and Clifford.

GEORGE HARRISON BLOCK — George Block was born in Nebraska in 1893 and came west with his parents [illegible] the State of Washington. He and his father left Washington in the spring of 1910 for this area and were among the early pioneers to settle here. Father and son chose section 23-32-14 to file on, but George was not quite old enough to homestead. However, his father was able to hold the land for him until he was eligible. With the preliminaries out of the way they came to the homestead to get settled.

Some three months later, nearing his eighteenth birthday, it was time for George to return to the Land Agency office [illegible] Calgary to register his claim. Castor was the nearest railroad so he set out on foot for his destination, a distance of some thirty five miles. He packed his lunch with him for the long trip. Boarding the train for Calgary, he arrived there a day before his eighteenth birthday. When he arrived at the Land Agency office, there was a long line of men waiting ahead of him. They all bedded down for the night right where they were, for to drop out of line meant going to the end of the line and starting all over again. Along in the afternoon of the next day, when George's turn came, he was queried as to his age. He said that he was just [illegible]. After a moment or two of thought the clerk replied, "Better wait another day to be sure." Next day, after another night on the street, he was given access to his homestead. Arriving back in Castor he had to walk home, hitch up the oxen and return for the necessary lumber [redacted] build a shack. And so he became another one of the sodbusters.

George participated in the social activities of the community, and being quite sports-minded, was a member of the Solon basketball team. In competition at the Hanna Agricultural Fair [redacted] 1918, he won the Canadian Bank [redacted] Commerce medal as having shown the best agricultural team in their class.

He and Lillian Lumsden were married on June 1st, 1916 at the home of Lillian's brother Bill. A wedding dance was held in the Solon school. George and Lillian had a family of four children, Clifford, Evelyn, Leonard and Pearl. Clifford and Evelyn began their schooling at the Alps school. Betty Meece was Clifford's first teacher and Albert Poland was Evelyn's.

In the fall of 1926, tragedy struck the Block family and saddened the community when George succumbed to an attack of appendicitis. He was only 33 years old. The community rallied to assist Lillian and her young family by having a bee to harvest their very good crop. Sixteen binders and twenty-five stookers completed the job in a day. The neighbor women came well prepared with food to feed the hungry harvesters.

Lillian later remarried and the family left [redacted] 1928 to go north to a better district. She and her husband are retired and live in Wildwood, Alberta.

Harvesting Bee, 1926 at George Blocks.

THE HIMMELREICH BROTHERS, By Fred Johnston — Earl, Harry and Bill Himmelreich moved to this district from Didsbury. They came originally from Iowa, U.S.A.

Earl was married when he arrived. He homesteaded the west half of 10-33-14. He was secretary-treasurer of the Alps S. D. in the early twenties.

Bill's farm was the N.W. 24-32-14. While in residence here, brother Harry married Nina Wiese.

Earl and Harry played violin and piano for many dances.

Earl and Bill passed away in the States many years ago, leaving no families. Harry and Nina lived at Olds where Harry was a mechanic. They had one daughter, Dolores, Mrs. D. Heinzig. Harry died in 1953 and Nina [redacted] now Mrs. Armstrong.

Charlie and Mrs. Noyce. Ruth, Vera and Arthur.

CHARLES and SARAH NOYCE STORY, *By Sarah Noyce* — I have been asked to tell of my experiences when I first came [illegible] Canada from England. It was in July 1911 and I landed in Halifax then [illegible] Calgary by train and then on to Cranbrook, B.C.

On July 18, Charles and I were married in Cranbrook where he was employed by the C.P.R. After living there for a short time we came to Alberta to start homesteading. Not knowing anything about it, it was a hard life for a time.

To arrive at our homestead we took the train to Castor. The line had just been extended that far from Stettler. Castor was thirty-five miles from our new "home". We made this trip with the mailman.

There were a few people homesteading in the area around us. Our nearest neighbor was a bachelor, Charlie Stanfled, who later married. Other neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greenway, Hugh and Bill McLaren, Jack Young, Charlie Cobb and Sen Bunce.

In our early days on the homestead we lived in a tent, but that was only for a few weeks until we were able to get a shack built.

We farmed with oxen until we were able to buy some horses.

By 1912 Hanna was beginning to resemble a small town. The railway had been built making it much easier to get our supplies and mail. We also had obtained groceries at Kane's store at Garden Plain. Our coal was purchased from several mines in our vicinity. It was a great help [illegible] have our fuel nearby!

Schools were being built [illegible] around us. Our own school, named Alps because it was built on a hill, was erected in 1912. Besides educating our children the building was used for community activities, picnics and church services in the summer.

In the winter the young people would gather at our place and have toboggan parties [illegible] the hills west of us. Many a Sunday afternoon and moonlight evenings were spent at this sport. A hearty lunch was always welcome afterwards!

We had two sons, Ernest and Arthur, and three daughters, Margaret, Ruth and Vera. Our sons have both passed away. Margaret was married to Peter Boyd and they had a family of three sons and two daughters. Margaret passed away at the age of forty-nine. Ruth is married to Robert Finnerty and they have three sons. Vera married James Schumaker and they now live at Victoria, B.C. They have three sons and three daughters.

With the help of our family we retired in 1957 to live in Hanna. Charles passed away in 1971 at the age of eighty-eight years. I am now residing at the Senior Citizen s Lodge in Hanna. My room-mate [illegible] Mrs. Greenway, a long time neighbor and friend.

Many of the folks here have pioneered so we have much in common to reminisce about.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows

A. R. W. BURROWS, His Third Family, [illegible] Edna Burrows Urquhart — Our late father was born at Holstein, Ontario in 1860, married in 1884 [illegible] Minnie Lewis of Glanworth, and had four children — Arthur, Mable, Vernon and Minnie. His wife died in 1890. In 1892 he married Janet Walmsley, who died in 1893 leaving a daughter Janet. In 1894 he married Emma Cowan of Holstein, our mother. Their family are Gretta, Lorne, Edna, Edwin and Lydia.

[illegible] 1901 Dad lost his right arm [illegible] a corn shredder.

Dad went on harvesters' excursions to Rosetown, Saskatchewan, then went on to Hanna by way of Castor. Arthur, Vernon and Minnie were living at Hanna by this time. The railroad had not yet reached Hanna, so Vernon and Dad freighted lumber and supplies from Castor to Hanna.

Dad filed on a homestead that someone had given up. This was SW 9-33-14, twelve miles north of Hanna but fourteen miles by the Dowling Lake trail. Later the farmers put a road through the hills, around the sloughs, [illegible] Hanna. There was no gravel yet.

There was no house on this land. Dad bought one in Castor and moved it there. It was quite an undertaking considering the roads. I think he had built a barn, too. Our buildings were on the top of a hill.

In 1915 he sold his store in Ontario, ordered a box car for settler's effects, and two horses. Anything the new owner of the store didn't want we boxed up and sent west. Cotton shirting and dress goods sold for twelve and a half cents a yard, so we filled boxes with sewing materials, wallpaper, dried apples and canned fruit. There was also a fur coat which fit no one in the family, but I finally grew into it and rode in it when I started teaching. Dad had to travel in the box car with the horses. He had bought a large galvanized bath tub, re-inforced on the outside by tongue and groove lumber. He used this for feeding and watering his horses on the trip.

We travelled by train on a settlers' excursion. There was no sleeping accommodation and we had to take our own food. The youngest of the family was train sick so we stopped for a day and night in Chicago, Winnipeg, Portage [illegible] Prairie and Saskatoon. We had relatives at each stop. When we reached Hanna, we still had the last twelve miles to go in a lumber wagon, which seemed [illegible] long, long trip.

Our house was practically a shell but it had possibilities! We could lie in bed and see the stars. There were two rooms downstairs and a large one up. Our first partitions were sheets hung up on wire. The inside of the walls had [illegible] have felt paper pasted on and for teenagers that was quite a job. We were more than thankful for the box [illegible] wallpaper. Luckily it didn't rain much as [illegible] took a while to get the roof repaired.

We had lots of work cut out for us. We needed a lean-to for a kitchen, bathroom and coal shed. We built a shop for Dad who could repair most things if someone would give him a helping hand.

Dad was handicapped, having but one arm. He had an artificial hand with a glove on, also an iron hand that he could threaten us with! He could handle a fork or hoe, and was really good at cracking nuts [illegible] Christmas time. He could also drive horses, but it was difficult for him [illegible] have to hitch a team or harness them.

The schools at that time were opened from May to November — it depended on the weather. The whole family was home a lot. We had a good well at the foot of the hill, which was inconvenient, as we had to dip the water and carry it uphill. Much later there was a drilled well at the top, nearer the buildings.

Our Post Office was Greystone, two miles north of us, with mail once a week. To people who were used to having a telephone, mail every day, and all of our school chums within yelling distance, it was a real change. There was no contact with anyone, unless you had a horse to ride, or walked. No wonder we girls had the name of being rather aloof. Those who went to school weren't quite so bad but I had been out of school for three years. We had a lot of dry winds. On washday one could hang out the clothes, and by the time one got the last ones out, the first were ready to go in. One day after we had built a henhouse, we had a windstorm. We looked out and our new henhouse was upside down. Mother wasn't anywhere around and we were afraid she had gone out to save her hens, but there was no sign of her. Finally she came up from the basement. It was such a relief!

Christmas at the home of A. R. W. Burrows in 1915. Left to Right: Art Burrows with daughter Charlotte, Lorne Burrows, Mrs. Art Burrows, Fred Portiors, Gretta Burrows, Edwin Burrows, Minnie Burrows Portiors, Edna Burrows, Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows, Mrs. Vern Burrows, (in front of Mrs. V. Burrows) Lydia Burrows, Vern Burrows, Mrs. Yeaman, Mrs. Burrows mother, Bill Lumsden and Herb Sherritt.

We had had a few mosquitoes in Ontario, but we didn't really know mosquitoes [illegible] we came west. The first few years we had to have a smudge for the relief of our stock. You couldn't see your neighbors but you could see the smoke of their smudges. I remember one night we had to smoke out the house before we went to bed. According to one bachelor, the mosquitoes gathered on the screen, and the bigger ones kicked the little ones through!

We had burned wood in Ontario, and knew nothing about coal. We bought our coal east of [illegible] (it might have been the Unsworth mine) for three dollars a ton. It came in large slabs but if left outside, it soon broke down.

Every so often there would be a Red Cross dance and Box Social held in the Weise School or Garden Plain Hall. Our father would be auctioneer, and at midnight we would have a short program. One night we had a blizzard and we had

to stay till morning. Winters were cold, but even though we had snow we would have very little sleighing, as the wind piled it up in some places and left the ground bare in others.

We missed our church and Sunday School after we came west. Eventually, summer services were organized at Alps School. Mr. M. Wright was appointed Superintendent. We usually had a good turn-out. Sometimes we would have student ministers who came from eastern U.S.A. Very often they would not know what Canada was like, except that it would [illegible] cold, so they came all prepared for snow.

Edith Henderson, B.A. was the Alps teacher. She came from Toronto during the summer to teach school. In 1918 she persuaded me to go back to school. She said she would help me all she could to get my normal entrance. I took grade nine and ten that year, and planned on attending school in Hanna to get my grade eleven. That fall Miss Henderson married Maldwyn Williams and as they were near neighbors I took lessons from her that winter.

At that time Dad became very much interested in forming a farmers Co-op in Hanna. He got a room [illegible] Hanna and came home week-ends. By now Lydia was ready to go to high school so Dad rented a small three-roomed house, just a kitchen and two sleeping rooms for him and ourselves. I was taking grade eleven and found it difficult. For one thing, I wasn't used to so many people around when I studied.

As I was the oldest of the class, when our inspector, Mr. Dobson, needed a substitute teacher in the lower grades, he gave me the privilege. When spring came Mr. Dobson asked if I would go to Alps as permit teacher. I got time off at examination time to review the year's work and write my grade eleven exams. I spent the next two summers teaching. Then I went to London, Ontario, [illegible] attend Normal School. I received a Second Class Certificate and taught near where my sister Gretta lived.

I was married in 1925 to Henry Urquhart, a farmer in the community. We lived there for twenty years and had four sons. In 1945 we came to Lacombe, rented a farm, went back east and sold out there, and moved [illegible] Lacombe. Our oldest son had been honorably discharged from the Airforce and advised to go to Alberta for his health. The next two sons are farmers, one near Lacombe, the other west of Wetaskiwin. Our youngest is an orderly in Veterans Department at Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. All are married and have families. I lost my husband nine years ago.

Gretta Carroll, the oldest of the Burrows third family has two sons, and two daughters. She lost her husband two years ago. Lorne, the eldest son, bought grain for Alberta Pacific Grain. He married Elizabeth Meece who taught at Alps School and boarded at Noyce's. Later they went to Innisfail where they tried the hardware business, but after a fire they went to Edmonton, and later bought a motel in Vancouver. In 1964 they retired and still reside in Vancouver. They had one son, Alvin and a daughter, Marjory. Edwin went into the hardware business, first at High River then at Stettler where he married Trena Shinness. They moved to Lacombe where he owned a large department store. In 1951 he sold out and went to Calgary where he had a china shop. He died in 1964, leaving his wife and a daughter. Lydia married Dan Lund. Their daughter died in 1929 but they have two sons, Gordon and Norman. Dad and Mother sold their farm, moved to Stettler, then to Summerland, B.C., then to Hanna where Dad died in 1932. Mother came to Lacombe and died in December 1953.

THE JOHN SIM FAMILY OF GREYSTONE, ***By Harry Sim*** — John Sim, an early homesteader in the Greystone - Garden Plain area, was born in Scotland in 1869. He had trained as a boilermaker and mechanical engineer. In 1894 he married Annie Cuthbert Adam, and after the last of four children; Margaret, Frank, William and Albert was born they decided to emigrate. My father, Albert (Bert) was about six weeks old when they arrived in Canada in 1902.

The family settled [illegible] Toronto where it is presumed that John Sim worked at his trade.

About 1910 Annie Sim died and John with his young family decided to come west to Calgary. The following year John Sim filed on the north half of 9-33-14, a homestead and a pre-emption. At this time Margaret was sixteen, Frank fourteen, William twelve and Bert nine.

Shortly after arriving he took an active part in the local government of this area. When the Rural Municipality of Dowling Lake was formed [illegible] 1913 John Sim was elected first reeve. One of the many varied jobs he had while reeve was that of overseeing the building of roads and putting in culverts. Inspection and supervising was done from the back of a saddle horse. Later he was appointed secretary of said municipality and moved into Hanna. After his term was up he came back to Greystone where [illegible] resided the rest of his life.

The John Sim Family, 1917. Margaret, Albert (Bert), John and William (Bill)

In July of 1917 John was elected chairman at the organizational meeting of the Co-operative exchange, a farmer-oriented business which was made up of several U.F.A. locals in the district, one of them being the Mansfield local of which John was a member. Bill Monroe and A. R. W. Burrows, also of Mansfield, were directors. John held the president's office for two years. He spent a great deal of time and effort selling shares in the new venture. The Co-operative exchange was the forerunner of the present day Hanna Co-op Association.

He held the position of secretary-treasurer of the Alps school for the years 1917 and 1918. In the early years John Sim acted as a lay preacher, holding services in homesteaders' shacks, in school houses and at the Church of Christ in

Hanna. Keepsakes included some of [illegible] early sermons, as well as the poetry he wrote.

The eldest son Frank joined the Army in 1916 and served overseas during World War One. He was discharged in England and apparently stayed for a while to learn a trade, before returning to Canada. After a short while he decided to immigrate to the States, locating, I believe, in the New Jersey area where his descendants are today. He has one daughter Barbara.

The second son William, the only one of the family who did not have flaming red hair, played the piano with Harry and Earl Himmelreich and other musicians for many dances in the early years. He was also a talented singer. About 1922 he and Chris Gasper went to the States to learn the plumbing trade. He eventually settled in the Portland area where [illegible] married and worked at his trade. There were two sons and a daughter in the Bill Sim family, John, Robert and Margaret.

Margaret kept house for the family, and when her father went to Hanna as secretary of the Municipality, she accompanied him and was employed in secretarial work. She and Bill Jones were married in the early twenties. Bill had settled with his folks some ten miles south of Hanna about 1910. He did some cowboying with the Vowels and Frakes and rode bucking horses. He and Margaret went to California where Bill became a preacher. Their descendants live in California. After Margaret left home [illegible] go on her own, Bert and his father hired housekeepers. The last one was Mrs. Norah King. She married Fred Blackall in 1938.

Albert, better known as Bert, after completing his schooling [illegible] Wiese and Hanna, remained on the homestead with his father. He played baseball with the Scapa team for many years; the battery of Jack Temple to Bert Sim was well known. He could also take over the first baseman's position as well. At one time Bert coached the Wiese Girls' Basketball team. Some of the members of the team were Louise and Violet Baxter, Dolly Stemp and Lydia Burrows. In his younger years Bert rode broncs at the local amateur stampedes. He learned to do blacksmith work and pounded out many a plow share. From 1933 till 1937 he was employed in the Unsworth mine during the winter months. He also owned and operated a 10-20 Titan and Goodison separator for awhile. Bert and his dad usually hired the neighbor boys to work for them when Bert was away from home; Pete Ruppert and Hughie Riddle among others.

[illegible] 1937 Bert met and married my mother, Bernice Smart. I was born in 1938. Until 1944 my dad worked for the Special Areas. Then he moved the family to Edmonton, where he worked in construction and became a journeyman carpenter. He worked for the Department of Public Works as a project superintendent. He retired in 1968 and died in 1970. Bernice Sim passed away about 1943. Frank, Margaret and Bill are also deceased.

I, Harry Sim started school in Edmonton in 1945. I graduated from the U. of A. in 1961 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. I met and married a native Edmontonian, Leanna Severdal, who was taking education, in 1960. Our daughter, Leanne was born in 1961 and is presently in grade six at Namao School.

HUGH McLAREN and GEORGE F. CROSSFIELD STORY, By Mrs. Billie Crossfield — In 1906 my brother William McLaren and I came out from Scotland to Brandon, Manitoba, where we had relatives. Bill was about seventeen years old then, and some time later we were joined by brother Hugh. [illegible] the fall of 1911 they came farther west and filed on their land. Bill on SW 36-32-14. Hugh filed E 35-32-14, which the Thomas W. Herman family had abandoned.

[illegible] the spring of 1912, they came back and were joined by Robert Ken-

Effie and George Crossfield

nedy who hailed from Aberdeen, Scotland! They took a team of horses and other settlers' effects and travelled as far as Alsask. As rail travel further west was uncertain, they unloaded there, hitched up their horses and hit the trail for Hanna. It took them five or six days and they were running short of grub; their last meal was a rabbit cooked in a bucket on their campfire. This rabbit was shot with their last bullet, but unfortunately [illegible] wasn't badly hit, so Bill took after it on foot and managed [illegible] outrun [illegible] On reaching Hanna, they stopped at the Dominion Rooming house, owned by McLeod and Black.

Bill and Hugh camped part of that summer in a dugout on the Charlie Doran place. Doran's left for the United States that fall so they rented the farm and moved into the house.

Meanwhile, I was still at Brandon and in 1913 I returned to Scotland. While there, the war broke out. I did not get back [illegible] Canada till the fall of 1915. By that time the German "U" boats were all around Britain. Many boats were sunk. The first two nights on board no lights were allowed to show, all portholes were blacked out, but it was fun stumbling around on the decks in the dark. On account of the war a lot of women and children were leaving Britain at that time. We landed [illegible] Halifax, where I boarded the train for Alberta. Arriving at Hanna early in the morning, I had breakfast at the "Dominion". Hugh and Bill got in with a tank of wheat by noon. There was a heavy crop that year, the grain wagons were lined up [illegible] the elevators waiting [illegible] get unloaded. We rode home in the grain tank.

Shortly after I arrived, we had some stack threshing to do, mostly feed oats. I believe [illegible] was early in November. Mr. Pettles' outfit from Castor did the job. We had a hard winter in 1916. As our house wasn't exactly winterized, I got used to cooking frozen potatoes and breaking ice on the water bucket before starting the morning coffee.

By this time homesteads were being taken up and we had lots of neighbors. We did not mind the cold and travelled long distances to dances and parties and just visiting. Hard time dances were good fun. Some of the costumes were really ingenious. There was lots of snow, a big farm sleigh got us anywhere and with straw and hot rocks in the bottom temperatures didn't matter!

We certainly owed a lot to the teachers in those days. They helped to organize dances and card parties, and their Christmas concerts were eagerly looked forward to.

Brother John McLaren came out in 1916 and farmed NE-26-32-14. He passed away in 1918 during the 'flu epidemic.

In 1916, brother Bill joined the 175 Battalion and went overseas. George Crossfield, a native of Quebec, was with them. George had come west in 1909 and spent some time with the Albert Strong family at Rose Lynn. He homesteaded SE-12-32-14, near Mr. Fred Whaley at Solon.

When Bill and George returned from France in 1918, they took up farming again.

George Crossfield and I were married in 1923. I have one son, William who makes his home in Vulcan. He started school at Solon when we rented the Marion

Wright farm. He finished his schooling at Alps when we were renting the Charlie Stanfield place.

My husband died suddenly of a heart attack in 1942. My son and I farmed two more years, then sold out in the spring of 1944. At present, Hugh and I are guests in Acadia Lodge at Hanna.

Bill and Lucy McLaren, 25th Wedding Anniversary, 1952.

THE MEN FROM INVERNESS, THE McLAREN'S, By Lucy (McLaren) Gordon — In 1913 Bill and Hugh McLaren took homesteads in hills north of Hanna. Having come from the Highlands of Scotland, their choice seemed natural. Soon the Alps School District was organized. The McLarens assisted in the building of "The Little White School House" which, like most country school houses, became the centre of education, church services and social activities. Bill's farming activities were suspended for several years when he joined the armed forces engaged in the First World War. In 1919 he returned to the homestead to continue his farming operations. Soon after his return, he purchased a Model T Ford which was quite a sensation and the source of much pleasure despite the rutty prairie trails. It provided faster transportation [illegible] local dances where Bill played the violin, and made it easier for Bill and Johnny Unsworth [illegible] take out a popular young lady!

In 1927, Bill married Lucy Summers, a local teacher, who incidentally continued her profession for a number of years at Alps School. Jack, who is teaching in Edmonton; Don, employed with an oil company in Calgary; Marilyn, Clerk of the Court in Courtenay; and Doris, a happy golfing wife in Comox, were products of this union. Uncle Hugh, who now lived a half a mile away, was the children's hero. He made them candy laced with pinex and ginger for colds; fed them crackers and cheese; took them riding on his stone boat; and played checkers and cards on demand.

In 1930 Bill and Hugh entered samples of wheat in the Agricultural Fair. Bill's sample won him the cup for his prize winning samples of both grains. He then entered his sample of wheat in the Calgary exhibition where it placed fifth. This proved one thing everyone in the area knew — that the district could grow the best grain in Alberta — if we got the rain.

The 1930's proved the wisdom of the McLaren's choice of hills. In the years when some potatoes were as big as marbles and the rest little ones, the valleys and sloughs yielded fair grain returns. The straw stacks were generously given [illegible] help less fortunate neighbors feed their cattle. Of course the hills were a hazard to transportation during the long winters. The road was completely unusable. The McLaren brothers built a cumbersome plow, pulled by horses, and made a road through the hills to the Castor Trail. This involved making three trails, one on each side [illegible] keep the middle one free of drifting snow.

[illegible] the thirties there was an exodus of farmers from the area south of Hanna. Bill purchased a hip roof barn for $80.00. Hugh, George Unsworth and Bill took the barn apart board by board. They salvaged all the shingles and pails of nails. The lumber was transported to Bill's farm where the barn was rebuilt. A shingling bee

soon had the shingles back in place. A barn dance, attended by many people from many communities, was held to celebrate the completion of the new building.

The threshing season was always the highlight of the farming year. In the early days, Bill's ability to run an outfit always found him at the helm of the operation. Later he ran his own engine and separator. Getting good men to pitch bundles was a very necessary factor. Members of his crew came back year after year — Big Pete from Manitoba, Tom and Alan from Saskatchewan. Then there was Roy with his team "Whiskey and Soda". These men worked hard from 7:00 a.m. [illegible] 7:00 p.m. — one year for $3.00 a day. They had five meals a day — breakfast, lunch, dinner, lunch and supper. The farmers' wives were responsible for the food and spent many hours cooking to produce hearty, tasty meals and lunches for the men.

The McLarens also played a role in the school activities. Bill was a trustee on the local school board. Lucy taught the three "R's" for several years. She organized a soft ball team which played friendly games with local schools. The pupils participated in the yearly school fairs and won their share of awards. [illegible] course the highlight was the annual Christmas Concert. Every child participated in the program and practised during recesses, noons and the last half-hour of school. The men in the community transformed the school into a local theatre with a stage, curtains and a beautiful Christmas tree.

The school picnic was also another community effort. The McLarens made gallons of ice cream for this event. The men spent hours freezing the appetizing mixture. The writer recalls Hugh McLaren and George Unsworth yearly competing for the honor of consuming the largest portion of ice-cream.

Life in the Alps District was indeed "the good life" — good neighbors — a bountiful supply [illegible] good food, and of course a heavy work load to keep one out of mischief. Being one's own boss, one's choice of work was strictly optional, though essential.

Joe Kleiberg

JOE KLEIBERG, By Mrs. C. Viste, H. Annas and F. Johnston — Joe Kleiberg, born in Norway in 1889, came in 1912 to this area where his cousins the Viste brothers, Chris and Hjalmer, had homesteaded earlier. He homesteaded the NW 33-32-14. Life for him was no different than for the other settlers who had come from a foreign country; there was a language barrier. But Joe took this and the other hardships in his stride, [illegible] much so that he could afford a trip back to his native Norway in 1925 and one to the States in 1926. In 1928 he added to his land holdings when he purchased a quarter section from the Binmore's who went to Saskatchewan to live. Later on he doubled his operations by acquiring the W. [illegible] Ricketts half section. This is where he lived for many years in a spacious house built by the original owners. He farmed with horses for many years until the tractors became more popular, at which time he had his farm work done by others.

"Participaction", a new word, was unknown to Joe but he exemplified the word in his own particular way. A tireless walker with long striding gait, he covered many miles with ease. It is reported that in the homestead days he would walk to Castor and back [illegible] one day, a distance of some seventy miles. Joe liked to visit his neighbors of the pioneer days and Bill McLaren could usually depend on a visit from Joe, when he needed a haircut.

About 1956 he retired to Hanna, still keeping close to his neighbors the Binmores, for he purchased their house.

Joe, a bachelor all his life, passed away in 1958 in his seventieth year and is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

JOSEPH ALBERT JONES, By Fred Johnston — When the new townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912 one of the first businesses to be established was that of C. E. Jones, Harness Shop. His wife and two sons Harold and Joseph Albert, better known as Bert, came [illegible] August of 1912. The boys had been born in the State of Maine. Harold established a homestead on the south half of 28-32-14 in 1913. He joined the Canadian forces in 1916 and after the war went back to the States.

Bert joined the 156th battalion in 1915 and was posted overseas. Severely wounded, he spent considerable time convalescing in hospitals [illegible] England. He was in hospitals in Calgary after he returned. As a result of his wounds one leg was shorter than the other necessitating the use of a leg brace the rest of his life. He also received a Soldier's Pension as well. He came back to the farm which Harold had homesteaded and his mother kept house for him. The barn which had been used by the Joneses in Hanna was moved out on sleighs. Bert got a quarter of Soldier Settlement Board land in 1922. He leased the Kamm place from a mortgage company and did a little farming as well. He used to have hay put up on shares, which brought in [illegible] little income. In the early thirties Bert and Edith Hornfeldt were married and they had a son Robert.

[illegible] 1958 Bert had an auction sale, sold his land, and retired to a small house in Hanna. He passed away at age 72 in 1964. He was survived by his wife and son of Vancouver, and two brothers Harold and John of the States. There were two more brothers and a sister in the Jones family.

THE BINMORE STORY, By Mrs. C. Viste, H. Annas and F. Johnston — Jack Binmore, born in England, was a career soldier in the Imperial Army who had been in active combat during the Boer War. He had immigrated to Ontario at an early date.

Elizabeth, better known as Lala was also born in England. She had lost her mother at an early age and had been placed in a foster home, in Ontario. After she grew up she was in the employ of those who needed special nursing care in their homes. While doing this type of work she met and married Jack.

[illegible] the spring of 1913 Jack came west and filed on his homestead the NW-34-32-14. Lala followed in January of

Jack and Mrs. Binmore, Helen Annas.

1914. The first year he worked away from home like most homesteaders. He worked for D.A. Wilson of Lonebutte while Lala stayed at home. About 1928 Binmores sold their land to a neighbor Joe Kleiberg and went to Saskatchewan to work. However that didn't work out so they returned and purchased the Tumelson quarter SW 27-32-14. Here they built a new barn. A shortage of water plagued them while living here and so in 1935 they rented John Mitchell's place when he sold out and went back to Scotland to live. They had to return to the Tumelson quarter when Mitchell sold the land. In 1942, while they were gone, a prairie fire went through and burned their barn down.

The Binmores were a proud couple, making do with whatever was at hand. Mrs. Binmore had a sunny infectious disposition while Jack, [redacted] bit sombre, was never-the-less outgoing. He was a clever story teller, especially when relating his experiences in the Boer War. Through ups and downs they enjoyed life. A team and wagon was their sole means of transportation. Having no children and few chores they did considerable visiting.

The Binmores retired to live in Hanna where Jack passed away in 1951. Mrs. Binmore continued to reside in Hanna until failing eye sight forced her to move to the C.N.I.B. in Calgary, where she passed away in 1965 at the age of ninety-four. Both are interred [redacted] the Hanna Cemetery.

ELBERT and EMERY PETTIE, [redacted] Fred Johnston — Elbert and Emery Pettie came down from the Willow Prairie district, south of Castor, to this area to take up land in 1913. Emery's homestead was NW-36-32-14 and Elbert's the NW-3 and the NE-4-33-14. L. L. Pettie Sr., and another brother, Earl, stayed at Willow Prairie.

The Pettie brothers owned a steamer and threshing outfit and did considerable work with them. They threshed in this district in 1915.

Both left [redacted] 1916. Emery went to Whiterock, B.C., where he married. Both are dead now.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Unsworth Sr. and their family. Robert Jr., John, George and baby, Jane.

THE ROBERT and SARAH UNSWORTH STORY, By Ellen Unsworth Ironside — It was in April 1902 that Robert and Sarah Unsworth, along with their two sons, Bob and John, left Wigan, [redacted]ncashire, England [redacted] come [redacted] Canada. They landed at Mabou, Nova Scotia a[redacted] Robert secured employment as mine manager at a coal mine there. In 1904 the ocean broke through into the mine and flooded it, so they returned to England.

In September 1905, a third son, George was born and six months later, the Unsworth family again set sail for Canada. This time, they landed at Sidney Mines, Nova Scotia and Robert was employed as pit boss at No. 4 Collieries on Cape Breton Island. Those were happy days with ocean and lakes close for swimming and fishing in the summer and skating and sledding in the winter.

Robert had the desire to go further west. In March 1909, he went [redacted]

Lethbridge, Alberta while his wife and family remained in Cape Breton. After working in the mines there for six months, he returned to Cape Breton for the birth of their first daughter, Jane, born September 21, 1909.

Their oldest son, Bob was thirteen years old by this time and had secured a job as trapper boy at No. 4 Collieries. His duty was opening and closing doors on the airways. John was in grade four. George at the age of three years had started school, with an Eaton's catalogue tucked underneath his arm so he could cut out pictures!

In the spring of 1910, Robert left Cape Breton again. This time, he took a homestead, NW 34-34-14, and a pre-emption at Garden Plain, Alberta. During the next two years, he built a six-roomed home. The lumber for this was hauled from Stettler by oxen owned by Frank Walker. He also managed Thomas Kane's coal mine which was three miles east of his homestead. Mr. Kane also owned a general store and ran the Garden Plain post office.

In August 1912, Sarah Unsworth and the four children left Cape Breton to come [illegible] Garden Plain, Alberta. The journey was long and tiresome. A highlight of their trip out took place when Sarah got off the train to purchase some milk for her children. While she was doing this, the train pulled away without her! An S O S was sent out by the station master. The children were put off at Lacombe. This allowed a worried mother to catch up with them once again. They then resumed their journey to Castor, Alberta. At Castor, Robert met his wife and family and they reunited happily and travelled to their farm at Garden Plain, a distance of twenty-nine miles by horse and wagon. They stopped only once at "Bud" Hockett's "stopping house", to have a meal and feed the horses.

Now, with the family re-united, making a living started in earnest. The furniture that had been shipped by freight had to be hauled home from Castor. This took several trips before normal living was resumed. The farm at this time consisted of one-half section [illegible] land, five acres of which was in crop, one horse and one cow. The first harvest was cut by a neighbor's mower. The barley was then put into piles by Robert and his sons. The threshing was done by hand with a wooden instrument called a flail. The first harvest netted one hundred bushels of barley.

The water for the home came from a 34 foot well and was pulled up by a pulley and a bucket on a rope. The water itself ran through an underseam of coal and came up the color of weak tea. This did not affect its use for human consumption but much to Sarah's dismay it turned her sparkling white linens into a sad looking mess!

In 1914 the Garden Plain school was built and it became the centre where joys and sorrows of the pioneers and their families were enacted. To this simple structure pioneer children wended their way — through the cold of winter and the warmth [illegible] summer — to gain an education. The teacher was usually young and possessed the amazing ability of teaching grades one to ten with equal skill. On Sundays church was held within its walls to provide food for the soul. To this structure, bareheaded and grief stricken, came the mourners to pay their last respects [illegible] loved ones and neighbors. Here at the school, pioneer meetings were held to lend growth to the community as a whole. Here the pioneers relaxed and enjoyed the good fellowship and fun [illegible] picnics, card parties and dances, and here the enchantment of the Christmas concerts took place. They were such an integral part of pioneer life, reaching out and warming each soul!

In the fall of 1914 the family moved to Castor for the winter. Robert and son Bob worked in the Hoff coal mine, returning in April 1915 to the farm. That summer, Bob and John ran the farm and their Dad managed the Cattanach coal

mine. During this summer a neighbor, Jim Crombie, who farmed west of us, wanted to dig a well. He was tragically overcome by "black damp" and died in the well. Robert and sons and other neighbors worked all night to recover the body.

As Robert and Sarah Unsworth's children grew up their parents discovered that each one of them loved music. They had brought a piano over from England with them. This piano actually accompanied them across the ocean three times! The family had violins, guitars, accordians, mouth organs and jews harps and each one learned to play them. As they grew older, each of them at different times, supplied music in the community, making life much cheerier. It brought us pleasure and togetherness as a family.

Small things brought great delight to these pioneer children! The arrival of the Grain Growers Guide was wonderful, for inside its pages was a comic called the "Doo Dads". This starred "Flannelfoot", the cop, "Roly Poly", "Dr. Saw Bones", "Sand Piper", and "Sleepy Sam". These comics were practically devoured by each child before the paper either went to rest in the "little house" for further use, or was used to clean the chimneys of the coal oil lamps that lighted the pioneer home. Nothing was wasted!

One cold winter day John and George and their dog, Rover set out for the store, three miles distant, to get some groceries and the mail. On the way home, George decided that it was the dog's duty to help carry the purchases home, so taking a piece of binder twine from his pocket, he proceeded with John's help, to tie a pound of tea on the dog's back. All went well until the dog saw a rabbit and took off after it. No amount of calling could stop him and during the chase the tea fell off the dog's back! There was no way the boys could return home without the tea, so it took some time hunting over the quarter-section before they found it. From then on, the idea was considered a failure and Rover was never again a pack animal!

In 1916, Robert bought the N.W. of 5-33-13, formerly owned by Mr. Litke. This included a mine which he developed. The family moved into a house there and Bob joined the army and went overseas. Prospects were good cropwise that year, so Robert and son John went to Hanna, fourteen miles south and purchased a new McCormick binder. Before they got home with it, a hail storm had taken all the crop. The storm was so severe that it killed young pigs and chickens. The hail went through the west windows of the house, through the open door into the kitchen and broke some east windows also. Sarah, George and Jane were all in the barn milking when the storm hit in all its severity. After it was over, George had to climb out of the hayloft window to shovel the hailstones from the barn door so that his mother and Jane could get out! Needless to say, the binder wasn't used that year.

On October 20 of that year a second daughter, Ellen, was born. Later that same year on Christmas day, a catastrophe occurred when eleven-year-old George was badly hurt in a mine cable accident. Dr. Mason came from Hanna by horse and sleigh to assist him. George spent three months in Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. His only visitor was Johnny Cattanach of Garden Plain, but a nurse Violet Wagner Wayne, kept in touch with his parents as to his progress. A year later, he was well on the way to recovery, proving it by climbing to the top of Brailsford's windmill to locate a horse for his neighbor.

In those days, Mrs. Saxsmith was midwife for the community. She had been called upon to assist with the birth of Ellen and a third daughter, Phyllis, who only lived two years.

The years 1917 - 1918 were mostly uneventful with life assuming an even keel. The big excitement of those years was the purchase of a Gray Dort car. John was the proud owner. When he arrived home with it from Hanna, the weather was

cold so he had to drain the radiator to keep it from freezing. The next morning, the car wouldn't start and a frustrated John discovered that he had drained the gas tank instead of the radiator. This, of course, resulted [illegible] a frozen radiator and a dry gas tank!

There was rejoicing one day in 1919 when son Bob arrived home from the war. [illegible] 1920 Bob married Frances J. Lewis.

John went to the coal mines in Vancouver in 1922. He moved to Nanaimo and married there in 1926. John and his wife, Ida still make their home in Nanaimo, B.C.

Robert Unsworth's health was declining rapidly and in July 1927, he passed away.

[illegible] 1929 Jane married Bert Harding and in 1932 George married Freda Summers. They are presently residing in Hanna. In 1935 Ellen married Herb Taylor. Herb passed away in 1946 and in 1948 Ellen married Will Ironside. They now live in Hanna also.

Sarah Unsworth passed away in April 1958.

Robert and Sarah Unsworth, pioneers of Alberta, are survived by three children, eighteen grandchildren, fifty-two great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Grandma Unsworth Sr. and daughter Ellen (Unsworth) Ironside and son George.

THE ELLEN UNSWORTH STORY, By Ellen Unsworth Ironside — I wasn't born until 1916 so I am not really a pioneer but I lived through the depression and I feel I have [illegible] story to tell.

There were three boys and three girls in our family, I was number five. Being twenty-one years younger than my oldest brother Bob, I can't help but feel that there were better things that could have happened that year!

My dad was very musical and my mother could sing, and as a little girl I remember well practising for the Alps concert, my brother George playing a violin accompaniment. I received all my education at the Alps school. I finished Grade ten and that was it — there were no grants or loans available in those days to further education.

Childhood Christmases stand out in my memory. About December first, Dad would send to Eaton's for our winter's supply of jam, raisins, prunes and Christmas candy — lots of it — with a ten pound box of chocolates included! The candy was all kept in the bottom drawer in the living room and it was on our honor that we never opened the bottom drawer. Each evening, from the time the candy arrived, Dad would let us have our choice, then on Christmas Eve all the stockings were hung on chair backs and by Christmas morning Santa had filled every stocking. There were no gifts but I always found a quarter or even fifty cents in mine. Being still little and believing in Santa, I got the money as well as candies and fruit, the others had [illegible] lemon or a lump of coal with their goodies. I realize now, the whole excitement was for me. Jane was seven years older so she likely helped to fill the stockings. We always played family games at Christmas. Bob and Frances and

their children came home as well as the bachelors or neighbors who didn't have loved ones near. Mother made mince pies and Christmas pudding. I was an adult and married to Will before I realized that suet was on an animal all year long. I thought you could only get suet at Christmas!

Mother and Dad boarded the school teachers for quite a few years and even after Dad passed [illegible] 1927, Mother continued to board the teacher for awhile. Mr. Vic Trenaman stayed with us and owned a bicycle and skis, so he was well equipped to travel back and forth. He travelled out from his home in Hanna after weekends and the Alps hills were ideal for skiing.

Some of our pleasures were skating, tobogganing and house parties. The only skates I ever had were my brother George's size eight, work boots with skates screwed on to the soles. I never became a professional skater, but I still had fun! Taylor's lake was where we spent most [illegible] our time. Our choice tobogganing hill was just west of Charlie Noyce's in the Alps district and many a time I walked the two and a half miles there and back after some real thrilling rides. All types of sleighs were there — one or two real toboggans, homemade hand sleighs — bobsleighs and even a fancy Gondola. Hugh McLaren fashioned the Gondola and you could stand up in that. It would hold from four to six people, someone would give the sleigh a push and we were off! There was no way of steering it so each ride was a thriller. One night, Hugh lost his false teeth in one of the spills and we spent quite some time finding them. Mrs. Noyce often made us cocoa and the most beautiful chocolate cake you could wish for!

On Friday nights in winter some good neighbor would invite twenty or thirty of us to his house for dancing and lunch. Music was supplied by those present — my brother George, Bob Rehill, George Gwin, Walter Jensen, Herb and George Taylor — usually just a violin and perhaps a mouth organ or accordion for accompaniment. Those were good times! Mr. Nelville Thomas was often called upon to play the bagpipes. I think perhaps he was the only person around who had mastered that art.

In the summer, I loved softball and through school and later in district teams I played twice a week, often riding horseback six miles there and back for a practice.

After my dad passed away Mother and I just stayed on at the farm. I was eleven then, and learned to harness horses, plow, drive a hay rake and a hay buck, run a binder and yes, — stook! George came home to take the crop off and at that time he seemed to run from one row to the next. We surely got the work done! Wheat was worth twenty-six cents a bushel then, we always had such a poor crop we would stack ours before threshing. Stack threshing was three cents a bushel and we saved wherever we could.

Mother and I were on "Mother's Allowance" by this time — nine dollars a month for all our groceries. I carried the cream from one cow one-half mile to Greenways to put on ice. They would take it to Hanna for us on the weekend. That money helped buy our clothes. I still remember that my good dress from Eaton's cost one dollar and seventy-nine cents.

We always had a big garden with strawberries and small fruit trees. [illegible] was so dry that George dug two shallow wells and we steadily watered the garden. In the fall we gave lots of vegetables away. I sold cabbages from my "School Fair" garden seed and thought how lucky I was!

Around 1930 the grasshoppers arrived in clouds and at that time Norman Greenway and I joined forces in spreading grasshopper poison, me driving the team and Norman spreading the poison with a sort of spoon from the back of the

democrat. Norman and I spent many days fanning brome grass seed. I can still see the sagebrush seed coming through with the brome!

Prairie fires were another horror in my teens. Everything was so dry, a fire could start so easily and the wind always seemed to be blowing. Then too, the dust storms were terrible. Often, when I rode home from school, the dust would fill the sky and Mother would have the light on at four-thirty.

Winter blizzards were terrifying too. We had a wire from the kitchen door to the "little house" and through the winter we really made use of it. There was no end of snow shovelling [illegible] keep paths open. I remember two years when the line fence between Ralph Greenways' was drifted over and their bull came roaring down to our barnyard. It was no wonder I had nightmares.

Now I must tell of our neighbors to the north east of us who had lovely Holstein cows. Every afternoon for about a week those cows were in our crop when I got home from school. I asked the farmer to keep them home but he was short of pasture too. Getting really fed up with it one afternoon, I put the six cows into the barn and milked them, turned them out and chased them up the road. We [illegible]d a really good cream cheque that week and it was the answer, he kept his cows home after that!

By this time I was going to the dances at Garden Plain some six miles away. I would ride horseback to my brother Bob's place, then after the dance would stay with them till morning. Often George, Freda and I would share the same bed. It was warmer that way. The house would be so cold when we got home!

In 1935 I fell in love and married Herb Taylor. On May 12, 1937 our twin boys were born. This was also the day King George VI and Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne so their birthday was easily remembered for some time. We farmed west of Garden Plain for two years, then bought a store at Fenn, Alberta and moved there in 1938. We met the nicest people there and had a happy year. In September 1939, the Second World War broke out, so we sold our store in Fenn and moved to Drumheller and opened a small grocery there, just north of the bridge. Six months later, we moved [illegible] Hayter, Alberta and ran a small grocery there but competition proved too much for us so in 1940 we moved back to Granddad Taylor's farm just west of Garden Plain.

In March 1943 our third son was born and for three years we enjoyed farming. The twins started their education at Netherby school and I was happy to be back at Garden Plain. In May 1946, Herb passed away after only ten days in hospital. Later that spring I held an auction sale and moved to a little house at Garden Plain hamlet.

In 1948, I met and married Will Ironside and moved up to his farm northeast of Buchan school. We had only a barb-wire telephone for the sixteen years we lived there and I still maintain that our greatest asset now is the telephone. We were blessed with one daughter which made our family complete. We continued farming till 1964 when we sold the farm [illegible] my nephew, Cyril Unsworth and moved to Hanna.

Our twins now live in Castor, Alberta, where they operate a D-7 Caterpillar and grader under the name of Twin Construction. Delbert and Kay have two girls and a boy; Doug and Dianne have three girls. Jim and Ruby are in Calgary where he does heavy trucking. Judy and Larry are presently living in Cranbrook, B.C. where Larry owns a "convenience" store. They have a baby girl.

Will and I are still living in Hanna, both retired and happy to be near our family and to take part in fishing and in the activities of the Pioneer Association.

CHARLES W. COBB STORY, By Leonard Cobb — Charles W. Cobb was married to Ada May Roop in Minnesota in 1910. In 1912 they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, with their small son Edward. While in Edmonton twin boys, Earl and Mirl were born to them.

About two years later, they moved to Hanna, settling in the Alps district. For awhile, Charles Cobb farmed the old Olsen place (N½-12-33-14), later moving to a farm one and a quarter mile north of Alps school.

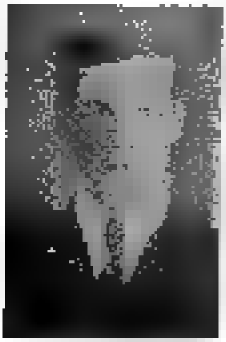
The children attended Alps school, walking the wagon road that wound through the hills. During this time Charles got the contract to build a fence around the school grounds. He was paid $55.00 for labor and supplying materials as well. The next year (1925) he painted the school for $30.00.

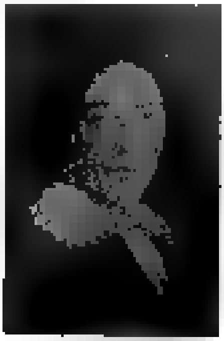
During the time they were in the Hanna area there were five more children born into the family, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin, Elevon and Lester.

In 1926, when Lester was about six weeks old, Charles moved his family to Toppenish, Washington, in the Yakima Valley. He purchased a farm and later went into the trucking business. Another daughter, Mary Lou, was born in 1928.

He continued in the trucking business until illness forced him to retire [illegible] 1963. He passed away in 1966 at the age of eighty-two. His wife, Ada, is still living at Toppenish, Washington.

There are seven sons and two daughters all living in the United States. Edward, Earl, Mirl, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin and Lester, Mrs. Elevon Coleman, and Mrs. Mary Lou Pedro. There are seventeen grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.


Ralph Greenway


Nellie Greenway

RALPH GREENWAY STORY, By Nellie Greenway — Ralph Greenway was born in 1887 in Birmingham, England, the son of William and Elizabeth Greenway. He was one of seven children and when he was just ten years old his mother passed away. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada to get rich quick! This was the dream of many young men in those days. When Ralph arrived in Montreal he did not have a penny as someone had stolen his wallet on the boat. He did odd jobs for awhile, finally landing in Ontario and there worked for some real nice folks. He stayed with them for quite a time. I cannot remember when he filed for his homestead. It was at Prussia, Saskatchewan, later called Leader.

Ralph and I were sweethearts in England so I came out to Canada to marry him, arriving on May 14, 1914. I came from the little village of Kenilworth in Warwickshire. Naturally I felt sad and lonely leaving my loved ones and friends. I got along real well until I started to cross the ocean. Then I wished I were back on land! The only time I went into the dining room was the last morning, coming up the St. Lawrence river. My cabin friend was very kind to me. She told me not [illegible] tip the waiter at our table (he hadn't done much waiting on me!) but he came over later to the customs. He spotted me there having no intention of letting me go without giving him a tip! I finally gave him two shillings and sixpense. Standing around in Montreal I could not understand why so many people kept remarking, "she's a long time coming." To my surprise I found out it was the train! I was thinking of some fine lady. It looked such a huge train after the English ones. I had my ticket changed from the Grand Trunk to the C.P.R. so that I could stay with my friends, not realizing that I would lose my berth. I sat up for two nights and days and felt more dead than alive as one could not even doze, for there were some very noisy passengers. The train finally arrived [illegible] Winnipeg at 10:30 p.m. and Ralph and his brother Bill met me there. Bill surprised me by saying, "Well, Nellie, you are getting married tonight!" Feeling as I was, it was more like a dream. We went to a hotel [illegible] clean up quickly, no time for even a cup of tea as the wedding was at 11 p.m. It was at the Methodist church with a very nice pastor. I felt more like resting than talking and Ralph's brother did most of the talking! Next morning we boarded the train for Leader, Saskatchewan.

One of Ralph's neighbors met us at the station with his buggy. He took us home to his place for supper, which consisted of fat pork and green tea which I found hard to swallow. I felt very uneasy, as my thoughts were that the folks would think I was one of the fussy kind! However, we got along real well except I did find it hard to talk with them and other neighbors too. It was a German settlement. They were [illegible] very kind hearted people but I found it difficult to visit with them because of language problems

I lost my first baby, but on July [illegible], 1917, Norman was born at home. There was no hospital [illegible] that time. The neighbors were so good to me, sending food every day, real German dishes and we were well looked after. Ralph had built a nice little home but I was not really happy there. The railway had been built through our place, just a quarter of a mile from our house. Many tramps passed through, stopping to ask for food. We had a good crop [illegible] 1915 and Ralph decided, for my sake, to move. I felt sorry in a way for he had good land and had worked hard to get it.

In 1917 with ten week old baby Norman, we came to the farm north of Hanna; S½-6-33-13-W4. Ralph purchased the farm from Ernest Massie who had decided to return to the U.S. [illegible] was nice to meet our new neighbors, the McLaren boys, their sister Effie (later Mrs. George Crossfield), the Noyce's, the Taylor's, the Hemstocks and many more nice folks.

It was not always sunshine as many times we did not have much to go on with.

[illegible] May 1920, after being [illegible] Canada for six years, I returned to England with Norman to visit my mother and other relatives. Times were hard in England right then; I found many changes, food and fuel were rationed and it had affected the people there. I used to walk about a mile to get Mother's ration of coal, pushing it home in Norman's buggy. In November, Ralph and Bill came over [illegible] England and spent the winter with us. In March 1921 they returned to Canada but Norman and I stayed on in England as I was expecting my second baby. Dennis was born in Leamington Spa on September 30, 1921 and it was 1924 before I was able to return to Canada with the two boys. My sister-in-law, Hettie came over with me and makes her home in Orillia, Ontario. It was hard to leave my mother and loved ones over there. I never did go back again!

Ralph had rented the farm and worked for the McLaren boys during the time I was in England so it was good to be back home again. Life was often a struggle financially but we never went hungry for a meal!

On June 17, 1925 our first little daughter, Joan, was born. Greta was born February 7, 1932, another little sister and our family was complete

The conditions during the 30's were the worst. We were thankful for the relief we had from the government, the apples, cheese and fish (not so much the fish!). We had much to be thankful for. Social gatherings were common, picnics, pie socials, school parties, Christmas concerts, and in the winter, sleigh riding. The children always seemed to have lots of fun.

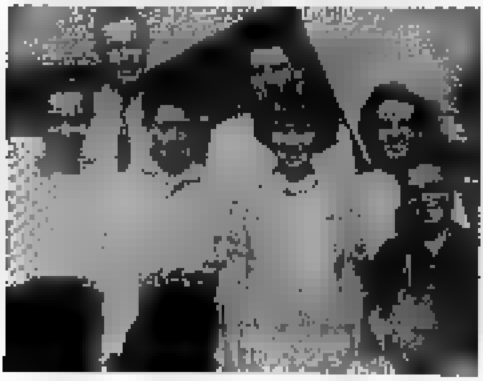
Ralph worked for many years as road maintenance man with the Department

[illegible] Public Works. Many miles of road were covered with four horses and a drag. Later the department provided him with a small grader which he used until his retirement in 1948. Part of his responsibility was [illegible] put in wooden culverts and bridges with the aid of a team, plow and slip. It was hard work but it meant a few extra dollars which were sorely needed.

All the children attended Alps school. Gretta, the youngest, went to high school in Hanna. Dennis and Joan attended Prairie Bible Institute. Dennis finished his high school subjects in Vancouver before leaving as a missionary [illegible] India.

Norman served from 1942 - 1946 in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a wireless mechanic. While stationed in Montreal he met his wife and was married in 1943. They have six children. Dennis was married to Lillian Zepick in 1959, whom he met in India, serving as a missionary there. They have two sons, Timothy and Kenneth. Joan was married [illegible] Sheldon Blenkhorn and had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Sheldina, who was born [illegible] few days after her father died suddenly of a heart attack. Later, [illegible] 1960 Joan married John Veres and they have five children, Ronald, Stanley, Kenneth, Keith and Cindy. They make their home in Wimborne, Alberta. Gretta married Floyd Mathers of Hanna in 1950 and they have four children, Brenda, Shirley, Douglas and David. They reside at Pollockville, Alberta.

Ralph passed away in 1953 at the age of 66. I moved into Hanna where I lived in my own home until 1969 when I moved into the Senior Citizen's Lodge. I do thank the Lord for the long and full life which He has graciously given [illegible] me!



Norman Greenway family, 1964.

NORMAN GREENWAY STORY — I was born in Leader, Saskatchewan, July 26, 1917. When I was ten weeks old, Dad and Mother moved to our present farm, thirteen miles northeast of Hanna.

In May 1920, Mother and I went to England [illegible] visit her mother and other relatives, staying there until 1924. Consequently, I began my schooling there; I also acquired an English accent!

On coming back to Alberta, across the prairies by train, I remember being fascinated by the scores of little animals running around. Mother told me they were gophers; I thought she meant "golfers". I couldn't see anyone playing golf!

Dad met the train in Hanna along with Bill McLaren and his Model "T". He drove us home with our suitcases but the trunks and boxes had to be picked up later. Dad drove in with the team and wagon for these and took me with him. It was a real thrill.

Soon after we came back school started for me at the Alps school two miles west of our farm. Dad bought a saddle horse for me to ride but she was too frisky so he traded her for a quieter pony named Tiny. Tiny and I were to share many a mile, travelling to school and going for cows until she succumbed to old age. I remember one morning I was late leaving for school and Tiny was stubbornly trotting along. Kicking her ribs didn't seem to be getting much action so I stopped by a grove of willows to get a switch. While I was doing this, Tiny took off for school without me! Needless [illegible] say, I was quite late that morning. School days bring memories of happy experiences and some not so happy. I remember the teasing I got because of my English accent but I soon lost that. Alps school got [illegible] name from the surrounding hills and noon hour was our opportunity to adventure among the willow bushes and sloughs close to the school. Winter found us tobogganing; the hill was literally at the door step. All my schooling was taken at Alps and I went through to Grade ten. I look back with fond memories on those days.

It was 1933 when I quit school. Those were hard years for the farmers with drought, grasshoppers and very little income. I had a desire to finish high school but Dad needed my help so I stayed home and worked for the next few years. I worked occasionally for other farmers as well. In 1937 and 1941 I worked for Russel Hemstock on the farm and at his coal mine. We stripped all the dirt off with plow and fresnos. Russel had very good horses for this job. Mining was difficult for men and horses when the pit got so deep. People came from as far away as Hemaruka to haul coal, mostly with teams and wagons. The coal sold for $1.50 a ton with some top coal selling for $1.00.

[illegible] 1941 I was conscripted for basic army training for a period of one month. This took place at Red Deer during January and February. We had marching, rifle drill and bayonet practice. I would have made a poor soldier for I detested it!

In April 1942 I joined the Air Force and took training as a radio mechanic in Calgary. We were posted to Lachine, Quebec from there for more drill training. It was beautiful fall weather and I can remember the abundance of delicious apples in the markets of Lachine! After six weeks of training there we were posted to No. 2 Wireless School on Queen Mary Road in Montreal. It was during my stay in Montreal that I met Myrtle Renshaw who was to become my wife.

After I finished my training in Montreal and graduated as a wireless mechanic, I was posted to Sydney, Nova Scotia in April 1943. In December of that year I was sent to Rockcliffe, Ontario, just outside of Ottawa. In the week's interval between postings, Myrtle and I were married.

We stayed in Ottawa until 1946 when I was discharged. Our first child, Donald, was born in Ottawa in 1945.

Soon after I left the R.C.A.F. we came west and lived with my parents on the farm. In 1947 I rented the farm from Dad and also bought the Unsworth quarter, N.W. 6-33-13, and proceeded to build a small house for my family. We settled down to farming. Myrt was a city girl and didn't know wheat from barley or oats so she had much to learn! We moved into our unfinished house in December of that year. We were anxious to have a home of our own. The crop in 1947 was poor, so with very little money to go on with I decided to go north to Breton to work in the bush. After New Year, I left Myrt and our two-and-a-half year old son on the farm and was away until mid-March. The weather was very good when I left but winter set in with a vengeance in the middle of January and we had one of the worst winters on record! Myrtle had no means of transportation so often walked the half mile to my folks' place for milk, eggs and the mail. [illegible] course, they kept their eye on my family in my absence. When I came back in March the roads were still partially blocked and spring seemed a long way off!

I farmed with horses until 1951, usually driving eight head, four and four. Even though I liked the horses, the chore of harnessing, hitching them together and finally getting out to the field was much too tedious and not efficient. In 1951 I purchased an "L" Case tractor that had been put on rubber. There was quite a [illegible] of whoaing for a few days as I became accustomed to this iron horse! However, it certainly had its advantages and disadvantages too as I found out when I would get stuck in the mud!

In 1952 we moved into my parents' house and they took over our little cottage. By this time we had three boys and another baby on the way. Stephen had been born in 1949, Brian [illegible] 1950 and Elizabeth came along in 1952. Eric was born in 1953, so we definitely needed a larger house!

In 1953 Dad passed away and Mother moved to Hanna, where she died Apri 30, 1977. I bought the home place from her and I also had taken over a lease on N½-11-33-14, the former Jack Temple farm.

The Fifties were fairly hard years. We didn't have too much money and relied on a few milk cows and chickens for grocery money. They were happy years, however, as the children were growing up; always busy, yet there was an appreciation for our home and family. A highlight of those years was a trip by car and trailer to Montreal to visit Myrt's parents. This was in 1958, her first trip home after twelve years on the prairies. It was an experience still treasured and remembered by us all!

In the late Forties and early Fifties we attended church services at country schools. This was during the summer months. In 1950 we had Farrell Doan stay with us and hold services at a number of points [illegible] the community. In 1951 Graham Clark held services at Dundee school on Sunday afternoons and at the Garden Plain Hall in the evenings. These services were well attended. In 1955 we decided to start going regularly to the Alliance church in Hanna for Sunday School and church. We packed (and I do mean packed), our five kids into our 1950 Ford truck and made it in to Hanna every Sunday morning. The family outgrew the Ford truck but we continued our church attendance down through the years. We have never regretted it.

In 1963 I purchased the N½-1-33-14 and S½-12-33-14 from Charlie Noyce. This enabled me to enlarge my cattle herd which has been our chief source of revenue. As the boys grew older they became [illegible] big help in farming, milking cows, running a tractor and other machinery.

The children attended Solon and Netherby schools until the rural schools closed and then they were bussed to Hanna. Most of them completed their high school [illegible] Hanna. Don, the eldest, took his grade twelve at Prairie High in Three Hills. Danny, our youngest boy is still attending Hanna High.

Don is now a chartered accountant in Edmonton. He is married and has two little girls. Stephen has purchased the farm from us. Brian is an accountant also and works at Red Deer. Elizabeth works for the Royal Bank in Calgary. Eric is married and [illegible] and his wife Donna, live and work in Regina. Danny is still at home.

Looking back at the years on the farm brings nostalgic thoughts. There were hard times but we always had the necessities of life. We were happy, though at times it seemed we were almost too busy to enjoy our family and friends. We've always appreciated our neighbors. [illegible] was good to know that they were there when we needed them. I have never considered myself a very efficient farmer but if I had my days to live over again I wouldn't want it to be any different!

THE EVERETT DORMAN STORY, By Mrs. Everett Dorman — Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dorman came to the Hanna district in March 1919 from Pond Creek, Oklahoma. They were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Massie, a former resident. He [illegible]d previously owned the farm where Ralph Greenway lived.

Everett rented land from Charlie Stanfield N½-1-33-14; S½-12-33-14. He bought cattle, horses and machinery upon his arrival in the district.

They stayed on this farm for four years and then moved back to Oklahoma where they also farmed.

While in the Hanna district a son and daughter were born to them; Forrest Leroy, July 22, 1919 and Pauline Helen, November 21, 1921. Another daughter, Betty Jean, was born in Oklahoma, May 10, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorman bought a half section of wheat land in 1947 and built a

new house. They have rented out the land for fifteen years but still reside on the farm.

Mr. Murl Wright

Mrs. Murl Wright

THE MURL WRIGHT STORY, By Valera Wright — In February 1920 Murl, myself and our fourteen month old son, Emmet left our home in Vandalia, Illinois to come to Canada.

We came to the Garden Plain district of Alberta, settling on a farm owned by Robert Unsworth Sr., N-34-33-13. We were very close to the southern tip of Sullivan Lake. There was a store at Garden Plain, run by C. A. Wickson, where we got our groceries.

We lived there one year and then moved to a farm owned by Ralph Greenway S½-6-33-13. Our daughter Lucille was born there in 1921. While we were living there the first telephone line was put through that part of the country. The men stayed [illegible] our house and I cooked for them. We had the first telephone in the neighborhood.

We then moved to the Stanfield farm N.W. 1-33-14 where we stayed until we moved back to Illinois. Our son, Wayne was born in 1923 and in 1925 Cyril was born.

Murl had to haul his grain to Hanna until they built a grain elevator at Scapa. He had four head of horses on a grain wagon. It would take a whole day to go to Hanna and back. Sleighs were used in the winter. Murl had sleigh bells on his horses which he had brought with him from Illinois. I could hear the bells for miles as he was coming home. He was the only one in the neighborhood with bells.

We attended church at Solon school which was about six miles away.

For recreation we attended various picnics and stampedes in the surrounding areas. Murl had a bucking horse that he entered in the stampedes.

[illegible] November 1926 we left Alberta and came back [illegible] Illinois. In the spring of 1927 we moved [illegible] Oklahoma where we stayed until 1947. At this time we came back to Vandalia, Illinois. We had four more children born to us during our time [illegible] Oklahoma. These were: Leo, Berniece, Ray and Joe.

Murl died in 1965 and I am living alone in Vandalia. My children are all living. Emmet in Vandalia; Lucille in Dickinson, Texas; Wayne in Wichita, Kansas; Cyril in Enid, Oklahoma; Leo and Berniece in Vandalia; Ray in Columbus, Ohio and Joe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I have nineteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

JACK and AGNES TEMPLE, By Agnes Temple — Jack was born in Kraft, Russia and came to Calgary with his parents in 1912. He had his eighth birthday somewhere out on the Atlantic aboard the "Kaiser - Victoria".

I was born in North Dakota and came to the Fleet district where my father had taken a homestead. Stettler was the end of the steel at that time.

Jack and I were married December 31, 1929. We had our wedding dance in the Scapa Hall early in January. I think [illegible] was the first wedding dance in the Scapa Hall. We set up housekeeping on the Bill Wesche (formerly Struder) farm, which Jack had purchased. The house was typical of that era — a two storey building with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs with a narrow stairway at one end. This stairway caused our first problem. The bed springs stuck fast about half way up. In fact they were so stuck that we couldn't get them down either. I think the weather turned very cold and the metal contracted; anyway, after a couple of days we did manage to dislodge them. Then Jack got the big idea of taking them through an upstairs window. We had to pry the frame off the window to get enough space, and pull a hayrack under the window, so we could reach. After a real struggle we did manage to hoist the springs through. The window never did [illegible] properly after that.

This farm did have one advantage. There was a high hill beside the house. Our car had [illegible] be cranked and when the weather was a bit cool it was impossible to get it started. We parked the car on the hill so we could coast it down and ninety-nine times out [illegible] a hundred it started.

The Great Depression and the drought [illegible] about this time. As I look back on those years I can't agree entirely that they were totally "Ten Lost Years". The caring and sharing established friendships which have lasted over half a century. Children who grew up in that decade acquired an unique sense of values, stability and tolerance. Of course the lack of money did create problems. The promise of twenty-five dollars per month by the Aberhart party caught the imagination of many. Each spring our hopes would soar, but those dust storms swept across the land, and very little rain fell. The price of farm produce dropped [illegible] unbelievable lows and wages followed the same trend. Jobs were impossible to get.

We tried various ways to economize. The men stripped coal for winter fuel. We milked cows to get that weekly cream cheque of one to two dollars per five gallon can. We made our bread and butter and even soap; canned beef, poultry and vegetables. I often wonder how we ever escaped food-poisoning as we had only that old boiler method of canning. Saskatoons were a popular fruit and dozens of quarts were in the cellars for winter use.

One year the people who were more fortunate than those of us in the dust bowl sent in vegetables and apples to help out. Remember the beans and cheese and fish? We were truly grateful for all. But the fish was a real challenge to every housewife. Many were the suggestions that were passed around as to how best to attack it.

We didn't run our car much for a few years, but used a Bennett Buggy for transportation. Cars were always running out of gas or else the tires were going flat.

Dances and baseball games were the two popular forms of entertainment. Baseball was the summer sport and everyone attended the games and rooted for the home team. The dances were usually held on Friday night because Saturday night was the time to go to town as the stores stayed open that night.

When I think of the twenty-five or fifty cents which the men paid for admission to the dances, it [illegible] hard to believe. Of course the ladies brought lunch. The orchestras played for a very small sum, perhaps not as loud as the orchestras of today, but we did enjoy the music. The first dance, supper waltz and Home Sweet Home were special dances and there was always a floor manager. At suppertime the local artists were prevailed upon to perform with song, readings or a step dance. I'd like to mention Art Wigley who always had many humorous songs at his command. The most popular was "The Little Shirt My Mother Made For Me". I recall an amusing incident at a wedding dance, when a performer sang "Bury Me Out on the Lone Prairie". Then there was the orchestra who played "Old Faithful - We've Roamed the Range Together" — for the Ladies' Choice. Bless the many

who gave so freely of their talents to bring a bit of sunshine and laughter into our lives.

Our family was growing. Jack David is the oldest, Rose is the second, then the twins, Kathleen and Marlene; Margaret and Lois complete the family.

Twins were surely popular in our part of the country. At a Christmas Concert at Garden Plain School in the early forties there were seven and a half sets of twins: Edna and Evelyn Smyth, Jerry and Judy Smyth. (The Charlie Smyth family lived on the Peter's place across the road from us). Joyce and Jean Cattanach, Robert and Roseanna Weins, Douglas and Delbert Taylor, Margaret and Marjorie Graham, Kathleen and Marlene Temple, and Margaret Malm. Her twin, Arvid, was in the Services.

When Jack's folks moved to Hanna in 1936, we moved to the home farm. Jackie and Rose attended Alps School.

It was about this time that we got our first radio. We really enjoyed the news and the other programs. The soap serial, Ma Perkins, and the Lux Radio Theatre were our favourites. It was a calamity when the batteries ran down.

In 1939 I started teaching at Garden Plain School. The Second World War had started and a shortage of teachers had developed. My salary was about seventy dollars per month. I stayed until 1949; by that time salaries had doubled.

Better times returned in the forties. The drought seemed to be a thing of the past. Farmers were becoming mechanized and horse-power was behind us.

By this time our boys were in high school and were riding about eight miles to Scapa. When the girls reached grade ten we sent Rose, Marlene and Kathleen to Hanna High School. They stayed at the Dorm. It was quite a chore to get them there as the roads were very poor, so we decided to move nearer a high school.

In 1949 we moved to the Botha district where we still reside on the farm. The children are married. Jackie is at High Prairie, Rose in Stettler. Kathleen, Mrs. Cecil Sorenson, resides in Red Deer. Marlene, Mrs. E. Johnson, lives in Seattle. Margaret, Mrs. Lyle Garvin, lives in Calgary, and Lois, Mrs. Allen Norman, resides in Sherwood Park. We have sixteen grandchildren, eight boys and eight girls.

BENTON E. BUNCE, By Fred Johnston — Ben Bunce homesteaded the north half of 24-33-14 in 1910. He and his wife, the former Lila Hiltes, had come from Saskatchewan. He was a carpenter by trade and soon had a small but comfortable house built on the place. They must have lived in a sod shack for a time as the remains of one can be seen. Ben contracted to build the Garden Plain school and had it finished for the first pupils in July of 1914. He sold the place to Old Man Strode and son Willis from the U.S.A. They came during the First World War.

Georgina, sister of Mrs. Bunce, came to visit and soon married Nelson Wright. A brother, Sandy, also worked in the area.

The Bunces had a family of two sons, George born in 1915 and Wilfred born in 1920. About 1921 the Bunces purchased the south half of 11-32-14, school land in the Alps district, and erected another small house as well as other buildings. George and Wilf went the one mile to the school until the end of 1926 when the Bunce family sold to Crabbs. They went to live in the United States.

It is believed that the Bunces have passed on but the whereabouts of George and Wilf are unknown. George visited the area a few years ago.

ROBERT S. CRABB, By Fred Johnston — Robert and Nellie Turner Crab were married in Hamilton, Ontario and moved west to Port Coquitlam, B.C. where Robert was a contractor in the logging industry. Dorothy Elizabeth was born in 1910. In 1918 they shipped out to Hanna, buying the John Watson farm, the site of the Fertility Post Office and store. They did not continue these services for the district. Crabb, as everyone called him, bought a new Case gas tractor and threshing machine soon after he arrived, but soon lost them as he was unable to keep up the payments. He was not a sociable person and brooded a lot. Mrs. Crabb was the very opposite, well-liked by everyone who knew her. She had been a Registered Nurse.

About 1927 Crabbs left the Watson place and bought Ben Bunce's half section in the Alps district. In the early thirties he leased from the municipality the unfenced quarter north of the school for pasture. No matter what time of day on our way to and from school, should you find him and Dorothy fencing he would say, "Why, good morning."

Dorothy went to the Netherby school, then boarded out in Hanna where she finished high school. She was an avid reader as anyone could tell by the reading material and books on hand. Dorothy wrote poetry also and was a very intelligent person. She enjoyed the outdoors a lot and loved the animals and so did most of the chores. During the dry thirties she watered cattle at a spring about a mile east of the house. She rode horseback 2½ miles nearly every mail day for the mail, sometimes delivering the neighbors' as well.

Mrs. Crabb died at home [illegible] the late forties and was taken back to Ontario for burial. Crabb and Dorothy continued to farm for a few more years. During these years Dorothy went to Ontario [illegible] live with relatives but would not stay. Her heart was on the farm. She had very poor eyesight and went to Calgary to the C.N.I.B. where she worked for a little while. Then she had an operation to remove the cataracts from her eyes and during her time [illegible] recuperation stayed with her friends, the Forbes in Hanna. Then she resided in Ponoka for some years. During this time she kept in touch with some [illegible] the neighbor ladies who kept her posted on the doings around the Alps and Netherby district. She wrote lovely letters back and they were always a pleasure to read. She worked in Red Deer also for a period of time. Illness struck her and she died in an Edmonton hospital during the mid-sixties at about fifty-five years of age.

Without Dorothy to assist him Mr. Crabb found it impossible to carry on so during the mid-fifties he left the farm and went to Calgary to live. He also had very poor eyesight and was hit by a car, suffering a broken leg in the mishap. Probably on his doctor's advice he moved into a nursing home at this time. He came in contact with Christian workers who brought him to faith [illegible] Christ and his whole outlook on life was changed. He became friendly and kindly towards old neighbors and those around him. Mr Crabb passed away [illegible] the early sixties and as far as we remember he was in his eighties. He was buried in Calgary.

The [illegible] [illegible]. Crabb farm is now owned by Calton Vlete.

Mr. and Mrs. Hasz

DAVID and LYDIA HASZ STORY, By Irene Hasz Bauer and Herbert Hasz — Our Dad, David Hasz was born in Roumania in 1882 and came to America when he was five or six. Mother was born in North Dakota, in 1888. They were married in North Dakota on December 20, 1906. Between 1908 and 1917, seven children were born to them: Irene, Herbert, Elgen, Solomon, George, and Elsie and Edna, the twins. Little Solomon passed away before his first birthday.

We came to Canada, January 1918, arriving in Calgary. Dad had two uncles in Alberta and his uncle in Calgary advised him to try for a farm in the Hanna district. We had brought [illegible] our household furniture by train, also five horses and a colt.

The Herrington farm in the Dowling district was where we first settled, northwest of Dowling Lake. We attended Chain Lakes school. In 1919, after one year there, Dad bought 640 acres five miles north and three east of Hanna. We went to Solon school then and some of our neighbors were the Paxman, Whaley and Adams families. We went to church and Sunday School [illegible] Solon as well.

In 1922, we moved again to the W. W. Hill place farther north on highway 36, the present Fred Johnston farm. Five of us children attended Alps school. Irene had quit school by this time and worked out to help support the family. Our neighbors were the R. Greenway's and Jim Taylor's.

We got all our supplies from Hanna and had our mail delivered by a mail carrier.

During the years we were living there we enjoyed the stampedes, picnics and dances at Garden Plain Hall.

After Herbert quit school [illegible] worked for Sid Herring near Netherby school.

The Hasz's: Herb, Irene, Ike, Edna, George and Elsie.

[illegible] March 1927 we left the Hill farm and moved to [illegible]eet where we had a larger farm with more rangeland and were able to increase our cattle. The boys were getting to the farming age. Herbert moved to a farm at Federal.

Dad passed away July 9, 1943 and Mother on January 16, 1945. They are survived by five children, twenty-five grandchildren and thirty-three great grandchildren.

Irene married Jacob Bauer in 1931 and they now live at Penticton, B.C., Herbert married Rose Pippis in 1934 and they reside in Coronation. Elsie married Emmanuel Schaber in 1935 and they have retired to Lacombe. Edna married Dave Schockenmaier in 1936 and she is widowed and lives at Sidney, B.C. George and his wife, the former Lois Baker, were residing in California where George passed away in 1967. Elgen, or Ike, as he was called, married Joan Thompson in Nokomis, Saskatchewan in 1951 and they still reside there.

ELSIE HASZ SCHABER STORY, ***Compiled by Myrtle Greenway*** — "Hello, I'm Elsie. I'm bigger than Edna." Thus Elsie greeted Miss Meece, her grade one teacher at Alps school. The Hasz children had many adventures relating to their

journeys to and from school. Herb, being the oldest at school, drove the bobsleigh and loved to take the corners sharp, so it was common occurrence to be dumped in the snow.

Ralph Greenway, a close neighbor enjoyed sauerkraut and pork, so when Mom Hasz served it he was often invited down for this German treat. The children took great delight in teaching him the German words and the expression, "sauerkraut und schpek macht die deutsch bite fet". Loosely translated this means, "sauerkraut and pork makes the German people fat!"

On another occasion, Mr. Greenway had a horse that was badly wire cut. He thought the only humane thing to do was to shoot the horse so asked Dad to do the job. Dad said that he could heal the horse so Mr. Greenway gave him the animal. Not only did "Tony" recover but served the Hasz's for many years, especially taking the children to school.

Ike was visiting with neighbors one Good Friday while the rest of the family went to church. He and some of the boys were amusing themselves by shooting gophers. One of the boys handed the gun to Ike and it accidently discharged and shot his horse, Bess. She dropped dead immediately and Ike was shocked and upset. She had been a family pet, especially to the twins, Elsie and Edna. The girls wandered the fields, crying and looking for Bess' body, yet dreading to find it and facing up to the horror that she was actually quite dead.

One time, the twins were riding the horse when they were supposed to be doing chores. Edna accidentally fell off and had her eye hurt quite badly. They couldn't tell Mother how it had happened, so cooked up a story about Elsie pushing Edna from the hayloft. Elsie had a good licking and Edna had her eye cared for. The following day, Edna's eye was still very sore and she was lying listlessly around, so Mother was quite irate with Elsie and said she would give her another whipping. Elsie confessed then that they had been riding Bess and so Mother became cross with Edna as well and threatened to punish her for lying. Elsie begged her not to as she and her twin were so close to one another, when one suffered, the other did too.

Elsie's parents were Christian parents and took the children to church and Sunday School. She remembers attending services at the German United church in Hanna and is thankful for this heritage.

Mom Hasz baked great quantities of doughnuts and cookies. Elsie has preserved the recipe for ammonia cookies, which were left to rise overnight and were baked first thing in the morning. What a pleasant aroma to wake up to; freshly baked cookies. The recipe calls for ten cents worth of ammonia so it is difficult to make them today with our inflationary food costs.

Mom sewing long hours for the family, was a common sight. She didn't need a pattern to turn out attractive garments.

Dad loved to hunt coyotes and often would take Mom along on these outings. He had two or three hounds and often returned with several coyotes. He was a great horseshoe fan and was always ready for a game if he could find someone to play with.

Our days on the farm were happy ones. We didn't have much money but took pleasure in the simple, everyday things which, after all are the most meaningful.

WILLIAM HILLER and FAMILY, By Fred Johnston — The Hillers were among the many families who immigrated to these parts from the eastern countries of Europe in 1927. They settled on a farm in the Bull Pound area south of Hanna. Due to the drought conditions there they came to the Weakley place,

across the fence and south of Jack Young, in the spring of 1930. To this day it is still called the Hiller place.

Emil the oldest, Alma, Lena and Tillie went the one mile to the school. With only a small amount of land to farm and the persistance of the drought, they trekked [illegible] Fawcett, Alberta in the spring of 1934. There were seven girls and three boys in the family and they are living in various parts of Alberta and B.C.

Blanche and Fred Johnston and their family. Eileen Corry, Fred and Rayford.

FRED W. JOHNSTON SR., By Fred Johnston Jr. — On a chilly afternoon in October of 1919, Fred Johnston came out to the farm with Jack Corry on a load of lumber. He had been here earlier with W. C. Sterling, land locator of Hanna, who had shown him around. Dad bought the north half of 24-33-14 from "Old Man Strode," through the Soldier Settlement Board. Six horses, one cow and the machinery were included in the purchase price. This land had been Ben Bunce's homestead.

Dad had served overseas in World War I, with the railway troops. After returning, he and George Forster were guarding military supplies on Vancouver's wharves. Many attempts to be demobilized ended in failure. They were discharged, however, when they professed a keen desire to go farming.

The winter of 1919-1920 was a severe one. Farmers and their livestock suffered many hardships that winter. As the winter wore on the unthreshed crops and the old straw stacks were commanding premium prices. To make matters even worse, cattle prices fell to disastrous lows. Proceeds when the animals were sold didn't pay for their feed.

Spring eventually came and Dad was ready to make his fortune farming. With a lot of free advice, encouragement, and desire on his part, it's not surprising that he got fouled up at the start, but not for long! He had to make four passes at the gate before he got his six horse outfit through it. During his batching days, Sandy and Mrs. Donaldson were very good friends of his. They lived a mile across section 19 and many a meal Dad had with them. Of course he was only one of many bachelors who enjoyed this Scottish couple's hospitality. When Dad and Mom got married in February of 1924, he didn't have the excuse to go there as often as he had before. However, their friendship continued until the Donaldsons passed away.

Mom, who was Blanche Pope, had come from North Carolina in 1918 to keep house for her brother, Mark.

During the early twenties there were very few threshing machines in the country. Dad became a shareholder of a threshing syndicate called Garden Plain Threshers.

After harvest and during the winter months he, along with many other farmers of this area, would haul his grain to Hanna or to Bonar. With the thermometer registering well below zero on many occasions, it was a long cold trip. Well bundled in a fur cap and fur coat, he walked many of those miles behind the

sleigh. Those trips were greatly shortened when first Scapa and then Garden Plain acquired elevators.

After he had bought the place he had been warned that there was no water to speak of there. The well drilled by Frank Ruppert yielded about a barrel a day. The slough usually provided enough water for livestock during the summer. However, [illegible] the winter, what few cattle we had would have to be driven to a well one mile west. Dad then built a well drilling machine. A hole big enough to take a two inch pipe was punched down, all the while flushing the mud out with high pressure water. If you were successful in reaching water, a two inch pipe was pounded down the hole and served the same function as a well casing. Then the well could [illegible] developed. During dad's many attempts at drilling for water as many [illegible] four seams of coal would be encountered on the way down. Some coal seams would be as much as seven feet thick. In the interim, dad put down a good well at Garden Plain school and another for Billy Wagner.

This same Billy Wagner was helping when dad drilled the last hole on this place. The water used in the sump disappeared down the hole, a sure sign of water. Billy considered himself a good dowser, so taking his forked twig [illegible] hand proceeded to find the stream. Both he and dad were elated that a good stream had been found as the twig kept turning. Billy walked around in his stocking feet and the wand was performing miracles. However, when it was developed, the well had no more water in it than the others. [illegible] the meantime, water was being hauled by tank at regular intervals from Jensen's. If dad was [illegible] continue farming he had to get a place with water on it. In the spring of 1930 he rented from Hills the farm that we live on today, the NE-36-32-14.

About 1926, the folks bought a DeForest Crosley radio. It kept someone on the road getting the wet battery charged! The squeaks and squeals emitted didn't deter them from enjoying it. People boasted about the programs heard from clear-channel on distant stations, especially when weather conditions were right. A close neighbor also owned a radio with which he was constantly experimenting, by adding special gadgets. You knew exactly when his set was turned on because of the interference. Dad always claimed that this amateur had a transmitter instead of a receiver.

While living at the "North Place", Fred Jr., Rayford and Eileen were born. Our sister Edna was born in 1932, but passed away in 1944.

After our move we could keep a few milk cows. Mom also raised a lot of Leghorn chickens and turkeys. The first few years as many as three incubators were used to hatch the eggs. When the roosters were big enough they were butchered and sold as fryers. A lot of eggs were sold to keep things going.

Just before Christmas the turkeys were butchered. As many other people also raised turkeys they would go from place [illegible] place killing and plucking them. Dad became very efficient at "sticking" turkeys so that feathers would be easy to pull. Before he acquired the knack of sticking, an experience [illegible] Donaldson's convinced him that he was probably as good as those who were trying to do the job. Mrs. Donaldson was scared out of her wits when a supposedly dead bird got up and started walking around inside the house!

The dead birds would be hauled into Hanna, usually by sleigh but sometimes by car if the roads were open. On one of these trips with the model "T", the radiator froze. To help thaw it out, Dad covered the radiator with his fur coat. When the steam hit the coat it shrunk it so badly, dad was unable to wear it again!

The first car we owned was this same Model T. Dad in his travels had acquired considerable knowledge of gas engines, which proved valuable through the years. Model T's were temperamental [illegible] the best of times but ours never let

him down. In the winter he would jack up one back wheel, pour hot water through the block and give the crank a few spins. Always it would go. Mom learned to drive this car and it always brought her home. She has been driving ever since. Of all the cars Dad owned, his favorite was the Model A.

Dad farmed with horses until 1939 when he acquired an old cross mounted Case, 15-27 model, which was his initiation to power farming. That old tractor taxed his mechanical knowledge to the limit. However, he prevailed, and with spare parts he got from Whaleys he used it until he got a better one.

After the threshing syndicate folded several different men threshed his crops. Among them were Bill McLaren, Roy Bartman and Fred Whaley.

There were only two crops in this country, the one in 1923 and next year's. The crop of 1927 was hailed out and Dad had no insurance. Many hail insurance companies went broke that year. He was hailed out a few times after that but was better able to stand the loss.

In 1932 Dad spent most of the summer building a barge. He hired a young lad from Vancouver who had come with Stuart McRae, to operate the barge. Just before the lad left to go back to school, he announced he was going to harness a horse. Thinking he was taking a long time to do the job, dad went to see how [illegible] was getting along. He had put the collar on upside down and insisted that was the way it should go.

There was a couple of years when folks around here, including dad, stacked their short crops to cut down on expenses. Dad bought a Case threshing machine in 1940. It was used for many years to thresh ours as well as the neighbors' crops.

Shortly after arriving in this country, dad joined the old U.F.A. From then on he was actively involved in many projects for the betterment of the community. Eventually he became Secretary-treasurer of the Garden Plain Local and served in that capacity for more years than anyone else. Through the sustained efforts of the farmers' movement, the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed, of which [illegible] was an original contract signer. In the interim he found time to serve twenty-five years as a director of the Hanna Co-op store and the Hanna Municipal Hospital. He also served as a trustee for both Garden Plain and Alps school districts. When Sullivan Lake Rural Electrical Association was formed in 1952, dad became its first Secretary-Treasurer.

Feeling that it was time to quit and because of failing eyesight, he retired from active participation in most of these organizations, but still showed a keen interest [illegible] them. As he was now unable to drive, Mom had to take the wheel, but even at that, Saturday was still his day in town. After doing what business had to be done, he would head for the "corner" to meet the boys.

Dad was born in Moneymore, County Down, Ireland in 1884. America was the land of opportunities, to which he immigrated at the age of fifteen. With stops at Philadelphia and Seattle he came to Vancouver, B.C., in 1911. He had many jobs, but the two he spoke about mainly were helping on the grade for the Grand Trunk Railway, forerunner of the C.N.R., and working at the many jobs involved with the forest industry of that province.

After celebrating fifty-one years of married life, he passed away in February, 1975 in his ninety-first year and is interred at the Netherby cemetery.

Mom, with a growing family [illegible] care for, didn't get too involved in community affairs. As the family got bigger she and dad would take us to picnics, to dances, [illegible] card parties and to Hugh McLarens.

Having been able [illegible] drive for many years, she thinks nothing of going to Drumheller, Brooks and Lacombe. For the past few years Mom has been a

member of the Dundee Women's Institute. She looks forward to the monthly meetings and activities which the organization promotes in the community.

Rayford, Mavis, Shelley and Lee Johnston.

RAYFORD JOHNSTON — I was born March 9, 1926 at the Hanna Municipal Hospital. I lived in the Garden Plain district for four years until our family moved south to the Alps district in the spring of 1930. The day we moved it rained cats and dogs.

My schooling began in March 1932 a few days after my sixth birthday. I took all of my schooling at Alps school. There were some good and bad days at school. I had a look at the strap, stood in corners and sat under desks. Some of the things I was in on were burning grass in the toilet holes or in gopher holes, and taking a neighbor girl's cap and putting it under a rock a mile and a half down the road from the school. One afternoon the teacher decided on a nature walk. Half of the kids got ahead of the teacher and I was one of them. Seeing a dust storm approaching, the teacher and those pupils with her turned back. When the storm hit we took shelter in an old shack. We got back to the school at 4:30 and the teacher was waiting for us. For punishment we had to "stay in" for one week's recesses.

We had a terrible road to go to school on. I think it was the worst road in Alberta. It was very hilly and the snow would be belly deep on the horse. My brother and I rode double in the saddle for nearly two years. When my sister started school we went with a two-wheeled cart pulled by the same horse named Brownie. This horse took all four of our family to school from 1931 until the day the last of us quit in 1945.

The hours before and after school were no picnic either. There were always lots of chores but the one I dreaded most was churning. I was also assigned the job of getting in the horses in the morning, giving them a feed of oats and harnessing them while the rest of the family milked the cows, fed the calves and made breakfast.

In the depression years our summer holidays were spent herding turkeys to clean the grasshoppers out of the potato patch, and trapping gophers for their tails. The money we got for their tails we used to buy our fall school supplies. Also we had to weed the trees, which to me seemed acres.

As I got older, I did a lot of stooking for my Dad and the neighbors. When I was fourteen years of age I was given a bundle team to help thresh with Dad's outfit.

I went out working a few times after I quit school. I worked for Bill McLaren off and on for two years. I also worked for Marion Wright, Jim McClusky, Jack Corry and Arley Chidley. I did everything from washing my own underwear to cleaning eggs.

In the spring of 1946 my brother Freddie and I rented Harry Bartman's place. In 1952 Freddie bought land of his own and I rented Harry's place by myself. Next, I purchased a quarter of land from Bill McLaren which was close to my Dad's place. That quarter was Bill's original homestead.

In November 1955 I married Mavis Durand from east of Spondin. We moved my folk's first house from the north place, renovated it and lived in their yard.

We purchased the James McDonald Taylor place from Ben Taylor, built a house and moved there in the spring of 1961.

We have two children, a girl Shelley and a boy Lee, who attend school in Hanna.

After living here fifty-one years I guess I am getting to be an old timer myself. Life has been good to me and I've enjoyed it.

GROWING UP ON THE FARM, by Fred Johnston — My earliest recollections are of moving from the North Place to where we now live. It was a cold spring day in 1930. Mom, Rayford, Eileen and I came in the Model T. Dad, Fred Blaxhall and Billy Wagner brought wagons loaded with furniture, chickens and whatever else could be loaded. We brought our cats in the car, but they all went back. We rented and continued to do so until we bought in 1946. There were two good wells and a spring on the new place, something which were totally unavailable on the old one.

As I was approaching school age the folks purchased a saddle horse, Brownie from Lovedays. The very first time I rode him he "wiped me out" going under the clothesline; nor was it to be the last time, for he had a habit of shying unexpectedly and unseated whatever kid or kids were on his back. By the time Rayford, Eileen and Edna were going to school, Brownie was being driven in a two-wheeled cart that Dad had made out of the old car. Yet he continued his bad habit of shying, more so when he met a car. However he was still going strong when the last of us were through school. We travelled to school in the winter time in a cutter. Some winters the roads were nearly impassable and the school was as cold inside as out. The janitor was usually the teacher. They did the best they could under the circumstances but it seemed it was a losing battle. Except for chilblains, frost bitten noses and fingers, we survived and were healthier for it.

In the spring we used to find Tiger Lilies growing in a number of places, but I haven't seen one for years. Our school sitting on top of a big hill afforded us the opportunity of tobogganing and sledding during the noon hour. Occasionally we could do some skating on nearby sloughs. The usual summer sports such as softball were played by everyone; getting together any semblance of a team forced us to use the best to the poorest players, as our school hadn't too many pupils at any time. One year, we got a football. We must have punished ourselves or it too roughly, for the bladder burst and that was the end of that.

I stayed home to help Dad on the farm after I quit school. I never got to drive horses very much but did a lot of work with the old Case tractor. During the war years the opportunity of driving a bundle team was forced upon me. One incident I recall happened in the fall of 1945, when our outfit threshed for Stewart McRae. We were hoping to finish the fall run that day, and although the skies clouded over, luckily no rain fell. We did finish by seven that evening and when the lights of the machines were turned off we were literally in the dark. The faint coal oil lamp in Stewart's window showed the general direction of the buildings. What a calamity! Rigs were running into the fences, ripping wire off, but eventually we got out of the field to meet more trouble. A rig or two fell into the creek with the teamsters getting wet feet. We did get to the barn eventually and put our teams away. On the way to the house Hughie Riddle fell in an old dugout in the side of the bank. When we got to the house, Mamie Cattanach who was cooking, as Stewart was not married yet, wondered what all the commotion was about.

In the summer of 1947 Rayford and I purchased a new one-ton Ford truck. Some of the neighbors hired us to haul their wheat to the elevators, coal from Pahl's mine and hogs to Hanna on shipping day.

About 1950 Rayford and I took over as telephone repair linemen for the Trunk

Line along the Castor Trail as well as the Garden Plain Mutual (Line 10). There were five and later six lines on portions of thirteen miles to look after, as well as thirteen on line ten. Repairs such as untangling and splicing wires, setting up poles, and telephone box maintenance were part of our job. Trouble with the line frequently happened after a violent wind storm. Electrical storms were most troublesome, especially so after the combination magneto-dial phones were installed. We were forever inserting new carbons [illegible] the 98A arrestors or hanging new lead-ins, as the lightning would burn the wires. We always used an ohm meter to test the lines, but occasionally the meter would throw us off completely. When this occurred we had to make a guess as to the cause of the trouble. Sometimes we spent hours on just a little thing. There were no regrets when the underground system was ploughed in.

Eileen married [illegible] 1948 and Raylord in 1956. This left me home with the folks. About this time I started to play for dances with Herb Wimmer, Bud Hanson and Jack McLaren. When Jack left to teach in Edmonton, we had several musicians at different times playing with us. Gradually I got interested in the activities of various organizations which Dad belonged to. I have since taken over some of his directorships and added a few of my own. These along with my farming operations keep me occupied.

Mom and I live in a new house which I built in 1973. It is more spacious and comfortable than the old one which started out as Charlie Doran's homestead shack in 1909, with the bigger addition put on in 1913. Through all the years it has been home for several families but especially so the Johnstons. After sixty years it deserves to be turned out to pasture.

FRED MILLER STORY, By Emma Miller Mason — Our parents, Fred and Salome, with five children came from Besserabia, Roumania in 1927 [illegible] the Lone Butte district. In 1936 we moved to the Scape district. By that time our family had increased to six girls and three boys. [illegible] 1937 the last of our family, a girl, was born.

We attended Alps school, with Mrs. Lucy McLaren being one of our first teachers. We remember going to school in the winter [illegible] a closed cutter, pulled by a team [illegible] horses, and in the spring and fall walking two and a half miles, or riding a horse, especially Katy, our Shetland pony.

Recess and noon hours were very memorable as we did numerous fun things such as tobogganing down the east side of the school hill, skating and playing hockey on a nearby slough, playing fox and goose, prisoner's base, and when the snow went we played scrub until the end of June. Two highlights of the school year consisted of the Christmas concert — putting on a program of plays, singing, Santa Claus and exchanging of gifts — and at the end of the term we always looked forward to a picnic with Netherby and Garden Plain schools.

Our last year [illegible] school at Alps there were only seven pupils — Donnie McLaren, Emma Miller, Alan Hemstock, Greta Greenway, Emil Miller, Vera Miller and Marilyn McLaren. We felt very sad when the school closed down, and [illegible] 1946 we had to go to Weise School, which was four miles from our place.

The purchase of something new was usually an exciting and happy event in the family. One such occasion was when we acquired our first tractor, a new 1944 rubber-tired John Deere. We all had to have a turn riding on it, but after a few runs down the road, it refused to go. Not knowing very much about this marvelous invention we tried pushing it and choking it. After much excitement, we discovered it was out of gas.

Harvesting was always a big undertaking. After cutting with horse binders and stooking were all done, along came the threshing crew consisting of a tractor

and separator, with an operator, six or eight men with teams of horses and bundle racks. Preparing meals for them was like feeding an army. They were always very hungry as they worked very hard picking bundles and shovelling grain. The men were put up for the night, sleeping in the hay loft of the barn.

Fred Miller Family Reunion, July 1961. Back Row, left to right: Otto, Cecile, Ella, Alma, Walter, Emma, Emil and Vera. Seated: Lily, Dad, Mom, Hilda.

Lily married Dan Faechner. They live at Craigmyle and have four children and five grandchildren.

Cecile married Jack Cunningham and lives in Belleville, Ontario. They have two children.

Alma married George Anderson. They live in Aldergrove, B.C. and have two children.

Walter married Carol Johnston. They had four children. Walter passed away in 1961.

Hilda is married to Alex McMullen. They live in Edmonton. They have five children and one grandchild.

Ella married George Miholiuk. They live in Vancouver and have one daughter.

Otto lives on the home farm at Scapa.

Emil married Rema Lovell. They live in Jasper and have three children.

Emma married Albert Mason. They live [illegible] Delia and have three children.

Vera married Jim King. They live [illegible] Camrose and have two girls.

Mom and Dad retired and moved to Hanna in 1956. Dad passed away [illegible] March, 1963 at the age of 69. Mom passed away in July, 1972 at the age of 77.

ADOLPH KIEST FAMILY — Compiled by Fred Johnston — Adolph, his older brother Rudolph and their parents left Roumania in 1928 for Canada. They came to Alberta and farmed the George Block place. Adolph's sister, Mrs. G. Schmidt, her husband and family arrived here in 1927.

Adolph married Erma Gartner, a neighbour girl, in 1936 and they took over the Block farm when Adolph's parents moved [illegible] Hanna.

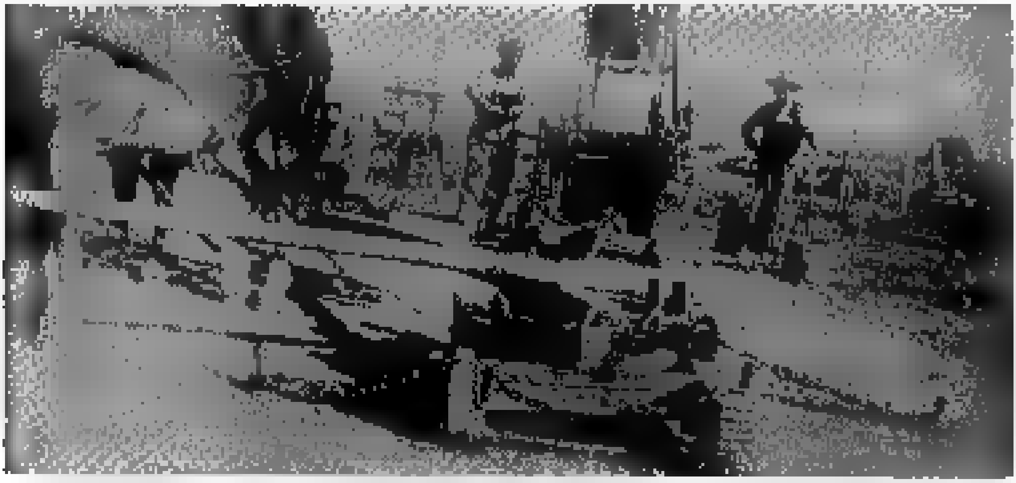
In 1945 the Kiest family moved to Wetaskiwin where Erma's parents had

resided since 1939. There were five children [illegible] the family at this time. Ruby, the eldest, had started school at Alps with Mrs. McLaren as teacher. The other children were Richard, Gary, Rodney and Kathy.

About 1951 the Kiesl's moved to a farm at Sangudo where the youngest, Linda, was born. They retired from farming in 1961 and moved to Edmonton, residing there until 1967. Then they moved to Vancouver but rain and strikes forced the Kiesl's back to sunny Alberta in 1976.

The children are [illegible] grown and married. There are numerous grandchildren. Ruby died in 1972. The Kiesls now reside in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

JOE SLEPECKA, By Fred Johnston — A tall muscular man by the name of Joe Slepecka came into this area at the time the Hanna to Warden railway line was being built. He worked on the many fills and grades, using his own outfit of horses. An Estonian by birth, he had originally homesteaded in the Sunnynook area in 1911. Joe fully understood the hardships and privations of trying to eke out a living on his homestead. While living [illegible] Sunnynook he bought a well-boring machine and bored many wells. He brought it to this area, drilling a few wells, staying where he was working as long as he could. [illegible] one neighbor's well he struck a rock which couldn't be removed. This meant a trip to Drumheller for some dynamite. Joe had it placed as far back in the truck as he could get it, always fearful that [illegible] might go off accidentally. Back again at the well-site he was lowered into the well which was a mere twenty-two inches in diameter. With very little room to maneuver, and considering that Joe was no small man, he got the job done. Sometimes he was unsuccessful and had to start over again. He also worked out for others in the neighborhood.



Joe Slepeka's horse driven well drilling machine. Joe is standing on the right.

About 1956 he bought the Berg homestead, the SW 3-33-14, from a Mortgage company and erected a small shack. [illegible] burnt down on him so he had to build another. He bought the Alps teacherage and had it moved onto the place as well. He left some of his horses at Sunnynook until he bought the Berg place. To show the respect that the horses had for him, [illegible] trailed most of them in without the benefit of halter or rope.

His pride and joy was his irrigated garden, especially his potatoes. They were always planted when the moon was right. He dug a root cellar in the side of a hill in which he placed all his vegetables. Joe was laughingly known as the "Potato King".

Joe was a withdrawn, lonely man, one who never forgot, and a habitual snuff user. He walked many miles and it was not unusual to see him roaming the country at night. Many times [illegible] left at 4 a.m. and would be in Hanna before anyone had gone to work. He usually caught a ride home, bringing such supplies as he needed, and a big roll of discarded newspapers which he tried to read. It was known that [illegible] could not write. He listened to his radio a lot. In the spring of 1963 [illegible] sold his horses and retired to a small house in Hanna. In 1967, after a short illness, he passed away in the Hanna Hospital and was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

EMIL and RUBY SIEPPERT — We were married in June 1952. Lonnie was born on October 14, 1956. We farmed the David Rust land eighteen miles south of Hanna in the Parr district until the fall of 1956 when it was sold to the Hutterite Colony. We bought the McLaren land in the spring of 1957.

The McLaren house had been moved [illegible] Hanna so we bought the Alps school which was near by. We moved into the school in June 1957. We had an early snow [illegible] September that year; it blocked our road for awhile. We finished redoing the basement of the house and moved into it on October 14, 1957. The following summer we had difficulty keeping the rain from getting into the basement because the shell of the house was not yet set up. In 1960 we moved Alps school into our yard and it is now being used as a garage.

Lonnie's first year of school was at Netherby. He completed his education in Hanna and graduated in 1974.

JIM and VERA SCHUMAKER — Vera Noyce and Jim Schumaker were married in Calgary in November of 1946. Vera grew up on her parents' farm and had taken her schooling at Alps, Dundee and Hanna. She was employed in Calgary where she met Jim, who was also employed there. Jim grew up on his parents' farm at Didsbury, and had served in the Navy during World War II. In the spring of 1957, they and their four children loaded up an old International truck and came to take over the farm of Vera's parents, the C. W. Noyce place. They were the first people to have a television set in this area, having brought theirs out from Calgary.

Jim and Vera raised grain, cattle and pigs. They also had a flock of geese. The geese swam on the big slough south of the house. When feeding time came Jim would call and the geese would take to their wings. After a half mile flight they would come circling to an awkward landing right in front of you. It was then that you had to step back or suffer the consequences.

Randy, who had attended school in Calgary, had [illegible] walk a mile to catch the bus to go to the new two-roomed Netherby school. [illegible] was then that a high grade road was built to accommodate the bus. Catherine, Daryl, and Rhonda went when they became of age. While Schumakers lived here two more children, Allan and Linda were born.

While they were on the farm, the first snow storm of the season would always block their road. Jim said that he was going to a place where he didn't have to shovel snow anymore, just watch it run down the ditch. In the spring of 1963 Jim and Vera had an auction sale. The land was divided three ways and was sold to Rudy Annas, Otto Miller and Norman Greenway. They went to Victoria, B.C. where Jim had been stationed during the war.

Randy and Catherine are married. Daryl and Rhonda are on their own. Allan and Linda are at home.

SMART STORY, By Glen Smart — The Smart family moved to the Hanna area from Oyen in 1933. As our father had been killed in a well accident in 1930, our mother's father, Mr. Harley [illegible]ll, came to live with us and moved with us to Hanna. The family consisted of Mother, Mrs. Bernice Smart, and her children, Helen, Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy and Melvin. Our first home was the Stirling place, two miles north of Hanna. Some of the children attended school at Silver Valley.

We used to have get-togethers at the Howard Kern's dairy farm along with the Parkers, Curtis and the Hanna hospital girls; lots of music and fun. After a time we moved to the Gwin place about six miles north of Hanna, and attended school at Antelope Hill. We moved from the Gwin place to the Henry Brown farm where we attended school at Garden Plain.

Our Mother met Albert Sim in 1937 and they were married in 1938. We moved from the Brown place to the John Sim place which was to be our home for some time. We were soon blessed with a baby brother Harry Sim, born in 1938, bringing the number of children in our family to seven. We went to Scapa school from the Sim place. In 1939 Stanley Sim was born, but he passed away at the age of three months. He was buried in the Netherby Cemetery. We were fortunate to have a lot of good neighbors: Temples, Brunners, Wiens, Gauglers, Millers and Fechoes, the list could go on and on. Our family used to play for local dances held at schools and halls in the Scapa and Hanna area. Helen went to Calgary to work, met Steve Varro and soon became Mrs. Varro. They make their home in Calgary. Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy, Melvin and Harry all worked around home for neighboring farmers. When Glenn was nineteen he joined the armed forces in Calgary and completed his basic training at Camrose and his advanced training in Halifax. After a brief visit home to Hanna on a farm leave he went overseas completing training in Aldershot, England. He was with the troops who disembarked in France on June 6, 1944. He was wounded at Nymegen, Holland on November 27, 1944, spent several months in hospital in Antwerp, Belgium, and rejoined his outfit just as they were moving into Germany. When the war was over, he was stationed in Utrecht, Holland where he met a Dutch girl who soon became his wife. He returned to Canada and was discharged March 19, 1946. Donald married Muriel Stubbs (Dubbie) in 1946; Howard married Edith McMillan of Stettler in 1947; Daisy married Ken Smith of Ponoka in 1951; in 1947, Melvin married Christine Arth; in 1960, Harry Sim married Leanna Severdal.

Our parents had moved to Edmonton while Glenn was overseas, so on his return to Canada he made his home in Edmonton as well. Glenn and wife went to Hanna in 1946, to farm the Sim farm, and he also worked on the railroad for a while. Our son was born in Hanna Hospital in 1947 and in October of that year we moved back to Edmonton, which has been our home since. Four more sons and daughters were born in Edmonton.

CLYDE BLOCK — In 1910 Clyde Block came as a youngster with his parents the W. B. Blocks, his older brother George, and his sister Gertrude from Washington. He attended Alps and Solon schools.

In 1917 his father traded the homestead for a farm [illegible] Spokane, Washington. The Block family lived in the States for a few years, then came back to this area. Clyde, who was married by this time, came as well. He farmed the Hahn place on which the Royalton school was built. He moved to the Aubry Crowe farm in the Dundee district, then about 1934 he farmed the old Pete Olsen place on section 12-33-14. While here they milked cows for a living. They liked to attend the pickup ball games and go to dances, especially the ones at Hugh McLaren's. Clyde was like his brother George, a jovial sort of person.

Their son, Gayle was a small boy at the time, and while Slocks were on the Olsen place they had a daughter. They left here later on for a farm farther north in the Bluffton area. Clyde died in 1972, his wife in 1973. Gayle lives in Calgary and the rest of the family are scattered.

THE FOLLOWING LIVED IN THE DISTRICT, BUT VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM.

BENJAMIN F. WEAKLY — Benjamin Weakley was an early pioneer who came with his wife and family in 1910 to the NE 27-32-14 to homestead. He was one of the first trustees of the newly built Alps school. Their children were among the first pupils of the school. They moved to the States about 1917.

WILLIAM FRED HOWELL, By Helen Jensen Northey — Another of the early pioneers, Fred Howell, accompanied by his family, homesteaded the SE 12-33-14 in 1909. They kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail. The two children, Jack and Margaret were among the first pupils of the Alps school. The family left in 1914 for the States.

LEVERETT O. FRASER, By Fred Johnston — L. O. Fraser and family, originally from Prince Edward Island, homesteaded in 1909 across the road from Jack Young on the SW 35-32-14. L. O. and Jack Young broke the prairie sod for some of the early settlers. In 1914 they left for Calgary where L. O. worked for the city's street car system. In 1922 Frasers went to Kamloops, B.C. where L. O. took charge of Pat Burns' slaughter house. Shortly after arrival he, his daughter Olive and son Leverett were accidently drowned in the Thompson River. Mrs. Fraser, the sole survivor, accompanied the bodies back to Prince Edward Island where she remained to live.

WILLIAM E. RICKETTS — William E. Ricketts homesteaded on the south half of 33-32-14 and his son, Ivan C. Ricketts on the NW 28-32-14. They came as homesteaders in 1910. Besides Ivan there was in the family, Ilene, the youngest daughter, who was of school age, and a married sister who lived with her family in Calgary. W. E. built a big house on his place and by sliding a panel out of the way, a large side room could be made. Many dances and parties were held here in the early days. Ivan called the square dances. Often people would dance till daybreak before going home. Sometimes the Ricketts served breakfast for the weary dancers.

W. E. Ricketts threshing outfit, 1916. Left to Right: [illegible] Williams, Earl and Mrs. Himmelreich, Bill Sim, leaning on cook car, Bryon Massey, Harry Himmelreich; leaning on barrel, Ivan Ricketts, foreground is Gillis Brown, background is L. Hall, W. E. Ricketts, John McLaren and Walter Hall.

Ivan became the first secretary-treasurer of the Alps school. He married Ada, a sister of Walter Hill who lived just north of Solon school. The young couple moved to the Chas. Doran place vacated by the McLarens. Ivan became pound keeper for the municipality while living here. The Ricketts left these parts during the war, presumably for the States.

M. M. BERG — M. M. Berg homesteaded the SW 3-33-14. He and his wife came from somewhere west of the Red Deer River in 1910. They lived in a small shack. They proved up and then went back where they had come from.

GALLIDAY BROTHERS — The Galliday brothers, Homer and Isaac came in 1910. Homer on the SE 2-33-14 and Isaac the SE 13-33-14. Homer proved up, sold out [illegible] Charlie Noyce very early. His shack was moved into Noyce's yard where it sat for many years. Isaac also proved up but the land eventually went to the municipality, as it was a very poor quarter, mostly hardpan. It is now part of a grazing lease.

E. E. KAMM, By Fred Johnston — Edward Erick Kamm and family from the States were early settlers [illegible] the area coming in 1909 to homestead the south half of 27-32-14. Ed senior was elected first chairman of the Alps school, but died before it was built. His wife, his two boys Fred and [illegible] Jr. and daughter Edina, left [illegible] 1914 for Auburn, Washington.

ALBERT E. TUMELSON, By Fred Johnston — The Tumelson family were late comers [illegible] the district, coming from the States to homestead in 1917. They homesteaded B. [illegible]. Weakley's pre-emption which he had failed to prove up, the NW 27-32-14. Obie and Clinton attended the Alps school. Tumelsons stayed here long enough to prove up and then returned to Post Falls, Idaho.

PETER F. OLSEN, By Helen Jensen Northey — Pete Olsen was another early pioneer coming in 1909 to a South African Scrip, the East half of 30-31-13. He homesteaded the NE 12-33-14 [illegible] 1912, [illegible] later purchased the quarter west of him. I remember as a small child, that as Olsen came from the Garden Plain Post Office and store he brought news of the declaration of World War I. He and Pete Jensen were very good friends and kept [illegible] touch for years. He moved to Nakusp, B.C. where he farmed and died some years ago.

W. H. FOWLER — W. H. Fowler came in 1910 to the SE 4-33-14. A shoemaker by trade, he did not remain long.

EDWIN FRASER — Edwin Fraser homesteaded the NW 25-32-14 in 1911.

THOMAS LEEMAN — Thomas Leeman homesteaded the SW 2-33-14 in the year 1911. He had filed on the NW 35-32-14, the site of the Alps school but he died before he received patent to this land.

IVOR POWELL — Ivor Powell was a bachelor who came in 1915 to NW 33-32-14. He joined the Canadian Army during World War I and went overseas.

JOHN MITCHELL — John Mitchell lived [illegible] SW 4-33-14, a short, moustached Scotchman who was very late in homesteading, coming in 1920. He was a distiller by trade in his native land and while here he had a still and made some very good spirits. He lived in a small shack and was very well read. At the time of his sale about 1935, he had many books and papers. John went back to Scotland [illegible] live.

BOB KENNEDY — Bob Kennedy homesteaded on the SW 25-32-14. Known as "Little Bob Kennedy", he came from Brandon, Manitoba in 1913 with Hugh and Bill McLaren. He proved up and went back ■ Manitoba.

Surprise Party at McLarens, 1916. Back Row, left to right: Hugh McLaren, Mr. H. Lewis, Elbert Pattie, Charlie Stanfield, John McLaren, Andy Glover and Bob Kennedy. Middle Row: Francis Lewis, Valletta Wagner, Louise Knutson, Lillian Wagner, Gertie and Velma Overton. Front Row: Effie McLaren, Joe Zehner, Lizzie Cattanach, Alice Lewis.

THEY TELL THE STORY . . .

. . . about the homesteader who used to take a short cut through the neighbor lady's land. She resented this very much, and one day when he drove up to the gate, she was barring the way. Harsh words were exchanged.

"Get out of the way, you old Irish devil!" he ordered.

She replied, "I'll have you know, you're not talking ■ your mother."

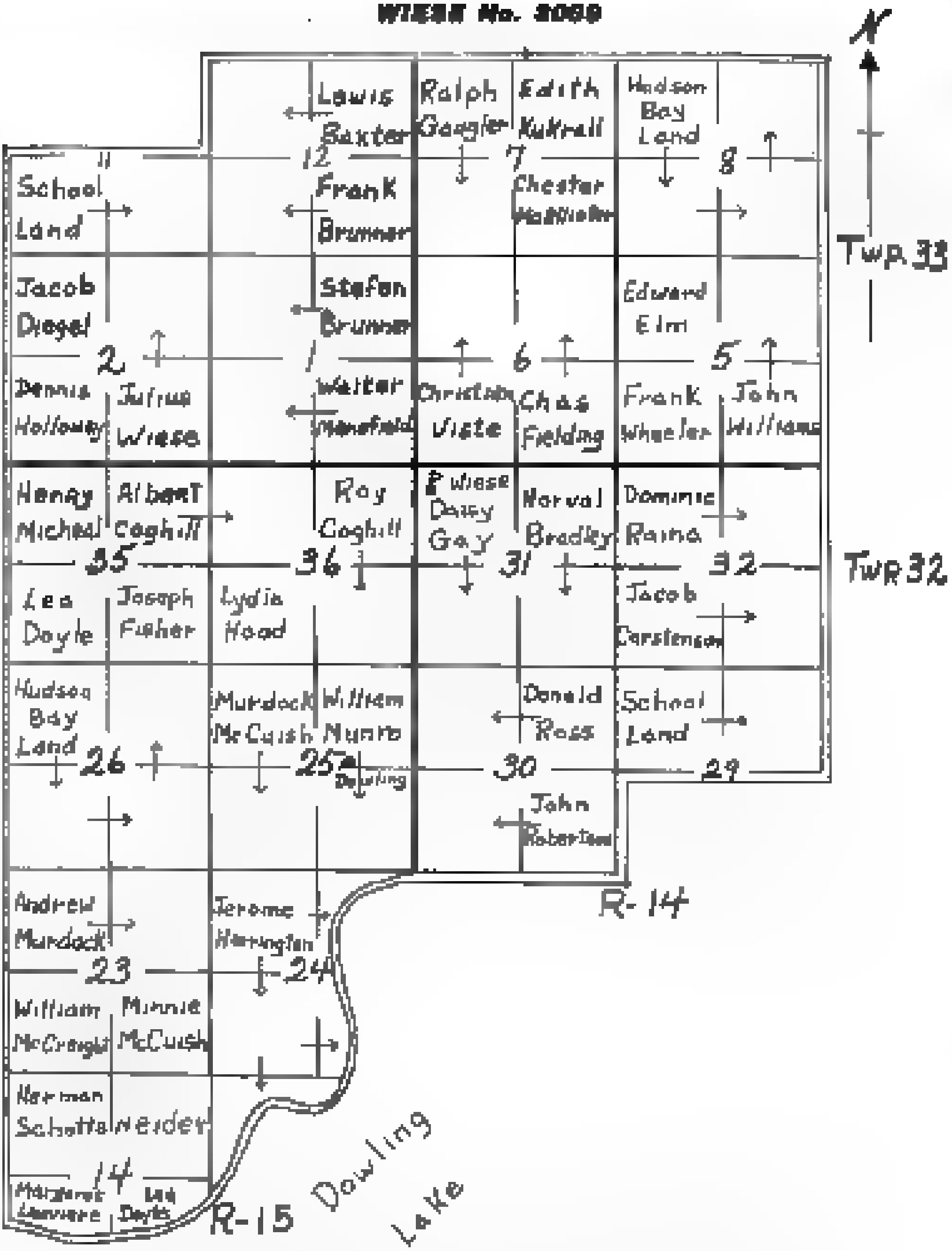
. . . about the Scottish lad who had bought a team, wagon and supplies in Stettler. The owner of the livery stable thought that the lad was taking overly long to harness his team, and enquired what the problem was.

"Is this the way to put the collar on?" the young man asked.

The owner, noting that the collar was on upside down, pushed his hat to the back of his head, thought for a moment, then replied, "Well, some people do."

. . . about the Englishman who rode home from a dance behind the neighbor boy on his motorcycle. Relating the experience later, he said, "Me ears were a-flapping like a piece ■ tar paper between two boards."

WIESE No. 3089



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — WIESE

Following list is the homesteaders, owners or renters who resided on the land and present owners and renters. Renters *

TOWNSHIP 33-15-4
S ½ 1-33-15
W. Mansfield
Sieb*
R. Fecho
A. Fecho

N ½ 1-33-15
S. Brunner
R. Brunner

N ½ 12-33-15
L. Baxter
H. Wimmer

SE ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
Mrs. Lange (estate)
R. Welch*

SW ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
R. Diegel
E. Bohlender*
E. Wolik*
W. Diegel

E ½ 2-33-15
J. Wiese
[illegible]. Wiese
[illegible]. Wiese

NW ¼ 2-33-15
J. Diegel

W. Diegel

SW ¼ 2-33-15
D. Holloway
W. Wiese

TOWNSHIP 32-15-4
S ½ 36-32-15
R. Coghill
A. Fecho

NW ¼ 36-32-15
A. Coghill
L. Wiens

SW ¼ 36-32-15
L. Hood
A. Brunner
L. Wiens

SE ¼ 35-32-15
J. Fisher
L. Wiens

NE ¼ 35-32-15
A. Coghill
Mrs. Coghill
R. Coghill
L. Wiens

NW ¼ 35-32-15
H. Micheal
T. Michead
Fecho & Wiese

SW ¼ 26-32-15
L. Doyle
R. Doyle

E ½ 26-32-15
Hudson Bay
E. Wiens*
F. Baes
Wm. Albright

W ½ 26-32-15

Hudson Bay
Doyle

N ½ 23-32-15
A. Murdock
J. McBurney
F. Baes*
Wm. Albright

SW ¼ 23-32-15
Wm. McCreigh
J. Schultz

SE ¼ 23-32-15
Mrs. McCulsh
J. Schultz

N ½ 14-32-15
H. Schottsneider
Wm. Schottsneider
L. Diegel*
J. Schultz

S ½ 14-32-15
L. Doyle
J. Schultz

Sec. 24-32-15
J. Harrington
J. Schultz

NE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
[illegible] Johnston
P. Viste
S. Viste*
C. Viste (acreage)

SE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
P. Viste
S. Viste*

[illegible] ½ 25-32-15
M. McCulsh

Wm. Albright

TOWNSHIP 32-14-4
N ½ 29-32-14
School Land
R. Annas

S ½ 30-32-14
J. Robertson
A. Fecho

N ½ 30-32-14
D. Ross
[illegible]. Viste
P. Viste
S. Viste*

E ½ 31-32-14
N. Bradley
J. Annas
N. Annas

W ½ 31-32-14
Mrs. Gay
D. Ward
P. & S. Viste*

S ½ 32-32-14
J. Carstensen
H. Viste
H. Annas

N ½ 32-32-14
D. Rains
R. Haessel
N. Annas

TOWNSHIP 33-14-4
E ½ 5-33-14
J. Williams
E. Woelk*
O. Miller

SW ¼ 5-33-14
F. Wheeler

K. Haessel
E. Haessel
R. Welch*
N. Annas

NW ¼ 5-33-14
E. Elm
W. Viste
SE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
H. Annas

SW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
H. Annas

NW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
P. Viste
[illegible]. Viste*

NE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
N. Annas

W ½ 7-33-14
R. Gaugler
W. Viste

NE ¼ 7-33-14
E. Kukrall
A. Tietze
W. Viste

SE ¼ 7-33-14
C. McAllister
W. Viste

S ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
R. Brunner

N ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
R. Wiens

THE WIESE SCHOOL DISTRICT

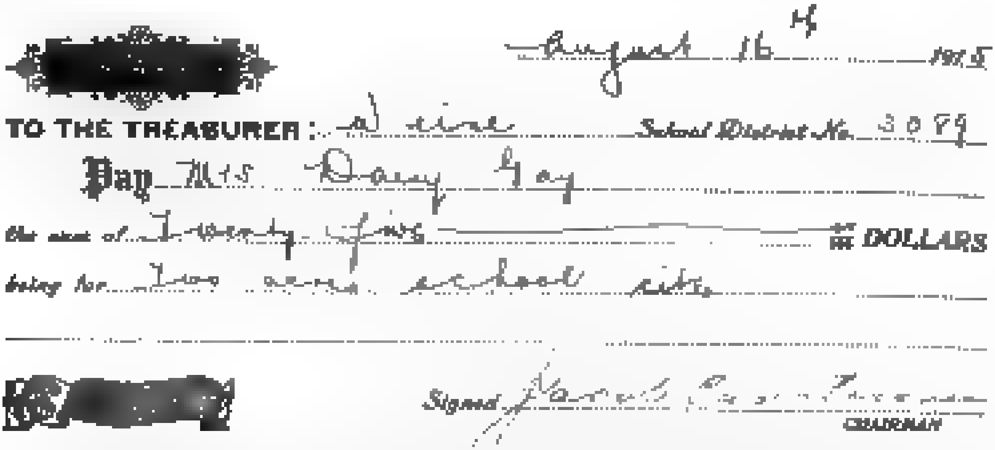
By Freda Viste

The Wiese School as it appears today

The first thing I would like [illegible] do is to acknowledge the foresight of the people who preserved the records from the Wiese School. These have been a valuable source of authentic information [illegible] the compiling of the district's history. This report in particular could not have been done accurately from memory alone.

Before the school was built, the children in the district attended Alps and Chain Lakes schools. When there were enough homesteaders with families, they decided to build their own school. The first meeting was held at the Mansfield home on December 26, 1913, with John Robertson acting as chairman. There were thirteen votes cast, all in

favor of building a school. Five trustees were nominated, Jacob Carstensen (chairman), William Munro (Sec.-treas), Louis Baxter, Donald Ross and Julius Wiese.



August 16th 1915

TO THE TREASURER : Weise School District No. 3089

Pay Mrs Davy Gay

the sum of Twenty-five DOLLARS

being for Two acres school site

Signed Jacob Carstensen
CHAIRMAN

On January 29, 1914, a trustee meeting was held at Chris Viste's. At this time they established the district as "Weise S.D. 3089". The name was chosen the simplest way possible. The family names were all put into a hat, a draw was made, and the slip of paper read Wiese. Somehow when the school was registered and the official seal gotten, it was spelled Weise. This is the way it appears in all the early records and most of the first teachers and students used this spelling.

The site where the school now stands was selected by the trustees, and they had already made arrangements with Mrs. D. Gay to purchase two acres from her. However when the Department of Education became involved, they wanted the school built on a site recommended by the Inspector, Mr. Buchanan. The wheels turned slowly then, as they usually do when there is government involvement. It took almost a year (December 12, 1914) to get the location established, where the board wanted it in the first place, two hundred yards south from the NW corner of 31-32-14.

The school was to be a 22' by 32' structure with a coal shed on the east end. The Callum Bros. got the contract for building and painting the school. The total cost of the building material was $500.00.

At a special trustee meeting on May 26, 1915 they decided to engage Miss Edith Henderson as the first teacher. She was to start teaching on June 2, at a salary of $60.00 per ordinance month. This wasn't an easy undertaking for a young girl from Toronto. As if teaching out on the prairies wasn't enough of a challenge, she married a local rancher, Maldwyn Williams, brought up a family, and continued teaching at intervals at Alpe and Wiese schools. At the age of 86 years she is still the remarkable person she always was, writing and sending in her own story for this book.

Students of the Wiese School, taken in 1928 when Miss Tingle was teaching. Back Row: Avis Alpaugh, Violet Baxter, Emma Schottsneider, Louisa Baxter, Tillie Schottsneider. Third Row: Elma Bartch, Florence Robertson, Rudolph Bohlander. Second Row: Jean Robertson, Phyllis Williams, Gwyneth Williams. First Row: (sitting) Mary Raina, Evelyn Mansfield, Lucy Bartch, John Raina.

Up until about 1930 the school year wasn't established as it is today. The trustees decided when the school opened or closed, basing their decisions on when a teacher was available, or the money to pay her. Often a severe winter meant closing until spring.

Following is a brief account of some of the highlights from 1916 to 1955.

July 28/16 — decided to build a school barn.

January 24/17 — bought piano for school for $60.00

January 15/18 — set aside $25.00 to be awarded to the children at the end of the term for best attendance, obedience and progress in each grade.

October 19/18 — owing to Spanish influenza through the Hanna district no public gatherings be allowed [illegible] the school, notice to be put on door stating same.

October 23/18 — owing [illegible] several cases of influenza in the district, the school to be closed indefinitely.

[illegible] 1919 the following expenses were recorded: teacher (nine months), $900.00; official's salary, $50.00; building expenses, $150.00; caretaking, $70.00; supplies and stationery, $40.00; and fuel, $30.00; total, $1,240.00.

January, 1923 — moved that the school close with the children to attend Alpa and Hudson Bay schools.

January, 1924 — paying tuition to attend other schools not satisfactory so Wiese was to re-open on April 1.

In 1928 there was talk of moving the school but they decided against it. The teaching of grade ten was begun on trial basis and was continued for a number of years.

In 1931 the board began to cut expenses where ever they could. The janitor work was done by the older children in rotation, and the teachers even took their turn. This saved caretaking expenses. The Secretary Treasurer's salary dropped to $5.00 per year and the teacher's salary to $500.00 per year.

1940 — a teacherage was moved in.

February 20/40 — (the last meeting recorded in minute book) One motion read — that the school be repaired and put on a basement and the yard fence be repaired. The next motion read — that we do not agree to the running of a school van to Scapa.

Wiese Students in 1943. Standing, left to right: Martin and Aloys Brunner, Walter and Calton Viste, Frank Lund, John Nelson and Gus Annas, Phillip Brunner, Alfred Brunner, Freda Gaugler, Maria Baas, Margaret Arndt, Harold Fecho, Charlie Annas. Sitting: Helen Brunner, Joan Baas, Betty Lund, Alva and Carol Viste, Raymond Brunner.

By the time school started in September [illegible] 1955 there was a complete turn of events. With ever-decreasing attendance and difficulties [illegible] getting good teachers, pressure was really put on the school board by the Sullivan Lake School Division. There was the promise of a better education [illegible] the centralized school system. So it was with heavy hearts, the board consented [illegible] have the children bussed to Scapa. A new larger school was built there with the idea that this would be the answer to all problems for the large area it served. This was only a dream, for it wasn't long until the Scapa School felt the same pressures as the one-room schools had, and it also succumbed to the wheels of progress. In 1966, with the same promises of a better education, another change was made and the students were [illegible] bussed to Hanna.

The doors of the old Wiese School have remained closed so far as education goes. An occasional passerby enters and jots his name and address on the blackboard, which serves as a guestbook. Even though the foundation is crumbling and it is in much need of repair, those who attended the Wiese School still look at it with pride.

Following is a complete list [illegible] the teachers who taught there from 1915 to 1955 — Edith Henderson, Miss Buchanan, Nora Gray, Ruth Hayter, Winnifred Jones, Genevieve Pokotilo, Mr. J.H. Johnston, Florence Meadows, Mrs. Williams (nee Henderson), Janet McTaggart, Hilda Carswell, Marie Birch, James Blair, Elma Tingle, Agnes Cameron, Mrs. Agnes Temple (nee Cameron), Margrette Nelson, Audrey Neff, Jean Benedict, Helen Hartt, Georgina Abbis, Elsie Peterson, Wilma Smyth, Annetta Harvey, Norma Mellom, Phyllis Morton, Paul Crough, Ernestine Siewert, Isobel Andrews, Florence Robertson (supervisor), Anna Damsgard, Lois Bowles, Don Pound, Jack McLaren, Margery Sugden, and Rod Morissel.

These are the men who served faithfully as trustees on the school board throughout the years: Jacob Carstensen, William Munro, Louis Baxter, Donald Ross, Julius Wiese, Dominic Raina, J.H. Johnston, John Robertson, Ralph Gaugler, Hjalmer Vista, J.M. Williams, Harold Mansfield, Anton Brunner, Harold Lund, Manly Vista, John Auer, [illegible] Pound and Harry Wiese.

Matters which were of real concern then, seem humorous to us now. Here are a few examples: Jean Benedict wrote the board — "What does the school board do about plasticine? Do they supply it or are the pupils to bring it? What do they do about paste or glue? Do the pupils bring their own, the school board supply it or is the teacher supposed [illegible] make the paste with flour?"

A gentleman who was hired [illegible] clean the outdoor privies wrote, "When we tipped the boys' toilet so we could clean it out, the stakes that were holding it down were rotted to such an extent that they couldn't be replaced. The buildings were so rickety that they almost 'collasped' when I laid them down on the side. [illegible] they are not braced they are liable to 'collaspe' any time."

A dispute with the Department of Education about paying the teacher below minimum wage, resulted in the board writing the Minister [illegible] Education, "We will need the assistance of the government to pay the $500.00 that we have agreed to pay the teacher. Under these circumstances [illegible] seems to me that you might save a little money on Mr. McEacheon's salary rather than have him writing useless letters [illegible] the one of August 9.

"The teacher is satisfied with salary offered, and I believe it time the government began to worry a little over the plight of the people who are forced to live here and struggle to pay your minimum salary. The condition of the farmers in this part of the province should be well enough known by now without wasting time and money writing to [illegible] the school secretaries."

From the Inspector's reports: "Water supply; brought by pupils, occasionally." The next year a well had been dug and the report read: "Water supply: Much improved, the well water has a woody taste but it should soon wear off." General Remarks (1920). "The school should be painted outside and kalsomined and brightened up inside. The floor should be painted or oiled. The stable should be painted. The water supply is unsatisfactory. The concrete in the foundation is cracked and should be repaired. Get a flag and flag pole."

A letter of application for a teaching position in 1933, had a recommendation with it from the Principal of Crescent Heights High School, Calgary. He was William E. Aberhart. Another letter of application read, "I am nineteen years of age, have had two years of teaching experience at Spondin School. I ask as salary, $900.00 and high school grant if any high school grades are taught." One teacher trying to collect her wages wrote: "I hope you will not mind me continually asking about it. It really affects my plans so greatly that I hardly know what to do until I am sure. You spoke of the uncertainty of farming. I don't believe it could quite beat this. It's like getting hailed out or expecting an early frost."

Wiese School students, 1932. Back Row: Florence and Jean Robertson, Gwyneth and Phylis Williams, Elma Bartch. Third Row: Annie and Celia Brunner, Lucy Gaugler. Kneeling on left: Fred Fecho. Kneeling on right: Adam Gillies. Sitting in front: Dick Brunner, Willie Gaugler, Frank Brunner, Allan MacKimmie, Donald Fecho.

TEACHING WIESE, 1932-33, By Audrey Neff Yeerick — I first taught school near Chinook where my parents and sister Dorothy, now Mrs. Henry Beach, lived. When they moved to Hanna I looked for a new school near there. As there was a surplus of teachers in 1932 I was very fortunate to be accepted to teach the Wiese School for the 1932-33 term.

It was a very interesting year as I had most of the grades with a large class in Grade 1 and 2 and also some pupils in High School. The children were all pleasant and well-behaved, and enjoyed outside sports including softball.

One new experience for me in teaching that year was having a large class of beginners with two of them speaking only the German language learned at home. It was a real challenge to help them learn English and later to read. I remember placing lettered cards on the door, desk, windows, etc., to assist in this project. Pictures of objects with printed word often helped. They also learned English from the other children at recess and noon. By the end of the year they could read and passed into Grade II with the others.

The following pupils attended Wiese School that year: Florence and Jean Robertson, Alma Bartch, Gwenyth and Phyllis Williams, Lucy and Willie Gaugler, Frank and Dick Brunner, Fred and Donald Fecho, Annie and Celia Brunner, Adam and Georgina Gillies and Allan McKimmie.

For the Christmas concert I remember we all prepared recitations and plays. We also sang Christmas carols while I played the music on a very old piano, but it served the purpose. The parents and others always enjoyed the efforts of the children at the concert.

I stayed at the friendly home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gaugler, and it was a good place to board. Their two children Lucy and Willie walked to school with me, a distance of two miles. A daughter, Freda, about four years old, remained [illegible] home. When it was very cold with below zero temperatures we got a ride [illegible] the school with Mr. Gaugler [illegible] a bob sleigh and sometimes a stone boat.

At holiday time and some weekends I could always depend on a car ride with my Dad, Mr. Charles Neff. He travelled throughout the country, working as an agent selling Life Insurance. He usually took me back to the school but sometimes I had a different ride.

Early Monday morning I would catch the Hanna-Warden train going north. After a half hour ride the train crew stopped the train at the railway crossing near the school and I would get off the train. Then I would walk the short distance to the school, arriving there before 9 a.m. That was an exciting trip and I appreciated the kindness of the train crew.

The next year I taught at Handale School, south-east of Hanna. Later I married Lewis Yearick of that district and we moved to the Edmonton area where we operated a general store. We now live in Edmonton.

Editor's Note: Charles Neff, father of Mrs. Yearick, passed away on March 29 [illegible] the age [illegible] 102 years.

The giant snowman built [illegible] April, 1934. Standing, left to right: Donald Fecho, Frank Brunner, Helen Viste, Rudy Annes, Annie and Celia Brunner, Phyllis Williams, Willie Gaugler, Evan Williams, Jean Robertson, Dick Brunner, Lucy Gaugler, Fred Fecho. Sitting: Joe Brunner, Arnold Fecho.

SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES TEACHING WIESE SCHOOL, by Jean (Benedict) Payne — The summer of 1933 I was one of the many young teachers seeking employment. It was a time of surplus teachers, but a dearth of money and positions. Wiese School had advertised for a teacher, so my brother Roland took me by car to Dowling, where Harold Lund directed us to see J.M. Williams, secretary-treasurer. [illegible] route to his place, we met him on the trail between his house and the road. The dry prairie wool was my carpet as I stood beside my brother's car and made application to be hired as teacher at the Wiese School. Mr. Williams sat calmly on his wagon seat, holding the lines [illegible] his team of horses. As he looked down [illegible] me from his vantage point, he seemed to have complete control of the situation. Even though he appeared considerate and kind, I could feel my inexperience as a flashing aura about me. I wonder that I didn't trip on a blade of grass and shatter [illegible] my chances.

For his assessment of my qualifications I had to wait for a meeting with the rest of the school board. Prompt action must have been taken, for soon thereafter, to my great delight, I received a letter of acceptance.

During my two years at Wiese, I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lund, which was the rear portion of the Dowling store. They had a kitchen, an entry porch, a living room and one bedroom. Mrs. Lund rented the living room to me. She put a curtain across the doorway that led to their kitchen. When the curtain was open the family had a living room, when it was closed I had a private bedroom.

There was a large closet between the bedroom and my room. Mrs. Lund divided this closet in two with a heavy drape. Lunds had access to one half while a

door from the living room gave me access to the other. My wardrobe trunk was set beside my closet and served as a dresser. The davenport was seating area in the daytime, and opened into my bed at night. The bedding conveniently folded in with the mattress.

Boarding in a living room can present problems. One day I hurried home from school, in through the store where I found Mrs. Lund in charge, alone. I passed on through the kitchen and thence to the living room. Once there I decided to quickly change my dress, but as Mrs. Lund was the only one around, and she was in the store, I neglected to draw the curtain across the doorway. I had just taken off my school dress when I heard a young man in the store say, "Is Miss Benedict home?" Horrors! No way could I dash around the piano and draw the curtain over the door before he reached it. Alternative? Into the closet and close the door! There was a click and a sickening realization that the catch to the door was on the outside, with no latch inside. I stood motionless until I heard my visitor come into the living room, pause, then go back out to Mrs. Lund, where he told her that Miss Benedict was not in the living room. She was too busy to come in search. What now? I donned a dress — no problem there. Now I had three ways of escape: I could call Mrs. Lund and expose my stupidity, I could wait till the store closed and she came back to the kitchen, or I could duck under the drape that divided the closet and exit through their private bedroom into the kitchen. I chose the last, and hurried back to the shelter of the living room before my predicament was discovered. Never again would I lock myself in that closet!

Mr. Lund farmed along with operating the store, so six o'clock was not an uncommon rising hour. I enjoyed getting up early and having breakfast with the family. I had a two mile hike to school, so I'd leave about 8 a.m. Sometimes, especially in the spring, I cut across the fields north and east of Dowling. It was a real nature study, starting with the early spring crocuses, to the display of summer and fall plants and flowers.

Plants bring to mind a horticultural experiment we did at school. I had gathered some seeds from Mrs. Lund's dew plant, had taken them to school and planted them in a pot. Carefully we cared for them, and beamed good wishes at them. In about two weeks, up came one tiny plant. The loving care continued. When it was about two inches high we proudly showed it to some parents who had come to the school. Mr. Fecho looked carefully at it, then at me. He uttered one smashing word, "stinkweed". I checked our little plant with the ones in the field, and, sure enough, the structure was identical, only ours wasn't as healthy!

With an enrollment of sixteen, I had time to give individual attention. The families who had children in school were: Williams, Robertson, Annas, Viste, Brunner, Fecho, Gaugler, MacKimmie and Hessel.

I went out to play with the children many noons and recesses. One April we had an overnight snowfall that was just right for packing by noon the next day. We all launched into the construction of a giant snowman. The balls grew so easily and so large that piling one on top of the other was a major task. We rolled such a big ball for the head we could hardly lift it, and we just couldn't reach to get it up on the shoulders. The teacher's chair was brought out, and because I was the tallest it became my job to heave that head up and pack it. There he stood, our snowman, nine feet tall. I recorded the happy group surrounding their creation with my Brownie camera.

A beaming sun and vigorous Chinook wind seemed determined to destroy our snowman, and he slowly became thinner and began to lean. Soon after recess there was a slump and collapse. In four hours we had seen the rise and fall of a noble snowman.

I started a diary of some of the interesting events that happened each day, in a big book. Pictures and a little story of each student were also put in. At the end of the year each child was allowed to put his best composition in the book, in his finest handwriting. Each week they all tried to improve their own creation to give them a choice composition for the book.

Christmas concert time was exciting, with everyone getting involved with the making of props and furniture out of cardboard, apple boxes and brown paper. One year, for an Indian Dance drill we made pant and jacket costumes out of gunny sacks. During the performance, from my position as pianist behind curtains, I heard a burst of unexpected laughter from the audience. Only later did I learn that, as Evan Williams stomped his feet in dance, the belt of his gunny sack pants failed. Disgusted, but still [illegible] march time, he kicked off the capricious pants and continued his pow wow. Fortunately [illegible] had kept on his dress pants. Those Christmas concert audiences were the greatest. Every child got a big round of applause, making him feel just a little taller.

It was not always easy to get someone [illegible] play Santa. One year Harold Lund obliged. He tried to change his voice, but as soon as he set foot inside the door and shouted "Merry Christmas", his four year old son Frank, eagerly shouted back: "Daddy, Daddy". To all the rest of the children he was Santa, and their faces shone happily as he greeted each one and handed out treats.

During the winter we had a social evening every second week. There were amateur programs, contests, debates and pie socials, often followed by games such as whist, five hundred or cootie. Young and old were all involved, and no children were left home with a baby sitter. The evenings ended with lunch and friendly chatter.

Going back to my boarding place and walking to school. I paid $18.00 per month board, and had few other expenses. I made my cotton dresses, knit my sweaters and wore lisle stockings. My shoes came from Simpson's mail order house and were priced at $3.00 to [illegible].00 a pair. Out of my $60.00 per month salary I was able to put some money in the bank. It seems incredible to me now.

I wouldn't have taken any fashion awards, walking the two miles to school in cold stormy weather. I had a muskrat fur coat that had been my grandmother's, high overshoes, leather outer mitts, wool inner mitts, a wool tam and a warm mohair scarf. Only once when I tried [illegible] outrun a sudden sleet storm, instead of protecting my face, did I suffer frost bite, and it was just superficial. Sometimes on stormy days Jack Robertson or Steve Brunner took their children to school with the team and sleigh. I was grateful to be able to ride with them.

I met friendliness in all the community. Mr. and Mrs. Lund must have had many moments of frustration, with a boarder in their living room for ten months of the year. Never during the time I spent there did they let me feel that my presence was causing inconvenience.

The parents invited me to their homes to spend evenings with them and frequently I stayed overnight, walking to school with the children in the morning. Following are some of the memories I have of those visits. Walking home with Lucy and Willie Gaugler, with Willie a step or two ahead of us all the way, no matter how fast Lucy and I walked. The next morning I found all the Gauglers present for breakfast except Willie. His Mother apologized for him, saying he had eaten breakfast early and left for school. He had told her, "That teacher walks too fast." I thought you were setting the pace, Willie?

Visits with the Ernest Hessels, with all the good food, guitar music and happy singing and talking. The privilege of sleeping between two beautiful feather ticks, at the Senior Steve Brunners. An experience in warmth not to be forgotten.

I was asked to take family pictures with my Brownie camera, at one home. After all were dressed in their best and we were about to proceed with the picture taking, one lad refused to budge from a chair behind the table. Upon questioning him the Father discovered his pants wouldn't stay up when he made an attempt to get up. Father knew he had provided the necessary belt for one of the boys and suspenders for the other, but one of them had luxuriated and worn both. Sharing mended matters and the picture taking went ahead.

One spring, after a visit [illegible] my home in the Hand Hills, my brother Roland agreed to take me back [illegible] Dowling in his car. It was muddy and we got about two miles east in a coulee, where we got stranded and had to walk home. My second brother Don, then said he would take me [illegible] the morning (Monday) with his team and buggy.

We left about six o'clock in the morning with Don driving Scoot and Smokey, a lively team. He kept them at a quick trotting pace, but it still became a race with time. At ten to nine we reached the Dowling corner. The horses were hot and tired, so I got out to walk-run the rest of the way to school and Don went into Dowling to rest his horses. When I reached the school it was after nine o'clock. There were no sounds, no indication of life. With guilty feelings I wondered if the children had all come and gone. I stepped inside the school. To my astonishment they were all in their places doing their rapid calculation. Gwyneth Williams was teacher, she had her calculations done too. Impish grins on every face flashed happily back at me. Sheepishly I tip-toed to the cloak room, left my coat and went to the front of the room. Late I was, but I had a fine memory of beautiful children to cherish for always.

On my last day at Wiese School, we had a community-school picnic. I recall softball games, races, jumping, good fun and heaps of good food. Best of all was the vibrant feelings of good fellowship, a whole community of wholesome friendship. I am glad that Mr. Williams, two years earlier, had found my application acceptable. I am glad to have had the privilege of teaching at Wiese.

THE MALDWYN WILLIAMS FAMILY, By Edith Williams with excerpts by Phyllis (Williams) Jones — John Maldwyn Williams came to the Nanton district from Wales in 1910, to land that his father had bought for him. Here the farmers were plagued by early frosts so he sold this land, and [illegible] 1914 went overland by wagon, with all his possessions to Hanna. He got a half section homestead that someone else had given up, about thirteen miles north of Hanna. He built a car-roofed shack with two very small bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. His sister Agnes had also come from Wales to keep house for him.

I (Edith Henderson) graduated from Victoria University, Toronto, in 1913, with a B.A. degree. Frank Buchanan, a fellow student, became inspector of schools in the Hanna area. Teaching jobs were scarce, so he offered me a position at the Alps School, and I accepted. I boarded with the Al Bergs who lived a few miles west of the school. My quarters were behind a floor rug tacked up to a rafter in a one-room shack. Years after, I heard from Mrs. Berg who was in Hawaii. Her daughter (a small baby when I was there) was head librarian there.

When Wiese School was built I was offered the job of being the first teacher. William Munro was on the school board there and he had become friendly with Agnes Williams. So, through him, I went to board with Agnes and Maldwyn while teaching at Wiese. My two and a half mile walk to school took me past Raine's, Fielding's and Chris and Hjalmer Viste's land. The people that lived nearest to us had the largest sod house I'd ever seen and the mother lived in the smallest one, but I can't remember their names. (*Editor's Note:* this would be the Ed Wheelers). I taught Wiese for four years, and I taught again at Alps after Maldwyn Williams and I were married. We were married in November of 1918, in the middle of the flu epidemic. There were no public gatherings allowed, so we had no choice but to [illegible] right out to the farm with the horse and buggy.

At first we got our supplies from Hanna, over a road that went up and down hills and wound around sloughs. When the railway came through we got our mail and some of our needs in Dowling. We were often short of money, but never short of food. We had pigs and cattle and I canned and cured meat. I had a well-to-do sister in Toronto who helped out with clothes. We both had growing children.

I remember one time we got a soccer team organized at Wiese. There were men in the district who were from the old country and had played soccer before. Among them were John Robertson and his neighbor Don Ross. We played a team that they rounded up in Hanna, and defeated them.

Finally taxes and poor cattle prices drove us out. My son has a bill, that I saved when we shipped six head of yearling steers, good Angus breeding, and got $27.50. The trucker got more than we did. The government was paying three-quarters of a cent a pound for cows.

The Williams family. Back Row: Glen, Mr. Williams, Bob, Evan. Front Row: Edith, Gwyneth, Mrs. Williams, Grace and Phyllis.

William Munro had married Agnes Williams and moved to land near Vulcan. Through him we had the opportunity to rent land there too, so in 1935 the Williams family left the Hanna district. We couldn't sell our cattle so Maldwyn went with them by freight. The family headed out by car, but the roads were blocked by snow and we had to do considerable shovelling before we reached Hanna. The snow continued and by the time we reached Drumheller we had to give up and stay there. We took the train out a couple of days later, and so I landed at the Kircaldy station with six children and no one there to meet me.

Maldwyn's dream of having a farm with a creek running through it was realized when [illegible] bought land on the Little Bow River. He farmed here with the help of his boys until he passed away in 1958. We had a son, Glen, born in Vulcan and he is on the farm. Our daughter, Mrs. Gwyneth Poerach, lives in Nanton. Phyllis, Mrs. Ira Jones, is in Kelowna, B.C. Evan and his family farm about three miles south of where Glen [illegible]. His eldest son is a doctor of medicine and [illegible] interning in

Hamilton. I'm very proud of him. Bob is in Calgary and has a nice home and family. Edith married Hubert Warren and they farm at Champion in the grain belt. Grace trained as a nurse. She married a Calgary lawyer, Don MacLeod. I have been residing in the Peter Dawson Lodge in Vulcan for a number of years.

MORE MEMORIES OF THE DAYS AT WIESE, By Phyllis Jones — Blizzards were a constant fear as we walked over two miles to school. I remember one in particular. Dad was going to Calgary to the Fall Livestock Show, so Manly Viste took him to Hanna to catch the train. Mother went along. The blizzard struck before they got back home so he and mother stayed at Vistes, thankful to get that far. Children were caught at school. Mr. Fecho walked over to the school to be sure no one left unaccompanied. He took Evan and me to his home, where we spent the night. In early morning Manly took Mother home, where Gwyneth was holding fort with the younger children. They had no way of knowing what had happened to Evan and me until Mr. Fecho drove us home later in the day. No wonder Mother's hair turned white at an early age.

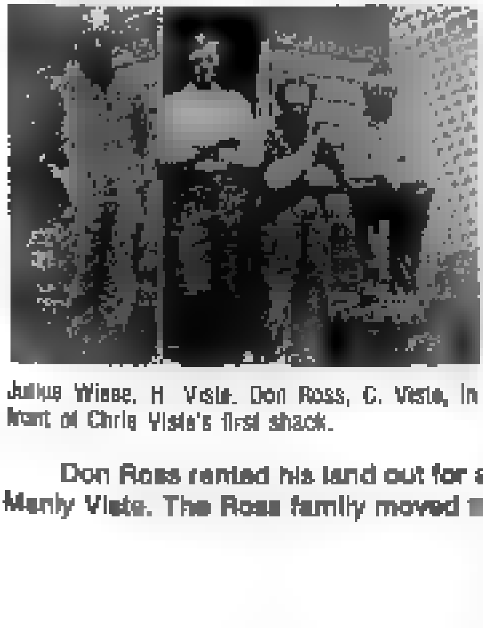
Another grim winter was when Dad was hospitalized for several months, including Christmas. During this time Mother depended on kind neighbors to get her to the hospital to visit him. He became critically ill, and Mrs. Binmore was looking after us while Mother was gone to [illegible] with Dad. One day I found Mrs. Binmore in the bedroom, praying. She told us to pray for Dad's recovery as she did, every day. Our prayers were answered and I remember the happy day when he returned to the little house on the hill.

Dad was a stockman at heart and earned many cups and ribbons with his prize Aberdeen Angus cattle and Yorkshire swine which he took to the Calgary Show. Gwyneth went with him a few times and entered animals in the children's events.

One [illegible] our favorite teachers was Jean Benedict. She was great for planning parties and made the school a real social centre. She also taught Sunday School and after school gave piano lessons.

Gwyneth and I used [illegible] enjoy walking the four miles over to Dowling for the mail and shopping at Alpaugh's store. He was a friend of the kids since there was always an extra treat for them shoved in with the groceries.

We see many changes when we go back to visit. It is nice to see the trees that our family helped plant and maintain still surrounding the school yard.



Julius Wiese, H. Viste, Don Ross, C. Viste, in front of Chris Viste's first shack.

DONALD and ANNIE ROSS, compiled from information given by Annie Ross and their neighbors — Donald Ross came, as a young man, to Alberta from his home in Alness, Scotland. He homesteaded north of Hanna in 1909, and as nearly as can be determined, he was the first one to actually live in the Wiese School district. Like most of the early settlers, he hauled his lumber from Stettler with horses.

In 1916 he married Annie Fulton of Victoria, B.C. They had four children, one son and three daughters.

Don Ross rented his land out for awhile. Then in 1927 he sold his holdings to Manly Viste. The Ross family moved [illegible] Victoria. Don passed away July 16, 1968.

Mrs. Ross is still at Victoria and the rest of the family are all residing in B.C.

Mrs. Ross related a little story to the Bill McKenzies, of the confusion there was in the neighborhood one day when some of them got mixed up, as to which day of the week it was. Don left home under the impression that it was Sunday. He was going to get the mail at Dowling and when he got over that way he was surprised to see people working at McCuish's, digging a well. None of them ever worked on Sundays. When he asked them about it, they said it wasn't Sunday. Then he wasn't sure who it was that was mixed up, him or them. So he set out asking different people what day it was, and if anything got more confused. Mrs. Ross doesn't remember how many people he had to ask, but eventually he found out that he was right all along. It was Sunday.

SEVEN YEARS AT DOWLING, By William Moore — In the fall of 1910 I was at my desk in the office of Dunnett & Co. where I was employed as bookkeeper when a young man named Dan Ross came into the office. His home in Scotland had been at Alness, three miles from my home town of Invergordon, thus meeting thousands of miles from home, we soon became friends. Dan and Jack Robertson had homesteaded at Dowling two years earlier and they made the trip from Calgary to Dowling with a team and wagon. Some fifty odd years later when Mrs. Ross and Dan were riding to Calgary with me after celebrating the 50th anniversary of the town of Hanna, Dan showed me the spot where they had camped overnight in the Drumheller Valley.

I did not realize that Dan's visit to Dunnett's office would change the whole course of my life, but such was the case. He suggested that I was wasting my time in the office when I could get 320 acres of land from the government for the nominal sum of $20.00. He told me there was a half section open for homesteading just west of his place, and so it was that I filed on my homestead that afternoon.

In the spring of 1911 I travelled by rail [illegible] Castor which at that time was the nearest jumping-off place. While there I purchased enough lumber to build a shack 10 by 14 and somehow got myself and lumber out to my new location. Andy Murdoch, who was a carpenter, just happened to be staying at his sister's farm (Mrs. McCreight) and he was kind enough to take time [illegible] help me build, and he did a good job. The shack had a shingle roof, one ply of shiplap on the walls with tar paper on the outside and building paper on the inside, two windows and one door. This was my home summer and winter for seven years.

My next concern was farming machinery and horses. These I managed to acquire and I was now a farmer, although there was still lots for me to learn. My first barn was built of sods and I was proud of the fact that I did it myself.

As time went on, Dan, Jack and I spent many hours together and I am indebted to both of them for advice in solving many of my farm problems. Conditions in those days were somewhat crude, no T.V., no radio, no telephone, no hot or cold running water, no electricity, no cars, in fact you might say no NOTHING. Jack did get a washing machine that worked by turning a handle and got kidded plenty about his MODERN IDEAS. There was plenty of work but there was also some time for play. We had our picnics and ball games, and after the Wiese school was built there were box socials, dances, concerts and Sunday School, and all were well attended. Everyone had the mat out for visitors and no matter where you went there was always plenty to eat and all were welcome.

Humorous incidents were not quite absent either, like when the heel flies caused Bradley's oxen to head for the nearest slough taking Mr. Bradley and his plough along. Then Fischer trying to get water from the well with a rope on a wheel. He took hold of the end of the rope and walked backwards until the pail of water came up and hit the wheel. Then he asked me, "Now, how you get the water, Mister?"

In 1918 I got the title to my land and sold to Dave Johnston as I had purchased a farm in the Garden Plain District. About this time I married Miss Agnes Williams and the same year her brother, Maldwyn Williams married Miss Edith Henderson who taught school at Wiese.

Nearly sixty years have gone by but such names as Ross, Robertson, Doyle boys, Harrington, McCreight, Fischer, Wiese, Mansfield, Viste, Gasper, Burroughs, Mrs. Gay and Nellie, Barton and Williams, I still remember well. [redacted] 1925 I moved south to the Vulcan district and now live in the city of Calgary, but those happy carefree days spent in the Dowling District will always remain fresh in my memory.

Left to right: Clara Viste, Carrie Robertson, Leone Pound and their husbands Ed Pound, John Robertson, Hjalmer Viste.

ROBERTSON STORY, By Florence (Robertson) Wiedinger — John R. Robertson came west [redacted] Alberta from Bright, Ontario in 1905. He filed on land, sight unseen, in the land office in Calgary, in what is now known as the Dowling Lake District. He then decided [redacted] [redacted] to Banff and drove bus tours for Brewsters for two years. Coming back to Calgary he and the land agent drove by horse and buggy to the land site. They stayed with surveyors in a tent on the land that was soon homesteaded by Dan Barton. It got pretty cold that winter so he again went west to Morley and worked on the Stoney Indian Reserve. Finally [redacted] 1909 he settled on his homestead where he lived for the next forty years.

Many challenges were met in those first years. The closest Post Office and Store was at Stettler and had [redacted] be reached by horseback or a stiff hike. The settlers took turns going and as it was a break in routine it was made a social event, calling at each home along the way. Many nights were spent outdoors with only the stars for a blanket and the wail of the coyotes for a lullaby. "Jack" as he was known to most of the pioneers, told of finding the body of a man on one of these trips. He buried the body in a shallow grave and notified the police in Stettler when he reached there. One of the first women he met was Mrs. McCuish, and he told how all the bachelors used the lamest of excuses to gather there for a home cooked meal. Sourdough pancakes got a bit monotonous.

In 1915 Jack joined the Canadian Army with a Battalion from Calgary and went overseas almost immediately. He spent the next four years overseas, returning [redacted] 1919. During that time he was seriously wounded once and received a medal for bravery. Returning to his homestead he found neighbours with grain fields and great improvements on their land and he found he really had to push to catch up. In 1921 he married an Ontario girl, Carrie May Zinn and settled down in earnest. Two foster daughters Florence and Jean came to make their home with them.

[redacted] the early twenties the C.N.R. surveyed the track from Hanna to Warden; part of this track ran through Robertson land along the edge of the lake. During these years Mrs. Robertson boarded surveyors and men building the tracks. This section was all built by mule teams. One old grey mule came back after the crews moved on and lived out his years along the side of the railroad north of where the hamlet of Dowling sprang up.

The coming of the small store and Post Office was a great convenience and of course the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator meant no more long trips to Hanna with loads of grain.

When the telephone Company was taken over by the farmers and became a Mutual Company, Jack served as troubleshooter, lineman and secretary. I recall climbing poles with homemade spurs, particularly the one at the south C.N.R. crossing. This pole was high to cross the tracks and was spliced by the workmen, which gave it a real sway, at least enough [illegible] give me a real scare! Jean became quite proficient at climbing and reporting trouble. All the equipment was homemade and at times pretty crude. However the line was kept in service most of the time with the help of all the neighbors.

John Robertson was a very interested participant in the raising of livestock and many a time was off to help try to save some sick animal. The closest veterinarian then was a friend of his in Edmonton and he enjoyed helping in any way he could treating the animals.

Carrie Robertson specialized in the growing of poultry and many a table in the town of Hanna was graced with one of her birds at Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years. Coyotes again were the enemy, stealing, killing or crippling any that happened to be left unguarded for a few minutes. They could wipe out a sizeable flock in one raid.

The family returned to Bright, Ontario in 1949. Florence married Elmer Meidinger that year and they live in Calgary, they have one daughter Lynnda. Jean married Willis Parker and they live in Woodstock, Ontario: they have four children. John and Carrie had a large garden in Bright and remained very active in all the social events. John died in 1963 and Carrie [illegible] 1970. John Robertson loved the West and remained very loyal to it, and interested in the lives of the early pioneers, until his death.

MRS. DAISY GAY — Mrs. Daisy Gay came to the Tees area in 1900. She returned to the U.S. [illegible] 1903, coming back to Alberta in 1910 to file on the west half of 31-32-14, north of Hanna. This was the land that the Wiese School was later built on. Daisy and her daughter Nellie lived on the same quarter. They did most of the farming, with the help of the occasional hired man.

Sometime during the mid-twenties she married Al Wirth and moved to the Wirth homestead in the Antelope Hill District. [illegible] 1926 Al Wirth became ill and passed away. After that the half section of land at Wiese was rented out. When Mrs. Wirth passed away, her daughter Nellie Gasper inherited the land. She continued to rent it out, and at her passing it was handed down one more generation to her daughter, Dorothy Ward.

Two rather interesting news items appeared in the "Greystone" news column in 1914 — Feb. 5, Mrs. Daisy Gay left on Monday for Tees where she will reside with her father for the remainder of the winter.

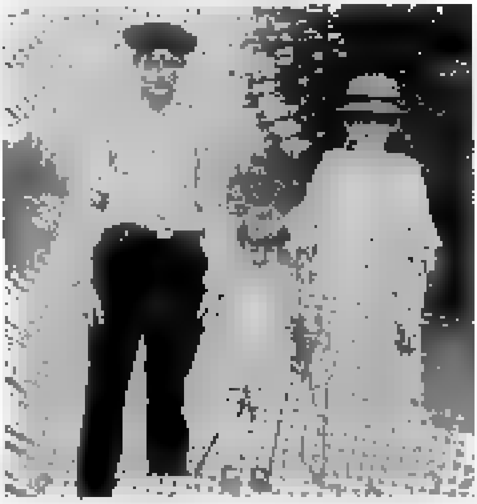
April 30, Miss Nellie Gay returned last Friday on the Castor stage from Tees, where she had been visiting with her grandfather.

THE MANSFIELD FAMILY, By Perley Mansfield — Mr. Walter Mansfield, his wife Una, and his three children, Harold, Mildred and Perley, came to the Wiese District in April, 1912. Mr. Mansfield and Harold arrived first, bringing a wagon and

two horses from Calgary. They stayed with a neighbor, Mr. Chris Viste. Mrs. Mansfield, Mildred and Perley came by train from Stowe, Vermont, U.S.A., to Castor, Alberta in May of 1912, then drove by democrat to the Viste farm. The family stayed there until their house was built. The Mansfield farm was section 1, Township 33, range 15, west of the 4th meridian.

That first winter on the bald snow-drifted prairie was quite a change from the mild climate and golden trees of Stowe, Vermont.

In the spring of 1913, land was ploughed and seeded to wheat. By 1915 the family rejoiced in a bumper wheat harvest.



Perley Mansfield with his niece and mother, Una Mansfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mansfield and daughter Evelyn.

December 9, 1915, Mr. Walter Mansfield was killed in a most unfortunate accident in the Brown coal mine. This coal mine was an open pit mine located 8 miles east of the Mansfield farm and was used by farmers of the district for their winter coal supplies. On December 9, the snow was deep and the ground frozen, so Mr. Mansfield dug under the frozen overhang, and as he was bringing out his last load the overhang collapsed and killed him.

The family carried on with Harold running the farm. Mildred and Perley attended the Alpa School, a four mile trip on horseback twice every day, winter and summer. Later Mildred continued her education in Hanna and Perley attended the new Wiese School just 300 yards from their home.

Harold and his wife Laurene Glover took over the farm and Mrs. Una Mansfield, with Mildred and Perley moved to Calgary. Perley and Mildred both completed their education there, with Perley graduating from the Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering. He worked in this field until 1934, when he opened his own business, "Radio Crafts Ltd." This involved selling and servicing radios and electrical appliances. This very successful business was run by Perley until he retired. Mildred worked for the Federal Government. She married Joe Mewhinney. They had a daughter Madeline, who is the wife of Dr. A.G. Storey, and resides in Calgary.

Harold Mansfield moved to the Grande Prairie district about 1935, farming there for many years. The homestead was rented first to Mr. Sieb then later to Rudolf Fecho. He rented for some time and then purchased it.

Now in 1977 all the original Mansfield family is deceased except Perley, who with his wife Florence resides in Calgary. Harold's daughter Evelyn Brink, who attended both Wiese and Silver Valley Schools is living in Terrace, B.C.

JACOB CARSTENSEN — Jacob Carstensen homesteaded one and a half miles from Wiese school in 1910. Being a brother to Mrs. Julius Wiese, he was involved in their coming to the district the following year. He was a handy man with a hammer and saw, and helped neighbors with some of their building. Although he was a bachelor, he took a keen interest in the formation of the Wiese School district and the building of the school. He was elected Chairman of the Board [illegible] the first meeting and held that position until 1917. Shortly after that he sold his holdings to [illegible]. Viste and moved to Langley Prairie, B.C.

Left to right: Jake Carstensen, N.E. Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wiese.

THE JULIUS WIESE STORY, By Nina (Wiese) Armstrong — Julius Wiese came from Illinois in 1911 [illegible] homestead north of Dowling Lake on SE 2-33-15. The first spring he and his son Harry came up in a box car with most [illegible] the family belongings, and two horses. They broke about fifty acres with oxen and also got a house partly built by the time the rest of the family came up in May. Mrs. Lena Wiese, and the three girls, Vena, Lucy and Nina, came to Castor by train, and then to the homestead by wagon. Lena's brother, Jake Carstensen was the one who met them in Castor and drove them down. It was an endurance test for the women, taking from early morning until late [illegible] night, with hordes of mosquitoes everywhere. They were very bad the entire summer.

The water was hauled from a dug well with a stone boat and barrels. The cattle were driven to a slough about a mile away for water.

Our Post Office was Garden Plain; that was also the store. We went to Chain Lakes School for awhile, but this was quite a walk. The Wieses, along with some of the other settlers in the area, soon realized the need for a school, and set out to form a school board and build the 'Wiese School'. We went to school there, and the teachers I remember were Miss Pokotilo, Miss Henderson and Florence Meadows, who married Pete Kennedy.

There wasn't much money but we always had a lot of pleasure, visiting with our friends and neighbors. Our home was always open to company and we had lots of good times. Other entertainment was dances, and summer picnics at Garden Plain and later [illegible] Clear Lake.

I married Harry Himmelreich in 1925 and moved to Olds. He passed away [illegible] 1953. I still live at Olds. I remarried, and am now Nina Armstrong. Vena married William Grantham, and still lives on the farm with her son in the Chain Lakes district. Lucy married Cyril Doyle. They farmed locally for awhile and then moved to Langley Prairie, B.C. She passed away about six years ago. There was also a step-sister who taught school in the Hand Hills. She married William Becker, but they moved to California and spent most of their time in the States. She died at an early age. Harry stayed on the farm with his parents, and when they moved to B.C. he took over.

Lena Wiese passed away February 14, 1946. Julius stayed at his daughter Lucy's place, where he passed away on January 18, 1949.

HARRY and MARGARET WIESE and FAMILY, By Walter Wiese — Harry Wiese served with the first Depot Battalion in Calgary in 1918. He then returned

home to help his Dad on the farm. For a number of years he worked with Chris Gasper and Cyril Doyle, running a threshing outfit. In later years he had his own machine and did custom threshing.

About the time everyone thought Harry was a confirmed bachelor, [illegible] married Margaret Crosby. They spent their married life together on the Wiese homestead. A son, Walter, was the first addition to the family, followed by two daughters, Margaret and Joanne. Margaret and her husband, Otto Glubrecht and family live at Fort McMurray. Joanne married Bob Owens. They reside at Olds, with their family.

Harry kept up an active interest in school and community affairs. It came as a shock to everyone when he lost his life [illegible] a tragic accident while haying, on July 25, 1958. This left Walter in charge of the farming operation. He stayed on the farm with his mother, and in the mid-sixties they moved to Hanna. After being in and out of hospitals, and several major operations, Mrs. Wiese passed away in 1971. Walter still works the family farm, as well as being an employee of the Special Areas.

NORVEL BRADLEY, as told by Rudy Annes — Mr. N.E. Bradley came from Wisconsin [illegible] homestead the east half of 31-32-14 in 1910. He had his own oxen and did his own breaking with them. After farming for a while he decided to go back to Hillsboro, Wis., to operate the hotel he owned there. This was around 1927. He rented his land to the Ruhls. In 1933 John Annes rented his farm and lived on it with his family. Some years later he came back to the farm and built a barn. His eyesight had been failing, and while he was painting the barn white in the bright sun, he went almost completely blind. Mr. Bradley never recovered from this, so he returned to the States by train, leaving his car impounded in Canada. He passed away there in the early forties.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SCHOTTSNEIDER and FAMILY, By Bill Schottsneider — Mr. and Mrs. Schottsneider came to Canada in 1909, from North Dakota, with a family of four daughters and one son. They took up their homestead on the north side of Dowling Lake the same year. Two daughters were born in Canada.

The oldest, Clara, married Rudolph Fano. They lived in Hanna. Rudolph passed away in 1959, and Clara passed away in December 1976, after a lengthy stay [illegible] the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna.

Mary suffered a crippling illness in her teens and spent the rest of her life confined to a wheelchair. She passed away in 1952.

Rosie married Gottfred Albright, of the Hand Hills, they retired to Drumheller, where [illegible] passed away in 1962, and Rosie still resides.

Annie married Henry McDermott and moved to Manning, Alberta. Henry passed away in 1948. Annie lived there until her passing [illegible] 1975.

William married Rose Albright and remained on the homestead until 1969. Due to poor health, the farm was sold to a nephew, Jim Schultz, and Bill and Rose retired to Hanna.

Emma married Fred Bass, and they live in Grand Forks, B.C.

Tillie married Ervin Schultz and they too have retired to Hanna.

The family all attended Wiese School. Herman Scholtsneider passed away [illegible] 1931, and his wife Barbara passed away in 1961.

Living next to the lake had advantages, but it also had disadvantages. During the winter [illegible] was a nice smooth shortcut across the lake to Hanna. In 1927, Bill went out with the horses and sleigh to see if the ice was frozen thick enough to

start going across it, as he intended to haul some pigs to town the next day. The horses broke through the ice into about three and a half feet of water. It was a very cold day, and he soon realized there was no hope of getting them out alive, so he walked home, got the gun and shot them. They managed to get the harness off the horses, and got the sleigh out. The loss of a good faithful team of horses was felt for a long time.

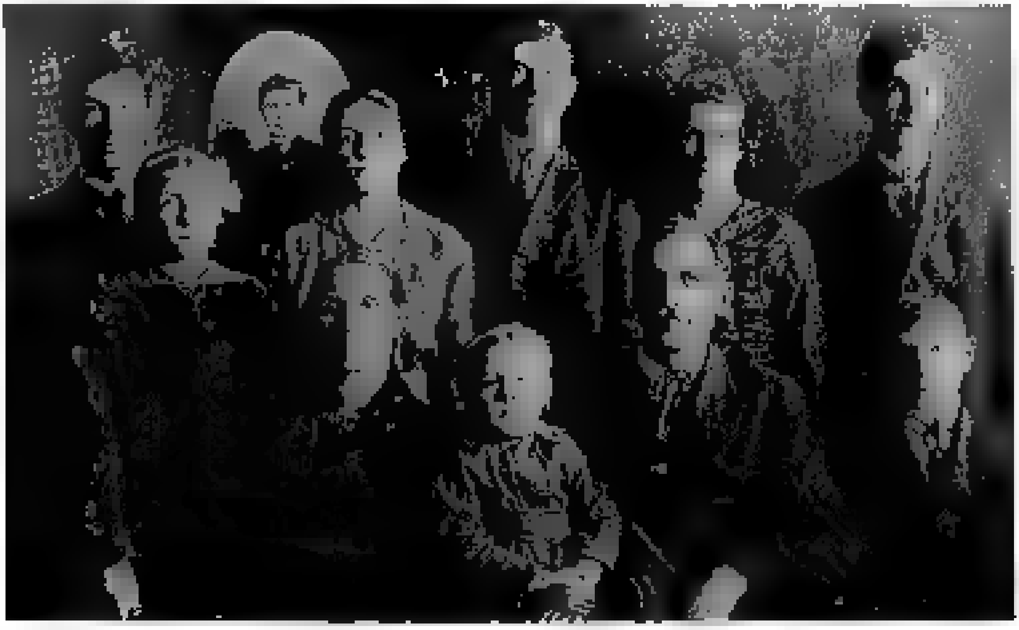
Something else the Schottsneiders won't forget is the dry years, when the alkali blew out of the lake bottom in white clouds. It literally covered everything. Since 1945 there has always been enough run-off to keep the water level up to where the alkali doesn't blow very much. In 1945 the deer could walk across the lake anywhere.

HOMESTEAD MEMORIES, By Emma (Schottsneider) Sass — When Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schottsneider came to Canada by train, in 1909, they landed at Stettler. The rest of the trip was made by wagon. They set up a tent by a spring, near Dowling Lake. A neighbor had told them about the spring. They ploughed the land and seeded oats and barley and a garden. Then they started hauling supplies from Stettler to build a house. It was one large room. Mr. Schottsneider also hauled freight for the Hanna Trading Store before the railway was built. He had brought a car load of horses and farm equipment, and also household needs along up from the States. This helped them get started right away with the farming.

The crops were [illegible] threshed with a threshing machine. The first one was put through by hand.

The neighbors always helped one another and had good times together.

STEFEN BRUNNER SR. FAMILY, By Clara Frank — Stefen Brunner Sr., my Grandfather, was born in Dorog, Hungary in 1866. He worked in the coal mines [illegible] he and his family came to Drake, North Dakota, in the spring of 1910. His oldest son Frank had arrived a year earlier and was working there. His family consisted of my grandma, Anna, and nine children, Clara, Frank, Stephen, Elizabeth, John, Marie, Katie, Tony and Annie.



The Stefen Brunners. Standing, left to right: Frank, Marie, Clara (in circle) Elizabeth, John, Katie, Steve. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Brunner with Clara's child Clara Ziglinski, Anthony (Tony) on right.

In the summer of 1910 he and Uncle Frank journeyed to Castor. His niece, Louise Kriess, lived about four miles east of where he took out his homestead on the north half of 1-33-15. On September [illegible], 1910 he filed on his homestead in Calgary, and then went back to North Dakota and spent the winter with his family. Their youngest daughter, Annie, died that winter at the age of six months.

The Brunners in their farm yard, taken in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner are on the wagon, Steve on the binder and other family members in background.

Group of young people at the Brunner home. Left to right: Paul Trettin, Steve Brunner Jr., Bill Kadling, Marie Brunner, Katie Brunner. Tall man in hat unidentified, small girl is Clara Ziglinski.

[illegible] early spring the family left for the homestead in Alberta, arriving in early May. They had brought a large tent to live in. The first night they lived in the tent it snowed. During the summer a sod house was built and they lived in it until their house was built in 1918.

In 1911 their eldest daughter, Clara Brunner, was married to Fred Ziglinski of Lake Thelma. The most tragic event of my life was that my mother (Clara) died when I was born in 1914. I was named after her. My older brother, John, and I were cared for by my grandparents until I was seven years old.

We sometimes had church services in our home on Sundays. The priest would come and say mass and the neighbors would join in. We often had large gatherings on Sundays.

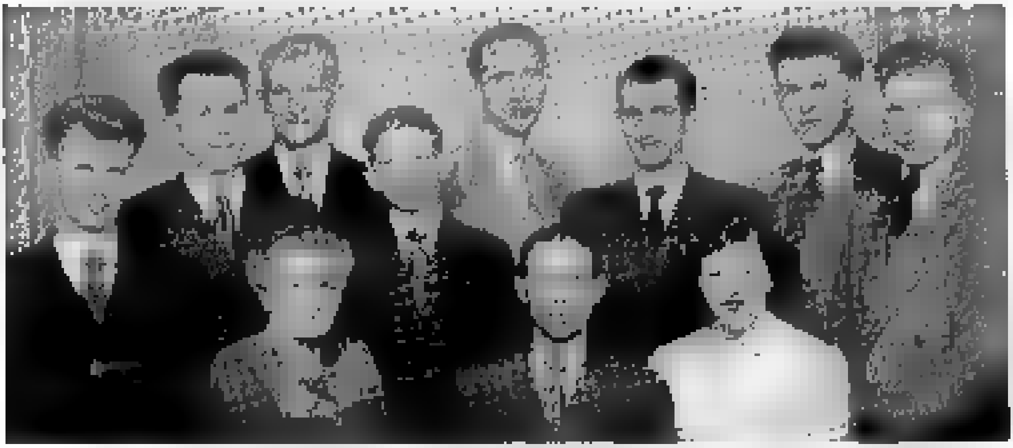
I remember that my grandfather had a lot of horses. We would go to town in a wagon and grandmother would sell butter and eggs. I used to visit with the Baxter children.

My father, Fred Ziglinski, went [illegible] Oregon in 1921 and bought a home. My grandparents went to visit him and took my brother and me with them. They stayed a couple of months and then went back to Alberta. John and I stayed in Oregon.

On January 24, 1938 my grandparents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They had many friends and neighbors [illegible] for the occasion. My grandfather passed away on December 24, 1946, and my grandmother on January 14, 1951.

The Frank, Steve Jr. and Anton Brunner family stories are included in this book. John Brunner passed away at a fairly early age. Elizabeth married John Semolki of Sublimity, Oregon. She is still living there. Katie and her husband John Hummel farmed at Castor for many years. They sold out in the early fifties and moved to Vancouver. Katie passed away in January 1964. Her husband predeceased her. Marie married John Fehr and they lived [illegible] Hanna. She died in 1972, not many years after her husband passed away.

MR. and MRS. FRANK BRUNNER and FAMILY, By Richard Brunner — Frank Brunner, (my Dad) was born in Dorog, Hungary. He spent a number of years working in the coal mines with his father, prior to coming to North America. In 1909, at the age of eighteen he arrived in Quebec. He then travelled to North Dakota and worked for an Uncle, Micheal Brunner. In the summer of 1910 his parents and seven brothers and sisters also came to North Dakota from Hungary. In August my Dad and Granddad headed for Castor. A cousin of Dad's, Mrs. Louise Kries, daughter of Micheal Brunner, was already in the Castor-Garden Plain area. In September 1910 they went to Calgary and filed on homesteads. Dad filed on the south half of 12-33-15. He stayed in Calgary and worked for $35.00 per month, while Granddad went back to his family in North Dakota.

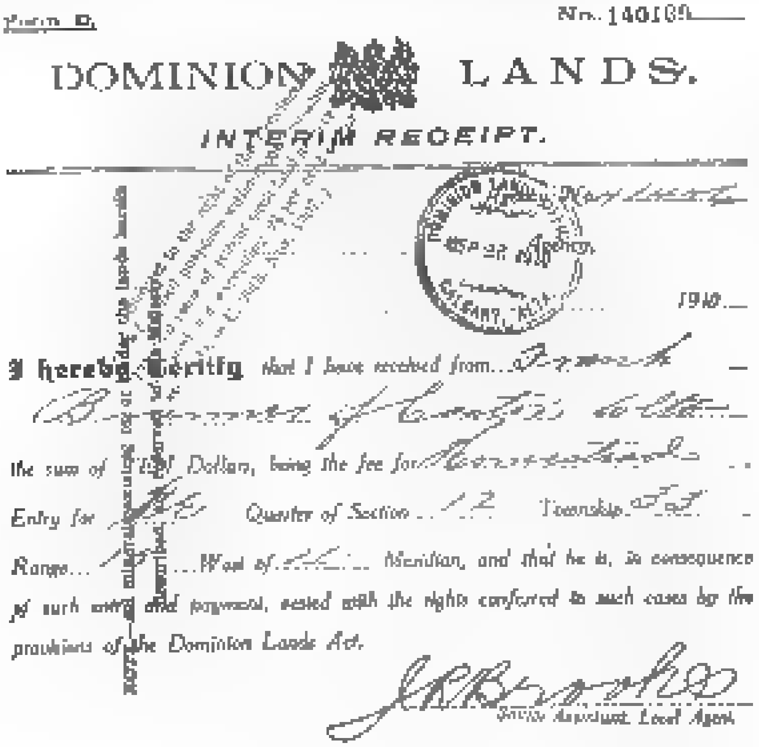


Frank Brunner family: Aloys, Martin, Raymond, Frank Jr., Joseph, Alfred, Richard. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner seated in front with Helen on right.

In the spring of 1911 Dad moved out to his homestead. The rest of the family came to Alberta too. They worked together, breaking the land with three oxen.

One hot day in the summer of 1911, when my grand parents were still living in the tent, one of the oxen walked into the tent to get away from the flies and mosquitoes. In [illegible] the excitement he turned around with his back end up against the table and of course the inevitable happened. Three years later they bought

their first horse. Later on in 1914 they took out a $700.00 loan and bought more horses. They cost from two to four hundred dollars per team.



Form D.

No. 140169

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

[illegible] Agency.

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE SEP 28 1910 CALGARY, ALTA.

1910.

I hereby certify that I have received from [illegible] of [illegible]

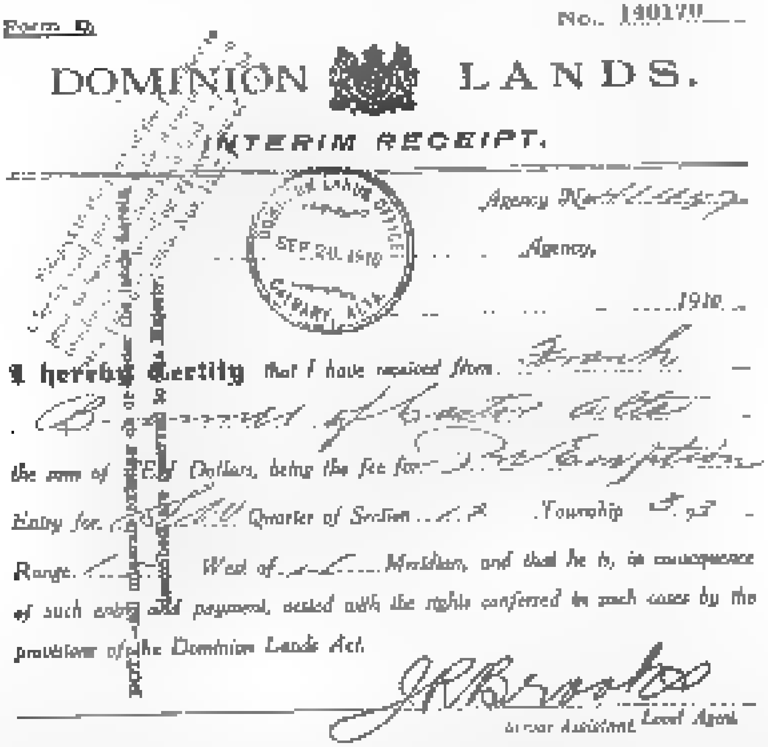
the sum of TEN Dollars, being the fee for [illegible]

Entry for [illegible] Quarter of Section [illegible] Township [illegible]

Range [illegible] West of [illegible] Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

J.R. Brooks

Senior Assistant Local Agent.



Form D.

No. 140170

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

Agency [illegible]

Agency,

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE SEP 20 1910 CALGARY, ALTA.

1910.

I hereby certify that I have received from [illegible] of [illegible]

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the fee for [illegible]

Entry for [illegible] Quarter of Section [illegible] Township [illegible]

Range [illegible] West of [illegible] Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

J.R. Brooks

Senior Assistant Local Agent.

Frank Brunner married Therera Weiss of Moson, Hungary in 1924. Their home was a 12' by 14' building which they lived in until the house was built in 1925. They had nine children, eight boys and one girl, so there were lots of mouths to feed during the depression. One evening Dad came home with about two hundred

pounds of relief apples. It was chore time and I was to get the cows, so I grabbed an apple and away I went. I sure enjoyed it, as they were quite scarce around our household at that time. The next apple I ate I noticed had a worm in it, and so did the ones I ate after that, and they all had a tunnel or two to the core. I often wondered how much meat I had eaten with that first apple!

Our early education was at the Wiese School. When my brother Frank and I started, we could only speak the German language, so in grade one we had to learn to speak English, as well as learning to read and write. One summer in the thirties there were a lot of gophers around the school yard, so some of us decided to bring some traps and catch them. They were afraid to come out of their holes during the noon hour or recess because there were all the kids running around. So we'd set our traps and then spend the time we were supposed to be doing school work, wondering if we caught a gopher. Soon a hand would be raised and a request made to "leave the room", so the traps could be checked. So many requests were made to go to the outhouse, that the teacher caught on to the fact that we were up to something. Our gopher trapping came to an end.

Like a lot of large families in those days, the older members of the family had to forego an education to work and help support the family. When I was fifteen years old (1942) I worked on a ranch near Richdale, for ten dollars a month. About the end of April I left the ranch and a friend, Don Smart, and I decided to go to Calgary to give city life a try. We had twenty dollars between the two of us. Bus fare was $8.20, so we had to find a job in a hurry. Don had a sister in Calgary so we had room and board for a couple of weeks. We both got jobs in pop factories. I worked for Coca Cola, at a starting salary of $10.00 per week. We couldn't resist visits to the pool hall and theatres, so we'd end up short of money for meals. Sometimes dinner was a twenty-five cent cake bought at the corner store.

In February, 1945 my brother Frank and I joined the Army. We joined up in Calgary, taking our basic training at Wetaskiwin. After V.E. day, I joined the Pacific Volunteers and took my advanced training at Sarcee and Currie Barracks in Calgary. After that I was sent to Vernon, B.C. After the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, the war ended rather suddenly. A government order came through shortly afterward, stating that anyone still eighteen years old on V.J. day couldn't be kept in the army, so in October 1945 I received my discharge.

The Brunner family is scattered throughout Alberta. All are married and have families of their own. Mrs. Brunner has a total of thirty six grandchildren. Frank and Raymond live in Red Deer, Joseph is at Elk Point, Martin at Lacombe, Aloys and Lawrence in Calgary, Alfred is at St. Albert. Helen married Jess Standing. They live on a farm near Hanna. Richard, his wife Dorothy and family are on the original homestead. Frank Brunner, Sr. passed away in April, 1971. Mrs. Brunner resides in Hanna in the home that they bought, when they retired from farming in 1958.

ANTHONY BRUNNER FAMILY, By Anthony (Tony Brunner) — I am the youngest of the Stefen Brunner family, pioneers of the Wiese District. I attended Wiese School from 1916 to 1921, reaching grade seven, a fair education in those days. I remember in 1919 we had a picnic at Wiese and we had a stunt plane there. He also took passengers up for rides for five dollars. His landing strip was a level spot in Chris Viste's pasture. There were lots of dances held at the school, and in the summer, ball games.

During my teenage years I spent a lot of time breaking horses, and at rodeo work. Levi and Phillip Kennedy were good friends of mine, and we used to go to rodeos together. Sometimes we rode horseback to such places as Castor, Rose

Lynn and the Hand Hills. We'd break broncs on the way there and back, and ride in the stampede events while there. I won first prize one year at Rose Lynn, in the steer riding. We rode bucking horses at get-togethers at Garden Plain and Clear Lake. Most of my rodeo days were during the twenties.

I got married in 1930, and built a home on a quarter section of land that I got from my Dad. Later I bought more land from Joe Fisher and Coghills. I had to haul water for two years before I got water on the place. In 1935 I drilled my first well.

In 1934 I had a hired man under the relief plan. The government paid him five dollars a month, and I got five dollars a month to keep him. Like a lot of the others around, we made a Bennett Buggy out of our old Model T Ford and used horses on it.

After our family of four sons and two daughters were pretty well grown up, I sold the farm to Leo Wiens and moved to Red Deer where I worked for Travelaire Trailer Co. The family is as follows:

Phil joined the R.C.M.P. when he was twenty. He spent twelve years with them, and one of his experiences was to be aboard the R.C.M.P. ship St. Rocque on its last voyage.

Ella was a hard worker, doing a lot of work at home as well as working in stores. She is married to John Leniuk. They live in Calgary with their two children.

Edward is married and has two children. He spent most of his time on the railroad at Crows Nest Pass, as telegraph operator.

Bernard spent more time than the rest getting an education. He is teaching school in Edmonton, is married and has three children.

Jack worked at different farms mostly in the Red Deer area. His favorite sport was ball, and he played quite a bit. He is in Calgary now, working for X L Yards.

Annie has been with me in Red Deer most of the time. She works for the Travelaire Trailer Company.

ANDREW MURDOCH, By Stan McCreight — Andy Murdoch was born in Northern Ireland and came to Canada in 1900. He volunteered in the Canadian Army, and spent two years in South Africa during the Boer War.

He returned to Canada and worked in Montreal for about a year. He then came west to Alberta and worked in Calgary and also on a survey crew as instrument man when the land was being surveyed.

In 1910 he took up a homestead and pre-emption on the north half of 23-32-15 at the same time that his brother-in-law Wm. McCreight homesteaded the south half of that section. This later became part of the Wiese School District. He farmed for a number of years and sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney in 1916.

After selling his farm, Andy Murdoch made his headquarters with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCulah of the St. George School District, while he built a number of houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He usually spent the winters in Vancouver or Calgary. After 1920, Andy lived in Calgary for twenty-five years before moving to Victoria. In 1963, he and his wife returned to Ireland where he passed away in 1974. They had no family and his widow resides in Ireland.

"THE SHOOT GOOT", By Jean I. (Benedict) Payne — Mr. Joe Fisher was a cultured man from Germany. He was a good pianist at one time and had known a much finer life than he found near Dowling during the dry years of the thirties. West of Dowling he had some land, somewhat rocky, but rains failed, crops were short, grasshoppers ate voraciously of what dared to grow. Winds blew viciously, moving crop land to roadside ditches or to other fields. Only the rocks remained.

One came to think that possibly the value of the land should be determined by the rocks.

Mr. Fisher was disturbed by all these pressures. Sometimes he felt there were voices speaking to him from the air. Sometimes, he would shoot at these voices.

One day he appeared at the Dowling store. He was carrying his gun, which was unusual. He was fondling it, rubbing his hand along the barrel. That, too, was strange. He walked to the counter and started listing groceries and goods that he needed. Mrs. Lund, alone in the store, was frightened. He had his gun, was he dangerous? She would not refuse him groceries or in any way arouse his anger. Coffee, sugar, cheese, tobacco, matches, Mrs. Lund packed up his groceries for him, wondering all the while if that gun was loaded. Cautiously she moved the groceries toward him. Slowly, he pushed the gun across the counter towards her. He raised his eyes to hers and said: "Voices very bat today, Missus. I hef no money to pay, Missus. I gif you my gun, she shoot goot."

Joe Fisher, as this story indicates, did find the pressures of homesteading on the prairies more than he could cope with. In those days no one suggested psychiatric treatment, instead he bore the brunt of many jokes and was mistreated by some. If treated with understanding he was usually quiet and very polite. He spent a lot of time with Tony Brunner and his family. Tony rented Joe's land and eventually bought it. Joe was taken to an institution and passed away there during the fifties. As far as anyone knew, there were no relatives.

THE LEWIS BAXTER STORY, By Violet Baxter Olson — My parents Lewis Baxter and Martha Good were both born in West Virginia, U.S.A. They were married there in 1900. Two children were born while they lived there, a son Lovel and a daughter Owena. About 1907 they moved to North Dakota for approximately three years, where they had another daughter Louise. From there they went to Clarkston, Washington for a short stay, and then on to Alberta, Canada. A son Eldred was born in Washington in 1911, and he was just a baby when they came to Castor in February of 1912. That was as far as the railroad came at that time, so the family stayed there temporarily until Dad could get a place ready on the homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter taken during the twenties, in a wheat field.

Owena, Eldred, Louise, Lovel and Violet Baxter, 1929.

The homestead was the north half of 12-33-15. He built a sod house on the north-east corner and moved his family down from Castor. Our first barn, chicken house and even the much needed "out house" were all made of sod. The sod

houses were white-washed inside and were nice and cool in the summer, yet warm in the winter. I (Violet) was born in that sod house the year after my folks moved into it, with Mrs. Sexsmith in attendance. There weren't any doctors within miles so people depended on mid-wives for assistance. The Sexsmiths were our closest neighbors so it was no problem getting her to come over.

We lived in the sod house for four years. Then a frame house was built near by, but the folks used the other sod buildings for quite some time after we abandoned the house. Brunners lived to the south of us, and of course it was all open range then, with no fences. They had cattle that used to like to come up and rub on the sod buildings, and there was a good chance they could have knocked them down. Lovel was eleven then, and he was supposed to chase them away, as Dad was working in a coal mine at Garden Plain. There was one mean old cow they called "Herschel" that chased everyone. One day the cattle came when Dad was home so he went to chase them away. She took after him and got him down underneath her. The only thing he had was a knife, so he took it and went to work on her belly. She left him alone and never bothered him again.

Our first Post Office was Greystone, about two miles east and a mile north of us. This was operated by Mr. English, in his house. We got our mail there until the Englishes left suddenly during the night, leaving [illegible] the household furnishings behind. He never returned to get them and they were still there when we left in 1933. After that we got our mail in Hanna. In the winter the neighbors took turns going to get the mail and necessary supplies. Sometime in the twenties they started a mail route from Hanna, which went east, then came over our way on the return trip. The mailman stopped over at our place to have dinner and feed and rest his horses. It was a long cold trip for him and his horses, with lots of snowdrifts to get through. Carl Hannah and Mr. Evans were two of our mail men.

When the railroad finally came through from Warden to Hanna, the town of Scapa started to build up. Mr. Ells Malm was the first to start a store. His wife was so excited about the railroad coming through, but she didn't get to see it reach Scapa. She passed away just shortly before. J.B. McKenzie moved into Scapa from his farm, and started up a post office. We got our mail from Scapa after that. The mail carriers from there were the Hills, Jesse, Earl, and Chester. Sometimes Mr. Hill would haul the mail too. They used our place for their noon stop-over too. Chester was still mail man when we left.

It was an exciting time when the railroad was being put through. The right of way cut through the middle of our place, and we used to enjoy watching them work. They used mules on the dump carts to build the grades and big steam shovels to cut down the hills. My sister Louise, Mary Brunner and I had the thrill [illegible] riding in the engine of the work train one day.

Before the Wiese School was built, Lovel and Owens went to Hudson Bay. As soon as Wiese opened we all went there. In 1921 when Florence Meadows was teaching, [illegible] five of us were going to school. My last teacher was Agnes Temple, a good friend of ours both before and after she taught our school. Some years there were so many blizzards and so much cold weather that the school closed for a month or two. Eldred and Louise went to Hudson Bay one year when there weren't enough children [illegible] keep Wiese open. I was too small to go that far, so I had to wait until Wiese opened again.

At Christmas time all the schools put on a concert, so there was usually one every night for a week before Christmas. One year Chain Lakes and Wiese joined together so there would be enough pupils to put on a program. [illegible] was held in Wiese since it was the biggest of the two schools. It turned out to be a big success. Another year we were going to do the same thing with Antelope Hill. We practised together and were all set for the big night but a bad blizzard came up and it had to be called off. The weather stayed so bad there was no school until the end [illegible] January.

A dance held at the school always got us all excited too. We'd pack all our books away in the big cupboard in the corner, and shove all the desks over along the walls. The teachers were very patient with us as we goofed around while we were doing it. After a few halls were built there weren't as many dances held in the schools. Garden Plain Hall was one of the first around. Some of the musicians who played for these dances were the Applegate Bros., Roy Embree, George Unsworth and his sister Jane and Bill Sim. Charles Lohrmann and Herman Siemp were often floor managers, with Herman calling square dances. Bert Sim also called square dances.

Another popular place for dances was in barn lofts, especially when a new barn was built. The grand opening was usually a barn dance. Doyle's used their large barn for numerous dances and I can remember them hauling the piano from the Wiese School up to the loft with the hay slings. Harvey Burt and Herman Siemp had dances in their new barns, and I think Brunners did too. Everyone had a wonderful time [illegible] these "barn warmings".

In the summer we had the local picnics at Garden Plain, Clear Lake, Endiang and Scapa. The men always ended the day with a tug of war. Sometimes there was a nail driving contest for the women and the ones I can recall taking part in that were Kate Siemp, Christie Lohrmann, Mrs. Kammerle and Dolly Dahlgren. There were others too of course. Kate Siemp and Mrs. Kammerle were often tied in the women's races. Our family was always competitive in the races and high jumping. Our winnings were spending money for the picnic. Eldred and Billie Storch were nearly always the winners of the three-legged races, as well as the foot races. The day rounded out with a big dance.

We had our fun in the winter time too. There was sleigh riding down hills with homemade toboggans and sleds. We had a dandy hill on our place for that and lots of company to join in the fun, also sloughs to skate on. [illegible] there was snow we had to clean the ice off with shovels. One year a bunch of people from Scapa and districts around cleared off a rink on Sullivan Lake. There was always a big bonfire to keep warm. Another place we used was east of us on English's slough. There was hockey and skating there several winters.

There were years when things were pretty grim, and the going was rough. Everyone seemed to help each other during those times. There was a lot of visiting back and forth, doing things for fun that didn't involve much expense.

I remember when Ralph Gaugler, our bachelor neighbor got married and a bunch were going to chivaree him and his bride. They sneaked up after dark with all kinds of noise making articles and proceeded to make a big racket around the house. There was no response so they went on in and found the house empty. Ralph had out-smarted them and was hiding outside, taking in all the fun. He was a good friend of the family until he and Dad had some disagreement that I never did understand. They never did resolve their differences.

There were some tragic accidents that brought shock and sadness to the community. I remember so well the fatal accident that Dan Ruhl had, not far from our place; Johnny Steinbrecker losing his life when he fell from a load of hay and was run over; Chester Hill spending many months in the hospital, after he'd been accidentally shot in the leg by another hunter. He ended up with an artificial leg, but I always remember him being very cheerful. Dad was working at the coal mine at the time George Unsworth was badly hurt, leaving him crippled for the rest of his life. It didn't stop him from being a sport and joining in the fun.

We left the Wiese district, moving north to Fort Assiniboine in October, 1933. Lovel married Wilma Smyth, a Wiese teacher. He was elevator agent in Scapa and for awhile he had a farm south of Scapa. They are presently in Kelowna, B.C. Owena's husband John Cartwright, died in 1975. She resides in Barrhead and has a son who is still at home. Louise passed away in July 1967. Eldred and his wife Zeitha live in Hinton. My husband Ray and I live at Fort Assiniboine. We have one son at home. Mother passed away in 1942 and Dad in April, 1961.

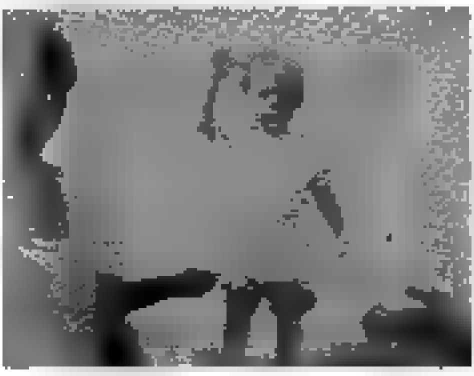
The Ladies Aid Club when they met at the Baxter home in 1931. Left to right: Jane Sleep, Mrs. Mains, Mrs. Fennel, Lizzie Bridges, Mrs. McKenzie. Seated: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Baxter.

When Hanna celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, my sisters Owena, Louise and I attended. We had a wonderful time meeting old friends and there seemed no end of them. Ten years later Owena, Ray and I (Louise had passed away) went again for the sixtieth anniversary celebration. We met a lot of friends again, but there were some who had passed on during the ten years. I can't begin to name everybody we saw as I might leave someone out, but it was wonderful meeting them all. Each and everyone of our old friends would be welcome to visit us at any time.

THE CHARLES *FIELDINGS,* ***By Carolyn (Fielding) Crowle*** — This is the story of the days I spent on the Fielding farm, as I remember them.

My mother and I came to Hanna, Alta., in 1918, when I was six years old. Mother was to take up housekeeping duties for Charlie Fielding, who had a homestead about twelve miles north of Hanna. A Mr. Burrows met us at the train, and took us to the Fielding farm. Upon arriving at the farm, we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wheeler for our first meal. They lived directly across the road from the Fielding farm, in a sod house. Grandma Wheeler lived just a little to the east of her son's place, in her own shack. I spent a lot of my childhood days with the Wheelers, often doing dishes for Grandma Wheeler. Early one morning we saw smoke just over the hill. Her shack had burned down, and we were saddened to find that she had lost her life in the fire. After that the Ed Wheelers left for the U.S.A., and Charlie Fielding bought their farm.

Charlie Fielding, taken during the forties.


Mrs. Fielding and daughter Ada.

I started school in 1919. We lived a mile east of the Wiese school, so I walked most of the time. We were very poor, and I had very few warm clothes. I had to pass the home of Chris Vista, where I used to stop and get warmed up. Manly and

Hjalmer lived there with their brother Chris, and they had a housekeeper most of the time, so I would get a hot cup of cocoa and a cookie. I was quite a moocher, going from there to the Mansfield farm, where I'd get another handout from Grandma Mansfield. From there I went to school.

In the winter the school was usually cold. The pot belly heater just couldn't put out enough heat. The teacher would let us snuggle up around it to keep warm, and do our school work. In the summer time we enjoyed ourselves to no end, playing all sorts of games like tag, duck and the rock, or kick the can. Then there were always some boys like Eldred Baxter and Tony Brunner, who snared gophers and chased the girls all over the school yard.

We had some wonderful Christmas concerts, after the hours and hours of practising. Every one went home happy, with a big bag of candy and oranges, and so excited after seeing Santa Claus. There were also pie socials and box socials. If the girls had a favorite beau, they'd mark their box or pie so he would know which one [redacted] bid on.

I went to the Alps school for a while, when Wiese was closed because there weren't enough children to make it worth while hiring a teacher. Mrs. Williams was my teacher at the Alps School. I would walk across the Wheeler farm and catch a ride to school with her. She was a wonderful person, I realize now, but at the time I thought she was being awful strict with me. Sometimes I was late getting to her place, and after this happened a few times, she didn't wait for me anymore. So I would 'shank's pony' off to school, stopping to visit Mr. and Mrs. Binmore along the way, and always arriving late for school. Mrs. Williams never took that 'late for school' business lightly.

My Mother married Mr. Fielding in 1923. They had six children, Charlie, Nellie, Jim, Jessie, Ada and Thelma.

Mother grew a very large garden, and we usually had vegetables to spare. I can remember people coming to get produce, the McKenzies, Symingtons, Sexsmiths, and Baxters were some of them. One year we had so many spuds, Dad sold half a sleigh box to Gibb, Brown and Odell Store. He hauled them loose in the sleigh box, with some heated rocks in the bottom to keep them from freezing. When he got to town he went [redacted] the elevator to have them weighed. He didn't say anything about the rocks in the bottom, so they got weighed along with the spuds. Those were the heaviest potatoes he ever sold.

Dad built a large pig pen on the Wheeler farm, and raised purebred Yorkshire pigs. Every fall fair day my brother Charlie and I would get out the scrub pail, brush and soap, and scrub the pig we were entering in the fair. The pigs seemed to love having their backs scrubbed.

While on the subject of the fall fair, I will tell about another of my Dad's stunts. He wasn't a very good farmer, he never seemed to get his crop in, or off, on time. Our farm bordered Ralph Gaugler's to the north, and he had a lovely crop of wheat. Dad had been eyeing this for some time, hoping Ralph wouldn't cut it before fair time. He was in luck, so he sneaked into the field and gathered himself a bundle of wheat, entered it in the fair and won first prize. Ralph had entered a bundle of wheat too, but he didn't win a prize. Dad laughed many times over this, but us kids were really scared everytime we saw Ralph. Then shortly after that a Mountie stopped [redacted] the house, and we were sure he was after Dad for stealing the wheat. It turned out he was out to visit a girl that lived nearby, and wanted to know how to get there.

I used to ride a pony [redacted] Dowling twice a week for the mail and groceries. A man by the name of Fred Germain worked for Mrs. Wirth. He lived in a small shack across from Chris Vists's. I would stop and ask him if he needed anything from the store. It was always "a can of snuff". After doing this small favor for him a couple [illegible] summers, Fred gave me a gold wrist watch for my kindness. I still have the watch, and after forty-nine years, it still runs perfectly.

When the railroad was being built, I used to deliver milk to the work camp every night. My mother gave me half of the money she made from the milk. I bought myself some new clothes for school, the first new clothes I ever had.

After Hjalmar Viste married I called on them frequently. When Helen was born, I would care for her while her mother did some chores and cooked supper. Mrs. Viste always sent something home with me for helping.

The folks sold the land to Chris Viste, but continued to live there for about a year. Then they moved to Hanna. Charlie Fielding passed away in 1953, and Lydia Fielding in June of 1971, at the age of [illegible].

I married Dick Crowle, a blacksmith, and we lived in Hanna. Of our sixteen children, two died as infants, one at the age of one, and a fourteen year old boy drowned in a dug-out near Sheerness. Some of our family have scattered to different parts of the province, but most of them are still in the Hanna area. Dick passed away in 1967. I enjoy my grandchildren, and all the rest who know me as Grandma Crowle.

Fielding children. Left to right: Jim, Charlie, Jessie, Nellie holding Ada. Taken in 1927.

Charlie and Jim Fielding both served in World War II. [illegible] August, 1944, Charlie was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding exploits during fighting in Europe. Charlie is now living at High Level, where he works in a garage. He has four children. Jim is employed as a carpenter. He and his wife Victoria (Crego) reside in Calgary. They have a family of five.

Nellie married Jim Bond, and they are also [illegible] Calgary. They have three boys. Jessie, now Mrs. McElroy, lives at Hussar, and has three children. Ada and her husband, Don Benedict, farm in the Hand Hills. Thelma married Lawrence Mastche, and they reside in Calgary. Both Ada and Thelma have five children.

Mrs. Laura Coghill

THE COGHILLS, MRS. LAURA, ALBERT and ROY, By Pearl Viste — My mother, Mrs. Oscar (Caroline) Norby was the oldest of the Sidney Coghill children. She had two sisters and two brothers. The Coghills had come from England to Ontario, then to the Red Deer district in Alberta to farm. In 1905 Mr. Coghill passed away. All the girls were married by this time.

In 1912 Grandma Coghill and the boys Albert and Fredrick Roy went to homestead the east half 36-32-15 and NE 35-32-15, about fourteen miles north of Hanna. They made the one hundred and fifty mile move with horses and wagons.

Uncle Albert enlisted [redacted] the army and went overseas in 1918. He never returned. Uncle Roy and Grandma continued to farm. I came from the Burnt Lake district, where my folks lived, in the fall of 1924 to stay with them. I worked for Grandma for $15.00 a month until I was married in 1928. During that time I took a trip to the coast and my sister Mae stayed at the Coghill's for six months.

Daisy Gay seated on tractor, Nellie Gay and Roy Coghill standing beside. Take note of the mother hen and chicks in the right hand corner.

Uncle Roy was married shortly after I was, so Grandma went [redacted] live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norby. Roy farmed until his health failed and he passed away in August 1943. [redacted] his family live in the Edmonton area. They are Jessie, Laura a[redacted] Dorothy and a son Ernie. The farm was sold to Tony Brunner.

CHRISTIAN VISTE — Chris Viste came to Alberta from Ada, Minnesota [redacted] the fall of 1908, travelling with L. Viste. They found work in the Didsbury district.

In the spring of 1909 Chris borrowed a saddle horse and rode over [redacted] the Dowling Lake district [redacted] speculate on a homestead. He was interested in a piece of land that bordered Nick Lund's holdings. Nick was discouraging anyone from filing near him, since he liked the open range for his cattle. This turned out to be an advantage for Chris. He was sent further east, where he filed on the west half of 6-33-14. This proved [redacted] [redacted] the best gumbo land in the whole area, producing the best crop around year after year.

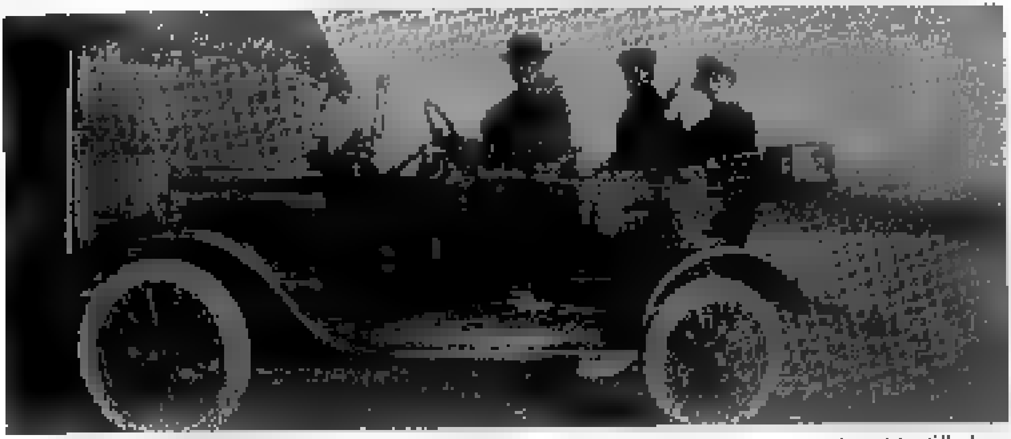
Chris went back and worked at Didsbury until 1910. He bought a team of horses for $50.00 and headed out to the homestead [redacted] break some [redacted] his land. He got an outfit with a big gas tractor and eight-bottom plow to come in and plow 53 acres for him. While they worked for Chris, he started cooking for them, and cooked most [redacted] the summer as they went from place to place breaking land.

The Chris Viste home was well known for its hospitality. Many a newcomer to the district spent his first day or so at his place. After his brothers Manly and Hjalmer came to stay with him, they became extravagant and hired a housekeeper. Some of their housekeepers were reported to be nice looking, and it kept the rest of the bachelors busy, keeping track of who the Viste Brothers had working for them.

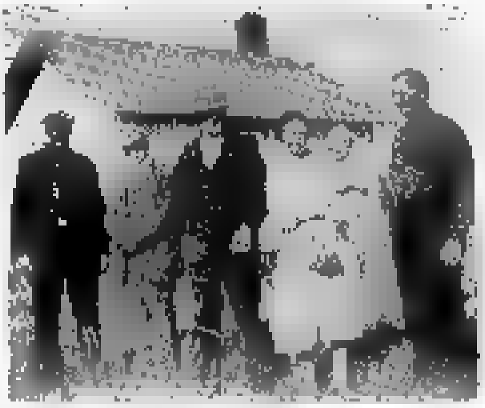
Many an all-night session of Norwegian Whist took place there, and many a box of Copenhagen was chewed. Often there was quite a competition to see who could spit in the coal pail or the open heater door the most accurately. Martin Dahl

became well known for his "bull's eye" aim. Chris also opened his home to meetings. A number of the early Wiese School meetings were held at his home and he gave the school his full support.

Chris put a lot of thought into his farming operation. He always seemed to know exactly the right time to plant and the right time to do everything else. Until he passed away one couldn't find a spear of wild oats on his property, because he had walked around his fields and picked it into a bag. A bag was always carried along on the binder or tractor at harvest time to pick any suspicious looking heads.


Chris Viste at the wheel of their first car. Hjalmer is back, right. The other passenger is unidentified.

For years he complained about having the "Blinkin Grippe". Consequently no one paid much attention when about 1950 he started to complain more than usual. Acutally he was seriously ill. It wasn't until shortly before he passed away that he was hospitalized. This was in May of 1957. Few men were held in greater esteem by the neighbors than Chris Viste.


Chris Viste, Sven Kwam, Gerhard Viste, Clara Viste holding Helen and Hjalmer Viste.

THE HJALMER VISTE FAMILY, as told by Clara and Helen — Hjalmer was anxious to get up to Canada to join his brother Chris. In 1910 he turned eighteen, and that was when he took the seven dollars he had [illegible] his name, left his home in Minnesota, and headed for Canada. He went as far as the Birch Hills [illegible] Saskatchewan where he got work cutting wood in an area that had been burned over.

By the spring of 1911 he had enough money [illegible] come [illegible] Alberta. He filed on NW 34-32-15, two and a half miles west of Chris' homestead. The land was a complete opposite of his brother's gumbo. The plow turned up rock upon rock and it was a big day's work to get ten acres plowed. At the end of the day his fingers were bleeding from picking rocks.

Hjalmer worked here and there when a job was available, to make a little spending money. Between jobs he stayed with Chris. He used to walk to Craigmyle to work for Brassets, often walking behind the harrows all day after his early morning hike getting there. Another project he worked on was the digging of the

National Hotel basement. When the steel was being laid for the railroad west of Hanna, he got a job on that crew.

Working conditions there were far from good. He was plagued by lice and ever so often he'd have to get a new change of clothes. The old ones were buried in the ground to get rid of the lice, if there was such a thing possible. During the hot summers months, food storage was a real problem. The meat was pulled up to the top of a high pole with a rope and pulley, in hopes that it would be cooler and escape the flies. This wasn't always the case and the condition of the meat was often questionable. Conditions, plus cooks who didn't make the best of what they did have, took care of any weight-watchers problem on the crew.

In 1918 [illegible] bought Jake Carstensen's land, the south half of 32-32-14, for $30.00 per acre. Soon another brother Manly joined Chris and Hjalmer. They all worked together, living at Chris's. Sometime during the early twenties they bought their own threshing machine, so they could thresh for themselves. Manly was separator man, Hjalmer hauled the grain and Chris pitched bundles with the extra hired help.

Hjalmer was the first to break away from the ranks of being a bachelor. In 1925 he made a trip back to Minnesota, where he married Clara Bjuland. They lived with Chris for three years when they were first married. A daughter Helen was born in 1927. In 1928 Hjalmer had a car load of lumber shipped into Dowling from B.C. This was the only car load of lumber ever shipped into Dowling. With it they built a house, barn and other buildings on the Carstensen place. As soon as they could, they moved to their own home with their year-old daughter.

The dirty thirties were soon upon them, affecting them as it did all the other farmers, each year getting worse than the last. The one they remember most vividly was 1937. The bumper crop that fall yielded a total of 37 bushels. What was called a "poverty box" was put on the binder to cut the crop. Helen sat in it and pushed the Russian thistles through the end gate. The thistles were what the cows got to eat that winter. Some relief feed was shipped into Dowling by the Government. As a climax for that already eventful year, Helen was stricken with appendicitis and had an operation, followed by complications.

Hjalmer was a man with more patience than enough, around his livestock and barns. Anyone working with him became frustrated by the way he fussed with everything. Clara pitched in, cooking and washing for her own family as well as a multitude of bachelor relatives and friends. Her ties with her family back [illegible] Minnesota remained strong, and she always looked forward to visiting them.

In June 1949, Helen married Rudy Annas. They farmed with Helen's parents for a few years. In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Viste retired to Hanna. Rudy and Helen were blessed with the arrival of a son Kenneth in December, 1953. The farm was their home until 1975, when they built a house in Hanna. They have lived there since, but continue to farm and still have cattle. Ken is married and living in Hanna. He is employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Hjalmer passed away October, 1981. Clara resides [illegible] a new home, next door to Rudy and Helen.

THE MANLY VISTE FAMILY, By Pearl Viste — John Manly Viste came to Hanna, Alberta, from Minnesota in 1921 to live with his brothers, Chris and Hjalmer on Chris's homestead. He worked with them for several years and then about 1927 he bought Don Ross's farm, the north half of 30-32-14.

I (Pearl Norby) came from the Marianne district, west of Red Deer to stay with my Grandmother, Mrs. Coghill. That [illegible] where I met Manly in 1928. We were

married in December of 1928, starting out our married life at the onset of the depression years.

The crop in 1928 was very good, however an early frost lowered the grade, taking the profit away for that year. We struggled along through the dust storms, poor prices and all the other hardships that came during those years.

Our milk cows always provided us with lots of milk, butter and cream, even if they didn't bring in much money when cream sold for only $1.60 for a five gallon can. We stuck with milking cows through the years, sometimes as many as twelve. For a few years it was hard to get up enough feed and most of what we did have was Russian Thistles. We had a Bennet Buggy to go to Hanna for groceries and to do the little bit of visiting we did in the neighborhood. We also used it to go to church at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, a sixteen mile round trip. Manly served on the church council there for a number of years.

Manly Vista family Carol, Alva, Georgina, Dwight, Calton, Walter. Seated: Stanley, Mrs. Vista, Mr. Vista.

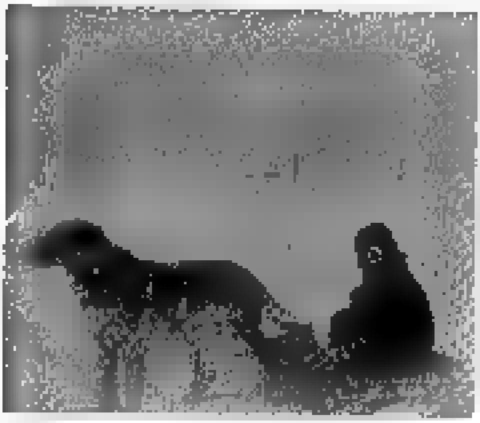
By the end of the thirties, the weather improved and life took a change for the better. Our problem of getting a good water supply didn't change though. It didn't matter where we drilled or dug, or how deep we went, it was always the same thing "quicksand". Manly finally got disgusted with having to haul water for pigs and cattle, so he had a well drilled one half mile west of where we lived. This was a much nicer location along the Hanna-Scapa road. When the well looked fairly promising, we started to build a new house. This was in 1948. Over the next two years we gradually moved to the new house and new location. The one thing we hated to leave behind was the shelterbelt with its row of nice healthy evergreen trees. We had to start all over again, planting and caring for small trees.

There was a gravel pit on the Ross farm when Manly bought it. A couple more were opened up and they were used extensively down through the years. There used to be wagon load after wagon load of gravel hauled out for basements and foundations. A lot of it went to Hanna for sidewalks and buildings. At one time part of Highway 36 was gravelled out of these pits, and the Special Areas crushed and hauled for their road work.

We farmed with horses until we got a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor. Our family always went with us at haying and harvest times. Everyone old enough to help, stooked and helped with the hay. There were several threshing outfits in the district, the Viste Bros. having their own.

We had a family of four sons and four daughters, (one daughter died in infancy in 1934). All of them attended Wiese School, a distance of about one mile across country from our first home. When Walter started he walked in the summer and drove a German Shepherd dog on a sled in the winter. The next year when Calton started to school the dog pulled both of them to and from school. After the girls went to school we got a pony.

There were many good times at the school, the picnics at the end of the term with all the homemade ice cream, and visiting with the neighbors; the concerts at Christmas time with all the children taking part, and Santa arriving to make everyone happy.



Walter Viste enroute to school on a sled pulled by Buster, a German Shepherd. How does this compare with a big yellow school bus?

"Danny Boy", with a full load. Left to right: Stanley Viste, Margaret Talmage, Dwight and Jean Viste.

Walter married Freda Gaugler and they farmed locally. Calton married Susan Turner. They live across the road from the home place with their three children. Calton is also a farmer. Carol and her husband Lou Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district. They have two daughters, one married and one [illegible] home. Alva is married to Dr. John Kester. They live in Hanna with their four daughters. Georgina (Jean) and husband Garry Burns live in Sherwood Park. Jean is a long time employee of A.G.T. working in the Edmonton office. Gary and Jean have two daughters. Dwight is employed by an oil company in Calgary. He and his wife Dorothy McCullough have one son and one daughter. Stanley, the youngest of the family farms the homeplace. He married Shirley Sauter. They have two girls.

Manly passed away [illegible] December, 1966, a few days before his seventieth birthday. I keep busy on the farm, with chores and grandchildren. I have always enjoyed outdoor work and it is where I still like [illegible] be.

THE RALPH GAUGLER FAMILY, By Lucy (Gaugler) Scott — Ralph Gaugler was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1896. Being the oldest one in a large hard working rural family wasn't an easy life, so at the tender age of fourteen he left home. His search for a better life took him through most of the U.S. and many parts of Canada, finally ending in Alberta in 1910. His means of transportation was "riding the rods". His youth was to his advantage at times. The odd seasoned bum felt sorry for him and was willing to teach him a few tricks [illegible] the trade, but most of the time it was learning the hard way, with no room for

Ralph Gaugler and Beatrice Moench on their wedding day, Oct. 5, 1923.

mistakes. During this time he picked up whatever jobs he could get, for whatever pay he could get. We spent many a long winter evening, sitting in the dull light of the old coal-oil lamp, listening to stories of Dad's interesting experiences. It would take a good T.V. or radio program to compete with his stories for entertainment.

While he was working at different jobs, he was speculating on a homestead waiting to become of age to file. In 1912 he took up the west half of 7-33-14. He still worked while proving up his homestead. In the summer of 1912 and 13 he walked to Bassano to work on the aqueduct, walking back home again towards fall.

All the while his family in Pennsylvania didn't have a clue as to where he was. He was called into the army in 1916 and through his naming his sister as his beneficiary, they found out he was in Canada. It wasn't until the late twenties that they located him in Alberta. After the war he came back to the homestead, with its hardships and hard work. It was like starting all over again.

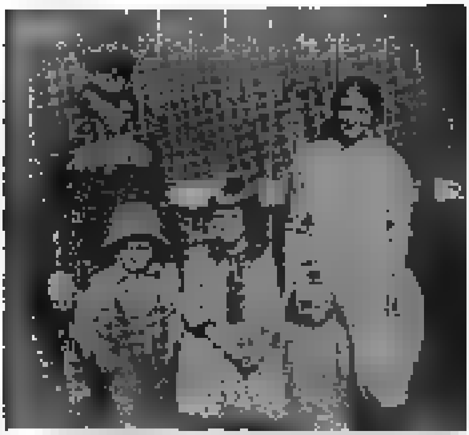
The humorous incidents that happened now and then made the adversities just a little easier to bear, like the winter Dad decided to snitch a little milk for himself from Sexsmith's milk cow. He'd sneak over late at night, milk the cow and sneak back home. Things went great for awhile and then for a few nights the cow was dry. One night he went over a little earlier and there was someone else with the same idea he had, milking the cow. Startled, the fellow ran out of the barn, leaving his pail behind. Dad took it along home and after a few days he went for a little walk to the neighbors that he was sure owned the pail, saying he had come to return it. After a few embarrassing explanations from both of them, they came to an agreement to visit Sexsmith's barn on alternate nights. It was several years before they let out what they had done and everyone had a good laugh.

It was lonely being a bachelor, and Dad ended that in 1923, when he married Beatrice Moench, a girl from a pioneer family of the Hand Hills district. The Moench family history can be found in the "Hand Hills Heritage". We kids can remember a few trips to the Hand Hills in the old buggy to visit. Grandma Moench's house had 2½' thick sod walls, plastered on the inside and outside and no matter how hot a day it was, her house was always refreshingly cool.

To start their married life Dad and Mother lived in the two room bachelor shack. When the family started arriving, Mother was very fortunate to have Mrs. Sexsmith living so close by. She was a mid-wife, very devoted to her work and a kind thoughtful lady. I (Lucy) was the first one she delivered in 1924. By the time a son William was born in 1926, my parents had built a new house and had just moved into it. Dad was away from home, so Mother was to put a white flag on a pole in the yard so Mrs. Sexsmith would know when to come over. Either Mrs. Sexsmith didn't notice it right away or Bill got in too much of a hurry — he had made his arrival before she got there. Freda was born in 1929 to complete the family.

While we were growing up, Dad kept working at different jobs to supplement the meagre farm income. One year he ended up around Big Valley on rail-

way construction. It was getting on towards harvest time, so he walked home across country. The whole crew was infested with lice, so instead of having a bubble bath when he got home, he asked for the kerosene can, and headed for the barn. There he had a wash with kerosene and his clothes were buried in the field.



The Gaugler family. Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler, Bill, Lucy, Freda.

Mother had the responsibility of looking after us and the chores, by herself a lot of the time. After the new house was built, the Wiese school teachers often boarded with us. This made extra work for her, but she really enjoyed their company. Dad had a lengthy threshing career, something like fifty years, with one year's absence when he was in the army. He started out helping to run a steam outfit when he was sixteen. After he got a few years of experience he got his own outfit.

This always took him away from home in the fall. Sometimes it was close to Christmas by the time threshing wound up. He set a deadline of September first to have his own threshing done, and then he would head out with tractor, machine and a canvas-covered sleeping car on a wagon. This slept eight men, and as one of them once said "Sleeping in there sure separates the men from the boys." The only means of taking the chill off the bunk wagon was a kerosene lantern.

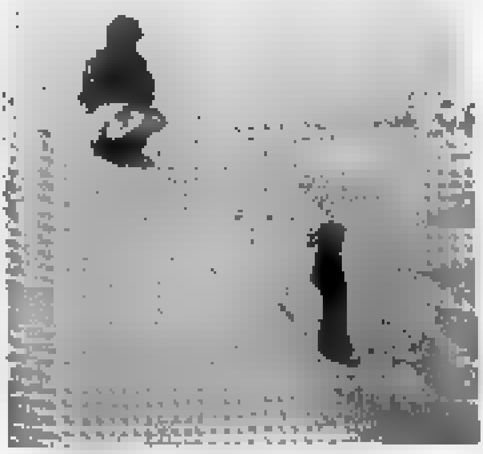
In the late twenties a man by the name of Frank Larocque came to work for us. He stayed with us for fourteen years and got to be Dad's right arm around the threshing crew. He took it upon himself to keep the crew lined up, and it didn't bother him in the least if they were all mad at him. He constantly chewed plug tobacco. Whenever they saw "Old Frank" chewing and spitting harder than usual, they knew he was mad and someone was about to get it. We kids got a few stingers on the backside once in a while too, and so did some of our little friends. On the other hand he was very good to us and spoiled us. He didn't have any relatives, so we were the ones he remembered at Christmas and Easter. He used to walk to Dowling for tobacco and he always brought us candy, but that wasn't enough, we'd steal them out of his coat pockets.

Dad spent a lot of time working in his blacksmith shop, and it was there he met with an accident in 1935. A fragment of steel went through his eye, narrowly missing his brain. As a result he lost his eye. The steel was never removed because of the delicate position it was in. Fortunately with time it moved away from his brain. While he was recuperating he made his first trip back to Pennsylvania to see his family. They didn't have any idea he was coming, so it was overwhelming for all of them to see a long-lost son and brother. A sister was born after he left, so she was 25 years old when he saw her the first time.

We all worked together on the farm for quite a few years. Then I went to Hanna to work. Freda married Walter Viste in 1952, and Bill had his own land by then, (the Cap Barich farm) so he moved the Ekiss house up from land he owned along Dowling Lake. He fixed it up and went batching in 1953. It must have agreed with him because it wasn't long until he put a sign on his gate "No women allowed". He's still batching there. Freda and Walter lived in Hanna the first winter and then moved to the A.A. Hutton farm, where they worked for two years. By this time the folks had decided it was time to start taking it easy, so they rented the farm to Walter, and they moved to Hanna. Walter eventually bought it. Bill and Walter farmed and worked together throughout the years.

Lucy married Perley Scott in 1953. They make their home in Hanna. Their daughters, Sharon and Sandy are married, living in Calgary and Hanna respectively. Freda and Walter have three children, Douglas working as a machinist in Hanna, Donald, employed by the Special Areas and helping on the farm, and Cathy Lynn in High School.

One of the highlights in Mother and Dad's life, after they retired, was the invitation that they received in 1959 to attend a luncheon in honor of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, in Edmonton. It was sent by Premier Manning, and the festivities took place on the lawns of the Legislative Buildings. They acted nonchalant, but it was obvious they were pretty excited.



Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler in their driveway on Easter Day, 1951. Mr. Gaugler is standing upright in a hole dug in the snow. It was May before they could use the driveway.

Dad devoted a lot of time to community work, serving on the executive of numerous committees and organizations. He was an ambitious man, expecting everyone else to keep their noses on the grind-stone. This applied to his horses and other farm animals too. If they didn't shape up to his liking they received some pretty brutal treatment. His life was too short to do all the things he planned, so when he passed away in 1967 there were lots of unfulfilled dreams. He kept active up until the last month and a half of his life, which he spent in a Calgary hospital.

Mother has been a resident in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna since January, 1977. Prior to this she had never spent a day of her life in a hospital or institution, an indication of the good health she was fortunate enough to have. She always said "Good hard work never hurt anyone", and it was certainly true for her.

THE RAINA FAMILY, By Mary (Raina) Rodgers and Clara (Raina) Flannigan — Our father, Dominic Anthony Raina, was born in Busco, Italy, on November 11, 1889. On completing his education he set sail for South America to seek his fortune growing bananas. This venture was short-lived as he was soon recalled to Italy for the settling of his father's estate. After collecting his modest share of the inheritance he immigrated to Canada in 1913. He settled on a homestead in Alberta on NW 32-32-14, located ten miles north and one mile west of Hanna. For six years father remained a bachelor while working hard to break the sod and establish a thriving farm of wheat, oats, barley and some cattle.

In those early years men greatly outnumbered women on the prairies and many a lonely young swain was doomed to eternal bachelorhood. Father was fortunate to meet his future bride, Elizabeth Hepp of Castor, Alberta, through a mutual friend. Mother was born in Hungary on September 9, 1900, and with her parents, brothers, and sisters immigrated to Canada in 1904. Her pioneer family homesteaded near Castor, Alberta, and did much to tame the wilderness in the settling of the West. Perhaps this accounted for her unfailing optimism and her utter suitability to the role of a homesteader's wife. Our parents were married at Castor, Alberta on November 4, 1919.

Mother's first duty as a 19-year-old bride was to resurrect and restore about 20 pairs of soiled and tattered overalls, and at least [illegible] many pairs of socks, which were salvaged from the attic of the house. During her first weeks on the new homestead she learned more and more about the husband whom she had seen only a few times before her wedding. For instance, through patience and observation she finally unravelled the mystery of his frequent and stealthy trips to the cellar from which he would later emerge with a smug and contented look on his face, and from which an abominable odor always seemed to emanate. Father was addicted to a foul-smelling limburger cheese which he had cached away in great quantities in the lower regions of the house! Out of deference to his young bride he agreed to forego that weakness with its accompanying vile smell.

Our parents had their first six children in Alberta: John (1921); Mary (1922); Ralph (1925); Clara (1926); Louis (1930) and George (1932).

We children retain many cherished memories of our early years on the prairies. From our parents we inherited a great love of nature. Among our most treasured recollections is that of our mother gently rousing us from sleep one night with the words, "I want you to see something beautiful". She carried us to the window, one by one, so that our eyes might be opened to the majesty [illegible] vivid northern lights dancing across the skies. A mother who would take the time to share the beauty of nature with her children in the middle of the night after a hard day of milking cows, helping with the haying, baking bread and perhaps doing a laundry on the scrub board with water heated on a coal stove, is indeed of the stuff of which pioneers were made.

Mrs. Raina with Johnny, Mary and Ralph.

Raina's pony and sled. Clara Raina and Friedel Haessel on sled, John and Ralph Raina standing.

Our home stood on a little hill which commanded a gorgeous view of the surrounding countryside and this compensated for the fact that it stood unprotected from the prairie winds. Father found his homestead rather bare and because he usually planted a tree wherever he lived, he now proceeded to obtain a variety of cuttings through the government. Among them were enough poplars, about the diameter of a lead pencil, to border a lengthy laneway running from the public road to the house. While working on that legacy for the future [illegible] endured much good-natured teasing from his neighbors who suggested that he set up a saw-mill to cut his lumber. The trees thrived and today they stand majestically on the prairies providing a pleasing sight for miles around.

Father played an active part in community affairs while farming in Alberta. He served terms as Secretary of the School Board, Secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, Municipal Councillor and Game Warden. He also served as local correspondent for the Hanna Herald for a number of years.

Mother recalls one particular incident during father's term as councillor when the matter of road construction between Dowling and Scapa was discussed. Father favored a straight road but met with opposition on the grounds that this was impossible because it would require traversing a water-filled slough. Father was confident that a friend and neighbor, Ralph Gaugler, a most efficient road foreman, could accomplish that feat. His faith in Ralph's ability proved well-founded and a straight road went through.

The West during our formative years was indeed a wondrous place to learn and grow. We attended the Wiese School and many were the Christmas concerts, ball games and meetings of friends and neighbors which took place there. The homestead was a place where crocuses grew in lush abundance and where one could hear milk pails rattling for miles around. It was a place where children could dream of making their first million through the sale of gopher tails and crows' eggs for which the government offered a modest bounty when crops became endangered through those inhabitants of the prairies. It was a place where coyotes howled in the night, where prairie chickens and partridges provided delicious meals, and where ducks swam gracefully on the sloughs. It was a place where countless grasshoppers could be made to spit tobacco, and where threshing crews gathered in the fall with all the excitement that entailed — trips to the grain elevator on a load of freshly-threshed wheat, the thrill of sneaking all the leftover coffee from not-quite-empty cups when the threshers had finished eating, and drinking it behind our mother's back. Those were just some of the things we enjoyed — and survived — in Alberta! There was also the thrill of riding bareback to Dowling where we received our mail and could buy a few groceries. We took a shortcut through Manley Viste's property and were always greeted with a few cheery words from those friendly neighbors.

The Hessels, on our right, were immigrants from Germany. We recall spending a particularly exciting New Year's Eve with those fun-loving friends and experiencing great awe when on the stroke of midnight Ernest strode purposefully out of the door carrying a shotgun in his hands so that he might usher out the Old Year and hurry in the New One by firing two shots into the air!

Our introduction to the elements was dramatic on the prairies — the raging of the blizzards followed by the comfort of the chinooks; the futility of the hailstones showering destruction on the crops followed by the renewed hope inspired by glorious sunsets; and the terror of a prairie fire followed by the peace of its suffocation.

We laugh with a little bit of shame as we remember entering uninvited through the open door of Chris Viste's bachelor home on our way from school one day with some little friends and discovering there a pan of well-risen bread dough ready for shaping into loaves. Into this tempting mass we kneaded raisins, cereal, sugar, salt, spices, and anything we could find in the cupboards as we contemplated with malicious delight the surprise of the owner when he returned from the field to discover the senseless destruction of his culinary efforts. The penalty for that offence was a severe lecture from our parents and no dessert for a week!

The settlers in our community comprised many different ethnic groups and each retained a little touch of home. This was displayed in father's case when he registered his purebred boar under the name of Mussolini. We have never been sure whether this was intended as a compliment or as an insult to that notorious Italian statesman.

Times became very hard in the early thirties when the drought hit our region of Alberta. Eggs were selling at five cents a dozen so many of them were fed back to the hens, who promptly reciprocated by laying still more eggs to be sold at five

cents a dozen. A vicious circle! We ate omelets and custards until they nearly came out of our ears, blissfully unaware that "cholesterol" would one day become a dirty word, and that we were lining our arteries with the forbidden stuff through the consumption of all those eggs.

Finally came the day when my parents decided to throw in the sponge. All our goods were auctioned off as our tears mingled with those of our staunch and loyal friends as we prepared to leave the West. On November 23, 1932, we left Alberta to take up residence in the province of Quebec, and to unknowingly step from the frying pan into the fire. But that is yet another story!

A seventh child, Dominic Jr., was born in Quebec. The Raina family endured unbelievable adversity and injustice in the province of Quebec and eventually moved to Ottawa, Ontario, in April of 1937. There the last three children, James, William and Anne, were born.

Father later bought a farm near Kemptville, Ontario, thirty-five miles south of Ottawa. John, the eldest of the Raina children, died at the age of 18 years, and William at the age of four years. Father passed away in April, 1962.

The surviving Raina children eventually married and have families of their own. Mary married Ronald Rodgers and lives in Ottawa with her husband and three children. Ralph is married and resides in Kemptville, Ontario, with his wife and son. He has been successful in business as well as local politics, being mayor of Kemptville for several years. He is owner-operator of a mall comprised of a clothing store and apartment building. Clara married Harry Flannigan and also lives in Kemptville with her husband and one son. Louis was a navigator with the R.C.A.F. He recently retired and resides in Red Deer, Alberta, with his wife and four children. George has one daughter. He is a widower and resides in Ottawa where he is in the watch repair business. Dominic Jr. also resides in Ottawa where he has been a salesman for aluminum doors and windows. He and his wife have two children. James lives near Ottawa with his wife and four children. He owns and operates a retail drapery business. Anne married Tim McGahey. They have two children and reside in Ottawa.

Mother also resides in Kemptville in one of Ralph's apartment units. Our wonderful mother, who laughed her way through the good times and the bad, today at 78 years of age is in excellent health. She enjoys her many grandchildren as much as she always enjoyed her own children before them. She returns West every two or three years to visit her son at Red Deer, her relatives at Castor, and her cherished and never-forgotten friends who still remain at Hanna and Scapa. The only thing to mar the perfection of those visits is the absence of the Williams family, dear friends and neighbors of the old days, who left the Hanna district shortly after we did. Many of mother's early hopes and dreams were shared with those dear friends during her first days at Hanna.

JOSEPH and MINNIE McBURNEY, By Stan McCreight — Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney originally farmed in Manitoba. They sold out and moved to an acreage on the west coast in the Greater Vancouver area.

They later became acquainted with Andy Murdoch, who owned a farm in the Dowling district. Joe McBurney traded his acreage in B.C. to Andy Murdoch for the north half of 23-32-15-W4 [illegible] Dowling. In the spring of 1916, Mr. and Mrs. McBurney moved to their farm in time to put a crop in that year, then built a house and barn and all the granaries and buildings required for a half-section farm.

The McBurneys had no family and did all their own work. About two or three years before they retired, the McBurneys were honored by the Hanna and District Board of Trade for a neat and well-kept farm and good farming practices. This was well-deserved as Mr. McBurney was a very progressive farmer and his yields were usually among the highest in the district. Mrs. McBurney,always grew a very good garden and lots of flowers.

Mr. McBurney did all his farming with six head of horses. The team he did his hauling with were a well-matched pair of mares with very keen ears. He called one Nancy and the other one Fancy.

After farming in the Dowling district for twelve years, Mr. and Mrs. McBurney sold their farm to Mrs. Murt McCuish, who owned the other half of the same section. They had an auction sale that spring and moved to Haney, B.C., a small town thirty miles east of Vancouver, where they resided until their passing. Mr. McBurney died in the middle 1930's and Mrs. McBurney about ten years later.

The McBurney farm was sold to Mrs. M. McCuish in 1928, and they farmed it for a number of years. Fred Bass rented it after that until it was sold to Bill Albright in 1947.

RUDOLF and OLGA FECHO and FAMILY, By The Fecho Family — Rudolf Fecho and Olga Welch were married in Antonowka, Poland on May 1, 1923. By the time they immigrated to Canada, on April [illegible], 1927, they had two sons, Frederick and Donald. They embarked from Danzig, Poland to Southampton, England and thence on the ship Ausonia to Halifax, N.S. Travelling by train, the family arrived in Hanna, where they were met by Olga's brother Carl, for whom Rudolf worked on the farm for three years.

In the early thirties, the Fechos settled on a rented farm, six miles south of Scapa, owned by H. Mansfield. They later purchased this land and it became the Fecho's "Home Place". Two more sons, Arnold and Harold, were added to the family, both born at home. The task of raising four growing boys was difficult in those hard times. Mrs. Fecho sewed [illegible] the boys' clothing, and shoes were something that were worn to church only. Rudolf saw to it that his family attended St. Peter's Church at Scapa faithfully, by sleigh in winter and buggy [illegible] summer. The original house had a clay floor in the back porch, and the older boys have memories of lying in bed in [illegible]e upstairs, looking [illegible] the stars through the cracks in the roof. Sometimes they awoke to see their breath and even found wisps of snow on the big handmade quilt that covered them. In the summer dust storms darkened the house, and the dust sifted into everything. The house was remodelled by degrees over the years, as money wasn't available to do it all at one time.

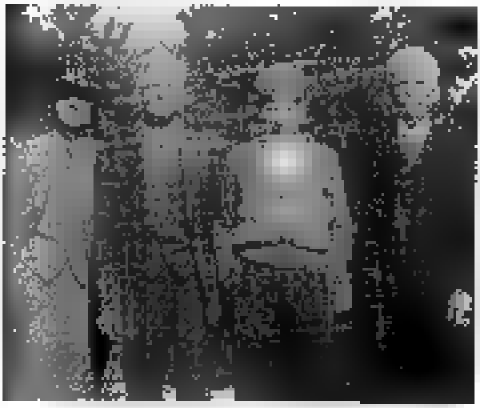
The boys were very fortunate to have the Wiese School just kittycorner from the farm. They all attended this one room school, and often looked after the fires and carried water. At the end of the day the leftover water wasn't left in the pails to freeze!! Instead, it was carried alongside the school to make a giant slide, where the children spent many happy hours at recess and noon hour. They used to line up, from the youngest to the oldest, run and slide and then go back to the end of the line to await their turn again. Only one misfortune resulted from this favorite pastime, when one of the girls broke her wrist. The highlight of the year was the end-of-the-term picnic for the students and their families, with lots of homemade ice cream.

Some other not-to-be-forgotten events were, the summer the family chased the cattle home, ankle deep in hailstones, "barefoot". Mrs. Fecho, staying up all night baking bread and preparing food for a nine or ten man threshing crew. The boys helped pitch bundles along with the crew. Horses were valuable in the thirties, and the mainstay of the farming operation. Horses also provided transportation for the family, with many a trip being made [illegible] the General Store and Post

Office at Dowling, situated one and a half miles to the south. Harold Lund ran this store for many years, followed by Auers, Pounds, Talmadges, and Taskers. Sometimes it took three head of cattle to make up the purchase price of a horse. Steers were sold at around $8.00 per head. Not only were cattle prices low, grain was selling one year for about 27 cents per bushel.

The farms in the area were fairly close together, with Brunners and Gauglers to the north, Chris Viste to the east, Wieses to the west, and Manty Viste to the south. Difficulties or ill health forced many homesteaders such as Raines, Williams and Fieldings, [illegible] leave the district and move elsewhere. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Fecho retired to Hanna and in early 1953, Mrs. Fecho passed away. Mr. Fecho carried on by himself until 1959 when he married Mrs. Christina Krause. He passed away in the Hanna Hospital in April, 1975.

Their sons remain in the area: Frederick and his wife Freda (Litke) and their daughter reside in Hanna while continuing to farm east of town. Donald and LaWana (Tillack) with their five children live in Hanna where Don trucks. They also have farming interests. Harold and Patricia (Oliver) and their two children reside in Hanna, where Harold [illegible] a conductor on the C.N.R. Arnold spent a short period of time working for the C.N.R. but decided to return to the farm after he got married. Arnold and Verlene (Pfahl) have lived on the old "Home Place" since then, modernizing it with a new house [illegible] 1964. They have one son, Wayne, who is now married and living in Hanna. He still enjoys helping out on the farm during the busy season.



Left to right: Currie Johnston, John Johnston, Jim (Currie's son), Dave Johnston in 1943.

DAVE JOHNSTON, By Hartley Johnston — Dave came from New Brunswick to homestead southwest of Hanna. Around 1916 he had a mail route from Hanna south, a trip of forty miles by horse and buggy or sleigh. He had suffered the loss of an arm, but this didn't seem to interfere with his activities very much.

Dave sold his homestead, and bought land from William Munro in the Dowling district in 1918. He had property in B.C. as well, and moved back and forth a few times. He liked harvest on the prairies and came out a couple of times to harvest with Ralph Gaugler. In 1930 [illegible] came back to Dowling and stayed until 1937. His nephew, Hartley Johnston came with him, staying until 1933.

Another nephew, Henry, stayed with him from 1931 to 1937. Henry also came back to Alberta for harvest for several years. He enlisted with the Princess Pats and went overseas in 1939, for a ten year period. He lives in Vancouver now.

Hartley stayed in B.C. where he worked as a motor mechanic and service station operator. He is retired at Peachland, B.C.

J.H. (Harry) Johnston, another of Dave's nephews taught Wiese School in 1920. He moved [illegible] California shortly afterward and still resides there.

Dave stayed with his brother Currie and his family at Aldergrove, B.C. until his passing in January, 1956.

THE JOHN ANNAS FAMILY, as told by Pauline and Rudy Annas — John and Pauline Annas and their two sons, Rudy and Nelson, came [illegible] Alberta from

Sweden in the spring of 1930. They spent the next three years in the Scapa area, residing on the farm of Pauline's brother, Mr. [illegible]. Glubrecht. During this time John worked for Fred Lyxen. In 1933 they moved to the Wiese district where they rented the N.E. Bradley farm. For the first season there, they lived in a granary.

The Annas family suffered considerable hardship in Europe from political upheaval at the time of the revolution. Coming to Canada during the depression kept them struggling to survive. Mrs. Annas had learned the art of weaving baskets and she went to work doing this. In January she walked the fields and gathered willow branches. These were boiled and peeled and then she spent hours weaving them into baskets of all sizes. They were usually left the natural color of the wood with a colored border or two running around them. The large ones were used as laundry baskets or bassinets and many a baby slept in a basket made by Mrs. Annas. The fine twigs were made into whisk brooms. These baskets and brooms were sold in Hanna as well as around the district.

It was always their policy to be practical so when the need arose for a new chicken house they used what nature provided to build it. A mixture of mud, straw and water along with a few rocks was put into forms to make the walls. They built it in 1936, and it still stands, none the worse for wear, serving as a blacksmith shop.

Three more sons and a daughter were added to the family over the years. They were John, Gustav, Charles and Martha.

Mr. and Mrs. Annas farmed in the district until 1953. At this time they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Annas still resides. Mr. Annas passed away in July of 1969. Nelson remained on the family farm with his wife Lois and family. Rudy married Helen Viste; they farmed and presently live in Hanna. John, Gus and Charlie are all married and living in Hanna; all are employed by the C.N.R. Martha married E.J. (Red) Robinson. They reside in Hanna where Red is an engineer with the C.N.R. He also has farming interests in the Watts district and Martha has become well known for her talent as a florist.

THE HAESSELS, KARL, OTTO and ERNEST, as told by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel — Karl was the first one of the Haessels to leave Germany and come to Alberta. He bought the NE 6-33-14 and SW 5-33-14. With the help of Chris Gasper he built a small house and a few other buildings on the latter quarter. That was in 1928.

In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel with their two-year-old son Friedel, their brothers Otto and Rudolf came to join Karl in Canada. The closer they got to their destination, the less they liked what they saw out of the train windows. When they saw all the hills between Hanna and Dowling they really thought they had come to "No Man's Land", rather than the land of milk and honey that they had heard about.

It was April 12, at 9:15 a.m. when they stepped off the train in Dowling. Karl looked like a stranger to them in his Canadian made coveralls, something they'd never seen before. On the way to Karl's they passed through the yard of Manly Viste and were invited in for a nice big breakfast, the Haessel's first meal on the prairies. The Viste's hadn't been married very long at the time. Badly needed was an interpreter, since the Haessels spoke German, Manly spoke Norwegian and English, while his wife spoke only English. However they managed, and soon learned they had more Norwegian-speaking neighbors they would have to learn to communicate with. It wasn't long until they could get along reasonably well.

The first summer the four brothers were around the district most of the time. Otto worked in Calgary and McLeod as a baker, a trade he had learned in Germany. Karl and Otto had natural instincts towards hunting and trapping and

became well known for their ability to hunt. That is partly why the north country attracted them.

Karl and Rudolf were the first to go to the Peace River country in the winter of 29-30. Otto went up in the spring, but none of them stayed. Karl came back to Dowling to put his crop in and Otto worked for Chris Viste. Karl had visions of harvesting a bumper crop that year but it turned out a real disappointment. So in the fall of 1930, he packed up and went north again, this time to the Hay River district, where he took up trapping and farming. Here he built up a farming operation which he still maintains. Karl married and had two children, Harvey and Gloria.

Otto worked at different jobs, cooking, baking and carpenter work, for three years. Then he went north again too. He spent some time running a pool hall in Fort Vermillion, but his main interest was trapping. He had a typical trapper's cabin and six sled dogs that he used to check his trap line. In 1942 he came back to Scapa district, where Ernest now lived and helped build a garage. After a few years he started his own carpenter business in Hanna. In 1950 he went to Germany, bringing a bride back with him when he returned. Otto and his wife Hildegard stayed in Hanna for about ten years and then they moved to the west coast where they still reside. They have two adopted daughters.

Ernest stayed in the Wiese district, on the farm that had been Karl's, until 1934. That spring they moved one mile east of Scapa to the Jack Leicht farm. The crop was poor that year and what little there was fed the hungry grasshoppers. In December of the same year, they moved two miles south of Scapa to the original Lohrmann farm. When they moved to the Scapa district they hauled their belongings up through the chain of little lakes that jut down from the south end of Sullivan Lake. At the time there was a well-travelled trail there.

During 1933 the main source of income was from rabbits, shot and skinned during the winter. A hide brought about ten cents. When the Haessel's coal supply got low that winter and they had no money to get coal off the car that came into Dowling, Ernest went out one morning and shot forty-two rabbits before breakfast. He took them to town and sold them to Chris German, getting enough funds to buy a load of coal in Dowling.

That same year Mrs. Haessel had quite a session in the hospital, undergoing major surgery. In order to pay the doctor, Ernest sold hay to the government for relief feed and the doctor in turn collected from the government. At Christmas time the threat of having to stay in the hospital hung heavy over Mrs. Haessel and she was really feeling low. She talked the doctor into releasing her but she still had a big problem, no money and no way home. It was then that Dr. Cross did one of the kindest things that anyone could have done for her. He gave her $1.00, which was more than ample to buy a train ticket to Dowling, and she was able to go home to her family.

One of their fond memories is of Manly Viste coming to their place for a haircut, the day after his first son Walter was born. He was so happy, they could hear him singing in the buggy when he was still a mile away, and ever so often he'd shout, "It's a boy! It's a boy!"

Another incident that they have had a lot of laughs over, happened after they moved to the Scapa district. Saxsmiths, who lived to the south, had raised a young bull that kept wandering across the fence into Haessel's herd. He had lots of crossbreeding in him, but Ernest used a lot of names besides "Exotic" to describe him. He was hardly what they wanted for a herd sire, so when it became evident that he wasn't going to stay home, Ernest thought of an alternative. One Sunday morning he took a rope along when he went out to the cattle. He caught him, and as the saying goes, he went home "a bull no more". This however was not the end of the story. There wasn't anything said for awhile, then one day John Saxsmith asked Ralph Gaugler and John Robertson to come up in the evening and help him castrate a young bull. It was fairly late when they went and not very light any more. They chased him around for a long time, before they finally caught him and found the job already done!

Farming conditions slowly improved after they moved to the Lohrmann farm. They built up a farmstead that is a tribute to their hard work. When Friedel was old enough to do quite a bit of the farm work, Ernest went into livestock trucking and buying as well as general trucking. He gave this up after they enlarged their holdings and went into more cattle.

Friedel married Irene Steinbrecker in 1950 and moved to a farm east of the home farm. They purchased this farm from Bill Burt. Mr. and Mrs. Haessel lived on their farm until 1976, when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Sig Jabs. They retired to the new home they built in Hanna.

THE RUDOLF HAESSEL FAMILY, By Rudolf Haessel — I was born in Niedermohr, Germany in 1901 and immigrated to Canada in 1929, arriving in Hanna on April 12 with my brothers Otto and Ernest and Ernest's family. From Hanna we went [illegible] Dowling, where we were met by our brother Karl, who had come over the year before. We went to Karl's home by team and wagon and I was there until I began working for Frank Ruppert. I did field work and helped drill water wells that summer. During harvest I worked for Dominic Raina.

That winter Karl and I went to the Peace River country to take up homesteads. We located land between Pouce Coupe and Spirit River. As the land hadn't been surveyed yet, we squatted. We built a small shack on each quarter and cleared some land. Living in isolation was not for me, so in the spring we returned to Edmonton. I got a job working for a farmer at Fort Saskatchewan until fall. Then I returned [illegible] Dowling and worked for Dominic Raina during the winter. In the spring Rainas sold out and went east. I rented the farm, north half [illegible] 32-32-14.

The crops during those years were poor and when there was a little bit grew it wasn't worth very much. [illegible] 1938 there was a good crop. After harvest that year I returned to Germany where I was married to Hedwig Klahr. We returned to the farm in Alberta in the spring. We had two children, a daughter Annabelle and a son Walter.

In the spring [illegible] 1944 I bought the Sandy Donaldson farm, (NW 20-33-13) one mile west of the Netherby school. Since the house there was terribly large and cold we began building a new one in 1945, finishing [illegible] the next year. The children attended Netherby School. After completing her education, Annabelle spent a few years in Calgary working in a bank. She returned to Hanna where she was employed at the Royal Bank until her marriage to Herb Wimmer in 1964. They farm in the Scapa district and have two children, Brian and Karen.

Walter finished high school in Hanna, going to University in Calgary and Edmonton. He married Ann McFall in 1964. He then went on to receive his Doctors degree in Economics at the University in Ames, Iowa. They spent three years in Accura, Ghana, where Walter taught [illegible] the University. On their return to Canada [illegible] taught in London, Ontario for two years. They now make their home in State College, Pennsylvania where Walter is Professor of Economics at the University there. Walter and Ann have two sons, Dale and Roger.

Hedwig passed away on January 2, 1963. I farmed until 1968 when I retired. I rented my farm for several years and then sold it. I have made my home in Hanna since then.

THE FRED BAES STORY, By Emma Baes — Fred Baes was married to Emma Schottsneider in December, 1931. They went to farm in the Dowling Lake School District, then moved to a farm east of Hanna. Later they came back [illegible] farm about two miles south-west of Dowling, near the lake. This was a real hardship in more ways than one. They were five miles from school, and the trip to school and back wasn't always a pleasant one for their two daughters, Marie and Joan. The old white horse they rode was as stout of heart as they were, and many a frosty morning horse and riders would have passed for "Frosty the Snowman" by the time they got to school. They also had problems getting a good water supply so they got some Hudson Bay land one-half mile west of Dowling. Here they drilled a well and moved in a house from the Clear Lake district.

They farmed there until 1956, when they sold out because Mr. Baes was afflicted with poor health. By this time the Baes had a set of twins, Leonard and Esther, who were of school age. The older girls were on their own by then. Mr. and Mrs. Baes and the twins moved to Grand Forks, B.C., where they still reside.

Marie married Mike Kindret and lives at West Bank, B.C. with her family. Joan and her husband Mike Sawchuck and three children live in Edmonton. Esther is divorced, has one daughter and works in Winfield as a bookkeeper. Leonard is a carpenter and he and his wife Violet live near his folks.

ERICH WOELK, By Erich Woelk — I had the opportunity to come to this country from Germany in 1930 at the age of nineteen years, through my cousin Fritz Lange who returned to Germany to get married after being in Canada for three years.

My cousin, his wife, and myself were met at the Dowling railway station by Mr. Bohlander from the Dowling district in March of the same year. He was driving a Model T Ford which had been converted into a truck without a top. By the time we had all our luggage and trunks loaded on [illegible] there was very little seating space left but we managed somehow.

My first impressions after we started for our final destination were "what a road, what [illegible] country". We stayed with the Bohlander family for a week while waiting for Fritz Lange's stove and furniture to come. He had bought it in the Eaton's store in Winnipeg.

A few days later I got a job [illegible] the Robert Lange farm, no relative to Fritz. I stayed there for two years. I learned many different ways of doing things that were so different to the way I had done things in the old country. The first job I was assigned to do for Mr. Lange was to milk four cows, something I had never done in my life before. I willingly went out to do the chores. After I had spent two hours in the barn my boss was getting a bit worried about me and came out to check. I was still trying to milk the first cow. After a few more attempts I learned how it was done.

Something I shall never forget are the sand and dust storms in 1930. I could not believe that the clouds could be so dark and not have a drop of rain in them.

In the fall other farmers and I had [illegible] drive for miles with horses and wagons or sleds to get our winter supply of coal, to keep ourselves warm during the bitter cold weather. Many times I had to pitch in and do some of the mining myself in order to speed things up so I could start on my homeward journey. Whenever there was a slack time that winter I'd spend it rabbit hunting.

I couldn't speak a word of English when I came to this country, and had a very good opportunity [illegible] learn the language that first winter while I was driving Ernest Lange back and forth to the Hudson Bay School every day. But I thought I was too

old to have to go back to school again after having my full education in the old country, so I learned it the hard way.

In 1932 I went to Craigmyle and worked for Mrs. Fred Diegel on the farm. That's where I bought my first car, a 1926 Model T Ford for $35.00. I drove it for two years. On steep hills the clutch slipped in low gear. So I'd turn around and back up the hills.

I worked with Francis Porter, the present mayor of Drumheller, there, and it was from him that I got further education in the English language. In return I loaned him my Model T to use when he got married.

I came back to the Dowling district in the fall of 1935, and rented the Williams farm. I bought a stack of oat bundles, which was supposed to be the feed supply for my horses during spring work. There was an over population of rabbits that winter. When the rabbits had the feed stack looking like a mushroom I decided it was time to declare war on them, so I organized a rabbit shoot with some of the neighbors.

In my spare time I used to attend several house parties and dances. In those days they were quite popular and one didn't think too much of the miles one had to drive with horses and cutter to get to a dance. I used to play cards in the evenings with friends and neighbors too.

That same winter my courting days started. I took advantage of the mail carrier who used a closed-in cutter and two horses to make his mail deliveries in the district. Every two weeks on Friday noon I hopped in his cutter and drove along with him to within a mile of the Glubrecht home, walking the rest of the way, to spend the weekend with the family. I took in the occasional dance with Martha and her brothers and on Monday morning I would get a ride home again with the mail man.

In 1937 Martha and I were married and rented the farm Mr. Bohlander had been previously farming. We stayed there for three years, then moved to the John Kellerman place north-west of Dowling, which we had rented for three years too. Then we lived in the Hand Hills for four years. We bought a farm at Innisfail but we were not too happy there so we sold out and bought a farm at Endiang, and lived there for twenty-six years.

We had four children. Our only daughter passed away in 1950 at the age of eleven.

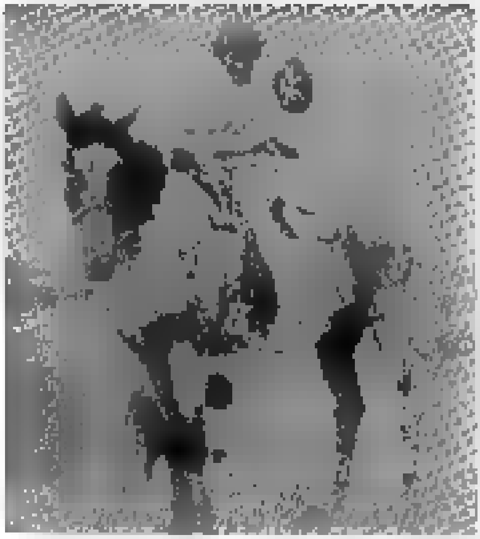
Our oldest son, Alfred, is married and living in Calgary. Jerry is also living in Calgary and still single. Bruce, and his wife and family are living on the farm at Endiang.

Martha and I have retired to Hanna and are enjoying town life.

THE ALPAUGH STORY, By Margaret Alpaugh Gaetz — Our father, Andrew Alpaugh was born in Fergus, Ontario in 1880. His family moved to Strathcona, Alberta about 1890. Next they moved to a place called Conjuring Creek. Dad said their diet used to be bread and milk for breakfast, milk and bread for dinner and bread and milk for supper. It seems people had to do without a lot of things when they came west.

At the age of fourteen, Dad and a friend left home, walking to Calgary. When they got hungry and there was no place to buy a meal, they remembered someone telling them that a duck rolled in mud and baked over a campfire was good. The feathers would peel off with the mud. The results were not quite what they expected — it seems ducks baked with their innards in are not very tasty.

Some way the boys made a living. At one ranch before Dad learned to ride, he was hired to stay with the rancher's wife, who was expecting a baby any time.



Margaret and Avis Alpaugh on their school pony.

He said he was glad when that job was over. On April 25, 1902 he joined the Fifth Canadian Rifles and went to the South African war.

Upon his return he spent some time with Nick Lund. He also took up a homestead four or five miles south of Clear Lake. During this time he travelled around on horse back and worked with and knew fellows like Dr. Mason (before [illegible] became a doctor), Pat Burns, John Ware and many others. In 1912 he and our mother, Pearl Hunter were married and lived on the homstead.

When I was about four and my sister Avis was a baby we moved to Craigmyle, where Dad had a butcher shop and an ice cream parlor. From there we moved to Hanna where Dad had another butcher shop. That's where we were during the flu epidemic of 1918. Dad nearly died, but Mother's heroic efforts at nursing saved him. My memory of this is sketchy but I can recall a boy bringing something from the store and throwing it on the porch. How the furnace was kept going and how we managed in other ways when we were all so sick, I don't know.

Next we moved to Delia and when mother became ill we moved to Peachland, B.C. for her health. In 1924 we moved back to the prairies. A two-month-old baby sister, Joan, was killed in a bad accident we had at Elko. She was buried at Fernie.

Dad built the store in Dowling in 1926. At that time the steel was being laid for the railroad. Big gangs of foreigners were brought in to work on the railroad. A big machine laid the rails. The boss of this job was a big happy fellow; an Italian, called Joe Mezzaroba. My parents liked him and he and Dad became great friends. Mother cooked for the engineers and crews from the work trains. This was a crazy time, as we had them coming at all hours of the day or night.

Looking back, our days around Dowling were great. One remembers old school chums and neighbors with affection. We enjoyed our school days at Wiese, the school picnics and concerts to which everyone came. One I can remember vividly. I was the janitor at the time and what I knew about building fires was little. The concert was held in the afternoon, so the teacher asked me to bank the fire [illegible] it would last during the program. I went out to the coal bin and there in the corner was a nice pile of slack coal. This looked like good stuff to bank a fire with, so I put a big scuttle full in the stove and closed all the drafts. Just as the kids were drawing the curtains open . . . "BOOM". You couldn't see across the room. All the lids and doors flew off the heater. When the dust settled, you should have seen the mess. Everyone's faces were dirty as could be. It would have been nice to find somewhere to hide. Anyway, after a clean-up, it was on with the "Show". We had an active Junior Red Cross at the school and I can remember the candy sales we had at dances.

Jim Geetz and I were married October 23, 1926. We have a son and a daughter, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

My sister Avis married John McColeman [illegible] 1934. They are living in Big Valley. Their two girls and one boy are also married with families of their own.

Mother and Dad stayed in Dowling until 1931 when they sold the store to Harold Lund. I wonder if anyone remembers the delicious ice cream mother used

to make to sell in the store? She used to make it to take to Clear Lake to sell in the booth too. It was very popular.

Dad bought a herd of purebred Angus cattle and went farming in the Heikirk district. He had rented land, purchasing one quarter to build on later. However things changed rapidly. In the spring of 1932 Dad was killed taking a bull to market in Gadsby. This was a dreadful shock. He was only 51 years old. He is buried at Gadsby.

Mother remarried twelve years later. She became Mrs. Chas. Lawrence and lived in Edmonton. She passed away in 1951.

Jim and I have moved about extensively. We have both been actively involved with Credit Unions in central Alberta, in both organization and management. We were living in Sylvan Lake but spent the winter at Creston, B.C.

It is sad to look at the place where our store stood. There is not a sign to show we ever lived there. We like to keep in touch with the old friends that are still around. This is the most important of all!

THE WILLIAM ALBRIGHT FAMILY — Bill and Emma Albright were married in 1957. The first two years Bill worked in the coal mines in Drumheller during the winter. In the summer they lived on the old McBurney farm.

In 1958 they bought a farm from Harold Lund, one half mile west of Dowling. They moved to this place, and have made their home there ever since. The old house was replaced with a new one a number of years ago. Bill and his family are well known for the abundance of poultry they always have on the place. They have provided [illegible] turkey, duck or goose for many a Christmas dinner.

The Albrights have a son Wilfred who is working in the Co-op Store in Hanna, and a daughter Angela still attending school. Besides their own family, they have had one or two foster children staying with them for the past seven years.

THE JIM FOSTERS, by Vi Foster — Jim and I and our eight-month-old son Ian, moved to Dowling in June, 1950, Jim being agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator there. Our house consisted of two rooms built off the office. While we were there they built on a new kitchen. We were very pleased to have the extra room.

We remember a lot of good times when the young people gathered at our house for cards, and in the winter we went sleigh riding and skiing.

The winter of 1950-51 was very severe with lots of snow. The railway track was covered with fifteen feet of snow. During that winter Ian and I had spent a few days at my folks in Oyen. Jim and Walter Vista met us at the train in Hanna when we returned home. On the way out [illegible] Dowling we got stuck in some snow drifts and had to leave the truck. We walked home a good two miles, with Jim and Walter carrying Ian through the deep snow. We were a tired group and happy to see the elevator that night.

Since leaving Dowling we had three daughters. Our youngest, Andrea passed away in 1963 at four years of age. Diane is married and lives in Calgary. Phyllis is completing her fourth year at University majoring [illegible] Education. Ian is married and also lives in Calgary. Jim and I reside in Hanna.

THE ED BOHLENDERS — Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Bohlender and their son Rudy moved from the Craigmyle district to the farm that had been occupied by Rienhold Diegel, in 1927. Mrs. Bohlender was the former Lena Diegel.

The half section farm had one quarter [illegible] the Hudson Bay district and one [illegible] Wiese. The house set on the line fence, with the bedrooms in Hudson Bay and the rest of the house in Wiese. Which district did they belong in? Officially it turned out to be Wiese since that's where the eating and living quarters were. So Rudy went to Wiese School where [redacted] was the only boy among thirteen girls for a good part of his school days. He tried Hudson Bay for a week, but he said they didn't want him there so he went back to Wiese and his thirteen girls.

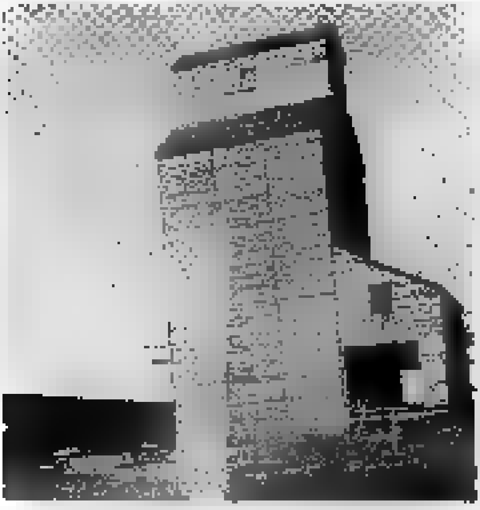
In 1934 the Bohlenders moved west of Rimbey. Mr. Bohlender passed away in 1960 and his wife in 1966. Rudy and his family reside in Rimbey.

EARLY DOWLING HISTORY 1925-1931

By Avis (Alpaugh) McColeman

Andrew Alpaugh, better known as Andy, purchased land and built a store in the new townsite of Dowling in 1925. With the help of friends and relatives the store and living quarters were ready to move into by Thanksgiving. At that time the grade was built for the Hanna Warden railroad, but the rails weren't laid, so that meant hauling supplies for the store from Hanna, over roads that were usually in poor condition.

Dowling store, shortly after it was built by Andy Alpaugh.



The Wheat Pool elevator under construction at Dowling in 1926.

The spring of 1926 brought the crews that laid the ties and rails. These were mostly foreigners. After that came many more crews to finish the tracks and build the station, section house, bunk house, stock yards, etc. When the track was finished a mixed train, consisting of freight cars, a passenger coach and baggage car, had a steady run. This carried mail, passengers, freight and express north on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Alpaughs had the post office along with the store and Andy was Postmaster.

The Pool elevator was built in 1926, with Mr. Charles Lewis as first elevator man. That fall a Mr. Gauthier was buying grain and loading cars with a track-side loader for Richardsons Ltd., Calgary. He was there until March, 1928. It was about this time the Alpaughs added a flour

shed to the store and built an ice house, also a barn and chicken house to accommodate their chickens, cow and school pony.

In the fall of 1927 or spring of 1928 there was a train wreck on the curve around the north side of Dowling Lake. Shortly after this Mr. Gillies was stationed [illegible] Dowling as section foreman and later brought his wife [illegible] six children, Dora, Charlie, Billie, Georgina, Adam and Jeanie to live in Dowling. Ed Foster became elevator agent in 1928.

The highlight of 1928 was when McCuishes brought the first combine to the district to combine their fields west of Dowling. The spring of 1929 was very dry and several prairie fires resulted in the district. One that affected Dowling the most, came from the north on the west side of the track, and threatened to jump the track several times. It burned McCuish's stubble fields and was finally put out between the lake and railroad. The crops were pretty poor that year.

Andy Alpaugh sold the store to Harold Lund in 1931 and on July first it changed hands.

Dowling 1931-1944

By Frank Lund

The great depression had begun. Dowling Lake dried up and the south winds blew white clouds of alkali up over Dowling. Crops were poor, prices were poor. Surrounding farmers brought eggs [illegible] the store packed in pails of oats to keep them from breaking. Lunds cleaned them and transferred them to thirty-dozen capacity crates for shipping. They also delivered some of them to restaurants [illegible] Hanna where they usually brought a few cents a dozen more, so customers at Dowling could receive a little more to buy necessities at the store. One Christmas a customer had a cow he didn't have room for in his barn, and also he was short of cash, so my Father took the cow in trade for $15.00.

The section crews moved out and even the elevator closed for a time. "Relief feed" was brought in by rail. Government "relief" food such as apples, cheese and dried cod were hauled out from Hanna by my father, Harold Lund, and distributed to those who needed it.

Near the end of the thirties tractors began to replace horses and so the store began to sell and deliver more oil products.

Annual telephone meetings usually took place in the store where apple boxes and [illegible] kegs served as seats.

In April 1944, Lunds sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. John Auer and moved back to their farm.

Editor's Note: As long as the Lunds had the store [illegible] Dowling, the students of the Wiese School were treated to a bottle of pop at the annual picnic by Mr. Lund. How we all enjoyed that pop since it was the only soft drink most of us got from picnic to picnic.

Mr. and Mrs. Auer had the store and post office for about a year. They had a school-age daughter, Lorraine. Mr. Auer had a back injury and found the store work too strenuous, so they sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound of Atlee. The Auers went back [illegible] Drumheller.

MR. and MRS. ED POUND

By Don Pound

Mr. [illegible] Pound and his wife Leone Pound purchased the store in Dowling in 1945. They had two sons, Delmar and Donald who were in Brooks and Calgary respectively at the time of the purchase. Mr. and Mrs. Pound resided in Dowling until 1949, when they sold the store there and purchased the store in Scapa.

Mr. Pound died in 1954. Mrs. Pound sold the Scapa store in 1956 and moved to Brooks. She now resides in Medicine Hat. The eldest son, Delmer, now lives in Winnipeg. The younger son, Donald, taught in the Wiese School for one term, 1948-49. He also taught in the Scapa School from 1951 until 1956. He was married to Marie Lawlor in 1954. In 1956 Marie and Don moved to Medicine Hat, where Don furthered his teaching career. They still reside there.

Main Street, Dowling in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Talmage came from Edmonton to take over the store from Pounds in July of 1949. They owned and operated the store for one and a half years, selling to Jim Tasker in 1951. Rodger and Hilda had a small daughter, Margaret. They moved into Hanna when they left Dowling.

Mr. and Mrs. Tasker were an elderly couple when they bought the store. About this time business in the small towns was generally poor, so the inevitable happened. In 1952 the post office closed, followed by the closure of the store. Regular train service to Dowling ended shortly thereafter. Taskers lived in the living quarters in the back [illegible] the store until the summer of 1953, when Jim tore the whole building down. The lumber he salvaged was used to build a house in Hanna. Jim passed away a number of years ago. Mrs. Tasker is in the Palliser Nursing Home.

The Dowling Red Cross Group, active during World War II. Left to right: Helen Viste, Mrs. Grantham, Florence Robertson, Inez Newman, Jean Robertson, Mrs. M. Viste, Mrs. Robertson, Edna Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Doyle, Mary Lund. Missing from the picture were: Mrs. [illegible]. Viste, Mavis Schultz, Mrs. Bert Jones, Mrs. Harold Lund.

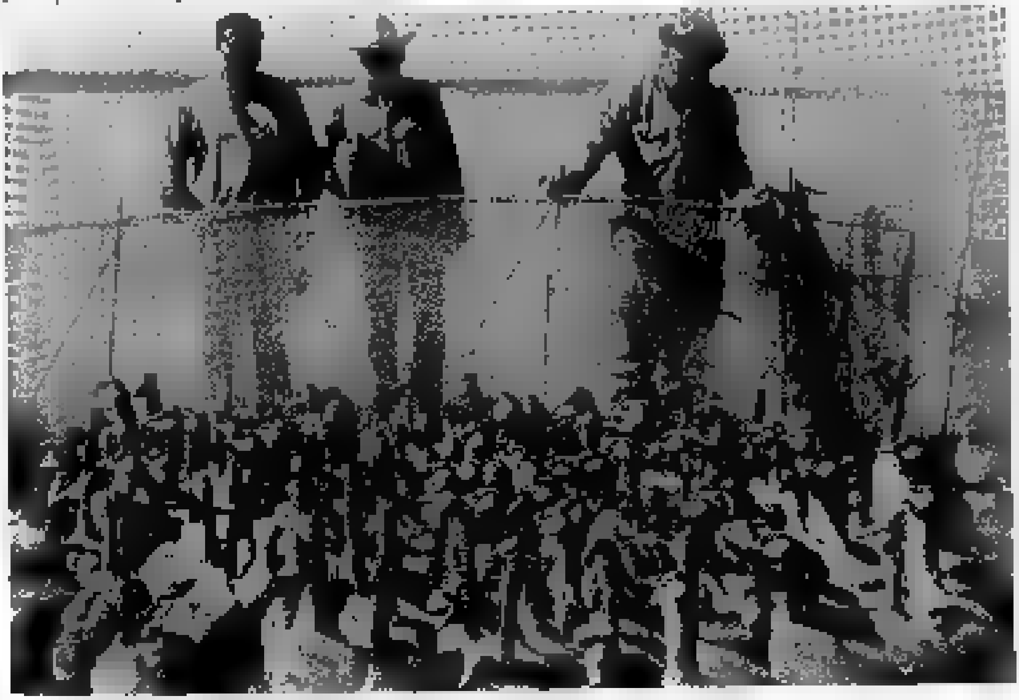
Once the store was gone, everything but the elevator and small elevator house was removed or torn down. The elevator stayed [illegible] operation until 1975. It is just a matter of time until it too disappears from the prairie skyline. Then there will be only memories left of the village of Dowling.

Dowling was never a centre for social activities since there was no school or hall there. The local schools and Clear Lake were centres of entertainment for people in the district. There were several U.F.A. locals formed that were active for awhile and then faded away. The ladies did their thing during World War II by

getting organized into a Red Cross group. They sewed and knitted and sent parcels overseas. In 1960 the women formed a local W.I. organization. They were active for several years within the community, then dissolved for lack of members and support.

There was a Dowling ball team during the fifties and early sixties. They were members of the Chain Lake Baseball League for a number of years and sponsored a ball tournament and sports day each summer from 1967 to 1962. The ball diamond was located south of Dowling, overlooking the lake.

Of a different nature, but still of interest to local residents was the research project on the island in Dowling Lake from 1967-1972. It was carried out by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the University of Alberta and the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division. Basically it was a study of the breeding and nesting habits of the Giant Canada Goose. A thirty foot observation tower with a small room on top was constructed to give full view of all the island. The men entered the tower before daylight and remained there until after dark, taking pictures and notes. On the average year they counted between ninety and one hundred nests, with a hatch of roughly four hundred goslings. They caught as many of these as they could in July and put wide yellow numbered bands on their necks.



Banding geese at Dowling Lake in 1970. Left to right. Bruce McGlone, Bill MacKenzie and Martin Jolitz.

Following is a brief history of the Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator at Dowling. This was kindly submitted to us by the Public Relations Department of the Pool Office in Calgary.

Alberta Wheat Pool's Dowling Elevator is a 37,000 bushel capacity facility built in 1928 by Boss Brothers Construction. A 30,000 bushel balloon annex was erected in 1940 at the site. [illegible] September, 1976 the balloon annex was sold and now the elevator is the only structure at Dowling.

Grain deliveries to the Pool's Dowling Elevator from 1932 to 1975 totalled 2,969,905 bushels. The highest grain handling recorded was 120,054 bushels in 1972 to 1973, the lowest handling occurred in 1936 to 1937 when the elevator only received 9,256 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Dowling Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: C. Lewis, Aug 1926 to July 1928; E. Foster, Nov 16/28 to Dec 7/31; G. Wahl, Dec 7/31 to Aug 17/32; T.W. MacKimmie, Aug 17/32 to May 3/35; L.M. Johnson, May 3/35 to Sep 9/35; M. Colbert, Sep 9/35 to Mar 1/37; G.W. Gibson, Mar 1/37 to Jun 19/37; P.L. Newman, Aug 8/38 to Jul 15/43; P. Ellergodt, Aug 3/43 to Jul 3/48; T.W. Pierce, Jul 3/48 [illegible] Jun 17/50; J. Foster, Jun 17/50 to Dec 1/51; P.J. Moran, Jan 1/52 [illegible] Feb 14/52; C.W. Shipton, Feb 14/52 to Sep 1/55; R.A. Sheels, Sep 1/55 to Jan 14/57; L.R. Gilbert, Jan 14/57 to Aug 24/59; G.D. McCarthy, Aug 24/59 to Sep 1/60; W.R. McGillivray, Sep 1/60 to Nov 24/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; Stepley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66 to Mar 31/75.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July, 1915 there was a plebiscite held to determine whether people wanted prohibition. It was the big issue of that particular time, receiving a lot of publicity. You had a choice to vote "Wet" or "Dry". Following are the results from some [illegible] the local polls. "Wet" votes are indicated in ().

Hanna — 102 (47); Centre Point — 10 (3); Watts — 18 (4); Maunders — 18 (8); Solon — 14 (3); Alps — 20 (6); Dowling Lake — 6 (2); Greystone — 20 (2).

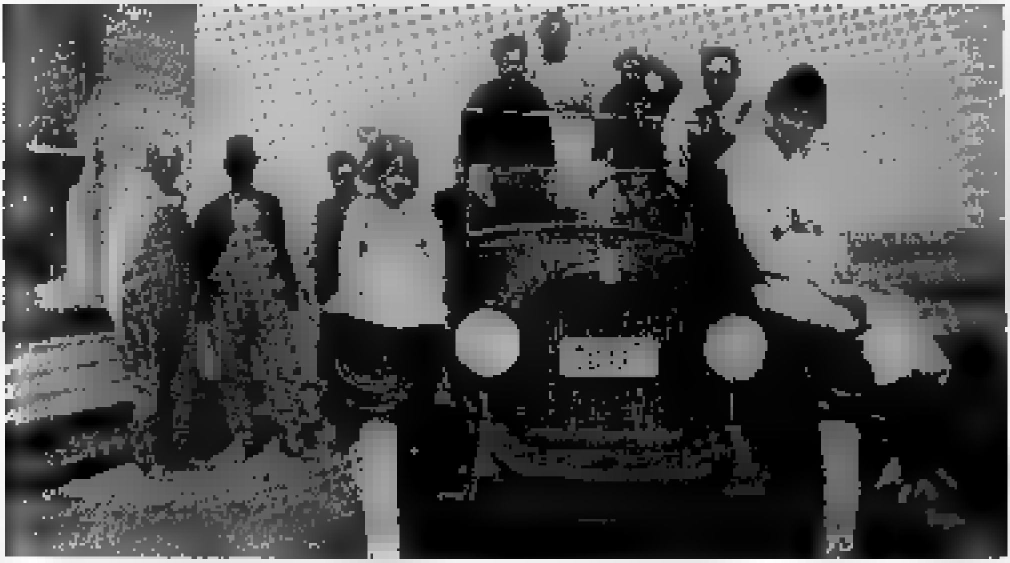
That telephone operators were known as "Hello Girls" ?

These people lived in the district briefly, but we were unable to get much information about them: Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, homesteaders. In February 1916, this item appeared in the Hanna Herald, "Mr. Ed Wheeler intends to erect a blacksmith shop on his place this spring and follow his trade."

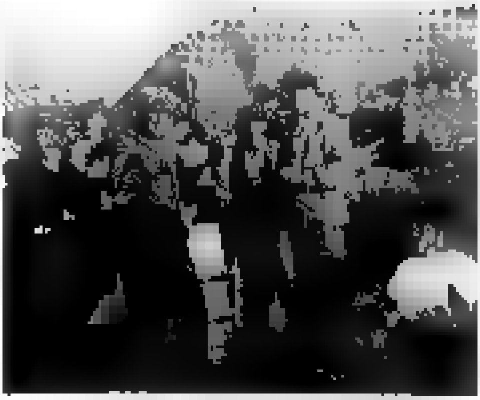
A Mr. Sieb who rented the Mansfield farm for a few years. He had a daughter Annie.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Watch and their children, Louis, Bertel and Katie. They came from Castor and went to B.C. when they left.

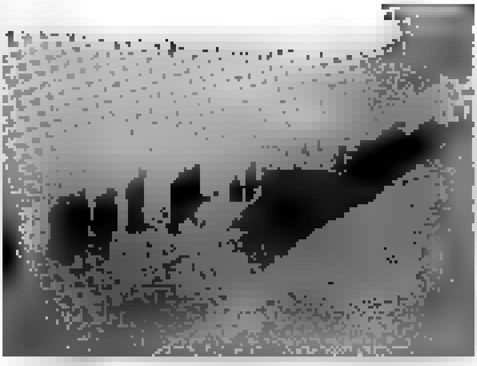
Albert Tietze and a relative or two. What little was heard of him indicated his activities were often questionable, like being convicted in Castor of shooting someone's horse.



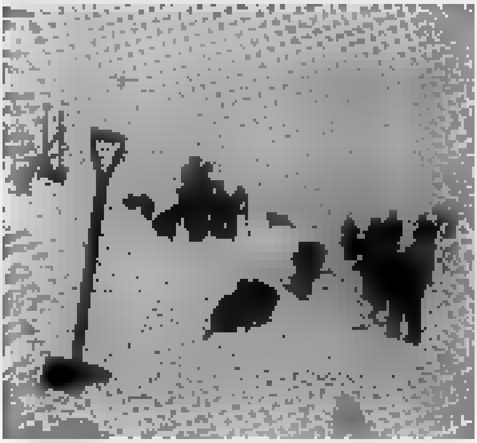
Casper Bartch's overland car, taken at Wieses in 1917. Standing beside the house are: Mr. Wiese, Mr. Baxter, Joe Kleiberg. Standing in back seat: Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Wiese, Mrs. Bartch. In front seat: Bill Grantham, Cap Bartch, holding Elma. Harry Wiese standing on the right. Seated on fenders: Violet Baxter, left, Lucy Wiese, right.



The threshing crew on the Gaugler outfit having their afternoon coffee. The two gentlemen nearest the camera are George Hausher and Rudolf Facho.



The snowplow trying to push its way through the drifts in the cut [illegible] the north side [illegible] Dowling Lake, after the big blizzard [illegible] Feb. 28, 1949. It was ten days after the storm before the train got through.



Men and shovels were the most effective means of clearing the track.

Rabbit Hunt in 1936. Left to right: Eric Woelk, Ernest Haessel, Rudolf Haessel, Fritz Lange, Otto Haessel.

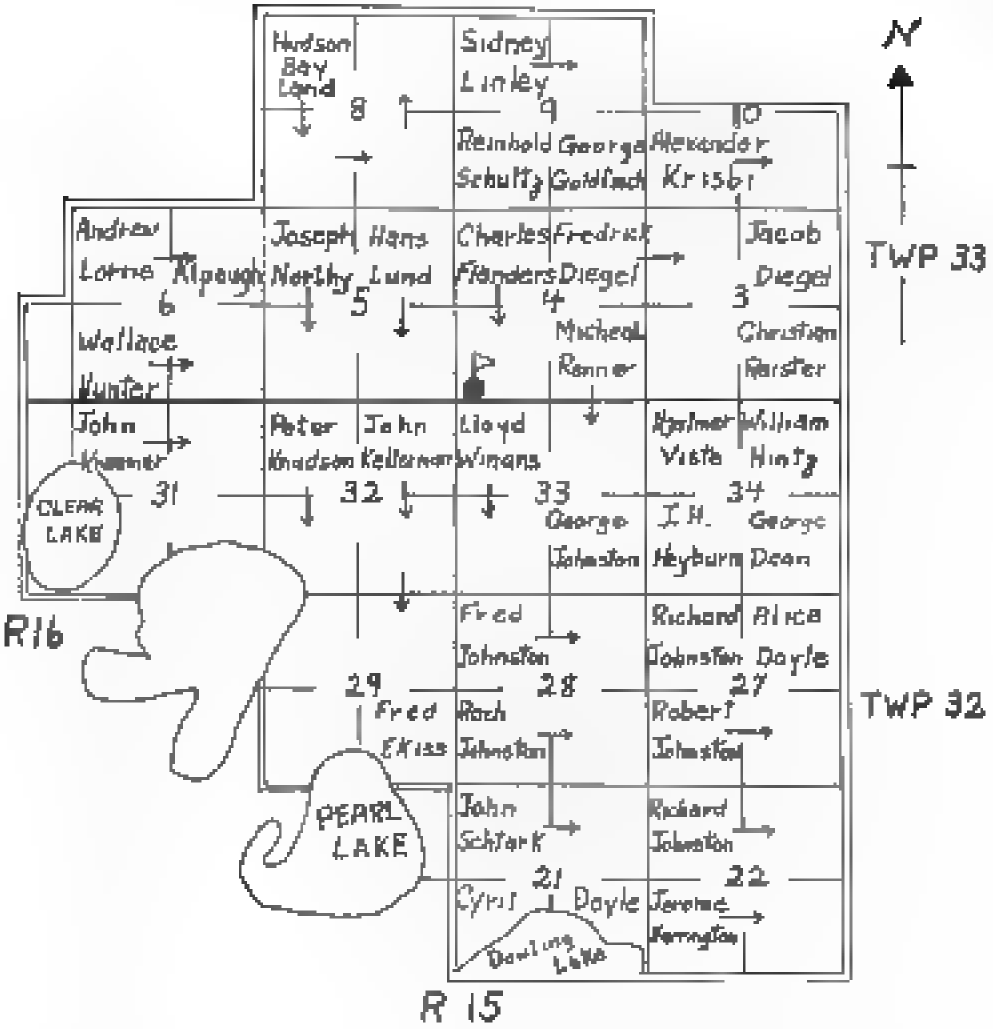
The following are [illegible] items taken from Hanna Herald files. Greystone, Feb. 5/1914. N.E. Bradley left last week for Calgary where he secured a position for the winter. [illegible]. Viste is in charge of his ranch and cattle for the winter.

Greystone — March 16/1915. J.L. Zehner and R. Gaugler have leased H. Sithke's farm and coal mine and are preparing to have coal on hand at all times. April 9/1914. A.E. English of Greystone purchased four heifers from Hunt Bros. of Endiang last week. May 14/1914. Mr. and Mrs. S. Brunner have returned from Castor after the burial of their daughter who died at Lake Thelma.

Wiese — Aug. 1916. Greystone was well represented at the Hanna Fair last week, and its representatives were successful in carrying home a number of prizes. The Greystone football team assisted by some Garden Plain players, played a match with the Hanna boys. Greystone won over Hanna, three to two. Jan. 11/1923. Chas. Fielding who resides north [illegible] Hanna received a shipment of registered Yorkshire pigs, of the bacon type, from a well known breeder at Unity, Sask. Jan. 18/1923. The irrigation surveyors seem to have disappeared from our view for the winter. We are informed that it is found that Sullivan Lake elevation is about 96 feet higher than Buffalo Lake. July 1926. C. Viste and John Klieberg are back from Camrose where they attended a Norwegian Convention.

To make an error can be annoying, but to learn you are so insignificant that no one even noticed it — that's down right humiliating!!

CHAIN LAKES No. 2383



OWNERS AND RENTERS OF TOWNSHIPS 32 and 33, RANGE 15

NW 19-32-15
Henry Cook
Linda Braenfield

NE 19-32-15
James McGuire
Ross McGuire
Linda Bramfield

SE 19-32-15
Herman Steen
Bennie Vista

SW 19-32-15
Herman Steen
Linda Bramfield

NW 20-32-15
A.E. Stephens
Pat Schultz

NE 20-32-15
S.H. Holloway
Pat Schultz

SW 20-32-15
Louis Viste
Pat Schultz

SE 20-32-16
Louis Viste
Irwin Schultz

NW 21-32-15
John Schtark
Wm. Gaugler

NE 21-32-15
John Schtark
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 21-32-15
Louis W. Doyle
Wm. & Betty Doyle

N ½ 22-32-15
Richard Johnson
Fred Ekiss
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 22-32-15
Jerome Harrington
Wm. & Betty Doyle

SW 30-32-15
Sydney Crandle
Alder Cranton

NE 29-32-15
John A. Kellerman
Wm. Diegel

SE 29-32-15
Fred Ekiss
Dave Schmidt

[illegible] ½ 29-32-15
Louis Grantham
Kelly Grantham

N ½ 28-32-15
Fred Johnson

[illegible] ½ 28-32-15
Mrs. R. Johnson
S.A. Scripl
Bob Holloway
Fred Trotter
Pat Schultz

NW 27-32-15
Richard Johnson

Roger & Wilma Doyle

NE 27-32-15
Alice Doyle
Roger & Wilma Doyle

SW 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger & Wilma Doyle

SE 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger Doyle

N ½ 31-32-15
Lake (fraction)
John Kramer
Linda Bramfield

W ½ 32-32-15
Peter Knudson
Albert Miller
Wm. Fecho

E ½ 32-32-15
John Kellerman
W. Diegel

W ½ 33-32-15
L.A. Winan
Fred Trottier
Louis Grantham
F.C.F. Company

NE 33-32-15
Michael Renner
Pat Schultz

SE 33-32-15
George Johnson
W. Diegel

NW 34-32-15
Hjlmer Viste
Pat Schultz

NE 34-32-15
William Hentz
Walter Wiess

SW 34-32-15
J.H. Heyburn
Roger Doyle

SE 34-32-16
George Dean
Roger Doyle

W ½ 4-33-15
Charles Flanders
George Smith
Louis Welch
H. and M. Hall

SE 4-33-15
Fred Diegel
Dan Wiech

SW 4-33-15
Michael Renner
Pat Schultz

NW 8-33-15
Fred Diegel
Lester Diegel

NE 3-33-15
Jacob Diegel
Lester Diegel

SW 3-33-15
Gotlieb Renner
Charlie Renner
Pat Sloan

SE 3-33-15
Christian Reister
Lester Diegel

E ½ 6-33-15
Wallace Hunter
Clyde Coons
Albert Ludlow
Hicks Cole
Wallace Hunter
Bill Fecho

S ½ 10-33-15
Alexander Krisbl
D. and L. Welch

SE 8-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert

SW 8-33-15
George Banner
Stanley Peake
Harold Lund
Dan Welch

N ½ 8-33-15
Litke
Helmut & Ruby

N ½ 6-33-15
Nels Matson
Wallace Hunter
L.A. Winans
Ted Robinson
Martin Johnson
Harold Lund
Dan Welch

N ½ 9-33-15
Sydney Linley
Rudolph Welch
Dan Welch

SW 9-33-15
Rienhold Schultz
Dan Welch

SE 9-33-15
George Goldfinch
Lester Diegel

W ½ 5-33-15
Joe Northey
Tom McLelland
Ben Zeamer
Stanley Peake
Ervin Bossert

E ½ 5-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert

THE CHAIN LAKE DISTRICT

The Chain Lakes school district contains high hills which offer a sweeping view of the surrounding country, and which slope down to a shallow valley dotted with small lakes. To the south-east is Dowling Lake, to the north-west is Farrell Lake, and between are numerous small bodies of water divided by narrow strips of land; hence the name, Chain Lakes.

One of the deepest of these smaller lakes was Clear Lake, spring-fed, and without the alkali of the others. It was a popular spot for swimming, and many community picnics were held there. In the early twenties the Clear Lake Community Club was formed; the committee included Hicks Cole, Hans, Harold and Dan Lund, George Banner, Bob Holloway, Lee and Cyril Doyle, with Mrs. George Banner acting as secretary. About 1924 they had two bath houses built on the shore of the lake, so that bathers could change in privacy. In 1927 a hall was built; dances were held there every week during its heyday.

Andy Alpaugh built the first motor boat [illegible] run on the lake, a small stern-wheeler powered by a Model T motor. Andy also operated the refreshment booth; but after some of the patrons questioned the quality of his apple cider, he gave up his concession, and Harry Poon took it over.

One summer an all-negro baseball team met the local players, who were no match for them, even after they pulled all their fielders. After the game the visitors, who were very musical, got out their instruments and put on an impromptu concert in the hall. The music was peppy, and some of the young people began to dance. George Banner put a stop to that; for it was a Sunday, and dancing was not considered a suitable activity for the Sabbath day.

Chain Lakes School 1926-27. Back Row, left to right: Mr. McPherson, Harry Johnson, Casper Johnson, Helen Trottier, Henry Trottier, Ted Ekles. Middle Row: Connie Heptonstall, Mary Trottier, Willie Diegel, Charlie Johnson, Adolph Leippi, Richard Zeamer, Ewing Smith. Front Row: Louise Johnson, Violet Johnson, Mary Diegel, Esther Michael, Walter Heptonstall, Gordon Ekles, Bernard Zeamer.

[illegible] one picnic Tom Samson, one of the first people to swim across Clear Lake, won an inner tube as prize for the best swimmer of the day. Unfortunately, he didn't own a car.

To provide shade for the picnickers, the committee arranged [illegible] have trees planted. They grew quite well for a year or two, but in the early thirties the lake dried up and the alkali blowing off it smothered both trees and grass. One of the bath houses blew away, the hall was sold and removed, and the pier leading to the diving platform fell into ruins. Although there has been considerable water in Clear Lake [illegible] recent years, it has never regained its popularity as a summer resort, but many oldtimers like [illegible] remember it as the place where they saw their first boxing match and had their first airplane ride.

Chain Lakes school was built in 1912, on the line between Hans Lund's and Joe Northey's property. [illegible] was named Knudson, after a homesteading family, and the first trustees were Mr. Knudson, Mr. Flanders and Mr. [illegible] Lund. Later, when school district boundaries were changed, the building was moved a mile east and renamed Chain Lakes.

The first teacher at this school was Miss Marian Lowe, who came straight from high school at Red Deer and taught on a special permit. She later became Mrs. Joe Northey. Other teachers, not necessarily in the order in which they taught were Marjorie Newcombe, Laura Deming [illegible] niece of the Winans), Miss Bryden, Mrs. Evan McCandless, Ella Stambaugh, Lydia Lammle, Lenore Knopp, Miss Whittle, Bill McLaughlin, Lorne Clapperton, Bessie Armstrong, Florence Robertson, Francis Glazier (Mrs. R. McGuire), Francis Harvey (Mrs. C. Johnson), Mrs. Cook, Marion Slater, John Lenuik, Bert Griffin, also Olga Fleck.

Mrs. Hans Lund wrote the following article, published in the Hanna Herald of August 25, 1955:

"In the early days the schoolhouse was the centre of such activities as the customary Christmas parties, dances, card parties, U.F.A. meetings and telephone and political meetings. It was also the centre for religious services; Anglican, Lutheran, United and Roman Catholic services were held there, each given equal rights, tolerance being the motto of the early settlers. An air [illegible] easy informality existed at church services, so much so that on one occasion one homesteader lit up his pipe during the afternoon service. The minister made no comment, but some of the women scowled."

After Chain Lakes school was closed, the building was moved to the Louis Welch farm where it was used as a shop.

TEACHING AT CHAIN LAKES, By Marian Northey — In the spring of 1912 I, then Marian Lowe, went out to a school about fourteen miles north of Craigmyle to teach. This was a new school built on two acres; one acre donated by Joe Northey and one acre by Hans Lund. They had gone out there in 1908. This was my first school; I taught grades one, two, three and eight. There were four nationalities represented, a happy experience, and wonderful children. Even in 1912, the eighth graders had to write exams from the Department of Education in Edmonton. School was from June the first to December twentieth. We had church services once a month on Sunday, after the first year. So much for the school.

Chain Lakes School First Row, left to right: Mrs. Northey (Teacher), Lucy Wiese, Anna Lund, Ruth Cob, Reinhold Diegel, 4 unknown (believed Renners), Paul Knudson. Second Row: Marion Knudson, Alice Knudson, two Renner girls, Gladys Knudson, Ida Banner, Dan Lund.

Mrs. Banner, Mrs. Winans, Mrs. Northey

At the end of my second year, Joe Northey and I were married.

The whole country was planted to wheat. Many had their own flour after the flour mill was opened in Hanna. They would make a trip for that alone. Most of the time our wheat was hauled to Craigmyle. At this time most of the farmers had one half their acreage sowed [illegible] wheat and the other half summer fallowed for next year's crop.

Near us was a Chain of Lakes stretching from north to south, but as they were alkaline they were not much use for pleasure. In the fall it was easy to shoot the mallards as they flew from grainfields to the lakes.

Although we were some distance from town we drove all over to dances and entertainments; in the summer and fall in buggies and in the winter in sleighs. Some of the dances were interesting as newly arrived Scotch people were clever dancers.

As I am eighty-four years old I cannot remember many names. We left the ranch in 1920, went to Red Deer and in 1922 came down to the States.

THE KNUDSONS, By Marian Knudsen Kalenith and Gladys Knudson Schumacker — Peter Christian Knudson was born in Denmark in 1858. With his wife Mary, and six children, he left Ellendale, North Dakota in 1910 to come to Alberta. We had heard so much about sunny Alberta. We travelled by train, stopping at North Portal to have everything checked before we crossed the line; then went on to Gadsby where we rented a house to spend the winter and to go to school. Art, the oldest son, worked at a hardware store; John, Alice and Marian went to school; Gladys was too young.

The first week in May we left by wagon for the homestead. It was snowing and we got as far as Mr. Shelberg's and spent the night there, continuing our journey in the morning. We lived in two tents while Joe Northey and Hans Lund built our house. The lumber had to be hauled from Gadsby. My father bought four oxen to cultivate the land.

We got our mail at Townsend's, four miles away, but later Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Winans had a sort of sub-post office in their home . . . anyone who was at the main post office brought all the neighbors' mail and left it there . . . and that was within walking distance of our place. How we used to look forward to the big rolls of funny papers which our aunt in the States sent to us!

A school named Knudson was built across the road from our place, so close that we could go home for lunch. Later it was moved about a mile east, and renamed Chain Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Knudson (second wife)

Mother died in 1912, and we had housekeepers until Dad married Euphemia Currie in 1917.

Arthur joined the army in 1914, served overseas for four years and was wounded. After his return he worked in coal mines and settled in Canmore where he was pit boss. He married and had five children; both he and his wife are now deceased.

John joined the American army, served six years, married and had two children. He still lives in Washington.

Paul is in Ponoka.

Marian married Alex Kalenith and lived in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler. They had five children. Marian is now widowed.

Alice was a dressmaker in Calgary for many years. She married Alfred Hart and they have two daughters.

Gladys became a school teacher and taught in ungraded country schools for eight years before marrying Louis Schumacker of Drumheller. They have three children.

Peter Knudson moved to Calgary where he died in 1933.

The Knudson Family. Back Row, left to right: Art, John, Paul. Middle Row: Marian, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Knudson, Alice and Gladys.

HANS C. LUND, By Mary Lund Selski — My Father, Hans C. Lund, was born in Jels, Denmark in 1882. He immigrated to Red Deer, Alberta in 1901 to the home of his uncle, Hans Lund, who was the father of Nick Lund, a pioneer of the Hanna district. His first winter in Canada he worked in a lumber camp near Red Deer and with the help of his cousins learned the English language — which he learned almost perfectly.

Back Row, left to right: Hawtry Goldfinch, Mrs. George Banner, George Banner, Hans Lund, Sydney Linley, Mrs. Bill Banner, Bill Banner, Ida Banner. Front Row: Leonard Molden, Myrtle Molden in front and Lillian Banner.

Then he took up his trade as a carpenter, which he had learned in the old country. He worked for various contractors and built houses in Red Deer, Pine Lake, Innisfail and Edmonton and area.

In 1908 he homesteaded in what was to become the Chain Lakes District, in 1910 he helped build the Chain Lakes School, but at that time it was located between his homestead and that of Joe Northey. In the year 1912 it was moved about a half mile east of his homestead.

Hans returned to Denmark three times, in 1908, 1910 and 1921.

On March the fourteenth, 1922, he married Edna Peake in Swinton, Lancashire, England.

I was born June twenty-sixth, 1923 in the Hanna Hospital and my sister, Edna was born November the eighteenth, 1924. I started school in 1929. Mrs. M.D. Cook was my first teacher.

Hans and Edna Lund were always active in community affairs. They belonged to the Alberta Wheat Pool, the U.F.A. and took part in all endeavours for the Chain Lakes area. My Father was also one of the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club helping with the building of the Hall, bath houses, etc. With the help of George Banner he always ran the water sports at the Clear Lake picnic.

Many of our Christmases were spent at the home of the George Banners and there was always a house full. We certainly had some wonderful times there. We went through some very hard times in the thirties but I never remember being unhappy; we had so many good neighbors and everyone was always willing to help one another.

My Father sold the farm in the early fifties to Ervin Bossert, a fine young man, who has made the old homestead a lovely farm.

My parents bought a home in Hanna and became active in affairs in Hanna. My Father resumed his trade as a carpenter, took up curling and various activities in town.

My Mother was on the Hanna Hospital Board for many years. She also belonged to the Eastern Star, Hospital Auxiliary and took a keen interest in community affairs.

My Father passed away December seventeenth, 1963 and my Mother on February twenty-sixth, 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson

THE CHARLEY and THERESA JOHNSON FAMILY, By Louise Johnson Cook — In 1916, my father, Charley Johnson came from Washburn, North Dakota to the Chain Lakes District, where he bought the farm of Gottlieb Rennel. My mother and six children followed later. When mother arrived she moved into a small sod house where it rained inside as much as outside. She would tell how she kept the light on all night because the bed bugs were so bad. On May the twenty-fifth, 1916, shortly after their arrival, Charles (Chuck) was born in the sod house. A midwife, Mrs. Sexsmith, attended the birth.

My father had a house built that summer by Tom Symington, an early settler in the Scapa district. The lumber for the house was hauled by wagon from Craigmyle, a distance of about eighteen miles. The original house is still much as it was then and was occupied until last year.

In 1918, "I" (Louise) was born and in 1920 Violet was born. This brought the

family to nine. Mrs. Sexsmith attended at the births. We all attended Chain Lakes School. Six of us received all our education there. Mrs. M.D. Cook taught for eight years. She was a dedicated teacher. Many times during the thirties she would not be paid for months at a time and the salary was very little. She taught every grade from beginners to grade eleven.

The school served many purposes. During the summer months church was held there. A United Church student minister held services and conducted Sunday School. He travelled on horseback and also held services in Endiang, Scapa and Chain Lakes. The Reverend H.E. Scallon, an Anglican Missionary Minister, also held services and Holy Communion when [illegible] travelled through the community. He travelled by team in a top buggy. He was very impressive in his black robe and black beard. I remember my mother telling of the Reverend Scallon baptizing Charlie. That was [illegible] 1917.

Church picnic at Clear Lake. Back Row, left to right: Bob Holloway, Edith Smith, George Banner, Irene Smith, Mrs. George Smith, Sid Holloway, Mrs. G. Banner. Front Row: Mrs. Charley Johnson, Louise Johnson, Ida Banner.

The school also served as a community centre, where meetings and dances were held. Louis and Harry played for dances in the schools and community halls throughout the district. Louis played the violin and Harry the guitar.

My father served on the school board in the twenties with George Smith and Fred Ekiss. [illegible] later years he was on the board with Hans Lund and Louis Doyle.

In February 1941 Martin and Charlie volunteered their services in the Canadian Army. Martin served in Canada. Charlie served on Active Duty with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He served overseas from September 1941 until his return home in November 1945.

Father passed away [illegible] 1947 at the age of seventy-one and mother in 1972 at the age of eighty-six.

Mother's great pride was her family. She lived to see twenty-five grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

Louis was married to Bessie Robinson. He [illegible] a widower, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C.

Edna married Elmer Tillotson of Delia, Alberta. They had two sons and three daughters. Edna passed away in 1970.

Martin married Lillian Morris and has two sons. They live [illegible] Medicine Hat.

Mabel passed away in 1932.

Henry was married to Eleanor Grantham. They had two sons and three daughters. He passed away in 1969.

Casper was married to Lila Staub who died in 1961. They had three sons. He has re-married and now resides in Mission, B.C.

Charlie (Chuck) married Frances Harvey. They have five sons and one daughter. They make their home in Hanna.

Louise married Fred Cook. They have one daughter and live in Hanna.

Violet was married to Henry Trottier. They had two sons and two daughters. She is now Mrs. Frank Dobrosky and lives in Oyen, Alberta.

Some of the Michael Family. Fred, Clarence, Mr. Michael, Ted, Mrs. Michael, Esther.

THE HENRY MICHAEL FAMILY, By Ruby Hausher — Mrs. Henry Michael was a sister of Mrs. Steinbrecker, and the two ladies worked in a cigar factory in Stettler before coming to this area. They had come to Canada from Colorado in 1912; the Michael family homesteaded in the Wiese district and later moved to the Chain Lakes area.

There were six children in the family; Ted lives in Vancouver. He was married to Elizabeth Morasch and had one daughter, Marie.

Fred married Anne Hagen and had one son. Clarence married and had two daughters and one son.

Molly died in the sixties. She married Mike Kary of Hemaruka and had two girls and one boy.

Marie, who married Sig Hoffman, had two sons and a daughter. She was killed in an accident at Three Hills.

Esther, Mrs. Fraser, has two sons. She lives in Edmonton.

The family left this district and moved to Stettler, where Mr. Michael died. Mrs. Michael then went to Donalda where she worked on a farm. She died in 1947.

THE DOYLE FAMILY, By Bill Doyle — No history of the area would be complete without mention of the Doyles — Cyril, Lee and Lou, who were early residents of the Dowling District. My father, Lou, the youngest of a family of six, was born in Tignish, P.E.I. Mrs. Doyle, who had been widowed shortly before Lou was born, moved her young family to Rumford Falls, Maine, where she taught school and raised her family. It was in Maine that Lou learned his basics of baseball, a sport in which he excelled in later years.

In his late teens, Lou immigrated to Canada to join his uncle Jerome Herington, who had come west to raise horses on the north shore of Dowling Lake. He was followed afterward by his brothers, Cyril and Lee.

The First World War interrupted the lives of many of the young men in the district. Lou, while still in his teens, joined the Canadian Forces. He served with distinction, overseas on the Western Front, with the First Battalion — Royal Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He was followed to service by Cyril and Lee.

After the Armistice, the Doyles returned to Dowling district where they took up a homestead, bought Hudson's Bay land and began farming and ranching.

They were joined briefly during the early twenties by their mother and three sisters — Mercedes, Bernadette and Kathleen. The West, however proved too

much for the ladies and they returned to the United States, where they made their home in Boston.

As the district settled into the roaring twenties, the Doyle boys played an important role in community life. Lee took an active part in the Clear Lake Community Association, helping to turn the barren prairie lake into a popular sporting and resort area. Baseball rivalry hit its peak at this time as Craigmyle, Hanna, Drumheller and farther points vied to have the top ball club. What echoes of the cheers can be heard by the old timers! — and the names come back over the years — George Murray, Dodger Lewis, Lou Doyle, Bill McCoy, Homer Butts. How good were they? Well, we'll never know, but Dodger Lewis and Lou Doyle were invited to training camp with the old Brooklyn Dodgers, and more than one old timer can recall Lou's great home-run hitting. To quote one, "Lou tore a hell of a lot of shingles off the old club house at Clear Lake."

But life was more than baseball; there was the business of farming, community and family life. While Lee remained the eligible bachelor, cutting a handsome figure with his hair chaparrels, sporty saddle and fine riding horses, Cyril and Lou chose marriage and family.

As the community became more settled, the Doyles took an active role in the development of the Chain Lakes School District, the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company and the United Farmers of Alberta.

During the late thirties Cyril, who had married the former Lucy Wiess, sold his holdings and moved to Fort Langley, B.C. Lou and Lee remained in the Dowling district until their deaths, proud of their community and their Irish heritage.

Lee Doyle, Edna Lund, George Banner, Mary Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Banner, Ida Grosse

LEE DOYLE — Lee Doyle was born in Prince Edward Island, and came to Alberta to take up a homestead in 1914. He was one of the first trustees of Chain Lakes school, and was always interested in the development of his community. He acted as road foreman when Andy Hanson was councillor, and often drove twelve head of horses on the road grader. He tried to achieve a higher standard of development for the area in which he lived, and gave fully of himself in every way possible to attain these objectives. He was among the group who decided to erect a community hall at Clear Lake, and was convener of the horse races at the picnics there.

With true pioneer courage he managed to build up his farming operations, even when drought meant that yields were low. He built a shack when he first came to the homestead, later building a larger house. When he and Andy Hanson were digging the basement for the new house, they were hampered by a large rock which was in their way. Mr. Hanson suggested that they put a stick of dynamite on top of it; Lee thought it would do more good underneath. They lit the fuse, and up came the rock, landing on the chicken coop. The chicken house repaired and the basement dug, up went the new house; but Lee always laughed about how he should have listened to Andy Hanson.

Lee's mother, Mrs. Alice Doyle, kept house for him; and as the road to Dowling went right through their yard, many people stopped to visit this friendly and charming lady. When she left, Joe Fischer became almost a fixture at Lee's.

He was supposed to be the cook, and that was when the fun and the frustration started. In farwell, Joe would always say, "I wish you lots of pleasure."

Lee Doyle was missed by young and old alike when he passed away in 1945.

CYRIL DOYLE — Cyril Doyle homesteaded in the Chain Lakes district in 1914 at the same time as his older brother Lee and his younger brother, Lou. He served in the army during World War I and after he returned to the district he married Lucy Wiese.

U.F.A. Picnic at Clear Lake. Cyril Doyle standing at left, George Banner, Lucy Doyle in front of George Banner

Back Row, left to right: unknown, Nina Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Lucy Doyle, Ida Banner, Mrs. Banner, Miss Cameron. Second Row: Gordon and Norman Lund, Mrs. Ben Zeamer, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Johnson. Front Row: unknown, Leona Zeamer, Mary Lund, Edna Lund.

The couple managed to achieve a good living by milking cows and raising chickens. Lucy was noted for her hospitality and was a very good cook; a visitor always got a good meal at their table. They both gave freely of themselves to help their neighbors or the community. They were one of the first in the country to have a 1928 Essex car, and were very proud of it.

Cyril was an outstanding pitcher for the Clear Lake Community Ball Club; with Andy Hanson on first base, batters were put out in short order.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were blessed with three children while they lived in Alberta. In 1936 they had a sale and moved to Langley, B.C. where they were in the dairy business for several years. Later they retired there, where Lucy passed away in 1967. Cyril continued to make his home there, and every year travelled to Stony Plain to visit his daughter, Lucille Cox. It was during one of these visits that he passed away very suddenly in February, 1977.

Clarence, their oldest son, resides in B.C. Their second Boy, Leslie, was killed in a truck accident in 1963.

LLOYD A. WINANS, By Austin Ludlow — L.A. Winans came with his wife from California and homesteaded the west half of 33-32-15. They farmed for many years, and had a threshing outfit in partnership with George Banner.

One time during the early years they were coming home with groceries during the winter when they were caught in a blizzard. Unable to travel further, they turned the horses loose, turned the sleigh box upside down, and spent the hours until the storm subsided underneath it. When the storm abated they righted the sleigh box, found the horses close by, hitched them up and continued on their way home.

As a convenience for the neighbors, they operated a sort of sub post office; any neighbor who happened to be at the post office at Watts brought out the mail for everyone in the area, and left it at the Winans' home. They were the only family to have a telephone after the majority of rural lines were removed during the depression years.

In 1934 the Winans returned to California, where they both passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Diegel, 1954

ARCHIE DIEGEL — I was born June 17, 1930 and grew up on my parents' farm five miles north-west of Dowling and six miles south-west of Scapa. I attended Chain Lakes school for nine years, then worked on my parents' farm. In 1951 they bought a house in Hanna and I batched until 1954 when I married Edna Doering. We lived on the farm for one year, then moved south-west of Hanna, but continued to farm the old place until I rented it to Lester Diegel in 1966. In 1969 I sold the land to Lester and bought land in the Hand Hills.

We have three children, Deborah who is working for AGT in Calgary, Bryne and Myles at home.

I farm, milk cows, raise cattle, chickens and hogs and have been driving a school bus for fifteen years. We are quite happy to be on the farm.

MR. and MRS. JACOB DIEGEL, By Marie Diegel Rosin — Dad was born March 14, 1894. My mother, Eva Schafer, was born May 7, 1894. They were married in South Dakota in 1916.

They had four sons and three daughters. Alvert and Esther are deceased.

Relatives and neighbors, gathering at Jacob and Eva Diegel in 1930's.

25th Wedding Anniversary 1941 Jacob and Eva Diegel

Willard married Hilda Ost. Their children are Lester, Charlotte, Gary and Glenda.

Marie Elizabeth married Anton Stotz. Their children were Shirley and Gerald. She was widowed in 1960 and is now Mrs. Rosin. Samuel married Marion Ost and had three children, Marvin, Stanley and Dwayne.

Irene married Walter Sieppert. Their children are Gloria, Darlene, Dale and Kathy.

Archie married Edna Doering. Their children are Deborah, Bryne and Myles.

Mom died in October, 1955, and Dad in September, 1959.

GEORGE SMITH, By Mrs. Grace Smith Druery — Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in Toronto in 1905, and came to Innisfail, Alberta the same year with a freight car of farm implements, livestock and household furniture. From there they came to the Craigmyle district and freighted their possessions down from Innisfail. While moving, the driver of one wagon fell asleep. The horses ran away and the mirrors of Mrs. Smith's sideboard were broken. After arriving in Craigmyle district, the children attended Orlando School. Later they moved to the Chain Lakes district one mile north of the school. In 1931 they retired and moved to Calgary.

Back Row, left to right: George Banner, Mrs. Smith, George Smith, Ida Banner. Front Row: Ruth Smith, Edith Smith, Irene Smith, Ewing Smith, Lillian Banner.

Mr. Smith who was born in Wales in 1876, passed away in 1958. Mrs. Smith was born in Scotland in 1874 and passed away in 1962. They were survived by four daughters, Grace Drury of Toronto, Edith Rodburne of Calgary, Ruth Witt of Ponoka, Irene Robbins of Calgary; and one son, Ewing of Blind Bay, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Symington, Sarah, Marion, Margaret (baby)

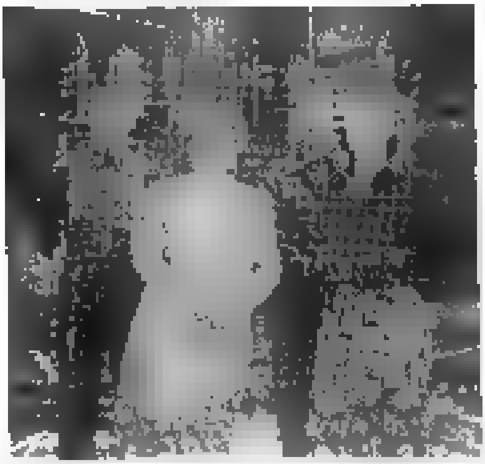
MR. and MRS. SYDNEY LINLEY, from information supplied by Ida Grosse and Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Sydney Linley had served with the Imperial Army in campaigns in India, the Sudan and South Africa before he and his wife emigrated from Lancashire, England, to homestead the NW 9-33-15. They built a barn and a fairly large house there. Mrs. Linley, who always wore a little dust cap, was very fond of chickens and always managed to keep them laying during the winter, and the neighbors came to depend on her for their winter egg supply.

Anyone who liked a nice cup of tea or a glass of rhubarb or dandelion wine were welcome whenever they dropped in. Mrs. Linley always kept the wine under the bed while it worked, then stored it in the basement for three years before serving it. Those who tasted it said that it was of the highest quality.

Sydney joined the Canadian army during the first World War, and while [redacted] was away she carried on at home, looking after her cows and chickens; Harold Lund and Reinholt Schultz helped her with the field work. She used to sit on an apple box on the stoneboat and drive a single horse about four miles to get the mail -she would be so disappointed when there was no letter from her husband.

When Sydney returned from overseas, they planted a long row of pines, and a shelter belt of other trees, which have grown into a wonderful memorial for them.

[redacted] 1937 the Linleys moved to Calgary, and after renting the land [redacted] Arnold Arndt for a couple of years, sold it [redacted] Rudolph Welch. It is now owned by Dan Welch.


Ben Zeamer, Mrs. Zeamer, Bernard, Leona, 1940

THE BEN ZEAMER FAMILY, By Richard Zeamer — My parents and I came to Calgary from Missouri in 1916, but only stayed a few months and then went back to the States. In May 1918 my brother Bernhard was born, and later that year we moved to the Craigmyle district where we stayed for five years. My sister Leona was born there in 1922.

[redacted] 1923 we moved to the Keen farm; my dad farmed and hauled rocks. In harvest time he would ride a mule down to the Ekiss place and pitch bundles [redacted] day; ride back at night to milk the cow, and the next morning would be away again, riding bareback.

In 1924 we moved to the Northey farm about four miles south and that fall my

brother and I started school at Chain Lakes. We got our mail and supplies at Hanna, went [illegible] picnics at Clear Lake, and walked with Capple Johnson to dances at Annesheim.

My parents, brother and sister moved to Parson, B.C. [illegible] the fall of 1935. Leone married Walter Larsen and has three children. Bernhard, who works on the C.P.R. in Calgary, is married and has two girls. I live in Hanna.

MR. and MRS. JOHN KELLERMANN, By Ernie Lange — John Kellermann was born in Germany [illegible] 1874. Since he was handicapped from birth by not having full use of his right arm and leg, his parents decided that he should become a tailor following his school years. He worked at this in Germany until 1906 when he emigrated to London, England where he spent one year. In 1907 he came to Edmonton where he followed his trade until 1911. In 1911 he moved to Stettler and from there to Dowling Lake where he took a homestead.

John Kellermann

Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann

In 1912 he hauled lumber from Castor with a team of oxen for some of the first buildings in the new town of Hanna.

Miss Agathe Geisler came to Alberta in 1912 to join her sister Mrs. Robert Lange. Later the same year she met and was married to John Kellermann, the wedding taking place in Lange's sod house.

The couple spent one winter in Hanna where Mr. Kellermann opened a small tailor shop. This however proved unsuccessful since there was not enough business [illegible] the small community for them [illegible] exist. They then settled down on the farm where they lived until Mr. Kellermann's death in 1934.

Mrs. Kellermann continued to reside on the farm until 1935 when she married George Kroll in the Watts district. They lived on his farm until 1939 when they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Kellermann passed away in 1950.

OTTO GEISLER — Since Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann were not blessed with children they decided [illegible] bring Mrs. Kellermann's nephew over from Germany. Otto Geisler arrived in 1926 and worked on the farm with his uncle. This venture was short lived since Otto met and married Miss Elsie Weich one year later. The couple then moved to Hanna where Otto worked for the C.N.R. The marriage, however, soon ended in divorce. Otto spent most of his years in Saskatchewan doing any work that was available, as well as riding freight trains during the years of the depression. Following the death of his father in 1936 his mother paid his fare back to Germany, where he took over his father's store.

HENRY GLUESING — In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann once more tried to add a relative to their family. This time they turned to Mr. Kellermann's nephew and in July 1928 sixteen-year-old Henry Gluesing came to live with them. He worked faithfully with his uncle until 1933 when he decided to go north to trap. This proved to be the end of his farming days with the Kellermanns. When trapping didn't prove to be too successful he turned first to mining and then to oil exploration and eventually worked his way up to the position of Diamond Driller at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

PAULINE ENGEL — Pauline Engel came to Alberta from Europe with her parents in 1928. In 1929 she came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann. She was a member of the Kellermann home and attended Chain Lakes School until 1931, when she rejoined her family in the Endiang district.

WALLACE HUNTER, By Austin Ludlow — Wallace Hunter homesteaded about 1910 on 6-33-15. He was a hard worker and never set stakes to strike out a land; [redacted] figured it all had to be plowed. I remember one of his horses wading across a dry lake in the mud with what was left of his harness. That was before his horses found out they were supposed to stay on the job.

We Ludlows moved in with Uncle Wallace the summer of 1914. He had lots of room. His house was ten feet by fourteen feet. There were just five of us, including the dog. I think that was the summer Dad started working for J.A. Borel and Jim Smith. He travelled a Percheron Stallion imported from France. He rode a horse he called Wee Donald. Once Mother cooked a kettle of figs and set them out on a shelf to cool. Wee Donald ate them.

That winter Dad and Clyde Wooden worked in Kirkeby's coal mine. They drove a big gray horse on a stone boat. Clyde and I would put on the boxing gloves and box. Clyde would be on his knees, as I was only five years old.

In 1915 we moved to our homestead. We spent several years there, good and bad, accumulating experience.

Back Row, left to right: Albert Smith, Hazel Smith, Austin Ludlow, June Smith, Margy Smith. Front Row: Cheryl Smith, Mrs. Ludlow, Susan Smith.

In 1930, Uncle Wallace wanted to go to the bush so we moved back to his place. By that time we had two of my sister's little girls, Hazel and June Coons, living with us. They started their education at Chain Lakes school. Their teacher was Mrs. Cook. She was Chain Lakes' teacher for several years in the thirties, some of the time without wages, just to keep the school going.

Bert Ludlow, his team and dog

In 1937 we moved north of Rimbey. [illegible] 1942 we came back to Halkirk for two years, then went to Erskine. The girls still live [illegible] Erskine. Hazel is Mrs. Dewey Smith and June [illegible] Mrs. Ray Smith. Dad left us in 1951 and Mother passed on in 1970.

I sold my place in Erskine and came back [illegible] Craigmyle to complete the circle. Wherever we lived we found good friends and neighbors but it's nice to be back home.

Wallace Hunter came back to his homestead in the early forties. He farmed with horses until 1965, when he rented his land [illegible] Lester Olegel. Wallace Hunter died in 1972.

Bob Holloway

ROBERT DENNIS HOLLOWAY, By Ida Grosse — Robert Holloway came out from England [illegible] 1912. He homesteaded in the Wiese district and worked out for several years, later selling his homestead. He joined the army in 1918. After the war he bought three quarter sections of land, two miles south of Chain Lakes School. After farming for several years he sold his holdings to Fred Trottier.

A confirmed bachelor, [illegible] was secretary of the Clear Lake Community Club for many years, he held a position with the Soldier Settlement Board for a few years, later moving to Montreal, where he and his younger brother operated an animal hospital. He passed away [illegible] the age of sixty-nine in Montreal.

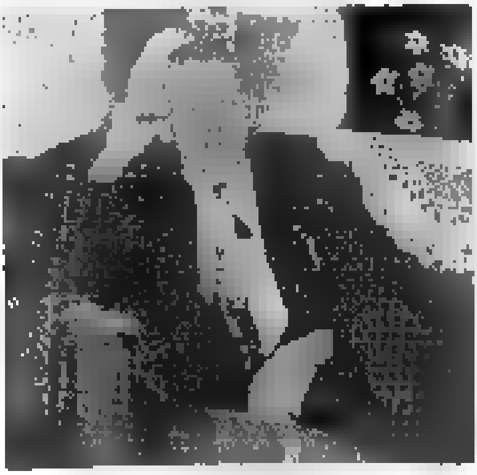
Syd Holloway at Guelph College

SYDNEY HAWTREY HOLLOWAY, By Ida Grosse — Sydney Holloway came out from an orphan's home in England [illegible] the year 1922 and made his home with his brother Robert and with Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He learned a [illegible] about farming and worked for Mr. Fred Ekiss and Rufus McCulsh, also worked with horses and a scraper building the railway through Dowling.

He went to Olds Agriculture College in 1924-1925; graduating from there he won a scholarship to Columbus, Ohio.

After graduating as a veterinarian he opened up his own business in Montreal with his brother Bob.

At the age of forty-three he decided to become a medical doctor. After leaving the east, he came to Didsbury to practise, later moving to Calgary where he now resides. He is married and has two daughters.



Fred Trotter Christmas 1957

FRED TROTTIER, By Helen Trottier Hogg — Fred Trottier was born in Quebec on December the twelfth, 1885. As a young man he joined the thousands of Eastern Canadians who were going west to open up the country. In the early 1900's he and his wife Jenny resided in Edmonton. They had a family of three children, all born in Edmonton: Henry Trottier who now lives in Calgary, Mary Miller also in Calgary and Helen Hogg of Stettler.

In 1912 Fred and his family took up a homestead in the Scapa district. It was here that his wife Jenny passed away in 1924. He then moved to the Dowling Lake district and purchased the Bob Holloway farm where he resided for many years before retiring to Hanna as a resident of the Hanna Senior Citizen Lodge. He passed away January nineteenth, 1970.

Mr. Trottier was a man with a great sense of humor. Anyone who came to his home never left hungry as he became a very good bachelor cook and his home was open to all.

STAN PEAKE, By Mary Lund Selski — Stanley immigrated to Canada from Lancashire, England in 1924, to the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Hans and Edna Lund. He worked for Nick Lund on the farm and also in the store at Watts.

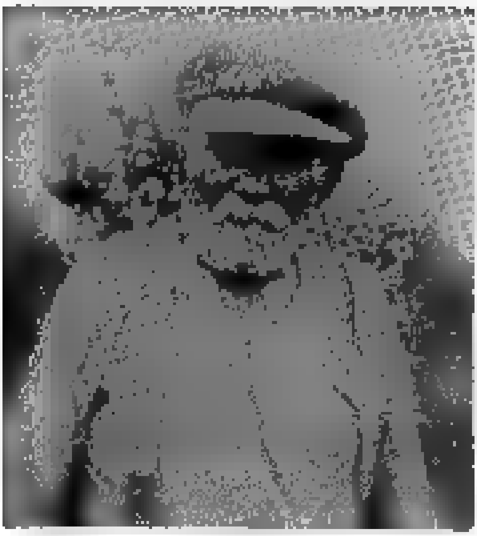
He bought what was the Joe Northey place and farmed until the late fifties, selling the place to Ervin Bossert and retiring in Hanna.

Stan has always been very active in the Masons and Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Royal Canadian Legion and has enjoyed curling for many years.

REINHOLD SCHULTZ, By Mary Lund Selski — Reinhold Schultz came to Canada in 1910 to his uncle, Hans Lund. He stayed with my father and Nick Lund. He took up a homestead. He worked for various people, and also worked for a couple of winters in the C.N.R. shops in Hanna.

In 1915 he became seriously ill with pneumonia but thanks to the nursing of Ada Lund he recovered. In 1919, after the war, he returned to Denmark and married a girl there. Reiny and Karen had two children, Jens Carl and Inga. He owned a small shop which he operated until 1965. Reiny passed away in 1973 at the age of seventy-seven.

THE TRETTIN FAMILY, By Mrs. Susanne Trettin — In 1910 the Trettin family of Stettin, Germany decided to immigrate to Canada. Grandfather (Paul Sr.) accompanied by Robert Lange came first, filing on homesteads in the Scapa district. Grandfather's homestead quarter was southwest 15-33-15 and his pre-



Paul Trettin Sr.

emption was the quarter north of it. Mr. Lange homesteaded the quarter east of Grandfather's. Having worked in a furniture factory in Germany, Mr. Trettin was able to build his own furniture to furnish his one roomed shack.

By 1912 some of the rest of the family were able to come. Paul Jr. (my husband) who had been delivering milk and cream, and his mother, who ran a store, sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax in 1912. Bill Kading also came along. Somewhere on the trip across the ocean, their ship collided with a lumber ship, making it necessary for the passengers to be transferred to another boat. The combination of seasickness and the second hand aroma of sausage, heavily seasoned with garlic, which a lot of the passengers were so fond of, turned my husband against garlic, so he never liked me to use it in anything.

Emil, Paul's older brother, would have liked to come too, but his trip had to be postponed because the German government required young men of twenty to take army training, and Emil being nineteen at the time, had to remain in Germany. Because of the war he didn't hear from his parents until 1919. Emil was finally able to join his family in 1927. He stayed here a while, then went to Vancouver and Tacoma, where he spent the rest of his life at his trade of tailoring. Emil died in 1975 at the age of eighty-two. He was a nice man, a good uncle and brother to us.

Mrs. P. Trettin Sr. Homestead shack

Back here in the Chain Lakes district Paul was having the usual troubles of young men from foreign countries. He went to school a couple of winters at Hudson Bay and Chain Lakes schools to improve his English a little. One of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook.

Having no land of his own then, he and his father did some railroad work between Hanna and Nanton; they lived partly on rabbits for a change of diet. Once Paul caught a ride with Mr. Lange to Castor, looking for work. He went to Stettler, and being unable to land a job, he walked home, sleeping in strawstacks and dining on bird eggs and slough water. Being very shy and not so good at English, he knocked on one door to ask for a drink and when the lady opened the door he turned and went on his way. He stopped at Alex Kalenith's and rested. Alex was batching then.

Paul bought his own farm northeast 17-33-15 on October fourteenth 1921. He made the deal with William C. Stirling and Cyril N. Tingle. He paid two thousand dollars, some of it on time at seven per cent interest. Both Paul and his dad farmed with horses.

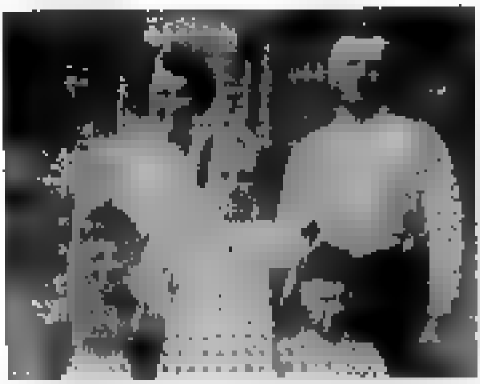
In 1930 Grandma Trettin passed away.

My folks came from Romania to settle in North Dakota in 1903, where I was

born in 1905 at a town called Butte. When the family first arrived, they lived under a wagon box for a month or so, while they were getting their sod shack made. That first winter the snow got very deep, and once a neighbor came to visit on horseback and rode right on the roof of the house. Someone hollered at him from the inside to get off.

We then moved to South Dakota for a while, then to Montana where Guy, the youngest one, was born in 1914. My father's name was Jacob Stotz and the sons and daughters names were Adam, Christ, Henry, Katie, John and Tony (identical twins), Susanna and Marie (identical twins) and Guy. When I started to school we walked a half mile to catch a horse-drawn covered wagon which had seats around the inside of the box. There were about ten passengers and we had six miles to go.

In 1927 we moved to Trochu and farmed for a year, then in 1928 we moved to Craigmyle district to a farm one mile south of Princeton school. My father died in 1931 and mother [illegible] 1945 and are both buried in Craigmyle.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trattin, Edward, Gertrude, Arnold

On June seventh, 1931 Paul and I were married. My name was Susanne Stotz. The marriage license was got in Craigmyle and we were married at my brother Chris Stotz's place north of town, the Reverend Wentzel officiating. Our attendants were Dave Schmidt and John Stotz, Pauline Suelzle and Marie Stotz.

Paul's father lived with us until his passing in 1940. Our first car was a Model T Ford bought sometime in the thirties, the next one was a Model A. Our three children were born in Hanna; Gertie, Mrs. Alder Cranton, who lives eight miles southwest in the Craigmyle area, was born in 1933. Edward, now [illegible] Edmonton was born [illegible] 1936, and Arnold, living at home with me, was born in 1938.

Paul made his first trip to visit Emil in 1950; he went by train and stayed a month. In 1960 I went too and we went by bus. [illegible] 1965 Edward and his wife took him to the States in their car, and in 1969 Earnest Lange took us for one more visit.

Over the years there were six wells on our land, five were dug by hand. For years we had a straw barn. The walls were wooden forms filled with straw, and the roof was made by laying branches on the walls and covering them with straw. This burned down in 1966, taking with it a couple of granaries, our chickens and lots of small things. The neighbors helped us build a new barn that same fall.

Paul suffered with heart trouble the last few years, and in December, 1969 he died in the Hanna Hospital, after having a heart attack, three days after his seventy-third birthday.

I am the only one of the Stotz family left now. I have lived on this place for forty-five years. In 1974 Arnold and I got a mobile home, so we are more comfortable. In 1975, Uncle Emil died and we drove [illegible] Tacoma to the funeral, passing through Montana near where we used to live. I have six grandchildren, all living in different parts of Alberta.

McLELLAN and IRONSIDE STORY, By Isabell McLellan Ironside — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Mary McLellan left Ontario in 1918 and lived at Lethbridge, Cessford and Hanna before we moved to the Northey farm north of Watts. While there we met Scottie, now known to all as Bill Ironside. We lived there four years, then moved [illegible] Alhambra, and then nearer to Rocky Mountain House.

Bill Ironside left Scotland when he was a boy of twelve years, and lived at Watts where he worked for Wallace, Dan and Norman Hunter. They used to thresh for different farmers. After four or five years he went to work at Cluny hauling grain for Hank Willard; one of the men who drove a chuck wagon at the Calgary Stampede. Then he got itchy feet and went to Penticton B.C. for a few years, and then came back to Calgary where I met him again.

We were married in June, 1936. We have lived on this farm south of Rocky Mountain House for over twenty-eight years now. We have four children. Our three boys all live near Rocky Mountain House; they are married with families. Our only girl and her husband and daughter live in Edmonton.

THE McGUIRE FAMILY, By Frances McGuire — James Lenor McGuire homesteaded the northeast of 19-32-15 in July 1911, and claimed adjoining quarter to the south as a pre-emption. While proving up on the land, he often rode horseback from Calgary where his wife and young family resided. In 1914 he joined the Canadian Army and served overseas with the Tenth Battalion, taking part in the battles at Ypres and Vimy Ridge. After the war he returned to the Craigmyle district with his wife Mary, daughter Pat and sons Ross and Lee. They lived temporarily at the Tingle place. Lee died at an early age and is buried at Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Jim hauled lumber by team from Halkirk to build a barn on the homestead. For two years following its completion, community dances were held in this building. The family lived in a granary until the house was completed in 1921.

Jim McGuire played ball for the Clear Lake and Craigmyle teams and served as a trustee for Dowling Lake School. His brother Bruce and sister Zella came from Ontario and remained in the area for some time before going back to the east. Bruce worked in the neighborhood and Zella McGuire was the first teacher at Princeton School. Frances McGuire, Ross's wife, was Princeton's last teacher.

Jim and his family moved to Calgary in 1924. Jim's wife Mary, and the two children Pat and Ross returned to the farm in 1932, remaining for two years. Pat married at this time and had a son, who is now a lawyer in Edmonton.

James McGuire died in the Keith Sanitorium on February twenty-eighth, 1946, after battling tuberculosis for many years. His wife Mary made her home with Pat and her husband. She passed away in Calgary on December the twenty-first, 1956.

Pat and her second husband, Ted Fitch and daughter Patricia Anne moved to the United States in 1957. Pat died in Layfayette, California in July 1968. Her daughter still resides in California.

In 1938 Ross began farming his father's homestead. In 1944 he married Frances Glazier, who had been teaching at Chain Lakes School and prior to that at St. George. Frances continued teaching at Annasheim, Lillico and Princeton before joining the staff of the Craigmyle School.

Ross and Frances had three children; their two sons are married and farming in the Craigmyle area. James and Marlene have one son and Keith and Marj have two daughters. Their daughter Lorraine is married to Douglas Reiter and presently resides in Edmonton.

The homestead was sold to the late John Bramfield.

J. H. HEPBURN, By Austin Ludlow — Mr. Hepburn homesteaded on SW 34-32-15 in 1912. The same year he and Alfred Kirkeby were digging a well. They had gone down about sixteen feet when they stopped for dinner, leaving the pick and shovel in the well. After dinner Alfred lowered Mr. Hepburn into the well to get the

tools. Mr. Hepburn called to Alfred to hurry and pull him up as there was gas down there. Alfred got him nearly to the top when Mr. Hepburn passed out, lost his grip, fell and broke his neck.

WILLIAM FECHO, By May Welch Fecho — William Fecho was born in Poland and came to Canada as a young man. He and I, the former May Welch, were married in 1932 and rented the place known as the Michael farm from F.A. Mathe. We had very little machinery, and didn't get very good crops because of the drought and dust storms, but we always managed to get by.

In 1939 we rented the farm where Millers used to live, and bought our first steel-wheeled tractor. We also got more and better machinery, which made a great improvement in our farming. We raised our own vegetables, and milked a lot of cows to earn enough money for the food and other things we had to buy.

Our children attended Chain Lakes school, driving in the winter time, but having to walk the three miles in the spring, summer and fall because the horses were needed on the farm. The people of the Chain Lakes district were fortunate that their school never had to close because of lack of teachers; if a teacher was not available, a supervisor was hired and correspondence lessons were used.

We had eight children, six boys and two girls. One of our sons was killed by a horse when he was nine years old.

Reinhold, the oldest, married Frieda Nill. They have six children and live [illegible] Sherwood Park.

Alfred and his son Mark are living in Hanna.

Lloyd and his wife Rose live in Edmonton.

Lillian married Dan Welch. They have four children, and farm in the Scapa district.

Ben and Maxine, nee Johnson, live in Hanna. They have two children.

Lawrence married Donna Regner. They and their three children live in Hanna.

Marlene married Bart Bye. They have two children and are living in Jasper.

Bill and I are semi-retired, and have been living in Hanna for a number of years.

ERVIN SCHULTZ — I was born in Michigan in 1910, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz. I grew up in the Annasheim district and attended school there; then worked in the Kirkeby and Edwards coal mines, and in mines in Drumheller.

In 1942 I married Tillie Schottsneider. I worked on the section at Scapa, Hanna and Anaconda until 1943 when I bought a farm at Byemoor. In 1948 we bought the store at Leo and my family and I operated it until 1955 when I bought the Charlie Johnson farm in the Chain Lakes district. We farmed there for twenty years, then retired to Hanna.

We had three children. Pat, born in 1947, farms the home place. Jim lives on the Schottsneider farm; he was born in 1945. Our only daughter, Dorothy, was born [illegible] 1955. She lives [illegible] Entwistle.

THE DAN WELCH FAMILY, By Lillian Fecho Welch — Dan came to the Scapa district as a young boy, and took all his schooling at the Springwater school north of Delia. He and I were married in 1955 and lived in the same yard as Dan's folks for a number of years, doing most of the farming. We bought the farm in 1965 and Dan's parents moved to Calgary. We have four children, Gloria, who lives [illegible] Calgary, and Bryan, Rick and Bonnie at home.

Our children take their schooling [illegible] Hanna. A bus picks them up at the gate and there are days when they complain about having to ride a bus. I remember

when my brothers and I were going to school, we walked and ran the three miles each way, and sometimes had a race to see who could get home first. My brother Benny was usually in the lead. Occasionally a neighbor who was going that way would stop his horses and give us a ride in his lumber wagon.

So I would like to say to those who are tired of riding a school bus, "Try running; it's good for you."

That's what our folks used to tell us.

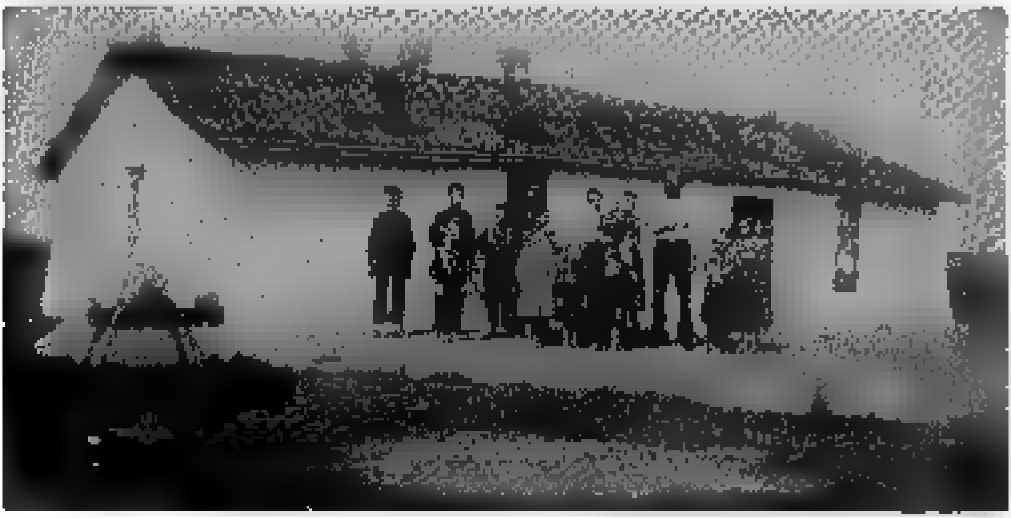
JOHN STEPHEN KRAMER — was a homesteader and carpenter. He helped build Knudson's first house.

NELS MATSON — came to Canada from Sweden. He bought the north half of 6-33-15 from Andy Alpaugh, and farmed for a few years.

CHARLES R. FLANDERS — came to the Chain Lakes district in the early years. He was very active in church work and used to teach Sunday school to the children. He had one son, Gene.

SYDNEY FREEMONT CRANDLE — homesteaded and built a nice little house with a sign on the door, 'Crandle Lodge'. It was a place for young people to gather, as he loved boxing and they joined in. After proving up he moved to B.C. The house was sold to Vistes and Crantons bought the land.

MITCHELL RENNER — homesteaded the farm that Charlie Johnson eventually bought. They had a fairly large sod house and their children attended Chain Lakes school.



Sod house of family of Renners. Lutheran Church services were often held here before a church was built.

HERMAN STEEN — homesteaded the south half of 19-32-15. He was a married man with a family. One little girl died of gopher poison and is buried in the corner of their land. Little else [illegible] known about them.

JEROME HARRINGTON — filed on a homestead and scrip [illegible] 1908. He came from Prince Edward Island and was a brother of Mrs. Alice Doyle. He was a great lover of horses and raised Percherons. He died in Calgary in 1922.

CHRIST SCHMIDT, By Helen Schmidt — Christ Schmidt was born February 7, 1907, at Butte, North Dakota. He came [illegible] Canada with his parents, Simon and Marie Schmidt, in 1910. They took a homestead north of Watts in the Dowling Lake area.

Christ went to Dowling Lake School whenever the school was in operation. E.K. Neff was one of the teachers. Some of the other children attending Dowling Lake at that time were Pauline, Martin and Bertha Stezle; Philip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartt and Antonia Hoffman.

[illegible] 1930 he married Lilly Graumann, daughter [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Christian Graumann, early settlers of the Hanna area. They farmed for several years on what was known as the Ekiss place in the Dowling area. They were not making much [illegible] farming so they had an auction sale and moved to Hanna in 1950. Christ was employed by the C.N.R. until he retired.

They had six children, Allen of Duchess, Raymond of Ponoka, Freda Kneult of Cereal. Ernie was killed in 1970; Elmer and Norman of Calgary.

Christ passed away in August, 1973. Lilly lives in a nursing home [illegible] Ponoka.

Pete Ruppert with friends Willard and Sam Diegel

THE WILLIARD DIEGEL FAMILY, By Hilda Ost Diegel — I was born in Romania [illegible] 1921. I came to Hanna [illegible] October, 1927 with my parents. When we arrived in Hanna by C.N.R., the Lutheran Church minister, Pastor Bletsch, met us and took us to his home until we found a place to stay. We then went to Grandpa Bosserts' where Albert Baes' farm is now. We stayed with them for a short while, then moved south on the Stubb's place for about a year.

[illegible] 1929, dad rented the Burrow place north of Hanna on the snake trail; we lived here till 1936. Here I attended my first school, Silver Valley. The only teachers I can recall are: Faye Tillotson, Amanda Wall and Minnie Wise. I remember the hardships my mother and dad experienced while on this farm; dust storms, drought, water problems; crops were poor, we lost one cow after another; grasshoppers and sawflies. Mother was sick and was hospitalized and I missed a lot of school.

In 1936 we moved west to the Steeves farm. My brother Chris and I went out working wherever we were needed. In 1941 my parents moved south to the Raessler farm. Three of us girls, Maria, Emma and I were confirmed in the German United Church at Hanna in August, 1941. The Lutheran Church also had [illegible] class getting confirmed [illegible] the same time. Here I met Irene Diegel and her brother Willard. Romance soon began and we were married November 2, 1942.

Willard was born at Dowling on January 15, 1917. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Diegel of Dowling. We were married by Reverend Heur in a sod house on the farm south of Watts where my folks lived. Willard, known as Bill had rented some land north of Dowling called the Bohlander place; here we made our home. I joined the Lutheran Church, St. Peter's, Scapa.

We lived on this farm for about a year, then rented the Kellermann place near Chain Lakes School, where my husband had gone to school. We bought this farm from Ernest Lange in 1956. There was a strong spring on this place when we first

rented the farm. It finally dried up and we had to drill two wells. Two years ago, after being dry for eighteen years, the spring started to run again.

We built a new house on this farm in 1964.

Willard and I were blessed with four children; two sons and two daughters, Lester born in 1944, Scharlotte in 1949, Gerry [illegible] 1951 and Glenda in 1953.

Lester married Debborah Robinson of Gadsby in 1969. They have two sons, Kelvin and Wylie, and are residing on the home farm north of Watts.

Scharlotte married Terry Robinson of Gadsby. They have two boys, Mark and Craig. They live on a farm. She is a nursing aide, employed at the Stettler Hospital.

Gerry married Amy Fuson of Hanna. They have a wee son Cory and live at Sheerness where he is employed at the coal mine.

Glenda, Mrs. Art Reuteman, is employed by Hanna Data Tax, and lives in Hanna.

My husband was not only a farmer, also was a great coyote hunter in his younger days, until he lost his trigger finger in a post pounder.

[illegible] 1971 I was asked by Pastor Conrad Knoch to organize a choir to sing at the fiftieth anniversary of [illegible]. Peter's at Scapa. I managed to get quite a few of the younger generation; some couldn't speak or read German but with a bit of courage and practise we managed very well. I stayed with the singing group for a couple of years, then we decided to ask Mrs. Cyril Unsworth to conduct and lead the choir as she was more capable. I still carried on with the German. At Christmas and Easter we sang at the Hanna Nursing Home and the Senior Citizen Lodge. Everyone enjoyed this singing immensely.

In 1972 we moved to Hanna, where I work at the Palliser Nursing Home. Bill still helps out at the farm.

The Ervin Bossert Family, Patti, Thelma, Todd, Ervin and Kevin

ERVIN BOSSERT, By Ervin Bossert — I was born in Hanna and lived with my folks in the Annesheim district. I attended Annesheim School until I finished grade nine, then helped Dad on the farm. In 1954 I rented a quarter of land from Chris Townsend, which I farmed for three years. In 1956 I bought three quarters, the east half of section 5 and the southeast of section 8-33-15 from Hans Lund. He homesteaded this land in 1909. In 1964 I bought the west half of section 5 from Stanley Peake.

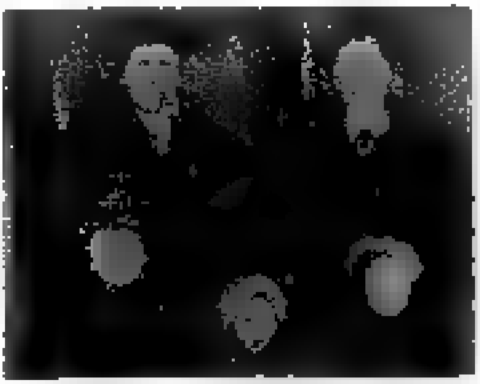
In November of 1964 I married Thelma Clark from Rosebud. We built a new home on the southeast section 5 that summer. In 1966 we bought a section of land from Walter Stulberg.

We have three children: Patti Lynn was born September 13, 1966; Kevin James was born December 22, 1968 and Todd Ryan was born May 10, 1972. The children attend school in Hanna.

THE MILLER FAMILY, By Austin Ludlow — The Miller family came [illegible] the Knudson place in 1927. They were a very hard working family. Once in a while Mrs. Miller would send a jar of dilled cucumbers or tomatoes to the school for everyone to share.

The children were Lena, Emma, Robert, Otto, Albert, Edna and Oscar. We knew Emma and Albert best as they would come to our place and help in the garden and field.

The thirties didn't treat the Millers very well, and in 1938 they moved to Calgary.



George Goldfinch and wife, Bill, Betty, Kay

GEORGE GOLDFINCH, By Ida Grosse — George Goldfinch, a brother of Mrs. George Banner, came from England to homestead the SE 9-33-15. He brought his wife and three little children with him, and they lived on the homestead for a year. He went to work in a butcher shop in Hanna, and later worked for the C.N.R. there. He was transferred to Chilliwack, B.C., where he eventually retired. Both Mr. and Mrs. Goldfinch have passed away.

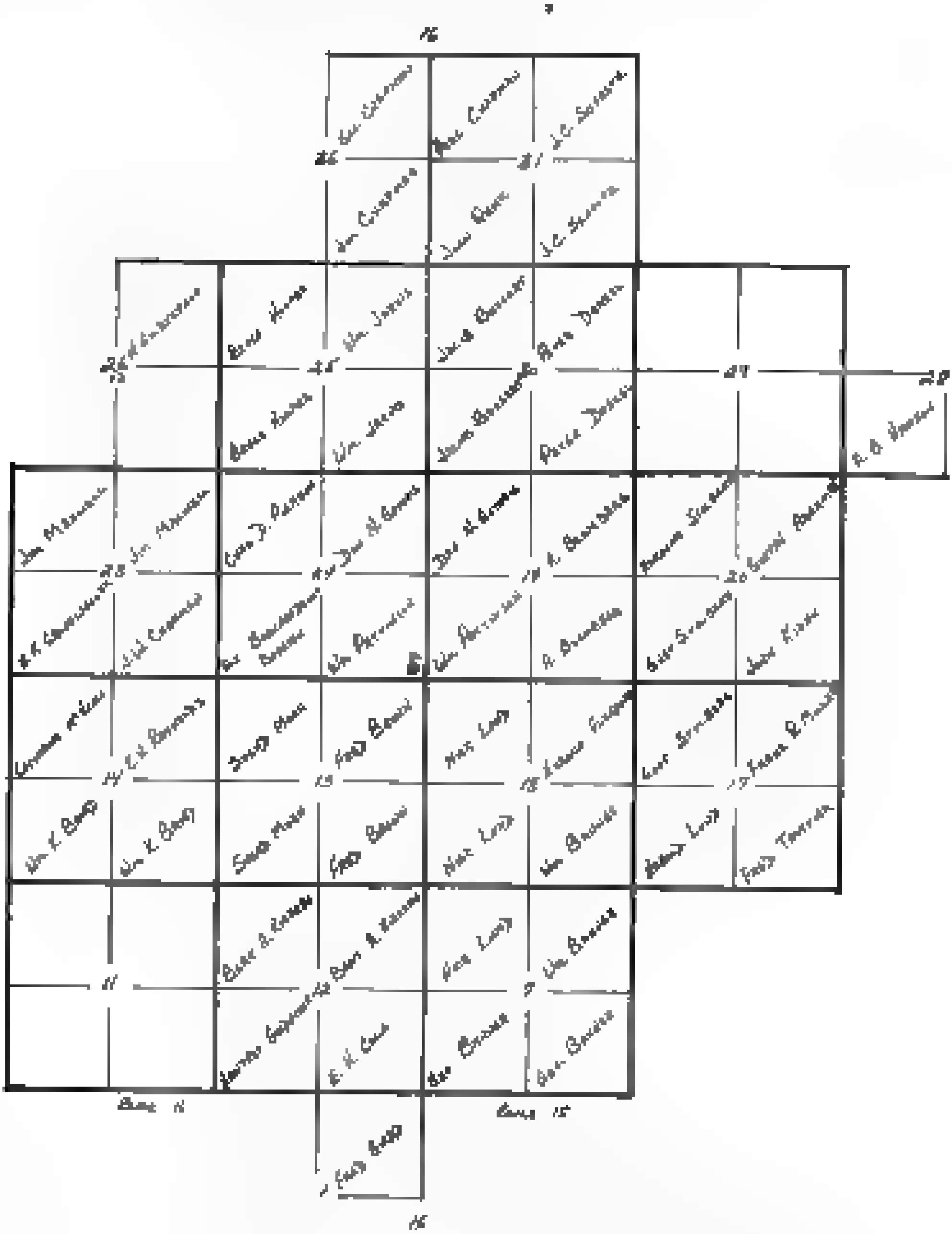
Their children were Betty, who died in 1975, Edward who was accidently killed, Bill of Vancouver, Kay of Chilliwack, Dick of Hope, Arthur at Sardis and Nora of White Rock.

MR. and MRS. PERCY ALLISON, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Mr. and Mrs. Allison lived just north of Dowling Lake, eight miles straight north of Watts. Mr. Allison was a carpenter who built a number of barns in the area, for Lee Doyle, Aubrey McCuish, and Mr. Keirsey. Their home was a two-storey, two-roomed building, with a lean-to for a kitchen.

In 1914 the family moved to Craigmyle so that the daughters, Marie and Laura, would be closer to school. While they lived there Mr. Allison built a brick school in Craigmyle.

In 1919 the Allisons moved to Calgary where they lived for three years before returning to Portland, Oregon. The land was purchased by Mr. [illegible]. Schultz.

ANNASHEIM SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2047



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS & OWNERS

SE ¼ 7-33-15
Geo. Banner
Harold Lund
Dan Welch

NW ¼ 7-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 17-33-15
Fred Trotter
Ruhl Bros.
Alfred Litke
Herb Litke

NW ¼ 17-33-15
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

SE ¼ 18-33-15
[illegible] Banner
Mac Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 18-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

SW ¼ 7-33-15
Geo. Banner
Hawtry Goldfinch
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NE ¼ 7-33-15
Bill Banner
Mac Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SW ¼ 17-33-15
Harold Lund
Alfred Litke
Herb Litke

NE ¼ 17-33-15
Frank R. Miller
Paul Trettin
Arnold Trettin

SW ¼ 18-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 18-33-15
Eugene Flanders
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 19-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 19-33-15
Dan Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 20-33-15
John Keehn
Gust Stulberg
Jack Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert
NW ¼ 20-33-15
Karoline Stulberg
August Hein
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SW ¼ 28-33-15
Andrew B. Hanson
Russell Hanson

SE ¼ 29-33-15
(School section)
Svend Moen
Ruhl Bros.
Williard Diegel

NW ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

SW ¼ 19-33-15
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

[redacted] ¼ 19-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SW ¼ 20-33-15
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

NE ¼ 20-33-15
Gustav Abram
August Hein
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

SW ¼ 29-33-15
Sven Moen
Fred Lyxzen
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

NE ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Fred Lyxzen
Christ [redacted]
Fred Nill

SE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Drexel
Gustav Abram
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

NW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

NW ¼ 31-33-15
Robert Chapman
George Chapman
Robert Chapman
Phyllis M. Johnson

NE ¼ 1-33-16
Fred Giedd
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

E ½ 11-33-16
(School section)
Geo. Moldon
Gus Keim
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

NE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Drexel
Gustav Abram
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

SW ¼ 31-33-15
John Renk
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

NE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

W ½ 11-33-16
Geo. Moldon
Gus Keim
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 12-33-16
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 12-33-16
Hawtry Goldfinch
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 13-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

[redacted] ¼ 13-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SE ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NW ¼ 14-33-16
Archie McVeigh
Catherine McVeigh
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NE ¼ 14-33-16
C.V. Reynolds
George Moldon
Gus Keim
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 23-33-16
John W. Chapman
Paul Schultz
George Jones

SW ¼ 23-33-16
Henry F. Crosswellar
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gottfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gotfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 24-33-16
Wm. Pattinson
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 24-33-16
Ole Bernhardson-Braaten
Sam Hoffman
Reinhold Boehnke
Jack Schultz
Gottfried Glubrecht
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 24-33-16
Chas. D. Pierson
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 24-33-16

Dan N. Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes
SW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper

Alex Kalenith
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper
Alex Kalenith
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund

Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SE ¼ 26-33-16
Hudson Bay
Joe Van Sickle
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 26-33-16
Henry Gilbertson
Geo. Chapman
Robert Chapman

Doug Johnson

SE ¼ 36-33-16
James Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

NE ¼ 36-33-16
Geo. W. Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

ANNASHEIM SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3047

By Tom Pattinson

Annasheim School 1914. SE ¼ 24-33-16

Minutes of a meeting held September 24, 1913, ran as follows: "Pursuant to and in accordance with notice regularly posted, a meeting was held at the residence of N.H. Lund for the purpose of organizing a school district. B.A. Kirkeby was elected chairman and D.N. Guthrie secretary. Polls were duly opened at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. chairman announced the vote favorable to the formation of a school district and declared polls closed. Chairman called for nominations for the office of trustee. B.A. Kirkeby, D. N. Guthrie and N. H. Lund were accordingly nominated and elected."

By June 10, 1914, the following tenders had been accepted: Empire Lumber Co., Craigmyle, $525. Chas. O. Pierson for hauling lumber, $30. H.C. Lund, for erecting school and chimney and two toilets, $180. Wm. Pattinson, for foundation for school building, $22.

When tenders were called for, two local men, Hans Lund and William Pattinson, had agreed to each submit tenders, with the understanding that the unsuccessful bidder would work for the other at an agreed amount per hour.

There is an interesting tale told about the naming of the school. Anna Lund, daughter of trustee Nick Lund, was home on a visit from Red Deer where she had been attending school. When her Danish Grandfather Lund who was also visiting the family at the time, heard how homesick she had been, he made the sympathetic remark that 'There was no place like Annasheim . . . Anna's home.' The name Annasheim was submitted to the Department of Education with several others, and was selected and approved.

On August 6, 1914, a meeting was held in the completed school house to let the contract for painting and to order school supplies. Miss Edith Trenholm was hired as the first teacher, with school to start in September. Another meeting in December of that year paid the amounts previously mentioned, as well as the following: Stanley Bros. for hardware, $18; H. Lund, hauling furniture, $5; digging vaults (toilet holes) and cleaning grounds, $6; Findlay for fire insurance, $26; lumber for coal shed, $37.66; William Pattinson, for painting the buildings, building the coal house and fastening the desks on strips of board, $48; Ole Bernhardson for hauling 2½ tons coal, $6; Anna Lund for two months janitor work, $10; Edith Trenholm, one month's salary, $70; Wm. Pattinson, two acres of land.

$50; N.H. Lund, secretary-treasurer's salary, $50; Alberta School Supplies for school equipment, $185.70.

Margaret McVeigh Kasler while teaching Annasheim school in 1918.

The second teacher at Annasheim was Madge Paul, followed by Emma Clauson. The next teacher, Mrs. Margaret McVeigh Kasler, recalls, "In 1918 Miss Margaret McVeigh came to teach on the first of May. Miss Grace Guthrie, who was a teacher but not teaching at that time, held the school until Miss McVeigh got out of Normal the last day of April. Miss McVeigh taught May and June. After the summer holidays school opened in September but the RCMP came out from Hanna on October 16 to close the school because of the Spanish flu epidemic that fall. The school was officially closed till after New Year, 1919. While teaching at Annasheim Miss McVeigh batched in the Fred Brown shack owned by Jack Sheiberg."

Other teachers at Annasheim were Stewart McLeod, Mr. Crandall, Miss Cameron, Miss Duke, Gladys Knudson, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. Wm. Pattinson, Grace Smith, Jim Nichol, Mrs. Henry Blair, Blanche Crawford, Elizabeth Webber, May Schultz, Kathleen MacDonald, Robert Fitzpatrick, Laura McEwan, Vernal Martin, Byron Moore, Gordon Saunders, Mrs. Willo McLeod, Mrs. Frances McGuire, Margaret Lamb, Mrs. Pollington, Edna Moen, Don Campbell, Estelle Lynch, John Lenuik, Mrs. Berger Aaserud.

Annasheim School about 1943. Albert Bass, Henry Nill, Ida Bossert, Pauline Hein, Freida Bass, Mrs. MacLeod (teacher), Edward Bass, Donnie MacLeod, Herb Nill, Ervin Bossert, Ruby Bossert, Fred Nill, Gordon Schultz, John Bass, Freida Nill, Margaret Schultz, Dennis Schultz, Elmer Nill.

Annasheim School in the mid-twenties. Back Row, left [illegible] right, Ervin Schultz, Mable Kirkeby, Caroline Stulberg, Teacher. Centre Row: Effie Kirkeby, John Bossert, Herman Schultz, Stella Kirkeby, Pauline Stulberg. Front Row: Hubert Cole, Myrtle Schultz, Martha Stulberg, Eddie Kirkeby.

In 1939 the Annasheim School District was consolidated into the Drumheller School Division. By the beginning of the 1945-46 school term it was transferred to the Sullivan Lake School Division.

Annasheim had the distinction [illegible] being the last one-room country school to be holding regular classes in any [illegible] the nearby school divisions, and [illegible] all probability, was one of the last in Central Alberta. It had served as a community centre where dances, concerts, church services and meetings of all kinds were held, but after forty-eight consecutive years [illegible] operation, it closed at the end of June, 1962. Mrs. Joy Aaserud was the last teacher.

Annasheim School Picnic, 1959. Back Row: Betty Bossert, Connie Schultz, Betty Schultz, Joan Schultz, Ruby Litke, Maggie Glubrecht, Godfried Glubrecht, Berger Aaserud, Mrs. (Joy) Aaserud (teacher), Wayne Aaserud. Centre Row: Gerald Glubrecht, Shirley Bossert, Ken Robertson, Ervin Bossert, Herb Litke, Tom Pattinson. Front Row: Herb Bossert, Melvin Litke, Judy Schultz, Cathy Schultz, Ruth Robertson, Linda Litke, Gordon Robertson, Paul Schultz.

DR. CHARLES McVEIGH, By Margaret McVeigh Kester — My uncle, Dr. Charles McVeigh, homesteaded in the Orlando district. He was a government veterinarian, sent to western Canada in 1905 to enforce the regulations regarding the dipping of cattle for mange. Rounding up the cattle and building dipping vats entailed a great deal of work, and the ranchers were reluctant to obey the law. As a last resort the federal government had Dr. McVeigh commissioned as an officer of the RCMP; the ranchers, recognizing the authority of the police force, agreed to dip their cattle.

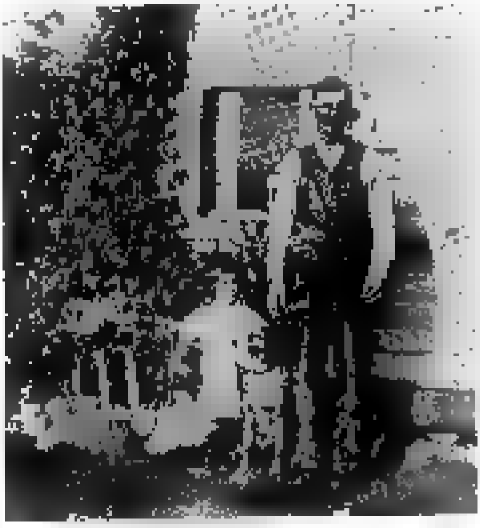
Dr. McVeigh was responsible for the health of animals [illegible] a large area, the

whole of southern Alberta from the B.C. boundary to the Saskatchewan border, north as far as Stettler. He travelled his territory in a rubber tired buggy pulled by a team of sorrels, often going as far as Regina. For this work the federal government paid him a wage plus mileage and travelling expenses. He held the position until his death in the late twenties, but during the last few years he exchanged his team for a Ford roadster.

His wife, Catherine McVeigh, filed on a homestead in the Annesheim district, which eventually became part of the Galarneau holdings now owned by Ken Brower.

The couple had two sons; Donald, who was killed in a flying accident during World War II, and Norman who served in the RAF and RCAF and who now lives in Vancouver.

Mrs. McVeigh died about 1951.



Jack Shelberg and Lillian Banner, taken in front of the Wm. Banner home

JOHN SHELBERG — John Shelberg was a Wyoming rancher who came to Canada because the open range in the United States was being taken up by homesteaders. About 1902 he squatted on land west of the lakes, on the present Frank Bates farm, where William Pattinson later built a house and hip-roofed barn for him.

When William Pattinson went overseas, Shelberg bought his homestead, and also the homestead and pre-emption belonging to Fred Brown. He moved into Brown's house, and brought his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Art Clayton, from the United States to live on his former location. Because of limited range land, he farmed and raised Percheron horses.

About 1930, Harold Huson built a new house for Jack Shelberg; part of this building is now incorporated into the Ken Halverson home. The old house was moved to Gadsby on wagons by Mr. Matchett, who was married to Dorothy Clayton.

Jack Shelberg had strong likes and dislikes, but he was a very fair man. After a lengthy illness, he died in 1933, and was buried in Craigmyle cemetery. His daughter sold his land to Carl Schultz.

NICHOLAS H. and ADA LUND FAMILY, By Dan Lund — In 1902 Nicholas Lund and his wife Ada came to Olds from Iowa with their children Harold and Anna. In 1903 I, Dan was born. In 1905 the family went to Kansas for a few months where Harold remained to stay with his grandparents Guthrie to attend school. The rest returned to Alberta and in 1906, they moved to the district later known as Dowling Lake. Nicholas Lund came there in September in a wagon; Mother, my sister and myself went with Andy Alpaugh by democrat and forded the Red Deer River at Tolman Crossing, where the horses had to swim.

We moved into a sod house dug into the side of a hill; this was sixty-five miles south and east of Stettler, which was our closest town. Our closest neighbors were

John Shelburg, seven miles to the north and Rufus McCuish eight miles southeast. It was about a five-day trip to go to town. There were no schools or recreation. The land was not surveyed until 1907-08 and settlers started coming in then.

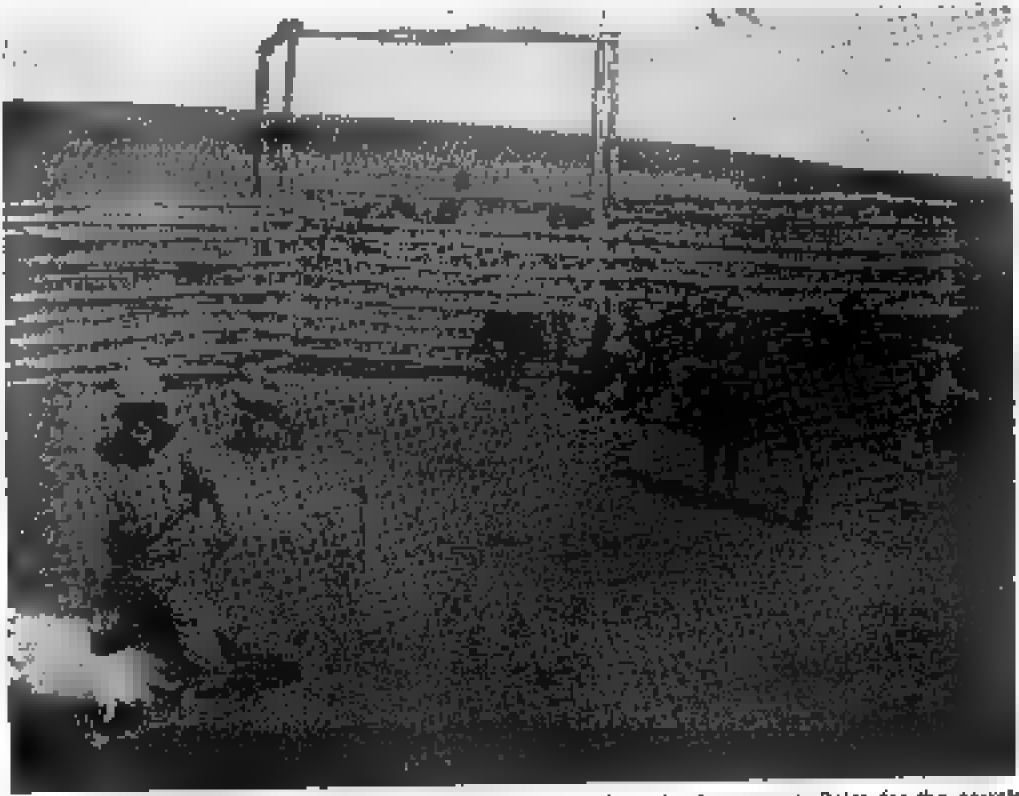
Ada, Mrs. Nick Lund, took and developed these pictures, and sent them back to Kansas to show her people what their ranch was like. This was their house, dug out of a side hill with poles supporting the sods which formed the roof.

This was the feedlot and shed. The Stettler Trail is just visible above the shed.

When settlers began moving in, the Lunds filed on two quarter sections. They had to live for six months of the year on each quarter to "prove up" on them. Mrs. Nicholas Lund — Ada — drove "quarter stakes" for the surveyors. She was an ardent horsewoman, and even though a tiny person, could ride herd on the cattle most successfully.

In the fall [illegible] 1907 we went to Red Deer by wagon and democrat and stayed the winter. In the spring of 1908 we brought back cattle, which took us over a week, travelling by covered wagon and using a tent. In 1909 the railway went east

from Stettler, and Halkirk was our closest town, thirty-three miles away. We moved five miles from the old ranch, which belonged to Andy Alpaugh, and built a frame house and barn.



Young Dan Lund with his rope on a calf, and Alex Alpaugh in the foreground. Poles for the corrals were hauled from the Hand Hills.

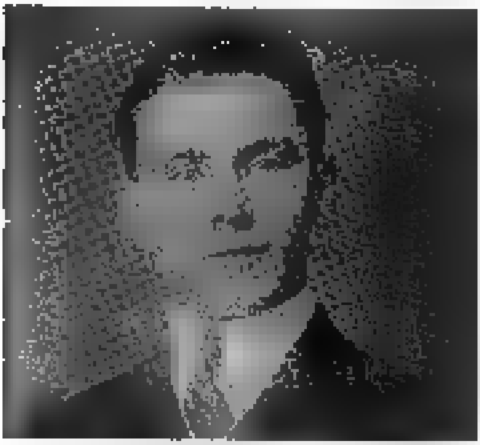
Andy Alpaugh on the fence, Rufus McCuish, Dan Lund and Anna Lund on horses, Nick Lund standing.

Nick Lund family, 1916. (Lady and boy on left unknown) Left to right: Dan Lund (holding dog), Nick Lund, Harold Lund, Ada Lund, Anna Lund.

In 1911 my grandparents (Guthrie) came up from Kansas with my brother Harold and lived one and a half miles north of us. I went [redacted] my first school in the fall of 1912, [redacted] Endiang where my aunt, Mrs. Grace Pattinson (nee Guthrie) was teaching. Annesheim school was built in 1914. My parents moved to Watts in 1923.

I married Lydia Burrows in 1925 and we stayed on the home place with our two sons, Gordon and Norman, until 1934 when we moved to Nevis, then [redacted] 1942 to Lacombe, in 1962 to Penticton, B.C., then [redacted] Summerland, B.C. in 1973. Nick Lund died [redacted] 1950, Ada Lund in 1966 and Harold in 1967.

Our oldest boy Gordon has Red Deer Motors in Red Deer and Norman is with Atco Homes in Calgary. Each of them has two sons.



Harold Lund

THE HAROLD LUND FAMILY, By Frank Lund — The Nicholas Lund family moved into the Hanna North Country before the land was surveyed, running cattle around the Chain Lakes, where they found that Clear Lake was the only lake from which the cattle would drink. They had previously homesteaded in the Red Deer area.

They had two sons, Harold and Daniel, and a daughter Anna. My father, Harold, the eldest, stayed [redacted] Kansas with his grandparents to attend school, and helped with farm chores and field work, as his grandfather was ill a considerable amount of the time. When he came to Canada, he attended Chain Lakes School, for a short time. Dad attended Olds Agricultural College in 1916-17.

[redacted] 1924 he was fortunate to obtain a job assessing land, which he did using a saddle horse. He always said they hired him to do the job again in 1936 because he did such a poor job the first time! In 1936 he used a pick-up truck with a canvas over the box, a cot and "canned heat" stove, staying out in the field on week days, returning home on weekends.

Dad had filed on a homestead one mile from that of his parents. On April 7, 1926, he married Phoebe Ann Robinson, from west of Hanna. That first summer, while their new farmstead was being built two miles away, Mother cooked on a small bachelor stove, in a one room shack. A granary pulled up beside it provided accommodation for the carpenters and well drillers. Dad farmed in this area, except for a couple of interruptions, until 1959.

In 1930, a twister came through and took the roof off the barn, and lifted the garage off their Essex car, without leaving a scratch on it, but scattering the broken remains of the building for a half-mile. Before they finished putting a new roof on the barn, the wind blew it off again! The third time they didn't build it as high as before! One day, while Dad was shingling the barn roof, and Mother was at a U.F.W.A. meeting, the neighbor's bull came to visit. He knocked down the ladder, leaving Dad stranded on the barn roof until Mother returned home that evening!

In 1931, a doctor advised Dad to quit farming, so he rented the farm out and bought the store at Dowling, eight miles south-east of home. However, after a few short years, the love of the land got the best of him and he was back farming, bigger than ever, while together he and Mother ran the store and post office.

In the spring of 1944, Dad sold the Dowling store and moved back to the farm, staying only until fall when we all moved to Hanna where he purchased the Ideal Grocery and Dry Goods in January, 1945. He sold it in August 1946, and bought the A.W. Stubbs New and Used Furniture, keeping this business until 1954. Dad and I were involved in Insurance and Real Estate in 1954-55, while Dad also did some farming until his health forced his retirement in 1959. While in Hanna, Dad was involved as Town Councillor, worked long and hard for the covered arena, the curling rink and the artificial ice plant. He was always a sports enthusiast and booster and participated whole heartedly in baseball, boxing, hockey, tennis and curling.

Mother always worked at Dad's side, whether on the farm, or in one of the stores. She was actively involved in the Order of the Eastern Star, and served faithfully in many capacities in First United Church.

Dad passed away in September, 1967 leaving his wife, a son Frank of Hanna and a daughter, Mrs. Betty Howery of Spruce Grove, as well as four grandchildren; Daryll Howery, Alan, Patricia and Jeffrey Lund.

Fred Brown

J. FRED BROWN — Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16, later selling his land to Jack Shelberg. He was a boyhood chum of William Pattinson, and the two men had attended school, apprenticed and come to Canada together. They worked as carpenters on many jobs in southern Alberta, and built the Annesheim school barn.

During World War I they went together to the recruiting depot in Calgary to enlist, but Fred was turned down because he had flat feet, and the two men never met again. When Will returned from overseas in the spring of 1919 Fred was on his way back to England, and their boats passed somewhere on the Atlantic. They kept in touch with each other by letter until Fred died quite suddenly of a heart attack about 1933.

EUGENE FLANDERS — Gene Flanders was the son of Charles Flanders from Illinois who homesteaded in the Chain Lakes school district. He made his home with a number of different families in the district, principally the Nick Lund family. He helped with the farm work and also worked in the coal mine operated by Clyde Wooden on the NW 16-33-15.

He filed on the NE 16-33-15 [illegible] a homestead, but when war was declared in 1914 he was one of the first to enlist, and served overseas with the 175th Battalion.

When last heard of, Gene was on the Police Force in Vancouver.

WILLIAM PATTINSON STORY, By Tom Pattinson — My father, the oldest boy in a family of nine children, was born June 16, 1882 at Newcastle-on-Tyne in northern England. To help support the family, he left school at the age of twelve to work in a factory about ten miles from his home. Each morning he walked three miles to catch a train which got him to work by seven o'clock; after an hour for lunch he worked till six o'clock in the afternoon. His wages were a penny (two cents) an hour. After four years he had received increases amounting to fifty per cent, and now earned three cents per hour. Somehow he managed to save enough money to buy a bicycle, and was able to ride back and forth from the train.

William Pattinson

Grace Guthrie Pattinson

During his years at the factory he began attending classes [illegible] night school, and [illegible] 1898 he became "apprentice to F. Reid Ferens and Co. of the city [illegible] Newcastle upon Tyne, Electrical Engineers, to learn their art and with them after the manner of an apprentice to serve from the 28th day of November, 1898 unto the full end and term of three years from thence . . ."

At that time industrial and domestic uses of electricity were pretty much [illegible] the developmental stage; electrical engineering involved planning and blueprinting [illegible] project, and estimating the cost of it. The company to which Will, as he was known, was apprenticed, was involved with telegraph communications, installation of lights and motors, and lightning protection for factory chimneys and church steeples. As the telephone was still somewhat of a novelty in England, and there was little private demand for electrical installations, most of the work was done in factories, mines and government institutions.

Will enjoyed his job and the opportunities it gave him to travel and see

something of the world. He became interested in stamp collecting, and in military history, and in collecting campaign and service medals. He was an active member of the Anglican church, and sang in the choir. He took violin lessons for a short time, although in later life he played mostly by ear.

My father remained with Reid Ferens and Co. for nine years; then he and a boyhood chum, Fred Brown, decided to see the world. They were young, in good health, with no responsibilities, and had a good trade; they planned to work in Canada for a time, then go on to Australia and New Zealand. In the spring of 1907, when Will was twenty-five, they arrived at Cardston. There was little demand for electrical engineers, but an unlimited demand for carpenters, and for the next nine years both men worked part time at this trade.

There were many facets of the great homestead conglomerate. Landseekers came from every imaginable background and with many and varied motives. Homesteading appealed to Will and Fred from a speculative point of view. They could file on a homestead and pre-emption, build a shack, hire the necessary field work done, put in their six months on the claim in the winter when the building trade was slack anyway. At the end of three years they would have proved up and each would own a half-section of land, which no doubt could be sold for a substantial profit. But Fate had a way of interfering to change their plans.

In 1908 Will and Fred travelled from Cardston to Stettler, and on December 10 travelled southeast to look at vacant land which was available for homesteading. They met and made their headquarters with Jack Shelberg.

Shelberg was a typical example of the old time western cattleman, who had been displaced by homesteaders in his native Wyoming, and who had come to Alberta shortly after the turn of the century seeking open range for his cattle. Now the Homestead Act had been passed in Canada, the land had been surveyed and the homesteaders were moving in. The rancher was about to be crowded out again, but this time there was no place to go. 'If you can't beat them, join them' became the strategy of men like Jack Shelberg; he was anxious to help two green Englishmen select homesteads and pre-emptions, land which he expected to buy from them as soon as they proved up and gained title to it.

William Pattinson's homestead shack built in December 1908 on SE ¼ 24-33-16

Returning to Stettler December 21, 1908, Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16 as his homestead and pre-emption. Will Pattinson filed on the SE 24-33-16 for his homestead and the SW 19-33-15 for a pre-emption. They bought lumber

and supplies, picked up their tool chests which they had left in Stettler, and returned to the homesteads. By the New Year they were living in their respective shacks, one on each side of the coulee which seperated the two homestead quarters.

Many humorous stories have been told, and many condescending references made to 'green Englishmen'. Some of them were well deserved, as my father related in later years. There was, for example, the time he set out to ride his mare, Mabel by name, to the Lloyd Winans homestead where he had been invited for Sunday dinner. During the five mile trip, Mabel was sluggish, and even lay down on the trail twice. Will was a bit concerned about her; she had never acted like that before. That evening when he went out to the Winans' barn to saddle Mabel for the return trip, she had a dandy colt beside her. Named Major, the horse later became the property of Syd Linley, who refused to sell him along with the other horses at his sale. He had Major destroyed rather than see him owned by anyone else.

In many cases an attitude of superior tolerance was maintained toward green Englishmen by settlers with a farm or ranch background, but occasionally the newcomers got their own back. Coyotes were numerous those first years, no doubt as a result of the abundant food supply provided by the winter of 1906-07. They roamed the country in sufficient numbers to represent a serious threat to the cattlemen. As a result, Jack Shelberg, with tongue in cheek, offered Will Pattinson ten dollars for every dead coyote he could deliver before calving time next spring. Will got a supply of ammunition for his Model 94 Winchester 25–35 carbine, and obtained permission from Shelberg to drag a critter, dead from natural causes, home to his shack, the inference being that he was short of fresh meat. This carcass, together with offal he was able to acquire from other settlers, and drag home with his saddle horse, provided enough bait to lure coyotes to his shack continually all winter. He could sit in his shack on a bright clear moonlight night and shoot coyotes through the open window.

My father told me how ravenous the coyotes were, and how he had counted twenty or more around the bait at one time, and how ridiculously easy it was to shoot them. I have no idea how many he shot, but Jack Shelberg told me about this incident when I was a boy, and said, "If your dad had held me to my offer that next spring, he would have been the rancher and I would have been looking for a homestead."

Out of these early associations was to develop an attitude of mutual respect and admiration and a friendship between my father and Jack Shelberg that was to last the balance of a lifetime. "Shelberg," as Will always called him, "was one of the finest men I have ever known."

In January, 1916, Will Pattinson sold his homestead to Jack Shelberg according to plan, but kept his pre-emption. It was against his better judgment to burn his bridges behind him, and by now there was beginning to be a possibility that he just might want to live on that land some day. Possibly this point of view was influenced by the fact that he was keeping company with the school-marm daughter of the homesteader on the quarter immediately north of him.

In January, 1916, Will enlisted in the Army in Calgary, and because of his early training, was posted to the Canadian Engineers, Signal Corps. Within a year he was at the Front in France. War for him held no romantic illusions; it was not an adventure, but a patriotic duty and a job that had to be done. It was seldom and then with reluctance that he discussed his active service. His pay book shows that he was qualified as a high lineman, which entitled him to an extra ten cents a day in addition to the regular one dollar a day. Men in the Signal Corps were required to establish and maintain telegraph communication lines. "A man at the top of a

forty foot pole makes a very attractive target for enemy snipers. You don't set any speed records going up those poles but you learn to come down in a hurry."

After a severe attack of pneumonia after the influenza epidemic in the winter of 1918, Will returned home in April, 1919. By midsummer of 1920, he had built the house in which we now live on his pre-emption. Lloyd Winans helped him with the rafters, but with this exception the work including the basement, foundation and chimney was done single handed. A man from Vancouver by the name of Whitehead, out on the prairie for his health, did the plastering.

William Pattinson and Grace Guthrie were married August 2, 1920.

Grace Guthrie had begun her teaching career in Kansas at the age of seventeen. When she came to Canada in 1911, she taught first at the old Endiang school. After a term at Camrose Normal School she taught at Success school in the Leo district and again at Endiang. After her marriage she taught one full term and several shorter periods at Annasheim school, the last being in 1945–46. Throughout the years she kept in contact with her former pupils until many of them predeceased her.

Among my most pleasant recollections are those of the house full of people on a Sunday. After a fried chicken dinner they would gather around Mother at the organ and my father with his violin, to sing what are still to me the old favorites.

The twenties were good years for Will and Grace Pattinson, in spite of hail storms in 1923, 1925 and 1928. In 1923 the Alberta Government Rural Telephone was installed in the area, and my folks got their first car . . . a brand new Model T Ford! In 1926 the Hanna-Warden branch of the C.N.R. went through, so that they were only nine miles from the railway at Endiang, instead of the fourteen or sixteen they had previously to go to Watts or Craigmyle. In 1928 service was begun on Rural Route 2 out of Endiang, a route which is still in operation.

The severe hailstorms of 1931 seemed to usher in a series of hardships and bad luck. Poor crops, drought, grasshoppers, low prices, dust storms; sick horses, horses with sore shoulders, horses with wire cuts, too often fatal and no money to replace them; dull plough shares, past the point of resharpening; short pastures, no money for posts; short crops, too short to tie, and no money for twine anyway. On and on it went until 1938 when there was a ray of light and things began to improve. Through those hard years the philosophy seemed to be that things had never yet been so bad that they couldn't be worse.

In 1946 my father's health began to fail, and it was found that he had diabetes. With the help of insulin and a strict diet he continued on as usual until April 26, 1951, when he died near home 'with his boots on', as he would have fervently wished, just forty-four years from the day he first came [illegible] Alberta.

Mother moved into the Senior Citizens' Lodge in Drumheller in 1960, and two years later moved to Acadia Lodge in Hanna, where she played the piano for church services and sing songs as she had done in so many communities through the years. After a prolonged illness, she died in the Hanna hospital on September 6, 1974, three weeks past her ninetieth birthday.

Will and Grace Pattinson had one son, Tom, who married Kay Stock of Hanna. They have three daughters, Gail of Calgary, Jean of Hanna, and Nancy at home. Tom and Kay live on the home place.

TOM PATTINSON — I was born at Hanna in September, 1926. While Mother was in the hospital, a girl had been hired to cook for the men. The day after I was born the hired girl fell downstairs and hurt her knee so that she could not walk. My dad ended up cooking for himself, the hired man and the hired girl, and running the binder.

The Tom Pattinson family. Jean, Tom, Gail, Nancy, Kay

I attended Annasheim school, which was across the road from our place, until I finished grade nine. I took grade ten at Endiang, where my teacher was Miss Jean Funk, who became Mrs. Cliff James that term. Some twenty years later our two daughters Gail and Jean also had the privilege [illegible] having Mrs. James for their teacher at Endiang.

In 1945 and 1946 I attended high school at Drumheller, staying [illegible] the dormitory and driving home weekends when weather permitted. In the fall of 1949 I hired on with the CNR at Hanna as a locomotive fireman. One month later, on October 30, Kay Stock and I were married at the Anglican Church [illegible] Hanna.

Kay is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stock, residents of Hanna since 1919. Kay was born in England in January of 1929 while her mother was on a trip to the Old Country. Kay worked [illegible] the Royal Bank [illegible] Hanna.

By the spring of 1950 I had been cut from the spare board to the emergency board, and work was scarce, so I went to work on a farm [illegible] the Verdant Valley district north-east of Drumheller. It was owned by James Geschnitz whose father managed the Stubblefield Farm.

Our first daughter, Torie, was born in Drumheller on October 6, 1950, during an early wet snowstorm many people will remember. She died in July, 1957, after a short illness.

In the spring of 1951 we moved [illegible] the home place where we still live. Our second daughter, Gail, was born in Hanna in 1953, Jean in 1958, and Nancy was born in Castor [illegible] 1969.

Gail attended Annasheim school until it closed in 1962, then went to Endiang and Byemoor schools. She graduated from the Hanna high school in 1971. After four years with the Calcath Credit Union in Calgary she took a business course and now works for Alberta Energy Company. In May, 1978, she married Louis Fourie of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, who is an accountant with Joyce Construction of Calgary.

Jean attended school [illegible] Endiang, Byemoor and Hanna. During her high

school years she worked part time for Hanna Farm Equipment, and since her graduation in 1976, has been employed there full time.

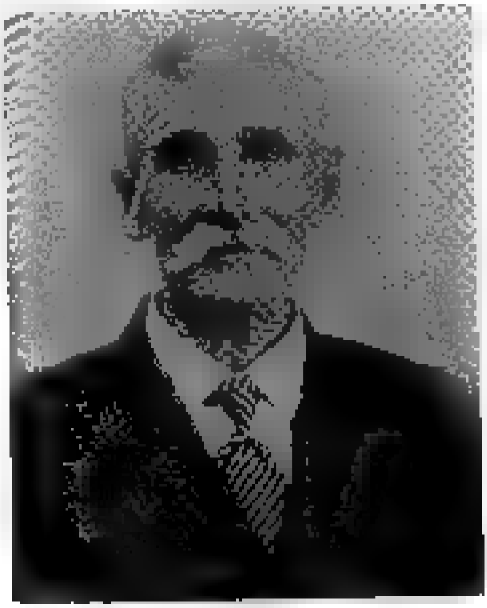
Nancy goes to school in Endiang.

I belonged to D Company of the Calgary Highlanders in Hanna from the time it was formed in 1955 until the fall of 1962. I was also linesman and troubleshooter for Line 3 of the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company from 1960 until the underground line was put in in 1974.

THE DANIEL GUTHRIE FAMILY, By Tom Pattinson — Dan Guthrie was born at Vernon, Wisconsin, on May 30, 1852. On March 3, 1876, he married a distant cousin, Adelia N. Guthrie of Leicester, New York, and took up residence on a farm near Le Mars, Iowa, where he had taught school for a short time before his marriage. Their first child, Ada, was born June 7, 1877.

In 1881 he became a partner [illegible] and operator of the Okoboji Flour Mill at Milford, Iowa. The mill was water-powered whenever there was a sufficient flow of water to turn the water wheel, the rest of the year it was powered by a coal-fired stationary steam engine.

A second daughter, Edna, died in infancy. Grace, the youngest daughter, who later became my mother, was born August 17, 1884. In 1894 Ada married Nick Lund.



[illegible]. Guthrie

Mrs. D.N. Guthrie

[illegible] 1896 Dan Guthrie was elected for a four-year term as County Treasurer, a position equivalent to that of Municipal secretary in this country. When his term of office expired, he sold his flour mill, and farmed and ranched in southeastern Kansas until 1908. Then [illegible] bought a general store, and Grace, who had been teaching since 1901, came home to help with it.

Although my grandfather was the local agent for a land development project in Saskatchewan, he decided [illegible] homestead in Alberta. His decision was probably influenced by the fact that his daughter Ada and her husband had located in the Olds-Didsbury district [illegible] 1902, and later moved to the Dowling Lake area. He chose land north of where the Lunds were, homesteading the NW 19-33-15, and taking NE 24-33-16 as a pre-emption. After fulfilling homestead duties for six months in 1909, and again in 1910, he sold his store in the spring of 1911 and moved his family to the homestead. The train journey with two carloads of settlers' effects ended at Halkirk; the trip thirty-five miles south to the homestead was made by team and wagon.

Grace often spoke of her first impressions of the country, gained on that trip from Halkirk. How fresh and green everything was, the potholes and sloughs full of water with the ducks swimming on them, the meadowlarks, redwing blackbirds, killdeers, and of course the swarms of mosquitoes! The newcomers were seeing Central Alberta at its best. Grace loved the country then and she still did sixty-three years later, in spite of the long cold trips she made by saddle horse to the schools where she taught for the next eight years.

As the result of an accident in his flour mill, my grandfather had lost the index finger on his right hand, and the hand itself was badly mutilated, resulting in poor circulation. This was always a handicap to him in the Canadian winters, especially while driving horses. He was a keen horseman, and insisted on driving lively horses that were right up on the bit at all times. There was none of this walking behind the sleigh to get warm, as I did for so many miles in later years.

One of the first projects the Guthries undertook on the homestead was to set out a shelterbelt of trees from the Forestry Branch Nursery Station at Indian Head. Although the young trees were severely set back by hail storms on two occasions, the grove stands today as a fitting monument to my grandparents, and a testimony to the hours of hoeing and cultivating that were necessary to keep the grass and weeds out of the rows of cuttings.

Dan Guthrie was active in the community. He was the first president of the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local; the first secretary-treasurer of the Annasheim school district, and served in that capacity for many years. He was local agent for the Great Northern Insurance Company, and for the Farmers' Fire and Hail Insurance Company. He was also a Commissioner to administer Oaths, and assisted people in the preparation of simple legal documents such as leases, wills, agreements of sale, affidavits, etc. This was a popular service in a comparatively isolated area when travel was slow and roads were poor.

I have been told of local dances in those early years when my grandfather's violin was the only music. Other times Grace would accompany him on piano or organ if one was available.

On June 1, 1918, Dan Guthrie suffered a stroke which affected his right side and left him quite weak. Later that summer, against the strict advice of his doctor and in spite of the concerned admonitions of family and friends, he was mowing hay. He always said, "It is better to wear out than to rust out." At any rate, he was injured in an accident typical of many which happened in the days of horse-drawn implements; and described it as follows in a letter to his brother:

"I was mowing three weeks ago yesterday, had brought the mower to the barn to unhitch, had the team all unhitched, lines unsnapped and done up, but failed to unhitch the off tug on the off horse. The team was not hitched together in any way. The finger bar of the mower was standing up. When I started the team, the horse with the one tug hitched became wild. I was rather between the two and near their heads. The only thing I had to stop him with was the bridle rein, and that broke, and I was run over by the mower, and as the tongue was down and the finger bar very low I was dragged and rolled over the ground quite a distance and knew but little about what happened for a time. Dell (Mrs. Guthrie) and Grace got to me as soon as possible and got me to the house in some way. There were no bones broken but my legs were both run over and the right one is just getting so I can use it a little. I think I shall be able to do some work in a few days."

Grace married William Pattinson on August 2, 1920.

In the fall of 1921 my grandfather had an auction sale, rented his land to William Pattinson and moved back to the United States; but by the spring of 1922 they were back in Alberta on the home place. Dan Guthrie died there on March 8, 1923. In the words of his obituary, he "came [illegible] Alberta in 1911, where though advanced in years he faced the hardships attendant upon building up a home in a new country with dauntless courage, energy and optimism. His integrity, kindly consideration for all, loyalty to friends and selfless devotion to his family were outstanding characteristics. He was ever ready to assist with intelligent interest and effort whatever tended toward the welfare of the community, as long as health and strength permitted. These failed rapidly during the last two years, and the last illness was of short duration."

About 1914, my grandmother's unmarried sister Mary came from Moscow, New York, to make her home with the Guthrie family. Aunt Mary was very deaf as the result of scarlet fever [illegible] childhood. Sometime during the First World War a barbed-wire telephone was installed between the Guthrie farm and the Nick Lund place a mile and a half south; at this time it was discovered that Aunt Mary could hear ordinary telephone conversation quite clearly. It was also a source of wonder and amazement that [illegible] was no effort for her to hear normal conversation while riding in [illegible] car.

Although her constitution was frail, Aunt Mary was bright and energetic. She made the care of the chickens her responsibility, and she and my grandmother gained a wide reputation for the large vegetable and flower gardens they raised each year.

After my grandfather died in the spring of 1923, Grandma Guthrie and Aunt Mary continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1932 when Aunt Mary died quite suddenly of a heart attack. Grandma was persuaded, much against her will, to come to live with her daughter, Grace.

Grandma had a stove in her room, which she polished periodically with a paste of black lead mixed with water, which was allowed to dry and then polished with a stiff brush. On October 18, 1935, she used a new type of liquid polish which had only to [illegible] applied and let dry. There was no warning on the bottle that the polish was very volatile, and the fumes highly explosive and inflammable; sometime later that afternoon, when she struck a match to light her kerosene lamp, the explosion occurred. Instantly the curtains, tablecloth, papers and magazines on the table, the bedding, and Grandma's clothing and hair, were ablaze and burning furiously.

My father had just returned from taking a load of wheat to Endiang, and was at the back door. Because of his prompt action in the use of one of the fire extinguishers which were kept in the house, the flames did not spread; but Grandma was terribly burned and died two days later. She was buried beside her husband at Craigmyle.

It is appropriate to end this story of my grandparents with a word about their Christian faith. Although they were staunch Presbyterians, they were sympathetic and eager to assist any cause based upon true Christian principles, regardless of denomination. Their faith and trust in God, together with a Scotch sense of humor, enabled them to face pioneer life in this land with assurance and a confident sense of purpose.

HENRY GILBERTSON, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — Henry Gilbertson was of Swedish descent. He was strong in health and character; a quiet man who liked company, and enjoyed a game of cards.

Mr. Gilbertson came from Minnesota to Alberta, and filed on the NE 28-33-16

in 1909. He took the SE 35-33-18 as his pre-emption. Usually sods for houses were cut with a plow, but Gilbertson cut his with a shovel. He dug a shallow well by hand and cribbed it with rocks from the prairie. He dug a garden spot with his shovel, and had good gardens, and was generous with his produce.

He acquired a horse and an ox. The latter happened to be a cow, which he milked for his own use. His usual mode of transportation was on foot. He was a good carpenter, and eventually built a house, which is still standing, and a barn, part of which was dug into the hillside.

In 1915 he sold his land to George and Fred Chapman; it is now owned by the former's grandson, Doug Johnson. Mr. Gilbertson bought land near Craigmyle, and lived there until he sold to Martin Suelzle in 1926. After a brief holiday in California, he went homesteading again, this time in the Peace River country. After a few years he sold that land and retired to Craigmyle where he died.

Mr. and Mrs. George Banner and Ida

GEORGE BANNER, By Ida Banner Grosse — My father, after selling his butcher business in Kent, England, decided he would like some of the opportunities of Western Canada. My parents came [illegible] Magrath in 1908 to visit my Dad's cousin, E.J. Wood who was president of the Mormon Church in Cardston at that time.

In June, 1910, they started their long journey from Cardston to what is known as the Annesheim district, in a wagon with four head of horses, a milk cow, and a saddle horse with a baby colt, which my mother said added considerable pleasure to the trip. It was quite an experience for a city girl with no experience of cooking or hard labor, who also had a wee daughter of two years. They farmed their homestead for years and went through many hardships as everyone did, but always had a cup of tea and a smile for everyone who dropped in.

Never complaining, my mother gave music lessons to quite a few children for next to nothing, often times for a few vegetables, which were very acceptable, as very few had good gardens at that time. She played the organ for all the local concerts at schools and churches, and also at the little Lutheran Church at Scapa, where two services were held, the first [illegible] German, and the second in English. In 1913 the first U.F.A. local was formed at Chain Lakes. My mother was secretary for many years. She was also a director of the Acadia Constituency for a good number of years. My parents were among the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club which was formed in the early twenties. Mother was also secretary of this group. They enjoyed their life on their farm and their friends and neighbors.

Mr. Banner passed away on his farm in 1942, and Mrs. Banner passed away in Drumheller in 1976.

JOSEPH BANNER, By Ida Grosse — Joseph, a younger brother of George and Bill Banner, came from England in 1906 to Cardston. When George and his wife came out from England they lived with him for several months, until they got their own home. He was a very talented musician and owned the only piano in

Cardston, which was a very small town [illegible] that time. For a time he made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He played the organ at the church and Mum sang in the choir.

On April 26, 1910, he filed on a homestead, the southwest quarter 24-33-16, but returned to Cardston the same year. He continued with his music lessons and he also played the organ in the Mormon Temple there for many years. Not being a Mormon, this was very unusual, but at that time he was the only one that had the ability. He played for all the weddings and funerals also. It wasn't a very fat living, but he carried on for a number of years. He was married while in Cardston, and had three daughters. Later on he and his family moved to St. Thomas, Ontario, where he bought a beautiful old house. He carried on with his music lessons, played for church and weddings and concerts.

He passed away in the early forties. His wife died several years later. They are both buried in St. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Banner, 1958

WILLIAM BANNER, By Ida Banner Grosse — William Banner and his wife came from England to homestead in 1912. They built a two-room shack, and there their daughters, Lillian and Maggie, were born.

He had been a stable boss in England, and was very fond of horses. He always had the manes and tails of his horses braided, and had good harness on them. He was quite an actor and comedian, telling jokes and singing humorous songs at concerts; and at school house dances he called the square dances. He was also a very good swimmer.

In 1923 he sold out and returned to England, where he worked for his brother on a farm. In 1966 George and I visited them, and he passed away that night. His wife died about 1972.

Hawtrey Goldfinch 187th Battalion World War I

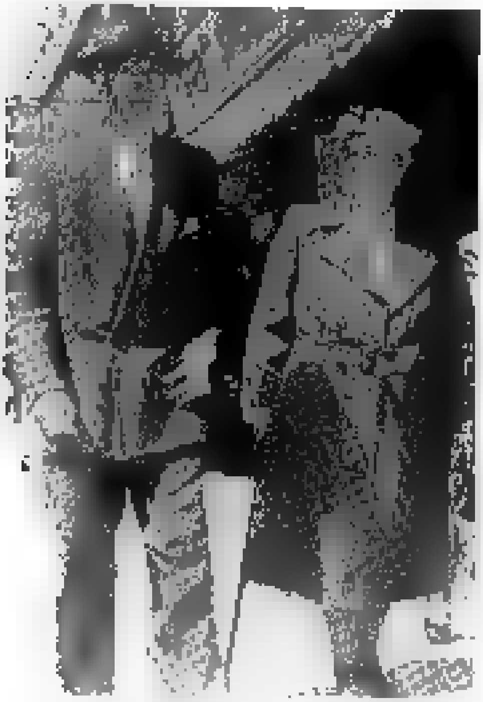
HAWTREY GOLDFINCH, By Ida Grosse and T. Pattinson — Hawtrey Goldfinch came from England to Canada as a very young boy, and made his home with his sister, Mrs. George Banner. He was the only man we knew who never ate meat.

In May 1914, he homesteaded the southwest 12-33-16; joined the army shortly after war was declared, and was severely wounded in action overseas. He proved up on his homestead after his discharge.

In 1922 he married Mrs. Dick Van Slyke, nee Anna Lund, whose first husband died as a result of a kick from a horse. She had a little boy, Jim Van Slyke, and later another son, Jack Goldfinch was born.

In 1928 he began to work for the Soldier Settlement Board, and remained with them until 1956 when his health started to fail, then retired to Victoria where they both enjoyed gardening. Their son Jack was killed [illegible] World War [illegible], while serving with the RCAF, and Jim also passed away at an early age as the result of rheumatic fever contracted during military service.

Hawtrey Goldfinch died in Victoria, and Mrs. Goldfinch is now living [illegible] Peace River.



Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman

THE CHAPMANS, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman, and my brother Bob emigrated from England to Calgary [illegible] 1908. My dad, a fireman by trade, worked out of Calgary on the C.P.R. Calgary-Lacombe run. My uncles, Jim and Fred Chapman, also came to Calgary, in 1908. Uncle Jim had been a 'Bobby' on the police force in England, and worked with the force in Calgary. Uncle Fred worked as fireman on the C.P.R. Crows Nest Pass run. They worked at these jobs until homesteading in 1910.

My dad's homestead was the NW 36-33-16; Uncle Jim's the SW 36-33-16 and Uncle Fred's the NW 35-33-16. Another uncle whom I did not know, Robert Chapman, came to Canada in 1911, and homesteaded the NW 31-33-15. He worked locally until his untimely death in 1915. None of my uncles ever married.

Mother, Dad and my brother Bob came from Calgary to Gadsby by train, and were met at the station by Mr. E.B. Donald with his team and wagon. My dad had a team and a wagon, a colt and a cow, and other settlers' effects. The cow was tied behind the wagon and Mr. Donald led the way to the homestead. My uncles, Jim and Fred, came a few weeks later.

The time was mid-October. [illegible] was almost a three-day trip from Gadsby, but there were stopping places along the way where food and a night's lodging could [illegible] obtained. That year had been extremely dry, and the homesteaders along the way refused water for the animals, saying that their wells were shallow and almost dry. However, my parents knew that when they arrived at their destination there would be plenty of water, as Uncle Fred's homestead had springs on it.

When they arrived at the homestead, cold and tired, they pitched a tent, which was home to them until sufficient sods were plowed to build a shack. Winter set [illegible] with a vengeance in early November of that year. They had no idea [illegible] the hardships they would be called upon to face. Supplies and mail and coal were hard to get; they burned dry wood for the first year, later getting coal from the Garden Plain country. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat in winter, ducks in summer. The winters were long and cold, with deep snow; and in the summer of 1912, they made their first acquaintance with an Alberta hail storm.

As time went by supplies became a little easier [illegible] obtain. Hanna had made its

appearance on the map, even though it was almost a twenty-four hour trip by team. Craigmyle was next, and was our main town for the next fourteen years. Post offices came closer. Our address was Dowling Lake P.O., Via Craigmyle, Alberta, Canada, North West Territories.

In 1912 two farm houses were built, one for my uncles and one for Dad and family. My parents' house was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1914; everything was lost, including Mother's piano, her violin, her music diplomas and trunks full of music. Kind neighbors came [illegible] their aid and housed them for the winter months. In the spring Dad bought a half-section of land from Mr. Henry Gilbertson with buildings on it. Mr. Gilbertson moved into the Craigmyle district.

[illegible] 1916 there was another fierce hail storm. After struggling three more years with Nature's ups and downs, the present house was completed. Somewhere along the line I made my appearance.

Endiang Cairn Left to right: Glen Tucker, Jean Pattinson, Wilma Hunt, 1975.

As I grew older I often asked those pioneers if they would go through it again, and they replied that though times were tough, it was a free life, the air was pure and Nature was out in all her glory. Our homesteaders are gone now. Uncle Fred passed away [illegible] 1953, Uncle Jim in 1958, my dad in 1960, Mother in 1968, and my brother Bob in 1971.

In August of 1975 the Endiang community held a sixty-fifth anniversary homecoming, and over two thousand people, including many pioneers, came home. A beautiful stone cairn, constructed of native rock, was built by George Smith, son of the first section foreman of Endiang, assisted by Doug Donald and other descendants of pioneer families in the district. Inscribed on the plaque of the cairn are these words: "To honor the courageous men and women who homesteaded in this area and the pioneer businessmen who built the hamlet of Endiang, and to Commemorate the opening of the first Endiang Post Office in 1910, and the establishment of the town on its present site in 1925, the people of the Endiang district dedicate this cairn, August 2, 1975. Our Home."

God bless our pioneers who sacrificed so much for us. May they rest in peace.

Gunnar Johnson in leather blacksmith's apron, Endiang Blacksmith's Shop, 1937

MR. and MRS. GUNNAR JOHNSON, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — I was born on the farm [illegible] what is known as the old Gilbertson house, which is still standing. I attended Summerhill, Annesheim and Endiang schools, and took three years of correspondence courses. In 1941 I married Gunner Johnson [illegible] Calgary, where we lived for ten years.

Gunner had come to Canada from Sweden in 1927. He was a man who could turn his hand to many trades. He worked as a gold miner and a lumberman in British Columbia, as a brakeman on the C.P.R. between Lacombe and Coronation, then did farming, blacksmithing and welding with the Keibel Brothers of Endiang. He was also John Deere agent [illegible] Endiang. In 1942 he joined the army as an Armament Artificer. Realizing that city life was not for us, we came back to the farm [illegible] 1950. We rented my uncles' land and in 1957 bought the Alex Kalenith place one half mile south of Endiang.

Gunnar passed away suddenly on June 20, 1973.

Our older son, Doug, his wife and three children live in their own home on the Kalenith place. Our younger son, Donald, and his wife Blanche live and farm on the original farm of George Chapman. I am still living on the farm.

As I think back to earlier years I remember many things . . . the horseback rides, bareback, to the Dowling Lake post office, eighteen miles the round trip, sometimes with two flour sacks of mail slung over the horse's neck, for we picked up our mail only once every four or six weeks. I soon saved my pennies for a saddle.

The postmaster at Dowling Lake was a Mr. Stanley Price who was always chewing tobacco. The mailboxes were on the inside wall facing the wicket; he loved cats and I counted thirty-nine mailboxes, with a yellow cat in each one. We soon changed our Post Office.

I also remember the long cold and windy democrat rides, and the sleigh rides with upset cutters and runaway horses, the barn dances in the barn lofts. I have seen men fall down the feed chutes and into the mangers below, and live to tell the story, (they had smelled too much home brew); the local picnics, schoolhouse dances and concerts; the fall threshing with Dad's Rumley outfit with bunk car, cook car and twenty-five or thirty men to cook for. Who could forget nineteen cent wheat, fat cattle that didn't bring enough to pay the freight, gathering crows' eggs and gopher tails for a cent apiece?

But most of [illegible] I remember the happy times we had with music in the home. Mother was an accomplished pianist and my brother Bob played trumpet and saxophone, and I played whatever instrument was handy. We were known as the Chapman orchestra, and we played for many dances.

J. J. BRUCE HOOPER, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — J.J. Bruce Hooper came from Bruce County, Ontario, to Erskine in 1906-1907. He worked on farms until November, 1910, when he filed on a homestead on the NW 25-33-16. He did

his homestead duties during the summers and worked out during the winters.

In the fall of 1916 he married my aunt, Dora Edmonason, who had come from England to Calgary in 1907. In the fall of 1917 they moved to Lulu Island, B.C., where they had a fruit farm. They are both now deceased.

Uncle Bruce rented his land to Alex Kalenith, and later it was purchased by Hans and John Hansen. It is now owned by Herb Bossert.

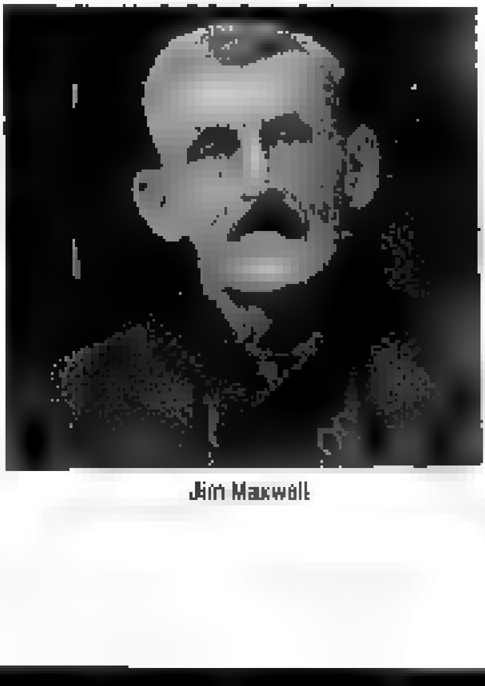
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hooper in the potato patch about 1916.

CHARLES D. PIERSON — In 1910 Charles Pierson came from the United States to homestead the NW 24-33-16. He was married when he came here and had one daughter, Rena, who operated a millinery shop in Endiang for a time. Rena married Louis Ruppel, a trapper from B.C. who had tremendous physical stamina; it was said that he could run the seven miles to Endiang without stopping.

Mrs. Pierson died in the mid twenties. In 1928, Mr. Pierson sold his land to Hans Hansen and moved to Clearwater, B.C. where his daughter and her husband lived. He took out another homestead there, but died before he was able to prove up on it.

JIM MAXWELL — Jim Maxwell was a bachelor who homesteaded the NE 23-33-16 and took the north west quarter of the same section as his pre-emption. He came to Alberta from the United States, and kept quite a number of cattle until 1924 when he sold them and rented his land out. He continued to live on his farm until his death in the early thirties.

Neighbors remember him as a man who never owned a lamp, but always used a lantern in the house. He took a great interest in his community, was a U.F.A. member, and was a trustee of Annesheim school for several years.



Jim Maxwell

BERT A. KIRKEBY — Bert Kirkeby was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1877. As a boy he came with his family to Minnesota; he later married Mary Moen, a sister of Svend Moen, in North Dakota. In 1910 he homesteaded the NE 12-33-16, and the following spring pre-empted the north-west quarter [illegible] the same section. Bert Kirkeby was the first chairman of the Annesheim school board and served as such for many years.

During the first war the Kirkebys built a large hip-roofed barn which was to become a landmark in the district. It was the scene of many barn dances and public meetings. Meetings to organize the Alberta Wheat Pool were held there; one of these was addressed by Henry Wise-Wood.

When a dance was to be held, the organ or piano was lifted into the loft with hay slings. It could not be left there between dances as the turkeys would roost on it. The barn, still standing plumb and true, was dismantled in 1976.

In the early twenties, Bert sold his farm to Dan Lund and started a coal mine in the Princeton district. [illegible] 1934 he opened a strip mine near his original location but removing the dirt proved too costly, so he sank a vertical shaft to the coal seam and built a tipple. The coal was good and Kirkeby's mine was known far and wide. Countless numbers of two-ton loads were hauled from there by team and wagon or sleigh. 'Going for coal' meant leaving home at three or four o'clock in the morning to get [illegible] place near the front of the line-up, and sometimes there was a long wait even then.

In 1941 the Kirkebys closed the mine and moved to Drumheller. Bert died in 1951 and Mrs. Kirkeby in 1976. There were seven children, Mabel, Lulu, Stella, Eddy, Jim, Gordon and Leonard.

Svend Moen, right, and his brother Chris

SVEND MOEN — Svend Pederson Moen was the son of Peder Hansen and his wife Marit Hansen. As was the custom in Norway at that time, the boy's second name was his father's name with 'son' added, and his surname was the name of the farm where the family lived. Svend was born [illegible] 1875.

About 1900, Svend's older brother, Hans, immigrated to North Dakota, and worked until he had saved enough money to bring another member of the family to America. Eventually nearly all his brothers and sisters, and his mother, settled in North Dakota, and in 1911 Svend took a homestead and pre-emption on the west half of 13-33-16. His brother Theodore and his mother lived with him on the homestead.

About 1914 Svend walked up behind a horse [illegible] the pasture. It kicked him in the face, and Ole Braaten took him to Gadsby in the back of a democrat, to get medical aid. The face was so badly swollen that there was little that could be done for him, and the bones were allowed to heal without being set, so that the left side [illegible] his face was badly deformed. In a later accident a telephone pole being used as a pry to move a granary slipped, striking him in the face.

For a number [illegible] years Svend leased a school section, 29-33-15. He put a

cedar fence around the entire section and raised cattle there. In the days of stack threshing, Svend had the reputation of being able to build perfectly symmetrical bundle stacks. He had a grinder connected to a windmill with an unusually large wheel, where he crushed his own grain for feed.

After Svend retired from farming he made his home with his nephew, Ben Mohn, for several years, and then moved to Hanna where he died in December, 1959. He is buried in Craigmyle cemetery.

PALMER MOEN — Palmer Moen was born September 10, 1910, the second oldest of the eleven children of Chris Moen. In the fall of 1929 he left the family home in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, to live and work in the Annesheim district with his uncle, Svend Moen.

On December 21, 1935, Palmer and Jean Marnock were married. The couple had three children, Gerald, Isabel and Parry.

Palmer enjoyed hunting, and for seventeen years was the pitcher on the Endiang ball team.

In the fall of 1947 the land was sold to Carl Schultz, and the Moen family moved to a farm at Rimbey. Palmer and Jean are now retired and living at Drayton Valley.

Ole Bernhardson-Braaten with his violin

OLE BERNHARDSON BRAATEN, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — Ole Bernhardson was born in Norway, moved to Minnesota and then to Birch Hills, Saskatchewan. In 1911 he filed on the SW 24-33-16, which Joe Banner had filed on but given up. The land was very level but quite sandy.

Unlike many homesteaders who arrived almost penniless, Ole did have some money. He lived with a neighbor and helped out on his farm while he was building a house on his own land. Ole never worked fast, but was a very steady man, and whatever he did was well done.

As time went by he accumulated the usual implements and four big dapple grey horses. He always kept his animals in top condition and never overworked them. He milked a cow and made his own butter.

Ole had a beautiful bay mare that he drove on the buggy; he called her Daisy. She was a little high strung but could certainly cover the ground. When my Dad's outfit was threshing for Ole, I, as a young girl, was thrilled to be allowed to drive Daisy to Craigmyle for supplies, or to take lunch [illegible] the threshing crew. The single buggy was always kept in a shed [illegible] protect it from the weather, and Ole's single cutter was also kept [illegible] top shape.

Ole played the violin; the tone he could get out of it was something [illegible] be heard. It was certainly not a cheap violin, and Ole was really offended if anyone called [illegible] [illegible] fiddle. He enjoyed playing an old fashioned waltz, but liked classical

music, and could play it, too. He played for dances and gave lessons to a few of the younger people.

Ole was always well dressed; even his large moustache was always neatly trimmed. In the late twenties he changed his name from Bernhardson to Breaten.

In the early thirties Ole sold his land and bought another farm north-east of Endiang, where [illegible] lived for a few years and then moved back [illegible] Birch Hills. He farmed the land which had belonged to his half-brother, Ole Johnson, and later bought a farm in the Waitsville district. When he grew older and found the work harder, he retired to the Lutheran Old Folks' Home [illegible] Domremy, where he spent his remaining years.

It is believed that he still has a nephew living in the Birch Hills area.

My thanks to Ben Mohn for supplying some of this information.

THE JOHN RENK FAMILY — John Renk homesteaded the SW 31-33-15 on December 15, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Renk had two children, a son who lived in the States and a daughter who was married to George Herr. Because the son's wife had died, the Renks made [illegible] home for his daughter, Magdalena.

Mr. and Mrs. Herr and their family lived in Craigmyle for a time, and then moved to the homestead to live with Mrs. Herr's parents.

Magdalena Renk married Sam Hoffman. George Herr moved to Hanna, and about 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Renk and their daughter and her family returned to the United States. Julius Schultz farmed the land.

JACK CHAPMAN — John William Chapman homesteaded the SE 23-33-16 on February 6, 1911. Known as 'The Lion Tamer' because he had once worked in a circus, he was one of the first in the district to have a radio. He bought parts and assembled, sold and serviced radios.

He married while he lived in the district, and had one son, Edward Arthur (Teddy). Teddy became a tinsmith and also operated an electrical service shop in Brooks for a time. He was an enthusiastic ham radio operator, and his call letters are still listed, showing that he resides at Entwhistle.

Jack Chapman was a staunch Social Crediter. He was secretary of Anneheim school district for several years.

About 1937 the Chapmans sold their land, had an auction sale, and moved to a chicken farm near Midnapore. A couple of years later they moved to Calgary where they died.

JULIUS SCHULTZ FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Schultz arrived in Canada from Michigan in 1910, with their first four children, Paul, Carl, Mabel, and Ervin. They settled in Gadsby where Mr. Schultz ran a blacksmith shop, and where Herman was born. [illegible] 1911 they moved to the homestead at Endiang. Here they had six more children, Myrtle, Martha, Henry, Edna, Violet and Herbert.

The little brown house on the hill was always filled to capacity with friends and neighbors. Mum Schultz was known far and wide for her cordial hospitality and her delicious meals, that were ready for anyone at any time. It was not unusual [illegible] serve Sunday dinner to fifty people. In the early years during hunting season, not only was the house full, but there were beds in the haylofts and granaries. Salesmen who travelled the country made it a point to arrive at the Schultz home at mealtimes.

Not only was she Mum to her eleven children, but also to most of their friends. Because of the distance to hospital and modes of transportation, Mum was called on, very often in the middle of the night, to act as midwife. Many children of the community could say that she was the first person to pat their bottoms.

Dad Schultz was one of the founders and builders of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He acted on its council for a number of years. He was also an active member in different capacities on the Municipal council. In the early years he was the weed inspector for a wide area. In 1931, while he was Secretary-Treasurer for the school board, Annasheim needed a new teacher. There were so many applications that they jam-packed a hundred pound flour sack.

When the country was new, J.C., as he was commonly known, did a lot of blacksmithing. The old forge belched out the heat and the huge anvil resounded with the banging of plow shares. Hundreds of horses walked out of the yard with new shoes. He also did a good deal of carpenter work in the neighborhood. He built one of the first schools in the area, Summerhill, which is still standing on the original site.

Julius and Emma Schultz with their family on their 50th anniversary. The bee cake in the foreground is a replica of their original wedding cake which is baked on a spit over an open fire.

In 1925, while still retaining the homestead, the family moved to Edgewater, B.C. Here they ran a lumber mill and ranched in the vicinity. After two or three years the bottom fell out of the lumber business so they came back to the prairie.

For many years they had one of the big threshing machines in the area. Paul, covered with grease, ran the huge Case engine, and Carl operated the 26" White separator. It took eight hard working men and teams, and a couple of spike pitchers, to feed the brute. Many a neighbor's field was cleaned in jig time.

In 1948 the old homestead was sold and the family moved to Endiang. It wasn't for Mum to retire. Whenever a work crew was looking for a place to board, they somehow found their way to Mum's table.

In November, 1955, J.C. was hit by a car in Calgary, and passed away in January, 1956. Mum staunchly carried on until 1961 when a stroke took her. Paul died in 1960, Mabel in 1967, Martha in 1973 and Violet in 1976.

The rest of the family are living within 150 miles of home. Each year since 1965 we have held a family reunion. We can boast of over a hundred direct descendants. Julius and Emma Schultz will not be soon forgotten.

THE PAUL SCHULTZ FAMILY, By Connie Schultz — Paul Schultz, the oldest child in the Julius Schultz family, moved to the Annasheim district with his parents [illegible] 1911, and spent the rest [illegible] his life in the area. [illegible] 1932 he married Connie Heptonstall; the young couple lived on the Heptonstall homestead for a time, and also lived on the Gus Abram farm and the Van Sickle place before buying the Jack Chapman land in 1936.

Paul and Connie Schultz had seven children. Walter died in infancy; Gordon operates a motel [illegible] Brooks; Margaret Jones lives on the home place. Dennis and Ray reside [illegible] Calgary. Joan Mohl, who works at the Royal Bank in Hanna, lives south of Hanna. Judy married Albert Ryckman of Hanna and they live [illegible] Wetaskiwin.

Paul died suddenly in 1960. Connie is now retired and makes her home in Calgary.

The George Jones family. Left to right: Brenda, Dean, Margaret, Lynn, George, Wesley, Tracey

GEORGE JONES, By Margaret Jones — George Jones was born in Gadsby in 1925, and moved to the Byemoor district the following year. He was the seventh child in the family of John Jones, Sr. I was born in 1935, the second child in the Paul Schultz family. George and I were married at the Scapa Lutheran Church on September 11, 1953. We lived north of Byemoor, and in the Craigmyle area, until the spring of 1961, when we took over my mother's farm after my dad passed away.

George was a carpenter and worked for people all over the country. He passed away very suddenly on February 26, 1976.

We had five children. Dean operates the UFA bulk station in Byemoor; Lynn is married to Jim Graham and lives in Calgary. Wesley, Brenda and Tracey are still at home and attend school in Hanna.

I still live on and operate the farm.

THE CARL SCHULTZ FAMILY — Carl Schultz is the second child in the Julius Schultz family. As a young man he worked at home on the family farm, operated a well-drilling machine, and installed lightning rods on many buildings. He also worked on the construction of the Scapa-Spondin CNR rail line.

In April, 1942, he married Ida Meyers, and they moved [illegible] the Jack Shelberg farm which Carl had purchased from Shelberg's daughter, Mrs. Art Clayton, several years previously. Carl did a great deal of custom combining in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz had two daughters, Betty born in 1943 and Cathy born in 1958. In the fall [illegible] 1967, Carl, Ida and Cathy moved to Calgary.

Betty married Ken Halvorsen in 1960. Ken did commercial trucking for several years, and has been a member of the Country Drifters orchestra since its inception. The Halvorsens have three daughters, Debbie, Vicky and Tammy, [illegible] attending school in Hanna. They are now operating the farm and live on the home place.

Carl and Ida Schultz with Cathy holding the cat.

The Ken Halvorsen family. Vicky, Debbie, Betty, Tammy and Ken.

The Jacob Bossert family. Mr. and Mrs. Bossert, Albert, Bertha and Johnny.

JACOB BOSSERT, By The Grandchildren — Jacob Bossert was born in Bessarabia in 1873. Not much is known of his youth. He married a widow, Louise Hagel (nee Flaig) who was born in Beresina, Bessarabia in 1873. She had a daughter Marie, who was born in 1897.

A daughter Bertha was born to Jacob and Louise in Bessarabia in 1902. They immigrated to North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1903. Twins were born to them on May 23, 1908, in Jud, North Dakota, a son Albert survived. From the United States they moved to Mayton, Alberta, where they lived until 1911. On May 30, 1911 they filed on a homestead on the southwest 30-33-15 and a pre-emption on the northeast 30-33-15, located in what was later known as the Annesheim district. A son Johnny was adopted when he was only a few years old. He helped on the farm and later took a job with the C.N.R. on the Section Crew.

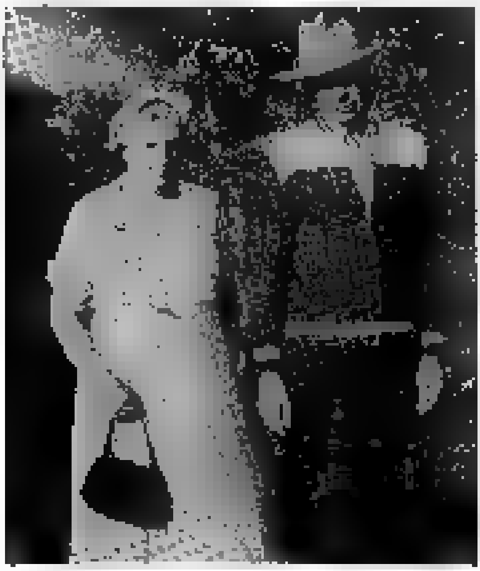
Mr. and Mrs. Bossert farmed until November 1939, when they retired to Hanna.

Louise passed away at her home in Hanna on November 7, 1947, and Jacob spent his last few years in a nursing home in Calgary. He passed away in 1957.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT BOSSERT, By Ervin Bossert and Ruby Robinson — Albert Bossert, son of Jacob and Louise Bossert, was born on May 23, 1908, at Jud, North Dakota. He was baptized December 1, 1908 in the town of Alfred, North Dakota. His parents and their family moved to Mayton, Alberta, then took up a homestead at Endiang in May, 1911. Albert got his education at a country school called Annasheim. He was confirmed in Hanna on April 9, 1922 by Pastor Jacob Kissler.

On November 14, 1929 he married Wilhelmina Bessler. She was born June

25, 1909 and emigrated with her parents from Leipiz, Bessarabia in May, 1927. When they were first married, they lived with Dad's parents and helped them farm. Their first child, a daughter Ida, was born on September 19, 1930. The next year they moved to a two-room house a few miles from Dad's parents' place. Dad still continued to farm with his father. On February 24, 1932 a son Ervin was born. In the fall of 1932 Dad rented a farm in the Garden Plain district which was formerly owned by Henry Pahl. A daughter Ruby was born on February [illegible], 1934.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bossert, 1956

In the thirties it was dry and the crops were poor so [illegible] the fall of 1934 we moved to the Peace River country. Dad rented a farm one mile from North Pine Village. Dad also hauled some freight to make extra money. In the spring of 1936 Dad and Mother again packed up their family and came back south. Dad rented the Chester Bartman place near Scapa. Ida and Ervin attended school at Scapa.

In the spring of 1938 Dad finally bought his own farm, the northeast 7-33-15, from Mack Sobolewski. William Banner had homesteaded this place in 1911. [illegible] 1939, a daughter Doreen was born on January 9. In the spring Dad bought a 1932 Ford car. Summer brought an epidemic of sleeping sickness to the area and a lot of our horses died so Dad bought his first tractor. That fall Dad and Mother used this tractor and a horse binder to cut George Banner's crop.

On March 2, 1941 Dad hitched two horses in front of the Ford car and went as far as the McCulsh place, then he was able to drive the rest of the way to Hanna with the car to take Mother to the hospital where Shirley was born.

The next two years went on much the same, but Mother found things a little easier when she got her washing machine with a gas motor and they also remodelled the house. On July 13, 1943 Dad had to make another rush trip to town. Betty was born in the Hanna Hospital.

By this time the crops were somewhat better and life was getting a bit easier. Dad had better machinery and also owned a better car. Their last son, Herbert, was born on February 1, 1949. All we children attended Annesheim School until we finished grade nine.

Ida married Robert Dumont who works for the C.N.R. in Edmonton. They have two children, Janice and Kenny. Janice married Brian Waltze in 1976.

Ervin married Thelma Clark and farms in the Chain Lakes district. They have three children: Patti, Kevin and Todd.

Ruby married Wesley Robinson; they farm near Hanna. They have two children: Blake and Sherrie.

Doreen married Rex Beach, a teacher in Edmonton. They have two sons, Barrie and Sherman.

Shirley married John Aitken, a dentist. They live in Calgary and have four children; Kathy, Michelle, Scott and Steven.

Betty married Dave Wake, a teacher at S.A.I.T. They live [illegible] Calgary and have two children, Colin and Carla.

Herbert married Betty Hickle and lives on the home place.

Albert Bossert passed away on January 23, 1969. Wilhelmina died on November 26, 1989. Both are buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Baes, Sam Bargameister

THE MARTIN BAES STORY, By Albert Baes — Martin Baes was born in Bessarabia in 1899. He came with his parents, three older sisters and a younger brother to South Dakota in 1907. In the spring of 1913 the family left South Dakota and moved [illegible] Calgary; during the summer his father homesteaded [illegible] the Hand Hills. It was in the Hand Hills that Martin spent most of his early years working for established ranchers and farmers until he acquired sufficient capital to begin farming for himself.

On April 2, 1923 he was united in marriage to Bertha Bossert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert of the Dowling Lake district. They lived and farmed in the Hand Hills until 1929 when they moved to the Sayle Brown farm north of Hanna. They lived here during the depression and the dry thirties, suffering the same hardships as a lot of other people in the same circumstances.

In the fall of 1939 our grandparents, the Jacob Bosserts, decided to retire to Hanna, so we moved to their farm south of Endiang [illegible] the Annesheim district. Mother and Dad lived here till 1961 when they moved to Hanna; but Dad continued [illegible] help on the farm as he didn't like town life.

There were four children in the family. Albert still lives on the farm at Endiang. Freda is a Nursing Aide at the Dr. Ross Nursing Home in Drumheller. She is married [illegible] Stan Waselewski, a C.N.R. employee. Edward works for Ace Construction in Calgary. John is married to Elvina Doering of Kindersley, and they have two daughters, Dallas and Dixie. John works for Kentron Homes [illegible] Calgary.

Mother passed away April 23, 1972 after a lengthy illness. Dad passed away suddenly on March 8, 1973. They are both resting in the Hanna cemetery.

THE JOHN BOSSERT STORY — John Meyers, a younger brother of Fred, was born in 1912. When his mother died the Jacob Bossert family adopted him, he took their name, and lived with them until they sold their farm in the fall of 1939. In the spring of 1940 he moved to the A. Blomberg place where he farmed for four years.

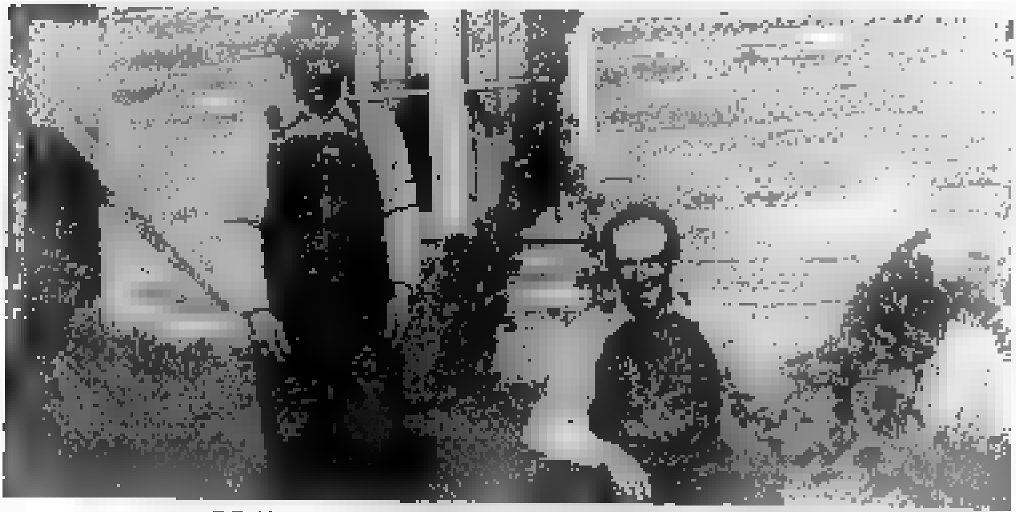
In the spring of 1944 [illegible] married Esther Metzger of Carbon. The newlyweds moved to the Emil Kammerle place, which they rented until 1947 when John went to work on the section at Endiang. He was transferred to Delacour and Nightingale, worked for a time on a turkey farm at Beiseker and in the Linden Machine Works. He is now retired and living [illegible] Linden.

Esther died in the fall of 1973. They had four children; Orvin who is at Medicine Hat, Philip working on a farm near Drumheller, Lucy and Laura who live in Drumheller.

PHILIP FRED MEYERS — Fred Meyers was one of a family of five children. His father was a section man at Watts, and when his mother died the family was split up. Fred was raised by the Henry Wiele family of Watts, and he worked on the section there for a time before coming to the Annesheim district. He stayed with

the Julius Schultz family for a short while, and then made his home with the Gus Stulberg family.

He was quite mechanically inclined. He had a Model T Ford Coupe with a Ruckstell rear end, of which he was very proud. Jack Stulberg recalls his mother and father leaving for Hanna one spring in Fred's Model T, after it had been on blocks for the winter. All they had was one gallon of gas. They coasted down all the hills with the ignition turned off and made it all the way to Hanna on that one gallon of gas.



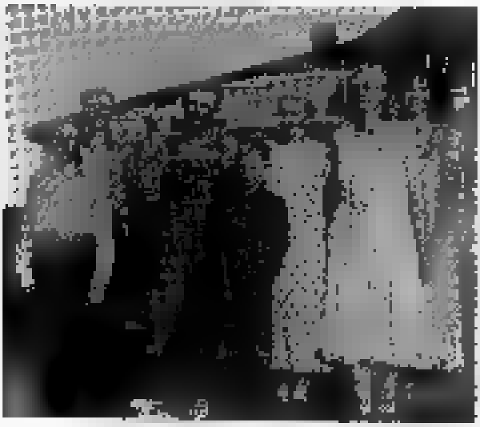
P.F. Meyers with his father. Fred is on the right petting the dog.

Fred traded his Model T to Austin Ludlow for a Titan 10-20 tractor. In the winters he and his brother, Johnny Bossert, who owned [illegible] grinder, formed a partnership and did custom grinding.

Fred was very fond of dogs, and every dog [illegible] the country knew him and would not bark when he came to visit.

[illegible] the fall of 1937 Fred left the Annasheim district with the Mac Sobolewski family, to locate near Stony Plain where he bought a farm, built a house and worked in a garage part time.

Fred was last known to be living [illegible] Vancouver with his sister.



The Gus Stulberg family: Jack, Walter, Gus, Lawrence, Mrs. Stulberg, Caroline and Lenora. Missing are Pauline and Martha who were married by then.

THE STULBERG FAMILY, By Jack Stulberg — Gus Stulberg was born in Germany on February 15, 1891, [illegible] John and Carolina Stulberg. In the early 1900's, his widowed mother brought her four children, Louise, Gus, Gottlieb and Freida, to the state of Washington. Louise married J. Geissler and settled on a farm in southern Saskatchewan; Gus became a baker, but in 1912 he decided that he would like to homestead in Canada.

He travelled [illegible] what is now the Scapa-Endiang district to select a homestead quarter. While in the area, Gus stayed at Jacob Bossert's, (today the Albert [illegible]es farm), and Mr. Bossert as-

sisted him in locating a homestead, advising him of the importance of a good water supply. The quarter he chose had a good spring, but was hilly and rocky.

Gus returned to the States. On June 25, 1912, in Spokane, Washington, he married Emma Krause, who had been born in Germany on July 31, 1894, and had come to the States with her parents and sister and three brothers.

In the spring of 1913 Gus and Emma homesteaded the SW 20-33-15. Gus' mother and sister Freida filed on the north-west quarter of the same section, and his brother Gottlieb homesteaded nearby on the SW 21-33-15. A cousin G. Glubrecht also filed on land in the area.

The Stulbergs had arrived in Stettler by train, then journeyed southwards to their homesteads. They stayed with the Bossert family until a sod shack could be built on Gus' land. Gus and Emma's first child, Caroline, was born on June 30, 1913.

Mrs. Stulberg Sr., Mrs. Gus Stulberg, Caroline (baby), Freda (Mrs. August Hein)

A few acres were broken the first year and their one cow provided the much-needed milk, cream and cheese. The first years were the hardest. There were no towns nearby, so if supplies were needed, a trip had to be made to Hanna. In later years their mail came to Scapa and Endiang.

In 1915 they decided that a move to the north end of Sullivan Lake might prove successful. Here Gus rented a farm and mined coal along the lake. While they lived there they got their mail at Cornucopia post office. In 1916 they returned to the homestead, built a wooden house and continued their farming operations. Emma took the quarter south of the homestead as a pre-emption. In later years they rented the Keehn quarter and purchased the Church quarter.

As the years passed their family grew to eight children: Caroline, 1913; Pauline, 1915; Martha, 1916; Lenore, 1918; Walter, 1919; Lillian, 1922; Jack, 1925; and Lawrence, 1927. Lillian died in 1924.

Gus and Emma were hard-working people, and in the winter of 1917-18 Gus took on the feeding of some of Pat Burns' cattle. While he hauled out the feed, she would water the cattle. The pail was on a long rope that she would let down the well, then pull up, hand over hand. It was very hard work and often her clothes would be covered with ice from the water which splashed and froze on them.

During the twenties it was a struggle to raise a large family and at the same time try to build up the farm, so very little could [illegible] set aside for a rainy day. When the depression came, things went from bad to worse. To supplement the family income, Gus worked out part time. He worked many years for Emil Kobi, Sr. [illegible] Endiang. The Kobis were good friends and the families visited each other for years.

Gus also operated a coal mine east of Scapa for several years. Partners [illegible] this venture, for a time, were Robert Kelbel and Gottlieb Weber. Gus worked off his taxes by doing road work with horses and fresno, and was often called upon to do veterinary work.

All the children attended Annasheim school, which was one mile west of the homestead. The boys did janitor work at the school, and Emma was on the school board. Good times were had at picnics, dances, and Christmas concerts at Annasheim.

Every Sunday the Stulberg family would join their neighbors and friends [illegible] worship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Many families from both Endiang and Scapa attended. Quite often after church, friends would come to Stulberg's for dinner and to spend the afternoon.

Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Emma were among the original founding members of the church. Gus helped with the reconstruction of the building. The children were baptized and confirmed in the little church in the hills. Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Lillian, are buried in the cemetery at St. Peter's.

Gus' brother Gottlieb, known to many as Joe, sold his homestead and moved to Hanna where he was employed by the C.N.R. and the town of Hanna until the time of his passing. His sister Frieda married August Hein, and they farmed at Scapa. They had three daughters, Ester, Pauline, who died in 1973, and Louise, who died in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Hein reside in Hanna. Gus' mother, Mrs. Caroline Stulberg, lived on the farm until her death in 1946. She was in her ninetieth year.

Prior to the coming of the railroad in 1925, grain had to [illegible] hauled [illegible] Craigmyle, usually by team and sleigh during the winter months. When the railroad came through, cream no longer had to be hauled to Hanna by team and buggy, as there was regular train service. The much-welcomed towns of Scapa and Endiang meant no more long trips for supplies and a shorter distance to haul grain.

The Stulbergs always planted a large garden, and when it didn't rain, packed water to it by hand. The main fruit was saskatoons and rhubarb, and for a change it was rhubarb and saskatoons. In years when local saskatoons were not available, the family would go to Battle River to pick them. In the winter Gus and Gottlieb Weber would travel [illegible] Buffalo Lake and bring home a wagon box of fish.

[illegible] 1944 Gus bought the Kirkeby farm south of Endiang. The family moved there in 1947 and farmed there until Gus and Emma retired to Hanna in 1951. Gus worked for a time for the Town of Hanna. In 1962, this pioneer couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Gus passed away on March 18, 1963, at the age of seventy-two. Emma later moved to Calgary, where [illegible] the age of eighty-two she still looks after her own home and garden.

The children remained in the Endiang-Scapa area for many years, but have since scattered.

Caroline, who is a licensed chef, was employed for many years in Hanna. She now resides in Calgary.

Pauline married Herman Ziemmer [illegible] 1935. They farmed for many years north-west of Scapa. [illegible] 1967 they sold their land to Lou Lohrmann and bought a smaller place at Mayerthorpe, Alberta, where they are semi-retired.

Martha was united in marriage to Ben Keibel of Endiang in 1936. They had three daughters, Margaret, Shirley and Donna. They farmed in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler in 1960. Later they moved to Calgary, where Ben passed away in 1965. Martha and her daughters live in Calgary.

Lenore was married [illegible] Reinhold Dewald in 1947. They lived in Hanna for many years, where they raised their two sons, Gordon and Clarence. They also lived briefly at Delia and Endiang; at present they are in Calgary.

Walter, who married Bernice Adams Robertson in 1955, farmed the home place until moving to Hanna where he was employed at the National Hotel. There were three children, Ken, Gordon and Ruth Robertson. Walter and Bernice are now retired and living in Calgary.

The farm was later sold to Ervin and Herb Bossert.

Jack worked as a hired man for several years. In 1950 he lost his right arm in a combine accident. The following year [illegible] bought the former Joiner farm at Endiang, and in 1952 married Carol Paxman [illegible] Hanna. They have two sons, Les and Larry.

Lawrence married Martha Lizotte in 1959. He worked in Hanna and farmed at Endiang for a few years, then moved to Edmonton where he is a painter in an auto body shop. They have four children, Sherry, Lauri, Kerri and Cory.

Elfreda and August Hein, Louise Hein 1 year old

THE AUGUST HEIN STORY, By Esther Hein Morlock — August Hein was born in Poland, November twenty-ninth, 1894. In 1914, Dad immigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal, after seventeen days of ocean travel. On May 9, 1914 he arrived at Edmonton where he worked till harvest was completed that year.

Dad and his brother Bill went to Castor. From here they walked to the Scapa district, and stayed with a friend Carl Welch, until he found some work with [illegible]rt Smyth of Craigmyle. Dad remained here for the winter, hauling hay which was the daily routine.

Dad was fortunate that he had good horses to drive on long hauls. He would tie the lines to the peg and walk behind the load to keep his feet from freezing, as his only footwear was leather shoes. These were far from adequate in twenty below zero conditions.

After that winter he left and worked for a farmer, Sam Leith of Endiang.

After a number of years Dad and his brother decided to go farming on their own. Their first years were not very successful, as a result of severe frost [illegible] July. Not one kernel was harvested, so it was out to work again.

Dad's bachelorhood was soon to come [illegible] an end. His faithful church going rewarded him because [illegible] was here that he met Elfreida Stulberg. They were married in Calgary during December of 1921.

Mother, Elfreida Stulberg was born in southern Russia on November thirteen, 1902. [illegible] 1910 she, her mother, sister, two brothers and family immigrated to Canada, arriving in Moznod, Saskatchewan in 1910. In December of that year grandma, mother, brothers Gus and Joe moved to Spokane, Washington where they remained until May of 1913.

With homesteads available, they returned to Alberta. They [illegible] pitched in [illegible] build brother Gus's new sod shack, which they lived in for that winter. They stayed there until Grandma proved up their homestead. They broke up ten acres of land, then got the title for that. There was no school until Annesheim was built. Mother attended Annasheim school at the same time [illegible] Albert and Bertha Bossert, Anna and Dan Lund, who were good friends of mother's.

In those days entertainment was what they made themselves, meeting at different people's places; mother with her mouth organ, another young lad on the accordion, which made for a most enjoyable time. The Clear Lake Hall annual picnics were a stellar attraction in that area. Mother and Bertha Bossert went in the foot races, for the prize for winning was spending money for the day.

The thirties created terrific hardships which were quite general. Russian thistles were gathered on the green side for feed. Cows were sold for ten dollars a head, yearlings for two dollars each. Somehow they survived the depression; as the climate improved, things got better. Since there were no boys in the family, Dad decided to sell the farm, and moved to Hanna in 1947. Dad was employed with the town of Hanna for nineteen years, after which he retired.

Dad and Mother had a family which consisted of three girls, Louise, Esther and Pauline. Louise, the oldest, died as a young girl in 1925. Esther, Mrs. Edgar Morlock residing [illegible] Delia, had three children, Darryl, Kenneth and Heather. Pauline, Mrs. Ben Morlock, had two children, Craig of Hanna and Rhonda of Delia. Pauline passed away December nineteenth, 1973.

THE FRED GIEDD STORY, By Austin Ludlow — Fred Giedd was a big, good-natured German who homesteaded and took a pre-emption on the east half of 1-33-16 in 1912. Although these were both fractional quarters, and his farm was small and crowded into the east side of Mud Lake, I never heard him complain.

Fred (Fritz) Giedd

In those days, horses were almost as important as homesteaders, and Fred had a team of white faced Clydes named Blutch and Schnapps. He also had [illegible] wagon and an old surrey. If Fred got in a hurry, we would hear him coming, his team on the run, and Fred standing up in the bounding, bouncing surrey.

He liked young folks, and the candy he bought for us was never cheap, but good chocloates.

Fred Gledd left the district about 1920.

PETER DRAXEL — Peter Draxel, who was born in Russia in 1867, immigrated to Spokane, Washington, and in 1912 filed on the east half of 30-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. He married Sophia Reusch and they had three children, two of whom died in infancy. Their surviving son, Emil, had a lifetime career in the services, and died in New Zealand in 1972. His daughter, Mrs. Patsy Jucaitis, lives at Cranbrook, B.C.

Mrs. Draxel died in 1923. Pete sold his farm to Gus Abram in 1926 and moved to Calgary where he worked as a barber for many years. He suffered a stroke in 1951 and after his discharge from hospital he stayed for a time with his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Glubrecht. He then made his home with his niece, Mrs. Erich Woelk, and her family, and remained there until his death in 1957. He was buried in St. Peter's Lutheran Church cemetery at Scapa.

GUSTAV ABRAM — Gus Abram came to Canada from the part of Russia now known as Romania with his uncle, Ed Abram. In January, 1915, he homesteaded the NE 20-33-15. A few years later he married Ida Reusch, a sister of Mrs. Pete Draxel. The women were cousins of Mr. Gottlieb Glubrecht.

Mr. Abram donated a corner of his homestead quarter to the Lutheran congregation in 1921; it was on this land that St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the cemetery were located.

In 1926 the Abrams moved to the Pete Draxel place. There were seven children in the family; their oldest child and only daughter died as the result of a ruptured appendix in 1932.

In 1934 the family moved to Rosewair north of Edmonton, and in the early forties they went to Ontario.

In the early twenties Gus Abram brought his parents, his sister Emma and his brother Otto to Canada. Emma married a man named Wenzel from the Youngstown area. Otto moved north of Edmonton. Gus' parents lived with him till about 1934 when they went to live on the E. Kammerle farm. His mother died in 1936 and his father a year or two later. Both are buried in St. Peter's cemetery.

MR. and MRS. ERIC HICKS COLE, By Phyllis Cole Morlock — Hicks Cole was born on April 28, 1891, in Fillmore, Illinois. One of ten children, he resented having an older sister as his school teacher, and ran away from home, coming to Canada with Earl and Roy Darnell. The Darnells settled in the Horseshoe south of Castor, and Hicks worked for them until he homesteaded the SE 12-33-16 on April 24, 1913. He obtained a shack from Darnells, loaded it on a sleigh, and pulled it to his homestead where it served as his house.

In August, 1916, Hicks married Ruth Hartwell Townsend, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Townsend, who had homesteaded in 1910. They had two children, Hubert and Phyllis.

Hicks took an active part in community life. He was a good dancer and usually acted as floor manager at dances, auctioned pies at pie socials, and played his violin and banjo to entertain his neighbors. He was catcher for the Clear Lake ball club, and when he was no longer able to play ball, he acted as coach and manager for various teams. He was on the executive of the Clear Lake Community

Club, Chairman of the Annesheim school board, and Councillor for Lampton Municipality until it became part of the Special Areas.

Hicks was very acrobatic. Tom Pattinson remembers that as a small boy he was asked to pull the lucky ticket at a community gathering. The tickets had been put in Hicks' hat, and as Tom reached in, Hicks said to him, "You pull my ticket, now." Tom did, and was astonished and delighted to see Hicks put the hat upside down on the floor, and stand on his head in it.

In the early thirties the Cole family lived for about two years on the Jack Shelberg place, where there was a new house, good water, and the children were close to school. Mr. Shelberg was ill at the time, and when he died the Coles returned to their own place. In October of 1954 Mr. and Mrs. Cole were checking bins on land some five miles from home. It was a windy day and when they returned home they discovered that their house had burned down. Nothing was saved. As well as losing all their personal belongings and household furnishings, other valuables were destroyed.

The Coles had been in the habit of saving silver coins, and had several cocoa tins full of them. Although one might assume that the silver would melt into a lump, no trace of it was ever found. Hicks loved to write; over the years he had been in the habit of writing long letters to his parents, and possibly as a result of this, he began to write the story of his life. He called it 'Three Strikes Till Sundown'. The manuscript was destroyed in the fire, and Hicks never re-wrote it.

After the fire, Mr. and Mrs. Cole moved to Endiang, where she operated a restaurant and he drove a rural mail route. Hicks loved to play smear, and in the winter or on rainy days in the summer, he and his cronies would play at a table in the corner of the restaurant.

Hicks died in January, 1959. Mrs. Cole continued to live in Endiang for a few years, then moved to Kelowna, B.C. where at the age of seventy-eight she is well and active.

Hubert became a mechanic, and works in Cessford. He and his wife, the former Mary Mossop, have two children, and make their home in Craigmyle.

Phyllis married Bill Morlock, and they live at Gadsby. They had two sons and two daughters. One son, Keith, was killed in a traffic accident in 1976.

JOE VAN SICKLE — Joe Van Sickle came from eastern Canada. In 1917 he married Effie Wilde from Washington, and lived in a one-roomed house on William Pattinson's pre-emption while he was overseas during World War I. Later Joe bought the south half of 26-33-16 from the Hudson Bay Company and moved a good sized house on to the place.

While the family lived on the farm, Joe did trucking; at one time he had a butcher shop in Craigmyle, and ran a meat wagon during the summers and sold fish in the winters. In the early thirties they moved to Looma, Alberta, where they operated a store for many years.

They had a family of eight children, Agnes, Verna, Violet, Lawrence, Lester, Ray, William and James. Lawrence served overseas during World War II and brought a wife home with him. All the children are married and live close to Looma.

Joe Van Sickle died in 1969.

WILLIAM JARVIS FAMILY — The William Jarvis family came from England to file on the SE 25-33-16 on September 7, 1915. In 1917 they acquired the northeast quarter of the same section as a pre-emption.

There were two children, Lucy and Jessie. The family moved to Calgary about

1923, and shortly afterward Mr. Jarvis was killed when he fell down an elevator shaft during the course of his work.

Dan and Nick Lund rented the land for a time, and in 1942 Mrs. Jarvis sold it to Martin Baes.

Jessie Jarvis

Lucy Jarvis

THE JOHN KEEHN STORY, By Rose Keehn Mossey — John Keehn was born in the southern part [illegible] Russia in 1877. His wife, Rosalie Bais, was born in the same village in 1879. They and their children, Olga, Mary and Elmella, came [illegible] the U.S.A. in 1907. Three more children were born while they lived in Colorado, Elma Rose and John.

Dad came to Canada in 1917, we followed in March of 1919. I was only eight years old [illegible] the time, so do not remember the details. Dad had taken out a homestead, and also a coal mine in the Princeton district. We came to Craigmyle by train, then out to the coal mine by sleigh.

We received our mail at a small store run by Mr. Tasker. The address was Dowling, but it was not the same location as Dowling is now. I believe the groceries and other supplies came from Craigmyle.

We spent the winters at the mine and went to the Princeton school. The summers were spent on the homestead and we went to Annasheim school. Mrs. Pattinson was our teacher.

We got our water from a well about half a mile from our two-roomed house. There was no pump; we hauled the water in a barrel on a stoneboat, after we had dipped it out of the well with a pail on a rope and pulley, and by the time we got home, half the water had splashed out.

Our land was quite hilly and had a lot of sloughs. Our main meat was wild ducks, prairie chickens and rabbits.

The neighbor to our west was Gus Stulberg; across the road to the east was Joe Stulberg, who lived in a one-roomed sod house.

Mother was in this district for only three or four years, then she left for the Bullpound area, taking Elma, Rose and John Jr. with her. She stayed there for a year or two, then moved to Hanna where she remained until her death at the age [illegible] eighty-one.

Dad rented out the mine and stayed on the homestead until his death as the result of a car accident [illegible] 1929. Then the land was rented and later sold for taxes; I do not know who bought it.

Olga married Louie Treber in Colorado before coming to Canada. She is now a widow and is in a nursing home in Calgary.

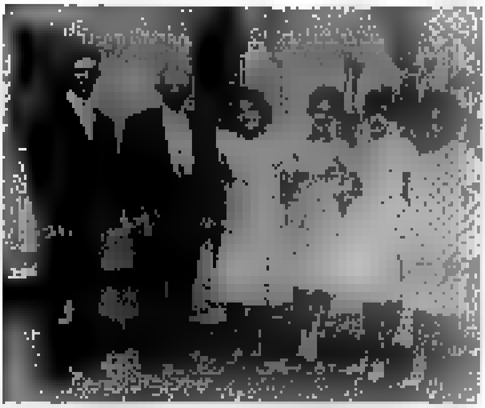
Mary married Alfred Donald, a homesteader of the Endiang district. They are retired and living in Lacombe.

Elmelia married Mr. Welch. She lives in California.

Elma married Jim Eagleson. He was accidently killed while working for the C.N.R. She [illegible] also in a nursing home [illegible] Calgary.

John married Nettie Pearson. He worked for the C.N.R. until he retired, and now lives in Calgary.

I married Neil Mossey of Lethbridge. When he joined the army in 1940, I came back to Hanna. He died in 1941 and I am still living in Hanna.



The Hans Hansen family. Jerry, Hans, Martha, Jeanette, Mary and Carol, 1967.

HANS HANSEN — My Dad and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hansen, and their seven children, emigrated from Denmark in 1907, and lived on a farm in the Olds area for two years. Two more children were born in Alberta, Nelsine and Thomas.

In 1909 my Dad filed on a homestead [illegible] the Victor district, the west half of 1-33-17, and in 1910 he moved the family out. We left Olds with four oxen, two saddle ponies, some cows, two pigs and a few chickens [illegible] a crate. [illegible] took us a week [illegible] make the trip. Dad farmed that land until 1944 when he sold it to Ross McGuire and retired [illegible] Craigmyle. He passed away in 1951 at the age of eighty-one; Mother died in 1953 at the age of eighty-three.

My brother John and I bought the west half of 25-33-16 from Alex Kalenith in 1920. We farmed together there until the dry thirties when my brother left. In 1938 the dry years ended, and that fall I married Martha Schultz. We farmed there until 1972, when Martha passed away from cancer. We had four children.

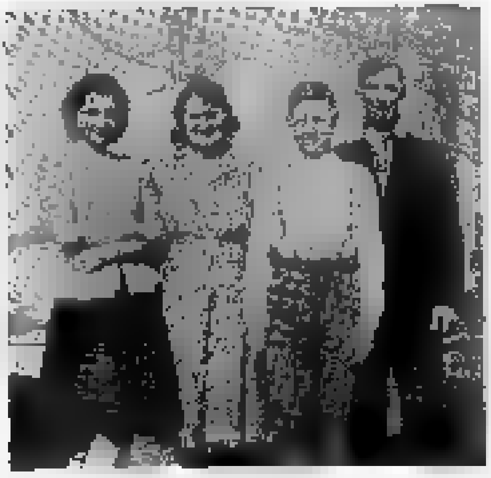
Jeanette, Mrs. Arnie Grindle, lives in Calgary; she has three children. Jerry lives in Hanna. Carol, Mrs. Pat Tailleur, has five children and lives in Calgary as does Mary, Mrs. Ray Riddle.

[illegible] 1972 I sold my farm to Herb Bossert and retired to Hanna.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SOBOLEWSKI, By John Moldon — My Father, Michael "Mac" Sobolewski was born in Rodymno, Poland, May 1, 1892 and Immigrated to Canada in May 1911. He worked as a hired hand on farms, and in a coal mine in the Craigmyle district from 1912 to 1922. Some of the people he worked for were Bert Kirkeby, George Moldon and Philip Kaster.

[illegible] 1918, Margaret Louise Moldon came to Canada from her birthplace of Southampton, England, to keep house for her brother, George Moldon, whose wife had died, and to care for the family. George Moldon farmed in the Craigmyle district.

In 1922 "Mac" who was working for George at the time, married Margaret Moldon in 1923 and moved to the northeast 7-33-15, the Bill Banner farm, twenty-two miles northwest of Hanna and remained there until 1937. Due [illegible] poor



Mr. and Mrs. Mack Sobolewski, John and Marjorie

crops because of drought. Mac worked for several winters in the Kirkaby mine.

Mac always drove good horses, and kept his harness in fine condition. He had a reputation of plowing the straightest furrow in the community.

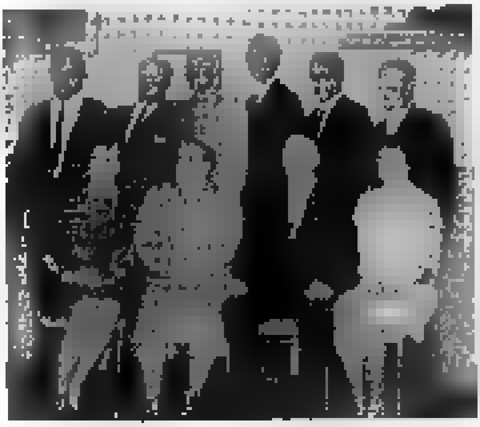
After three consecutive years of drought and being plagued by grasshoppers, Russian thistle and drifting soil, Mac decided, in 1937, to move his family and equipment to a farm in the Stony Plain district, thirty miles southwest of Edmonton. Much of the land had to be cleared of large trees but this was accomplished by bulldozers. It is very fertile soil and grows very heavy crops and hay. Mac and his family farmed at Stony Plain until his death in June 1967 at the age of seventy-five years. He was relatively successful farming at Stony Plain as he did not experience a crop failure in thirty years of operation.

Margaret Sobolewski passed away in December 1974 at in age of eighty-two years.

Michael and Margaret had two children, Marjorie and John, born in 1923 and 1929 respectively. They attended the Annasheim school prior to moving to Stony Plain.

Marjorie, Mrs. Robert Laing has two children and is living at Spruce Grove, Alberta.

John is married, has two children, and is living at Calgary.



The Chris Hill family. Back Row, left to right: Edward, Oscar, Herbert, Elmer, Henry and Fred. Front Row: Ida, Mrs. Hill, Mr. Hill and Frieda. Taken in 1958.

THE HILL STORY — Christian Hill was born February 26, 1902, in Besarine, Bessarabia; Ottilie Fehling was born December 22, 1906, in Klostitz, Bessarabia. They were married on May 8, 1923, and farmed and raised fruit until the f[illegible] of 1927 when they realized there was no future for them in Romania. They and their son Oscar, born September 23, 1926, arrived [illegible] Hanna in October, 1927. They were met there by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert, who told them of a neighbor of theirs who wanted to sell out.

The next day they bought the SW 30-33-15 from Frank Mathe, and the machinery and horses from Mike Wagner who had been farming the land. They also rented the NW 29-33-15, which was school land. Now they were Canadian farmers, and as they were not afraid of hard work, they got along fine. Language caused some problems at first but they soon overcame that.

On September 22, 1928, their second son Edward was born. In order to make ends meet they milked a dozen cows, shipped cream, and traded butter for groceries. They raised their own pigs and the smoke house was always full of

hams, sausages and bacon. Chicken and beef were canned in sealers. I'm sure that we actually ate better in the twenties and thirties than we do today. Of course there was always the forty-five gallon barrel of sauer kraut. The folks always hoped that their English neighbors would not visit until the sauer kraut had finished fermenting and no longer gave off a kind of cesspool smell.

Another son, Henry, arrived February 25, 1930. Things were getting a little rough and many a year they threshed only enough for next year's seed, and a little chicken feed. Dad usually worked off the threshing bill by hauling bundles on either the Andy Hanson or the Julius Schultz outfit.

When things got really bad about 1933 Dad built a hide-tanning machine and tanned hides to bring in a few dollars. He also made many sets of harness from tanned cow hides. He also made light driving harness with Yankee-style breeching. He braided many a blacksnake whip and made moccasins and shoe laces. Many a rawhide halter, lines and tugs went to the Harold Hunt ranch.

By this time Oscar and Edward had started school at Crow Hill. Those were the days of cold rides and frozen lunches. Oscar remembers one day grabbing the wrong Shamrock Lard pail as he left for school, and discovering that he had his mother's pail of lard for lunch. But Harvey Burt, Roland Kalmbach, Leo Anderson and Lou Lohrmann all chipped in and he soon had lots for lunch.

Another son, Fred, was born November 29, 1931, so that meant we had to milk another cow, or so it seemed. The bigger the family got, the more cows we milked. By 1936 Oscar remembers milking twenty cows.

Dad always raised and broke his own horses. He had spent three years in the Romanian army working with horses, and was an outstanding horseman.

On June 13, 1933, another son, Herbert, was born, another mouth to feed but still very welcome.

In the fall [illegible] 1936 Dad bought the east half of 30-33-15 from Frank Mathe. The Gust Abram family had been living there. It had been the Drexel homestead. We moved from the Wagner place to the Drexel land in the spring of 1936. Dad now had four quarters to farm with horses, but we were a little closer to Scapa than to Endiang so it took a little less time to haul the grain [illegible] market. Also we were now just one mile from the little Lutheran Church, so hardly ever missed a Sunday. We always had someone in for dinner after church; if it wasn't the Kalmbach family then it would be the Schweikerts or Gottlieb Webers or Dan Mattheis; the John or Alex Engels of the Jacob Buchwitz family.

On January 10, 1935, our first girl, Freda Joanne, arrived. For a while it was a novelty having a baby girl in the family, but that soon wore off. By this time Oscar, Ed and Henry were attending Annasheim school, which was a little closer than Crow Hill. Times were still plenty rough; Dad was still tanning hides.

The neighbors and Dad used to get together and strip their own coal and haul it home. This would take a week or ten days every fall. It meant hard, backbreaking work, sleeping and cooking out under the sky, with the weatherman plenty mean sometimes.

On September 25, 1937, a boy, Elmer, was born, so we made room in the house for him, and room in the barn for yet another milk cow, and we got along. Never will we forget the dust storms of those years, black as night in the middle of the day, and scared the house would take off at any minute. Come haying time we would just put up another stack of Russian thistle, which made good feed if it was put up early when the plant was still tender.

On November 9, 1939, a daughter Ida was born to complete the family. By this time things were getting a little better and we were getting a few rains. With everyone working together life became easier and we soon had a few dollars. We

bought the A.E. Lyxzen place, which gave us nine quarters altogether, and got a tractor which made the work easier and gave the horses a much-needed rest.

In the fall of 1943 we bought six quarters of land north of Delia, again from Frank Mathe, and Oscar and [illegible] started farming on their own. When Edward went to diesel mechanic school, Oscar and Henry farmed the Delia place.

In 1959 Dad and Mother built a house in Hanna and semi-retired. But Dad's health was failing, and after several major operations, he passed away on April 7, 1969. Mother is still living [illegible] Hanna where she does her own gardening and snow shovelling, and has her house full of plants in bloom the year round.

After the war Mother had her orphan nephew, Paul Bauch, come to Canada. He has done very well; he and his wife live in Hanna where they raised their family. Dad's mother also came over for a visit after the war, but she did not like it here, and returned to Germany.

Oscar married Isobel Ing of Craigmyle in 1950. They live on the Delia farm. Their children are Duane, Daryl, Brian, Darlene, Deanna, a[illegible] Brenda. Their son Barry died as the result of a very tragic farm accident on October 1, 1974, at the age of eleven years.

Edward married Maxine Dove of Hanna, where they and their children, Roxana, James and Myles, now reside.

Henry married Freda Engel of Endiang. They had three daughters, Debra, Dixie and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Fred married Ivy Bedingfield of Hanna. They and their children, Reid, Kathryn and Trent, live on the home place.

Herbert, his wife, the former Ellen Hogan of Oyen, and their children, Blake, Craig and Angela, live in Hanna.

Frieda married Reinhold Fecho of Hanna. They now reside [illegible] Sherwood Park with their family, Larry, Linda, Glenda, Garry, Terry and Kathy.

Elmer married Irene Sward of Sheerness. They are in Hanna.

Ida, Mrs. Kelly Grantham, is the youngest of the Nill family. She and Kelly have three children, Lana, Terry and Doug. They also live in Hanna.

Gottfried, Maggie, and Gerald Glubrecht, 1946

GOTTFRIED GLUBRECHT STORY — The first three years that I farmed [illegible] the Annasheim district I leased the Ole Braaten quarter, the SW 24-33-16, from Starland Municipality, and worked the land while I was living on the home place at Scapa. In the spring of 1942 I bought the farm previously owned by Jim Maxwell, the north half of 23-33-16. In 1943 and 44 I built a house and barn and other smaller buildings.

My first tractor was a 1930 12-20 Wallis-Massey-Harris which I bought from Chris Townsend. I used it until repairs became hard to get, then set it back in a fence corner, where it sat until a couple of years ago. Then some of my close neighbors put it back into running order and made a fine job of it. It is now an antique as there are very few of these tractors left in the country. It is now stored in a shop on the farm of Ken Halvorsen.

In 1946 Maggie Bowers, of the Golden Hill district south of Hanna, and I were

married. We have one son, Gerald, who married Mary-Ann Kelly of Drumheller. They have one son, Travis.

In 1967 I leased the farm to our son, who farmed there for three years and then went into the trucking business, and [illegible] now located at Sundre. My wife and I moved to Hanna where I worked as caretaker at the Hanna High School. After renting the farm to Tom Pattinson for several years, I decided [illegible] sell it to him.

We have many pleasant memories of our days in the Annasheim district. I enjoyed playing for dances and musical sessions at country schools and community centres. For some time my brother Shorty and I teamed up as a two-piece orchestra, and played together until he moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. I used to paint signs for the people living in the area, and still do some of this type of work.

The Herb Litke family, Ruby, Ronnie, Herb, Linda and Melvin

MR. and MRS. HERB LITKE, by Ruby Litke — Herb Litke, son of Michael and Marie Litke, started farming the Adolf Keist place, the west half of 23-32-14 in 1946. In 1950, Herb married Ruby Peterson, daughter of Gustave and Anna Peterson, pioneer farmers in the Rose Lynn district. We made our home here until 1956 when we moved to the Harold Lund farm, the north half of 6-33-15.

We were blessed with four children: Diane Marie was born March 25, 1952, but our joy was short as Our Lord called her home after a few hours. On January 16, 1954 Linda arrived, to be followed by Melvin on April 24, 1956, and Ronnie on June 22, 1958.

The two miles from the Keist buildings to the highway presented problems. About five-thirty one evening in January 1956, when we were coming home from town, using the tractor to pull the truck the last two miles in thirty below zero weather, the steering on the tractor broke when we were about a mile and a half from home. Herb walked to Bill Lumsden's and phoned Harry Lumsden, who came with a tractor with a front-end loader on it. Because of the deep snow in the hilly area, the weight of the farm-hand made the tractor wheels spin. We never got home until one-thirty in the morning and found the water pail frozen. We were glad to move from that place, where no one has lived since, to the Harold Lund farm the north half of 6-33-15.

In the spring of 1957, Linda was interested [illegible] Easter Bunnies. One evening Linda noticed a jack rabbit running, so over the hill she went to catch the Easter bunny. When she got out of sight of the buildings she became lost, and as [illegible] was getting dark she got so frightened and started to cry. We noticed Linda missing so we started to look for her and finally we heard her crying. [illegible] was a blessing that we found her. There was a lot of water in the dam and sloughs at the time; we were so worried that she might have fallen in the water.

Both Linda and Melvin graduated from grade twelve in Hanna. Linda did well in secretarial work and later took a hair dressing course in Vernon, B.C.

We had a sale [illegible] 1974, rented the farm to a neighbor, and moved to Vernon. We lived there [illegible] a couple of years but Herb found it hard to get work so we returned to Hanna where Herb is employed with C.C.I.L.

Melvin had a serious motorcycle accident in 1974 from which he has not yet fully recovered. He lives in Vernon.

Linda married Jerry Vriend in 1976 and they live in Calgary. Ronnie is attending school in Hanna.

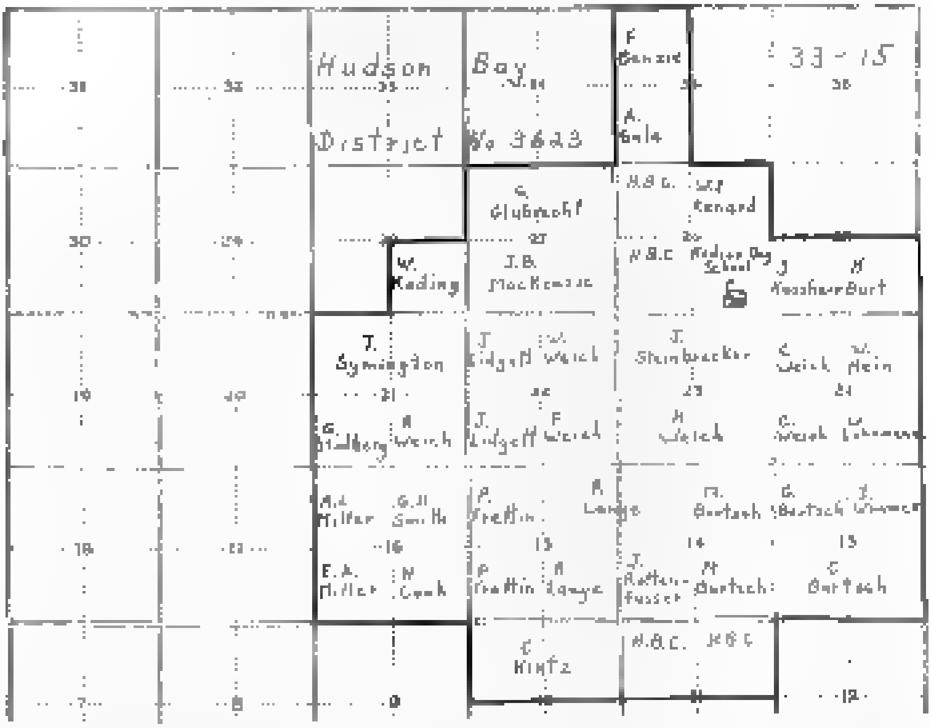
Moving the A. Blomberg house to the Jacob Bossert farm. George Chapman's Rumley Oil Pull and Titan tractors, 1926

ANDREW BLOMBERG — Andrew Blomberg came to Alberta from the mid-west portion of the United States, where he had worked in a brewery. On December 4, 1914 he filed on the east half of 19-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg had four children, Stanley, Arthur, Dorinda and Caroline.

Mr. Blomberg loved to hunt and fish. During the winters he would catch fish at Buffalo and other lakes and sell them throughout the area. He had a Waterloo Boy tractor, did custom breaking and plowing, and also had a threshing outfit. He owned one of the first one-ton trucks in the district.

Mr. Blomberg served as chairman of the Annasheim school board for many years. In the mid twenties the family moved to Rife in the Flat Lake district near St. Paul.

HUDSON BAY DISTRICT No. 3623



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — HUDSON BAY

The following is a list of some of the owners and renters in the Hudson Bay School District No. 3623 since the homesteaders. The last name is the present owner or renter.

NE 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
O. Litke
L. Diegel

NW 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
A. Litke
L. Diegel

NE 11-33-15
F. Lange
R. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 11-33-15
F. Diegel
A. Welch
B. Bolander
C. Hintz
W. Diegel
E. Lange
W. Diegel

S 13-33-15
C. Welch
F. Cook
W. Gaugler

NE 13-33-15
H. Wimmer

NW 13-33-15
C. Welch
R. Haessel
J. Wimmer
B. Wimmer

SE 14-33-15
F. Lange
R. Welch
R. F. Welch

SW 14-33-15
R. Lange
R. Lange
O. Erion

NW 14-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

NE 14-33-15
C. Welch
F. Welch

E 15-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

W 15-33-15
P. Trettin, Jr.
A. Trettin

SE 16-33-15
D. Welch

SW 16-33-15
R. Welch
O. Welch

NE 16-33-15
H. Cook
D. Welch

NW 16-33-15
A. Welch
L. Welch
G. Hall

SE 21-33-15
L. Welch
G. Hall

SW 21-33-15
A. Welch
L. Welch
G. Hall

N 21-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
H. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

SE 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

SW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

NE 22-33-15
E. Welch
B. Miller

NW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

S 23-33-15
F. Welch

N 23-33-15
S. Steinbrecker

SE 24-33-15
E. Haessel
M. Wimmer

NE 24-33-15
C. Welch
F. Welch

W 24-33-15
F. Welch

SE 25-33-15
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Welch
R. F. Welch

SW 25-33-15
H. Burt
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Welch
R. F. Welch

SE 26-33-15
Hudson Bay School
J. Steinbrecker
S. Steinbrecker

SW 26-33-15
A. Hein
G. Glubrecht
E. Welch
B. Miller

NE 26-33-15
F. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 26-33-15
G. Glubrecht
F. Lange
R. F. Welch

S 27-33-15
J. B. Mackenzie
E. Erion
O. Erion

N 27-33-15
E. Welch
B. Miller

SE 28-33-15
K. Keding
E. Welch
B. Miller

SW 35-33-15
F. Welch
R. F. Welch

NW 35-33-15
C. Lohrmann
L. Lohrmann

HUDSON BAY SCHOOL

By Gottfried Glubrecht

The Hudson Bay School District was formed about 1917 or 1918. The school was built in the fall of 1918, on Hudson Bay land on the SE of 26-33-15; that quarter was later bought by John Steinbrecker.

The first teacher was Hazel Hore; during the following years there were many others: Helen Hamilton, Mary Orde, Mrs. Harry Cook, Anna Copp, Miss Keer, Mary Allen, Janet McTaggart, Mac Slemp, Enos Lundrigan, Ruth Mayhew, Edna Hamilton, Doris Randal, Mildred Wood, John Kelly, Mrs. Wilma Baxter, Miss Bury, Florence Robertson, and Richard Williams.

The school board was made up of several farmers in the district. Some of the trustees were Carl Welch, Harvey Burt, G. Glubrecht, James Mackenzie, Emanuel Erion, Joe Lidgett and Henry Ruhl acted as secretary-treasurer at different times. George Haverstock was the school inspector.

When the school was taken into the large Sullivan Lake school division, William Storch Sr. was the official trustee. After the school was closed, and the

Miss Hamilton, Hudson Bay teacher, 1920

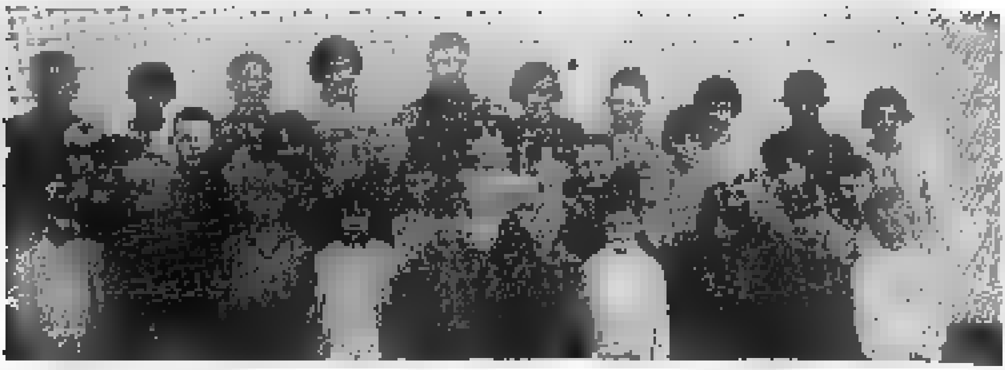
students transferred to Scape, the building was moved to, Youngstown where it was used as a public library.

In the early years the school served as a community centre. Many church services were held there, as well as pie and box socials and dances. It also served as a polling both during elections.

The people of the district were fortunate to have a very talented musician, Enos Lundrigan, as teacher. He could play many different instruments, which he had hanging on the walls of the school room. He taught his pupils to play them, and their performance and ability as an orchestra surprised and pleased the school inspector. Many young people in the district would never have been able to develop their musical talents if it had not been for this teacher.

Hudson Bay Pupils, 1942. Herbert Weich, Victor Erlon, Douglas Bury, Emanuel Erlon, Albert Erlon, Fred Glubrecht, Otto Erlon, Irene Steinbrecker, Emma Erlon, Ruth Weich, Emma Glubrecht, Otto Glubrecht, Herbert Wimmer and Katie Glubrecht.

Some of the settlers in Hudson Bay district at the time the school was opened were the families of Harvey Burt, Ernest Fletcher, G. Glubrecht, August Hein, William Hein, Andy Hanson, the Lohrmanns and the Leichts, Robert Lange, Joe Lidgett, the William, Adolf, Fred and Carl Weichs, John Steinbrecker, Tom Symington, James Mackenzie, and John Bodamann and his parents.



Hudson Bay School, 1928. Back Row, left to right: Benny Schielke, Lena Welch, Rudy Hein, Lydia Ruhl, Gottfried Glubrecht, Ida Welch, Vernon Glenn, Hedwig Hein, Otto Pahl, Mayta Welch. Second Row: first two unknown, Ernest Lange, Lydia Welch, Edward Glubrecht, Lily Schielke, Herbert Hein, Olga Welch, Bertha Welch. Third Row: Kathleen Fennell, David Ruhl, Freda Welch, Ernest Welch, Emma Pahl, Arthur Welch, Martha Glubrecht, Gust Schielke, Arthur Carl Welch. Front Row: Ruby Fennell, Reinhardt Welch, Alvina Welch, Margaret Malm, Arvid Malm, Gottlieb Glubrecht, Walter Hein, Annie Welch, Fred Welch, Ronald Hein.

REMINISCENCES OF A COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

By E. G. Lundrigan

Hudson Bay School, 1936. Standing, left to right: John Erion, Donald Welch, Henry Welch, Fred Glubrecht, George Steinbrecker, Sam Steinbrecker, Mary Erion, Ted Hintz, Alvina Erion, Emil Glubrecht, Mandy Welch, Esther Hein and Ruby Steinbrecker. Kneeling, Back Row: Irene Steinbrecker, Pauline Hein, Emma Glubrecht, Alma Welch, Lenard Geisler. Front Row: Sam Hintz, Christ Hintz, Reinhold Hintz, Emanual Erion and Katie Glubrecht.

From September 1933 to June 1936 I taught at the Hudson Bay School, about two and a half miles southwest of Scapa. It was a typical one-room cottage school for grades one to eight, situated on an open plot, without a tree or shrub but with the customary two out houses and a barn. Those were the dirty thirties; the summer winds howled in the shingles and rattled the windows; dust sifted into the school and over everything and everybody. In the winter it was almost impossible to keep the school warm enough; on cold mornings we often huddled around the small stove or marched around the room to keep warm. However, I don't remember anyone complaining about it — perhaps we had too many other problems to think about.

Times were hard for everyone. My salary was $600.00 — later $500.00 per year and I considered myself to be one of the lucky ones for I was paid in full each year. When I considered the financial problems of some of the families in the district I felt a twinge of guilt for having been paid so much. Of course there were many compensations. Very good room and board cost $15.00 per month; the usual charge at weekend dances was 25¢ if you brought your own lunch.

School attendance was in the low thirties. Space will not permit listing all of their names; however I still remember all of them with considerable affection. Families represented included the Welch's (three families), Steinbreckers, Glubrechts, Ruhls, Hintz, Heins, Lidgetts, Erions, Pahls, Bartschs. They were a healthy, energetic group and needed to be kept busy so we all worked hard in the classroom and played hard [illegible] recesses and noon. Everyone seemed to enjoy playing ball and we played it with an enthusiasm that left little time for mischief or quarreling. As might be expected, they developed one of the best teams in the area.

Most of them loved music and, particularly during the winter months, spent many hours learning [illegible] play whatever instruments they were able to buy or borrow for the purpose. Just about everyone had at least a part ownership in some instrument and I can still hear the din of guitars, violins, banjos, mandolins, etc. as they practised scales, chords and melodies. Soon we were able to form them into an "orchestra" so that at least most of them were playing the same tune. My own musical ability was somewhat limited but with their natural talent and by helping one another they soon began to play quite well, made some public appearances and even divided into senior and junior groups.

In those years one of the main events of the year was the Christmas concert which was held in each school in the latter part of December and which the public for miles around were welcome to attend. November and December were largely devoted to preparation for the event and normal activities and even studies were temporarily suspended in an all out effort to produce the best possible program. The event certainly played havoc with our school schedules but I have often thought that it gave the pupils a wealth of experience in the fields [illegible] dramatics, music, deportment, team work and enjoyment which they would otherwise have missed. I never think of these concerts without remembering our first program. When I reached to pull the curtain, I tripped and fell flat on the stage to the merriment of all — except me.

The three years at Hudson Bay went by all too quickly; when I moved to a new location I hoped that I had been a beneficial influence on the lives of those whom I had been privileged to teach. I knew that I had derived a wealth of memories and friendships that would last me for the rest of my life.

In September 1936 I commenced teaching grades 1 - 8 at Scapa. Although originally a one-room school it had a basement which had been modified to provide a small high school room. Of course there was no adequate sound proofing between the floors and the noise from our elementary room must have been almost unbearable for the high school. However I don't remember any complaints.

I doubt that I can recall the names of all who attended the school during my two and a half years [illegible] Scapa but the family names included: Graham, Riddle, Hein, Hausher, Hessel, Lohrmann, Smart, Arndt, Camp, Cattanach, Witchen, Panchuk, Ostlund, Schielke, Ostopowich. As at Hudson Bay, most of our extra curricular activities involved music and playing ball. In the former department we were fortunate to have students who were able to play the piano and, as the Scapa Community Hall had a piano, our music took on a better sound and, in addition to Christmas Concerts, our orchestras made a few other appearances.

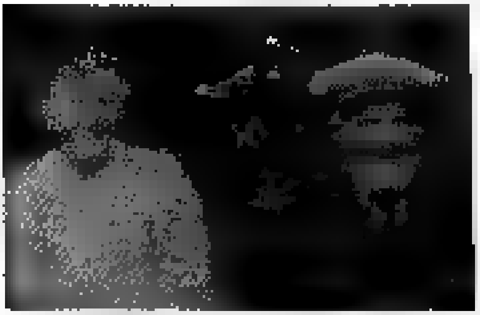
We also decided to take a try at dramatics and entered two items in a festival in Hanna. We must have done everything wrong for we certainly didn't win any prizes but we had an enjoyable time and it was a good experience for all of us. As a special treat for us a friend had donated enough money to buy dinner for everyone. So at noon I took them all to the Club Cafe and they ordered their meals. Before they had finished I remembered something that must be done at the festival and went off to attend to it. I had gone about a block before I remembered that I had not paid for the meals so I turned back, only to meet a waitress rushing after me, bill in hand.

There is another incident which I remember with a certain amount of embarassment. In my spare time I had been studying electronics and had designed and constructed a tiny radio transmitter which put out a week signal just above broadcast band but tuneable on most home radios. I had some doubts about the legality of such a transmitter, but when I inquired of an acquaintance who had a similar unit, he assured me that it was permissible so long as it did not reach more than fifty miles and did not interfere with the broadcast band. I was naive enough to believe him and for a few months we had a grand time with impromptu programs, conversations, dedications, etc. Eventually word of our activities must have reached the authorities for they suddenly appeared on the scene and we went off the air permanently.

On another occasion the children in the junior grades had been studying Gulliver's Travels and were fascinated with the story of the Lilliputians. As a recess game they persuaded me to lie on the ground so that they could swarm all over me like Lilliputians. At a given signal I had to try to get up. It was quite a struggle but I always made it. One day in the midst of this fun a car drove up and the school inspector got out. I believe he thought that I was being murdered. When I explained what was going on he laughed and enjoyed the joke; that day I received my best inspector's report.

During these years the hard times seemed to get harder. Crops were dried out, blown out, hailed out, cleared out by grasshoppers or worms and many of the farmers began [illegible] give up hope of ever having a good crop. Some sold everything and moved away to what appeared [illegible] be greener fields. One winter the community received boxcars loaded with green feed for the cattle, apples, beans, fish, etc. for the families; these were gifts from families in more fortunate circumstances. But through all their hardships these people never seemed to lose their sense of humour, cheerfulness and neighborliness; confident that good times were just around the corner. And so they were. But it is in time of adversity that people display their true strength of character; for these rural people I developed a respect and admiration that I will never forget. In December 1938 I left Scapa to teach in a rural high school, thus ending my career as a public school teacher.

The days of the rural school teacher are now long gone and the one-room schools are rapidly disappearing from the landscape. Of course the consolidated schools can provide much better academic training and more efficient transportation for the pupils of today. Yet I never see an abandoned rural school without a feeling of sadness for what was once the heart and social centre for the community whose children it once served and where education was in the hands [illegible] a teacher who lived there, was part of the community and had a stake in the future of each and every child.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bartsch

THE MARTIN BARTSCHs, By Helen Bartsch Thompson — Martin and Barbara Bartsch arrived in what is now the Scapa district in 1910 from Washburn, North Dakota. They came by rail to Castor and from there to the homestead, the S.E. quarter 14-33-15, with horses and wagon and all their belongings.

They had to go to Castor for groceries and mail until the railroad arrived in Hanna in 1912. They endured many hardships, one of which was carrying all their water from a spring half a mile away.

To their new home they brought their family of five: Theresa, the oldest, later became Mrs. Charles Johnson and settled in the Dowling district. She had a family of nine. Charles and Theresa Johnson have both passed away.

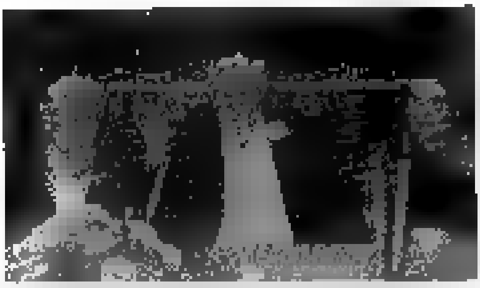
George, the oldest son, married Catherine Schaffner and homesteaded the N.W. quarter 13-33-15, and after a year moved to Castor. They had a family of six. George passed away in 1940. Catherine still resides at Paintearth Lodge in Castor.

Casper, the second son, homesteaded the S.W. quarter 13-33-15 and later married Marie Lohrmann. They had a family of five. They resided at Scapa for a number of years, then moved to Stony Plain. Both Casper and Marie have passed on.

Marie married Don Cameron and after he passed away she moved to Vancouver where she still lives.

Rochus, the youngest son, left home at an early age and has not been heard from since.

Grandma Bartsch passed away in 1926 and Grampa moved to Castor where he stayed till his demise in 1940.



Mrs. Johnson, Casper and Marie Bartsch. Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1966.

CASPER** (1891 - 1974) **and MARIE** (1897 - 1967) **BARTSCH, By Elma (Bartsch) Burnham — Cap Bartsch came from Washburn, North Dakota, to the area north of Hanna with his parents, Martin and Barbara Bartsch, in 1910.

Marie came from Minnesota about a year later with her parents, William and Maria Lohrmann.

They married in 1916 and had five children: Elma Burnham of Wabamun, Lucy Thompson of Edmonton, Eileen Hartum of Stony Plain, Dick Bartsch of Calgary, and Phyllis Connors of Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1913 Cap homesteaded section 13-33-15 north of Hanna. When the grasshoppers came in 1934 they moved to a farm four miles west of Stony Plain. Gone were the days of the big steam threshing machines like Chris Lohrmann had or the smaller ones Charley Lohrmann had. That year the grain was too short to tie. A box was rigged on the binder and the grain dumped in piles. It was then stacked. In less than an hour it was threshed and the machine gone.

After eight years they sold out and went to the coal mines in Cadomin and Luscar till they were shut down in 1952. From there they went to pipeline work in Alberta and Saskatchewan. They retired to a small home in Wabamun in 1960.

As the years passed their memories often went back to their many friends and relations, the good times and the bad times while living in the Hanna – Scapa area. It was always home.

LEO ERION'S STORY — Leo Erion is the youngest son of Emmanuel and Maria Erion. Leo's preschool years were spent on the family's farm two miles south and two miles west of Scapa. He attended school at Scapa up to grade five.

At the age of ten, Leo, along with his folks and his younger sister, Florence, and older brother, Ernie, moved to Creston, B.C. There he lived for eight years during which time he finished his schooling, along with picking fruit, or should I say eating it.

After graduating he returned to Scapa. The next few years he spent on the home farm in the summers and working out at various jobs during the winter.

In 1970 he married Shirley Kenzler from Big Valley. The couple lived on the family farm, which was owned by Otto Erion, for five years.

In 1976 Leo, Shirley and their two-year-old son, Mark, moved to the farm location N.E. 25-33-15 which is just southwest of Scapa. The farmsite, better known as the George Hausher farm, was purchased from Karl and Beryl Friedenberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cook

MR. and MRS. HENRY TROWBRIDGE COOK, By Ida Grosse — Harry Cook came to Canada as a boy of eighteen, and filed on a homestead seven miles southwest of Scapa, the SE 16-33-15, on June 14, 1912. He more or less made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner, until he found a job, and worked for local farmers until he had enough money to build a little shack on his land. He worked for Mr. Farrell, and his name and the date, 1916, can still be seen in the cement of the basement wall of that house. He also worked for Mr. Molden, and ran a custom plowing outfit for Andy Hanson in 1915.

He was talented in many ways. He was a very good skier; he made his first pair of skis, and came over almost every Sunday for dinner. Later he bought a pair of skis from Eaton's, for two dollars, I think it was. They were slightly curved up at the front, and he was so proud of them. One night when he came over I sneaked out to try them out; I went down the hill and cracked one of the skis. I hurried into the house and went to bed, but the next day when I got home from school he was there. I got a good talking-to from him and my dad, and that was when I learned to leave other people's things alone.

Harry was the only man I knew who cut his own hair, and made a good job of it too. He cut my dad's hair for years.

He made one of the first radios in the country, the first one we had heard. Later he made one for my dad and he and I used to have one earphone each to listen to it.

He had a wonderful shop, very small, but with a lot of tools. He had a sign above the door, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." He even swept the dirt floor of that place with a broom.

He lived a very lonely life, but he enjoyed reading, was a beautiful writer, and mailed no end of letters to England. Later on we knew why. One day about 1922 I rode over to Harry's on my pony, and everything in the shack was outside.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"Spring cleaning," he replied.

I went home and told my dad, who thought it was very unusual because the place was always clean. I mentioned the boots and overshoes and clothes that had come out from under the bed, and dad joked that maybe the love bug had bitten him. Sure enough, a few days later he brought his bride over to introduce her to us.

Dorothy Marion O'Neil had come out from England in 1920. She was a nurse who had been in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, during the war, and had worked [illegible] hospitals looking after the wounded. She had also taught school in England. She had been married to a friend of Harry's, and after her husband died, continued to correspond with him. Her parents and Harry's were friends. After the war, she went to Calgary and attended Normal school, then taught for a year at Didsbury.

She had a wonderful sense of humor. When she was hired to teach a rural school some distance from her home, the local school board member tried to find a suitable place for her to stay. There was an empty house across the road, not in very good shape, but the trustee told her that it had a very good chimney.

"Mr. Storch," she replied. "I shall not be living in the chimney."

After they were married for a few years, they built another room on their house. Harry washed every rock for the foundation.

Many were the evenings they spent at our home. Mrs. Cook would say, "We shall now have a song from Cookie." It wasn't hard to get him to sing and he had a beautiful tenor voice. Often Stanley Peake would come over too, and with mother playing the organ we would all have a very enjoyable sing-song. Mr. Cook's favorite song was "Thora", and he sang it very well indeed.

Mrs. Cook taught at many rural schools, Orlando, Annasheim, Scapa, Chain Lakes, Hudson Bay, Watts, Corine and Buchan. She was made a life member of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Mr. Cook had walked over a rock in his farm yard for years, but one time when he struck it with his foot it sounded hollow. He dug it up and discovered [illegible] was an Indian skull. He named it Pocahontas.

In 1952 Harry had the misfortune [illegible] fall off his windcharger and injure his back. When he recovered he decided [illegible] sell the farm to Dan Welch. He had a sale and bought a home in Hanna. He had a little shop in his basement where he sharpened saws and built up quite a business. He also made stools and walkers for the hospital; his name is stamped on the bottom of some of them which are still in use.

Both were active members of All Saints Anglican church. Harry sang in the choir and Dorothy held the office of secretary of the Anglican Church Women.

Eventually they moved to the Acadia Lodge where Harry passed away [illegible] 1965 [illegible] the age of seventy-one. Mrs. Cook died in 1974. Both were cremated and their ashes scattered over their farm.

E. ERION and FAMILY, [illegible] O. Erion — Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Erion arrived in Canada May 15, 1927 from Bessarabia, Romania with their five children, Lena, Arnold, Alvina, Mary and John. They bought a half section of land three and a half miles southwest of Scapa from the Soldier Settlement Board.

After they had settled in their new home, on August 1, 1927, Mrs. Erion passed away. She was Rosina Pahl before marriage. Later Emanuel married Maria Pahl, sister to his first wife.

[illegible] 1929 they decided to move the buildings to a better location on the farm. Using two C. N. rails and some wagons they moved the three-roomed house one-half mile across the field with twelve horses. Here [illegible] was placed on a full cement basement, making more space for the family to live. A granary was also used to sleep in through the summer.

In the thirties they experienced a depression because of the drought, dust storms, grasshoppers and poor grain prices. In 1939, after things got better, Mr.

Erion and O. Pahl bought a threshing machine which they used to thresh their own crops and those of other nearby farmers for ten years.

In 1941, six more rooms were built on the house, increasing it from three to nine rooms. Two years later a hip roofed barn was bought seven miles south of the farm. It was moved home on skids behind two caterpillar tractors, and put on a cement floor. A light plant was also installed on the farm and served as power till the line came through in 1952.

In the mid-fifties Mr. and Mrs. Erion moved to Creston, B.C. with some of the family. There they worked until Mrs. Erion passed away in April, 1966. Mr. Erion married again to Anna Wolfrum and retired to Victoria.

Lena, who is Mrs. Carl Weber, is living in Stettler, Alberta where she and her husband are both employed at the Stettler Hospital. Arnold was in the army from 1942 to 1946, in the Lord Strathcona Horse. He served as tank driver in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. After the war Arnold and his wife, who was Freda Mix, farmed [illegible] the New Norway district until they moved to Calgary a few years ago. There Freda became ill and passed away. Arnold is now married again. Alvina, Mrs. Nat Buckwitz, lives in the Endiang district where they have ranched for many years. Mary and her husband, Helmet Riemer, live in Kamloops, B.C. John married Lucille Frey. He farms and raises cattle.

Born in Canada as half-brothers and sisters were: Emanuel who lives at Leduc. Emanuel has been a plumber since school days, later taking on gas fitting as well. He is now starting a dairy farm. Otto has been on the farm at home since his folks left for Creston, B.C. He farms with Leo and also hauls gravel. Victor, with his wife who was Violet Graumann, moved to Brooks from Calgary in 1975. He works as maintenance man at the Hospital. Violet drives a school bus. Albert and his wife, who was Tina Thiessen, are in Ethiopia Africa, under the Sudan Interior Mission. Albert works at a radio station and Tina is teaching. Emma and her husband Ken Flag live in Calgary. Walter and his wife who was Diane Leimert, live at New Sarepta, Alberta. Walter is Pastor of one of the churches there. Roland and his wife were at Hinton, Alberta. Roland lost his life [illegible] a mine accident there in December, 1975. His wife is now [illegible] Red Deer. Ernie and wife live in Camrose where Ernie is a welder. Florence and her husband Terry Murphy live in Calgary. Leo and his wife live near Scapa.

THE GOTTLIEB GLUBRECHT FAMILY, By Gottfried Glubrecht — Gottlieb Glubrecht and his wife Carolina were married in 1908 at Kersonsky, near the Dnieper River in the Ukraine, Russia. They immigrated to North Dakota and farmed near Hebrone, where their oldest son, Gottfried, was born in 1910.

They lived in Spokane, Washington for a time until they moved to Canada and took a homestead two miles west of the present hamlet of Scapa, in 1914.

My father had filed on the NE 27-33-15 in 1913, and built a sod house. One hot day he and his brother-in-law, Pete Draxel, were digging the cellar for the house. The lumber for the roof was piled up nearby. As they were busy digging, they thought that they could smell smoke. Looking up, they discovered that the air was quite thick with smoke. Hurriedly, they scrambled out of the hole and found that a large prairie fire coming from the south was almost upon them. At that time the prairie was covered with [illegible] heavy growth of dry grass. Immediately they became concerned about the lumber lying in the grass, and started putting it down in the cellar hole. Fortunately they got [illegible] down before the fire swept across, blackening everything in [illegible] path.

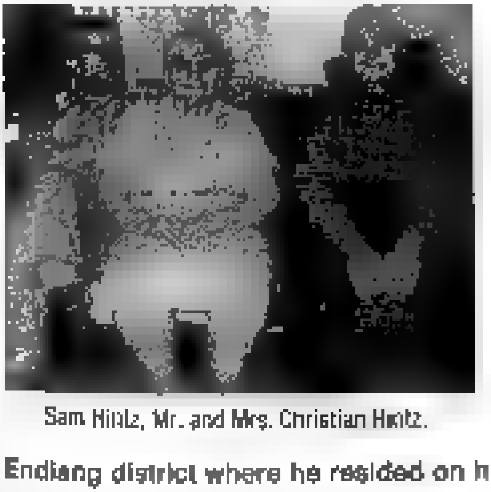
How far north [illegible] went or where it stopped I don't remember. A homesteader by the name of Mike Schaffner, who lived about two miles north of our place, had

gone to the Castor district that day. His car-roof shack was built up about two feet off the ground on several large rocks. The grass was quite heavy around that building too, but luckily the fire swept through underneath the house and left it undamaged.

The Gottlieb Glubrecht family, 1938. Standing: Edward, Fred, Gottlieb (Shorty), Emil, Martha and Gottfried. Seated: Mr. Glubrecht, Katherine, Otto, Emma and Mrs. Glubrecht.

There were eleven children born into the Glubrecht family. Bertha and John died as infants. Gottfried, Edward, and Martha live in Hanna. Gottlieb Jr. (Shorty) is in North Battleford, Saskatchewan; Emil, Fred and Emma (Pat) are in Calgary; Katherine is living at Victoria and Otto is at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Our parents remained on the farm until Father's passing in February, 1968. Mother and Edward moved into Hanna that summer, and Mother died in November of the same year.



Sam Hintz, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hintz.

CHRISTIAN HINTZ FAMILY, By the Hintz Brothers — Dad was born [illegible] Romania, February 17, 1887; the son of Samuel and Susan Hintz. In 1904 at the age of 17, [illegible] left his home and went to South America. He lived and worked in Brazil and Argentina until moving to the Dakotas in the U.S.A. In 1910 he immigrated [illegible] Canada; taking a homestead in the Dowling Lake district; the north half of 10-33-15. He was one of the founding members of the Dowling Lake Lutheran Church; also an active board member for many years. In 1936 he moved [illegible] the Endiang district where he resided on his farm until his passing, on June 20, 1971 [illegible] the age [illegible] [illegible] years.

Our mother was born in Odessa, Russia on September 22, 1891. She was the daughter of Jacob and Karoline Schmiedge. In 1912 she immigrated to Canada with her mother and her younger brother. They settled in the Regina area of Saskatchewan. Mother married Carl Leippi on October 12, 1918; he died a year later in the flu epidemic. There was one son, Adolph, from this marriage. Adolph and his wife Anne are retired in Stettler. They have a son, Carl, who is married and lives at the coast where he operates his own firm.

Christian Hintz ploughing virgin prairie.

Our parents were married June 8, 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan. They took up residence on Dad's homestead. Several months later our Grandmother Schmiedge came to live with us until her passing on April 21, 1922.

Their union was blessed with four sons and one daughter. They are as follows: Theodore, who [illegible] married. He and his wife Dorothy are retired in Penticton, B.C. They have a son and a daughter.

Samuel, Christian and Reinhold live on the home farm, section 15-35-15. They are still engaged in farming and ranching.

Regina is married to Keith Marshall and resides [illegible] Rimbey. They have a son, Martin in the Air Force and a daughter, Elaine in school.

Dad's cousin William Hintz also immigrated to Canada, taking up a homestead [illegible] this area, the N.E. of 34-32-15. He returned to the U.S. for military duty in World War I. Later on he took a position with Union Pacific Railways as [illegible] electrical engineer. He held this position until his retirement. In 1959 he sold his land to the late Mrs. Margaret Wiese and her son Walter. He passed away December 27, 1972 in Portland, Oregon.

Other pioneers of the area and neighbors were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Trettin and their son Paul, Mr. Henry Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lindley, and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Renner. These people were some of the nearest neighbors [illegible] the pioneer days.

The Lutheran Church services were held in the Renner home for some time in the early days. Rev. Julius Zaetschky was the founder and organizer [illegible] St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Dowling Lake.

Oxen were the beasts of burden in those early days. We recall interesting tales about how slow and headstrong they were at times. Dad got horses as soon as he was able to make the change.

One other interesting feature about our home was that we had a flowing well in our yard. The amount of water was limitless and the quality second to none. The road allowance north of us was not passable so everyone came through our yard. Many a traveller refreshed his horses and himself at the well.

In the early days considerable trading was done in Castor. However, Hanna was the main shopping town. Most of the grain was hauled to Hanna, or sometimes to Watts. We got our mail from Hanna.

We recall the dirty thirties. A cloud of dust would darken the heavens, so that it was almost like night time. Speaking about events which we will never forget, in the spring of 1929, a prairie fire rolled down on us from the northwest. We can still see it rolling along in the prairie wool. We plowed furrows about one rod apart and our helpful neighbors came and we were able to save our yard. Another event was the hoppers in 1934. They were just everywhere. We used to haul a mixture of sawdust and poison. This was all to no avail. The story was, if your poison killed one hopper, a hundred would come to [illegible] funeral.

The first school we attended was called Chain Lakes. It most likely got the name from several small lakes in the area. After a few years we were transferred [illegible] Hudson Bay School. As near as we can recall it was on land which was owned at one time by the Hudson Bay Land Company.

In 1938 after we moved to our present farm at Endiang, we attended Leith Hill School. The main reason for the move was the distance to school. To Chain Lakes and Hudson Bay, our former schools, we had almost four miles to go; while Leith Hill was less than a mile. I might add here, our new school was named after Mr. Sam Leith, a pioneer of this area.

One year we were threshing for our neighbor, Mr. Cook. After serving us supper, Mrs. Cook told us that everyone on the crew, excepting the owners, had been her pupils at one time or another. After considerable discussion, she proved her statement correct. Mrs. Cook had taught in various schools in the area for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Cook finally retired to Hanna. Both have passed away. However, she will be remembered by many of her students for years to come. Just another example of the true pioneer spirit.

In early pioneer days the biggest and best gathering was at our church. We, along with most of our neighbors embraced the Lutheran heritage. So in 1921, a church was founded and built. It still stands there till this day, over 56 years later, known far and wide by many as the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, at Scapa. Our Dad was very active both in founding and getting it built. He served on the board for many years.

Our parents were very dedicated to their faith. Naturally we were all raised in a home where our church and religion played a prominent part. The country was new, everything was hard; this held people more towards one goal in life, with their faith playing a very important role.

Through the years we had a long list of ministers serving us. The founding minister of St. Peter's Dowling Lake was Rev. Zaetschky. He travelled many a mile in his buggy. Later on at St. Peter's Lutheran [illegible] Scapa, some of our ministers were Rev. H. Bietsch, followed by Rev. [illegible]. Manz, Rev. R. Wulff, Rev. J. C. Abe, Rev. H. Brandt, Rev. I. Holm, just to mention a few of them.

We always had a school concert; this was a big event. The school would be jammed with people to see us pupils do our part. We also would have a nice Christmas Concert at the church. All the Christmas Carols and recitations as well as the story of our Saviour's birth in Bethlehem were presented.

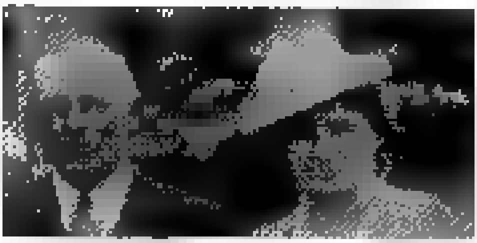
In the summer we had a big day at the end of the school term, a school picnic, with races for all ages, ball games, etc. Clear Lake was used as a summer resort. It

had dances in the hall, booths on the grounds; ball games and swimming and bathing in the lake.

We do complain about prices of beef and grain at present. In those days one cent per pound of beef; a double-deck box on a wagon, full of wheat around eleven dollars. How would we like these prices? Now consider the hard labour in those days, compared to the present day farming, in order to produce the beef and grain. How many of us would do it? There was no government assistance, no Wheat Board. The farmer was at the mercy of everything, including the severe drought.

Most pioneers had sod shacks for their first home. We recall Mr. Henry Cook's sod shack very vividly. It was the last one in the neighborhood.

The foregoing is a brief description of events, conditions and times of the pioneer days. This is how our pioneers worked, played, struggled and prospered. Their goal was to build a life for themselves and their families in a raw and untamed country. Their hardships and suffering gave us, their children, the opportunity to enjoy our modern day life style.


Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Lange.

MR. and MRS. FRITZ LANGE, By E. Lange — Fritz Lange left his native Germany in 1927 and came to Craigmyle, Alberta, where he worked on a large grain farm. In 1929 he acquired the east half of 11-33-16 in the Scapa district. Since the land was all virgin prairie, that summer Mr. Lange broke 150 acres with a Fordson tractor, pulling a two bottom plow. He also built a small house and a garage.

In the fall of 1929 he went back to Germany and in February the following year he was united in marriage with Miss Hedwig Werner. The couple then returned to Canada arriving at the farm March 20, 1930. They were obliged to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bohlender until their stove, which they had purchased in Winnipeg, was shipped to Scapa.

Mr. and Mrs. Lange, who were not afraid of hard work, toiled from early morning until late at night milking cows, raising chickens and tilling the fields. Their first chicken house was built of sod, possibly one of the last sod buildings to be in use on the prairies.

With hard work and good management they survived the depression years and when better crops returned Mr. Lange purchased an additional two quarters of land.

They farmed until 1952 and while they were still fairly young in years they disposed of their livestock and machinery and moved to the city of Calgary to retire. In 1956 they made a trip to Germany to visit with relatives and friends. This was to be the last time Mr. Lange saw his homeland because in October of 1968 he was called from this life. Mrs. Lange continued to reside in Calgary until January of 1977 when she too followed her husband in death. The couple was not blessed with children.

THE ROBERT LANGE FAMILY, By Ernest Lange — Robert Lange left Germany in 1895 and came to Minnesota in the United States. In 1905 he came to Nanton, Alberta where he worked for a time on the Bar U Ranch. Later he acquired his own farm in the Nanton area. In 1910 he disposed of his property in Nanton

and made a trip to Germany. In August of 1910 he returned to Canada bringing with him Miss Franziska Geisler whom he married in Calgary the same month. The couple resided in the village of Nanton during the winter of 1910-1911.

In the spring of 1911 they shipped all their belongings by rail [illegible] Castor from where they hauled them by horses and wagon to the homestead on N.W. 14-33-15 where Mr. Lange had built temporary shelter consisting of an eight by eight shack and a small barn. Later they obtained the east half of 15-33-15 on which they built a sod house where they spent the winter months. It was necessary to do this in order to "prove up" the homestead.

There were no trees in the area so during the summer they used buffalo chips in the cook stove. For fence posts the men had to drive to Castor and cut trees during the night, because the land was all privately owned. In the spring of 1911 Mr. Lange broke up forty acres of virgin prairie which he seeded to grain. Since none of the land was fenced, cattle belonging to local ranchers roamed freely. It was Mrs. Lange's daily chore to drive these cattle away from the grain with a horse and buggy.

They got their first mail at Lillico Post Office and then at Kane's store at Garden Plains. The first grain had to be hauled [illegible] Castor; one of these trips usually took 3 days or longer. When Hanna came into existence in 1912 they thought they were in heaven — they could make the entire trip in one day!

The experience of which Mrs. Lange spoke most frequently was her first trip to the homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Lange left Castor early one morning in March with a team of horses and a wagon with a triple box loaded high with a bed, stove, furniture, groceries, etc. When darkness fell they attempted to cross a small creek somewhere east of the present hamlet of Scapa. The heavily loaded wagon sank down in the deep snow which still lay in the creek, and the horses, played out from the long journey on muddy trails, were unable to pull the load out. Mr. and Mrs. Lange were therefore obliged to spend the night beside the wagon with only a mattress leaned against the wagon for shelter from the cold March wind.

During the night they could hear a dog barking so they presumed that a farmyard could not be too far away. When daylight came they set out on foot and arrived at the Hausher farm, then occupied by George Hausher's father and mother. After having breakfast with the Haushers Mr. Lange returned to his horses and wagon. No sooner had he reached the wagon than a Mr. Renner arrived with a team of oxen. The horses were unhitched and the oxen pulled the load out with ease. Mr. Lange then resumed his journey, picked up Mrs. Lange at Hausher's and they arrived at the Martin Bartsch farm [illegible] time for dinner. They were now within a half mile of home.

When they set up housekeeping on their homestead Mr. and Mrs. Lange had to sleep in the barn while Paul Trettin Sr., who stayed with them, slept on a bunk in the eight by eight shack. Mrs. Lange cooked the meals on a small stove in the shack but since there was no room for a table they had to sit outside and eat. Mr. Lange and Mr. Trettin were at this time building a two room house which they were able [illegible] occupy in a few weeks.

As more settlers arrived there was much visiting. Playing cards was the main pastime. Every Sunday people could be seen travelling to the Lange's farm home on foot, by saddle horse or horse and buggy for a visit and to enjoy one of Mrs. Lange's delicious meals. Nobody ever left her home without having a lunch or a meal. Thus they spent their life on the farm enduring hail storms, poor prices and finally the drought and dust storms of the depression. Robert Lange passed away in August of 1938. Mrs. Lange continued to reside on the farm until 1946 when she moved to Hanna where she passed away in 1971.

ERNEST LANGE, By Ernest Lange — Ernest Lange was born on the family farm in September of 1918. Because doctors were few and far between, Mrs. Saxemith, a local midwife, assisted with his birth. He received his education at Hudson Bay School and worked on the farm with his father. Following his father's death he and his mother continued to operate the farm until 1946. From 1946 until 1951 Ernest worked [illegible] the Ideal Grocers in Hanna. [illegible] 1951 he resumed farming until 1967. Being troubled with allergies all his life, he was forced to give up farming permanently then. Following the death of his mother in 1971 he moved to Osoyoos, British Columbia for four years. In February of 1976 he returned to Hanna to make his home.

ROBERT BRUCE MILLER — I was born and raised at Hanna. After I finished school, I worked at home on the family farm for a while, then worked for Harold Black of Standard at his ranch in the Sunnynook area.

In 1965 I was married to June Hale of Bassano, and in 1968 our son, Clinton Bruce, arrived. In the spring of 1974 I bought the Ernest Welch holdings in the Scapa district.

THE MILLER BROTHERS — There were three brothers, all bachelors, who proved up their homesteads, then sold their farms and moved back to the United States.

A. L. Miller homesteaded the N.W. 16–33–15 and later sold it to A. Welch.

E. A. Miller homesteaded the S.W. 16-33-15, which went back to the government for taxes. [illegible]. Welch now has the land leased.

F. R. Miller homesteaded the N.E. 17–33–15 which he sold to a Mr. Tingle who later sold it to P. Trettin. The Trettin family still make their home there.

Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl.

FRIDICH PAHL and FAMILY, By Otto Pahl — Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl and family (Maria, Loui, Julia, Otto and Emma), arrived in Canada from Bessarabia, Romania on October 22, 1927. We travelled via a Swedish ship, Polonia, which docked at Halifax. From there we travelled C.N.R. to Hanna, arriving on October 27.

Some time in November of the same year, Dad and Mother settled on a farm south [illegible] Scapa, the S.E. 25-33-15 which Dad bought from Mr. Harvey Burt, Senior. We moved in with the Harvey Burt family. There were seven of them and seven of us, and how all fourteen managed in that house I don't recall. They couldn't understand German and we didn't know a word of English, but somehow we got along. The Burts moved to their farm west of Scapa and we tried to get adjusted to our new surroundings. We were happy for our parents because most of the neighbors were German and they could visit with them. Carl Weich, John Steinbrecker, Fred Welch, William Hein and George Hausher were some of them.

Sister Emma and I started school shortly after we were settled. There were lots of youngsters that could understand German, so it wasn't too hard to get started. Mr. Mac Slemp was our first teacher. We had to talk to him through an interpreter; Rudy Hein was my go-between and sometimes I wondered if he was

telling us what was said. It worked out okay and it didn't take too long until we could understand a bit of English.

The years of 1928 to 1930 were pretty good for us. In 1931 we were hailed out one hundred per cent and never got anything. Then in 1932 the price of wheat dropped to seventeen cents per bushel. Then came the lean years of 1934 when grasshoppers took most of our crop. Those were hard days. Crops we didn't have and cattle prices were down to nothing. Cows brought five or six dollars a head. Dad bought one bull from Mr. Jack Bossert for eleven dollars and sold it for nine dollars. Eggs were four cents a dozen. Dad sold ten hogs in 1934 for four dollars each, and we had to buy the feed to feed them first. Those were the good old days when we made most of our living from milking cows. We made six or seven dollars a week from cream. After 1936, things started to get better and we managed to pull ourselves out of the debts we had on the farm.

Our oldest brother and three of our older sisters came to Canada before we did. Fred, the oldest, came to Canada early in the spring of 1927. He resided seven miles northeast of Hanna, until 1934, when he moved to Lavoy, Alberta. In 1937 he moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where he lived until he passed away on the last day of 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Pahl, Richard and David.

Rosina, our oldest sister, Mrs. Emanuel Erion, came to the Scapa district in the spring of 1927, but only enjoyed a few months of her life in Canada. She passed away in August of the same year. Later Emanuel Erion married our sister Marie and they resided on the farm south and west of Scapa. Marie passed away in April, 1966.

Caroline, Mrs. Daniel Mattheis, who resided in the district west of Scapa, passed away in 1972.

One of our brothers, August, was not able to come to Canada with us because he was of age for military service, and had to remain behind, alone. He came over to Canada after World War II, lived in the Spondin area for a number of years, moved to Hanna, and now is living in Linden, Alberta.

In the spring of 1937, Loui got married, living seven miles north east of Hanna. Julia married Jack Mix of Castor, who passed away in 1970. Emma married Otto Mix of Castor and is now residing in Hanna.

In November 1939, I was married to Emma Doering from the Handhills district. We had two boys, Richard and David. Both of the boys are ordained ministers in the Evangelical Church of Canada. Richard is married to Lorraine Vista. They are serving the church at Lipton, Saskatchewan. They have two boys. David is married to Agatha Berg. David and Agatha are serving the churches at Leader and Burstal, Saskatchewan. They also have two boys.

Our father, Fridich Pahl, passed away in 1941, and Mother in 1958.

My wife, Emma, the mother of Richard and David, passed away in 1972. I married Elizabeth Sackman and we are living in the good little town of Hanna.

THE HENRY RUHL FAMILY, By Dave Ruhl — My father, Henry Ruhl, was born in 1876 in Kraft, Russia, a German enclave located on the Volga River. From 1897 to 1902 he was in the Russian army of Czar Nicholas II. In 1903 he married Mary Katharin Schaeffer. They were to have three children while in the Old Country: Daniel, Pauline and Henry.

In 1913 the family left Russia and came to Calgary, where Lydia was born the same year. Father was employed with Patrick Burns until leaving Calgary in 1918 to start farming on the J. [illegible]. Johnston farm south of Watts, where in 1920 I, David, was born. The cost of Father's first two horses, with only a halter on each, was $500.00; this put a big hole in the $1500.00 the folks had saved to go farming.

The Henry Ruhl family. Standing: Lydia, Pauline, Daniel, Henry. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruhl and David.

In 1922, with seven cows, four calves and four horses, we moved to the S.E. 22–33–15. Part of the agreement of sale of this quarter was to be three wells, but all of them proved to be dry holes; therefore, water had to be hauled from Rudolf Welch's, which was a mile away. Most of the time this task was done with a horse and stoneboat by Henry, helped at times by Pauline. Often when they were enroute home with a barrel of water the stoneboat would jiggle over a small stone which would cause the barrel [illegible] upset. This meant that they had to turn around and get a refill. After one or two of these incidents, a smoother road was taken. Water hauling was done this way, winter and summer, until 1925 when Father and Mother had a well drilled by Frank Ruppert.

The struggle to make ends meet was not easy. The milk cows had to be taken to pasture three and one half miles every morning and brought home each evening, rain or shine, with Henry doing most of the herding, as well as working the farm. Father and Daniel worked for other farmers much of the time and Pauline worked for A. E. Laughlin at Hanna. All the wages they made were pooled to build up the resources.

Hanna, which was twenty-one miles away, was the centre for the post office, supplies and grain delivery. I recall very vividly my mother and father telling of a time in the winter of 1925-26 when they made a trip to Hanna with a sleigh and horses. People going to town from that part of the country took a shortcut across Dowling Lake. The trail hit the lake just a little east of the Schottsneider farm and came out east of Bill McKenzie's. They finished shopping by early evening and left for home via the shortcut. While they were crossing the lake a blizzard came up. The visibility became nil after darkness had fallen. They became lost somewhere in the middle of Dowling Lake. After several hours of wandering they realized they were going along a side hill and that they had to be off the lake, but because of the storm they didn't know where. Completely lost, Father put down fences hoping to find some shelter, farmers or buildings — anything! Sometime after midnight the horses stopped at another wire fence. This time when Dad went [illegible] their heads an outline of some buildings appeared. It turned out to [illegible] the Mansfield farm which was rented by Reinhart Sieb [illegible] that time. This is where they stayed the rest of the night. This experience was never forgotten. It is interesting to note that it was the same $500.00 team of horses mentioned earlier that fought out this ordeal for my parents.

Dan died in 1927 as a result of an accident on a threshing rig.

The years of 1929 to 1938 were rather grim — no rain, so nothing much would grow. The dust storms of 1929 and the thirties were something to behold. At times one would only see an outline of the sun. The alkali of Dowling Lake would rise thousands of feet high! The price of wheat went down to nineteen cents per bushel, oats were seven cents, eggs were worth practically nothing. Butter was the same, many farmers using it to grease their machinery. In 1930 Dad sold two three-year-old steers for $7.50. Nevertheless, through those trying times Mother and Father stayed off the relief rolls.

Winters were cold and very hard on our stock as feed was not plentiful. I remember walking to Hudson Bay School, which was the school Henry, Lydia and I attended, and seeing a farmer's horses down on the road allowance unable to get up. I told the owners and the horses were put out of their misery. One thing about Hudson Bay School, (which was built, I believe, in 1918), was that it was air conditioned — always the same temperature, inside and out!

[illegible] 1929 we moved to the north half of 21-33-15 which Father had purchased [illegible] 1925 from Tom Symington. Lydia and I then went to Crow Hill School which was blessed with the same quality of air conditioning. In 1932 my folks sent me back to Hudson Bay School where I had one of my finest teachers, Enos Lundrigan. All of us kids did well under him. I also admired him for his musical talents and learned to play a banjo and my basic guitar; in fact, Gottlieb (Shorty) Glubrecht turned out to be a very accomplished banjo player through Lundrigan's tutelage.

In 1936 Father purchased the west half of 22-33-15 from the Soldier's Settlement Board, that was previously owned by Joe Lidgett.

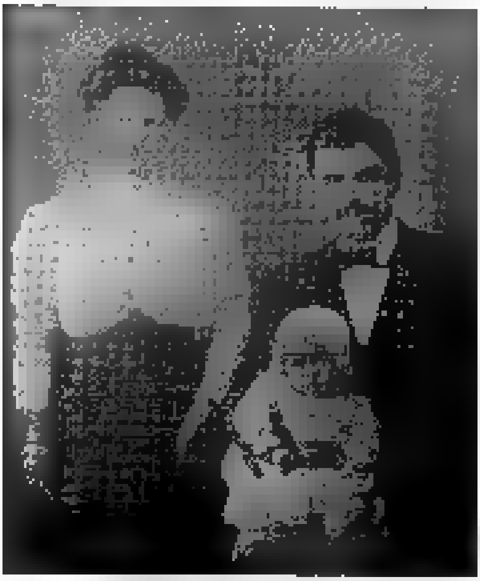
Mother and Father retired in 1943 and lived in Calgary, where Mother passed away in 1946. Father passed away in 1963 in Camrose where Pauline was living at that time.

Pauline was married to Carl Andersen who was the manager of the Hanna Creamery. In 1926 he moved to a farm west of Scapa. Later he and his wife moved to New Norway where they operated a grocery store. They retired in Camrose where Carl passed away in 1953. Pauline now makes her home in Calgary.

Lydia married Svend Dittner in 1934 and has one daughter. She makes her home in Calgary.

Henry married Edna Miller in 1945 and lived on the home place until moving to Calgary where he was employed with the Calgary Board of Education.

I live in Calgary, where I was a professional wrestler.



Mr. and Mrs. John Steinbrecker and first son, John.

THE JOHN STEINBRECKER FAMILY, By Ruby Steinbrecker Hausher — John and Mary Steinbrecker came to Canada from Colorado in 1910. They settled in Stettler, where Mary worked in a cigar factory while John came to the Scapa area to take up a homestead. They built a small two-roomed shack and moved their entire possessions out in a wagon.

Farming was a slow but rewarding way of life then, although there were many hardships to be faced, such as prairie fires, and isolation. Mary's first child was born while she was alone at home.

Horses were very expensive and the only means of doing the farming. On one occasion when a team ran away, one of the horses was badly cut. It was part of the day's work to sew up the cut and nurse the horse back to health; just as it was all in the day's work to walk several miles to get the milk cows in the days before there were many fences.

In the spring of 1928, the family was coming home from town with the team and buggy when they saw flames shooting out of the house. Mac Slemp, who was teaching at Hudson Bay school at the time, brought his class down to see if they could be of any help, but it was too late to salvage much from the building. One excited person ran into the kitchen, brought out the pan of bread dough which had been left to rise, and carried it across the garden before setting it down. There had been a beautiful large clock beside the dough, but that was not saved. The family lived in a granary until fall, when a large new house was completed.

Hudson Bay school was built on John's land, and he was one of the original members of the board. As the school was only a quarter of a mile from the homestead, many of the teachers boarded with them.

Mary acted as midwife for many women in the area, as the nearest hospital was at Craigmyle, and often there was not time to go that far or to get a doctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker farmed until 1955, when they retired [illegible] Hanna. Mary passed away in 1964, John in 1965.

They had eight children. George lived for a few years in Hanna, then moved to Edgewater, B.C. He married Jean Taylor and had one son, Wes. George died in 1966.

Sam, who now lives on the home place, married Pat Smith. They have six children and two grandchildren.

Ruby married Ervin Hausher and they reside at Endiang. They had three children, Lloyd, Carol, and Cheryl, who lost her life in a car accident in 1973. They have two grandchildren.

Irene married Friedel Haessel and they farmed at Scapa until they moved [illegible] Hanna. They have two sons and one daughter.

The four older Steinbrecker children passed away in early life. Willie was killed by a runaway team when he was eighteen years old, he and two other children and their grandmother Hinter are buried on the homestead. A boy who died after an appendectomy is buried in Hanna.

THOMAS SYMINGTON, By Sarah Symington Ryckman — Thomas Symington was born in February, 1885, in Carluke, Scotland. He was married to Sarah Denholm at Glasgow, Scotland on January 24, 1912. They sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax from where they took the train to Calgary. In 1914 Dad took up a homestead eleven miles north of the town of Watts, N.W. 21-33-15. The trip out to the homestead was made by horse and sleigh. Six children were born of this union: Sarah, Marian, Thomas, Margaret, and Jessie. A daughter Agnes died at the age [illegible] three years.

Our first post office was Watts and it was to here we came for our mail and supplies. While Dad was on the farm, he was a councillor for the Dowling Lake Municipality and later was reeve. He drove to Hanna once a month to attend these meetings.

The first school we attended was Hudson Bay. The teachers' names were Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Kerr. After a few years this school became overcrowded and we then went to Crow Hill School. By this time I was old enough to drive the horse, so I took the horse and buggy to school, picking up Mildred and Russell Hanson on the way.

In 1925 Dad sold his farm to Henry Ruhl, and moved to Endiang where my folks operated a restaurant for a year or more. Then Dad went back to his own trade, that of carpenter. He helped build the town of Endiang where we stayed for five years. In the spring of 1930 we moved to Hanna where Dad continued in his trade. In the late thirties Dad and Mother went to Vancouver to reside. Mother passed away there in August 1949, and Dad a few years later [illegible] February, 1954.

I was married to Edward Ryckman in December, 1931. Ed passed away in July, 1965. We were blessed with three children: James, Jessie and Albert. I still make my home in Hanna.

ADOLPH and CHRISTINA WEICH, By Louis Weich — Adolph Weich was born in Russia on October 8, 1882. Christina Dechert was also born in Russia, on October 5, 1886. They were married on April 3, 1908, and had three children, Louis, Elsie, and another child who died in infancy.

Dad made a couple of trips to the United States in search of a better way of life. The second time he got a job in Michigan in a foundry. He contracted typhoid fever, and after a long bout of illness, found that he was unable to work at his former job. In the later part of 1911 he went to Edmonton, travelled down to what is

now known as the Scapa area, filed on a homestead and returned to Edmonton where he worked in a foundry until 1913, when Mother, Elsie and myself joined him. We had come over from Russia with Uncle Bill Welch's family, Uncle Rudolf's fiancee, Bertha Dechert, and Uncle Fred Welch. We were all met at the station by my dad, Uncle Rudolf and Uncle William. They were so black from the work they had been doing that when they came to greet us, we children were frightened of the black men and hid behind our mothers' skirts.

The Adolf Welch family, 1917, Aileen, Louie, Adolf, Lydia, Bertha, Mrs. Christina, Alvina, Elsie and May.

About Christmas time of 1913 we all came out to Uncle Carl's homestead. (now known as the Fred Welch Jr. place) and spent the winter with him. In the spring of 1914 Dad built a twelve by fourteen shack on his homestead and this was our first home in Canada. This is also where my sisters and brother were born.

By this time the money from his previous job in Edmonton was getting low and again Dad had to go out [illegible] work. This time he got a farm job [illegible] the Botha area which paid him thirty-five dollars a month. Of course transportation then wasn't like it is now and if you weren't fortunate enough to catch a ride with someone who had a team and buggy, you had to walk. Dad worked on this farm at Botha for two months before coming home for the first time. When he did come to see us he brought with him a fifty-pound sack of flour. He had gotten a ride for a short distance from the farm where he worked, and walked the remainder of the way with that big sack of flour on his back.

After three months' work he came home and bought our first cow from a neighbor, Mr. Bartsch, who had settled in the area about 1910. Cows were expensive in those days; this one cost Dad about $350, part cash and the rest on time. About that same time Dad added a sod kitchen to our shack and also built a sod barn for the cow. Uncle Carl broke the ground for our sods and also an area for our garden. In 1915 he also broke ten acres for us which he put into crop [illegible] 1916 on a third share basis. To our great misfortune the crop hailed out and we had no insurance.

It was also our first experience of a hail storm, and a frightening experience to say the least, especially for us younger folk. At this time Dad was working for Mr. Bertsch, who was cutting our hay crop for us when the storm hit. He came to the house for shelter and stood just inside the door where he could hold onto his team of horses. He had an awful time trying to keep them from running off; they didn't like the hail beating at their bodies any more than we would have. However, he did manage to hang onto them until the storm passed. You can well imagine there was no more hay to be cut; it was a total loss.

In the winter of 1916 Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Drexel, and bought another team from Alex Kalenith in 1917. That spring he bought a new seed drill and a wagon and started farming for himself. Uncle Carl cut our crop that fall; we stooked it and put it in four stacks, which were threshed by Chris Lohrmann. We harvested nearly four hundred bushels of wheat from this crop. While our stacks were being threshed, the horses hauling the bundle racks had to be fed, so they ate from the oats that we had. After the threshing was done and the workers had gone home, Dad gathered up what few oats remained on the ground where the horses had eaten, and sowed them the following spring. Unfortunately the crop didn't yield much, as the seed had been sown on spring-broke ground, which does not produce very good crops the first year.

However, we had sown another crop as well which turned out not too badly. In fact, Dad built a new house that year before threshing time, and we moved into it right away, and used the old shack to store the grain that we harvested that fall.

Mother always had a good garden. Even after the hail storms she managed to salvage lots of potatoes, carrots, turnips and cabbage to see us through the long winter months and on into summer until the next garden was ready.

By the fall of 1918 we had five head of cattle and four horses. Late that fall Hudson Bay school was opened and my sister Elsie and I started our education. We could not speak English, for our family always spoke German at home, but we made our grade one by the end of the school term. The following year Dad bought a pony for us to ride to school; we were very grateful, as previous to that we had to walk, and it seemed an awfully long trip, especially in the winter.

Dad did a lot of blacksmith work, and about this time he decided to get a new forge and anvil. He ordered them from Eaton's, along with some other tools he needed for the cutting down of big wagon wheels, a job he did very well. He made quite a name for himself as a blacksmith and wheelright. Farmers from all over the country brought him plough shares to be sharpened and wagon wheels to be repaired and cut down. He also built a lot of cutters in those days, and running gear for cutters. The smithy business got to be quite big and he carried on with it until his retirement.

This trade also had its drawbacks. Dad had built a shop in 1928, which was big enough to hold his democrat and car when no blacksmithing was being done. One cold winter night Rudolf Fecho came over to get Dad to build him a sleigh. The car was moved out of the shop so there would be enough room to work on this project. During the process of heating and shaping the metal for the sleigh, a piece of red-hot metal flew out of Dad's sight. Although they searched for it, they could not find it. Later on when the sleigh was completed, the car put back in the shop, and Mr. Fecho had gone home, Dad searched again for the missing piece of metal, but was not able to find it. He finally decided that by now the metal would have cooled and that there was no danger, so retired for the night. About three o'clock in the morning we awakened to find the shop on fire.

My sister Berta wrapped a warm blanket around herself and ran to the neighbor's for help. Our closest neighbor, Joe Lidgett, lived over half a mile from our place and came as soon as they could. Without realizing it at the time, Bertie had run all the way to Lidgett's without any shoes on, and in the bitter cold had frozen her feet quite badly. Meanwhile we salvaged what we could from the shop; the car and most of the democrat and the shop and the rest of the contents burned to the ground.

Dad built another shop, bought more tools, reestablished himself in the smithy business and continued where he had left off prior to the fire, sharpening plow shares, shrinking wagon wheels, making over wagons, etc. I later carried on this blacksmith business on my farm until my retirement, and now my oldest son, Ron, who has a machine shop in Three Hills, is in the process of building an even larger plant. So this blacksmith business has been passed down from generation to generation, you might say it is an inborn trait.

Along with the farm work and blacksmith business, Dad also worked for Andy Hansen as a separator man on his threshing outfit. Andy Hansen, who was a great asset to our community, used to do the threshing for neighbors miles around the country for a good many years.

In 1949 Dad and Mother retired to Hanna, where they resided until their passing, Dad on November 28, 1958, and Mother on January 2, 1976. They were both active members of the Lutheran Church, first at St. Peter's at Scapa and later at Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna.

There were two boys and seven girls in the family. Louie, Bert and May Fecho live in Hanna. Elsie McHugh and Bertie Keall live in Vancouver, B.C. Alvina Sorenson is in Oliver, B.C.; Aileen Smith in Seattle, Washington; Lydia Marron in Camrose and Mandy Schrador in Edmonton.

5 Generations. Lawrence Schmidt (father), Louie Weich (great grandfather), Helen Schmidt (grandmother), holding Michael Schmidt and Mrs. Adolf Weich (great great grandmother).

LOUIS WEICH, By Louis Weich — Louis R. Weich: Born January 15, 1907, in Valenian, Russia, immigrated to Canada with mother Christina Weich and sister Elsie in the fall of 1913. We joined my father, Adolph Weich in Edmonton, Alberta, and journeyed on to what is now known as the Scapa area where we spent our first winter in Canada at the home of my father's brother, Carl Weich.

In the spring of 1914 we moved onto dad's homestead, two miles west of Uncle Carl's farm, where we built our first home, a 12' x 14' shack. During the summer we added a sod kitchen to our home. During this period Dad was working out in the area, earning approximately ten dollars a month, in order to look after the family.

In the spring of 1916, with the help of neighbors as we had no machinery of our own yet, we sowed our first crop, which we lost due to a severe hail storm. In the fall of the same year Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Draxel and another team from Alex Kalenith. In 1918, Hudson Bay School was built and my sister Elsie and I began our

schooling that fall. Our only means of getting to school was to walk the three and a quarter miles, always taking the shortest route possible, of course. The following year Dad bought our fifth horse, a pony, which we were able to ride to and from school, for which we were most grateful.

I continued my schooling until the age of fifteen years, during which time I worked with Dad on the homestead and also for neighbors when I could help out.

During the spring of 1923 all the young men in our area who were able went job hunting in the more southern areas where they heard jobs were more plentiful. My name was brought to the attention of a farmer, Mr. George Grieves, who owned a farm in the Bassano area, and who was looking for hired help at the time. Mr. Grieves contacted me about working for him; the reply was "yes" of course. Mother packed me a lunch, I caught a train at Watts, journeyed to Calgary where I caught another train to Bassano, where I contacted a blacksmith who was a friend of Mr. Grieves and who took me out to the Grieves farm in an old Model T Ford car. This was my first job away from my home area. I worked for Mr. Grieves for approximately three months [illegible] forty-five dollars per month which was quite an improvement over the fifty cents a day I had been receiving closer to home. This, as I recall, turned out to be one of the best years for farming in the history of the country. Pretty well [illegible] of the farmers harvested fifty bushels to the acre that fall.

In 1926 I worked with Dad on a share basis and with good fortune, from my share of the crop which was $400.00, I was able to purchase my first car, a Model T Ford for $350.00. [illegible] course my Dad was not too happy about this but I was sure proud of that car.

The following year I was working for local farmers again and also had a job on a road construction crew in the area. One day in mid-summer on my way home from road work I ran into the biggest hail storm that ever hit the country. This storm covered an area from the south side of Sullivan Lake to the northern end of Dowling Lake. It was storming so badly I had to stop my car and crouch up on the seat to shelter myself under the car roof in order to save my hide from being battered by the hail stones.

In the fall of 1927 I rented what was then known as the Gulseth place, in the Dowling district, and began farming on my own. In November of this same year I married Lenora Mable Halversen who joined me on the farm where our first three children, Helen, Ronald and Hilda, were born.

My first crop on the Gulseth place was hailed out [illegible] 1928. Luckily my crop was insured, and with the insurance money I was able to begin buying my own machinery, adding to the four horses, a drill, a plough and an old binder which I previously owned. In 1929 I bought my first tractor, a John Deere with steel wheels, a rough old thing to ride but very modern as far as I was concerned, and a power binder. I was the first person in the area to run my tractor from the binder, operating both at the same time.

In the fall of 1931 we moved from the Gulseth place to the Wade farm south of Hanna, which was mostly ranching, sheep and cattle. Another child, Edwin, was born to us there, whom we later lost at the age of seven due [illegible] suffocation. We remained on the Wade farm until the fall of 1935 at which time I had a streak of bad luck and lost everything but my family. We spent that winter living with friends of ours, the Paul Trettins, who lived about two miles from Dad's homestead.

In 1936 I rented what was then known as the George Smith farm, situated approximately three miles north of Dowling Lake. The remainder of my family, Bob, Gordon, George, Harold and Florence, were born on this farm. I started all over again at this time with only three horses and five cows. My brother-in-law, Bill Fecho, had a farm about three miles from mine, he also owned three horses and

for the next two years we did our farming together. I also took odd jobs in the area and did a lot of grade work for the Special Areas, which helped me get re-established.

In the winter of 1942 I joined the armed forces and remained with them until the fall of 1945 at which time the war was over and I was able to rejoin my family on the farm. While in the army I had the opportunity of learning a trade, blacksmithing, which was a necessity to farming for repairing machinery, building farm equipment, etc., and with this experience and ability to put it to use I became known as the community handy man.

During my teenage years and while my children were growing up there was a lot of hard work to do but we also had our good times. Our main source of entertainment was local talent and every winter brought to each community the Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by young and old alike. There were also box socials, dances, chivarees for the newly married couples, picnics and ball games in the summer as well as many family gatherings which were enjoyed by all.

My wife Lenora passed away in 1969 in a Calgary Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

Helen married David Schmidt and they live on his father's homestead in the Watts area. They have four sons.

Reinhart married Diane Verstrepen. They live at Three Hills where he runs a machine shop. They have five children.

Hilda married Clifford Paxman and lived on the Paxman homestead. Clifford passed away in May of 1976. They have two daughters and two sons.

Edwin was born in 1934. He passed away in 1941.

Robert married Jeanette Cust. They live at Port Coquitlam, B.C., where he works for B.C. Utilities. They have four daughters and three sons.

Gordon married Lena Cust. They live at Bellis, Alberta on a small farm. They have three daughters.

George married Betty Banwell. They also live at Three Hills where he works for Ron at the machine shop. They have two sons.

Harold married Mary Steinbrecker. They live in Calgary where Harry works for an oil company.

Florence married Frank Koteles but they are now separated. She lives at Red Deer. They had two sons.

I also have four great grandchildren, Michael and Kari-Ann Schmidt, Jody Hoffman, and April Paxman.

I remained on my farm north of Dowling Lake until the spring of 1974 when I retired, taking many fond memories with me, and proud of having been a member of that particular community.

CARL and LOUISE WELCH and FAMILY, By Art Welch — Carl Welch was born in Wolhian, Russia in 1885 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1906, where he spent the next four years. Then he decided to move to Canada, where there was land available for homesteading. The city of Edmonton was his destination and on his arrival there, he bought a tent in which he lived until he was able to earn enough money to build himself a small shack. During this time Mr. Welch worked as a carpenter. It was in this shack in Edmonton that he accommodated various relatives including the Keibels, who also immigrated to Alberta.

While in Edmonton he checked with the government and was informed there was land available for homesteading northwest of Hanna. He filed on a homestead

and a pre-emption and spent most of his life farming until he retired to Hanna in 1943. A son Fred now owns the original half section and still farms it.

Mr. Welch tells of the many experiences and hardships endured in the process of homesteading. After leaving Edmonton he moved to Stettler and worked there for some time. He decided to walk to the homestead across country, which was around sixty miles. He carried a bag with some groceries, sixty pounds of carpenter tools and clothing. The first day he walked twenty-some miles and when darkness came he dug a hole in a hay stack and spent the night. The stay wasn't too comfortable as it was winter. The next day he arrived at a neighbor's near the homestead and made arrangements to have a load of lumber and supplies delivered, so he could build a farmstead, which was his pride for so many years.

The Carl Welch family. Back Row: Donald, Anne, Fred, Arthur, Freda and Alma. Front Row: Carl, Ruth and Louise.

After he built his small home his brothers and sisters emigrated from Russia one by one and lived with him until they were able [illegible] build their own homes. The relatives that lived with him were brothers William, Adolf, Rudolf and Fred, a sister Mrs. Marie Hein, a sister-in-law Matilda Welch and numerous others. In 1915 he married Miss Louise Petsch and raised a family of seven: Freda, Arthur, Anne, Fred, Donald, Alma and Ruth. One son, Harvey, died as an infant.

In 1920 a group of people in the area formed a Lutheran congregation, bought a church in Wetaskiwin, dismantled it and moved it to its present site, four

miles west of Scapa. On many occasions when a minister was not available, Mr. Welch would conduct the services.

During the depression when money was very scarce, Carl Welch would build coffins for people who could not afford to buy one. He spent many years on the school board and as municipal councillor.

This is just a short resume of one pioneer family who contributed so much to the future of this province. Carl Welch died on July 20, 1975, three months short [illegible] 90 years of age. Mr. Louise Welch still lives in Calgary and is in good spirits and health.

Freda is married to Sam Doering, Arthur is married to Adalena Doering, Donald is married to Mae Delker, Fred is married [illegible] Irene Otterstetter, Alma is married Jim Verrin. They all live in Calgary. Annie is married to Ben Stelzle and lives in Parksville, B.C. Ruth is married to Tony Brohman and lives in Port Alberni, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Welch, Richard and Audrey.

MR. and MRS. FRED WELCH, By Irene Welch — On February 4, 1945, Frederick William Welch and Irene Otterstatter of Craigmyle were united in marriage in St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

We took over the Carl Welch homestead and over the years saw many advances, from coal oil and gas lamps to six and thirty-two volt light plants to Hydro in 1952; from crank telephones to dial phones; from country schools [illegible] school vans.

Fred drove the school route in 1952-53, with the car in the summer and a bobsled in winter. He took over the mail route from Mr. G. Glubrecht and delivered mail by car in summer and by closed-in, horse-drawn cutter in winter.

We put up with a few hard winters when we were drifted in with high snow banks, and didn't get out for some time. Also a few hard years, but there were always a few extra dollars to be made with garden vegetables, fryers, eggs and cream.

We had two children. Our son Richard, born May 8, 1946, met his death in a tragic highway accident south of Medicine Hat on October 21, 1970.

Our daughter Audrey, born July 16, 1947, is married to Dennis Hoynick. They live on a farm near Daysland and have three sons and one daughter.

In 1959 we bought a house in Calgary, and moved there at the end of June. In 1965 we built a new home at 1832 - 47 Street S.E., and live there in winter. We spend our summers on the farm.

THE FREDRICH WELCH FAMILY, By Reinhardt Welch — Fredrich Welch was born in Lutz, Poland of German parents. He was conscripted into the Russian Army. He was assigned to the military band and played the clarinet.

He came to Edmonton in 1911. When he arrived there everything he owned was stolen except for $5.00 he had in his pocket. His clothes, his music, and his clarinet were all gone.

He worked in an iron factory along with his brother Rudolf. They decided to try for some other form of employment. Fred and Rudolf walked to Stettler, where they found work on a farm. Fred came to this area and took up a homestead on SE 22-33-15. He sold this homestead to H. Ruhl and moved to a half section purchased from Bodemans, which is still the home place occupied by Reinhardt.

In 1917 Fred married Florentine Schultz of Bashaw. Florentine was born at Steinbach, Manitoba. Of this union three sons were born, Arthur, Reinhardt and Henry, and two daughters who passed away in infancy.

Arthur married Edna Boehlke. They had two daughters Arleen and Elaine. Edna passed away in 1967. Several years later Arthur married Emily Kaminski.

Reinhardt married Edna Graham. They have two sons and three daughters, Gerald, Beverly, Judy, Stanley and Shelley.

Henry married Margaret Gauld. They had three sons and two daughters, Alan, Douglas, Kenneth, Peggy and Betty.

Fred passed away in March 1941, and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Scapa. When he became ill the roads were passable only with a team and sleigh. He was warmly wrapped in blankets and his son Arthur and his wife Flora started the trip to the hospital in Hanna. At Rudolf Fecho's they changed teams and continued on into Hanna.

Flora is still living and resides at the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. Arthur lives in Calgary, Henry at Red Deer and Reinhardt farms the home farm at Scapa.

In the early years teachers and travelling missionaries often boarded with us.

MR. and MRS. RUDOLF WEICH — Our original birthplace was Kolk, Russia. As a single young man, I landed in New York City in 1909 and found work in the railroad shop, grinding brakes. The future looked brighter in Michigan where I worked as a moulder in a Stove Foundry — piece work which meant hard work for six to eight dollars daily. I drifted from here to Wisconsin to a logging camp — piling lumber on a slasher.

My brother Carl, who had already come to Canada, encouraged me to come to Canada. In 1911 I arrived in Edmonton. I had not seen my brother Carl for about two years; I was such a grown-up man that Carl did not recognize me. He walked back and forth for a length of time and then gave up, thinking that his brother hadn't come. I then made our reacquaintance with tears of joy and laughter. I found work in Edmonton, at Edmonton Iron Works at forty cents per hour. During this time, 1911, I filed for my homestead in Scapa, the S.E. 23-33-15; the southwest quarter was my pre-emption. The land was rolling with many many rocks which we cleared by hand. Transportation was only with horse and wagon and of course there were no roads.

My wife Bertha, along with Mrs. Adolf Weich and Mrs. Bill Weich, arrived in Edmonton in 1913. On November 14, 1913, we were united in marriage. During this time I had learned some English but did not have the opportunity for school as there was no money. My wife, of course, did not know any English. She could only go to the store and show the clerk what we wanted to buy, or I would do the buying. We moved to the Scapa district; as there were no buildings on our homestead we lived with Carl. Our first home was started in 1914, two rooms, 12 feet by 24 feet, made of wood. We depended on our gardens and milk so we purchased a roan cow from Godfried Hinder near Delia. As we slowly progressed we were able to get five horses, a walking plough and later a sulky plough and wagon from Stettler.

To prove our Title for Homestead we broke thirty acres of land. We dug a well in the slough for water and later a well by the house. As years advanced we had a

well dug by Henry Pregitzer. Our coal supply came from Garden Plain where there was also a store and post office. Our food consisted of homemade bread, sauerkraut, potato soup, prairie chicken and wild duck.

We well remember September, 1914, when our home was blessed with our first child. At this same time we had a very heavy snowfall but winter did not settle in; after the snow disappeared we dug up soil ready for our garden in the spring. Besides farming I worked off and on in Stettler for a few years. My wife would attend to the home duties; she had much fear alone because she did not know the English language and could speak only German.

In 1918 there was a flu epidemic and much sorrow came to us when our second child Millie passed away — there was no way of getting any medical help or medicine. Two years later another baby girl passed away. The graves [illegible] Millie and Ida are on the homestead on the southwest corner of the southwest quarter, beside the fence. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange have a child buried on their land too.

Our first farm tragedy occurred when lightning killed two of our horses as well as a colt. We saw it happen but couldn't do anything. In 1922 our nice two-roomed house was destroyed by fire. We were visiting the Steinbrecker family and suddenly we saw the house go up in flames. We were so thankful that we had our children with us. The neighbors rushed to help fight the fire, but all we saved was a black cast iron frying pan which we still use today. We started to build anew in 1923, a five-roomed house with a full basement. Brothers Carl and Fred and Mr. Steinbrecker, maybe others which we can't remember at this age, helped [illegible] build our house.

With much courage we worked on and soon we were able to buy our first dozen chickens from Steinbreckers. Later we raised at least one hundred of our own, and turkeys and geese every year. We had much hail. One time we were hailed out completely and also lost about thirty of our turkeys. By then we were milking about eight cows and selling the cream for what we could get, about three to five dollars for a five gallon can.

My first overshoes were gunny sacks wrapped around the shoes. I poured water over them to freeze the sacks, so my feet would not get cold when I set out with horses and sleigh for Hanna or Stettler.

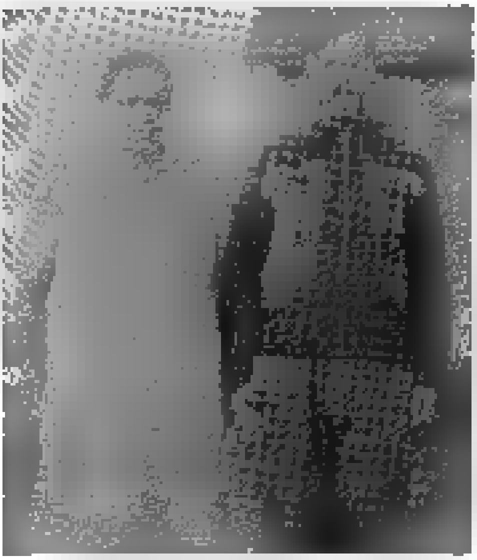
Garden Plain had a Stampede [illegible] 1920 or 1921. Charlie Lohrmann asked if I would loan a horse for a bucking contest. I did. The horse won first prize and we got a valuable ten dollars.

About 1918 Hudson Bay School opened for students. Our son Walter says that in 1925 an itch epidemic was in the school and Dad went [illegible] the pasture and picked white sage for medicine. We bathed and steamed in it; results were no itch — something did the trick.

Our home was blessed with three boys and six girls. Two of the girls died as infants. Our eldest child Mary is living in Okotoks, Walter in Calgary, Helen [illegible] Calgary, Emma at Carbon; Dan is farming in the Dowling district, Ben is farming [illegible] the Spondin district and Doreen is in Calgary.

We left the homestead about the year 1926 and moved to Delia where we took up a farm with a section of land. We thought we would make a better living with grain and animal farming, but in 1932 wheat was only eighteen cents per bushel. In 1940 we moved back to the Dowling district, where a son Dan is now farming. We have now retired to Calgary. A few years ago we celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary, with sixty-two of the family in attendance. We are happy living in Calgary but still keep a soft spot in our hearts for the life on the farm, remembering the many friends and kindnesses shown us there, and the good times as well as the bad.

We now see the coming generation living in their comfortable homes. May they continue to prosper and make Canada a great nation. Good luck . . .



Mr. and Mrs. William Weich.

WILLIAM WEICH, By Matilda Weich — William (Bill) Weich was born in Valenian, Russia, on August 1, 1880. He was the oldest of a family of five boys and three girls.

In 1910 he married Matilda Fecho, also of Valenian.

In 1912 he immigrated to Canada, arriving in Edmonton. There he worked with some of his brothers for the summer and then later came to Castor. He filed on a homestead west of Scapa, the N.E. 22–33–15, building on it a sod house for a home.

In 1913 his wife and two children, Rudolph and Ida, came to Canada. On the journey over two-year-old Rudolph became ill and died. He was buried at sea.

They lived in a sod house for three years and then built a frame house.

There were three more children born in Canada, Christine, Ernest and Herbert.

Bill Weich passed away in 1944, and Matilda is now living in Hanna.

Ida Bordula had nine children and now lives in Calgary. Christine Mansell had a family of six and is living in Red Deer. Ernest married, farmed the home place until selling to Bruce Miller in 1976. They now live in Hanna. Herbert is married and has three boys and also lives [illegible] Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wimmer.

JOHN WIMMER, By Herbert Wimmer — John Wimmer was born in Hungary in 1894 and immigrated to Canada with his parents in the spring of 1905, arriving in Regina. Three months later, after purchasing two horses, a wagon, stove, beds and other household supplies, they travelled by trail to Lacombe. From there they travelled by covered wagon to their homestead [illegible] the district of what now is Castor. Machinery and supplies were purchased in Stettler and freighted to the homestead by horse and wagon until 1908, when the C.P.R. constructed the railway from Stettler to Castor.

John was at home with his parents until he was about fourteen years old, and then had various jobs, one of which was firing a steam engine breaking land in the area. He also spent some time working for the C.P.R. in the roundhouse at Castor.

In April of 1912 he filed on a homestead, the N.E. 13-33-15, near the Graystone Post Office. For the next three years he worked at homestead duties in the winter and at various other jobs in the summer. In 1916 he started to break some of the land, and the following year he moved to the homestead permanently. The lumber and [illegible] other supplies were hauled from Castor by team and wagon.

In 1918 he bought a new Model T Ford car for less than $600.00. As it was one of the first cars [illegible] the district, it was used on various occasions to take someone who was sick or injured to a doctor.

The fall of 1919 being wet, and winter coming early, threshing was not completed. The bundles were then hauled onto stacks to be threshed in the spring. After seeding in 1920, he worked as a fireman for Chris Lohrmann, threshing the stacks. Mr. Lohrmann was the separator man; he hired the water man and fireman and the farmer supplied the coal and bundle pitchers. Some days two or three farms were threshed this way. They started in the area just east of Scapa and finished north of Garden Plain on the first of July.

During these years the winter's supply of coal was usually purchased from the Kane or Bradshaw coal mines in the Garden Plain district. When the depression years of the thirties came and money was very scarce, some farmers would mine their own coal on the George Wright farm. The soil was stripped with a team and fresno or slip, and then the coal was broken loose with a walking plow. Then it was loaded into a wagon and hauled home.

[illegible] November, 1926, John Wimmer was married to Anna Podetz, who had come to Canada from Hungary in the spring of the same year. They had one son, Herbert, born in 1931.

In later years more land was purchased and they continued to live on this farm until they retired to Hanna in 1964. Anna Wimmer passed away [illegible] 1973 and John still resides [illegible] his home in Hanna.

HERBERT WIMMER — I was born [illegible] Hanna in 1931. I attended Hudson Bay school until grade five, then transferred to Scapa where I remained until grade ten. My main means of transportation to school was a bicycle. After finishing school I remained home with my parents to help Dad with the farming.

As I was fond of old time music, I played the accordion with the Scapa orchestra for about fifteen years.

In 1964 I was married to Annabelle Haessel who was employed at the Royal Bank [illegible] Hanna. My parents then retired to Hanna, and we built a new home on the original homestead, which we still operate.

We have two children, Brian and Karen, who are attending school [illegible] Hanna.

THE H. A. BURT FAMILY, By Olive Burt Boehlke and Earl Burt — Harvey Burt was born at Marshfield, Missouri in 1884. In 1906 he married Rebecca Kennedy [illegible] St. Paul, Kansas, where she had been born in 1883. For a time they operated the dining room of a hotel, with Dad doing the cooking and Mother waiting on tables. Then Dad found a job running an elevator in Apache, Oklahoma, and worked there until he came to Canada.

Like many others, Dad had read literature which seemed [illegible] promise homesteaders a fortune within a few years. Many people who came planned to spend only a short time in Canada and then return, but instead, circumstances forced them to stay.

In the spring of 1912 our parents came [illegible] Canada, along with the Jackson families who settled north of Castor. They told of reaching Calgary on a cold and snowy day. Mother had worn a sweater when she left the heat of Oklahoma, never thinking she would need the coat packed away in her trunk. They went to Delburne and spent a few weeks with Mother's aunt and uncle, the Tom Blair family, and then went on to Castor where they lived with the Jacksons. They also spent some time with the Slemp family of Fleet, who had come up from Oklahoma some time earlier.

By September of 1912, Dad had filed on a homestead in the Garden Plain area, eighteen miles north of Hanna. Mother tells of living in a tent the next spring until the sod shack was completed. Tragedy almost struck when Dad, burning the grass for a fire guard, lost control of it and almost burned the tent and all their belongings.

The next three years were spent between Castor and the homestead. Each time they moved to Castor to work, they took all their possessions by team and wagon, with a cow tied behind. In the spring and fall Dad worked for Lewis Fuller north of Castor. He was able to get more work out of Fuller's big Rumley than anyone else, and could tell stories about threshing as many as sixty days a year, sometimes [illegible] thirty below zero weather.

The Harvey Burt family, 1942. Harvey Sr., Augusta, Bill, Mrs. Burt, Earl, Olive, Harvey Jr., Jim Boehlke and Gilbert Tucker. Sitting: Agnes and Elsie.

Dad worked one winter at Kane's mine near Garden Plain. Mr. Kane provided a house for the family and Mother cooked for the miners who lived upstairs. Anyone coming along could have a meal; breakfast was 25¢, dinner 30¢ and supper 35¢. I am sure that there were pancakes and baking powder biscuits for breakfast, as that is a memory from when we were small. Mother's pancakes were the best anyone ever tasted.

The first crop was seeded by hand. Perhaps Dad had help as the E. E. Slemp family lived with us from April, 1914, until their sod shack was completed. [illegible] this time, Dad had added a frame room onto our sod shack, but it must have been crowded, with Jane, Edgar and Fred sleeping in the kitchen, and Mother, Dad, Agnes and Olive sleeping in the other room.

The Burts and the Slemps remained the best of friends [illegible] through their lives. These two families, along with a close neighbor, the Bodenmons, hayed together for a number of years with a buck and hay slide. Young Bill Burt thought the slide was for other things besides haying, only to find out differently when he picked up a four-inch silver one Sunday afternoon.

In the early days, mail was hauled from Castor to Garden Plain. Someone from our district would pick it up there and leave the neighbors' mail at Slemp's. The Burts would send Olive and Bill [illegible] get their mail and Mother would wonder if they would ever get back home with it.

The money Dad had made by working out was used to buy cattle, horses and chickens. We milked cows, and Mother often drove a wild team of horses eighteen miles down the old "Snake Trail" to Hanna, to sell butter and eggs. The family record book notes that on March 18, 1918, she sold forty-four pounds of butter at 45¢ a pound to Gibb, Brown and Odell, "where service tells".

By 1918, we had added another room to our house, and as there always seemed to be room for one more, Miss Hoar, the teacher at Hudson Bay school, boarded with us for a while.

In the spring of 1923, the farm was rented for a year, and we moved to Hanna. Dad ran the Terwilliger elevator, and Mother went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for an operation. Before she returned to Hanna, she visited with her family in St. Paul, Kansas.

By 1925, the C.N.R. line was built from Hanna to Warden, and the new town of Scapa was born. The UGG built an elevator and hired Dad to operate it. He stayed on with that company until 1943. Ellis Malm built the first store, J. [illegible]. Mackenzie operated the post office, the Schelkes had a garage with a dance hall above it, Mr. Orten had a blacksmith shop and Alf Clark put up a large general store.

About 1926, more was added to the Burt house and a new barn was built. Two dances were held in the big loft. In 1927, the farm was sold to Pahls, who had just arrived from Romania. Later Henry Welch purchased it and now the buildings are vacant.

We moved to a two-roomed house on the Chris Dunkle farm, west of Scapa. That winter we spent three months visiting relatives [illegible] Kansas and Oklahoma. What a thrill it was to travel by train. Only now can we realize the extra work our relatives had, feeding and making up beds for the seven of us, for most of the homes we visited had families of the same size. We brought back many happy memories of family reunions and so much kindness. Back home the next spring, a new nine-roomed house was built.

In the spring of 1929, a community committee was formed in Scapa, and by May of that year, lumber was unloaded to construct a community hall. Mother was on the first committee and both Mother and Dad gave many hours of volunteer work to keep things going.

Scapa enjoyed many picnics and sports days, and a baseball team was organized. Dad was a great sportsman, enjoying baseball, hunting ducks and geese, basketball and hockey, in that order. Dad had played ball in Kansas, and became [illegible] coach for the Scapa team, which made a name for itself throughout the area. Even though times were hard [illegible] the thirties, the coach made sure that there was occasionally a new ball and bat in the bag, and that there was transportation available for the players. After Dad's death, the family thought it fitting that a Harvey Burt Memorial Trophy [illegible] awarded in the area.

The thirties were the years of depression, [illegible] sand storms and no rain. Nevertheless, Mother managed to grow a garden which not only fed the family, but supplied treats for the neighbors. The government shipped in car loads of apples, dried fish, canned herring and clothing that Dad distributed from the elevator in Scapa. The supplies probably came from people no better off than ourselves, but

they had a surplus of these goods, and we appreciated them. Cold and hungry people forget about language barriers!

Although Dad did not have many years of formal schooling, he felt it was important that his family have the chance of an education. Even though times were hard, Olive and Bill attended Olds Agricultural School in the thirties. The family still wonders about Dad; how could he figure out those hard fractions in his head?

The elevator closed in the winter of 1934 so Dad bought grain near Fort Saskatchewan and returned home in the spring. His cheque was seventy-five dollars a month, which was very good at that time. He always managed to help a neighbor or two with his generosity. One man returned the money he had been loaned nearly twenty years later, and was still grateful for the favor.

Before this time, Dad had farmed with the help of many hired men, but now there were three boys growing up in the family, so more farm land was rented and bought. It seemed as though more grain was put in than was taken off, but we continued to farm. We built a new barn, and bought a Massey Harris tractor from J. B. Mackenzie. By the late thirties, crops were better and we bought a threshing machine. Earl and Emil Kammerle ran the outfit, and some day Earl will write a book entitled "Experiences with Emil", the best entertainer of any day.

The forties brought a lot of changes to the family. The war took Earl overseas; Agnes, Olive and Bill married and had families of their own; Harvey took over the farm and Mother and Dad operated the store in Scapa. They sold it to Lyxzens, and retired to Edmonton in 1949. Mother passed away in 1951, after many operations. She had had many years of sickness but was always cheerful. Dad died in Lacombe in 1962.

Like many other homesteaders, Mother and Dad came to this country with dreams of making a fortune and returning home. However, this land became their home, and the other hardy homesteaders took the place of the family they had left behind. They had their ups and downs with hail and poor crops, but they always provided well for their own family. As Dad was a carpenter, blacksmith and businessman, his extra income helped out on the farm. Mother and Dad were strong community workers, serving on the school board and on other committees. They were good neighbors who kept their door open for hospitality or help. Old friends will remember the many hours spent playing cards.

Throughout the years, Dad liked to take the whole family travelling. One of our biggest adventures was a two-week trip to Banff and Lake Louise in the new 1928 touring Chev. After Dad's retirement, the folks travelled through the States many times.

Harvey and Rebecca had seven children. One baby girl was buried in St. Paul, Kansas, and Ruby, age one month, was buried on the homestead in 1917.

In 1929 Agnes married Gilbert Tucker, who died in 1948. Later she married Otto Thiel and they live in Ponoka. She had three children from her first marriage, Harvey, Jean and Frank.

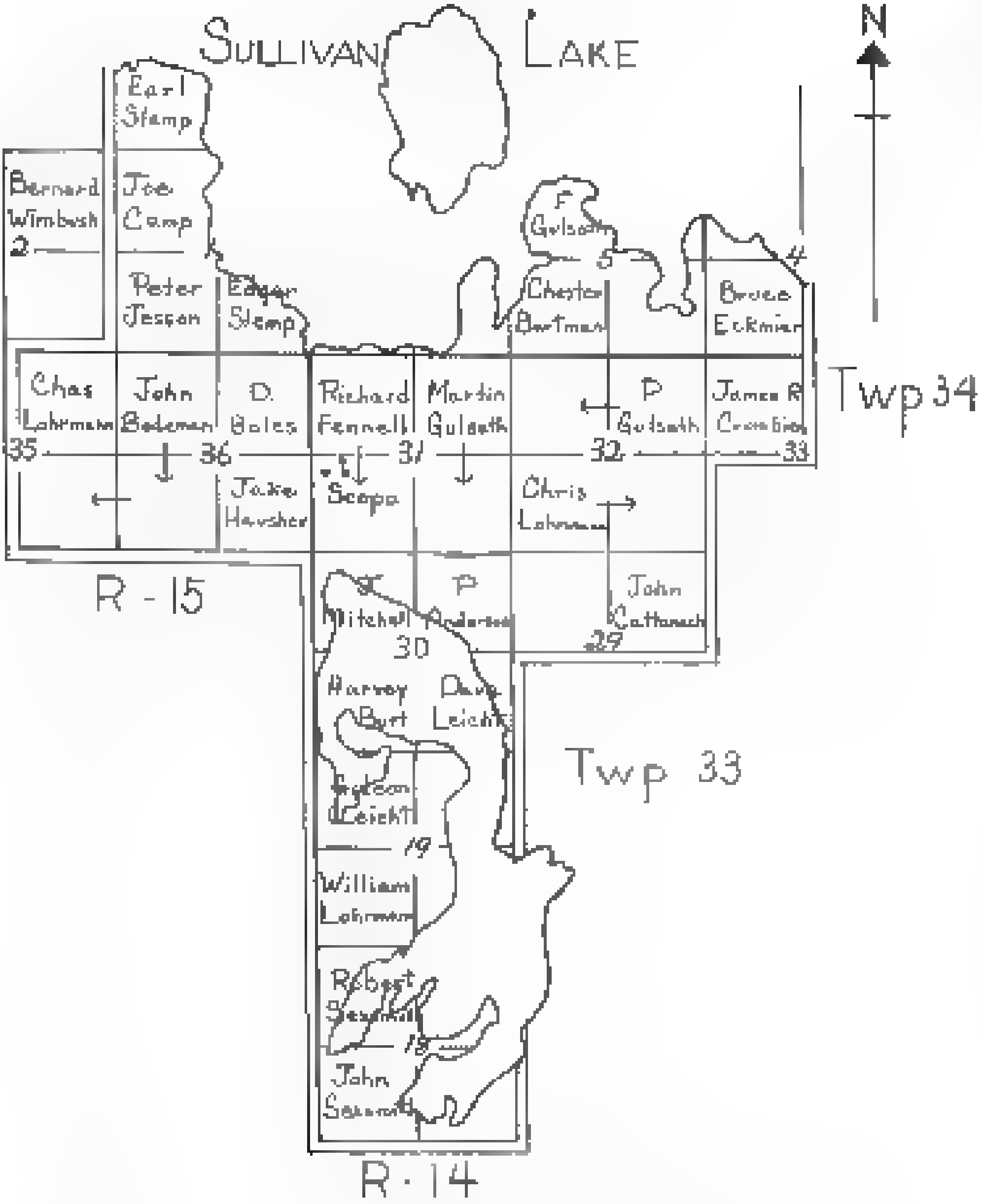
Olive married Jim Boehlke in 1936. They farmed at Endiang and later he became an engineer on the C.N.R. They retired to Kelowna where Jim passed away in 1969, and where Olive still resides. Verne and Velma are their children.

Bill married Augusta Boehlke in 1937, farmed at Scapa and then retired to Balfour, B.C. They have one son, Bob.

Harvey married Gladys Kalenith in 1944. They farmed at Scapa, then moved to Edmonton and are now living in Red Deer. They have three children, Mary, Larry and Carol.

Earl married Elsie Quaschnick in 1942. Their children are Sheila, Garry and Diane. They still farm at Craigmyle.

ECAPA No. 4357



HOMESTEADER	**ONE TIME OWNER OR RENTER WHO LIVED ON THE LAND**	**PRESENT OWNER OCCUPANT**
SE ¼ 1-34-15 Edgar Slemp Jake Hausher	George Hausher Carl Smith	Gus Mattheis Leo Erion
SW ¼ 19-33-14 William Lohrmann	Ernest Hessel	S. Jabs (Acreage)
SW ¼ 32-33-14 Chris Lohrmann	Jack Leicht	Hugh Riddle
NE ¼ 32-33-14 P. Gulseth	John Cattanach	David Cattanach
NW 31-33-14 Richard Fennell		Arthur A. Welch

SCAPA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4387

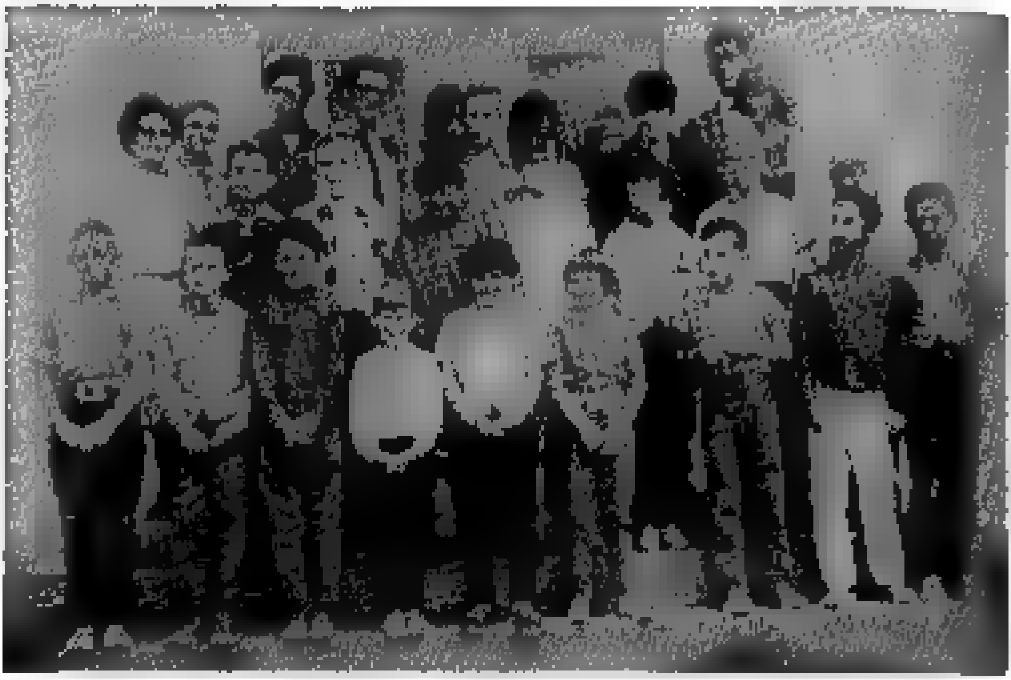
By Edna Welch

The Scapa school district was organized on January 12, 1929. Trustees were Ella Malm, Chairman; E.E. Slemp, Secretary, and Bill Hein. The first classes were held in Malm's warehouse; Helen Jensen taught [illegible] the end of June and Mrs. Malm did the janitor work.

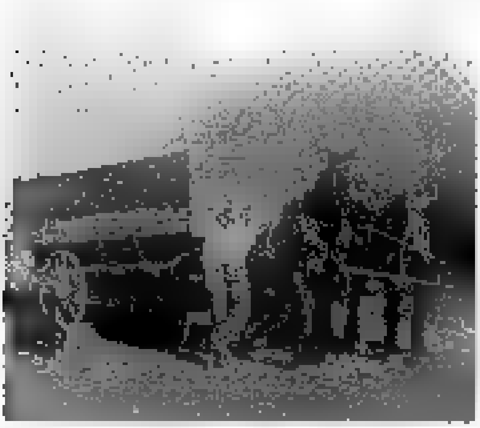
The contract [illegible] build the school was awarded [illegible] Aakran and McArthur of Hanna. Mr. Malm paid for the land the school was to be built on, and was later repaid. The new building was completed for the fall term of 1929. Miss Colleen Cameron was hired to teach for the ensuing year at a salary of one thousand dollars per year. Rudy Hein did the janitor work for eight dollars a month.

First Year of School, Spring 1929, held in Malm's warehouse. Back Row, left to right: Homer Hill, Lavina Hein, Helen Jensen, Hedvig Hein. Second Row: Arvid Malm, Margaret Malm, Gust Schielke, Haskell Hill, Kathleen Fennell, Ruby Fennell. Third Row: Arthur Kemp, Mona Kemp, Teddy Leicht, Billy Leicht. Others unknown.

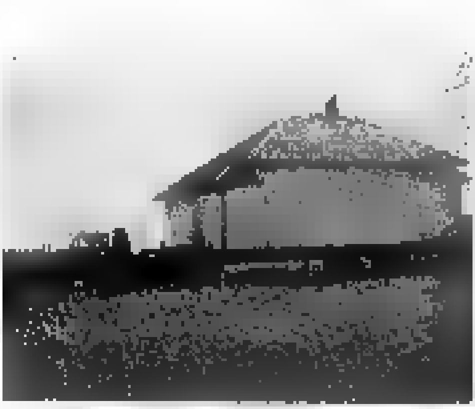
Scape School 1929 (Fall). First Row, left to right are Marg Malm, Ronald Hein, Gus Schielke, Arvid Malm, Ted Leicht. Second Row: Ed Hein, Kathleen Fennell, Bill Leicht, Ruby Fennell, Third Row: Lillian Schielke, Hedwig Hein.



Scapa School 1968 (last year [illegible] school). Back Row, [illegible] to right: Wayne Fecho, Allan Steinbrecker, Ken Annas, Judy Welch, Vernon Steinbrecker, Arleen Welch, Rhonda Sauter, Gerry Harvey, Wayne Johnston. Second Row: Mrs. McQuarry, Rob Allan, Doug Viste, Elsie Wolfert, Elaine Welch, Adele Allan, Barry Annas, Luann Lohrmann. Front Row: Wilfred Albright, Donald Viste, Gary Chidley, Laurie Brunner, Debbie Chidley, Lynne Viste, Tim Annas, Robert Steinbrecker, Stan Welch.



Lou Lohrmann, school bus.



Moving Scapa teacherage to Youngstown to be used as a teacherage.

As the depression deepened, teachers' salaries decreased to five hundred dollars a year. Money became so scarce it was feared that the school would have to close; but somehow enough became available to pay the teacher's salary.

In 1937 the schools in the area amalgamated [illegible] form Sullivan Lake School Division No. 9. Because of declining population and decreased enrollments, Corrine, Garden Plain, Wiese, Crow Hill, Hudson Bay, Annesheim and Chain Lakes were forced to close. Some children from the eastern school districts were bussed to Netherby, some from the west went to Endiang, and the remainder attended Scapa, where grades one to twelve were taught. The basement of the school was converted for use as a high school room.

To accommodate the larger enrollment, a new three-roomed school was built at Scapa [illegible] 1955. The original school became a teacherage. But by 1968

enrollment had again declined and to cut costs the school was closed and the children bussed to Hanna. George Burns and Friedel Haessel drove the two busses for many years.

One of the highlights of the school year was the annual Christmas concert, attended by people from far and near. The children waited excitedly for Santa Claus, while the adults tried to guess who was playing the part. Another popular event was the year-end picnic and sports day. It was in the country schools that the children learned the basics of baseball and hockey; possibly the closing of the small schools helped to bring about the decline of these sports, and the end of the good games we used to enjoy watching every Sunday. It seems that with the closing of the schools the community loses much of the feeling of togetherness which binds it.

School bus driven by George Burns 1967-68.

Some of the teachers at Scapa were Helen Jensen, Colleen Cameron, Louise Wade, Vic Trenaman, Caroline Reid, Elizabeth Sardseth, Annie Murell, Charlie Mills, Enos Lundgren, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Mrs. Ethel Tangyee, Mabel Anderson, Doreen Lyzen, Jo McCullough, Edna J. Welch, Larry Schuithels, Wayne Johnson, Roger Humbke, Shirley Golby, Mrs. McQuarry, Mrs. Davidson, Ralph Ringdahl, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mr. C.O. Tuttle, Blanche Coutts, Miss Ambury, Don Pound, Jack McClaren and J. Meehan.

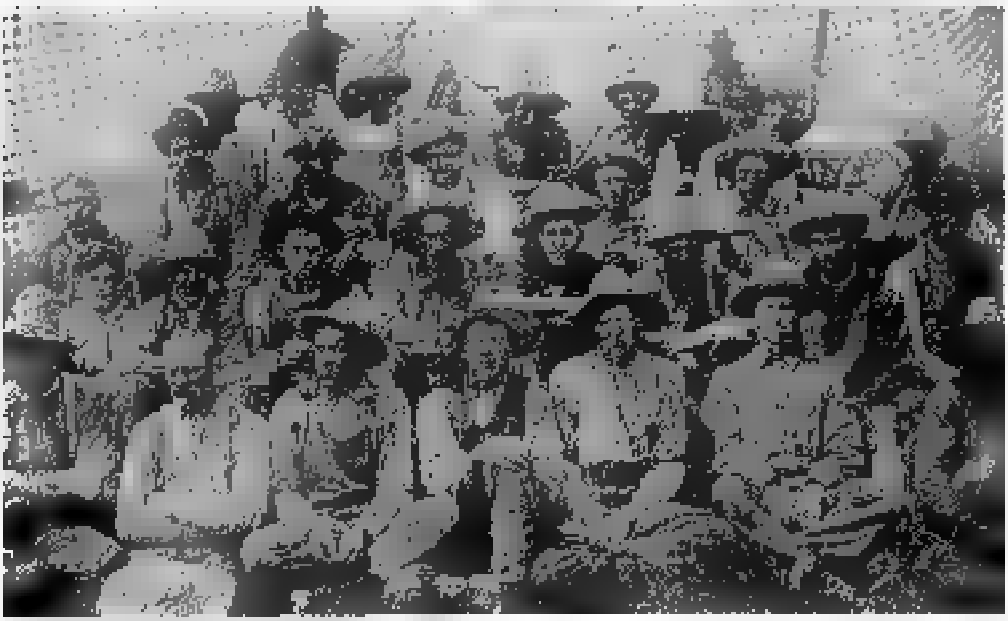
CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY LINES

By Edna Welch

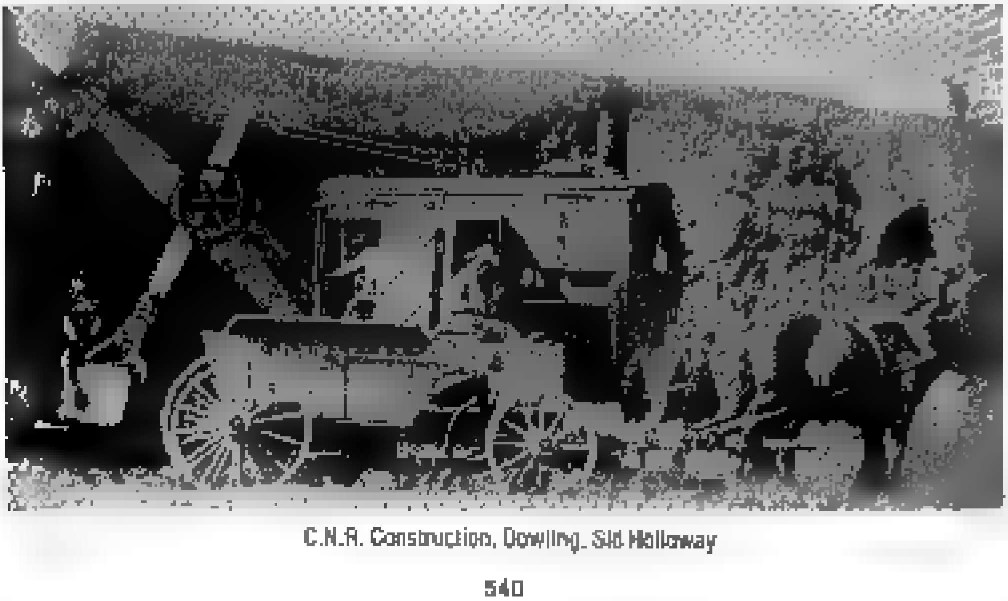
In the early twenties there were rumors of a railway to be built from Hanna to Warden. Finally, in 1924, approval was given for the construction of the line and the contract was awarded to Bryson and Sons. Construction began in 1925 and proceeded from Warden to Hanna. When the line came close to Scapa, Mrs. Harvey Burt contracted to cook for the small camp of workers, and began in June, 1925.

By October [illegible], 1925, the Jackson grading outfit had prepared the road bed as far as Endiang, and by the end of the year steel had been laid as far as Scapa, and for the first time farmers were able to ship their grain by rail.

Railroad Camp



Crew building railway west of Hanna. Hjalmer and Carls Viste are in the third row back, towards the right, wearing wide brimmed hats.



C.N.R. Construction, Dowling. Sid Holloway

Railway Building Crew

Building Spondin Sub

On November 23, 1926, the last spike was driven on the Hanna-Warden line. The crew on the first train were Engineer, Mr. Bigelow; Fireman, H.D. Scott; Conductor, Mark Canning, and Brakemen, Ross McLean and James Cluny. Effective January 8, 1927, tri-weekly service began from Mirror to Hanna and back. With the coming of the railway, small townsites were laid out along the line; in the area covered by this book, were Scapa and Dowling.

The year 1929 saw the start of construction on the Scapa-Spondin sub. Steel was stockpiled on Mrs. Fennell's farm in August, 1929. Mr. Bridges came as manager of the material yard in 1930. Mr. Morrison, a railway contractor, moved his outfit in to work on the grade in May. The previous year a railroad grading outfit owned by a Mr. Owens from Ohio had completed one mile of grade.

Steam Engine, Hanna-Warden Line, 1949

The original station. Joe Culp, telegraph operator on right, and Don MacKenzie.

Train Wreck — August 1949, three miles south of Scapa

Train Wreck — 1950, two or three miles north of Hanna

In November, 1930, preparation to lay steel east began, with E.W. Graham in charge. Many local men earned extra money by hiring on with the various contractors and later by working as section men. The laying of the steel was completed by February, 1931. According to a news item in the Hanna Herald, 'Miss Larson of Hemaruka drove the golden spike.'

The telegraph line to Hemaruka was completed June 11, 1931. J.M. Culp acted as telegraph operator for a short while. Mrs. Marie Lenore operated the cook car for the construction workers, and no doubt the men appreciated her wonderful cooking.

The villages along the Scapa-Spondin sub were Garden Plain, Spondin and Hemaruka. Garden Plain boasted a store, two elevators and a few homes. Spondin, a little larger, had a store, elevators, a school, a creamery and a dance hall, and in later years a curling rink. Hemaruka was the only village along the line to have a hotel. Once in a while the section crews stopped there and returned home a little worse for it.

The plan of the railroad company had been to operate trains from Hanna through Scapa to Hemaruka, and eventually extend the line into Saskatchewan, but the depression put an end to that idea. However, trains did run quite regularly to haul grain from the elevators.

The right-of-way had not been fenced off so that farmers could pasture it. So two men would ride the cow catcher on the engine to open the gates between the fields, and the speeder would follow the train to close them again. Some farmers living along the line resented the track running through their property, and made things difficult. One time the section crew discovered that a rail had been removed from the track. Another time they found a coyote chained to a rail. Ties were often stolen; and if a section crew travelled the line to open gates before the train was due, someone would close them before the train arrived.

Both the east and north lines had section foremen and four or five section men stationed at Scapa and Dowling.

The Spondin sub was abandoned some time ago; the steel and ties were removed in 1976. It is rumored that the Hanna-Warden line will also be abandoned. The building of these branch lines meant the end of isolation and long hauls to town for the pioneers; those who remember the excitement of the railway coming through feel that their abandonment is a breach of faith with our forefathers. Is this progress?

SCAPA

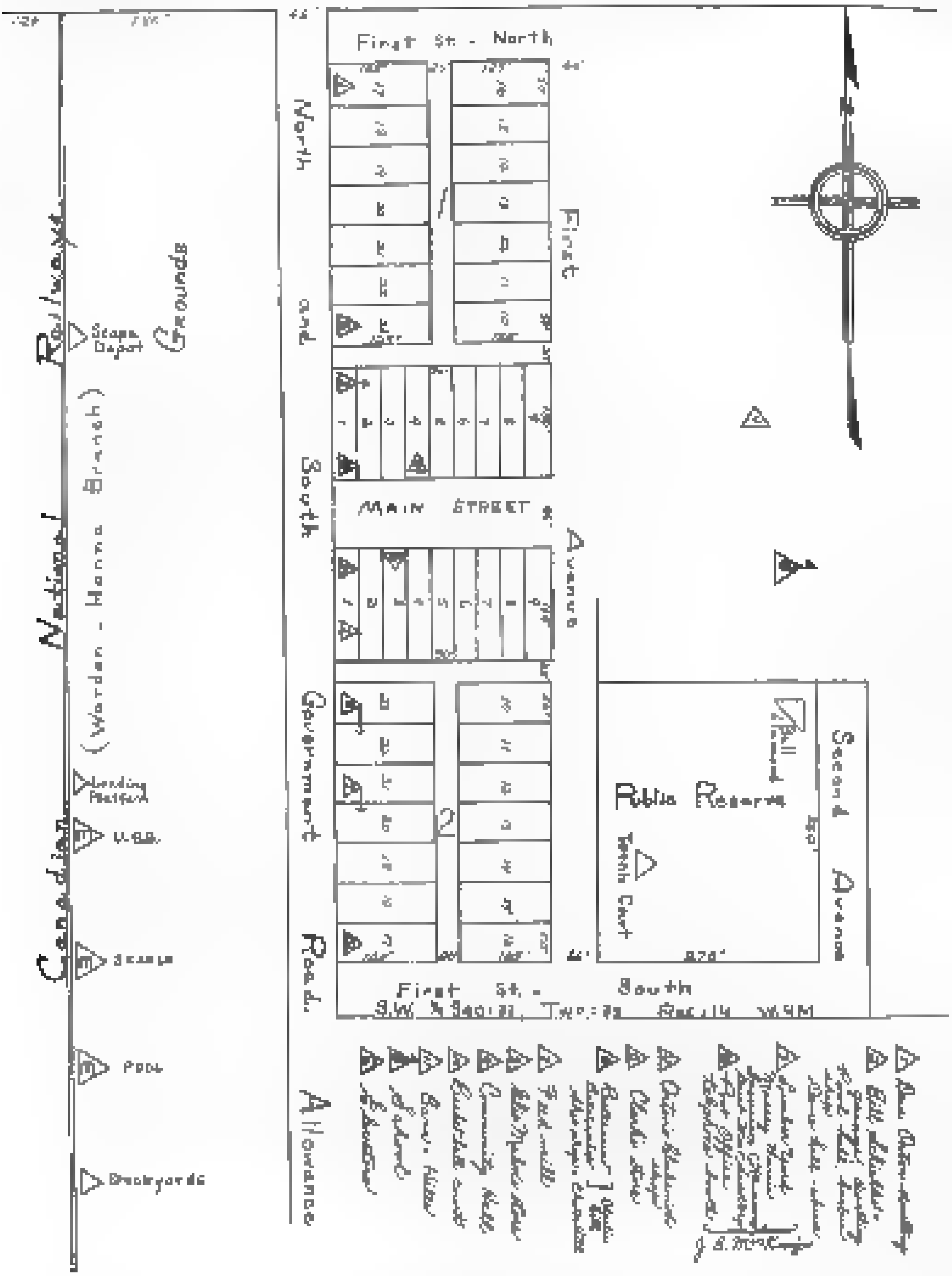
By Edna Welch

With the coming of the railroad in 1925, four lots and the sites for three elevators were surveyed in the hamlet of Scapa. Construction of the U.G.G. elevator began in November of that year and by the end of December Harvey Burt was loading grain to be shipped out. The Home elevator, later Searle, was built in 1926 and in operation by September of that year. Newspaper reports indicate that Joe Camp hauled rock and W.P. Glenn supplied gravel for the foundation of the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator which opened in 1926, with Mr. Louis Schumacher as agent.

Other men who bought grain at the three elevators over the years were Lyd Newman, George Wahl, Lovell Baxter, Mr. Wilson, Ray Bell, Art Welch, Herman Stamp, Richard Zeamer, George Burns, Bernie Wade, Vern Schmatz, Don Leahy; the present operator is Fred Harvey.

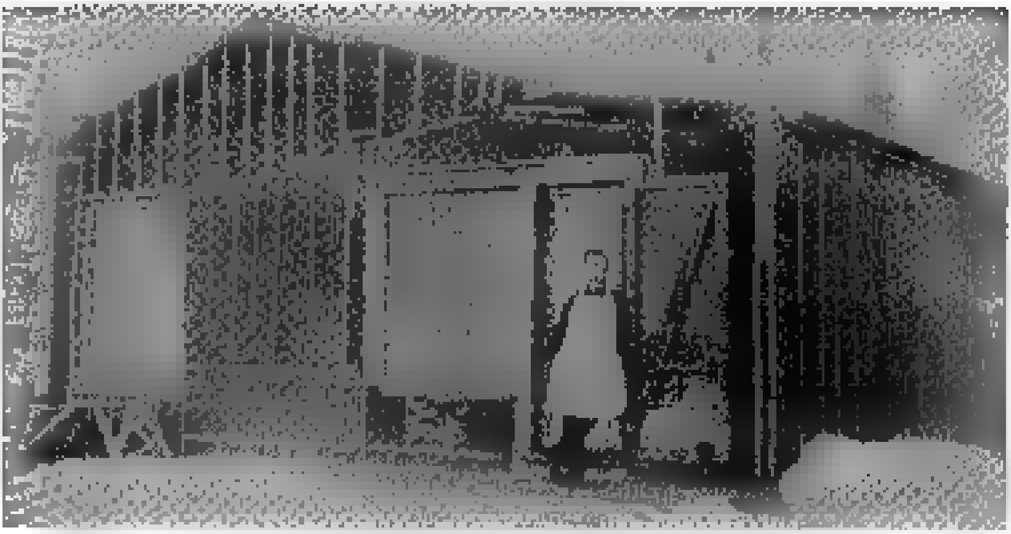
Elis Malm opened the first store in Scapa on August 13, 1925, and operated it until his death in 1933. His wife Thyra, with the help of her two children, spent long

hours delivering gas and oil to farmers, picking up supplies, and working in the store and the house. The business was a general store in every way; it carried a stock which met most of the needs of the people in the surrounding area.



Scape — 1925 - 1930

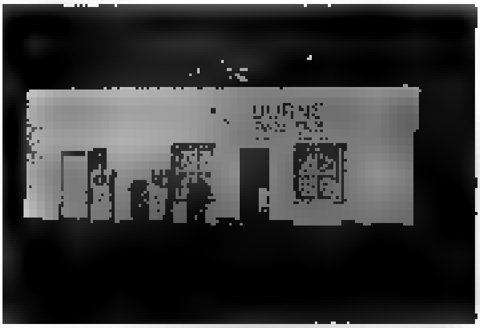
Mrs. Malm sold the store in 1942, and since then it has had many owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound, Mr. and Mrs. George Burns, and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer.



Malm's General Store, 1927. Art Wigley in doorway.

Scapa spring thaw, 1926

Malm Store 1931.



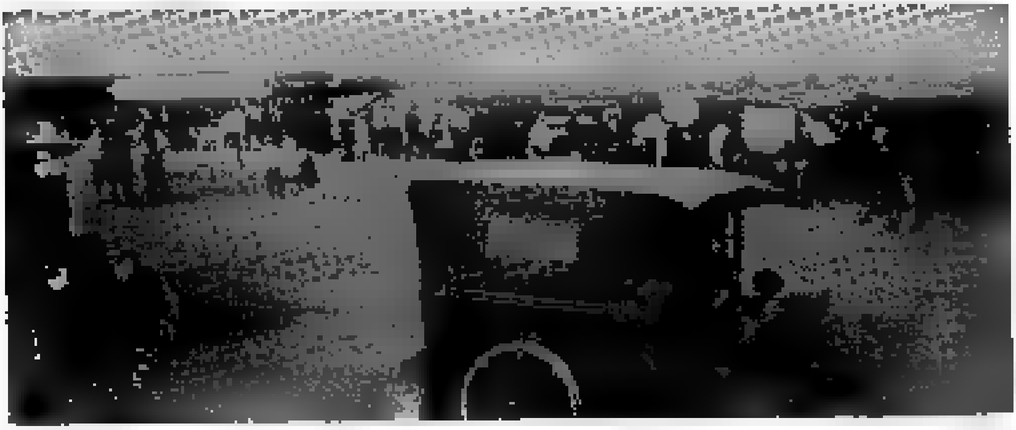
Scapa Store, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. George Burns operated the store longer than anyone else; they also drove a school bus, had a trucking business, and did janitor work at the school. In addition George acted as Searle grain buyer for a time.

By December, 1925, J.B. Mackenzie had erected a store building with living quarters for his family, who helped him as he was also still farming. He operated the post office and also had a lumber yard, a machine agency and a saddlery. It was Mr. Mackenzie who suggested the name, Scapa, for the post office; originally the hamlet had been known as Fennellsville.

Scapa — Moving out in the 1930's

Scapa taken by Art Bains at night.



Scapa First Annual Picnic 1926

There were two rural mail routes out of Scapa. One which went east to the Garden Plain area had sixty mail boxes. Service began November 1, 1926, with Jesse Hill as mailman. The other route ran west and south [illegible] the Wiese area.

In 1926 Mr. Dave Orton built a blacksmith shop. The next year William

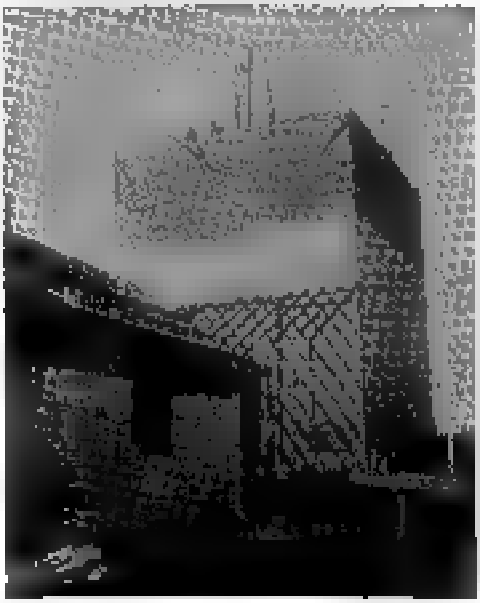
Schielke erected a large building which housed a garage, pool room, barber shop, and living quarters for the family. The top floor was used as a dance hall. In 1928 Mr. Schielke installed a gasoline-powered generator to supply electricity for the building.

A second general store was built by a Mr. Clark in 1926, and later purchased by Mr. Glenn. Subsequent owners were Albert Shaben, Bud Brooker and Harvey Burt. The building was eventually moved to Hanna and became a bowling alley.

A restaurant was built in 1927 and operated by Charlie Hill and his family. When Jim and Olive Boehike bought it they operated it as a restaurant and general store.

In 1929 Mr. Propokuk opened a butcher shop. The community hall was completed the same year. Mr. C.A. Coughlin addressed the gathering at the opening dance held on June 28, 1929.

Sidewalk superintendents, overseeing the addition to the Post Office. Mrs. Jack Leight, Beulah Glenn, Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Knudson.

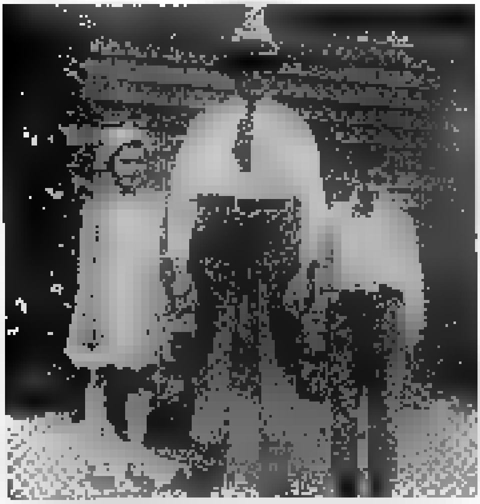


Constructing U.G.G. elevator at Scapa in 1925.

Scapa U.G.G. Elevator. Grain drying in early 1970's. Dryer owned by Otto and Leo Erion.

At one time the little village of Scapa was a thriving community of two stores, a restaurant, a post office, garage, pool hall, blacksmith shop, barber shop, three elevators, and two schools. There were stock yards and tennis courts. There were teacherages and homes for the section crews. Now the population has dwindled to twelve; there is a store, the U.G.G. elevator, and the post office run by Fred and Elsie Harvey who took over from Mr. Mackenzie.

Scapa had various community organizations; the U.F.A. local was organized [illegible] 1926, with A.B. Hanson as president, C.A. Hill vice-president, and J.B. Mackenzie the secretary-treasurer. There was a Ladies' Aid and a Hall Committee. The only groups active today are the Ladies' Aid and the Athletic Association.



Elis Malm, Margaret and Arvid

ELIS MALM STORY, By Margaret Malm Riddle — Elis Malm emigrated from Sweden as a young man; he homesteaded six miles northwest of Scapa in 1912. From there he worked [illegible] the Endiang district; being a carpenter by trade he built many homes and schools. On November 22, 1920 he married Annie Williams, a Welsh lass. In 1922, a set of twins Margaret and Arvid were born at the Campbell farm. At that time my dad operated a general store just east [illegible] Endiang. When the railroad came through in 1925, Elis Malm opened up the first general store in Scapa, the Red & White. He also sold gas and oil and had a trucking business.

In 1932, my dad built a square box that fit on a two ton truck. In this day and age it would be called a camper or a motor home. Eight of us, four children and four adults, travelled out to Langley, B.C. camping along the way. Harvey Burt was in charge [illegible] the store for six weeks or more while we were gone.

Elis was an ardent sports fan and also had a lot to do with getting a new school built, as well as the community hall. The first school, known as the flour house or a warehouse, was used from January 22, 1929 until the end of June, with the former Helen Jensen being the first teacher.

In 1925, my mother died, leaving my dad to take care of the twins. In 1926 he married a Swedish girl, Thyra Ostlund. They were married only five years when my dad passed away suddenly. My mother continued to operate the store until 1942, when she sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Burk. Since then the store has changed hands many times; other owners were Mr. Harvey Burt, Mr. Lyxzen, Mr. Pound, George Burns and Bob and Pat Fizer.

In 1941, Margaret married Bill Riddle. They had four children and live in Hanna.

Arvid married an English war bride, Eileen Gregams. They had two girls and live [illegible] Lake Louise where he is the post master.

My mother still lives at Riverside, California.

THE BURNS FAMILY — We arrived in Scapa from Nisku, Alberta in August, 1953, with our two boys, Garry and Pat. We took over as agent for the Searle Grain Company. When the new three-roomed school was built in 1954, we

Modern Trucking, George Burns' Truck

were janitors for awhile. We also started to drive the school bus bringing children to Scapa from surrounding areas where the smaller schools were closed due to small enrollments.

In 1956 we purchased the Scapa store from Mrs. L. Pound. About this time the Searle Grain Company sold their elevator, so we started general trucking. [illegible] 1964 the Pioneer Grain Company asked us to look after their elevators at Garden Plain and Spondin. The C.N.R. had discontinued service of the Scapa-Hemaruka line, and all grain from the elevators at Spondin and Garden Plain had [illegible] be trucked out; we took the contract for this work. In 1966 the Pioneer Grain Company moved their elevators by truck to Cereal. The Pool elevator at Garden Plain remained in operation until 1972, when it was torn down.

[illegible] 1974 we sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer. We lived on the Glubrecht place for about six months and then moved to Hanna for a year. We continued [illegible] drive the school bus until 1976, when we retired after twenty-two years' service, and moved [illegible] Stettler.

In 1960 Garry married a local girl, Gene Viste. They and their two girls live in Sherwood Park. Pat married Verna Stenelend [illegible] 1968. They and their two children live in Hanna.

We enjoyed our years at Scapa and will never forget our friends there.

Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie, Scapa Post Office

J. B. MacKenzie, By Catherine Graham — In May 1914, Mrs. J.B. MacKenzie and her family of four, Catherine, Grace, Donald, and Nancy, left their home in Scotland [illegible] come to Canada to join Mr. MacKenzie [illegible] Calgary where he had built a new home for his family. He had sailed to Canada two years previous. We had crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the S.S. "Hesperian" which was later sunk during the War of 1914-1918. After a long trip on the train from Montreal we arrived in Calgary, which we liked very much. However, when the Great War broke out in August, work [illegible] the building trade had slackened off so much that it was hard to find enough work to survive on, so they looked into the idea that was being promoted [illegible] that time, settlers [illegible] open up the farmlands of Alberta. They were given a free homestead of 160 acres and they pre-empted another quarter of a section. The original farm, called "Willow Hill Farm", was two miles west of what is now the town of Scapa, and is now the property of Mr. Erion.

Coming to Craigmyle by train on the C.N.R. from Calgary, Mrs. MacKenzie and her children were driven out by Mr. Tom Symington, her brother-in-law, with a team of horses and wagon he had purchased in Craigmyle on this trip. It was

pouring rain most of the way and the children were in the back of the wagon on a mattress with covers over them. We stopped at a farm then occupied by a family by the name of McCuish and they gave us more covers and my uncle a raincoat. We had not reached my uncle's home before nightfall and we were lost, and the horses being new ones didn't know their way home either. So we slept out on the prairie our first night, just over the hill, as it turned out in the morning, from my uncle's home which was later the Henry Ruhl place near where the little Lutheran Church west of Scapa was later built. Mackenzie built the pulpit used in that church when it was opened.

Other settlers [illegible] that [illegible] at that time were Andy Hansons, Steinbreckers, Welch, and Linleys, the Glubrechts who used to bring milk to us and Mr. Glubrecht built a sod barn on my uncle's farm. Some of the bachelors were Joe Lidgett, Ernie Fletcher and Harry Cook, all of whom married later.

We stayed with our uncle as Mrs. Symington, Mrs. Mackenzie's sister, was away on a trip to Scotland. On her return about Christmas time we had to find a place to stay where we would be able to go to school, so we moved over to the Orlando School District on the other side of the Chain Lakes, where we rented a home near the school and boarded the school teacher, Miss Mayhew. By this time Mr. MacKenzie had joined the Army in which he served overseas for three years.

The brother [illegible] the man who owned the house we were living in at Orlando decided to marry the teacher boarding with us, and wanted the house to live in, so we had to move again. We went to live at Mr. Knudson's at Chain Lakes, where we went to school with his family and Mrs. MacKenzie kept house for us all. Later Mr. MacKenzie's sister came out from Toronto to marry Mr. Knudson and look after his family.

About 1917 Mrs. MacKenzie had Mr. Symington put a house on our own homestead, as they were planning to build the Hudson Bay school. Miss Hoare from Calgary was the first teacher in this school, others following were Miss Hamilton, Miss McLaughlin, Miss McTaggart, Mrs. McNeil, who later became Mrs. Harry Cook, Mary Orde, Mac Slemp, and Miss Woods. We had to go in all kinds of weather during the winters to attend school; there were no busses picking us up and no cars at that time.

The schools were also the centers of entertainment, with dances, box socials, and Christmas concerts being the order of the day with the local musicians providing the music on whatever instruments they could play, to the best of their ability. Church was also held [illegible] the schools during the summer months when student ministers would hold services. Later when the towns started up these affairs were held in the local halls.

As there was no doctors handy during these early days Mrs. MacKenzie assisted at the birth of a number [illegible] the children born around there about that time. Some coming [illegible] mind are Mildred Hanson and Edward Glubrecht.

We had one cow at this time, but in 1918 when the war was over, Mr. MacKenzie came home, and started farming in earnest. That was the winter when Spanish Influenza struck, and [illegible] some cases whole families were down with it and many lost their lives.

[illegible] 1925 Mr. MacKenzie opened [illegible] post office in Scapa, and we all had our turn at helping to carry on at home as he was still operating the farm. He also had a lumber yard and a machine agency.

Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie made their last move when he retired, going to Vancouver [illegible] live out their years. All the members of the family married and moved to different parts of the country.

Catherine taught school for a number of years around Hanna, then joined the

C.P.R. Princess boats on the west coast, and worked there for a number of years. She married the late Mr. E.W. Graham and now lives in Kelowna, B.C.

Grace married Dick "Duckie" Holmes of Endiang, where he operated a lumber yard, later moving to Black Diamond and Turner Valley, where Grace lost her life as the result [illegible] a gas explosion in their home. Dick is living now in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donald is living in Vancouver and Nancy, Mrs. George Scott, lives in Calgary.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

By E.R. Burt

Mr. Orton's Blacksmith Shop at Scapa

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Orton with their son Mervin came from their homestead south of Bassano to the village of Scapa [illegible] the spring of 1926. They built the first house in Scapa and the blacksmith shop.

Dave had apprenticed in Ontario and came west in the early 1900's. He worked in a shop at High River before taking up his homestead.

[illegible] those days the plow was an important implement. Dave was kept busy from early morning till late night hammering out plow shares, setting wagon wheels, etc. Winter was horse shoeing time. Blacksmithing is now a lost art and to watch Dave with [illegible] hot iron and a hammer was something else. I remember seeing Dave forge a piece of steel into cylinder teeth for a threshing machine. It came out looking like new. There were years when money was scarce and new repairs were out of the question. Dave came to the farmers' rescue.

The blacksmith shop was also a place to replay yesterday's ball game and catch up on all the unprintable news. The milk man usually got a political discussion going, many times almost missing his dinner.

With changing times the blacksmith shop was no longer needed and in the late thirties the Orton family moved [illegible] Hanna. Mrs. Orton was a great supporter of community activities and before the cafe opened many a weary traveller was sure to get a good meal at her home.

The Orton family have all passed away but are not forgotten. I am sure anyone who knew the spot where the blacksmith shop stood can still hear the hammer and anvil ringing. Some of Dave's tools can be seen today in the Hanna Museum.

WILLIAM P. GLENN GENERAL STORE

By Earl Burt

W.P. Glenn came to Scapa in 1927, with his wife and family, Beulah and Vernon. Beulah helped her dad with the store, while Vernon was still attending school. Some will remember the gas pump out front. It was antique even in those days, with the pump having to be cranked up and then down each time to bring up a gallon of gas.

Mr. Glenn took his share of eggs, butter, hides, etc. in trade for supplies and

groceries. Did you ever stop to think where all the butter and eggs went? I am sure that a lot of store keepers of the day, threw them out the back door! They could not refuse the old customer when times were bad.

Mr. Glenn kept a big black team of horses. This team was used for dragging and hauling coal from Garden Plain. Vernon was on his way home with a load [illegible] coal when the team got thirsty. They walked off the road, down to the creek and turned over the wagon and coal in the creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn were good community supporters. For health reasons, he moved out to New Westminster in the mid-thirties. He sold to Albert Shaben from Endiang.

Mr. Glenn passed away in 1965, and Vernon in 1975. Beulah married Shorty Warwick of Hanna and operates Warwick Ladies Wear. Her mother resides in the Pelliser Nursing Home [illegible] Hanna.

CLARK STORE

By Earl Burt

Moving the Glenn-Clark Store to Hanna to use as a bowling alley

Alf Clark and family came to Scapa in 1926 and built a General Store with living quarters in the rear. Alf had homesteaded in the Parr district south of Hanna, and had operated a furniture business in Hanna before coming to Scapa.

Alf did not stay long, but he left his mark in the district. He was a good businessman and a great supporter of new developments in the community. Alf also bought cattle and shipped them out by rail.

Clarks sold the store to their friend and neighbor from homestead days, W.P. Glenn. After leaving Scapa, they took up residence [illegible] Dawson Creek and went into the real estate business. Alf was also mayor of Dawson Creek for several years.

Mr. Clark has passed on, and Mrs. Clark resides in Vernon, B.C. Gerald is a prominent psychiatrist in Philadelphia a[illegible] Shirley lives in Prince George, B.C.

SCAPA FEED MILL

By Earl Burt

In this modern day of skillfully prepared feeds, one would wonder how cattle and horses survived in years gone by.

Interestingly enough, even Scapa had a "Feed Mill" a few years ago. Charlie Hill and boys had an I.H.C. 10-inch grain grinder and a "Mogul" one-cylinder tractor. Tuesday was the day the farmers of the area brought grain into the village. The grain had to be shovelled into the hopper and then gravity-fed to the mill. With no elevator or augers, the shovel came to use. With only a west and north wall around the mill, one was glad to be kept working!

Things went well in the summer as the "Mogul" was a willing worker in warm weather. Winter time brought [illegible] lot of action though. The night before grinding, water was carried to fill tubs on a big cook stove. The next morning this was

heated until boiling, at which time it was hustled out to the 10 to 15 gallon tank of the Mogul. Horse blankets were laid on and the whole procedure halted until the oil and cast block warmed up. Armed with a two-foot long crank, the boys would attempt to turn it over. About an hour later, (with the advice from the natives!) a fire had been built around and under the tractor and it finally started. Once running, it never missed — how could it with only one cylinder?

Charlie operated the restaurant [illegible] the same time so he brought in a brisk business. His feed mill operation stopped one cold day in February though. After the water and fire treatment on the "Mogul", a native came up with a can of ether which blew the head off! What a sad death for a faithful tractor that had done so much for the country in the beginning.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM SCHIELKE, By Hilda Schielke Talmage — William Schielke and his wife Mary were both born in Roumania. When Bill was five years old he came with his parents, seven brothers and two sisters, to North Dakota. At the age of seventeen, off to Canada he went. He did most of his travelling on a saddle horse; he loved horses and took great pride in keeping his team decorated with tassels and bells. When Bill came to Canada he took up a homestead near Hardisty.

In 1912 he married Mary Turigan, who had come to Canada with her mother and brother. They spent a winter honeymoon [illegible] North Dakota with his parents, then came back and settled in the Paintearth district near Galahad, north-west of Castor. They went through lots of hard times; the first house was made of logs and mud, and when the roof leaked, table oilcloth was put over the bed to keep it dry. They began raising cattle, and Mary became a great hunter. She would shoot beaver and sell the pelts to make money. She loved horse back riding and outdoor work, was very fond of gardening, and I always said she could make a weed bloom.

1929 Scapa Ladies' Aid including Mrs. Dick Haessel, Mrs. Camp, Mrs. E. Slemp, Harry Scott, barber, Mrs. Cattanach, Mrs. Malm.

They had a family of four, well planned, a boy, a girl, a boy, a girl. They had their good times. Mrs. Schielke said that harvesting was a lot of work, early hours and late hours; but all the women helped each other, which made it so much easier. As well as working, the women played their share of pranks on the men.

In 1927 they decided to move to Scapa. They sold all the cattle and bought a big building at Richdale, which Bill tore down and began to rebuild in Scapa. He

built a huge building, fifty feet square. He divided it in half and one part was a garage. The two boys were very good mechanics and along with their Dad they made many democrats out of the old running gear of cars.

In another part of the building he had a pool room and barber shop run by Harry Scott. The upstairs of the building became a dance hall, which saw a lot of good old dancing, and it probably swayed with the music. Bill must have been a good carpenter, for the building never collapsed under the weight of the big circles of square dancers. There was also a room for the wee ones to sleep, for there were no baby sitters in those days.

To help with the finances, Bill went to work on the C.N.R. section crew for twenty-five cents an hour, and worked hard laying ties and driving spikes. Pay day was a big day to look forward to; that meant a trip to Endiang and maybe a beer or two in the bar.

Mr. Schielke and his friend, W. P. Glenn, who had a general store at Scapa, liked to play tricks. One night when a bunch were going to a dance, they cut up onions and put them in the sleigh box under the blankets. Everyone wore the same cologne that night.

Another time some of the men got into the apple cider at the store. It had aged and turned into "kick-a-poo" juice. One man in particular had too much and lost his false teeth in a load of oats on the way home.

In 1956, after all the family had grown up and were leaving home, Bill decided to tear down the garage and built three houses out of the lumber, and moved them away. They lived in one of them in Hanna for a short while. About 1959 they moved the house that the son had lived in, in Scapa, to Castor, and took up residence there. In the summer of 1967 Mr. Schielke suffered a stroke which left one side paralyzed. He was a patient in the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary hospital in Stettler until his death on October 12, 1970.

In September, 1976, Mrs. Schielke had a stroke which left her unable to walk or speak. She is still a patient in the Castor hospital.

The family all live in Alberta, Bennie at Turner Valley; Lillian, Mrs. Stan Burkett, in Edmonton; Gus at Big Valley and Hilda, Mrs. Roger Talmage, at Hanna.

Mary and Bill Schielke had five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They were a well-respected couple and enjoyed many happy years with their family. Mrs. Schielke was a quiet person, but both she and her husband had a fine sense of humor. Life never offered them many holidays, nor any trips abroad, but I am sure they would enjoy living their years over again.

LOUIS SCHUMACHER — I was born in 1908 in North Dakota, and moved with my family to the Bassano area when I was one year old. In 1925 I set out on my own, moving to Sunnynook to work in a grain elevator and learn the business.

In 1928 I took charge of the elevator at Scapa. It started out to be a very good growing year, but a hailstorm in August wiped out half the crop in the entire area. Crops were poorer after that, and farmers' incomes were depleted as the depression intensified.

In 1932 I left Scapa and joined an elevator painting crew. That same year I married Gladys Knudson, whose family resided in the Chain Lake area. We had three children. Our son, Stanely, is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Palliser constituency. Our daughter June is a teacher and her twin, Jean, is a nurse.

I tried many different jobs after I left Scapa; buying grain, trucking, operating an implement business, moving buildings and homesteading in Northern Alberta. My wife and I now make our home in Drumheller.

E.W. Graham on [illegible], who worked as a material checker [illegible] C.N.R. construction at Bonar, Scapa and on the Spondin-Hemaruka line; Joe Derosier was section foreman from Hemaruka to Fenner.

E. W. GRAHAM, By Edna Graham Welch — Edward Graham came from a railroading family. His father and five of his six brothers worked for the C.N.R., and his two sons, Gordon and Richard, followed the family tradition, Gordon in Montreal and Richard at Jasper.

Edward Graham came to the Scapa district as a material checker for the construction department of the C.N.R., working in the yard on the Spondin Sub. When the depression started he was made section foreman of the Spondin Sub, and remained there until 1948 when he was sent to the Drumheller Valley to work on flood control of the Red Deer River. He was transferred to Biggar, Saskatchewan, as Roadmaster, and later worked at Edmonton, Prince George, B.C., and Brandon, Manitoba. He retired to Vancouver and then moved to Kelowna where he died in August 1974.

His wife was the former Ruth Riddle of Crystal Falls, Quebec. They had two sons, Gordon and Richard, and four daughters: Margaret Irving of Milwaukee, Marjorie St. Louis of Calgary, Edna Welch of Scapa and Mary Anne Smiley of Spruce Grove. His wife passed away in April, 1949, and he later married Catherine MacKenzie, who still resides at Kelowna.

Eddie, as he was known, was an ardent sports fan and coached baseball and hockey teams. He umpired many a ball game, and if anyone argued a call, out of his back pocket came the rule book to end the dispute.

During the winter months he and his friends, Ernest Haessel, Harvey Burt, Ella Malm, Johnny Cattanach, Milton Stuart and Don Cameron, had weekly bridge sessions, starting at seven in the evening and sometimes lasting until seven in the morning. That was the one night of the week when the family expected to be seen but not heard, and woe betide the child who made a noise! The bridge sessions were held at the men's homes, and it was just after the weekly game at his office in the store that Mr. Malm was found sitting in his chair, dead of a heart attack.

THE EDGAR SLEMP STORY, By Mrs. Edgar Slemp — Edgar and Jane Slemp were true pioneers of the Scapa community. Born near Verden, Oklahoma in 1890, Edgar was the oldest of a family of nine boys and three girls. In 1911 he married Francis Jane Vinyard. Their only son Fred was born October 23, 1912.

In 1913 Edgar came to what is now the Scapa community. One year later his wife and son joined him there on their homestead on section 1-34-15 at the south end of Sullivan Lake.

Their first house was built of sod with a shingled roof which was held in position by a heavy stone suspended from each corner. Inside the house there was building paper on the walls and floor was made of boards. While this house was being built they lived with Harvey Burt and family. This was their dwelling until 1917 when they built a frame house 24' x 24' and also a frame barn. A chicken house built of sod served them for a number of years.

Edgar's two brothers, Herman and Earl, lived with them much of the time for three years while proving up on their own two homesteads. Each settler was permitted to apply for one quarter, 160 acres, of homestead (crown) land, and [illegible] order [illegible] get his patent or title, he was required to pay the sum of $10.00 and live on the land at least six months of each year, and clear and break at least ten "homestead" acres each year for three years. Edgar dug their own well and cribbed it with framework and boards. The water was drawn in a pail with a rope and pulley.

1915 — Sod House. Edgar Slemp Farm. H. Slemp, Mrs. E. Slemp, Mrs. H. Burt, H. Burt holding Bill, Edgar Slemp, Mrs. Hill holding Haskel. Earl Hill, Chester Hill, Earl Slemp, Charlie Hill, Olive Burt, Agnes Burt.

Coal was easily available at Garden Plain some six miles distant. The area was bare prairie except for some brush and trees in the low spots. Their early plowing was done with three horses and a walking plow. Half the cultivated area was summerfallowed each year, often resulting in good crops, some as much as forty bushels of wheat per acre. Wheat was hauled to Hanna during the winter, a distance of eighteen miles. One of the good years Edgar made thirty-seven trips using three horses and a wagon.

In 1924 the railway was built from Hanna to Warden. It cut directly through the Slemp's building site and made it necessary for them to move their buildings to another higher location, also to dig a new well. The new town site of Scapa was less than a mile away. Mail that had been brought from Castor twice a week by team to Garden Plain some six miles away was now delivered to the new post office at Scapa. The first postmaster was William MacKenzie.

[illegible] 1919 neighbors cooperated to build a school, [illegible] be named Crow Hill. It was three miles from the Slemp farmstead. Mrs. Slemp boarded the first teacher, Miss Christina Campbell, and with the opening of school son Fred and the new teacher drove with a single horse and buggy or cutter in winter. Mrs. Slemp fondly recalls the white horse whose name was "Chalk". She also recalls boarding the teacher at a rate of fifteen dollars per month. Fred later attended school by way [illegible] saddle horse. All his schooling as far as Grade ten was at Crow Hill and he was able to board out and complete high school [illegible] Fleet. Edgar was a member of the board of trustees at Crow Hill for many years.

Early in the 1940's neighbors built their own telephone line and their mutual company became part of the Hanna exchange.

For social life parties were held alternately [illegible] neighbor's homes, and there were frequent dances at Scapa Hall. Weekly church services were held each summer in Scapa Hall with a student minister serving as pastor. Early in the 1920's, Mrs. Slemp and three of her neighbors organized a ladies group known as the "Ladies' Aid".

Edgar and Jennie experienced some rough years. There was an extreme drought the years 1917 [illegible] 1922. At least one crop that of 1919 was snowed under. They survived all these as well as the general hard times of the thirties. They were both victims of the "flu" in February 1919, being ill and bedfast while Fred, who was seven years of age, tended the household duties and neighbors did the outside chores.

Fred married Hazel Kennedy, [illegible] the same district, in 1936. They had one daughter Faye and one son Norman. They lived in Hanna where Fred was supervisor in P.F.A.A. until the time of his death in 1964.

Edgar and Jennie sold their farm at Scapa and retired to Fleet in 1949, living there for six years before moving to Lacombe.

Edgar passed away August 10, 1970 and Jennie lives in their home in Lacombe.

Lily and Dick Fennell. Kathleen and Ruby

RICHARD (DICK) FENNELL, By Kathleen Holland — Richard (Dick) Fennell, born in southern Ireland, was one of the very first settlers in the Scapa district. He arrived here in 1908 to homestead, and filed claim to a quarter section of land. He was a real pioneer, as his first home was a sod shack located near the site of Hill's barn in the town of Scapa. At that time there was no town of Hanna, and he had to walk all the way [illegible] Stettler to buy groceries and other supplies, staying overnight at "Stopping houses" along the way.

In 1914 Dick Fennell enlisted [illegible] the thirty-first Battalion in Calgary, and served overseas in France. After discharge he lived for a while in England, where he met his future wife, the former Lily Reade. They were married in 1919; he returned to Canada in 1920 to his original homestead, while his wife travelled to Ireland to visit her sister-in-law. Their first daughter, Kathleen, was born there, and Mrs. Fennell emigrated the following year with her six month old baby. In the meantime, her husband had built a frame house on the farm. A second daughter, Ruby, was born in 1922.

In 1925 the C.N.R. line from Hanna [illegible] Warden was built, and land was purchased from the Fennell's for the site of a town. For a short while it was called "Fennellville" until Mr. James MacKenzie, the first postmaster, submitted the name of "Scapa" for the new village. The name was derived from the large harbor, Scapa Flow, in Scotland, which was the principal naval base of the British fleet in the first World War and again in the second War.

During the 1920's Sullivan Lake was larger than it now is because of wetter seasons, and many people had to travel through the Fennell Farm to bypass the lake.

The C.N.R. railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka was begun in 1929, and the first train began service in 1930.

Dick Fennell died in January, 1929, and was buried in the Hanna cemetery. His wife continued on the farm with the help of a hired man. But farming in the depression, drought-ridden years of the 1930's was tough enough for a man and, after six years of trying to make a go of it, Mrs. Fennell and her daughters left the

farm and moved to Calgary. Fred Welch bought their land, and his son, Arthur, farmed it.

Mrs. Lily Fennell died [illegible] 1970 at the age of eighty-six. Her daughter, Kathleen, [illegible] married to John Holland; they live [illegible] Calgary, and have three daughters and one son. Her younger daughter, Ruby, married George Stark, and they also live in Calgary.

THE CAMP STORY, By Hilda Camp — Joe Camp took his homestead and [illegible] pre-emption in 1908. Eight or nine people came with him from Dakota at that time but Joe was the only one who stayed. Besides farming he worked in the coal mines at Drumheller and Halkirk and hauled coal also.

Joe joined the army in 1915 and went overseas. He contracted the flu and was sent home in 1918. Before he joined the army he felt he might not come back and gave up his pre-emption to Earl Slemp.

In 1920 he married Hilda English who was working for people [illegible] the Endiang district by the name of Loomer. They had three children Mona, Arthur and Pauline. Mona lives in B.C. Pauline married Bill Paxman and now resides in Hanna. Arthur works for Pool construction.

We went through the ups and downs of the early years. In 1929 we were able to buy back the pre-emption.

I recall Joe telling about being able [illegible] help his neighbors during 1919 outbreak of flu as he had already had it.

Joe passed away [illegible] December 1975. Mrs. Camp still resides at her home in Hanna.

B.S. Wimbush

MR. WIMBUSH, as told by Mrs. Camp — Mr. Wimbush was a remittance man from England and had a pre-emption across the road from our homestead. He must have been in the Canadian Army during the 1914-1918 war as he received a seventy-five dollar a month pension. He travelled home to England for a time, also went to visit his brother in Australia. In 1923 he went completely blind. We looked after him. In 1925 he moved into a one-room shack on our farm. In 1944 [illegible] became very ill and passed away in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary and is buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

THE BODEMAN FAMILY, By Agnes Burt Thiel — Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman and their son John left Switzerland about 1880 and went to Oklahoma. They came to Canada about 1906 and in time they took up homesteads at the south end of Sullivan Lake. The parents' homestead was south and west of John's. After they proved up they sold their land to Fred Welch and moved in with John, who had a larger house, a barn, and well-kept farmyard. His buildings and garden fence were always kept painted.

He had two teams of mules which he worked with his horses, and had one team of mules which were good trotters; they were used as a driving team and made many trips [illegible] Hanna.

Mr. Bodeman did lovely embroidery, and Mrs. Bodeman often walked the mile to visit her neighbor, Mrs. Edgar Slemp. Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman always had an extra good garden and always had treats for us when we went there. The Bodemans, Slemps and Burts worked together at haying time.

In 1919 John took the flu and passed away. I can remember a minister named Rev. Day coming with the mules and a stone boat to give us the sad news. My dad often wondered how Mr. Bodeman and the minister had harnessed and hooked up the mules, as neither one knew which end of the mule to start on.

John's goods and livestock were sold, and his parents remained on the farm for a few years. Then they sold the land to William Hein and moved to Hanna, where they both passed away during the twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Schweikert

THE SCHWEIKERT STORY — Christian Schweikert was born December 22, 1894 in Bessarabia. Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert was born November 6, 1894. They were married November 18, 1918. In the fall of 1929 they came to Canada from Bessarabia. They bought out F. Bochsbuch. They farmed on this place to December of 1947, when on account of his health they moved to Calgary. They sold the land to Mr. Devereaux of Hanna in 1954.

Mr. Schweikert spent eleven months in the T.B. Sanitarium; after a few months' rest at home he began to work for the city. He retired from this job in 1965. In November 1968 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert passed away on October 10, 1974. Mr. Schweikert remains in good health and lives in Calgary. They have no family.

THE WILLIAM HEIN FAMILY, By Elsie Hein Harvey — Our father and mother, William and Marie Hein, and young son Rudy came to Canada in 1914 from Russia. They arrived in Castor, where they were met by mother's brother Carl Welch, and came by team and wagon on a load of lumber to Uncle Carl's farm four miles southwest of the present site of Scapa. They lived with him for two years and then took up a homestead on the northeast of 24-33-15. Their neighbors then were the Harvey Burt family. Dad had to go to work so they could buy horses, a plow and some cows. Mother went out and stooked; her wages sometimes were only one quart of milk a day.

Later they moved to a farm, the NW 26-33-15 and had the Glubrecht family for neighbors. In 1928 they bought the Bodeman farm, the west half of 28-33-15 which was home for many years. The 1930's were rough years, they had to have relief food for the children. Mother bought a spinning wheel and would buy raw wool from the neighbors. Then she would wash it, card it, and she would spin it into wool which was knit into sweaters, socks and mitts for the children. Many years the crops were very poor. The farming was all done with horses; the first tractor was bought in 1946.

Dad was sick for many years so the boys had to help with most of the chores.

He died in 1936, and mother was left with thirteen children to raise. At that time our neighbors were Haushers, Pahls, F. Welgh, Lohrmanns, Herman Siemps and Edgar Siemps, who were very helpful in many ways. The children had to go out to work to help with expenses at home.

The older children went [illegible] school at Hudson Bay and later when Scapa started they all went to school there; usually there were seven lunches to make. Baking bread was a big chore, usually three times a week and from ten to fifteen loaves at a time. The washing was done with a board until the first gas washing machine was bought in 1940. The ironing was all done with sad irons which had to [illegible] heated on the coal stove, so on those days there had to be extra wood which sometimes was scarce, until we got some ties from the Railroad.

In 1942 three of the boys, Rudy, Walter and Edwin enlisted and went to war, they never came home until 1945. Renold also left for some army training during those years. In 1953 Benny joined the Air Force and was [illegible] for over two years, some of this time overseas. During these years Mother and Freddie, who was fourteen years old at that time, did the farming. By this time prices for grain and cattle were getting a bit better. Mother remained on the farm until 1950 when Renold and Edwin took over, then in 1956 she sold the farm to a son-in-law, Fred Harvey.

Hein Family. Elmer, Bennie, Fred, Edwin, Walter, Ronald, Rudy, Doreen, Hilda, Hedwig, Mrs. Hein, Lavina, Elsie

There were fifteen children born to William and Marie Hein. The oldest, Rudy, married Mabel Anderson. They have two daughters and live south of Hanna. Then there was Olga who died at the age of two weeks. Hedvig married Earl Ness and they had six children and live in Hanna. Lavina married Ken Ferguson; they had two children and she died in a car accident on September thirteenth, 1956.

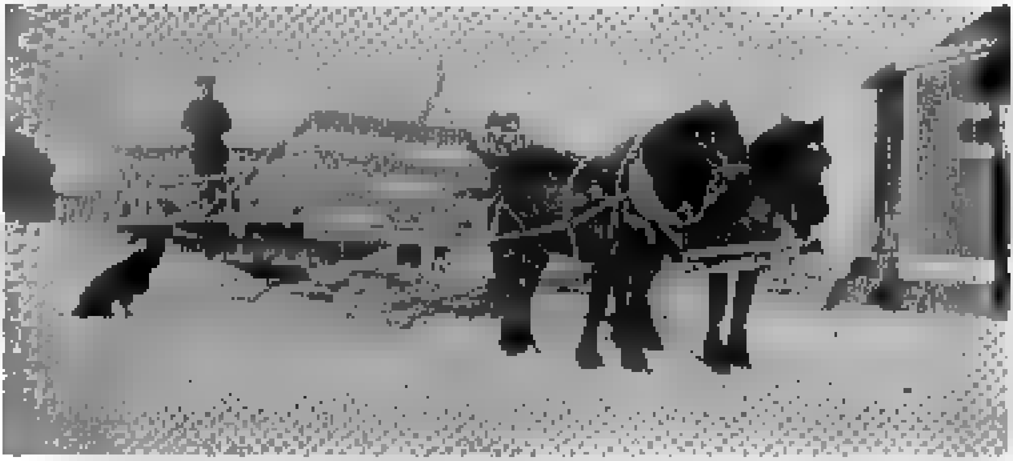
Herbert the next son died from a car accident on the farm in 1929. Renold married Sarah Andurs and has five children. He lives in Hanna. Walter married Mary Moench, they have six children and live in Hanna. Edwin married [illegible]lsie Litke. They have three children and live in Calgary. Elsie married Fred Harvey. They have three children and live in Scapa.

Violet married Dan Siewert and had one daughter; they live in New Serepta.

Fred married Mary Reid and had four children, they live in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Hilda married Bill Spencer, they have two children and live in Edmonton. Doreen married Ed Saar, had four children and lives in Calgary. Bennie lives in Hanna and Elmer the youngest died in 1956.

Mother has thirty-seven grandchildren and thirty-seven great grandchildren. On October the twenty-fifth, 1976 she celebrated her eighty-third birthday in her home in Hanna where she still does her own housework and gardening. She is also a member of the Lutheran Church in Hanna and still attends meetings and Church regularly.

OUR STORY by MR. and MRS. HAUSHER — I, George Hausher, came to Stettler from Urk, Washington in the fall of 1909. We stayed with friends over the winter and in the spring of 1910 we moved to the homestead, one half mile south of what is now Scapa. There was mother and dad, my sister Annie and myself. We went by wagon with a cow tied behind, a crate of chickens and my dog that we brought along from Washington. The prairie was green as far as you could see. There was a big prairie fire the year before. We lived in a one-room frame house. Our first visitor was Chris Vista. Our closest neighbor was a bachelor named Anderson.



George Hausher, Gladys and Ervin

George Hausher plowing. Scapa in the background.

We had to get our mail and groceries from Garden Plain store. My dog and I used to walk over to get it. There was open range and one day a herd of cattle came our way. Dad was out getting hay; they started to chase him, the dog was with him and chased the cattle, that was what saved him.

I was alone a lot because my mother was in the Castor hospital and my sister

would help out at the neighbors. One stormy night the Keibel boys came by with loads of coal and stayed overnight. We cooked rice; our first pot was too small, [illegible] we put it in a bigger pot and added more water. By the time the rice was soft enough to eat we had several pots full. In 1912, Hanna got started; by this time my sister was married to Jake Frank. I remember going to the first Hanna Stampede. When I was thirteen, we moved north of Castor. I worked at various farms till I got married. Then we started farming on our own in the winter of 1926, and we moved south again to the same place. By this time Scapa was started — a store, post office, lumber yard and elevators. My brother-in-law and I moved things down with two bobsleighs. We used to cross the Sullivan Lake. One time it got dark before we got across. We didn't know if we were going the right direction, then we heard the elevator motor going, and knew that we were near Scapa.

MRS. HAUSHER'S MEMORIES — We had bought a two room house west of Scapa and moved it on the place. I remember the day we moved to Scapa very well. We started out at eight-thirty, on a nice morning of March the tenth, from my folks' place north of Castor with the bobsleigh. We had Gladys and Ervin, who was seven months old. We put the cradle in the sleigh and put Ervin in it. The cradle was made for me by my dad when I was a baby. We stopped for dinner south of Castor with Schritters and arrived [illegible] our new home at six o'clock. There was only a kitchen and [illegible] bedroom, but we were happy. This was our first own home. I was lonesome at first; missed the folks at Castor and waited for the snow [illegible] go away so we could go back to see them. Harvey Burts were our closest neighbors. They lived three-quarters of a mile south of us. Marie and Cap Bartsch came to see us, and we became good friends.

In 1927 we started a foundation to build a new house. Then we got our first hail storm; after that we didn't do anything more on the house. We started again in the spring of 1928, had it already to move in at the end of July, and on August eleventh we had our second hail storm. After that we lost count of the hail storms.

Then came the thirties. We had a lot of dry weather. We had dust storms, many times we would light the lamp in the afternoon. There were hard times in the thirties; one dollar and fifty cents for a can of cream, four cents for a dozen eggs; we used to beat them up and feed them to the calves. I remember selling a cow for eighty-eight dollars, but we could get a pound of coffee for twenty-five cents. Everybody had pigs and [illegible] the fall the neighbors would get together and help each other butcher them. There would be three or four couples and we would cut up the lard and meat and make different kinds of sausages. Most of our entertainment was house parties.

Ken and Louise were born in the thirties. By 1953 and 1954 Gladys and Ervin were married. Ken and Louise were working. At present Gladys lives in Calgary, Ervin at Endiang, Ken at Drayton Valley and Louise at Tofield. Their families are growing up and starting to leave home; some are married.

We farmed till 1964. After being hailed out three years in succession, we thought that was enough. We sold out and moved to Stettler. We are sorry that we didn't do it sooner.

MR. and MRS. CARL SMITH — Carl and Lucy Smith moved to the Scapa area in 1963, and purchased the George Hausher farm. [illegible] 1974 they moved [illegible] Hanna where they still reside. Carl rents land in this area and Lucy is employed in Hanna.

THE SEXSMITH FAMILY, By Pete Ruppert — Robert Sexsmith, his wife Sara Jane and son John came from Napanee, Ontario in 1912. They homesteaded NW 16-33-14 and John took up the south half of 16-33-14. They were of Irish descent, but I wasn't aware of this for a long time, because John always accused me of being an "Irishman" whenever I did something stupid.

They brought all their old dark, heavy furniture, fine china and dishes and beautiful silverware, also an Edison phonograph. Us kids used to play it by the hour. The old folks would sing along with it, and they sure could sing. Mrs. Sexsmith was a midwife, and delivered a lot of the babies in a ten mile radius of their farm. This may not sound like a very big area, but don't forget there was someone living on pretty well every half section. She brought my brother Bill and me into the world, however the rest of her record was good! She said that she never lost a patient. Not many doctors could say that. She always kept her black bag handy, and as kids we were curious about what was in it. It was kept locked at all times.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sexsmith

John Sexsmith as he often travelled during spring breakup, without a box on his wagon.

When they first came out west they locked everything, even the pump. I guess where they came from they had to do this. That however was gradually forgotten. One time a threshing crew moved in, and one fellow was known for stealing things. He found everything locked up, except for a lump of coal that wouldn't go in the shed, so he stole that and took off for home.

In 1925 or 1926 they bought a 1923 Ford Sedan, at the M. Gulseth auction sale, for $300.00. The doors were behind the driver and front passenger's seat, which made it awkward getting in and out of the front seat. The rear window was an oval shaped affair, and the side windows were huge. All of them were equipped with blinds. The windows were fastened with leather straps that had holes in for adjustment. It had a self starter that was famous for not working, so driving it was somewhat of a two-man job. One day when I was in Hanna with John, it clonked out in the middle of an intersection. I cranked until I was too tired to swear. Then I jumped on the running-board and it took off on its own. As for the swearing, John managed very well for both of us. The car was always kept washed and polished and in the shed. It was so high and top heavy, that it wasn't safe to be out in a strong wind with it. However it gave them a lot of years of service, well up into the

forties. I can't remember that it ever let them down on the road, and it sure could plow snow and mud.

One summer I plowed 75 acres for them, with two horses and a sixteen inch walking plow, averaging about two acres a day. It was a good thing that it was a long summer. I was just a young kid then and probably not much good for anything else, so the few dollars I made were sure welcome. Sexsmiths never did get a tractor, so when the time came to farm with them, they hired some work done, or rented the land out.

Roy Coghill had a Rumley Oil Pull, and he did some work for them.

Mrs. Sexsmith was a great lover of cats, and they sure had them. They were every size, shape and color, and they multiplied like rats. I worked there one winter, and I used to shoot them on the sly. I was up to eighty before they noticed there were less cats, and they still had lots left.

In her younger days, Mrs. Sexsmith was a wonderful cook and if you were near their place at meal time and didn't stop in you had a fight on your hands. She put up enough preserves to keep an army, so there were bound to be some loose lids and fermentation would set in. The old folks were teetotalers, but that fruit seemed to go over good. Later on Bill and I would help the odd jar develop a loose lid, and then let nature take its course. I don't think any of the neighbors will forget her tea. It would float a horse-shoe with the horse attached.

They used to love to play cards, their favorite game being "smear". The winter I was there we played cards every night from nine to twelve. It got to be like work after a while but there wasn't much else to do. You can only read one book so many times, and newspapers were far and few between.

I left the country to join the army when the war broke out. I never saw Robert again, and I saw Mrs. Sexsmith only once [illegible] 1946. John lived alone after they passed away, but I saw him only a few times too.

THE SEXSMITHS, continued by Bill Gaugler — The Sexsmiths remained loyal to Ontario, and everything that came from there was the best. I remember once when John got some apples from Ontario, he was really in his glory.

In his later years Mr. Sexsmith became disabled and when he couldn't get up and down stairs anymore, he stayed upstairs. Once [illegible] got his head stuck between the rungs of the headboard and it took John all afternoon to get him out. I recall being there when the cats got the best of him. He'd take his cane and bang on the floor, and holler and pretty soon they'd come down three deep. The staircase was steep and narrow, so before they hit bottom they were somersaulting over each other. Mrs. Sexsmith devoted a lot of time to looking after him. He passed away in the early forties.

In February of 1946 their house burned down and they lost everything with it, including most of their cats. Mrs. Sexsmith was in her seventies by then, and it was a real shock for her. John bought the old Baxter house from John Wimmer, and the neighbors all helped move it and fix it up. Mrs. Sexsmith and John stayed with the folks until the house was ready. When the men were working on the house they saw to it that there were only two old pet tom cats left, and they didn't reproduce. Mrs. Sexsmith tried very hard [illegible] look after the house and herself, but she just wasn't up to it any more. In the fall of 1947, John took her to the hospital and she died shortly after.

After his mother passed away, John had more time to socialize, and because of his sense of humor he was popular with the young people. He always had company or was being taken somewhere. He had his land rented out, but he was still living on the farm when he died in 1958.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOHRMANN, By Pauline Lohrmann Leicht — My parents emigrated from Garrison, North Dakota, on March 28, 1910, and arrived at Castor on April 5. The children who were all born in the United States, were Lena, Chris, John, Charles, Minnie, Pauline and Marie. Some of the family remained in the States, but Chris, Charles, Marie and I came to Canada with our parents.

In 1910 Father filed on the homestead, the SW 19-33-14, and took a pre-emption across the road. We had six horses, four cows and some chickens as well as other settlers' effects.

Mr. Kane operated a mine, and a store and post office. Marie Bartsch (Mrs. Don Cameron) worked there for a long time. Our first school was Netherby and the first cemetery was on the same grounds. Mail was delivered twice a week from Castor to Garden Plain.

[illegible] 1926 Father and Mother moved to Victoria, B.C. and later went to Langley Prairie. Father died March 9, 1931. Mother died at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton February 20, 1939. Both are buried in Ocean View cemetery, New Westminster, B.C.

DAVID LEICHT SR., By Christina Leicht Lohrmann — David Leicht was born of German parents in South Russia on December 16, 1858. Until he was twenty-one he helped his parents on the farm. Then he was drafted into the Russian army and spent four years training.

Katharina Ketterling was also born of German parents [illegible] South Russia December 3, 1863. They were married on February 15, 1884. They left for America in the fall, arriving December 30, 1884, and pioneering and farming in North and South Dakota for eighteen years. By this time they had four children, David Jr., Katharina (Kate), Gideon (Jack), and Christina.

David and family moved [illegible] Quincy, Washington, July 1902. They farmed there for eight years. By this time Kate was married to John Weitz. As the country had turned into a dust bowl, David and family, also John and Kate, moved to Olds, Alberta [illegible] March 1910.

The Leicht Family. Dave, Christina, Kathy, Jack.

After farming rented land and running a threshing outfit in the Olds district for three years, David decided to move to Hanna. By this time David Jr. was married [illegible] Barbara Morlock and living [illegible] Trochu.

Jack and David Jr. had been out [illegible] Hanna and made arrangements with a Mr. Brown, to rent his place four miles straight east [illegible] Hanna. David Jr. bought a lot in Hanna where he later built a 16' [illegible] 24' two-roomed car roof house.

Jack and Dad loaded [illegible] machinery, household effects, cattle, and horses into a freight car and shipped out to Castor in March 1913, Jack going with the freight car to take care of the stock. Dad, mother and I drove out to Castor with a team and democrat. Road conditions were far from good but we got to Castor in about three days.

Mother and I went to Hanna with a livery team that happened to be going that

way. We stayed at a boarding house while David Jr. moved his family to Hanna from Trochu. Mother stayed with Barbara while David Jr. and I took his team and wagon and went to Castor. Dad and Jack had the car unloaded by this time. After loading the wagons and getting everything ready we only got six miles out the first day, stopping at Peddris for the night.

The next day was hard on horses and cows. It was my lot to drive the cattle, four cows and five or six young stock. They got so tired walking and so did the pony. We arrived about two o'clock in the morning. The poor cows could hardly move for three days, they were so foot sore. I had not done any riding for a long time and I was mighty stiff myself. When I think back now I don't know how we did it.

As it turned out there was no pasture on the place and we had no feed. Dad went out and bought some oats for the horses; the cows we could run on the quarter just south as it was open prairie. We only stayed long enough to put in the crop for Mr. Brown.

In the meantime Dad rented Mr. Dave Lesley's place which was seven miles north. This place had pasture, a good well and cultivated land. There was also an open quarter [illegible] the east which had cutbanks down the centre. When the pasture got short we turned the cows out there. One night I went for the cows and one was missing. I started the ones I found for home, and started looking for the missing one. As I walked along the edge of the cutbank I could see her down in the bottom of the flat.

I discovered she had fallen into a "soap" hole, not quite big enough for all her body to go down. I went home for help. Dad and Jack got her out safe and sound. A "soap" hole is very deceiving and dangerous. They vary in size, the soil around the edge is firm and natural. The hole is level full of a thin soapy mud, which looks dry and firm, and is bottomless. That was our first and last experience with a "soap" hole.

By this time homesteads were hard to find. Dad finally got one just north of Wilhelm Lohrmann's, the NW 19-33-14. Dad and Jack then started breaking land and getting it ready to seed, and also built a barn and did some fencing, working this all in while farming the Lesley place too. Dad also built a 12' x 20' car roof granery on skids, which was later moved to the homestead and served as a house while putting in the crop.

We moved to the homestead in March 1915. After seeding that summer Dad, Jack and David Jr. added another 12' x 20' to the granery, and raised it to a storey and a half making four rooms.

As part of the land was lake it made us short of hay land. There was a Hudson Bay section about two miles north west of us, so Dad went to Hanna and got a three or four year haying lease on it. Come haying time Dad happened to notice someone putting up hay on it, so he drove over and visited with them for a while. Then he said, "I hope you boys put a good top on that stack as I would not like my hay to spoil." You can imagine what a shock that was. Dad told them if they would finish what they had cut he would pay them for their work, which they did.

There were a [illegible] of good times as the years went by, picnics, ballgames. The First of July at Garden Plain was always a big day, and there were dances at the different schools, and church services.

In 1917 a hail storm came through and flattened all the crops. Mother had quite a flock of ducks, they were all in the slough when it hit. After it was over, the duck flock looked like a battle field, some were killed, some had broken wings, some had broken legs, one had both legs broken, mother set them the best she could and bandaged them, and in a surprisingly short time even the ones with the broken legs were on their way to the slough.

David Leicht Sr. Passed away February 14, 1922. Mother stayed with David Jr. for a time, then she married Fred Schultz October 4, 1922.

Fred Schultz passed away May 9, 1946.

Mother passed away March 24, 1947.

THE RIDDLE STORY, [illegible] William Riddle — James Ernest Riddle was born in Glenbrooke, Nevada in 1884. His parents were Canadian citizens living temporarily in Nevada where his father was employed at a sawmill. They returned to their home farm at Crystal Falls, Quebec, and it was there that James and his four sisters, Myrtle, Ruth, Bertha and Iona, were raised.

At the outbreak of World War I James enlisted in the 224th Battalion and later transferred to the Forestry Corps. On February 13, 1916, he was married to Susan Burge in Newton Abbot, Devonshire, England. After the war they returned to Canada, landing at St. John, New Brunswick on April 20, 1919. Their first child, William, was born two days' previously aboard the S.S. Grampian on the Atlantic Ocean.

William and Susan Riddle took up farming at Crystal Falls and there two more sons and three daughters were added to the family. In the fall of 1927 James came west to work in the construction department of Canadian National Railways, and the following year his wife and family joined him at Cameo, Saskatchewan. The next few years were spent at various railway construction jobs in Saskatchewan.

When construction on the Scapa-Spondin line was started, James was moved to Scapa, and in May of 1931 he moved his family here by car, a 1927 two-door Chev sedan which he had purchased from T. Harley. At first the family lived in the old Anderson farm buildings south-east of Scapa; later they moved to the Gulseth house now owned by Art Welch. In 1934 they purchased the Jack Leicht farm one mile east of Scapa.

The family consisted of three sons and five daughters. William, born in 1919, married Margaret Malm in 1940, and resides in Hanna. Their family is mentioned [illegible] the Malm story.

Hugh, born 1921, now owns the home farm at Scapa. He married Helen Pinkham of Hanna and has one son, Terry, and a daughter, Annette.

Ernie, born 1922, married Irene Doble and lives in Hanna. Their family consists of daughters Gladys, Gerry, Mary Irene, Harlene and son Bruce.

Margaret, born 1923, married E.G. Pedersen. They and family Rick, Greg and Susan live in Calgary.

Dorothy, born 1925, is now Mrs. W. Hopkins. She has two daughters, Lori Anne and Wendy, and lives in Calgary.

Winnifred, born 1927, is Mrs. A. Carlson. Her children are Doug, Ron, Kevin, Judy, Dorothy, Dana and Paddy.

Iona was born in Hanna in 1935. She married Arthur Stark and they and their daughters, Debbie, Amanda and Cindy, reside in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Mary Jane was born in Hanna on December 3, 1936, and her mother, Susan, passed away two days later, at the age of forty-one years.

James was pensioned from the C.N.R. in August, 1949, and resided with his son Bill and his family until the time of his passing in the Col. Belcher hospital in Calgary on March 16, 1962, [illegible] the age of seventy-eight years.

HUGHIE RIDDLE, By Hughie Riddle — I came with my parents and the rest of the family to the Chris Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district in 1931. I attended the Scapa school.

During the summer of 1934, when I was fourteen, I went to work for Rudolph Haessel for two and a half months during the summer holidays. As wages I received a cow which started me in the cattle business. That winter and the following summer, I went after school to help Mrs. Fennell with her chores, receiving a heifer calf. The next year Bert Sim, on his way home from Scapa, would take me and sometimes Ernie to help with the chores on weekends or after school. I worked for Bert and his dad off and on for years after that.

By 1936 I was through school and was hired by George Wright and Wilfred Smith to help put in the crop and summerfallow. That fall and the following year I worked for Jack Temple.

In the spring of 1938 Don Cameron asked me to work for him. During the time I was there we put in the Caragana shelter belt. We dug the trees out of Kane's grove and hauled them by team and wagon. The five-foot trees were then placed in holes which had been dug beforehand. The holes were filled with rotted manure and thoroughly wetted down. The trees survived and can be still seen, much higher and thicker, where Erbin and Winnie Grove live today.

At Don's I drove horses while Don drove the 10-20 Advance Rumley, which he had purchased from Harry Bartman. Don also got a combine from Harry at the same time.

After working at Camerons, I came home to stay, farming with horses. I got horses to break from a relative of my dad's, Pollock of Pollockville. I would ride to Pollocks and drive back, usually four head. The rest of the summer was spent in breaking them. The saddle horse I had at that time was named King. He was brought in from Bassano by Ironsides. They sold him to Ken Williams and I bought him from the Williams auction sale. He was a tough little horse with plenty of stamina. He had five brands on one hip and one on the other. King eventually died of old age.

The winter of 1941-42, I was training with the Army at Camrose.

By 1950 I got my first tractor and eventually disposed of the horses, keeping only cattle. When George Burns came to Scapa and started trucking, I helped him whenever he needed me.

For the past two years I have been operator of the breaker pit at the Sheerness coal mine.

In December 1976, Helen Sieverson and I were married. Our children, Terry and Annette, are bussed to the Hanna School.

CHESTER R. BARTMAN, from information supplied [illegible] Harry Bartman and John Grove — Chester Bartman, one of four brothers who came to this area [illegible] different times, was born in Tobermorey, Ontario in 1889. He came west in 1909 to file on his homestead, the SW 5-34-14. He lived in a sod shack until a cottage-type house was built in 1916. Brother Harry, who had been working in Edmonton, drove down in a Regal car to visit Chester and helped him build a sod pig house.

Chester worked for Gutseths, who had come from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, to homestead. He and Marian Gutseth were married, but she died a year or so later and her folks had her body sent back to Devil's Lake for burial.

The big hipped-roofed barn which could be seen for miles, was built about 1927 or 1928. Chester built up a herd of good Shorthorn cows, many of which were excellent milkers. By selling cream and raising pigs he made a modest living. He owned one of the last Model T's ever built, a green coupe.

He had an auction sale in the spring of 1936 and went back to Ontario to live. He rented the place out, but soon returned to live there and to work at doing odd jobs for others. He passed away a few years ago.

ALEXANDER F. (BRUCE) EICKMIER, from information supplied by Harry Bertman and John Grove — Bruce Eickmier homesteaded the SW 4-34-14 in 1910. He hailed originally from Hanover, Bruce County, Ontario, hence the nickname. He was employed in Nacktol's Furniture Factory, and in the winter of 1911 or 1912 he worked as Castor's dog catcher, at a dollar a head. He had a good thing going for him, or so the townspeople of Castor thought. They kept turning out the impounded dogs, so Bruce quit that job.

While on the homestead he lived in a partial dugout, with part of the walls and the roof above ground level. In one of the early years he received slight hail damage to his crop, but he knew the damage was too little for him to make a claim for damages, so taking his oxen and a length of barbed wire, he dragged the remaining crop down. He collected a good claim.

Bruce built a well drilling machine and drilled many wells in this country. He stated that he started building the machine with nine dollars to his name, and that when it was completed he still had three dollars left. Bruce was an accomplished violinist, and had the gift of gab.

He departed here for Hanna where he bought and ran a second hand store. Then he moved to Drumheller where he was in the same business. Tiring of these ventures, he left for an isolated bush farm in the interior of B.C. However, civilization caught up to him again, and in later years he retired to a small holding at Surrey, B.C., where he has since passed away.

Scapa teachers about 1943, Blanche Coultis, Dorothy Cook

MRS. HARRY COOK (DOROTHY), By Blanche Coultis — Mrs. Dorothy Cook, master teacher, war nurse, Scapa pioneer and wife of homesteader Harry Cook, contributed so much to the Sullivan Lake area.

After training as an elementary school teacher in England, she volunteered as a nurse during World War I and served in soldiers' hospitals in her homeland. Emigrating after the war, she came to Scapa where she met again Harry Cook, whom she had known in the Thames Mouth, her English home. Harry, who had expected to enter the British navy, as generations of his family had done, was prevented from doing so by his stuttering. At an early age he took a homestead south-west of Scapa where he spent his life until ill health forced him into retirement in Hanna.

Dorothy and Harry were married, and then Dorothy attended Calgary Normal School. Because of her exceptional ability as a teacher she was offered a position in the Normal Practice School. Instead of accepting she returned home to spend her life teaching in neighboring rural schools. Getting home weekends in good weather and bad often made great demands on her energy. Yet she taught with immense enthusiasm. Pupils remembered her well. She knew them individually and could meet their needs.

I first knew Dorothy Cook when she and I taught in the two-roomed school at Scapa during World War II and lived together [illegible] the basement of the elementary school. Gas rationing was in. Once in Scapa a teacher stayed put or walked. Dorothy, an indefatigable English walker, led me around the district despite my protests. Occasionally we walked four or five miles to visit another teacher.

Dorothy could sew and instruct in sewing, something I could not do at all. Since needlework was on the program of my classroom (grades seven to eleven), Dorothy would painstakingly demonstrate sewing and button-holing at night so I could carry on in class next day. She gave much time out of school to altering patterns and cutting out material while I looked on.

One remembers her continued cheerfulness, her sense of humour, her energy, her joy in teaching, and her concern for the welfare of her pupils. Hundreds of students and many teachers of the Sullivan Lake area can testify to that.

I REMEMBER

By Agnes Burt Thiel

. . . Kane's Mine. The mine house had three rooms, two down and one up. The miners slept upstairs and we slept and ate and served meals in the one downstairs, because the other was too cold. Mother cooked and dad helped serve dinners for 35 cents, breakfasts and suppers for 25 cents. Many two- and four-horse sleighs came from up to thirty miles away for coal; some were driven by children in their early teens. There was a hand-made pump to take water out of the mine, made of four one-by-fours nailed together; the valve had been fashioned of a block of wood and leather. There was a hand bar to push down on the rod to release the valve to let in the water; and a spring board fastened into the bank of dirt lifted the water up.

. . . Mr. Anderson lining his well with stone; most wells had wooden cribbing and the water tasted of the wood for a long time.

. . . Dad going to help fight a prairie fire, and the red glow in the sky at night that meant that it was still burning, and him getting home at three in the morning, tired and hungry and black with burnt grass.

. . . the hillsides covered with crocus in the spring, and later the yellow buffalo beans blooming.

. . . going to a picnic at Wiese school in 1920 and seeing my first airplane.

. . . so much water in Sullivan Lake that it came under the fence line and almost [illegible] the Y of the C.N. tracks at Scapa.

. . . meeting a tall Englishman named Mr. Burley in Fort St. John in 1956. In 1910 he had been a range rider and travelled from Calgary across the Hand Hills and up the east side of Sullivan Lake to Castor. He wanted to know what had happened to the three-storey house which used to [illegible] on the east side of the lake near Castor; I learned later that the lumber had never been paid for so the house was dismantled and sold.

. . . telling two ladies from England who were visiting the Edmonton Museum that I had once lived in a sod house, and one of them saying, "Will you shake hands with me? I've always wanted to meet someone who lived in one of those houses."

. . . seeing Mrs. Bill Welch carry a wooden cradle on her back for two miles, so that Mrs. Bill Hein could use it for her new baby.

. . . not having much schooling, but gaining knowledge; how to handle cattle and horses, and do blacksmithing, milk cows and teach calves to drink; and learning that many a baby was kept alive with mare's milk.

SOME MEMORIES OF WARTIME SCAPA 1941-44

By Blanche Coullis

1. As their war effort the pupils collected salvage-rubber tires, lead scrap and tooth paste tubes. I still remember the ants that scurried about in the old tires stacked in the anteroom.

2. Daylight saving came with the war. When the new time system began in late winter I set out in the dark that first morning to build the fire in my classroom. Returning to check later I discovered that while shaking the grates of the little coal heater I had dislodged the stove pipe so that the smoke had poured into the closed room for most of an hour. What a scrubbing job we had. One pupil remarked at the end of the day that we all smelled like cured hams.

3. The high school girls knitted a beautiful baby layette for the Red Cross and put the school's name in it, hoping to hear from the family receiving it. Of course, we never did.

4. There were many delightful cups of tea at the post office with Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie.

5. The social activities were community-centered — Christmas concerts in the hall, dances, "500" card parties in the school to raise money for the boys' overseas parcels. I remember a lantern slide show ("Magic Lantern") which I rented from the university to show at school. Adults asked that the show be given for the public who filled the hall to capacity.

THE HORSE THIEF

There is an old, old story
That's been passed from year to year.
How a horse-man came a-riding,
With some ranchers at his rear.

Some mustangs that they had corralled
He had taken for his own.
And so the desperate flight began,
Of this horse thief, all alone.

O'er hill and dale he galloped
With their horses by his side.
He dared not stop to rest his mount.
There was no place to hide.

They chased him 'cross the prairies
To the edge of Sullivan Lake,
Where from a tree they hung him.
His life they thus did take.

Then they dug a shallow grave
And buried him 'neath the tree.
Near the tiny hamlet of Scapa,
The grave is said to be.

Helen Standing

In every district there are people who move to other farms, to the cities and towns and it is impossible to contact them all and so many may not be mentioned but this is not intentional.

The Martin Gaiseth family went back to Devil's Lake, North Dakota in 1927.

P. Anderson passed away in 1927. The remainder of the stone house built by him is still standing.

The Richard Haessel family moved to the Vancouver area. There were two children, Richard and Alice.

Jack Leicht is mentioned in the Dave Leicht story. He married Pauline Lohrmann. Jack passed away and Mrs. Leicht lives in Edmonton. Their sons, Bill and Ted, live in Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

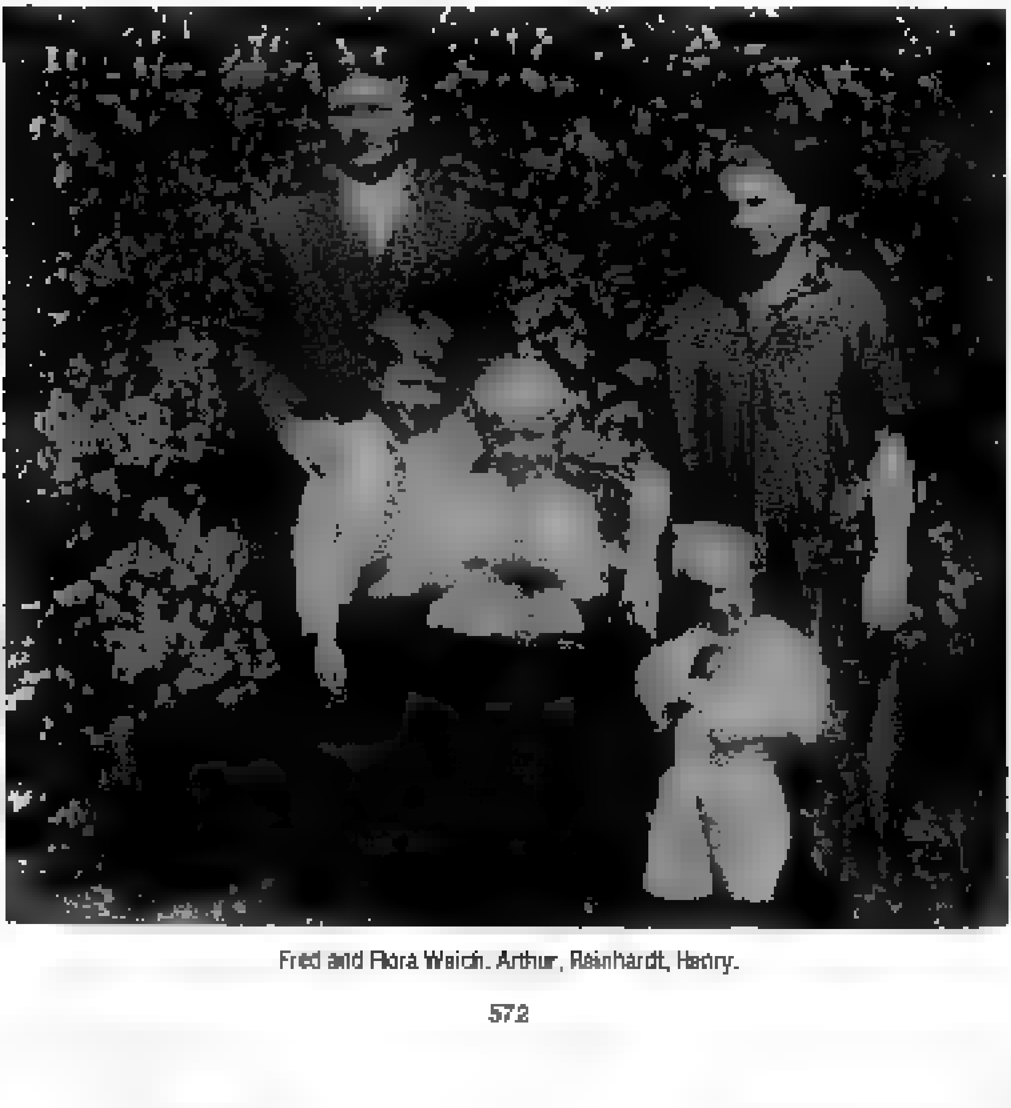
Other families that lived here for a time were Wittchens, Snaiths, Doerings, Bachmiers, Panchucks, Stouts, Moraschs, Marchents, Ostopovichs, Frank Brunner.

GREYSTONE HALL

Greystone Hall, named after the post office of the district, was built in January of 1914 by Charlie Lohrmann on his dad's homestead, the SW 19-32-14. It was 32' by 40' in size. The first dance was held there on January 30, 1914, with A. Henderson's orchestra of Hanna supplying the music.

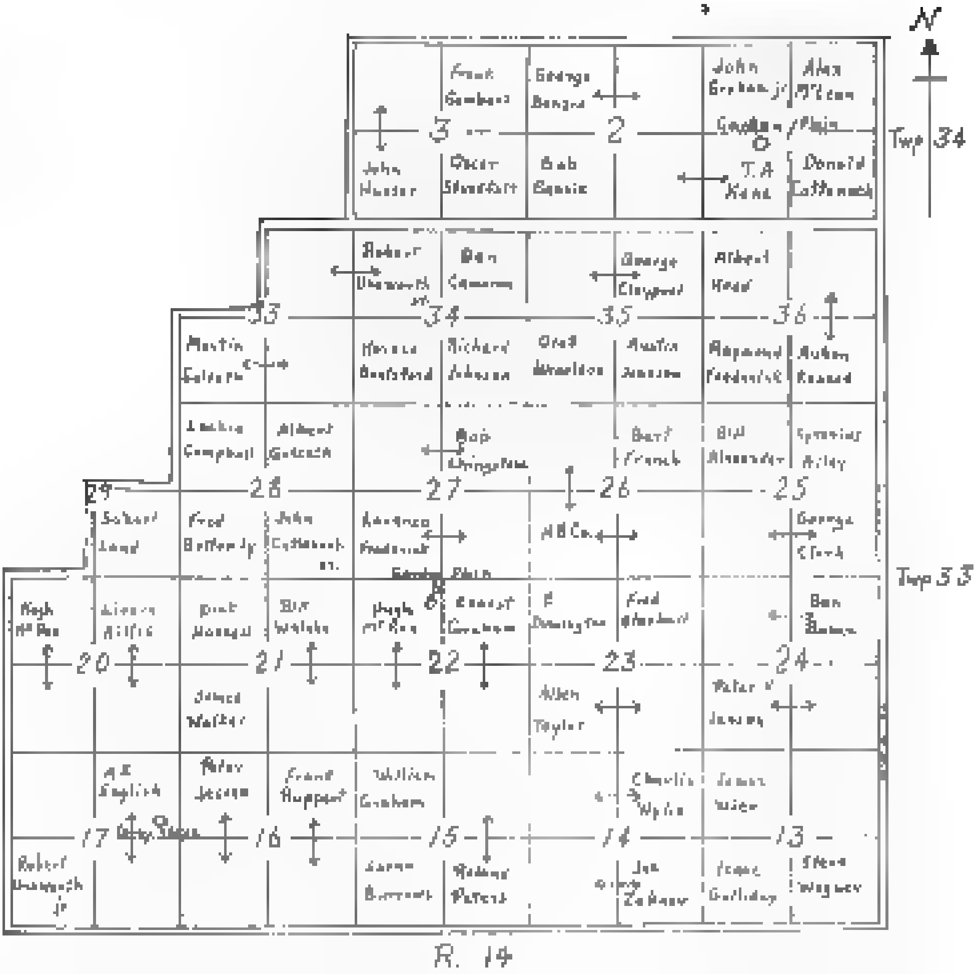
The Greystone correspondent to the Hanna Herald wrote that a barn with ample room and plenty of feed was available. The correspondent later suggested, "Import a car load of girls for the supper dance."

The hall was shortlived, as people began using the schoolhouses for entertainments.



Fred and Flora Weich. Arthur, Reinhardt, Henry.

GARDEN PLAIN No. 3941



OWNERS AND RENTERS — TOWNSHIPS 33 and 34, RANGE 14

S.E. 21-33-14
W. Weshe
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wiens

S.W. 21-33-14
James Walker
A. English
Les Wiens

N.E. 21-33-14
W. Weshe
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wiens

N.W. 21-33-14
R. Haessel
F. Haessel

S.E. 22-33-14
E. H. Graham
Pierce Morris
Bossert
H. Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

S.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 22-33-14
W. C. Kries
Graham
Pierce Morris
Bossert
Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

N.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 23-33-14
Fred Blaxhall
W. Burt
Friedel Haessel

N.E. 23-33-14
E. Dummington
Fred Blaxhall
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

S.W. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
Doody
Lyman Grove
Friedel Haessel

S.E. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
L. Doty
Lyman Grove
F. Haessel

S.E. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
Russel Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

S.W. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
R. Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 24-33-14
B. Bunse
Robert Saxsmith
Stroda
F. W. Johnston
Walter Lewis
F. & R. Johnston

N.W. 24-33-14
B. Bunse
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 25-33-14
C. Alley
C. W. Young
R. J. Unsworth
Frances Unsworth

N.W. 25-33-14
W. H. Alexander
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.E. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
Richard Arizenbarker
George Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.W. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

N.E. 26-33-14
G. B. French
Nels Wright
Billy Wagney
H. Goodkey
M. Campbell

N.W. 26-33-14
Elmer Sleen
R. Hien
Arnold Grove
Friedel Haessel
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. J. Unsworth

S.E. 26-33-14
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S.W. 26-33-14
Fred Blakhall
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S½ 27-33-14
L. Frederick
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove
Walter Miller
Leo Wiens

S.E. 28-33-14
J. Cattanach
David Cattanach

N½ 27-33-14
R. Livingstone
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. B. Zeamer
Fred Johnston

S.W. 28-33-14
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.W. 28-33-14
L. Campbell
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 28-33-14
A. Gulseth
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 35-33-14
G. M. Claypool
Don Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 35-33-14
Erbin Grove

S.E. 35-33-14
C. Johnston
M. Gulseth
D. Cameron
Erbin Grove

S.W. 35-33-14
J. Isrealson
Robert Eye
Walter Lewis
Gus Gaottinger
Rayford Johnston

S.E. 35-33-14
M. Gulseth
Erben Wiens

S.W. 33-33-14
M. Gulseth
M. M. Stuart
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 33-33-14
R. Unsworth
Hugh McRae
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 33-33-14
J. R. Crombie
R. Haessel
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

S.E. 34-33-14
R. W. Johnston
[illegible]. Gulschon
Morgan

S.W. 34-33-14
H. F. Brelson
L. G. Burt
Henry Brown
A. L. Sturgess
Mrs. Smart
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 34-33-14
Claypool
Mrs. Mary Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 34-33-14
R. Unsworth
Morgan

S.W. 36-33-14
A. Head
Chib Wickson
Herb Taylor
Benny Weller
Rudy Finkbiner
Earl Ness
L. Unsworth

S.E. 36-33-14
Henry Finkbiner
George Unsworth
Albert Finkbiner
R. J. Unsworth

S.W. 36-33-14
R. S. Fredrickson
L. W. Chappell
Johnny Israelson
L. Unsworth

S.E. 15-33-14
R. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 15-33-14
Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 15-33-14
R. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 15-33-14
W. J. Graham
Lorne Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
[illegible] Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
[illegible]. Wiens
[illegible]. and E. Wiens

N.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
E. Wiens
R. and E. Wiens

N.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
[illegible] Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 17-33-14
A. English
R. Gaugler

S.W. 17-33-14
R. J. Unsworth
[illegible] Sims
Walter Viste
[illegible]. Gaugler

N.E. 17-33-14
A. English
R. Gaugler

N.W. 17-33-14
Ranch
Walter Viste
B. Gaugler

S.E. 1-34-14
Donald Cattanach
James Bradshaw
Thomas Hunter
Sid Calderbank
Hobson
[illegible] Sieverson
Stanley Strandberg

S.W. 1-34-14
Thomas Kane
Chib Wickson
George Smith
Jones
Wm. Kissinger
Stanley Strandberg

N.E. 1-34-14
Alix McLean
Henry Nielsen

N.W. 1-34-14
John Graham Jr.
Elmer Nelson

S.E. 20-33-14
Lizzy Hillis
Marge Hillis
E. Haessel
F. Haessel

S.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
Morgan
W. Viste
W. Gaugler
[illegible]. Haessel

N.E. 20-33-14
Lizzy Hillis
Mary Hillis
E. Haessel
F. Haessel

N.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
E. Haessel
W. Viste
Wm. Gaugler

S.E. 2-34-14
T. Kane

Henry Neilson

S.W. 2-34-14
Robert Benzie
Albert Delker

N.E. 2-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.W. 2-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.E. 3-34-14
F. L. Gombert
Alfred Delker

S.E. 13-33-14
Steve Wagner
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

S.W. 13-33-14
I. Gelleday
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.E. 13-33-14
George Forster
C. W. Noyce
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 13-33-14
Jim Wier
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 3-34-14
Thomas Hunter
Albert Delker

S.E. 3-34-14
B. Stredfalt
L. Unsworth

S.W. 3-34-14
Tom Hunter
George Smith

Albert Delker

S½ 14-34-14
J. L. Zehner
Wm. Morrow
Tom Hannah
Baissler
Wittihem
F. Johnston

N.W. 14-34-14
C. M. Wylie
Jim Wylie
Tom Hannah
Baissler
Marike
F. Johnston

GARDEN PLAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2941

Louis Unsworth

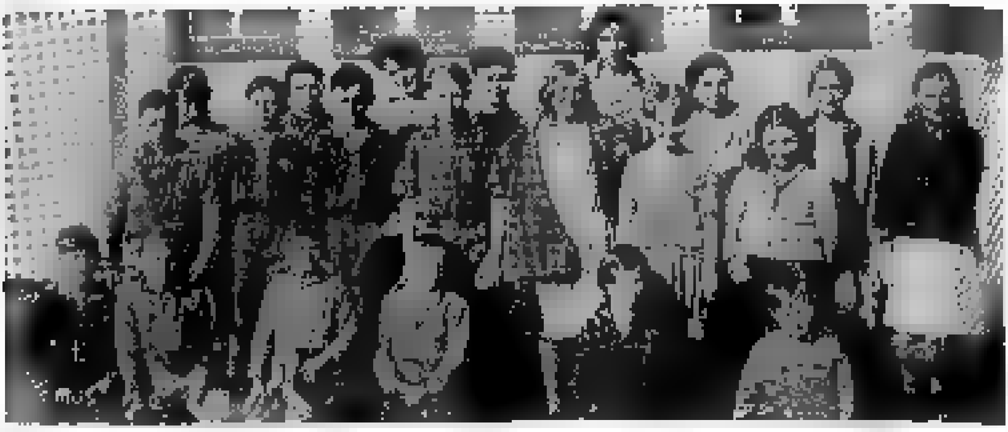
Garden Plain School 1945. Back Row, left to right: Billy Cook, Klara Weins, Leo Weins, Charlotte Cook, Tom Ness. Second Row: Gordon Ness, Arnold Grove, Charlotte Zeamer, Agatha Weins, Evelyn Cook, Barbara Grove, Margaret Ness, Rosanna Weins. Front Row: Robert Weins, Erbin Weins, Russell Ness, Frank Cook.

Garden Plain school was built by Mr. Ben Bunce, and was opened in 1914. Some of the teachers who conducted classes were Eva West, Mrs. Violet Frogge, Miss Sterling, Miss Ellis, Verda Hoffman, Don Pound, Miss Holmes, Miss Brydon, Isabella Payne, Miss Bloomer, Jessie Campbell, Mr. Scotlan, Miss McKenzie, Mrs. McLaren, Jack McLaren, Mrs. Agnes Temple, Helen Jensen, Ray Burke, Mr. Chandler, Stella Johnson. When Mr. Scollan became ill Miss Jessie Campbell substituted for him for about three months; she put on the Christmas concert that year.

The first trustees were Hugh McRae, Robert Unsworth and Jim Walker.

The school was closed from June, 1937 to September, 1939 and the pupils were sent elsewhere. It closed permanently in 1954.

Garden Plain School, 1934 - 35. Benny Brown, Gordon Brown, Leonard Brown, Paul Rupert, - Wittchen, Willie Rupert, Roy McRae, - Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Harold Unsworth, Louis Unsworth, Helen Bartman, George Unsworth. Teacher: Mr. Scotlen. Relieving Teacher: Miss Jessie Campbell.



Garden Plain School, 1933 - 34. Back Row, left to right: Stewart Bartman, - Bassler, ?, Peter Rupert, Leonard Brown, teacher Helen Jensen, Hilda Bassler, Esther Finkbiner, Rosa Artzenbacher. Middle Row: George Unsworth, Gordon Brown, Benny Brown, Melford Finkbiner, Adelheide Artzenbacher, Helen Bartman, Clara Artzenbacher. Front Row: Louis Unsworth, Alfred Bassler, Walter Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Ida Wittchen, Harold Unsworth.

Children attended Garden Plain school from these families: Grove, Unsworth, Delker, Brown, Bartman, Eye, Peters, Ruppert, Cook, Wettchen, Artzenbacher, Medke, Smart, Weins, Temple, McLaren, Haessel, Ness, Zeamer, Frogge, English, Brooker, Smythe, McRae, Smith, Burt, Finkbiner, Bassler.

GEORGE CLARKE STORY, By Frances Unsworth — Mr. George Clarke homesteaded the south half of 25-33-14 about 1909. He built a small shack and a sod barn [illegible] the middle of his land, about [illegible] mile from the Castor trail. He was a very quiet, good-natured man, probably in his sixties, and he used [illegible] tell us that he was a prospector before he came here.

At first he had a team of oxen, their names were Red and Bright. I remember that they both had very long horns, and that one was brown and the other brown and white. He was very good to his animals and gave them the best of food and treatment.

Fighting Prairie Fire, 1909. Bert Brown, George Clarke, Horace Lewis, Frances Lewis.

He spent a lot [illegible] time at our house, as Mother and Dad always invited bachelors for meals and a visit, and they were always glad to accept. From what Mr. Clarke told us, he lived on porridge and pancakes . . . flapjacks, [illegible] used to call them . . . and drank green tea, as did most of the people who had come from the United States.

Sometimes we would not see him for a week or so, and my Dad would walk to his shack to see if he was sick. We used to watch for smoke coming from his chimney.

He planted a rhubarb patch and a small garden, off which he lived in the summer. He had no cellar to keep things from freezing, so in winter he had only frozen potatoes. He was always invited to our home for his birthday and for Christmas.

After [illegible] few years his oxen died and he bought some wild broncos. I will always remember the runaways he had nearly every time [illegible] hitched them up.

He farmed for about ten years, then after the First World War he sold through the Soldier Settlement Board to Mr. George Forster, and we never heard from him again.

George and Alice Forster.

MEMORIES OF THE HOMESTEAD, By Alice Lewis Forster — I am the middle daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis. Dad and mother had come from England to Victoria, B.C. in 1906. In May, 1909, our family left Victoria to homestead in Alberta with my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sturgess and their family.

We camped in tents at Stettler while Dad and Uncle walked many miles looking for a homestead. While they were away, we were all very saddened by the death of my baby sister Queenie. A very nice man made a little coffin for her and she was buried in Stettler.

Dad and Uncle were lucky to get homesteads side by side. Ours was the south-west of 30-33-13. I was only eight years old at the time but I remember well the journey from Stettler with the oxen and covered wagon. There were no roads then, only winding trails. The prairie wool was very thick and many flowers bloomed.

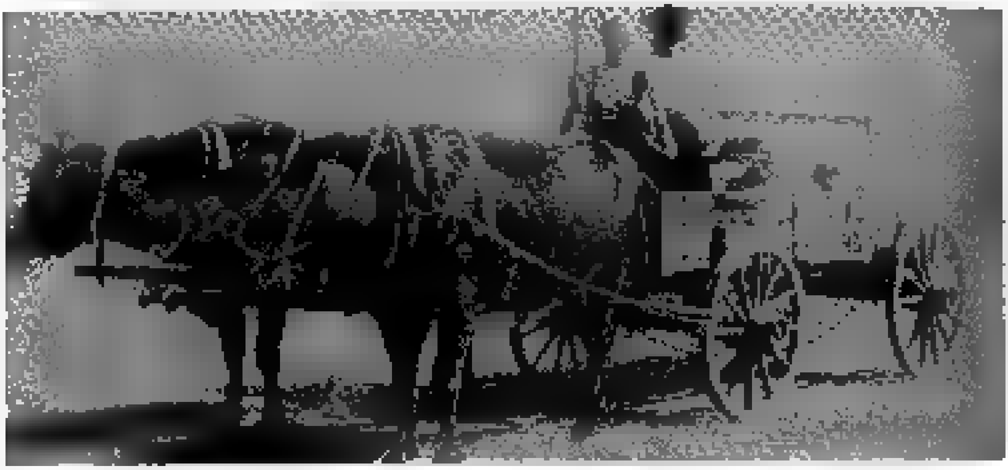
Dad and Mom chose the highest hill on the homestead for our home site. It was covered with wild roses, and they said, "We will name our farm Rose Hill Farm." We lived in a tent while Dad built a sod house. Mother plastered the inside walls with blue clay which came from a well that Daddy dug.

Whenever Daddy had to make a trip to Castor for supplies during the hot weather, he would start about three o'clock in the morning so that the oxen would not have to travel in the heat of the day. They could not stand being overheated, and you could not even make them trot because of this.

Meals were a little monotonous, especially in the winter. Beans and rice were the mainstay, with wild rabbits and prairie chicken once in a while for variety. I remember the first sack of potatoes that Dad bought, in the spring of 1910. How good they tasted, for we did not have a garden of our own till the next summer. Even the lowly turnip took on a new light in the pioneer days. When one fell off a passerby's wagon, my mother wrapped it up and put it away for our Christmas dinner.

The prairie fires were very frightening in those days. Sometimes at night we could see them all around us and we prayed that the wind would not drive them toward us, as they travelled very fast.

We were on the homestead for two years before a school was built. I often think of the winter mornings when we were so cold from walking the two and a half miles to school that the teacher let us [illegible] around the big round coal heater. I remember walking to school in the summer with [illegible] heavy gunny sack folded to form a hood and a cape so the mosquitoes couldn't bite through. We wore netting over our heads as well. One day the mosquitoes were so thick we could hardly see through the netting.



Duck Hunting, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis, Alice and Francis.

I remember that when we still lived in the sod house three homesteaders stopped one very cold night. After supper they laid their blankets on the kitchen floor. One man's bed was under the stovepipe elbow. Frost formed on the pipe outside, the heat from the stove melted it, and the water dripped down the pipe and off the elbow all night. The moisture mixed with the coal soot was very black. As it dripped on his face [illegible] his sleep, the man thought it was a fly, and tried to brush it away. When morning came his friends laughed and kept him from looking into the one tiny mirror we had. His face was as black as could be!

My love of horses extended to breaking [illegible] horse that my Dad had bought. Whenever he harnessed him he would [illegible] on his side and kick; even when harnessed with other horses he would let himself be dragged along the ground. Dad promised I could have the horse, Buster, if I could break him. I always kept a rail between me and Buster whenever I tried to saddle him in the barn. Eventually I could ride him all over the country, but only straight ahead or to the right. He never would turn left. I remember the day I helped Mom up on Buster so that I could take her out to see the crop, for being crippled, she could not walk that far. Buster did not let me down with such an important passenger, and performed very well.

On March 29, 1921, I married a returned soldier, George Forster. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Scallon in Hanna's little Anglican Church. In 1923 we were blessed with a son, David.

In the twenties my husband was very active with the U.F.A. and with the Garden Plain dances and picnics. George and Fred W. Johnston were buddies for many years, both before World War I and then overseas together, as well as farming at Garden Plain. We shared the problems of raising youngsters with the hazard of toddlers crawling under the horses' bellies (and the father's hazards after the little ones had loosened the nuts under the binder!).

We farmed [illegible] 1926, but the crops were not too good and cattle prices were low, so we moved to Surrey, B.C., where we developed a poultry farm. In 1927 we were blessed with a daughter, Dorothy.

We shared a happy life as our farm prospered and our children grew up and supplied us with grandchildren to spoil. In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnston came to B.C. to help celebrate our golden wedding. We promised Blanche and Fred that we would return for theirs, but dear George did not make it as we lost him April 16, 1971. I still live within a stone's throw of our farm.

Charlie Young

CHARLES YOUNG STORY, By Eleanor Young — My name is Eleanor M. Young; I am now eighty-four years old. I was born in Detroit, Michigan, where my parents had settled when they emigrated from Germany.

In 1914 I married Charles Young, who was born in England and who came to this country with his parents when he was nine years old. [illegible] 1916 we sold our belongings and moved to Alberta because [illegible] doctor told my husband he might not live unless he moved [illegible] a cold, dry climate.

Charles' aunt and family, Horace and Jenny Lewis, had come from England and settled in the Garden Plain area about twenty-five miles from Hanna. We stayed with them while looking for a farm. We settled about half a mile down the road from them. The place was in very bad shape and needed much repairing before we could live in it. There was a large living room with a heater stove which burned slack coal as there was no wood, [illegible] long kitchen and an unfinished upstairs. To retire each night we had to climb a ladder on the side wall with our nine-month-old baby Hilda.

The first year that we planted wheat it was coming nicely, and was almost ready [illegible] harvest when a bad hailstorm ruined it. Our potato crop was beautiful. Charles dug a pit under the floor in the kitchen, right under the stove, to store them, but even there they froze.

That first year the mosquitoes were awful, we had to wear a net bag over our heads. They piled up an inch deep all around the lower window pane, but didn't seem to bother us much in the house. The men had to do their field work very early in the mornings because the mosquitoes bothered the horses too much when [illegible] warmed up outdoors. They stood in smudges all day.

Charles' parents and little brother came to Garden Plain, and Dad Young took over the coal mine for a time. Charles was a mechanic and soon people were bringing him their machinery for repairs.

Charles dug a well and put cribbing in it but there was just a trickle of water. Every day in winter we had to melt snow to wash diapers and baby clothes, and for the cooking and drinking Charles had to haul water from his uncle's on a stoneboat. By the time he got home with it, the barrels were only half full. In winter the water splashed over the tops of the barrels and froze.

Two days before Christmas in 1917 our son Frederick Kenneth Young was born. He is now living in Barstow, California.

We had several horses and cows and a sow and nine little pigs. The pigs wandered over to a bachelor's farm, and he didn't like that, so he drove them nine miles [illegible] the pound. People got quite a laugh about that.

One time when Charles was painting a granary, he went away for something and left the can of red paint open. The little pigs all stuck their noses in it. When

Hilda tried to keep them out of it she got red paint all over the back of her head.

We went through many hardships, but one good thing happened. Charles' health was restored. Both Charles and Dad Young were offered good positions [illegible] Kentucky, so Charles sold the farm [illegible] Robert Unsworth.

In 1920 another son was born to us, Kenneth Charles.

[illegible] 1925 Charles had a severe case of blood poisoning, which took his life.

I live with my daughter Hilda and her husband in Marshall, Michigan.

25th Anniversary, September 28, 1945. Bob and Frances Unsworth.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT UNSWORTH, By Frances Unsworth — In September, 1920, I was married to Robert James Unsworth. His family lived four miles west of us, but we had first met as children in 1906, on the boat coming from England. His family had gone to Nova Scotia, mine to Victoria, B.C.; we moved to Garden Plain in 1909, and the Unsworths came in 1912.

After serving overseas for four years, Bob bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm across the road from my dad's place, and I am still there in 1977, fifty-seven years later. We went through a lot of hard years when we were trying to get a start [illegible] life . . . drought, poor crops, low prices for farm produce . . . and after being gassed in the war, Bob's health was not good. We had nine sons, but had misfortune to lose three of them; the other six boys are all married and have families of their own.

While digging a well on our farm in 1925, Bob struck coal, so at the first opportunity he sunk a slope and started his own coal mine, which he named the Three Star Mine. He studied at night and got mining papers, and operated it for fifteen years. In the summer I hauled the coal up with horses, and in winter he hired a man for the job.

Unsworth Family, October, 1953. Albert, Cyril, Harold, Louis, Roy and George.

At one time he had eight men working for him, and coal was hauled as far as to the Saskatchewan border to the east, west to Byemoor and Endiang, north to Fleet and Federal and south to Hanna.

In 1935, my husband had just come home from the hospital and was

recuperating from a broken back sustained in the mine. One of our horses had died, and as times were hard and a dollar very much needed, our oldest son George and I started across the prairie to skin the dead animal. Although there was a lovely mild chinook blowing, my husband was very much against us going a mile from home, and before we got there, the wind changed and it started to snow. Before we had finished the skinning, a raging blizzard was blowing, and to this day I don't know how we both survived and got home. My poor husband was nearly frantic, walking the floor with a full body-cast on.

Bob could not work much after he was injured, but took an active part in community life. He played for dances, was on the executive of many organizations, and served on the hospital board and the telephone association. He passed away in 1947, after a lung operation.

With the help of our six sons, and the Lord giving us good health, we managed to stay on the farm, where I still live. Our eldest son George lives [illegible] Ponoka, where he is shop foreman for the County of Ponoka. Roy is Town Superintendent in Hanna, Harold is an Industrial Arts teacher there, and Albert is Maintenance man [illegible] the hospital. Louis and Cyril farm [illegible] the Garden Plain district.

LOUIS UNSWORTH — I was born in Hanna in May, 1927 and have been farming in the Garden Plain district ever since. I started my farming career with three geese and two calves that I bought from John Sexsmith with my spending money. I got my schooling at Garden Plain and Netherby, walking the three miles or driving a mule and cart. By the time we went to Netherby we had a team of horses for the winter months. We did chores before and after school and played hockey and ball with Dad, as he was great for sports.

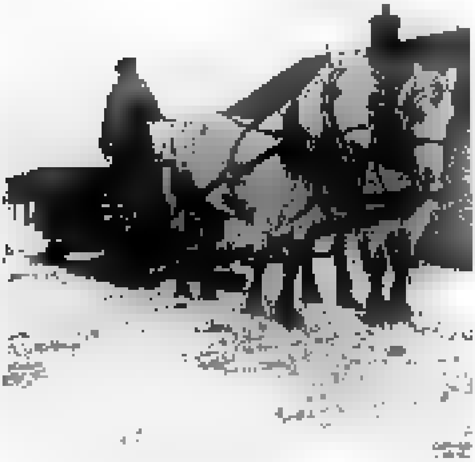
Louis and Laura Unsworth and three oldest children, Gerald, Sharon, Robert.

L. Unsworth Children: Sharon, Robert, John, Garry and Frank.

My father, Robert James Unsworth, passed away in 1947 and left six boys. I ran the farm for Mother and bought land of my own near the home place. I have tried raising everything, cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese.

I married Laura Clarke, a Calgary girl, in 1950. We have five children. Sharon trained as a nurse and worked [illegible] Hanna for a time before marrying Wilfred Schritter of South Castor. They have two children. Robert is working for the Town of Hanna and John is a carpenter there. Gerry married a local girl, Adelle Allen, and works for the Treasury Branches of Alberta. Frank is living at home and attending Hanna High school.

I am a member of Unifarm, serve on various local boards as well as the Hanna United Church Board, and have been a school trustee for a number of years.



Louis Unsworth and his team of colts he raised as a teenager.

Unsworth Family, December, 1938: Bob, George, Louis, Roy, Albert, Cyril and Harold.

CYRIL UNSWORTH STORY — I was born in Hanna, Alta., and grew up on the farm in the Garden Plain district. I went to Netherby School for my education, and a short while at Hanna High School, also completed a course in mechanics.

After my Dad passed away I got a job with the Special Areas running a road patrol, and later went to work for the C.N.R. where I worked as a boiler maker for several years, till I decided to go farming, and settled again in Garden Plain district where I grain farm and run a small herd of cattle. I married Eileen Price, a girl from Kitchener, Ont., and we have raised four children — three boys and one girl, Brian, Bill, Bonnie Mae, and Allison.

Allison Unsworth.

Bill, Eileen and Cyril Unsworth, Bonnie Mae and Brian.

THE THREE STAR MINE
OWNED and OPERATED by R. J. UNSWORTH

By Frances Unsworth

Three Star Mine, 1925. Fred Blaxhall, Bob Unsworth, and John Unsworth ready for work in the mine.

On November 1, 1924 Bob Unsworth with the help of a hired man, Bob Holt, started digging a slope for a coal mine. They laid track and timbered the tunnel as they went, working every day except Christmas Day and Sundays until March 1, 1925, when they finally struck coal. It was good quality coal, as the seam was quite deep.

Further work on the mine was delayed until after the crop was put in, and then work was resumed [illegible] the surface, putting in scales, a tipple, and a hoist; and digging air shafts for ventilation, ready for putting out coal in the fall.

At first the cars of coal were pulled [illegible] the surface by a team of horses on a long cable, but this was not very satisfactory. The cars held about twelve hundred pounds of coal. If the team happened to stop when the car was part way up the slope, they could not get started again, and often the weight of the car would pull them backwards until the car hit the bottom or jumped the track. Usually it jumped the track and knocked a lot of timbers out. Later a steel drum with a safety catch was installed, and one horse on a turntable affair could pull out the loads. [illegible] was much safer.

Bob started selling coal in the fall of 1925; some winters he hired eight miners and one top men, but in summer we managed by ourselves, as there was very little trade then anyway.

We put in lots of long hours and hard work, but it was a living in the dry years. I fed the miners and sometimes the coal teams, so we were all busy. Bob ran the mine for fifteen years, until he had his back broken in an accident.

George Unsworth took over the mine then, and put down another slope to meet the old one, and ran it for a few more years. When the price of coal dropped so low that he could not make expenses, he closed the mine down.

Grove Family. Barb, Len and Pam Young. Winnifred, Erbin, Darlene. Lorne, Arnold and Inez Grove.

***MR. and MRS. ERBIN GROVE, By Winnifred Lewis Grove* —** We, Erbin Grove and Winnifred Lewis, were married in June, 1935. This was during the depression years and most of our food was home grown. We milked twelve to fifteen cows and sold cream; the cheques paid for the things we had [illegible] buy. On June 4, 1936, our daughter Barbara was born, and on November 10, 1937, our son Arnold came along to complete our little family.

We had many good times as well as hardships to remember. I recall one hot July day we had big plans for attending the Scapa picnic. We started out with our Jewett car; we were only a mile along the road when we had a flat tire.

We fixed it, then another went flat. This continued until all four had gone flat . . . the hot sun melted the patches off the inner tubes while we were stopped.

Another year the children had picked out what they wanted for Christmas as soon as the Eaton's catalogue had arrived in the mail. As the time drew near, with no crops or money to fulfill their wishes, we felt sad, but by the end of November Erbin was able to trap and sell enough fur-bearing animals to make everyone happy.

Picking strawberries. Winnifred, Lyman and Erbin Grove.

Barb and Arnold Grove leaving for school.

On May 1, 1947 we moved to the NE 35-33-14, which had been homesteaded by George Claypool and which we bought from Don Cameron.

Our first radio was a crystal set. It just had earphones and worked quite well. At times we could get Salt Lake City and did get Havana, Cuba, a few times.

In 1951 Rural Electrification Associations were formed, power lines built, and power turned on just before Christmas, 1952. What excitement! It seemed as

if a whole new era had opened up, lights, fridges, deep freezes, vacuum cleaners, etc. The next big event was a new well and running water.

Threshing was always an exciting time of year. We were always glad to see the threshers come, and glad to see them go. How we would have enjoyed deep freezes if we had had them then! One fall Mr. Grove and Erbin hauled the bundles to the machine; I ran the engine and the separator, and fed the threshing machine while Erbin and his dad went back to the field for more bundles. The first combine was such a welcome sight. Just to think that we didn't have to stook all the crop, just the greenfeed. We could almost enjoy doing that.

Erbin was secretary of the Scapa Mutual Telephone Company for twenty-one years. [illegible] 1960 we changed [illegible] dial phones and our line was divided into two circuits. On March 1, 1973, the government took over the phone lines and they were put underground. Our monthly rate was a dollar a month until the government took over, then the rate was raised to $5.70 a month.

We also had the animal pound in this area for twenty-one years.

Our daughter, Barbara, married Len Young in 1959. They and their daughter live [illegible] Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Our son Arnold, and his wife and two children, live at Olds.

We still live and work on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Grove and baby Erbin.

THE LYMAN GROVE STORY, by Erbin Grove — Lyman Grove was operating a small farm in the western part of the State of Washington, and working in a coal mine, when the doctors told him that his son Erbin had bronchial asthma. They said that the boy would not live long in that damp climate, and advised the father to move to a drier area. About that time Mr. Grove saw an ad [illegible] a Washington newspaper; Mr. Frank Ruppert of the Garden Plain district had land for sale.

Mr. Grove came to Canada to look [illegible] the land, but it was too hilly to suit him. However, he did buy the south half of 27-33-14 from Hugh McRae, put in a crop and went back to Washington for the summer.

In the fall [illegible] 1919 he came back to harvest the crop and brought his son with him. The climate seemed to agree with the boy, so the following January Mr. Grove instructed his wife to sell their cattle and bring their other sons, Ronald and Glen, to Alberta.

Mrs. Grove had no way to communicate with her husband the exact time of their arrival in Hanna, so she hired a livery driver to take her and the boys to the farm. The driver did not know the country very well and became lost. The weather turned colder and a blizzard came up. It was starting to get dark when the driver saw a house and drove to it. It proved to be the Bradshaw mine.

By this time the driver and his passengers were almost frozen, but were taken into the house where it was warm. To get heat to them quickly, the oven door was opened. The youngest boy, thinking that he was not warming up fast enough,

crawled into the oven while everyone's back was turned. He was soon pulled out, a little too warm, but no harm was done.

Mr. Grove bought another section of land, owned quite a few cattle, and did a great deal of custom threshing. His first threshing outfit was one he bought from Ralph Gaugler; in later years he purchased Herman Slemp's outfit. There was a good crop in 1923 and by Christmas of that year, Mr. Grove and his son had hauled six thousand bushels of wheat to Hanna with wagons.

My two brothers and I (Erbin), farmed with Dad for many years. We broke a good many horses, both for ourselves and other people. I put a sign on the harness of one big bay mare we broke, "Man eater, keep away." She was a good work horse but even after working her for three years I still had to harness and bridle her over another horse.

Dad had one part Belgium mare who raised seven colts. They were all big horses; her first colt weighed 1920 pounds at two years [illegible] age. The mother and her seven offspring really made a good eight-horse outfit.

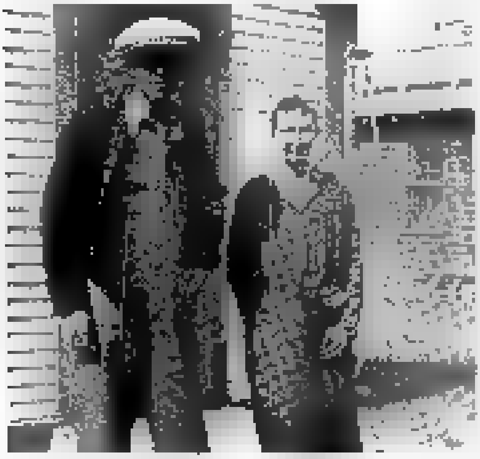
My brother Glen liked to keep coyotes and badgers as pets, so if we ever saw a badger away from his hole we would catch him, put a collar around his neck, and take him home to Glen. Glen kept one pair of coyotes for years, but they never would raise young ones.

Glen built a snowmobile . . . the whole thing, except for the motor at the back which turned a propeller. It worked quite well and he sold it to Fitzsimmons in Hanna.

In 1935 Mother left for the States. Dad did the cooking and milking while Glen and I seeded a thousand acres. We had only thirteen horses that spring, two six-horse outfits and one spare. We cut the crop with two eight-foot binders.

Winnie Lewis and I were married [illegible] 1935. During the first twelve years of our marriage, Dad lived with us, and Glen was there for three years, until he moved to the States.

Mr. Grove was a member of the Wheat Pool, a member of the U.F.A., and served on the Garden Plain school board. He suffered a heart attack while driving his truck near the Garden Plain school, and passed away at the age of seventy-six years. He [illegible] buried in Netherby cemetery.



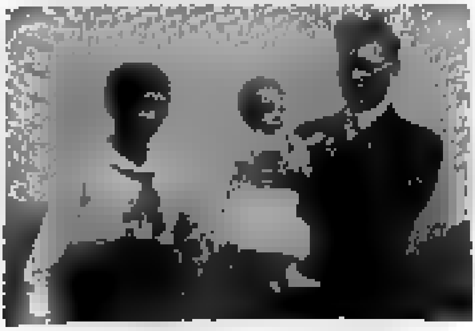
Fred and Nora Blaxhall.

FRED BLAXHALL, By Frances Unsworth — Fred Blaxhall was a bachelor who lived one-half mile east of Garden Plain school. He farmed during the summer and worked hoisting coal at the Unsworth mine during the winter. He was a very particular man. He built a nice Aladdin house on his farm, planted a shelter belt and always had a very tidy yard. He later married a widow, Mrs. Nora King.

During World War II he sold his farm and he and his wife returned to England. During the Atlantic crossing, their ship was chased by a submarine.

Mr. Blaxhall passed away suddenly in 1955, and Mrs. Blaxhall went to a rest home where she spent her remaining years.

Mr. Blaxhall was famous in the community for entertaining at concerts, playing his flute and singing comic songs.


Hazel, Stewart and Roy Bartman, 1919.

ROY BARTMAN, By Harry and Love Bartman — Roy was the youngest of the four Bartman brothers who came to this area in the pioneering days. Like his brothers, he was born in Tobermorey, Ontario. [illegible] 1912, when Roy was nineteen, he homesteaded on 33-32-10, some twenty odd miles north-east of present-day Stanmore. His post office was Fenner.

Roy put up a small shack and barn on his place. Meanwhile, his brother Harry had been persuaded to settle [illegible] the village of Youngstown, but as soon as winter set in he was out of a job, as everyone put their cars on blocks for the winter. So Harry and Roy kept bachelor's hall on Roy's homestead during the winter of 1913-1914. Roy's shack was so small that he could put fuel on the fire without getting out of bed. The only outside chores were looking after a team of horses.

One day when they were making bread, they forgot about the dough they had set on the warming closet to rise. When they returned to the shack they found that the dough had risen all right, clear out of the pan, down the sides, and some of it was resting on the stove top. They made the best of a bad situation and Harry claims it was about the tastiest bread he had ever eaten.

In 1917 Roy left his homestead and bought Bob Livingstone's half section in the Garden Plain district. In March of 1918 he and Hazel Stewart were married at Lions Head, Ontario, and the newlyweds left for the farm at Garden Plain. Shortly after their arrival Hazel wrote to her sister at Lions Head, "We arrived at Chester Bartman's shack near Garden Plain after a fifteen mile trip by team and sleigh that took seven hours. The trails were mostly bare and we went through water three and four feet deep in places. I was a bit timorous about being left alone on the second day here when Roy had to round up his horses which had strayed away. Our trunks have not yet arrived, so I baked a deep apple pie in a frying pan and rolled out biscuits with a big bottle, [illegible] the while trying to contend with a coal stove. I was awe-stricken at the way people lived on these 'wild prairies', but the neighbors are fairly close and yet friendly. I might get to like it after a while!"

As soon as they were able, they moved onto their own farm.

Of the flu epidemic of 1918 Roy says, "[illegible] the fall of 1918, during the flu season, the province was prohibition. [illegible] was stated by doctors that whiskey was the best preventative of flu. My partner, Elmer Sleen, and myself undertook to make some home brew. He was a good mechanic, so had no trouble constructing a good still. Shortly after we had it finished and ready for use a knock came at the door. It was Dr. Nixon. He had come [illegible] enquire where certain people lived. He smelled out whiskey right away and knew by the looks of us that we had been into it. (He was a booze artist anyhow). Asked us how long we'd been drinking it, and how much. A little more wouldn't hurt so we all had a few rounds. Then we set out to find his patients. Elmer drove the doctor's car, a Model T Ford, and I knew the country best so I directed him. The doctor slept, in his heavy overcoat, and we went from place to place, rousing him each time to care for his fevered patients. In this manner he travelled many miles and brought relief to many anxious people. I don't think Dr. Nixon ever got the flu himself."

Roy and Elmer, partner and friend from homesteading days at Fenner, bought a threshing outfit from Ralph Gaugler. It was a 25-45 Titan engine and a 32 by 46 inch separator. It took a big crew to operate it. Later they sold this outfit to Lyman Grove and bought another from Roy's brothers, Vic and Harry, who by this time were operating a business in Hanna known as Bartman's Machine Shop. They hauled a cook car with them wherever they threshed. Some of the cooks were Hazel Bartman, a Mrs. Smith, Effie McLaren and Florence Faler.

Roy and Elmer were the life of any gathering. They liked their fun, probably a little better than most, and what deviltry one couldn't think of, the other would. Elmer bought a quarter section of Hudson Bay land across the road from Roy's buildings. Roy farmed this land for Elmer, and also the Bob Eye place which Harry eventually bought.

In the early twenties Roy rented the place to the Groves, and he and his wife and baby Stewart went to Northern Ontario to live. While they were there Helen was born in 1924. But by 1927 the Bartmans were back on the farm. Stewart rode his horse Teddy to school, where his first teacher was Miss Bloomer. When Helen was ready for school they both rode. In winter they drove a horse hitched to a glorified stoneboat. Helen Tucker boarded with the Bartmans and was a bit leery of the shaftless outfit.

During the dry thirties they tried desperately to grow a little garden by hauling water from the creek. One winter they flooded a rink on the coulee flats and had a wonderful time skating. For a time, Roy was abed with rheumatism, having gotten very cold and frostbitten while getting a load of coal.

In 1934, Pete Jensen built an addition to the house. In the fall of 1936 the Bartmans had an auction sale and went to a farm near Wiarton, Ontario. Roy had sent a carload of horses back east before the sale. Herb and Ellen Taylor lived on the place for a while, and Herb finished building the dam on the coulee, a P.F.R.A. project which Roy had started. However, with the large spring runoff the spillway washed out and the dam never did hold much water.

Roy and Hazel eventually retired to Wiarton where Hazel passed away in 1976 and Roy still resides. Stewart and his wife Love still farm at Wiarton. Helen is married and lives close by.

MR. and MRS. BOB EYE, By Margaret Eye — I met my husband in Dakota when I was sixteen. We were married there, and later moved to Spokane, Washington, where my husband, Robert, read in a paper that Mr. McRae wanted a hired man. He answered the ad and was hired. We travelled to Canada with our three oldest children, worked for Mr. McRae and later bought 160 acres from Albert Hardman. There was a two-roomed house with a cellar on the property, and later we built on two bedrooms. There was also a barn and a cowshed.

We lived on our place for eleven years, and our two youngest daughters were born while we were there. We worked the land with six head of horses, most of which were bought from Roy Bartman, our closest neighbor.

The four oldest girls went to school at Garden Plain. They rode horses to school, but sometimes in the winter they went by sled.

My husband and I were among the first in that area to plant a shelterbelt, and I think Rob was the first to introduce strawberries to that country. We always raised a big garden and had cows, calves, pigs, and chickens to care for.

To help make ends meet, Rob also worked for Mr. Unsworth in his coal mine. I remember one time it was so foggy when he came out of the mine that he had to turn his horse loose to search for the house.

When Rob was working away from home, I did most of the chores such as

milking and caring for the stock. Of course the girls helped too. During blizzards I tied a rope to the house and held on [illegible] it until I found the barn, then tied the other end to the barn so I could find my way back to the house and the kids. During one bad storm, one of our cows had frozen tits. I had to tie her to the back of the stall so she couldn't kick. She was fresh and had to be milked.

I think the hardest part was watering the stock. We had to pull the water up from the well by a pulley. It was hard for me as sometimes a woman can't handle such chores as well as a man. It was hardest when the wind blew and I didn't feel very well. Still, we did get the job done and when Rob was away. I also knitted my husband's socks and made the girls' clothes. The girls weren't dressed fancy, but the best I could. Being well dressed wasn't so important in those days. We were all too busy to notice, but at least they were all clean.

Rob planted most of the land to wheat, and some to oats for feed. I remember only one bumper crop in all of our eleven years, and then the price was poor. Frost and drought ruined most of our crops, still, we had good times too.

Rob helped to build the hall at Garden Plain. All the people came to dance and brought their children along. We enjoyed our neighbors' company. One evening Chester Bartman and his wife came to call. When they went to leave, Mrs. Bartman and my eldest daughter, Marion, decided to have some fun. They traded coats and Marion started off for home with Chester. I don't know how far they went before Chester discovered it was Marion, but they both came back laughing.

We sold out and went to the States in 1928 because of Marion's ill health. They called it leakage of the heart, brought on by St. Vitus dance, a disease of the day. Years later it was determined to be the result of a lack [illegible] citrus fruits or vitamin 'C'. We had been able to get dried fruit, but only at Christmas time were oranges and tangerines available. Marion died in 1965. She was to have had open heart surgery at Iowa City, but suffered a stroke at the hospital before the surgery could be completed. She never recovered enough to have the operation.

I will be eighty-four years old in June of 1977. I now live with my daughters. I am now with Maxine and feel pretty good for my years. This letter has been written with the help of my daughter.

Your old neighbor and friend, Margaret Eye.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT EYE, By Neva Eye Hawkins — My parents were married in South Dakota in 1909. They later lived in Minnesota, Idaho, and Washington, and in 1917 moved to Calgary, where I was born. They had three older daughters, Marion, Gladys and Mildred.

In the spring of 1918 they moved [illegible] the Garden Plain area. They travelled to Castor by train and were met by Hugh McRae with horse and buggy. Dad worked for Mr. McRae. When the farm work was finished for that year, they lived in a shack and worked in the Bradshaw coal mine. Next he bought land from a man I have always called Grandpa Hardman. I think his name was Albert. Dad farmed until leaving the district in 1928; in the winters mother did the chores and he worked in the Bradshaw and Unsworth mines.

We went through drought, grasshoppers, army worms, hail and blizzards, but in 1923 we had what they called [illegible] bumper crop. I wasn't allowed in the wheat field for fear I'd get lost, as the grain was way above my head.

The big event of 1925 was that I had a new baby sister, Lula Maxine. She was named after our neighbor, Mrs. Grove.

In 1926 in a very bad blizzard we lost a young stallion to the storm; he had gotten within a few feet of shelter. My dad had gone to Iowa to his dad's funeral, and we didn't get the horses into the barn before the storm struck. Mother worked shovelling snow and tending stock until she could do no more, then she sent Gladys to Fred Blaxhall for help. She walked on the crust of the snow, but Fred, being heavier, fell through the crust about every third step, and was very tired by the time they got to the house.

In December of 1927, Dad and Roy Bartman had been butchering pigs [illegible] day, when late in the afternoon my older sister Marion had an attack of appendicitis. Dad and Roy hitched the team to the bobsled and started for Hanna about the same time as a winter storm struck. Marion got her appendix out the next morning and was doing fine. That Saturday Dad took mother to the train at Scapa so she could go to visit Marion; when he got home I was having an attack of appendicitis. As another storm was in the air he brought grain and oat bundles for the horses' feed into the house to warm, at daylight he packed me into the bobsleigh with hot grain at my feet and warm oat bundles all around me. We broke trail all but the last two miles into Hanna. Dr. Argue put me right on the operating table and my appendix broke as he laid them on the tray. I came home on December 23, and on Christmas Day, to the horror of my parents and the Bartmans, I was out with Stewart [illegible] try out his new toboggan. I didn't get the skis I was planning on as no one thought I'd be able to rough and tumble that year after my operation, but they were wrong. Frances Unsworth gave me a Campfire Book as a get-well gift.

I think I was about five years old when we got Darky, to me he was the most wonderful horse that ever lived. Soon everyone got tired of putting me on his back, so I'd put grain on the ground and straddle his head. When he raised his head I'd be on his back and then all I had to do was turn around and I was ready to go. When he got tired of me he would buck me off, but if I pretended I was hurt, he wouldn't leave me, just stay out of my reach. The sad day came when my dad gave Darky to Peter Ruppert [illegible] ride to school. By that time I was eight years old and could ride any horse we had, but none ever took Darky's place, so I took out my hate and frustration on Peter, I'd pick a fight with him at school every chance I got, not because I really had anything against Peter, but because he had my Darky.

Roy Bartmans moved east, then came back again to be our neighbors. Stewart was eight and I was nine. He wasn't supposed to run his horse till he was nine, but I had been running horses as far back as I could remember, so when we got out of sight of the buildings we let them run. The horses told on us, though. Mother and Mrs. Bartman got on the horses we had been riding to go to Wickson's store; when they got out of sight of our house they took off!

My memories of the area are those of a ten-year-old. I remember dances, and sleeping on the table [illegible] the back room, covered over with coats, while the older people danced till morning. I remember when Scapa got on the map. When the new store at Scapa was opened, my dad was the first customer. He bought fifteen cents' worth of tobacco.

My dad died in Oregon in 1962, my sister Marion in Iowa in 1965. My mother who is 83 lives with me at present, and also spends some time with my sister Gladys in Spokane. Mildred is in Spokane, and Lula Maxine in Dexter, Oregon. Maxine doesn't remember living in Canada, but when Gladys and I get together we relive those times.

A LETTER TO CANADIAN FRIENDS, ***from Maxine Eye Nielson*** — I was born Lula Maxine Eye on May [illegible], 1925, the youngest daughter of Robert and Margaret Eye. My name was a mistake as I was [illegible] have been named Janice Maxine, but when Lula Grove visited Mother in hospital, she said, "Are you going to give her my name?" meaning the one she and Mother both liked, Janice, but

Mother thought she meant her own given name, Lula. Perhaps I was a mistake too, as I was seven years younger than my sister Neva, who had been the baby of the family.

Our folks gave us all that it was in their power to give. Times were tough during my growing-up years but I had twenty-five cents to go skating every Thursday night while I was in high school, and now I wonder where Dad managed to get it. My sisters spoiled me too. Marion made me a white lace dress with a yellow underskirt. Gladys taught me to make my first apple pie. Mildred bought me my first horn so that I could play in the band. Neva, bless her, kept me in line.

We came to the States when I was three years old so I don't remember much . . . my sisters coming up the lane on horseback from school, playing in the barn, the new coat my folks bought for me. During World War II I needed my birth certificate, and discovered that both Neva and I have dual citizenship, because we were born in Canada of American parents during a certain time.

I never returned to Canada until 1970, when Mother and Mildred and I went to visit the people I'd heard talked about in my life. We stayed at Winnie and Erbin Grove's; they insisted, and wouldn't hear of us going to Hanna for a room. They took us on a grand tour of the surrounding territory and back to see what was left of our old home.

I met Frances Unsworth next. She invited us to dinner. What a meal! It was like Thanksgiving! We were also introduced to her son, so much like his mother with his warm and friendly greeting. One inherits traits like that.

We also met Mr. and Mrs. Johnson that day. When they heard that Mrs. Eye was in the neighborhood they came just as they were, and came running. Another lovely couple to remember. I'd heard that we had given them our dog when we left for the States. We also spent a very nice evening with Stewart Mc Rae. He and his sister had been schoolmates of my older sisters.

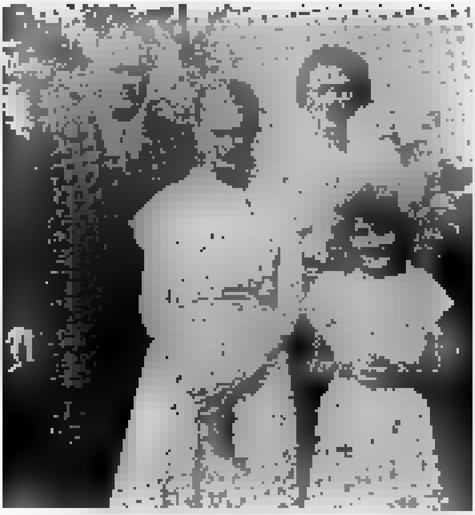
I'll never forget the return to the place of my birth, and the hospitality shown us. I hope some day to return again with my husband. If it's meant to be, I will be coming again.

ROBERT LIVINGSTONE, By Fred Johnston — Mr. and Mrs. Bob Livingstone and their adopted daughter Christine emigrated from Scotland to homestead the north half of 27-33-14 in the early part of 1910. They erected their buildings on the west quarter, but after living there for some time they moved to the east quarter, overlooking the coulee. The creek at the bottom of the coulee emptied into Sullivan Lake some four miles away, and carried the spring runoff from the large watershed to the east.

Before Garden Plain school was built, church services were held in their home. Bob taught the Sunday school classes and John Sime delivered the sermons. Christine was among the first pupils of Garden Plain school.

They sold their land to Roy Bartman in 1917, and bought land south of Hanna. In 1920 they sold that place to W.E. Fitzsimmons, the Hanna auctioneer, and went to California, where they had a vineyard.

JAMES CROMBIE — Jim Crombie was an early settler who came in 1909 to homestead. He was a bachelor and a brother of Mrs. Brelsford. In 1914, while digging a well on his homestead northwest 33-33-14, he lost his life when gas seeped into the hole. Bill Welche was helping him at the time. Jim is interred in the Netherby cemetery.



Richard and Mildred, Charlotte and Marlene Zeamer.

***MR. and MRS. RICHARD ZEAMER, By Mildred Hanson Zeamer* —** Richard and I were married in 1937 at the Lutheran parsonage in Craigmyle and went [illegible] live at Harrogate, B.C. Our first child, Charlotte was born while we were there.

[illegible] 1939 we moved to the Scapa district, and lived on a farm five and a half miles east of Scapa. In 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. Both girls attended Garden Plain school. Mrs. Agnes Temple and Gerda Hoffman Litke were their teachers.

We moved to Hanna in 1948 and have lived here ever since. Charlotte Dembicki has two girls, Myrna and Susan. Marlene Little has a boy Brett and a girl Michele.

***RICHARD and MILDRED ZEAMER* —** Richard and I and our daughter Charlotte moved onto the Roy Bartman place in the spring of 1939. Our folks gave us cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks and turkeys, and we used their machinery for the first year.

For four years Richard drove mail route No. 1 from Scapa, going south to H. Viste's, coming up to Gaugler's corner, west and north past Carl Welch's; then west past Hanson's and north to Lyxzen's corner, east past Burt's, Lohrmann's, and Slemp's, and south into Scapa. It was a thirty-five mile route. In winter he drove a team on a cutter, and stopped at Chris Viste's [illegible] feed his horses and have his own lunch. [illegible] summer he drove a truck.

[illegible] October, 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. In the fall of 1942 our crops were snowed under and we had to take them off in the spring of 1943. That fall Charlotte started school at Garden Plain; Mrs. Agnes Temple was the teacher. When the children had their Christmas concerts, I always played the piano to accompany their singing, and for their drills. We also used to enjoy the picnics with the homemade ice cream and sandwiches and cake. Parents who could play softball took part, and entered the races too.

Once when Richard and Uncle Bill and I were coming home from Hanna we were caught in a blizzard and had to spend the night in an empty house belonging to Vic Bartman. We were lucky as there was a heater there and we were able to keep warm. In the morning Richard walked to Riddle's and got help. That was in February, 1947. We had to leave our car there and it was April before we got it home.

Once when Charlotte was little she went out with her dad in the winter, and put her tongue on a big steel wheel that was in the yard. Of course it got stuck and Richard had to loosen it. Her tongue was bleeding so badly that I phoned Dr. Argue and he told me to put strong tea on it. Richard had to drive the team a mile to Uncle Bill's to get some tea, but by eleven o'clock that night the tongue had healed enough that Charlotte was able to drink hot chocolate.

Richard worked in the U.G.G. elevator for two years, and [illegible] 1947 started working for the Special Areas. We moved to Hanna in December, 1948, and we still live there, as do our daughters. Charlotte married Eddie Dembicki and has two daughters. Marlene married Sargeant Vance Little of the R.C.M.P. and has a son and a daughter.

Mrs. Agnes Temple, who taught both our girls, was one of the first teachers that my brother, Bud Hanson, and I had.

The Cook Family: Fred, Andy, Chester, Frank, Seiri, Evelyn, Charlotte, Mrs. Seiri Cook, Bill Cook, Sharon and Annie Cook.

THE BILL COOK STORY, By Mildred Zeamer — Mr. and Mrs. W.F. (Bill) Cook and their children, Fred, Charlotte, Bill and Frank, moved to the Brown farm which they had bought, in the spring of 1939. While they lived there six more children were added to the family, Evelyn in 1939, Chester in 1941, Seiri in 1944, Annie in 1945, Andy in 1947, and Sharon in 1949.

My aunt always grew a big garden and had new potatoes earlier than anyone else in the spring. She had a lot of patience; she peeled the little potatoes because her husband didn't like them boiled with the skins on. Her cakes were made with what little she had, but they were tasty, and she made the best stew around.

My cousins, Bill and Frank, used to walk a mile [illegible] our place for water, and carry it home in syrup pails.

In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Frank and Evelyn, were caught in a blizzard on their way home from Hanna. Bill left his wife and the two children in the car and started walking home. He got lost walking across our land, and [illegible] that saved him was that their dog kept barking and guided him home. He was badly frozen, and though he did not have to have any parts amputated, he was in hospital a long time.

The oldest girl, Charlotte, was at home with the rest of the family. Next morning she phoned my husband in Scapa and asked him to go to the car or to Greenway's and get her mother and the two children. When Richard opened the car door, he got quite a shock to see them still inside it, but they were quite well, except that the children's toes were frost bitten.

In February of 1950 Annie was rushed to the Hanna hospital, with a ruptured appendix. For several days the doctor feared that she would not live, but after two or three months in hospital she recovered.

The Cooks sold the farm and moved to Hanna in 1962. Aunt Seiri died on her wedding anniversary in 1967. Uncle Bill is in a private home in Edmonton.

Fred lives at Drumheller. Charlotte, Mrs. Mervin Clarkson, and Evelyn, Mrs. Ken White, live in Calgary. Bill lives south of Langdon Corner; Seiri, Mrs. Lawrence Woodbury, is at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Frank, Chester, Andy, Annie (Mrs. Allen Watt), and Sharon, Mrs. Doug McBride, all live at Edmonton.

JAMES WEIR, By Frances Unsworth — Jim Weir, a bachelor and brother of Mrs. Bob Livingstone, emigrated from Scotland. He came to the Garden Plain area in 1913 to homestead the north-west of 13-33-14. He lived in a sod shack, the remains of which can still be seen today. He was a blacksmith by trade and used to

ply his trade at the Diamond mine located on Donald Cattanach's homestead. He joined the army during World War I and was posted overseas.

Jim did work for his neighbors, and took part in many parties and concerts, singing many Scottish songs. One of his favorite songs was 'Just a wee Doch and Doris'.

THE HUGH McRAE FAMILY, By Stuart McRae — My father, Hugh McRae, was born in Scotland and came to Canada as a young man in 1906. He worked as a dining-car waiter on the C.P.R. line between Calgary and Edmonton, and though there was the promise of advancement, and an adequate pension upon retirement, my father was not satisfied.

Land in abundance was there for the taking, and people by the thousands rushed to possess it. Urged by the hope of carving a life of prosperity and independence from the wilderness, or simply by the desire for adventure, people from all over the world looked to the prairies. Excitement, enthusiasm and rags-to-riches stories filled the air. There was an awareness of the hardships involved, but it was felt to be a small price to pay for the prize.

So my father, yielding to the temptation of the land, went to Stettler in 1908 and filed on the west half of 20-33-14 as his homestead and pre-emption. He returned to Calgary and worked another year for the C.P.R., meanwhile preparing for his conquest of the wilderness. Acquiring a wagon, a team of horses and a team of mules, and other necessities, he was ready early in 1909 to start his great adventure.

Many of the early prairie settlers were from farm backgrounds. They knew about livestock, land cultivation, planting and harvesting, so that though they found themselves [illegible] an environment much different than the one they had left, they were able nonetheless to put their knowledge to good use.

There were also those who knew nothing about farming; those who were lumped together as 'green Englishmen', though in fact they might have been of almost any nationality. They were the butt of endless jokes about harnessing the horses with the collars upside down, fetching the left-handed monkey wrench or greasing the wheels on the harrows. My father was one of these, green as the prairie grass in June.

He told the story of how, on his last Sunday in Calgary, he took several of his friends for a ride to show off his team and wagon. All went well until they entered a dead-end street and tried to turn around. Then he discovered that no matter how he manoevered the team, it couldn't be done. So they sat waiting, my father dying of embarrassment, until some kind pedestrian came to their rescue. He turned the outfit by cramping and backing the wagon and set them on their way.

In the spring [illegible] 1909 my father, driving the horses and leading the mules, headed east toward his new home. As he rattled over the raw turtleback of the Morrin-Munson country he wondered why anyone would settle this rough area when a few miles beyond so much smooth and easily worked land could be theirs for the asking. Little did he know that the land he questioned was to become the breadbasket of Alberta.

Arriving eventually at the homestead, he set about doing all the necessary things to get established, building his first shack, digging for water, fencing, putting up hay for winter feed and breaking the land.

In between times he got to know his neighbors. There was Lizzie Hillis, an Irish woman who in defiance of convention had set about realizing her dream without benefit of male help. She must have been a remarkable person, working, dealing and fighting with men at a time when women, like children, were to [illegible] seen and not heard. There were the Lohrmanns, the Leichts and the Bartchs all of whom were connected in some way with that most necessary and romantic machine of early rural life, the great steam threshing outfit. Each fall it rumbled majestically from farm to farm, trailing in its wake swarms [illegible] bundle teams, spike pitchers, field pitchers, cook cars and bunk houses.

Jim Walker was a small, quick-tempered Irish American, highly imaginative and full of quite impractical ideas, but an exciting and interesting person. We children weren't raised on fairy tales; instead we listened to endless hilarious stories having to do with Jim Walker. It seems that he and his oxen helped my father break some land, but during the heat of the day insect pests drove the oxen, plough and all, into a slough.

"Mac", said Jim, "We will tie lanterns [illegible] the yokes and work at night."

This they did but the lanterns attracted the insects and again the oxen high-tailed it for the water. After struggling for an hour in darkness and up to their hips in water, they finally gave up.

"To hell with it," said Jim. "Let them be."

This they did and sure enough next morning they found the oxen lying by the edge of the slough quietly chewing their cuds.

Many years later we met Jim Walker's eldest son, a man now of sixty, but who had been seventeen when he knew my father. It was his turn now to tell long funny stories about my father, which he did with great enthusiasm. My father, as seen through his eyes, was someone I hardly knew.

There was Mr. Ruppert, a man of such strength that he could carry a hundred pounds of beans on his back from Stettler, and of such skill with an axe that he could cut a perfect steak from a frozen beef with one swipe. And there were many more, some whose only concern was proving up on their homestead and selling out, but most with a deep faith that they could wrest a good life from the land.

By 1912 my father had bought the west half of 22-33-14, had moved the shack from the west half of 20, and prepared to make this new location his centre of operations. Also in 1912 he went to Edmonton, married my mother, and brought her to the farm. They spent their first night on the prairies [illegible] Seaba's stopping house, ten miles south of Castor.

My mother, who had lived a comparatively sheltered life, knew little about the hardships of prairie settlement, but she was soon to learn. A Mrs. Christ had an accident while discing, and badly injured her foot. Somehow she managed to attract my parents' attention, and they took her to Castor where her foot was amputated. Many years later a car drove into the yard and a large jolly woman bounded from it. It was Mrs. Christ. I was surprised to see how little she seemed to have been affected by her past tragedy, yet I should not have been, because I've long since learned that many people endured great suffering in those early days and still were able to live in peace and happiness to a ripe old age. Perhaps hardship was the fire that tempered them.

My sister Bella was born in 1914 and I in 1915. My father was prospering and the trappings of civilization began to make life easier. The price of produce was reasonably good, and there had been no major crop failures. [illegible] wasn't until the ruinous frost of 1918 that my father for sure and many others probably, began to suspect that the land they had chosen might not flow forever with milk and honey.

It was during the First World War years that many farmers began to borrow money. Then, as now, it was needed for expansion and to improve living conditions. Banks and mortgage companies were willing lenders.

Snow came early in 1919. Many crops were left unthreshed and people were short of feed. As winter progressed and the cold intensified, feed prices went out

of sight. Cattle prices had been high in the fall and it was expected that they would be even higher in the spring. But such was not to be. When after one of the worst winters on record, spring finally came, many cattle were dead of starvation, prices were half of what they had been the previous fall, and cattlemen were deeper in debt. The effects of the disaster were felt right across the country and many were forced into bankruptcy.

My brother Roy was born in September of 1921. I remember it well. My mother's time having come, as they used to say, we set off in the early evening for the hospital in Hanna, some twenty miles away. My father and mother were in the seat of the buggy while Bell and I sat in the little box behind. It was a warm night; there was no moon but the stars were bright. We knew that something unusual was about to happen but we children were excited by it, not frightened. As the buggy moved steadily along we gazed at the stars and we watched the roadside shrubs loom large as we approached them, then recede into mysterious darkness as we left them behind. We saw fireflies too that night and the tiny glowing lights filled us with wonder. Time passed happily for us, but not for my mother. While still some four miles from Hanna, she could go no farther. We drove to a large white farm house, (I think Paulsen was the owner) and there Roy was born.

As I think back to those long-gone days, two great differences from life today come forcibly to mind. The first has to do with night-time darkness. When the light of the sun was gone we depended on the coal oil lamp and lantern. Indoors we lived by the thin light of a table lamp, hardly bright enough to carry to the furthermost wall. Outdoors it was the lantern. We hung it from a peg in the barn and if we had to set it down we were careful not to let it topple on dry straw. We fumbled with harness straps and buckles in darkness. But most of all we travelled in darkness. Mile after mile and hour after hour we were in darkness.

Today we have light, houselights of all sorts, barn lights, yard lights, street lights, car lights, so that we are seldom in darkness. Yet I sometimes think that in eradicating darkness so completely from our lives we have removed ourselves still further from nature, and that this seperation from the natural world may produce more unhappiness than joy.

The second difference from life today has to do with horses. Which of us who lived with them can forget them?

They were the means by which we coaxed our living from the soil; they were our tractors, trucks and cars. They kindled our deepest affection, frustration and pride, fear and hopes. And they shared our fortunes. They were fat and sleek as we prospered, suffered too as we suffered. No two horses were alike. Each expressed his personality according to his nature. Some were fast, the lead team on the plough or the drivers on the road. Some were slow, slow as molasses running up hill in January. Some could move huge loads, churning the ground with their feet, their bellies close to the ground, pulling their hearts out. Others wouldn't pull the hat off your head. Some were wind broke, spavined, foundered or sway back, these we pitied. Others, young and strong, thundered over the prairies, manes and tails flying, heads high, snorting their defiance to the world. These were beautiful.

We listened to others' stories of horses, and told our own. We heard of settlers lost in a blizzard giving head to their horses and being taken home. We heard and told of runaways, of eight- and ten-horse teams driven to frenzy in a hail storm, racing uncontrolled for shelter, or all four on a binder suddenly bolting, the bull wheel leaving the ground and bundles thrown twenty feet until the crown and pinion stripped. Strange how they would all take off at once as though each had received a simultaneous shock.

Once when my father was returning from Castor with a half a box of willow posts and a supply of groceries, including several dozen eggs, a line slipped from his hand and the horses ran. Eventually they slowed down enough that he was able [illegible] retrieve the line and gain control. His anger was aroused; he decided that if they wanted to run he'd let them, so he grabbed a post and proceeded to give them 'what-for'. He no sooner had them whipped [illegible] full speed than he again lost a line. Off they went once more, careening wildly over the prairie. When finally the commotion ceased he discovered that the posts had worked their way over the groceries and the eggs were pounded into the finest omelet you could hope to see.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother, Bell and I waiting impatiently for father's return from hauling wheat to Hanna. My mother, preparing his supper, stops from time to time to listen. At last we hear it, the jingle of heel chains, the muted sound of harness leather, the soft flop of sleigh runners and finally the loud, 'Whoa', spoken as much for our benefit as for the horses. Moments later he comes through the door, huge in his great fur coat, carrying a box of groceries wrapped in blankets and exuding the pure cold smell of a winter night. Through the open door we catch a glimpse of the horses, grey with frost; one, my father's favorite, whinneying for attention. Bell and I dance with excitement as we watch him draw a small paper bag of candy from his pocket. He gives it to us, then leaves to look after the horses. Bell and I, sucking our candy, go happily to bed.

Another memory is of Bell and I being routed from our beds early on a summer morning to bring the horses from the pasture. Disgruntled and angry, wiping sleep from our eyes, we set off. Our spirits soon improve as the rising sun warms us and we hear the bright songs of meadowlarks and blackbirds. We make our way to the highest hill of the pasture and look back, marvelling at the paths extending to the farmstead half a mile away, that our feet had made as they brushed the heavy dew from the grass. We gather the horses and return home convinced that the world is a wonderful place after all.

The days of collars and nose nets, of sweatpads and sore shoulders are long since gone. But when I go to the barn, and gaze at a set of harness still hanging on the wall, I feel it in my arms as I throw it across a horse's back, and I feel the pressure on my shoulder as I brace against the collar to tighten the hame strap.

Time passed on the prairies. The completion of the C.N.R. line from Hanna to Warden marked a decided improvement in our way of life. We still had to travel to Hanna for many necessities, but we were only six miles from the new town of Scapa. Cars had made their appearance some ten years before but they were erratic, temperamental creatures, not widely used or trusted. The Model Ts, McLaughlin-Buicks, Chevs, Stars, Essex and Hudsons of the day were mostly associated with flat tires, frozen radiators, faulty motors, and horses pulling them out [illegible] mudholes. However, as roads and automotive technology improved, cars commenced their rapid rise to dominance.

By and large the twenties were good years. There were hail storms, but insurance at reasonable rates was available, and heavy crops before the hail destroyed them proved at least that the country could grow grain. But the good times were not [illegible] last. The stock market crashed in 1929 and prices began to fall. The dry year of 1933 was the first of a series that was to drive thousands off the land and dash the hopes of everyone. It was impossible now to find money [illegible] repay debts incurred in more prosperous times. Foreclosures and bankruptcies were the order of the day. From 1933 to 1937 there were years of drought, dust, boxes on binders, Bennet buggies, relief food and feed and carloads of vegetables, fruit and fish shipped into Scapa. In an effort to curb unemployment,

the government paid farmers five dollars a month to hire a man and it paid the man five dollars a month to work for the farmer. Social Credit was born in those years and leaped to power on the promise of ending poverty in the midst of plenty, and of $25.00 per month.

Still life went on. People amused themselves with picnics, card parties, visiting and dances; we didn't have much money but we didn't need much to get by. Ten cents for ten cigarettes, twenty-five cents to go to a dance, and the ladies brought lunch.

During the thirties my father started selling life insurance, and also established connections in Vancouver where he was to spend the last years of his life. In 1935 he advertised the farm for sale at a ridiculously low price. He was swamped by so many offers to buy that he decided that if all those people wanted it it had to be worth something, so he kept it.

In 1931 or 1932 a high school had been established at the home of Bill Harvey, four miles north of where we lived. I attended that school in 1933. Thinking back I am impressed by the amount we learned in the living room of a farmhouse, a far cry from the elaborate educational facilities we have today. A Mr. Reid was in charge. Years before his arm had been amputated after having been mangled by an enraged stallion, or so rumor had it. He was an excellent teacher, knowledgeable, yet compassionate and understanding. Which is to say, I suppose, that education depends more on the quality of the relationship between the pupils and the teacher than on the physical setting in which it takes place.

The outbreak of war in 1939 marked the end of the old days and the beginning of the new. The great drought ended in 1938 and the war created a demand for farm products. Unemployment became a thing of the past as people rushed to the armed services or to war-stimulated industries. Those farmers who had weathered the depression absorbed the land forsaken by their former neighbors and thus accelerated the trend toward larger farms. Mechanization swept the country; in a few short years the horse was almost extinct. The passing of the horse signalled the passing of a way of life which would never return. It could live only in the memories of those who had experienced it.

My father died in Vancouver in 1965, my mother in 1967, my sister Bella in 1975. Roy lives in Richmond, a suburb of Vancouver, while I live on a small farm near the village of Innisfree. The country around here, unlike the prairie, has many trees, but there is enough open space and rolling hills to remind me constantly of the land where I was born and raised.

OF WELLS AND WATER, By Pat Taylor McRae — A book could be written about wells in the early days, or about the lack of them. We can all recall tales of people who, discouraged and fed up with the hard unrewarding life, jumped into wells and ended their troubles. There were others who displeased someone, or who perhaps had money someone wanted, and they were disposed of and dumped down abandoned wells.

When Stuart and I were first married in 1946, we lived almost indentically to the way his parents lived. We lived in the same shack that Hugh McRae threw up back in 1910. We hauled water out of a well that we dug ourselves, Stuart down at the bottom and me at the top pulling the mud and slush up, until we hit a good stream of water. Sometimes if I was a bit careless, mud would fall back down the well and over poor Stuart. Many were the bad words passed back and forth before we finished, and at times I was tempted to leave another unsolved mystery down at the bottom of the well.

The well was dug at the bottom of our coulee and the shack was at the top.

The first year we were going to make our fortune with five hundred chickens. As they got older, they required more and more water. And the house required water. It required a lot of leg work to carry the pails up the hill.

At that time we had a big old horse named Dock that we bought from Milton Stuart. Every day I would harness him and hook him to the stoneboat and down the hill we would go to the well. Hand over hand I would pull the water up and dump it in the barrel. When it was full, I'd put a tub over it and we'd go back up the hill. Days when the nose flies were bad, shaking his head up and down, he'd start up with a jerk. The barrel would teeter and if I wasn't quick enough, over it would go, barrel and water rolling down the hill and Dock running up. Some bad days I'd have [illegible] make two or three tries to get a full barrel of water up the hill. By then I'd be screaming at Dock and crying and heaping curses on farm life, horses, and everything in general.

[illegible] 1949 we built, with Fred Harvey's help, a small house at the east end of the trees. It seemed like a castle after the old shack; there was even a propane stove! We dug another well just twenty feet from the house. That was heaven. I still pulled the water from the well hand over hand, but I had no hill to climb. In the winter, the spilt water would freeze and build up until the well casing was only about two feet above it, and it was a treacherous job to keep one's footing and not fall in.

I remember one bad winter morning I got up and went out to get four pails of water, two for the boiler for washing and two for drinking and cooking. I left the top of the well up between trips. At that time we had a cat and a dog who had a continuous running battle; when the dog chased her, the cat would leap to safety on top of the well cover. On this particular morning the cat took a running leap to what she thought was safety and disappeared from sight. I heard a splash, tore into the house and that was the fastest Stuart ever got out of bed. He slipped on pants and shoes and went down the well on the steps nailed to the inside of the cribbing. He rescued the cat from a watery grave, but she refused to drink any more water during her stay at our place.

Wells were our coolers in the early days. We would hang a can of cream on a rope down the well, butter and meat in another pail on another rope. Sometimes in hot weather it was almost an obstacle course, to try [illegible] find room to pull up a pail of water. Sometimes we had problems, like when the ropes on the cream can came unknotted and the can of cream fell in the well, and then we had [illegible] bail all the water out.

Wells were receptacles for many strange things. I remember when I was very young going to visit a girl friend. We were pulling up a pail of water for the house and in it was a very dead gopher, bloated to several times his normal size. After that I never drank water when I visited them. I could always see in my mind that bloated gopher with his four little legs sticking straight out. If the water in our own well ever began to get an odd taste or odor, we would clean it out, mud and all, and usually find a dead mouse.

Then there were the different flavors in the water. Some had so much soda in it that it made the tea as black as ink. It also forced most visitors to make innumerable trips to the little house out back. No two farms seemed to have water that tasted the same. One got used to one's own well water even if it was loaded with iron and soda and alkali and could hardly drink any other kind.

Water was a very big item in locating homestead buildings. Some people were lucky and found it without too much difficulty; others were not. Some people had a talent for witching wells; sometimes this worked and sometimes it didn't. One case I know of was the Unsworth farm, where over the past fifty years wells

have been witched and dug and drilled at great expense, but as far as I know, to this day they have never struck water.

Yes indeed, many are the changes that have taken place since those early years. I guess I'd haul water up a hill in a pail, I'd wash diapers for twins and dry them in the kitchen; I'd even dig another well if I had my youth and the enthusiasm I had then; but now, in my twilight years, I like my little luxuries.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ARTZENBACHER, By Clara Artzen — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Artzenbacher and their four children, Ferdie, Rose, Adelaide and Clara, came to Canada from Germany in 1927. They settled on a farm at Garden Plain, eighteen miles north of Hanna on the Castor highway.

There was a shortage of water on the farm, only enough for cooking purposes. Mrs. Artzenbacher would haul water for the stock and household with open barrels on a stoneboat. It was a two-mile trip, and often the barrels would be half empty when she arrived home. Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher dug seven wells on the farm to try to find a dependable source of water. The seventh well was a good one, but that year they left the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher.

Ferdinand Artzen and Family (Artzenbacher). Ferdinand was raised and attended school in Garden Plain.

The children went to Garden Plain school, three miles from the farm, and made their first Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. George's Catholic Church, Hanna.

Although most of the family shopping was done at Scapa, Mr. Artzenbacher hauled wheat to Castor to have it milled into flour. It was a two-day trip with a team and box wagon.

In 1928 their house burned to the ground. Mrs. Artzenbacher made several trips back into the house and managed to save some of their belongings.

In 1934 there was a drought, and the grasshoppers ate up the crop and grass. Mr. Artzenbacher and Ferdie took a mower and hayrack and horses and went to Rocky Mountain House where they cut a lot of slough hay. That fall the family moved to the Crimson Lake area where both Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher took up homesteads.

In 1945 they had their name legally changed to Artzen.

Mr. Artzen died in February, 1945.

THE CATTANACH FAMILY, By Margaret Cattanach Blocksom — John and Margaret Cattanach emigrated from Nairn, near Inverness, Scotland, to Canada in 1910, accompanied by six of their eight children. Their sons Donald and Aleck had come over about four years previously. Their four older daughters, Mag, Jessie, Kath and Mollie remained in Calgary where they worked as seamstresses for the Hudson's Bay Company. The younger children, Elizabeth and John, continued on to the Scapa district with their parents and a homestead was established.

Grandpa Cattanach farmed his homestead until 1926 when his wife Margaret died of a heart attack. He spent some of his remaining years with his son John and wife Maymie, and some with his married daughters, Mag and Mollie, in Vancouver, where he died in 1934.

Marguerite and David Cattanach. John and Mammie Cattanach. Peg and Ken Blocksom. Joyce and Ralph Quaschnick.

Mrs. John Cattanach Sr., Mrs. George Wright, George Wright, John Cattanach Sr. with granddaughter, Margaret Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce Morris, John Cattanach, Bob Unsworth.

My father, John Cattanach, bought a half section of land from Peter Guilseth [illegible] 1919, and began to establish his own home two miles east of Scapa. To supplement the farm income he worked with a team of horses on the building of the Scapa-Hemaruka railway. He also worked with the men who surveyed the Sullivan Lake line for the Pearce irrigation scheme.

My father met my mother, Maymie Hill, when she was working in the store

and cafe at Scapa. They were married in 1929 and had five children, Margaret (Peggy), Joyce and Jean, the twins, Sheila who passed away in 1938, and David.

The depression years were hard times for everyone, but my folks managed, and if any of the neighbors needed a hand to pull a balky pump, move a granary, or whatever, my dad was ready to help. If anyone happened by at mealtime there was always a welcome. When harvest rolled around, the threshing crews went from farm to farm and each farmer accompanied the thresher to do his best to help get the crops off before Old Man Winter hit. Many years the threshing was not completed until spring.

It was in the fall of 1942 that dad had his first ruptured ulcer, and he was to be plagued with recurring sessions of this until in 1945 he was sent to a specialist in Winnipeg for an operation to sever the vagus nerve to the stomach.

My mother was active in the Scapa Ladies' Aid and was a seamstress well known for her ability to 'make over'. As times became more affluent she sewed for many of the neighbors and their families with new material and patterns, a real treat for her.

We children all received the greater part of our education in the Scapa school, walking the two miles each way most of the time. Only occasionally were we lucky enough to have a ride with someone driving a team and wagon to Scapa, or back to a neighboring farm east of ours. The walking was good for us though, and we still had bundles of energy left when we got home to do our chores and play a while before supper.

I remember the time that dad was milking a rather unruly cow who kept switching him with her tail and then managed to get her foot far enough ahead to upset the bucket of milk. Dad had a strong Scottish temper and he jumped up and gave the cow a healthy kick. To his horror his foot appeared to break, with the toe of his boot sticking straight up. Well, he hobbled to the house to tell Mom he had broken his foot, and we all had a good laugh when he discovered that the worn sole of his boot had given way with the kick and had pointed skyward.

Dad worked with the P.F.R.A., starting under Fred Stemp in 1950, taking farmers' statements for the drought bonus. He worked each fall at this until 1973; during the last three years my mother accompanied him to drive the car. Dad was well known by most farmers from the Stettler, Castor, Consort line on the north to the Red Deer River near the Brooks area in the south. He made many lasting friendships on those travels.

John and Maymie retired from the farm in 1974, to reside in Dove's Trailer Court in Hanna. Dad passed away in March, 1977.

I married Ken Blocksom in 1951 and we have three children, Terry, Patti and Gay, and one grandson Kyle.

Joyce married Ralph Quaschnick in 1953; they have four children, Don, Keith, Marvin and Mary.

Jean married Dick Moskal in 1956 and they have five children, Randy, Larry, Sheila, Sandra and Carla.

David married Marguerite Connell in 1961. They have two children, Jim and Debbie, and live on the home place. Dave also drives a school bus.

THE BENZIE BROTHERS, By Frances Unsworth — Robert and George Benzie took up homesteads a few miles west of the Garden Plain store in 1906. Frank, their younger brother, came later. George was a blacksmith, and Frank a tailor by trade.

They drove oxen for a few years, and later changed to horses, and were noted for the lovely grey Percherons that they drove. They did breaking for their

neighbors, and freighted from Castor to Hanna, and George did blacksmithing to earn money to pay expenses while they were proving up on their homesteads. George and Frank also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

Robert used to amuse the Lepard children with Scottish stories and jokes when he baby-sat with them. Miss Benzie came and stayed with her brothers for a while. Later she became Mrs. George Hunter and moved to the Buchan district. The Delker brothers bought the Benzie place and are still farming it.

MEMORIES OF THE FARM, By Pearce Morris — I came from England in March, 1913, and worked for a time loading C.P.R. box cars for twenty-five cents an hour. In January, 1916, I joined the army and served overseas till the war ended.

Back in civilian life, I married the girl, Mary Cattanach, to whom I was engaged before I went overseas. We started our life together on the Hardman farm, which was close to Garden Plain school. I loved the life very much, especially when I was ploughing, for the smell of the new ground was like a tonic to me, but this area needed a lot of rain to ensure a good crop and often we just didn't get it.

I had my well drilled by a Mr. Ruppert. He had to go down 110 feet before striking water. I put in a two-inch pipe and with a one-and-a-half horse engine running steadily for eight hours, it didn't show signs of slackening a bit. In fact, we had the finest soft water in the district. The stock loved it, and although we had water in the creek in the pasture, the stock would always come to the tank for a drink.

My two daughters were both born during our stay in Alberta. The eldest, Anna Margaret, was born at home; Dr. Wade, who attended my wife, stayed with us all night to make sure that everything was all right before he left her in the care of her mother. My younger daughter, Greta Marie, was born in the Hanna hospital. Dr. Argue escorted her into the world in 1928.

Mrs. Cattanach, my wife's mother, died while on a visit to our farm. She just asked for a drink of water and collapsed and died before Dr. Wade could be called. It was quite a shock to us as she had never complained and always seemed to be in the best of health. After losing his wife, John Cattanach went to live with one of his daughters in Vancouver, and later died and was buried there.

I think one of the worst storms I ever encountered started when I was in Hanna one day. I met Dick Haessel who lived a little north-west of me; I wondered if we ought to stay in Hanna for the night but he thought we could make the twenty miles home, so we started out. The snow was hitting us like small pellets, the horses just had to feel their way and at times I wasn't even sure that we were on the trail. My wife's brother, John Cattanach, was staying with her and assured her that I wouldn't try to come home in that storm. They were very surprised to hear the jingle of harness as we drove into the yard. He unhitched the team for me and covered them with blankets; after I had my supper I went out to unharness them. It had been impossible to do it before as all the buckles were frozen. A few years later the steel came through Scapa and our long trips to town were a thing of the past.

In 1927 I had over one hundred acres of wheat, seventy-five of oats and fifteen of barley, and crop prospects were very good. On July 8, I drove into Hanna taking a little sheaf of wheat to show to Jack O'Dell, who owned a store there. About three o'clock I started back home because of a very angry-looking sky. It started to hail and I had to take shelter at Ralph Greenway's farm. The storm was a severe one and when it had abated and I was able to go home I discovered that my crop was completely gone, not a stalk standing any place. Fortunately, I had

insured the wheat for ten dollars an acre, so it was not a complete loss. I waited till the inspector came out to verify the damage, and then headed for the coast with my wife and two daughters, aged three years and ten months, respectively. I left my brother-in-law to sell my stock, and turned my horses out on the school section. My brother-in-law said that he would see that they didn't stray too far away, as I intended to come back in the spring to put in a crop. However, my plans changed and I never did return to farming.

My first job in Vancouver was selling Maytag washers. I tried several other occupations and finally joined the Prudential Insurance Company, with whom I stayed till I retired.

I have been blessed with good health and my life has been a happy one, saddened only by the loss of my wife on August 13, 1974.

THE GRAHAM STORY, By Bill Graham — My great-great grandparents came from County Antrim in Northern Ireland to New York; later many [illegible] my relatives came [illegible] Ontario and Quebec as United Empire Loyalists. My grandparents on both sides, and my parents were born near Kemptville, Ontario.

I came [illegible] a small boy with my parents to Alberta in 1910. I came in a carload of settlers' effects to Castor, which was the end of the railroad going east from Lacombe. My father's name was Ernest H. Graham, my mother Annie Graham.

W. J. Graham's Sod Shack, 1912. Four miles southwest of Garden Plain Store.

My father had a feed barn south of the railway tracks in Castor. In 1912 we moved south of Castor to homestead at Garden Plain. Our sod shack was about four miles from the Garden Plain store and post office operated by Mr. Kane.

We were located near Sullivan Lake, a large weedy lake. There would be thousands of wild geese on that lake every night; they would go out in large flocks to feed [illegible] the daytime. People used to come down to the lake from Castor in Model T Fords to shoot the geese, and would return home with the back seats piled full.

We all had to work hard and try [illegible] get along on very little money. We used both oxen and horses in the farming operations. We made our own amusements. Dances were held at different homes and all the small children went also. When the children got tired they were put down to sleep in rows on the floor of one of the rooms, and the noise did not disturb their sleep. The music was generally supplied by two local men on the accordion and violin.

I taught school for a short time at Williston. Then I came to Calgary and eventually obtained work in a grain office. I worked twenty years with the Alberta Pacific; then in 1931 went to the Alberta Wheat Pool, where I worked for thirty years.

RICHARD JOHNSTON — Richard was a tall gangly American who came in 1911 to homestead the southeast of 34-33-14. He lived in a dugout on the side of the creek which split his homestead. Dick had a big flock of sheep which was herded on lands not yet homesteaded north towards Sullivan Lake, and in Range 13 where there was a lot of open range. The spear grass got in the sheep's wool and caused no end of trouble for it left big sores in the sheep's hide. Richard was an excellent ball player and enjoyed playing the game on the diamond opposite Donald Cattanach's homestead. At the many socials and variety concerts held in the Hall Richard sang and recited poetry. He was an above-average actor.

MR. and MRS. A. E. ENGLISH, By Freda Viste — Mr. and Mrs. English came from Ireland to Boston. Mrs. English's sister, Elizabeth Hillis, came from Ireland to Alberta in 1911 to file on a homestead, and later that same year the Englishes filed on the east half of 17-33-14, directly south of Miss Hillis' land. They had one son, Stanwood, when they came.

A relative who was a carpenter came from Ireland to help them build a beautiful two-storey, seven-roomed house. One room, about the size of a pantry, was equipped with a wicket and used as a post office. The house with its fine furnishings was a great contrast to the others in the neighborhood at that time.

The Englishes operated the Greystone post office in their home from 1912 until they left. It was named after Mr. English's home town in Ireland. Mail was brought from the Garden Plain post office to Greystone on horseback, by Mr. English or Lizzie Hillis. When Greystone closed down, a rural route from Hanna served the area until Scapa was established.

The Englishes were hospitable people and many a time a neighbor would stop there on his way to or from Castor, and spend most of the night playing cards in their parlor. It was important that the room be called 'the parlor'. According to neighbors, Mr. English was a good farmer and had built up a fair-sized herd of cattle. He differed from most of the homesteaders, since he had money when he came. Perhaps that is why the blows of adversity hit him harder than those who had nothing to lose. He shipped a carload of cattle and didn't make enough on them to pay shipping and feeding costs. During the night, without a word to anyone, they loaded what would fit into a wagon and left. This was probably in 1922 or 1923, as birth certificates issued to Pete and Bill Ruppert in 1920 and 1921 list Greystone, Alberta, as their place of birth; and Erbin Grove recalls that Stanwood English attended Garden Plain school in the early twenties.

No one understood how they could go and leave their beautiful furniture, drapes, silver and chandeliers behind. The table was left with dishes on it, just as they got up from a meal. Their bookshelves, full of good books, became a sort of community library, with people borrowing them, reading them and returning them to exchange for others. The livestock that had been left broke out and scattered, some ending up in the pound at John Sim's. It was well on into the thirties when thefts and vandalism finally destroyed the once-prized possessions.

The Englishes went back to Boston without any attempt to sell their things. Taxes were always paid up on the land. Rupperts rented it from 1927 to 1933, then it lay idle until Dad, Ralph Gaugler, rented it in 1942. He bought it about twelve years later.

Either the Englishes had built a boarding house when they were in Boston the first time, and went back to it, or they bought one on their return. At any rate, when Mother and Dad visited them there in 1948, they still pictured the place as they had left it, and enquired about their big leather chair, their cream separator, sewing machine, silverware, harness and a trunk full of velvet materials. Of course everything was gone by then.

Stanwood was married and in the central United States by that time. Mr. and Mrs. English have both passed away since then.

At one time Greystone was the centre [illegible] a large district which had an entertainment hall, a football team which defeated Hanna at the Agricultural fair in 1916; even a Greystone news column in the Hanna Herald.

MISS ELIZABETH HILLIS, By Pete Ruppert — Miss Hillis homesteaded the NE 20-33-14 and pre-empted the NW 21-33-14 [illegible] 1914. She proved up and got her title in 1917. This was a big job for a single girl, but as I remember her she could keep up to any man and do any work he did, even hauling bundles on the threshing crew. One fall she hauled bundles on Ralph Gaugler's crew, and it was several days before some [illegible] them realized she was a woman.

Her batching was probably no worse than that of most of the men who were homesteaders, but it was no better either. She used to make most of her own clothes and these, too, were rough and ready. Mother used to tell about one outfit she made out of flour sacks. She didn't do [illegible] very good bleach job on them, so she had [illegible] clearly visible "Alberta's Best" right across her seat.

I wasn't very old at the time, but I remember that there was very little money to spend on clothes and everyone made the best of what they had. Most of the men had a trade to fall back on for a few extra bucks, but not so with her. She depended on her income from the farm, and that wasn't much.

Living alone caused many a homesteader to become hard to get along with, and to do strange things. No one beat around the bush about it, they were referred to as being crazy. "Old Lizzie", as everyone called her, was famous for taking after people she didn't like with a pitchfork. There was a priest [illegible] Hanna at the time by the name of Father O'Sullivan He was Irish, as Lizzie was. He loved to hunt and one day he stopped along the road by her place to shoot a gopher. She tackled him with her pitch fork, and he wasn't long leaving.

He stopped at our place and told Mother about it. She told him, "It's a pity you Irish people can't get along better."

He said, "If she's Irish, I'm going back to see her."

We were surprised to hear that he got a great welcome.

Lizzie could hold her own with anybody, and cuss like [illegible] trooper. Her health wasn't very good the last few years she was here. She stayed at our place for a while, and insisted on helping us, even though we knew that she didn't feel well. She never could accept anything for nothing.

In the late twenties she went back to Ireland, and from what we heard she wasn't very well there. She passed away in her homeland.

Lizzie had gotten her mail at the Greystone post office. She was a sister of Mrs. A.E. English.

MISS MARY HILLIS, By Pete Ruppert — Mary Hillis, a sister [illegible] Lizzie, came to Alberta from Ireland about 1936. She was an old maid, and partially paralyzed. Everyone wondered how she could survive living alone. Jack Temple brought her out from Hanna to Lizzie's place.

She built [illegible] fairly good house on the old site, but for heating she had [illegible] fancy fireplace built. It was absolutely useless, and the only warmth from it was generated by the person shovelling the wood and coal into it. Her hands were crippled and it made you wonder how she could dress and undress herself, let alone shovel coal into that confounded fireplace.

I used to go over and chop wood for her, and help her as much as I could. She always insisted on paying me, and she paid all it was worth. One day she manoevered me into setting the price for the work I had done. When I suggested the same amount she had been paying, she got mad and told me I was too expensive, and I wasn't to come back. I let her cool down before I went back, but I never did commit myself to setting a price again.

About 1939, a nephew Randolph Hills came to stay with her. It wasn't for long though, because he joined the army. I joined up too, and when I returned Mary had passed away.

At one time the Groves boys worked for her, hauling her water and taking milk to her, building, and shingling her roof. Randolph Hills returned after the war was over and spent a short time with his aunt, and then went to the States.

Mary took sick, and was found by the neighbors frozen to death under her kitchen table. Apparently she had pulled the table over on herself as she fell.

She is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

MEMORIES OF HOMESTEADING DAYS, By Eva Walker Gabriel — My father and mother, Jim and Clara Walker, had ten children born to them. I am the oldest, then Frank, Cecil, Philip, Gladys, Everett, Nettie and Vera. We were all born in the States. Myrtle and Margaret were born in Alberta.

Our family, our grandparents, the Wheelers, their son Ed and his wife Minnie all travelled by train to Stettler in June, 1909. Our sister Myrtle was born a few days after we got there, but lived only a few minutes and was buried there.

My dad, Mr. Lewis and Al Sturgess all went out to find homesteads, and the families became good friends. Mrs. Lewis was my mom's midwife when our youngest sister Margaret was born.

Jim Walker

We spent the winter months of 1909-10 at old Williston, which was later moved to the railroad and became the town of Castor. We moved to the homestead in June, 1910. My folks put up two tents to live in until we got our house finished. Grandpa Phil Walker of Fleet had put up the sides and roof, and before winter my dad nailed boards on the inside of the two-by-fours and sodded the outside.

The second day after we got to the homestead, a terrible wind and snowstorm came up. Dad had been using his brother's horses, which had just been shipped in from Washington, and he had to enlarge the door of the house and drive the three big work horses [illegible]. Dad, Grandpa, Mom and myself had to hold their heads all night, and my brother had to keep the snow off the tent that the other kids were sleeping in. He was twelve; I was thirteen.

We had the cattle tied to willow brush around the slough. Next morning dad

led the cows up to the door of the house, and mom milked them. Some of them had their tails frozen off. The snow was gone the next day. That storm was June 2, 1910.

Our Grandpa Walker stayed with us every winter when dad went back to Washington to work in the Burnett mines. Whenever Mr. Yesum came down to our place to get milk, bread and butter he would come early and he and Grandpa would play checkers all day if the weather was fine.

Mom and the older kids built our fifty foot long barns. They were both dug in the side of a hill and sodded. In winter, when we could not drive the stock to Frank Ruppert's spring, we put big barrels inside the barn, and filled them with snow to water the cattle and horses.

There was no school for us to go to, so my folks hired Mr. English to teach us at home in the winter. We went to Sunday school at the home of a close neighbor, Mr. Livingstone.

One year Mr. Livingstone had a nice big crop of wheat, so he went to Castor and bought a new binder. As he drove it into his yard it started to hail, and the team ran away and tore the binder all to pieces.

Charley Christ was a neighbor of ours. He built a big sod house on his homestead, and on the end of it built a long sod barn. He was often gone from home and his wife did all the farming; she kept the barn as clean as a house.

One time she came over to borrow our disc. She was barefooted. She set two of her little boys in the pans of the disc, but one of them fell off in front of the disc, and when she reached down to grab him, her foot got caught and was cut off. Mr. Hugh Mc Rae took her to Castor to the doctor, but on the way he got lost, and it took him over two days to get there. She lived.

Later dad worked for his brother at Fleet in the summer. He would come home on Saturday night and back Sunday afternoon, fifty miles by foot.

Our dad and Frank hauled lots of freight for Mr. Kane. Frank hauled the first load of lumber that went to Hanna. One time he got caught in a bad snowstorm and had to turn the sleigh over and get under it to keep from freezing.

Dad, Frank and Cecil all drove teams building the railroad grade between Castor and Coronation. Philip did the cooking for them; he was ten years old. Frank and I did a lot of plowing for the neighbors, and every winter Frank would set traps in the garden. He caught quail, pheasants, snowshoe rabbits and weasels.

When I was sixteen I worked for the Hockett Stopping house, and also for their daughter, a teacher named Mrs. Braham. Once I took her two children with me when I went home to visit my folks. It started to rain so I put up the umbrella, and the horse ran away. I threw the umbrella out of the buggy and the wind blew it down the road beside the horse. I had to turn off the road and very near turned over.

Our mom took people in to room and board till they could get their buildings up. She used to bake bread for almost all of the bachelors around us, and knitted for them as well as for her own family . . . gloves, mittens, caps, scarfs, stockings and socks. She always had a big garden, and lots of chickens. She dressed the chickens when it turned real cold, and hung them on the porch with the rest of our winter's meat. Then, by accident, we found a better place to store it.

Dad and McRae dug a well close to the house, but after they had gone down seventy-five feet they found that there was coal in the hole, so they filled it back in up to thirty feet, and that was our freezer from then on. There was ice in it summer and winter. They dug another well twenty feet closer to the house and went down twenty feet and the water came up very near to the top and never went down.

When our dad butchered he always poisoned the head, feet and insides of the animal and staked them in the ground in the hills south of us, [illegible] kill the coyotes. One time he found six coyote pups in a den and brought them home. There were millions of gophers so we fed them all summer, but when winter came my Grandpa had to kill them. We had tamed five of them just like dogs, but the other one was always mean like a coyote.

The four oldest of us kids used to walk to Kane's store at Garden Plain with vegetables and butter to trade for staples. It was five miles over there. Dad had built an eight by fourteen room at the end of the bedroom with a small door to put in the coal that he hauled in the fall from Kane's coal mine, and he always bought twelve big sacks of sugar and flour and stored it in the bedroom.

Dad had good land and good crops, though he lost a couple of them by hail. When we had hail storms, some of the stones would come through the tar paper and knot holes of the roof into the house. The first time we had threshers there were fifteen, and a threshing machine that was powered by horses walking round and round all day.

We went to lots of dances in the winter. One time Frank took his girl home after a dance, and was telling her goodbye when the door opened and her mother came out with a broom and started to hit him. He was so startled he backed up and fell off the porch into a swill barrel, and came out covered with grease and muck. The girl's father came out and told Frank [illegible] come in the house, and gave him some clean clothes to put on, and made his wife clean Frank's suit and clothes.

One day when my folks were away my ten-year-old sister hitched a mean horse to Frank's new buggy; it kicked the dashboard and seat off it.

Frank was the only one who was allowed to handle a gun, and he could not have any of us kids with him. One day my two brothers sneaked after him and when Frank laid down the shotgun, Philip grabbed it and pulled the trigger. He did not come to for two days, and had a terrible headache.

We had found a large rock which was split into slabs, and dad had used it to make a stone floor by the porch steps. Mom used to sit there in the shade to churn her butter. Of course there were lots of flies then. Mom had one of the kids fanning the flies away with a piece of paper, but when dad came along and saw them, it made him mad. He had a terrible temper. He picked the churn up and threw it on the rocks and broke it all to pieces. The cream flew all over the rocks and the side of the house, and then there were more flies than ever. After that mom put the cream in half-gallon fruit jars and all of us would shake the jars till the butter came. Finally dad got tired of seeing everybody shaking jars so he walked to Livingstone's and bought a six-gallon barrel churn. He packed it home, and it took him three hours to walk the one and a half miles. It was real hot and he sure was tired.

I met John Gabriel at a dance at Fleet; three months later, April 14, 1914, we were married at the Catholic Church in Castor. His people lived near Fleet. They had a big engine and threshing machine and threshed and plowed all over the country.

We live in Washington now. I am eighty years old; my husband is eighty-nine. All my brothers are gone, and my sister Nettie, and there is only Joe, Mike and Anna left of the Gabriels.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WYLIE and CHARLIE WYLIE, By Jean Moody — My grandmother, Laura Anderson Wylie, moved with her family from North Dakota to a farm twenty miles south of Coronation in 1908. Her brother, Anton,

had talked his dad into moving to Canada, and he went on ahead and filed on a half-section of land for himself and a half-section for his father.

On September 6, 1911, grandmother was married [redacted] James Wylie in Castor. Grandfather's parents had come to Canada around the turn of the century, and at the time of my grandparents' marriage, grandfather's brother Charlie had homesteaded five miles south of Garden Plain, on the NE of 14-33-14, and was living there with his mother.

Being a bachelor, Charlie wanted to rent his farm for a couple of years and work out, so the newly-weds, James and Laura Wylie, took over the farm. They lived in a four roomed lumber house and even the floor was made of rough lumber . . . not the easiest floor to scrub come Saturday. They were fortunate, however, as they had shallow wells with plenty [redacted] water and managed to make a living by selling cream, butter, eggs, chickens, etc.

Fuel was of little concern as there was a mine two miles away which provided ample coal at two dollars for a wagon box full. Help and company was always available from the neighbors.

In due time, Charlie returned to the farm and married a Scottish girl. Eleven months later he lost his wife and ten-pound infant son in the Hanna hospital, even though two doctors were in attendance. Charlie then sold out, took his money and his mother and left for California.

As there was no homestead land available around Garden Plain, my grandparents packed up their few possessions and their baby daughter Laura Ella, born June 26, 1912 and moved to a homestead at West Wingham, Alberta. Later they moved to the Peace River district.

Grandfather passed away in the Berwyn hospital in October, 1957. Grandmother lived with my parents until 1973 when she moved into an auxiliary hospital. At the age of [redacted] she is [redacted] reasonably good health.

THE FRANK RUPPERT and PETE RUPPERT STORIES, By Pete Ruppert — My father, Frank Ruppert, was born in Glencoe, Minnesota in 1886. Mother was born in 1898 [redacted] New Ulm, Minnesota. Father came to Canada in 1904 and was employed in Saskatchewan as a steam engineer for the C.P.R. After a few years he left the company and operated gas and steam outfits for large farms [redacted] Saskatchewan.

When he came to Alberta to homestead in 1912, he walked the prairie following the buffalo trails with the idea of finding a constant supply of water. He homesteaded the SE 16-33-14 and pre-empted the adjoining north quarter section. The spring there, where those buffalo trails converged, has never run dry.

To prove up the homestead he did his breaking with oxen. Hard times were the order [redacted] the day. He managed to keep going by drilling wells for almost everybody in the country. In 1914 he was injured in a well-drilling accident and spent the next three years in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. He never walked without crutches again.

Mother and Father were married in New Ulm, Minnesota in 1918. The following year they came to Calgary where they bought a horse and buggy and started for the homestead. Mother used to tell about the trip . . . over 150 miles. She wondered if Father really had a farm out there or if she was 'being led down the garden path.'

I was born in 1920 with brother Bill coming in 1921. (Bad luck comes in bunches). Our post office was Greystones, Alberta. The building [redacted] still standing on NE 17-33-14, and was operated by a Mr. A. English. His wife was a sister to

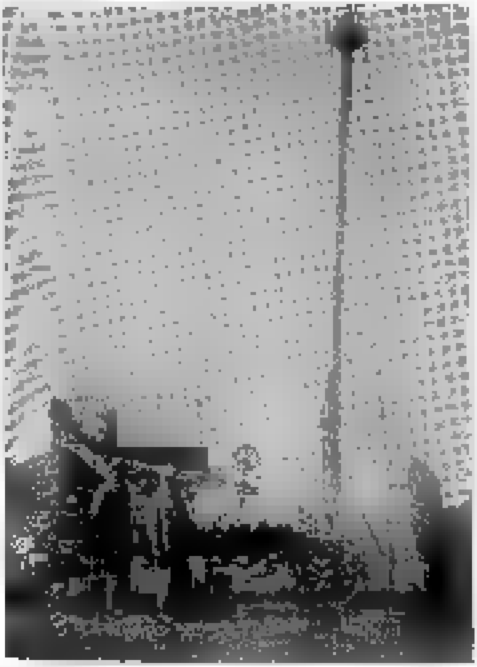
Elizabeth Hillis who homesteaded and pre-empted on section [redacted]. She was better known, but not to her face, as 'Old Liz'.

No doctors were available in those days and Mrs. Sexsmith was a midwife. She brought both Bill and me into the world. Brother Paul was born in 1927 but that time Dr. Paul Baxendale was in attendance. He had a Model T Ford car and when he started to go someplace, he got there. He probably wrecked more cars than anyone alive, but he got there, and in one piece. When brother Bill got pneumonia he came out to the farm in an open car over roads that were indescribable, and it was twenty to thirty degrees below zero. He probably saved more lives than he could remember. I can remember seeing one of his cars, a new Model A Ford, with both the fenders and the running boards torn off. He had hit a bridge east of Hanna in a fog, but he never even stopped, and got where he was going.

Elmer Studer, located on SW 16-33-14, was our closest neighbor in the twenties. He rented the land from Bill Veshe who homesteaded NE 21-33-14. About 1926 Elmer Studer moved away to the north country, and a family by the name of Bressler farmed it for a year or two. Later Jack Temple bought the Veshe place.

Father bought a Fordson tractor in 1926. It was second hand but he was a good mechanic; he needed to be. In 1928 he bought a new Woods Brothers' separator.

In 1930 Father died of cancer of the stomach. He was buried on his forty-fourth birthday.


Drilling for water, 1921. Frank Ruppert and Herman Stemp.

Ruppert boys, 1930. Pete, Bill and Paul.

Mother married Erich Wiens. At that time we had not yet felt the effects of the depression and in 1931 the first car was bought. It was a 1927 Chev. It ran like new, was easy on gas, and the self-starter even worked! In 1932 we bought a new Massey-Harris binder, an Oliver drill and a new Fordson. The drill was good, the Fordson was bad, and the binder was one of the worst pieces of junk I have ever seen. Around that time wheat went down to nineteen cents a bushel, cattle

couldn't be given away, butter brought a nickel a pound, and as John Sexsmith said, eggs were not worth the wear and tear on the hens' backsides.

The winter of 1932 was bad. Mother got desperately sick and Jack Temple had her to the hospital in one hour . . . fifteen miles in three feet of snow with horses, of which he always had the best. After that the flu hit. The first one to get it was my step-father, Erich Wiens, then Leo (Bud), the baby. Bill and I had a time milking twelve cows, feeding and watering them and the horses, and looking after the chickens. Baby Paul got it next, and then Bill. I gave up trying to do chores and tried to keep the house warm. I got dirty and cold. One morning I saw Mr. Temple, Jack's Dad, going by. I ran out of the house and waved him in. The next thing I can remember was the house being warm and clean. Mrs. Temple was there and she looked like an angel. I wanted to get up to do the chores but was not needed. It seemed that whenever there was help needed in the neighborhood, Jack Temple and his dad were always there.

We dried out badly in 1933, 34 and 35. The big news then was the Brownlee scandal. R.B. Bennett was prime minister and the Bennett buggy with the Brownlee pole was a common sight.

My teachers, God bless them, at Garden Plain school were Miss Bloomer, Miss Helen Jensen (later Mrs. Frank Tucker), Miss Janet Ellis, Mr. Chandler, Raymond Burke, and again Mrs. Frank Tucker.

Bill and I batched one winter on the Hugh McRae place, the NW 22-33-14, and sort of farmed it with a 10-20 Titan. Our cooking just about killed both of us. Fortunately we had good neighbors, Lyman Grove and his son Erbin and Erbin's wife Winnie. We would go over and help with the chores and never turn down the invitation to stay for supper. Mrs. Jack Temple was teaching school, and one day when I went over to help Jack, Paul was to bake some bread. It turned out a delicate blue color, with some coal ashes and straw in it. When Mother saw it she sent over some more bread, with instructions to bury what Paul had made in case a dog might eat it and die.

I joined the army and so did Bill. We served in the same unit in England and in Europe. In 1942 I married Anna Chase of Woodstock, New Brunswick. Anna and I got back to Hanna on New Year's Eve of 1945 and Bill arrived on New Year's Day. Bill went to work for the Special Areas and has been there ever since. He is now Shop Foreman at Youngstown.

I went to New Brunswick where I worked as a logger for a while. Then I went to welding, with a trucking business on the side. Our oldest children, Margaret and Frank, were born in New Brunswick. In 1949 I came west again, worked for a time for the Special Areas, then went welding for the late Earl Armstrong at Lomond, Alberta. In 1957 I bought the business and still own it today. Our younger children, Erich, Marie and William were born at Lomond. Billy passed away in April, 1975, and is buried at Vulcan.

Mother passed away in 1954. She was buried beside Dad in the Catholic cemetery in Hanna.

Margaret married Don Zuba, and has two children. They live at Cold Lake where her husband is stationed.

Frank lives at Burdett where he is a repair crew foreman for the Alberta Wheat Pool. He is married and has two children.

Erich, his wife and son live at Red Deer.

Marie and her husband, Bill Moskal, both work in Lethbridge. They have no family.

ERICH and MARGARET WIENS, By Rosanna Wiens Lenfesty — Dad was born in Danzig, Germany, on December 24, 1896. He was a German soldier in World War I and in 1926 he immigrated to Canada. He arrived in Hanna and worked for his sponsor, Dominic Raina, then for J. Kellermann and then began farming on some Hudson Bay land situated near Dowling Lake, NE 26-32-15. After Frank Ruppert passed away Dad worked for my mother, Margaret Ruppert, and later they were married. They remained on the Ruppert homestead, which is now the home of Robert and Carol Wiens and family, for all but a few years of their married life. Between 1937 and 1940 we lived on the Kellermann place, across the road from the Granthams.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Weins.

Weins and Ruppert boys: Robert, Pete, Paul, Bill, Bud, Bumpy.

Dad showed many of his European skills, although he did not often talk about his native land. His first dwelling was typically European as the barn and the house were connected. He enjoyed farming and working with cattle and horses as he had in Germany. The neighbors frequently called on him to do veterinary work. He was also a skilled butcher.

Dad died on December 27, 1967.

I felt that my mother lived a very hard but fulfilling life. She was born in New Ulm, Minnesota, on April 10, 1898; married a homesteader of the Garden Plain district, Frank Ruppert; gave birth to three Ruppert boys, Pete, Bill and Paul; was a widow when the depression started; married Erich Wiens and raised another six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, Rosanna, Robert and Erbin.

Like most pioneer women, Mom kept herself busy. Along with the household duties she raised a large garden, helped with the farm chores, was active in community affairs, played the organ, read the latest serial in the 'Free Press' or the 'Western Producer', was an extremely good cook, and whether the radio program be 'Ma Perkins', 'Pepper Young's Family' or the 'Lux Radio Theatre', Mom would be either knitting, crocheting or mending clothes while she listened to it.

Mom passed away on March 1, 1954, at the age of fifty-six years.

Peter Ruppert owns and operates a welding and machine shop at Lomond, Alberta. William and Paul Ruppert work for the Special Areas at Youngstown.

Leo (Bud) Wiens is Superintendent of Roads for the Special Areas and also farms the Tony Brunner land near Dowling. Klaire Wiens Paul is the Matron of the Mental Hospital at Vernon, B.C. Agatha Wiens Grissdale is a secretary in a Vancouver hospital. Rosanna Wiens Lenfesty became a school teacher. She and her husband and family live in the Hand Hills.

Robert Wiens and his wife Carol and children farm on the SE 16-33-14. Erbin (Bumpy) Wiens, his wife Cathy and four children are farming on the SW 33-33-14.

MR. and MRS. FRANK RUPPERT — MR. and MRS. ERIC WIENS — Frank Ruppert homesteaded the east half of 16-33-14, and in 1919 was joined by his wife, the former Margaret Koepel. Frank was a farmer and well driller, and drilled many wells for homesteaders in that area. Frank and Margaret had three sons, Pete, Bill and Paul.

After Frank's death Margaret married Eric Wiens, who came to Canada from Germany in 1926, and who farmed in the Dowling area, the north half of 26-32-16. From this union there were six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, twins Rosanna and Robert, and Erbin. Most of their schooling was received at the Garden Plain school, as the family had returned to the original home place in 1939. In 1964 Erbin purchased the Milton Stuart and Fred Bottomley farm and still occupies the original house which was built in 1909.

For entertainment in the early years, many nights were spent playing cards with the neighbors. On one occasion when John Sexsmith stayed late, the night got very dark. John had been accustomed to driving a Model T, and was not yet familiar with the Model A he had acquired. While he was getting it started, the car jumped ahead, and John's elbow hit the light switch, plunging him into complete darkness. To everyone's amazement the car came out between two hay racks, unharmed.

HORSES, By Klaire Wiens Paul — Our lives were influenced a great deal by horses.

A team and buggy started to take our parents to town in April, 1937, only to turn back at the pasture and return home with a baby girl, Rosanne. Another baby, Robert, was born shortly after Mom walked into the house!

A caravan of teams took us and our machinery to the farm near Clear Lake in 1937. Many of those horses died during the next three years of an epidemic of sleeping sickness.

We returned to Garden Plain in 1940, horses again doing their duty in the field, taking us to school and running away when they darned well pleased! Many

farmers had threshing outfits, several teams of horses hitched to bundle racks gathered the bundles from the stooks in the fields and hauled them to the separator. A team and man made ten dollars a day.

I rode to Alps school on Shorty, who was always undecided whether to stop for a gate or to go over it.

I don't imagine anyone in Scapa will ever forget Nannie, my old yellow buckskin horse that I rode from 1946-1950. She terrified all the car drivers who wished to pass, by rearing up and spinning around in front of them. She demolished the barn at Scapa as she didn't like being tied up. She refused to be led, but she brought me home through blizzards, and could run like the wind if coaxed, and to me, a fifteen year old, she was beautiful.

I left Scapa in 1950 to take Nursing training in Manitoba. Nannie was sold to Mr. Chidley who probably remembers her as a bad-natured buckskin. I've used many modes of transportation since those days, but nothing beats a horse. It's the only thing that kicks you back if you don't have due respect for it.

I REMEMBER

By Rosanna Lentesty

— Garden Plain school being the focal point of activity for us when we were young. Card parties and dances, with the Pat and Stuart McRae orchestra, were held to raised money for the Christmas concert, the highlight event of the year.

— Sleigh riding and skating parties on Sundays with the Cooks and the Temples.

— when Dad worked on the road for days with horses and fresno to pay off the taxes that had accrued during the thirties.

— the hustle and bustle on the farm as Ralph Gaugler's threshing crew moved from field to field.

— John Sexsmith 'dropping in' every bake day.

— milking ten to twenty cows because like many farmers at that time the cream cheque meant our 'bread and butter'.

— when Bud bought Mom her first washing machine with a gas motor.

— when Pete and Bill returned from the war. I guess we had changed as much to them as they had changed to us.

— the anxious moments before the prairie fire on Mr. Bottomly's and Mr. Stuart's places was brought under control.

THE WIEGE STORY, By Emma Wiege Burgemeister as told to Pearl Rasleman — Henry and Sophie Wiege were farmers in Leipzig, Romania. They had five children: Dan, Julie, Emma, Christine, and Marie. It was a struggle to make a living on a small farm. If you were poor you stayed poor.

In 1927 many Romanians immigrated into Canada which had been advocated as The Promised Land, a land where a man could acquire unlimited acres of his own, be free and not only make a good living but even become wealthy. This was the land and this was the year when Dan along with his uncle William Hiller, friends and countrymen came to the Hanna district. He rented the Wagner Place, eighteen miles north of Hanna along what is now No. 36 Highway. Dan had his own farm, an almost impossible accomplishment in Romania. Here he learned the new language, customs and methods of farming and soon adapted to the vast expanses of the prairie plains. In his letters to his folks he begged and encouraged them to come to this new land where they would not be poor anymore.

On May 1, 1929, Henry and Sophie Wiege with Emma, Christine and Marie

packed what few belongings they could bring and said good-bye to Julie who had married and decided to stay behind. Julie Anudt and family came over in 1952 but settled in Wenatchee, Washington.

The ocean voyage proved a nauseating experience when all became seasick due to the heavy seas. However, several events broke the monotony, made the trip more bearable, and prepared them for the many surprises and experiences they would encounter in the strange land which was to become home. One day as the huge waves buffeted the ship, they were served coffee cake and jello for lunch. The jello jiggled and the dishes jiggled as though alive, and the family were so frightened that none dared eat this living food which they had never seen before. The second incident occurred when the family was put onto the train, there they encountered several colored ladies who were chewing gum. They had never seen a colored person, nor had they learned about gum. They stared with mouths agape, convinced that these were a strange type of cud-chewing creature. The colored ladies probably had similar thoughts about them in their strange mode of attire.

The long, dirty, tiresome train ride ended when they arrived in Hanna, on June 2, 1929, just in time to be confronted with the grim years which the drought of the thirties brought. Mr. Rosenbaum met them at the station and took them to their friends the Dorsch's who had come over in 1927. Here they spent the night and caught up on news of friends.

Next morning Mrs. Wiege's brother William Hiller arrived from the farm he had rented, the Ferg James homestead in the Olive School District. Their belongings were tied in bundles and put into the lumber wagon, properly named because it had to be one of the roughest conveyances ever invented. They bounced and jostled over the prairie trail and became fearful of the open sparsely settled country. It seemed they were still on the ocean only now it was a sea of prairie, limitless and rolling, an expanse of land which seemed to recede until it finally met the sky in the far distance. The sun's glare shimmered on the prairie alive with the stirring by the wind. Emma hid her feelings that if she could have walked back she would have, a sentiment felt by many of the pioneer women.

They stayed with Hillers a few days until Dan came to take them home. On the way home Dan tried to teach Emma to count in English. The family was re-united and the future looked promising and secure. Fortunately they did not know that the next ten years would bring feelings of insecurity, fear, panic, frustration, humiliation and aloneness when the Dirty Thirties struck. It had to be lived to be understood. Relatives and friends would gather on the street corners on Saturday afternoons, dressed in their traditional clothing with black shawls tied around their heads, a head covering quite common today although modernized with gay colors. They spoke German and were very happy when some of the English speaking neighbors could speak German. They were all willing to learn the language and customs and adapted readily. This was home now.

Marie attended the Garden Plain School and soon learned English. Emma and Christine had to go to work, Christine at the hospital for a while, then for Doctor Argue. Emma worked for Noonans where there were six hungry men to feed. At mealtimes they laughed and joked and Emma was sure that she was the butt of their humor, as she could not understand them. Later Emma got a job in the hospital in Hanna, where the wages were fifteen dollars a month and everything was done by hand.

Dan married Ida Quaschnick and they moved into a little house on Dan's farm. They had one son Ed. When Dan's wife died he moved to Bella Coola, B.C. to live with Ed and family. They had two daughters, Freda who lives in the east and Irene in Edmonton.

Christine married Reinholdt Cook and moved to Trochu, where she died in 1935 when her baby girl was born. Mr. Wiege had died in 1934, at age sixty, so Mrs. Wiege moved to Trochu to care for the baby. She died in 1949 at the age of sixty-nine.

Marie married and had five children. She lived at Trochu for a time but is now at Hondu, Alberta.

Emma married Fred Burgemeister and went to live in the Hand Hills area. They had seven children, and still reside in the new home they built on their farm.

THE FRANK HOLMES STORY, By Edna Holmes Twidale — My father, Frank Holmes, was born in England in 1886. In 1909 he filed claim on a homestead in the Garden Plain area. He and his friend Jack Miller lived in a tent [illegible] winter, and hauled supplies from Stettler or Coronation.

One memorable trip started on a cold clear day when my father went for coal, flour and a few other essentials. On the return trip the following day, a blizzard came up and temperatures were very low; one of the horses refused to go on struggling through the drifts. So my father left that horse and sleigh, put a bag of flour on the back of the other horse, and stumbled on, father hoping that the horse could find its way.

Meanwhile, back at the tent, Jack Miller had been on watch for hours. Now it was late at night and Jack took a final look outside before going to bed. A few yards from the house he saw the horse standing; he went to investigate and saw where my father had fallen there in the snow. His life was saved, but he did suffer for sometime as his feet were badly frozen.

In 1912, [illegible] was married at Innisfail to his fiancee, Annie Jane (Jean) Reeves, who had just arrived from England. They attended the first Calgary Stampede. (My father also attended the fiftieth Stampede in 1962.) They lived at Huxley until the spring of 1913 and then moved to the homestead at Garden Plain.

In 1916, Frank Holmes joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 187 Battalion. He served in France till the end of the war. While he was with the Tank Corps at Amiens, his tank was blown up and [illegible] was lucky to escape alive. He also saw action at Vimy, Passchendale and Arras. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1919.

As the country in eastern Alberta was very dry, the family moved to Elnora in the early 1920's. In 1923, Mrs. Holmes passed away, and her sister, Clara, arrived from England to care for the family. She and Mr. Holmes were married in 1924. They farmed till 1963, when they retired to Elnora. Mr. Holmes passed away in April, 1976, at the age of [illegible].

The children of Frank and Jean Holmes are Phyllis, married [illegible] Peter Stirling and living at Ponoka; Ronald, who farms near Huxley; and Frank, who was killed in action overseas [illegible] 1942.

The family of Frank and Clara Holmes are Edna, married to Joseph Twidale, and Alfred. They and their families farm near Elnora.

PROGRAM PRESENTED AT U.F.A HALL, GARDEN PLAIN, 1913

Recitation, Frances Collins; Vocal Duet, Isabelle Ironside and Jean Ironside; Recitation, Leonora McCafferty; Song, Jimmy Weir; Recitation, Maggie Ironside; Music, Mrs. Harvey; Recitation, Alice Lewis; Song, John Graham; Recitation, Elchie Lepard; Music, orchestra; Monologue, Rudy Moore; Dialogue, W. Collins, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. George Claypool, Mrs. W. Harvey; Recitation, Donald Simon; Recitation, Valetta Wagner; Song, Mrs. Livingstone; Recitation, Mrs. John Claypool.

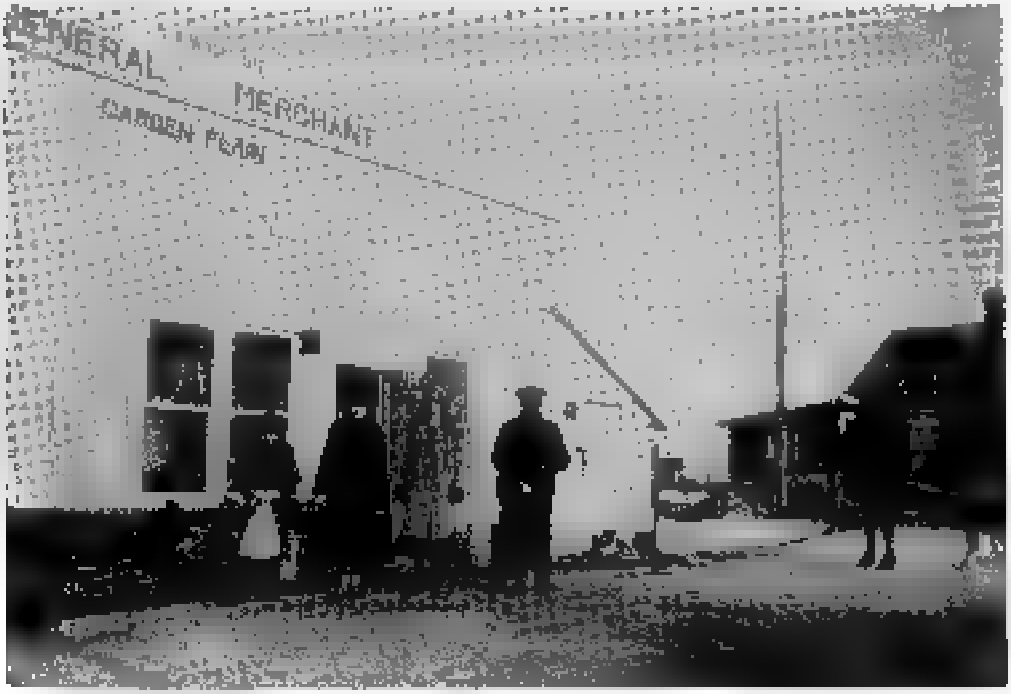
THE FIRST GARDEN PLAIN STORE

By Frances Unsworth

Mrs. Harriet Wickson, age 99 years.

In 1910 the Williston Trading Company opened a store, post office and lumber yard on Mr. Tom Kane's homestead at Garden Plain. The store burned down on December 24 of the same year, and everything except the contents of the till was lost. The store was rebuilt, with Harry Long and Bert French among the first storekeepers. Mr. Olson carried the mail from Castor, and took passengers with him on his trips.

Later on Mr. Kane took over the store, with Miss Marie Bertsch as assistant. Mail day was a very busy time at Garden Plain, especially during World War I, when the residents of the district were expecting mail from friends and relatives at the front. Teams and saddle horses would be tied [illegible] the row of hitching posts at the front of the store; and all sorts of conversations would be going on, discussions of weather and crops, and telling of favorite stories and jokes. To us it was almost as good as going [illegible] town.



Garden Plain Store, 1920. C. A. Wickson, owner

Mr. Kane had the post office in his house on the farm for a while. Later All Sturgess kept the post office in a small shack on the hill by the coulee, and ran a small barber shop in conjunction with it. In 1914 the post office was moved to the Cattanach farm on the Castor trail, with Miss Lizzie Cattanach as postmistress. [illegible] that time Mr. A. Butchard brought the mail from Castor.

In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Kane sold the store, and in 1923 traded the farm and coal mine for property in Oregon. They farmed there for eleven years, then operated a summer resort until 1946. Mr. Kane died in 1947 at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickson took over the store in 1919, and operated it with the help of Miss Grace Crowe as clerk. Mr. Wickson did his own freighting with an old Model T truck with solid tires on the back. The Wicksons built a nice home, which was later sold to Joe Higgins who moved it to his farm in the Corinne district.

The store and post office was closed in 1927, and the Wicksons moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C., where Mr. Wickson passed away in 1949. Mrs. Wickson lives with her son Mac.

LIFE AT GARDEN PLAIN, By Nelson Wright — I, Nelson Wright, son of Sarah and Will Wright, came to Garden Plain from New Brunswick in 1914. I lived with my parents for a few years; in 1916 I bought a quarter section near Garden Plain school and moved there in 1918 to make a home for my bride-to-be. I married Georgina Hilts in October, 1918, and our son Vernon was born in 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wright and Wilma.

Times were not the easiest and in 1925 we decided to move back to the old home in New Brunswick. We remained there for a few years and then with our children Vernon and Wilma we moved to Garrick, Saskatchewan, where I was employed by the Post Office.

In the fall of 1948 we moved to Victoria, B.C., where we are still residing in a suite on Hibberson Crescent. Wilma and her husband and daughter live not too far from us.

HORACE F. BRELSFORD — Mr. Brelsford, a very early homesteader, filed on southeast of 34-33-14 in 1909. He was a plumber by trade and was away plying his trade when not on the homestead. The Brelsfords built a low, sloped roof house which was a head knocker for tall people.

In 1919 L.C. Burt bought the place through the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

MILTON STEWART and MR. and MRS. BOTTOMLY — Mr. Stewart came to the Garden Plain district from England after World War I, and bought the Gulseth land. He was a good farmer, a good neighbor, and a friend to everyone. He was joined a little later by Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly, who lived and farmed with him. Mr.

Bottomly drove the rural mail route east from Scapa for many years, and was very fond of children.

Mr. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly sold out to Erbin Wiens and moved to Hanna when their health began to fail. Mr. Stewart lost his eyesight and passed away several years later; Mrs. Bottomly has also passed on. Mr. Bottomly still resides in Hanna, and enjoys going to the Pioneer Hall for a game of cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Peters and Ray.

ROLAND J. PETERS, By Doris Peters Yacoboski — Mom and Dad met in London, England. Dad came to Calgary in 1906 and Mom followed in May of 1907. They were married and lived in Calgary where Dad worked in a store. My brother Lawrence was born in 1908 and I came along eighteen months later.

During the spring of 1910, Mother's brother, Jack Cape, came out from England, and as Dad had already filed for two places, we all left Calgary for the homesteads. I am not sure but I think that mother and we two children went to Castor by train. Dad and my uncle had set out earlier from Calgary with oxen. We lived in a tent until a sod house was erected, and later a house was built with materials freighted from Castor.

Our homestead was the east half of 15-33-14, some thirty miles south of Castor. The closest store was at Garden Plain, operated by T.A. Kane, and what business couldn't be done there had to be attended to in Castor. That meant a three-day trip, one to go, one to do the business, and one to come home. I remember staying overnight at Hockett's stopping house; it was full of people and all were so friendly.

When Hanna started in 1912 it made it much easier as we could make the seventeen miles there, do what we had to, and return the same day. We got our mail at the Greystone post office, two and a half miles west of us. Mr. and Mrs. English, May and Stanwood ran it.

Between 1910 and 1915 times were really hard. If it was a dry summer, there were the hazards of prairie fires. If we got a crop, we would get severe hail storms. It was very slow getting started, but each year saw a little improvement. I remember attending the first picnic at the new Garden Plain hall site in July, 1914.

In 1915 our neighbor, Mrs. Stanfield, was not well, so we moved in with them, and Mom took care of her. While we were there my brother and I started school at Alps. Nellie Thompson was our teacher; Burrows, Overtons and Weakleys were also attending. The next year when we moved back to the homestead we attended Garden Plain school which was two and a half miles away. We sure had some good times at the school. Himmelreich brothers played for dances and box socials which lasted till seven o'clock in the morning.

Once a year several families would plan a day to go to Sullivan Lake to pick saskatoons and chokecherries. I have happy memories of those outings, and my mouth waters at the thought of those juicy berries.

In 1917 we had a severe hail storm. I remember going to meet my mother, who had got caught in it. The stones were as big as golf balls. They knocked her down, and my legs were bleeding where big chunks of ice had cut them. We were hailed out completely, and like many others, we had no insurance.

In August of 1919 Hanna was having a big Round Up, with ferris wheel, circus

and fair. As we had never attended one before, Mom and Dad took us to town to see it. It was a hot day, and [illegible] noon a terrible thunderstorm came up, blowing the fancy streamers and decorations down. Everyone took shelter in the stores and hotels. On our way home a neighbor came to meet us with the information that our house had been struck by lightning. Nothing was saved except what we had on our backs.

We stayed with our uncle and aunt who lived not too far from us. The neighbors were wonderful; they had a building bee and put up a new house for us. But Mom couldn't take it any more, so we moved to Hanna where she got a job at the National Hotel. That winter was the terrible flu, and Mom was very ill. Dr. Wade saved her life. Dad also had flu and spent three months in hospital. The land was rented to Everett Dorman and Lorne Burrows; later it was sold and eventually Stewart McRae got it. He sold out and Morgan's Transport of Olds now owns it.

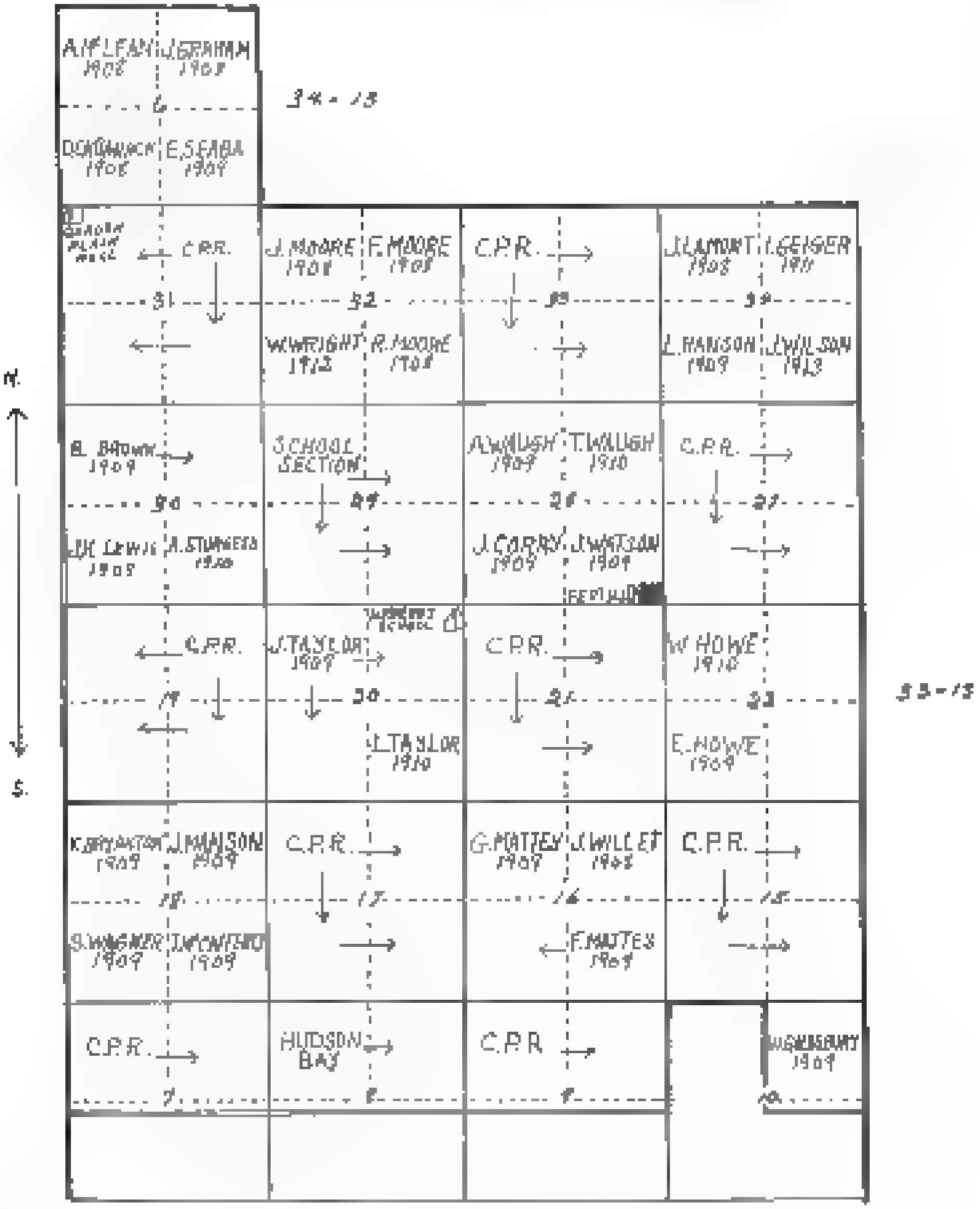
While we were still on the farm, Mother lost a baby girl who was buried in Netherby cemetery. In 1924 our brother Raymond was born in the Hanna hospital. Lawrence, who had spent some time in the sanitorium in Calgary, died in 1931.

About 1940 Mom and Dad moved to North Vancouver; I followed in 1944, from Calgary where I had been working. I was married in 1949 and my husband and son and I live in Vancouver. Raymond, who was in the R.C.A.F. during World War II and his wife and daughter are in North Vancouver.

Our dear Mother passed away in 1948 and Dad in 1958.

We had some tough times through the years, but in spite of that, we remember the early days on the farm as happy times.

NETHERBY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2346



OWNERS AND RENTERS

NW 6-34-13
Alex McLean
Henry Nielsen

NE 6-34-13
J. Graham
Henry Nielsen

SW 6-34-13
D. Cattanach
Jim Wright
George Wright
Henry Nielson

SE 6-34-13
E. Seaba
H. Nielsen

N ½ 31-33-13
Henry Nielsen

S ½ 31-33-13
Cyril Unsworth

NW 32-33-13
J. Moore
E. Job

NE 32-33-13
F. Moore
E. Job

SW 32-33-13
W. Wright
E. Job

SE 32-33-13
R. Moore
E. Job

NW 33-33-13
H. Strandberg

NE 33-33-13
C. Corry

SW 33-33-13
C. Corry

SE 33-33-13
C. Corry

NW 34-33-13
J. Lamont
A. Wilson
H. Strandberg

NE 34-33-13
I. Gieger
K. Storch

SW 34-33-13
L. Hanson
S. Strandberg

SE 34-33-13
J. Wilson
S. Strandberg

Sec. 27-33-13
S. Strandberg

NW 28-33-13
A. Waugh
W. Hoodless
T. Hoodless
C. Corry

NE 28-33-13
T. Waugh
C. Corry

SW 28-33-13
J. Corry
C. Corry

SE 28-33-13
J. Watson
R. Crabb
C. Corry

Sec. 29-33-13
C. Corry

NW 30-33-13
B. Brown
J. Taylor
H. Taylor
G. Taylor
E. Ness
G. Grover
S. Steinbraker
A. Unsworth
C. Unsworth
W. Hein
G. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

NE 30-33-13
B. Brown
L. Unsworth

SW 30-33-13
J. Lewis
L. Unsworth

SE 30-33-13
A. Sturgess
L. Unsworth

Sec. 19-33-13
L. Unsworth

NW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
S. Donaldson
R. Haessel
W. Halverson
E. Whiteman
C. Whiteman
R. Hein
R. Corry
C. Corry

NE 20-33-13
J. Taylor
C. Corry

SW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
R. Corry

SE 20-33-13
L. Taylor
W. Job

Sec. 21-33-13
S. Herring
J. Roth
E. Job

NW 22-33-13
W. Howe
S. Herring
I. Job

E ½ 22-33-13
Fertility Grazing Group

SW 22-33-13
E. Howe
G. Standing Est.

NW 15-33-13
R. Standing

E ½ 15-33-13
L. Legran
B. Weller
G. Standing Jr.

SW 15-33-13
H. Giere

NW 16-33-13
G. Mattey
S. Patton
E. Job

NE 16-33-13
J. Willet
G. Standing Sr.
R. Standing

S ½ 16-33-13
F. Mattey
E. Standing

NW 17-33-13
W. Job

NE 17-33-13
E. Small
A. Welch
S. Downing
A. Fecho
W. Fecho
W. Job

S ½ 17-33-13
W. Job

NW 18-33-13
K. Bryanton
E. Small
H. Strandberg

NE 18-33-13
J. Manson
G. Wright
W. Job

SW 18-33-13
S. Wagner
S. Vigie
H. Strandberg

SE 18-33-13
T. McCafferty
P. Jensen
H. Mattis
J. Tait
J. Boulter

N ½ 7-33-13
C. Corry

N ½ 8-33-13
P. Boyd
E. Gross
I. Hauk
O. Buckwitz

W ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Job

E ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Standing Jr.

NE 9-33-13
G. Standing Jr.

NE 10-33-13
W. Goldsbury
D. Temple
H. Mattis
[illegible]. Standing

NETHERBY SCHOOL

By Winnifred Grove

Netherby School District No. 2346 in the Sullivan Lake School Division, was formed in 1911. The first two loads of lumber for the building were hauled February [illegible], 1911, from Travers and Finlayson [illegible] Castor. On March 13 the school site was staked out. Neighbors from around the district helped with the construction, and by June 5 the one-roomed building was completed and classes commenced, with Miss Carrie DeLong as teacher. Some of the first pupils were Frances and Alice Lewis, Violet and Lillian Wagner, Reggie, Lewis and Frank Sturgess, Lily, Jimmy and Tommy Watson, Roberta Willett and Lenora McCafferty. Among the first trustees were J. Taylor, J. Corry, W. Hoodless and Mr. Willett.

The first picnic was held on Coronation Day, June 22, 1911, on the school grounds; it was a huge success with large crowds attending. On August 3 they held a school picnic, and thereafter the picnics that were held to mark the end of the term were looked forward [illegible] with anticipation. The first visit from a school inspector occurred on September 7, 1911.

First Netherby school teacher — Miss Carrie DeLong

In the early years the teachers usually boarded with families who lived near the school; in later years, a teacherage in the school yard was supplied for them to live in.

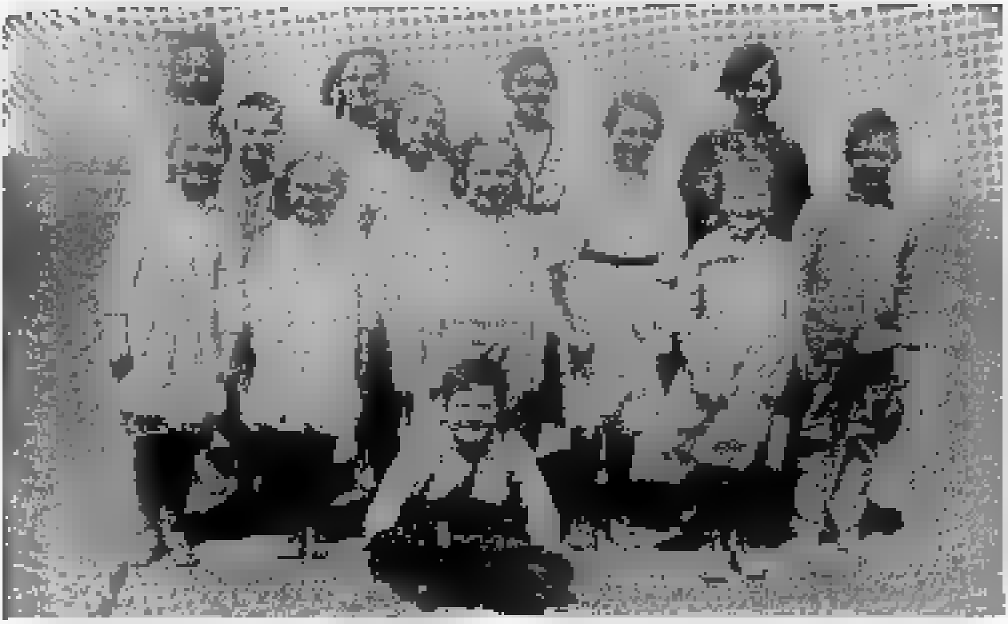
The teacher usually did the janitor work, and sometimes it was quite an effort to get the big coal heater to warm the room in time for morning classes. The children took turns helping sweep the floor and clean blackboards and brushes.

Recesses and noon hours were always something to look forward to, for without a [illegible] of expensive equipment we could play games we all knew, hide and seek, pom-pom pull away, cops and robbers, Anti-I-Over, tag, basketball, run sheep run, X and O, hangman, hop scotch, marbles, baseball, ring around a rosie, prisoner's base, and so on.

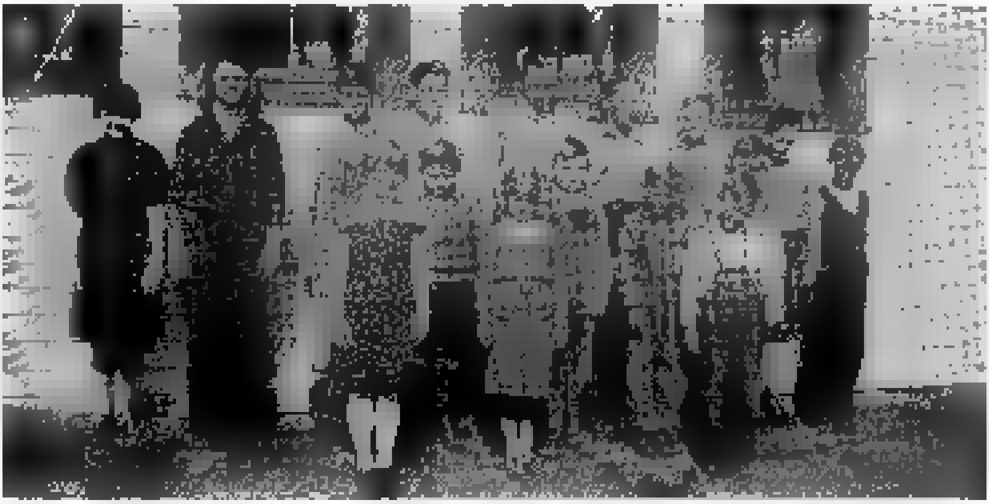
We always had a little party on special days, Valentine's, Hallowe'en, Easter and of course Christmas was the tops. All our spare time during recesses and noon hour, plus other time if we worked harder and got our class work done more quickly, was spent on practising for our Christmas concert. That was an event that everyone looked forward to and enjoyed thoroughly.

There would be a nice big Christmas tree decorated with strings of popcorn, candy canes, and ornaments, presents, candies and treats; Santa's visit, and then a dance. There were always local people with talent who would be kind enough to bring a violin and join someone on the piano for music. The dance finished off the evening in great style, and everyone went home happy.

Netherby School children — 1912. Back Row: Joe Clark, Tom Watson, Reginald Sturgess, Frances Lewis, Lillian Wagner, Alice Lewis, Gertie Howe, Roberta Willet, Lenora McCafferty. Front Row: Lewis Sturgess, Frank Sturgess, Doris Sturgess.



Netherby School children - 1921. Back Row: Dorothy Crabb, Iuna Wright, Gladys Aunlng, Helen Jensen. Middle Row: Nan Herring, George Standing, Frances Herring, Vera Standing, Winnifred Lewis, Gwendoline Miller, Rosanna Corry, Walter Jensen. Front Row: Albert Wagner.



Netherby School children - 1941. Back Row: Doreen Wright, Peggy Standing, Louis Unsworth, Edwin Wright, Cliff Corry, Roy Unsworth, Blythe Herring, Harold Unsworth, Rod Standing. Front Row: Thelma Grover, Tom Standing, Georgina Wright, John Patton, Albert Unsworth, Abner Grover, Cyril Unsworth.

Children came to school by all modes of travel, afoot, on horseback, by horse and buggy or sleigh and team, by bicycle. In the earlier years the small barn was almost always full of horses.

The two little outhouses were situated a long way from the school, or so it seemed in the cold weather. There was a pump and well at the north end of the schoolyard to supply water.

About 1953 a second school building was moved into the yard and classes were held there too, so that the lower and higher grades each had a room to themselves. That building was later moved away.

In 1955 a new two-roomed school was built across the road to the east, where

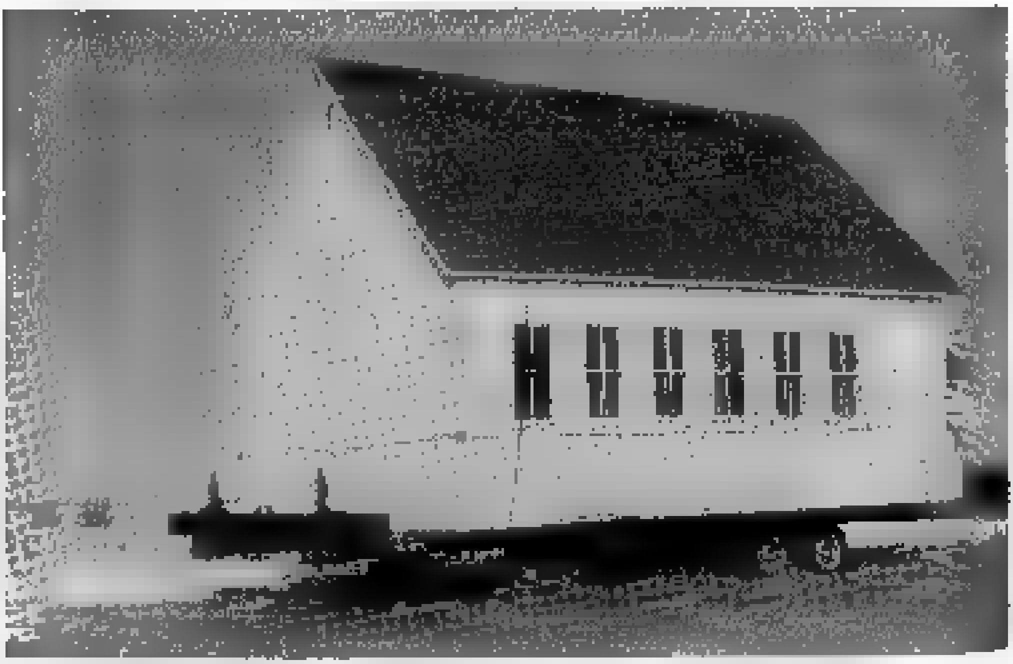
Frank Lee was the first teacher of grades one to six, and Jack McLaren for grades seven to ten. A large teacherage was moved into position on the south side of the new school, and all the buildings were equipped with modern conveniences such as running water and controlled central heating. By this time, smaller rural school districts were starting to amalgamate, and children from other districts were attending Netherby. In 1963 Netherby school was closed, the building was moved to Cessford, and the children were bussed to Hanna.

Some of the families whose children attended classes at Netherby were Watson, Sturgess, Lewis, Willet, Wagner, Jensen, Crabb, Riis, Corry, Vigen, Paetz, Unsworth, McLaren, Chaney, Marlowe, Wright, Greenway, Moulding, Stickney, Rehill, Chidley, Shumaker, Wolfert, Brunner, Smith, Kautz, Lumsden, Siverson, Howery, Anderson, Sieppert, Bossert, Lee, Storch, Maltis, Taylor, Strandberg, Haessel, Gustafson, Ironside, Nelson, Miller, Wilson, Bailey, Boyd, Fecho, Standing, Wild, Moran, Doering, Garbutt, Payne, Ness, Cunningham, Job, Park, Thomas, Tetz, Herring and Patton.

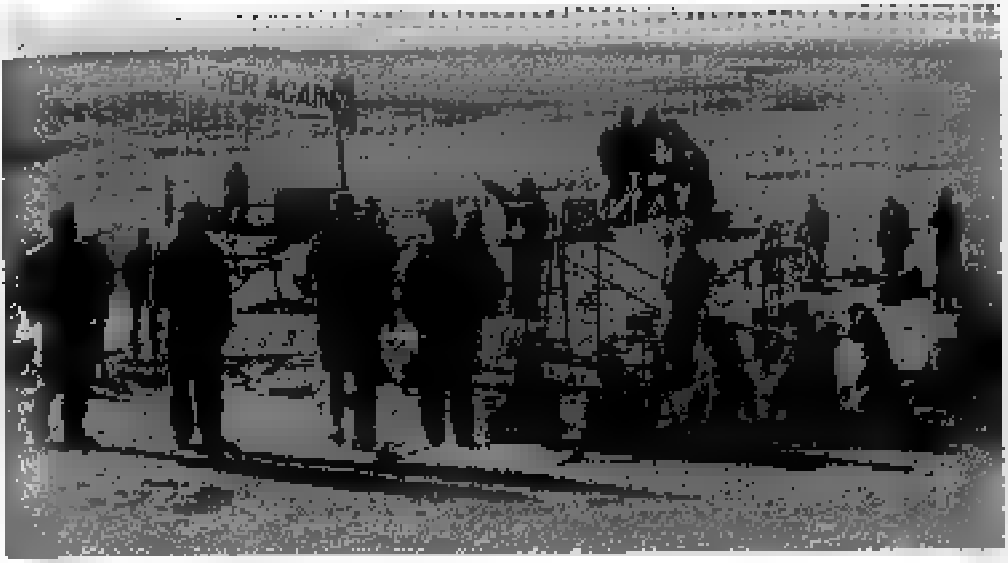
Some of the teachers who taught at Netherby were: Miss C. DeLong, Miss Fisher, Mr. Williams, Mr. Frederick, Miss Green, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Reed, Miss O'Lacy, Miss Geddes, [redacted]. Wallace, W. Smith, V. Trenaman, K. McKenzie, A. Penman, Miss M. Taylor, R. Penny, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Shufflebarger, J. Smith, Mrs. [redacted]. Bossert, J. Feeney, J. Lenuik, L. Schultheis, L. Longmore, Mrs. F. Storch, Mrs. L. McLaren, Miss L. Benjamin, Ernestine Battryn, [redacted]. Lee and J. McLaren.

In the spring of 1976 the original Netherby school was moved to a site four miles east of Hanna, where it was used in the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher?", a movie in which several local residents took part. When the filming was completed, the school was returned to its original site and put on a cement foundation.

Today the building is still in good shape, serving as a community centre. For the past number of years it has been used for various social functions, card parties, meetings, Sunday school and church services. Several funerals have been held there, as the Netherby cemetery adjoins the school grounds.



Netherby School loaded ready for moving to the site of the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher", starring Samantha Eggar and Bud Cort.



During the filming. The film was chosen as one of the six best films produced in Canada in 1976, and was shown at the world film festival at Cannes, France. It was described by Martin Knelman in the Edmonton Journal of May 28 as "a happy surprise . . . a gently funny adaptation of Max Braithwaite's memoir of his days presiding over a one-room schoolhouse in Saskatchewan during the depression years." The film will be shown in Alberta in September, 1977.

NETHERBY CEMETERY

By Mrs. Erbin Grove

The land for Netherby cemetery, a portion of the NE 20-33-13 adjacent to the south side of Netherby school grounds, was donated in 1913 by a homesteader, J.W. Taylor. In that same year the first burial, that of William Lewis, took place.

The cemetery is maintained by the people of the community who hold clean-up days, when they gather to mow the grass, trim trees, paint the fence and haul away debris.

Netherby Cemetery clean-up day - 1942. Included in the picture are Jack Conry, Bill Storch, Sandy Donaldson, Alex Wilson, Mary Cameron, Mrs. Sid Herring, Mrs. Ray Armstrong, Mrs. Charley Blayney, Mrs. Jack Conry, Mrs. Dick Roberts, Mrs. Jane Wilson, Mrs. George Wright, Andy Glover, Chas. Blayney, Ralph Greenaway, Chas. Strandberg, Bill Glover, Stanley Strandberg, Willie Storch, Ernie Taylor, Bob Rehill, Patsy Taylor, Frank Benzie, John Marlowe, Howard Armstrong.

Another homesteader, John Corry, took care of the register and the measuring of new grave sites until his death, when his son Clifford assumed these duties. Whenever a new grave is needed, the men of the community dig and prepare it.

The name, Netherby Cemetery, is formed of metal letters in an arch over the gateway. In 1966 a cairn was erected in memory of the pioneers buried there. The plaque [illegible] inscribed as follows:

Netherby Cemetery
In memory of the
Pioneers of Garden Plain
and district
1966

[illegible] this time of writing, February 22, 1977, there are one hundred and two graves in Netherby cemetery; each has [illegible] marker or headstone to mark its location.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Taylor

MR. and MRS. JAMES W. TAYLOR, By Jim Taylor Jr. and Marion Taylor Fox — James W. Taylor, a South African War veteran, owned and operated [illegible] furniture store in Okotoks from 1906 to 1909. In 1907 he married Winnifred DeLong, a registered nurse who was working in High River.

In 1908 the Dominion government passed the South African Bounty Act, which allowed veterans [illegible] the Boer War to obtain a half-section of land by fulfilling homestead duties. As soon as Mr. Taylor was able to dispose of his business, he got in touch with a real estate firm which advertised, "Homesteads located, $25.00 per half section." With a group of other landseekers, he travelled by train to Calgary, Lacombe and Stettler, where they hired a livery rig and driver at six dollars per day plus expenses. They spent their first night at Beaver Dam Creek, (where Castor is now located), and slept twenty-four men in a twelve-by-fourteen shack. The next day they drove south, and stopped the night with [illegible] old bachelor, seventy-seven years old, who had just gotten a shack built and who was preparing to perform the duties necessary to enable him to acquire deed to the land.

Their 'expert land locator' did not prove so very expert when it came to running the lines and finding the necessary mounds and stakes left by the surveyors. However, by tying a white handkerchief on the spokes of the wheel, and counting the revolutions, they were able to find the stakes and locate some choice land in Township 33, Range 13. They returned to Calgary and filed on their choices in the Land Office there.

In September, 1909, Mrs. Taylor and their two small boys, Jim, 15 months old, and Herbert, 3 months, joined Mr. Taylor on the homestead. Until Mrs. Taylor's passing at Garden Plain in February, 1943, she was an invaluable partner,

and a loving mother to their eight children, two of whom pre-deceased her. She was a dedicated church and community worker, and will always be remembered for her services as a nurse. It was not uncommon, on a twenty below winter night, for a neighbor to come with a team and sleigh, put heated rocks at her feet, and drive her many miles to tend the sick, or to deliver a baby.

The Taylors had the only piano in the district in those early years, and it bore its 'moving scratches' forever, as it was often taken to the schoolhouse or the community hall for various social functions. I can still remember my parents tell of the wonderful sing-songs which were enjoyed by neighbors who gathered at our home on winter evenings. If it happened [illegible] blizzard during such a gathering, it lasted for two or three days, with everyone taking turns sleeping, as bed space was limited.

In 1910 the town of Castor, almost thirty miles north, came into existence, and a year or two later, the town of Hanna. Mr. Taylor hauled lumber from these towns and built a nice house, and in due course, a barn. He was always a believer in keeping his buildings painted, and he called his farm "Hillside Farm", which was painted in large letters on the barn.

Mrs. Taylor always missed the trees and was not fond of the bald prairie, so in 1916 the family moved to Alix, and later to Manitoba. In 1930 they returned to Garden Plain, where their son Herbert took over the farming operations while Mr. Taylor opened and operated a small general store at Garden Plain.

Mrs. Taylor passed away at Garden Plain in 1943; Mr. Taylor died at Castor in 1958. Their eldest son, Jim, lives in Calgary. Herbert predeceased his father in 1946. George died in Australia in 1973. Marion married Herbert Fox and lives in Chilliwack; Patricia is Mrs. Stuart McRae and lives near Innisfree. Ernest, the youngest son, is at 100 Mile House, B.C. All the family except Herbert served [illegible] the armed forces during World War II.

Following are excerpts from the diaries of Mr. Taylor, who recorded in them regularly until his death:

June 20, 1909 . . . Walked over towards Hand Hills about five miles. Noticed a great variety of flowers on prairie, almost a new variety every day. Today saw a wild rose in blossom, and strawberry plants in full bloom. Sun still shining at 8:55 p.m.

August 9, 1909 . . . Fine and hot. Cutting hay in the forenoon, stacking after dinner until seven p.m. Being considerably bothered by flying ants, I [illegible] some hay to drive them away and immediately my load was on fire. I tried to unhitch but only partly succeeded. The horses ran away, broke the whipple trees, and ran into the rake, damaging one wheel. Wagon and rack completely destroyed, no chance to save them, no water.

August 20, 1909 . . . Got a message from Stettler, by livery, to go at once to Calgary as baby Herb was very ill . . . rode back to Castor with livery, there borrowed wheel (bicycle), started for Stettler, overtaken by storm, laid up in a haystack till daylight. Arrived at Stettler at 10:15 next day, tired and hungry . . . a very fatiguing trip. Telephoned Calgary and got cheerful news.

August 30, 1909 . . . Left family at Okotoks, wheeled to Calgary in evening, took train for Stettler in morning.

September 1, 1909 . . . Wheeled from Stettler eighteen miles northwest to look at coal mine for Dr. DeLong (Mrs. Taylor's brother). Wheeled back to Stettler, very hot and thirsty ride, pushed towards home. Arrived at Castor [illegible] eight p.m. tired and weary from dusty road and slight head wind.

June 24, 1911 . . . Heavy rain in a.m. Splendid growth this summer. Prairie

greenest for years. Grain well advanced. Peas and tomatoes in flower, radish and lettuce on the table. Lots of wild strawberries and wild roses.

August 13, 1911 . . . Fine and hot till 5 p.m. when heavy cloud came from west and hailed out all crops. Eight miles wide and twelve miles long. The grain was looking splendid, wheat would have gone twenty bushels per acre, oats fifty. All gone except a little feed. Hail broke fourteen panes of glass, stones as big as crabapples.

May 20, 1913 . . . crop seeded: wheat, 62 acres; oats, 40 acres; barley, 15; potatoes, 3. Total 120 acres.

THE WATSONS, By Irene Paton — Irene Paton, daughter of Lily Watson recalls what she has heard of the early years:

The year 1909 brought John Watson, a grain merchant from Scotland, to homestead [illegible] the area. Doctor's orders to locate in a drier climate prompted his move, and he chose this part of the country because a school friend, Jack Picken, had come to the Sullivan Lake country about 1905.

John Watson homesteaded the SE of 28-33-13 and proceeded to have a house built in preparation for his wife and family coming. The carpenter was a fellow Scot, John Maxwell, who was the father-in-law of a lumber merchant in Castor, Tom Finlayson. After sixty-seven years the house is still in use, having been moved into Hanna by Mr. and Mrs. Corry when they retired in 1960. Rosanna Corry Hanlon is now owner of the house.

Mrs. Watson, Lily, Tom and Jimmy arrived on one of the first trains to Castor, May 31, 1910. Tom recalls a foot of snow a few days later, and sleighs being used. The weather incident I recall my grandmother telling about often was a hailstorm one of the first summers, which broke [illegible] their west windows, and imbedded straw in the opposite walls!

Mr. and Mrs. John Watson and Lily Watson — 1919

About 1911 or 1912 the Watsons started a general store in their farmyard, with supplies freighted out from Castor by Bill Glover. A post office in connection with the store was named Fertility and operated for some years with mail coming from Castor to Garden Plain where Watsons picked it up. Many years later I recall amusing myself with grandfather's Notary stamp and Post Office stamp.

The younger boy, Jimmy, was trampled when the children were riding steers, and died of intestinal injuries in 1912, about seven years of age. Lily and Tom attended Netherby school, and often the teachers and the student ministers boarded with the family. Two names I recall hearing mentioned were Mr. Pritchard, who I believe was a student minister, and Miss Fisher, a teacher.

Closest neighbors through the years were the Corrys, and though the Watsons sold to R.S. Crabb and moved north of Castor [illegible] 1918, that friendship carried on.

Lily married Ralph Wangeness of the Glenglle district, but died when their daughter Irene was born in August of 1923. A year later Mr. Watson passed away.

Mrs. Watson and Tom continued farming until 1939. Through the years I recall many visits from old friends [illegible] the Garden Plain and Hanna areas . . . the Corrys, Elliotts, Herrings and MacLeods. How could I forget the MacLeods, for on one visit they gave me their daughter's doll carriage, a real prize for a lonely little girl on an isolated farm.

About 1940 Tom became an elevator agent, first at Veldt, then Castor, Clive and Rocky Mountain House where Mrs. Watson passed away in 1954. She was buried at Castor, and after all those years Netherby district was at the funeral. Mr. Corry was a pallbearer, and I recall Mrs. Unsworth telling me she had gone to school with my mother.

Tom Watson is now retired and living in South Edmonton. I have been married for nearly twenty-five years to Bert Paton and we also live in Edmonton.

The old Watson house holds many memories of happy days spent under its roof when I was a child.

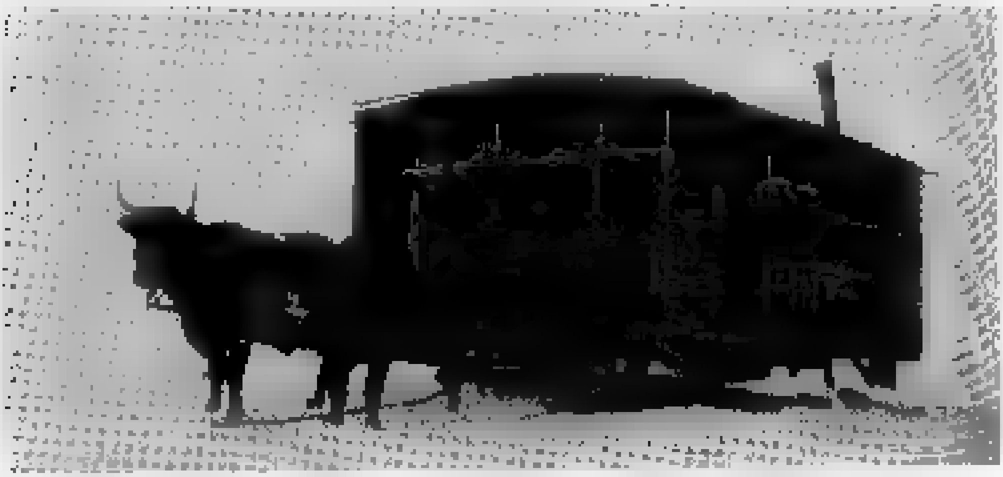
Lewis Family: Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Lewis, Alice, Frances, Walter and Winnifred.

THE JASPER HORACE S. LEWIS STORY, By Frances Lewis Unsworth, Alice Lewis Forster, Winnifred Lewis Grove — Our father was born in Wales in 1874, and lived for a time in New York city where his father worked for a large newspaper. After his mother's death, his father returned to England, where our father worked as a silk tie cutter. In 1897 he married Jane Frances Young, and in 1906 he brought his wife and two small daughters to Victoria, B.C. In June, 1909, he decided to come to Alberta to take up a homestead. By this time a son and another daughter had been added to the family, and travelling with them were our uncle and aunt, Alf Sturgess and family.

We lived in tents at Stettler while our father and our uncle walked to the Garden Plain area to choose homesteads. They decided on two adjoining quarters, and tossed a coin to see which of them would have the land on the main road, now Number 38 Highway. [illegible] fell to our dad. When they returned to Stettler they found that in their absence our two-month-old baby sister had died and was already buried.

Dad bought a team of oxen and a Bain wagon and put bows and a canvas

over the box. He loaded a walking plow, some coal oil, and enough groceries to last a month . . . dried beans, rice, flour, yeast cakes, tea, rolled oats, sugar and salt. When we arrived at the homestead he went to look for drinking water, which he found about four miles west where a Mr. Breisfer had dug a well. We had a Jersey cow and the milk, butter and cottage cheese helped our diet a lot. Our only furniture was bought from a disgusted homesteader, a Mr. Ed Wheeler, who was giving up and going back to the States. Our mattresses were ticks filled with slough hay.



Mr. H. Lewis moving the Alf Sturgess home down from Castor with his team of oxen — Teddy and Spud.

In order to prove up on the homestead, Dad had to break ten acres a year for three years, and build a frame dwelling worth three hundred dollars. After the frame house was built, it was called "Lewis Stopping House", and Dad and Mother fed men and teams who were going to the country to the south.

The first years were very hard. Dad worked on the roads with a fresno and scraper to work out his taxes. We dug several wells, with Mother and Frances pulling the dirt out of the holes with a bucket and rope, before finding enough water for the cattle and the house.

We once had a cow pushed into the well by another cow, in mid-winter, and had to pull her out with a team. She was frozen stiff, but we got her to the barn and put blankets on her and she lived.

In 1911 another little boy came to our family, but he passed away eighteen months later, and his little grave was the first in Netherby cemetery. Mr. J. W. Taylor had donated the land for the cemetery.

Dad tanned rabbit skins and mother used them to line winter hats and make collars. When we went out in a sleigh in winter, we would cover up with fur robes or horse blankets, and if it was to be a long trip, we wrapped heated stones in a sack to put our feet on. In winter we wore moccasins, or felt boots and rubbers, or heavy 'German' socks or knee-high felt socks with rubbers. There were also clogs, felt-lined boots with wooden soles, which were guaranteed to keep you warm at sixty below, but we nearly froze in them. Those who could afford them had fur mitts and hats and coats; one could buy a good heavy fur coat in those days for fifteen or twenty dollars.

Our home remedies were flax seed ground up for poultices, or bread and hot water, and for animals we sometimes used cow manure. Our spring tonics were boiled dandelion leaves, sulphur and molasses, and castor [illegible]; and our first fresh vegetables were the pigweeds which grew around the sod barns.

At first the closest doctor and hospital was at Stettler, seventy-five miles away, but fortunately we did not need either one very often. There didn't seem to be as many diseases then, I suppose because people didn't mix so much.

When our school was first built, the term lasted from the first of March till Christmas, with a two-week holiday [illegible] July. One summer day there was a bad hailstorm and cloudburst, which flooded the coulee between our house and the school. A neighbor and our uncle came [illegible] help us across the coulee when it was time to go home. They had brought a team and wagon to ford the coulee, but forgot to tie the wagon box on, so it floated off and went down to Berry Creek. The horses swam through with the running gear, and my uncle piggy-backed all the younger children over, but we older ones had to walk upstream two miles to where the water wasn't so deep. It really was cold wading through there, with the hailstones still lying on the edge of the water.

If anyone was out away from home after dark, we always hung a lantern on a pole on the hill beside the house, and also put a lamp in the window to help guide them home.

In 1914 our youngest sister, Winnifred, was born.

After our father had proved up on the original homestead, he also took up a purchase homestead in the Solon area, and farmed that land too.

In 1919 an epidemic of flu hit this country, and as there was only one doctor in town, it was impossible to get help. Three of us children and our dad were all sick at one time. Our father developed pleurisy and the neighbors rode horseback all night to try to find the doctor, who was out in the country on another case. Finally the neighbors made up a bed in a bobsleigh, and even though a terrible blizzard was raging, got him to the hospital in Castor. He passed away ten days later, February 24, 1920.

Both Frances and Alice were married within the year, and on Christmas Day, 1927, Walter was married to Beulah Kruger. They lived in the district for a few years, then moved with their baby son to Viking. Walter's back was broken in an accident with a runaway team in May, 1931, and after seven months in hospital he died.

For many years Mother and I (Winnifred) lived on the farm alone. One fall Mother hired a man to cut our crop with our nearly-new binder. He didn't even know how to put the canvas on and wanted me to help him. Needless to say he was sent on his way and I did the job myself. I helped with the farm work and milked cows for a living; hauling feed and water during the winter proved quite a hardship for me and those prices in the depression years were so low. One year I helped drive over a hundred head of cattle to town to be shipped and the owners received a cent a pound for payment.

Life was not easy for my mother. When they lived in a tent during those first months on the homestead, she was always worried that wild animals such as gophers or mice might crawl under the edge of the tent and gnaw the little children while they were sleeping. When they operated a stopping house, they had some difficult guests. On one occasion a lady and her daughter were going to stay there, but wanted to know the number of their room and the way to the bathroom. When they found out that men would be sleeping in the room next to them they decided to [illegible] on their way. Then there was the minister who tied his horse to the gate post and walked up to the house for dinner. After the meal he shook a little salt from the salt shaker, popped it in his mouth, and moved his chair back from the table. When the next person who stopped there came in to eat, he pulled his chair back to the table and ate again.

A third incident was when two men got lost in a bad blizzard several miles

from our house. At times when the storm abated somewhat, they would catch a glimpse of the light in our window. They finally made it to our gateway but couldn't get out of their wagon to open the gate as their feet were so badly frozen. Dad had gone to bed and kept telling mother to put out the light and come too, but she said that she thought she heard noises outside, and finally convinved him to get up and go to see what it was. He got the poor men into the house and put their team away, then rubbed the frozen feet with coal oil and gave them hot drinks and food.

After Winnifred's marriage in 1935, Mother moved to the Hanna area where she resided until 1959. She died in 1961 and is buried at Netherby cemetery.

Frances Lewis Unsworth and Winnifred Lewis Grove still live in the Garden Plain area. Alice Lewis Forster makes her home at Surrey, B.C.

Bert Brown by his sod house.

B. C. BROWN, By Frances Unsworth — Mr. Bert Brown was a South African War veteran who filed on South African scrip land in 1909, the north half of 30-33-13. He built a small square sod shack with a lean-to roof on the bank of a slough surrounded by willows and poplars. He also dug a well, but it gave him only a few pails of water a day.

Bert was born in Birmingham, England, but I believe he came here from New Zealand. He worked around at the neighbors', helping wherever he was needed or wherever he could make a dollar, and in return managed to get the necessary land work done on his farm, as he never owned any horses or machinery himself. He worked in coal mines in the winter, mainly at the Ken Bryanton strip mine.

If he wanted to go to town he just started walking, leaving about six o'clock in the morning and coming home the next day. He would not accept a ride as he got great pleasure out of walking. On moonlight nights he would walk to the neighbors for an evening of cards.

To prove up on his land, he built a $300.00 frame house and dug another well. The house is still standing in 1977, and has had many tenants: J.W. Taylor, Herb Taylor, George Taylor, Steinbreckers, Grovers, Nesses, Cyril Unsworth, Albert Unsworth, Gerry Unsworth; Louis Unsworth now owns the land.

When World War I started in 1914, Bert enlisted, as though it was his duty to do so as he was single. He kept in touch with all of his friends, but eventually we received word from one of his comrades that Bert had been killed in action in November, 1917. We had all lost a kind and true friend.

JOHN CORRY, By Mrs. John Corry and Rosanna Corry Hanlon — John Corry was born on February 15, 1883, at Hoddom Mill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. In 1906 he, his mother, his sister, and his brother came to Canada to join a brother who had come out earlier.

He spent the winter of 1906 in Manitoba, and the next year worked on a ranch in the Kamloops, B.C. area. In May of 1909 he took up a homestead, the SW 28-33-13, built a shack and sod barn and dug a well. He hauled all his supplies from Stettler, a distance of seventy-five miles, with a team of oxen and a wagon. As the round trip took a week, he often slept under the wagon.

Albert Brown, John Corry, Archie Corry Sr, Chris Corry, Mary Waugh, Hannah Brown, Rachel Corry, Cliff Corry, and Rosanna Corry.

He returned to Kamloops for the winter of 1909, and there met Jane Hodgson, whom he married. By this time he had a team of horses and a cow, Lena, from whom he started his herd of cattle. He also had a cattle dog, Flossie, who would bring the cows to the yard at milking time.

His first crop was hailed out, with no insurance, and later he was to lose five crops out of eight due to hail. Prairie fires, drought and intensive cultivation took their toll of the land, and many hard times lay ahead for the young farmers, but through many personal sacrifices, they gradually got ahead. In 1929 John Corry won the Kiwanis Cup for the best standing crop [illegible] the area.

Mrs. Corry became ill and was nursed by Rae Neider Lunn, a member of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and a Red Cross nurse from Hanna. She died in 1916, leaving a daughter, two-year-old Rosanna. Mr. Corry's mother came out to take care of the little family until Rachel Hodgson arrived from England.

John Corry married Rachel Hodgson in February, 1917. They had three sons. Joe died of cholera in 1923 and Archie was killed in a car accident in 1938. Clifford married Eileen Johnston in 1948 and had four children, Reg, Archie, Leonard and Linda. They live on the original homestead quarter.

Rosanna married Ed Hanlon. Their children are Corry, Garth, Marjorie Jean and John.

Rosanna recalls him getting ready to haul grain to the elevator at Boner. He would wear a big buffalo coat, and spend much of the trip walking along beside the sleigh. His big treat was to smoke a cigar or two to help keep himself warm. He and Billy Hoodless usually planned to take loads [illegible] the same time. He returned home from one trip quite upset, for he had found Billy lying by the side of the road, hurt and unable to get up, and had taken him to the hospital. Another unhappy day was when he saw smoke at Alex Wilson's house; he hurried down there but [illegible] that was saved were a few sacks of flour.

A happier incident occurred during the family's yearly visit to the Billy Howe and John Watson families, who had left the district and moved north of Castor. He and Billy went shooting ducks and got so many that they had to take off their

overalls, tie the legs and put the ducks in them so that they could carry them home. They took them to the Watson's where they distributed them among all the neighbors and had a very fine feast.

John Corry always took an active part in community affairs. He was Reeve of the Sullivan Lake Municipality for many years. He worked hard to get the Municipal Hospital in Hanna and served on that Board for the last twenty years of his life. He was president of the Co-op store executive for many years, and was instrumental in getting the rural mail route and telephone into his district. He always helped to raise funds for Christmas treats at the local school concerts, and took care of the Netherby cemetery from the time it was surveyed until his death.

Despite many hardships, he always felt that he had had a full and active life, and often reminded us how fortunate we were to live [illegible] such a productive and peaceful land.

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Sturgess and family

MR. and MRS. ALFRED STURGESS from Information supplied by Dolly Sturgess Englund and Reg Sturgess — The Sturgess family travelled with their relatives, the Horace Lewis family, from Victoria, B.C. to Stettler in the spring of 1909. The women and children lived in tents at Stettler while the men walked to the Garden Plain area to find homesteads.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess had five children. The oldest, Reg, was six years old. He walked most of the way with the men while the women and children rode in the wagon.

During their first winter on the prairie, the family lived in a sod building which had been formerly used as an Anglican Church near the present town of Castor; the next summer Mr. Sturgess built a small house in Castor. In March, 1911, Mr. Lewis hitched his oxen to the Sturgess house and moved [illegible] to the homestead for them. The family continued [illegible] occupy their home during the move, which took three days.

That summer, Mr. Sturgess went to work in the mountains. While he was away, his wife gave birth [illegible] twin girls, with only her brother, Mr. Lewis, to assist. A few weeks later, the little home was destroyed by a severe hail storm, and the family moved [illegible] with the Lewises. When Mr. Sturgess returned from his summer job, he moved his family back to Castor, and later to Coronation. There was a fuel shortage that winter, and for added protection against the cold, the family slept in a tent pitched upstairs in the house.

In the spring of 1912 the family returned to the homestead, and lived in a sod barn until Mr. Sturgess was able to build them a house. After the Thomas Walters store burned to the ground on Christmas Day, 1912, Mr. Sturgess operated a post office and also cut hair, as there was no other barber in the area. He was known as 'the Englishman'.

In 1915 Mr. Sturgess sold his homestead and moved his family and his livestock to Lane's Lake, west of Castor, until he disposed of his stock in November of that year. Then he took his family to Australia, where they remained until 1923.

On their return to Canada, they stayed in Calgary for a short while, then

bought horses and a wagon, put a tent over the wagon and set out for Garden Plain.

Mrs. Englund says, "Mrs. Horace Lewis was a widow then, and when our dad went to her door, she thought that we were travelling gypsies. She was so surprised that the Sturgess family had returned to the Garden Plain country after so many years away. We stayed there until June, 1925."

The Sturgess family lived in Calgary for the next ten years, then moved to the Vancouver area, where both Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess died.

Their children were Reginald, Lewis, Francis, Doris, Gertrude, Vivian and Vida (twins) and Alfred.

JIM ELLIOT — I was born in Calgary. My parents moved to what is now the Spondin district and I grew up there.

I first arrived in the Garden Plain district in 1923. I came to work in the harvest fields and worked for Bill Hoodless, John Corry and Robert Crabb, mostly stooking the grain. These three farmers all lived on the same section, so the farms were a lot smaller then than they are nowadays.

I came back at harvest time in 1925 and spent over three years at the Corry farm. This was the longest stretch that I put in there. I was back there several times afterwards, mainly in the summer time, the last year being 1939. In all I spent over six years working for John Corry.

The twenties were good years, the times of good crops and reasonably decent prices for the grain. The thirties were something else again, as a lot of us can remember.

However, as I remember the times, it seemed we had quite a lot of fun too. In the twenties we shot rabbits by moonlight with a shotgun. By the thirties, though, even the rabbits seemed to have dried up. Then we had card parties at Netherby school, dances at the Garden Plain hall, and so on.

I can remember very clearly the Sunday morning that Jack Corry, Jim Peterson and I sat in the living room and listened to Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of Britain, announce the declaration of war on Germany. When he was through we were all quiet and sober looking. I think that we all knew that things were never going to be quite the same again. That was September 3, 1939.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM HOWE, By Edith Howe Hronek — William Howe homesteaded in 1910 in the Netherby district, on the NW 22-33-13. His brother Ernie also homesteaded nearby, so they worked together, and also worked with Charles Blaney. During the winter of 1910-11 he worked for John Chidley at the livery barn in Castor.

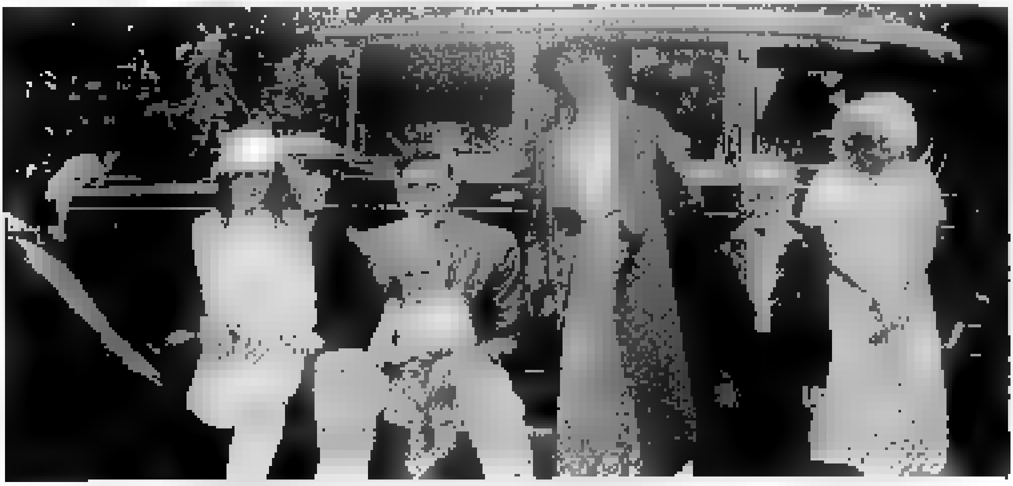
On September 27, 1911, he married Christena Chidley of Castor and moved to the homestead. They had three daughters born at Fertility, Dorothy, Edith and Elsie; and two sons, Stanley and William, born at Castor.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe lived on the homestead for seven years, and their crops were hailed out five times in those seven years, so they decided to move. In the spring of 1918 they bought land in the Lauderdale district north-west of Castor; that year their crop was frozen out in July.

Mrs. Howe passed away in 1946. Mr. Howe farmed until 1953 when he retired to Castor. He passed away in 1972 at the age of ninety-two.

STEPHEN WAGNER, By Valletta Wagner Waine — My father was born in Nova Scotia, but came to Alberta from Maine, where he had been employed in a paper mill. He and Ken Bryanton arrived in Stettler in April, 1908, and filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain district. [illegible] one of his letters to us, my father said that it was a beautiful country with many lakes and wild ducks and geese.

In December of that year my mother and sister and I joined father in Stettler, where my sister and I attended school and father did freighting. The following March we moved to the Garden Plain area, living with Mr. James Manson in his sod house for three weeks until our frame home was completed, with his help. As our house was located on the Castor Trail on the SW 18-33-13, many men freighting supplies [illegible] the south country stopped at our place to spend the night.



Steve Wagner, his son Albert, Mrs. Wagner and their grandchildren.

We met many wonderful people, and there was such a friendly feeling among everyone. Wherever a helping hand was needed, all worked together. On several occasions Mother was called upon to usher a little one into the world.

My sister and I walked three miles to Netherby school, and I remember that there were very many mosquitoes.

My brother Albert was born in 1914, and also attended Netherby school. [illegible] 1929 my parents moved to Oregon, where my sister Lillian died in 1950, my mother in 1960 and my father in 1962.

Rudy Moore

RUDY MOORE, By Harold Strandberg — Rudy Moore was born at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, [illegible] 1888. In 1908, he, his father Jacob and uncle Fred, came [illegible] Alberta and filed on homesteads on the same section, 32-39-13. Jacob had the north-west quarter, Fred the north-east, and Rudy the south-east. Instead of building a shack on each quarter, they built one house so that part of it rested on each claim.

Rudy and his father did a lot of carpenter work in Castor after the railway reached there, and one day in July, 1909, while they were away, [illegible] neighbor found Fred dead. He is buried in an unmarked grave on his homestead.

Until the three claims were proved up and the titles received, Jacob Moore spent the winters at his home in Rice

Lake and returned each spring to the homesteads. After he received the title to his brother's land, he went back [illegible] the States and never returned. He was accidentally killed in 1923 while blowing stumps in a land-clearing project in Wisconsin.

After his father left, Rudy moved the house to the eastern part of the southeast quarter so that he would be close to the road. He continued to farm the three quarters, usually with the help of a hired man. Some of these fellows could speak very little English, but with the aid of the Eaton's catalogue, Rudy soon had them both speaking and writing the language.

In 1928 Rudy hired Mrs. N. Ortt, from Peterborough, Ontario, as his housekeeper. Her daughter Ruth attended Netherby school, later married John Pokojoy and had one son, Jack. This [illegible] what she says about her mother's employer:

"Rudy Moore knew all about hard times and being resourceful. During the lean thirties he did blacksmith work for himself and his neighbors, and made many useful and interesting things [illegible] his shop.

"Soap was expensive, so he made both hand and laundry soap. There was no money for furniture polish, so he made it, but it did take a lot of rubbing to produce a shine. Rudy enjoyed his pinch of snuff, so when times got even worse he made his own. It was a funny color, and he never said how it tasted. He made coffee by cracking roasted wheat and adding chicory. Mother and I did use the soap, but after sampling the coffee, mother preferred to drink tea and I had milk.

"Rudy loved company and made everyone welcome to share whatever there was to eat. There were always potatoes, eggs if the hens were laying, and Mother's homemade bread and freshly churned butter. Rudy never turned away anyone who had no place to go. Often he had two men staying with him, even if there wasn't much to do in the winter except bring in water, keep the wood box and coal scuttles full, and feed a few cattle and horses. For years an older gentleman, Mr. Stillman, stayed with him and looked after the garden in the summer time. We never knew where he came from, or where he went when he left."

Mrs. Ortt lived in Hanna for a few years before her death in 1958.

When the railroad was built in 1929, it passed through Rudy's land, and the hamlet of Garden Plain was situated on his homestead quarter. Two elevators and a store were built there, so Rudy had close neighbors for over thirty years. Eventually the store closed, one elevator was moved to Cereal and the other torn down and the material used to build a new one [illegible] Hanna.

In 1958 Rudy sold his farm to a neighbor, Ed Job, but continued to live in his home. In 1963 [illegible] suffered a broken arm when he had an accident with his half-ton truck, and after that he depended on his neighbors for transportation to town or to go visiting. He was found dead in October, 1966, and was buried in Netherby cemetery.

OUR RETURN TO THE WEST, By Ruth Ortt Haden — My mother, Mrs. James Edwin Ortt, and I came [illegible] Hanna in August, 1928, from Peterborough, Ontario. Our journey took one week on the excursion train. We were so glad we had packed a big wicker basket of food to eat on the trip. While travelling, we spent our time visiting with the other passengers, reading and doing fancy work. It must have been a very tiring trip for my mother, but for me, a girl eleven years old, I could curl up and sleep on the leather seats. We stayed overnight at the Dominion Rooming House in Hanna, and Mr. Rudy Moore, for whom my mother was going to work, came into town with his Model T Ford and brought us out to his farm at Garden Plain.

Tom McCafferty and son Harry

Mother and I had lived 'out west', as the easterners say, with my father on the homestead near Paynton and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, so mother had an idea of what life would be like on the farm. However, I was a small girl when my father died and we returned east to [illegible] near our relations. I could not remember ever seeing coal oil lamps, water in pails, or outdoor plumbing.

Yes, I had many experiences in store for me. We had hardly had time to get settled when I began to realize that Netherby school, one and one half miles south, would be starting, and I would either have [illegible] walk or learn to ride a horse. One sunny afternoon a neighbor girl came over on a quiet farm horse [illegible] offered to teach me how to ride. After putting on the saddle, and getting me seated therein, she jumped up behind. We rode [illegible] a trot for over a mile, with me bouncing up and down. I felt every bone in my body beginning to ache, so I said, "Could we possibly let the horse walk for a while?"

This girl was a good rider and I guess she felt she had stood about enough from me, even having to show me how to get on the horse. She replied, "[illegible] you don't like it, get off and take your saddle with you."

Needless to say, I stayed on, but I didn't do any riding or even sitting down for a few days. However, I did learn to ride and I even got my own pony, Tepee, and loved [illegible] gallop over the open prairie riding Indian style.

I have heard so much talk about the dirty thirties, but for me there were many good memories. The wind blew, but when it did the windcharger would charge up the batteries for the car and the radio. Then we could listen to Major Bowes, the ten o'clock news, Lux Theatre, [illegible] and Zeb, Amos and Andy, and other good programs. In the cold winter evenings we sat around the heater in the front room doing sewing, embroidering flour sack pillow cases and flour sack luncheon cloths, eating apples or reading the Free Press, especially the Home Loving Hearts pages, or the Country Guide, or a book. Of course my mother insisted that my homework must be done first.

There is never a Christmas that I do not recall the Netherby Christmas concert. Each child had a little piece to say, and we all lined up on the stage to sing the Christmas carols. Santa came and each child received a present from under the big tree at the front. Candies and oranges were passed out to everyone. After the concert no one went home. The men took out the school desks and benches to clear the floor and a dance began. Music was supplied by a pick-up orchestra. The first dance I took part in was the Heel and Toe Polka. I was twelve years old.

As I grew older there were dances [illegible] the Garden Plain hall. Everyone went, even the children. We never went home until the wee hours of the morning. One night when we were [illegible] shaking up the floor doing a square dance, the big stove pipes fell down. They were quickly put up, the floor swept, and the dance went on.

I also remember the United Farm Young People's. We held our meetings at one another's homes. As I recall, these meetings were in the winter time, and we went by sleighloads, straw in the bottom of the sleigh, heated rocks and blankets. There was such a nice bunch of young people, and we had a marvellous time.

Another memory I have is the building of the railroad. One of the workers used to cook his meals on an old kitchen stove out on the prairie. One day a wind got up, and before anyone noticed, the prairie was on fire. It looked as if the house and buildings would be burned to the ground. Rudy Moore had his hands burned fighting the fire with wet sacks. The men fought the fire all night to bring it under control.

Two elevators and one store were built at Garden Plain. The crew that built the Pioneer elevator had their own cook, but my mother, Blake Haden and I cooked three meals a day and did all the dishes for the gang that built the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in 1939, earning the big sum of one dollar a day and our board. Rudy Moore made and bottled root beer and sold it to the crew for ten cents a bottle.

I left Mr. Moore's to continue my high schooling and to take a business course [illegible] Edmonton and Hanna. Mother stayed on the farm until she moved into Hanna in 1950. She often talked about returning to the east to be near her people, but she really liked the freedom of the west. In the summer time there was always a bouquet of wild flowers on the kitchen table. My son has a box of Indian arrowheads that Mother found on her walks around the farm. My dear mother passed away in 1956, and [illegible] buried in Hanna cemetery.

I married in 1944 and have one son, Jack, who is in exploration geology and spends much of his working time in the arctic, looking for gas and [illegible].

My husband, Blake Haden, and I have made our home in the village of Halkirk. We often reminisce about the good old days [illegible] Garden Plain.

THOMAS McCAFFERTY, By Lenore McCafferty Meehan — Thomas McCafferty came to Alberta in 1909 from the State of Maine in the U.S.A. His wife and daughter Lenore followed the next year.

He worked on a farm south of Castor for a Mr. and Mrs. Behrens until he earned enough money to buy a team of horses and a wagon, then he drove newcomers over the land available for homesteaders, helping them to locate. He filed on the south-east of 16-33-13 and built a frame house and a sod barn.

The first year was spent building fences, cutting prairie wool for hay, and breaking ground for next year's crop. The work was accomplished by all four settlers on the section working together. Steve Wagner and Ken Bryanton had come from Maine with Mr. McCafferty, Jim Manson came from Nova Scotia, and the four men pooled tools and machines and helped each other with their work.

Tom McCafferty hauled freight from Castor south to Copeville, near where the town of Hanna is now located. The money he earned helped to buy groceries and machinery and equipment [illegible] help improve life on the homestead.

Later he developed a coal mine on the south-east corner of his land. At one time he stripped a bit of land to get at the coal beneath several feet of surface soil. [illegible] was necessary to have qualified miners to operate an underground mine, so [illegible] the summers he would hire Mr. Baxter and Mr. Camp, who were also homesteaders but who worked [illegible] the large coal mines in Drumheller during the winter.

Tom McCafferty had a contract for hauling mail three times a week from the post office at Garden Plain to the post office at Fertility. Neither rain, hail nor blinding blizzard stopped the Royal Mail from going through.

The long trip to haul grain to the elevators in winter was a special hardship for him. He was lame as the result [illegible] a broken hip in his youth, and consequently could not walk behind his load to keep warm as the other men did, but he never complained.

The most severe hailstorm occurred in 1915. There had been ample rain and a bumper crop was ripening in Tom McCafferty's field. He was in the process of making arrangements with Fred Whaley to have his crop cut.

In those days the grain was cut with a binder which tied the grain into uniform bundles and deposited them on the ground [illegible] piles. Men would pick up the bundles and place several of them together in [illegible] upright position to form a stook, where they were left to dry until they could be threshed.

It was a beautiful Sunday [illegible] that late summer of 1915 when Fred Whaley came [illegible] look at the crop which Tom wanted him to cut. Sunday dinner was prepared and the table set for the meal. A beautiful shortcake was sitting on the table, embellished with whipped cream and orange sections. As the men returned from the field, the skies darkened and the wind started to blow. Rain fell, followed by hail the size of golf balls, some as big as baseballs. Windows in the house were broken; glass was spattered over the table and the beautiful cake. The wheat was flattened. [illegible] less than an hour, the hard work and prospects of an income for a whole year were gone. The homesteaders gathered up the remains for feed and carried on as best they could, hoping for a better return for their labors the next year.

Tom McCafferty sold his farm, stock and equipment in 1917, and purchased a farm north of Garden Plain. He and his wife have both passed away and are buried at Castor.

Their son Harry, born in 1911, lives at Botha. Lenora lives in Calgary.

THE JOHN WILLETT FAMILY, By Roberta Willett Sergeant — My dad filed on the NE 16–33-13 in 1907. He had come to Alberta from North Dakota where he had farmed and been a Superintendent of Schools. Mother and I came out [illegible] the spring of 1909. In the meantime dad had taught school, (Sullivan Lake, I think) and had built a house on his land.

Four more children were born while we were on the farm: Boyd in 1910, Stanley [illegible] 1915, (he died [illegible] 1921), Laura [illegible] 1917 and Angie in 1919.

I dimly remember being with dad on one trip he went for supplies. We could see smoke from a fire behind us [illegible] the north-west. Oxen are so slow! If a prairie fire came, our home was protected only by a narrow plowed fireguard. Mother was home alone, but when we got there we discovered that she had wet gunny sacks ready; fortunately that fire went away to the north and east so the sacks weren't needed.

Everyone did things the hard way, because there were no labor-saving devices. We had a well that gave us clear cold water, but we had to draw it or pump it by hand for the stock, and carry it to the house by the pailful. The kitchen stove had a reservoir on the side which kept some warm water handy, but on washdays a larger quantity was heated in a large boiler on top of the stove. Clothes used to be boiled [illegible] that boiler too, to get them white. The washing was done on a scrub board, rinsed and wrung out by hand. Floors were scrubbed with a brush and mop, soap was homemade.

Coal and wood, but mostly coal, were the fuels in those days. Our home was heated by the range in the kitchen, and by a round-bellied stove in the living room. The pipe from this stove went through the upstairs and so our sleeping quarters received some heat.

In the years we were on the farm we grew only two really good crops, and one of them was hailed out, in 1916, I think. Shortage of rain was such a problem! I remember milking cows, and churning . . . how I used to dislike that; it took so long to get butter by moving the dasher up and down . . . but how good the butter was after mother had worked it! We had our own beef and pork and chickens and eggs.

One of my chores was to go for the cattle after school. Sometimes it was quite a hunt. I remember one time it was dusk before I found them, in an area where cacti grew, and I was barefoot. Another time I was bringing in a cow with her new calf, and a coyote followed me to the top of the hill west of George Matley's. There he stopped and howled and howled; his supper had gotten away.

When my sister Laura was born, a nurse stayed with us to care for mother and the baby, but after a few days she was called away on an emergency case. I was only eleven years old, but I took over as best I could, even bathing the baby. I had all the confidence in the world, but I wonder how my mother felt?

I remember, during the flu epidemic, that our family always wore masks when away from home. I remember the neighbors gathering on a Sunday afternoon [illegible] listen to the music of J.W. Taylor's gramaphone. That was the first one in the district; it had a horn and cylindrical records.

I remember watching a storm from our kitchen doorway. The wind was of cyclone speed and we were watching the cloud carried by it. Mr. Williams was driving home from Hanna. He pulled his team in to the shelter of a building, but the wind lifted the roof off it and dropped it on Mr. Williams [illegible] his democrat. He was in hospital for months after that, and walked with a limp for the rest of his life.

Dad sold the farm to George Standing, through the Soldier Settlement Board, and we moved to Calgary in 1919. Primarily, I believe the move was made with the education of the children in mind.

Mother died in 1951 at the age of seventy-one; dad in 1954 at eighty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson

ALEX WILSON, By Ruby Wilson — Alex Wilson was born in Deskford, Banffshire, Scotland on November twenty-seventh 1886.

A cousin, Alex Lyon, emigrated [illegible] Manitoba and sent glowing reports; these interested the young man so much that in 1911 Alex decided to venture out to the land of opportunity.

The family was a close knit one; on the day of his departure, his father, who hated to see his son go, couldn't say goodbye, but just walked down the road with him, turned, waved his hand in farewell, never looking back. That was the last Alex ever saw his dear Dad as he became a victim of the flu epidemic a few years later.

Alex sailed on April fourteenth, 1911, from Liverpool, England, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia eight days later in company with Jim Andrew's brother, John. There were no dining cars on the train, so meals were had whenever, and wherever a long stop occurred and the

young men could find a restaurant nearby. Jim Andrew met the young immigrants and all three worked for a short time on the railroad at Empress. When the outfit moved to Coronation Alex went along to help in the building of the railroad at that point. While there the first store and bank were opened so a new town was born. The work continued on the railroad till freeze-up. Alex then went to Castor and owing to a coal strike (they were around in these days too) he was able to get work at the coal mine. Work was work and nothing too menial to tackle. Christmas 1911, and once again Alex was on his way [illegible] Coronation, this time by train. Jim Andrew met him and both men walked back to Jim's homestead, north [illegible] Stanmore; from Coronation a distance of thirty-three miles. They reached their destination in one day, in spite of heavy snow left by a three-day blizzard.

In January of 1912, John Bye's father-in-law was returning from Castor to his homestead north of Richdale and invited Alex to accompany him. The first night was spent at the Ricket place and the following day they arrived at Watson's, also Scots, who operated the post office and store at Fertility. This house in later years was renovated and moved to Hanna and is still used as a dwelling. The kindly couple gave Alex work that winter, hauling freight from Castor, choring and the odd time hauling mail from Garden Plain Post Office to Fertility. [illegible] late March Alex got a ride with an Irishman named Ryan going north to within seven miles of Castor and he walked the remainder of the way to meet his brother John, who arrived that night from Scotland.

The brothers joined the Andrew brothers and all four men journeyed to Bassano to work with the irrigation crew. That fall John, who now had a homestead, returned to Fertility and built a shack on his homestead north-east of Watson's store. The following summer both brothers returned to Bassano and late that year Alex filed his claim on a homestead [illegible] the Spondin district. Alex never lived on his homestead. During the winter he batched with John and the following spring, 1914, John helped him build his shack. Later that year Alex purchased a team of horses, some farm machinery and commenced farming. During this time John Wilson was working in Hanna in the construction of the Old Public School, so Alex seeded thirty acres for each of them and broke eighty acres on each homestead.

[illegible] 1915 John enlisted in the Services, but [illegible] never returned to farming, being badly wounded and obliged to change his type [illegible] work. He moved to Calgary, married Dorothy Alice Lee and had one son John Robert who was drowned [illegible] Chestermere Lake [illegible] 1946. John, prior to retiring in the late fifties was Supervisor in the Custom's office in Calgary. He died in 1963. John's widow Dorothy passed away in 1969.

Alex farmed both homesteads until 1917 at which time he sold his homestead at Spondin to Messrs. John and Henry Adolph, whose land adjoined his. He also owned the south-east of 35-33-12 which he farmed for a short time, but owing to the distance from Fertility he found [illegible] inconvenient to operate and so allowed the creamery operator to pasture his cows on one part and Gus Adolph farmed the remainder. This same quarter section was sold to Gus Adolph [illegible] October 1952 for one half-ton truck of barley and one cow.

Alex's mother, the late Mrs. Jane Wilson, joined Alex in October, 1919. At that time she was a lady of sixty years old and amused the station master at Castor on her arrival by carrying an umbrella, as he remarked "to the banana belt". Nothing undaunted, she laughingly replied, "then I'll use it as a sunshade." During her long stay [illegible] the area Mrs. Wilson, Sr., put her nursing knowledge to use by acting as a midwife on many occasions. She was loved by one and [illegible] and although she retained the Scottish dialect of the north, the children and adults too managed to

understand her. Alex often recalled how much she liked to visit Hanna and would say she required to go on the pretense of being short of tea (she would hide it) but Alex finally found out, and then she had to resort to another excuse for an outing. A trip to Hanna in those days had to be planned well ahead, lists made, etc.

The first winter of Alex's mother's sojourn in the land of her adoption was spent at Glover's until Alex was able to build on [illegible] his shack. On one occasion, on a return trip from Castor where he had gone for lumber, he stopped at Glover's to visit and have supper. While unhitching the horses he noticed that a quarter of beef he had purchased was missing, but before he could hitch up the team again they were off, and each time he almost caught up to them they would gallop away. He finally ran them down at Eklund's three miles away, and was a thankful man to do so, as at the time the chase began he was wearing a fur coat which greatly hampered his progress. He found the meat, too.

Alex loved his animals and the care and attention they received were evidence of this. He never had an animal lie down [illegible] wet or soggy bedding, nor had he any half-starved looking cattle; [illegible] fact, his cattle usually brought the top price.

On going through some receipts, one was found in which he had paid for four hours of labor the substantial sum of twelve dollars per hour.

[illegible] the spring of 1923, while Alex's mother was away visiting a neighbor, their home was razed by fire, the result of warm ashes being used for a pathway round the house and a high wind coming up [illegible] her absence. In later years all such ash paths were well doused with water. For a time Grandma Wilson, as she was affectionately known, and Alex lived in the Hanson house and in 1936 moved to a new location and a new home on northwest 34-33-13, which at that time was almost void of trees with the exception of a few wilds. It is believed that an elderly gentleman was buried among the few willows in the very early years, but no stone marks his resting place. In the early 1960's a young lady called enquiring about his burial place and stating she was a relative of his, but Alex was unable to help her, he only being able to relay the hearsay story.

Over the years Alex planted twenty thousand trees by hand and possessed the loveliest setting of home, buildings and shelter belts in the entire area. His mother passed away in January 1944 at the age of eighty-five, active until the end; she was greatly missed by all.

In September 1948, Ruby Keillie, a friend [illegible] Grandma Wilson's sister flew over from Glasgow for a visit, and in December the same year she became the bride of Alex. They were married in the Calvary Tabernacle in Hanna (now known as the Alliance Church). The plane she flew in was a converted bomber which developed engine trouble enroute and had to make a forced landing in Gander, Newfoundland, which resulted in a delay of several hours; and Miss Keillie missed her connection for the west from Dorval. As she had been advised of her flight on very short notice (while attending a church service) she had been unable to say goodbye to anyone prior to leaving Scotland nor been able to advise Alex of her impending arrival. A telegram was sent from Dorval giving the arrival time at Calgary, but due to the telephone lines being down (a thing unknown [illegible] Scotland) Alex never received the message and Ruby arrived in Calgary expecting Alex to meet her [illegible] any moment.

The date of her arrival coincided with that of Lord Montgomery who was coming for an airport inspection, and naturally the airport authorities wanted the place cleared for this event. Ruby was asked several times if someone was coming to pick her up. Eventually the airport authorities phoned the Customs Office where John, Alex's brother, was Supervisor, but he thought the call was just about a

parcel so didn't trouble to return their call. However, after the Airport's third call he returned theirs and was able to converse with Ruby. At first he thought she might be his niece from Glasgow and was so surprised when he found out who she was; Alex had never mentioned her possible visit. Ruby spent the day at John's home, and in the evening travelled by train to Hanna. Alex did not know of her arrival in Canada until about five the same evening and wanted to drive to Calgary to meet her but she had come thus far alone another hundred miles wasn't too much. Ruby spent her first week at Jack Corry's farm and was made very welcome. It was a very wet fall and Alex rode over each evening to visit her, the roads being too muddy to travel by truck.

The day of her arrival coincided with that of Mr. Rehill's funeral, so her first introduction to the neighbors and district was attendance at a funeral, during which the rain poured and the streets in Hanna were a quagmire.

Prior to coming to Canada Ruby had been employed for a number of years as Secretary in a Scottish Hospital. In her course of duties she met many Canadians, even the late Sid Herring of the Netherby district. She had been preparing for work in the Sudan Interior Mission as a Missionary, but little did she realize her trip to Canada was preparing her for a mission field of a different kind. The isolation, the drabness of the unpainted frame house, the dust, brown grass, mud when it rained, and the lack of mail when it stormed, phones knocked out in the high winds; sometimes was almost too much to bear and she wished she could swim back to Scotland.

Mail day was most important in the Wilson home for then they could escape for a few hours from the frustrations that at times seemed to be part of their daily lives.

On the couple's return from their honeymoon they ran into a snow storm and stayed overnight at Frances Unsworth's; during the night Alex suffered a gall bladder attack and the following day was taken by ambulance to Hanna. The snow had to be pushed to the side of the road to make a pathway for the ambulance. The kindness of the Unsworth family will never be forgotten and thus a friendship with the Scottish bride was cemented which has endured ever since, growing richer over the years. While the couple had been on their honeymoon, the man Alex had hired to do the chores in their absence had gone away and Mrs. Unsworth's son, Roy, had gone over daily, a distance of three miles each way, to attend to the cattle, and continued to do so until Alex was discharged from hospital and able to return to the farm. The roads were still snowbound on his discharge from hospital, but the couple took the train to Scapa and were met by Tiff Ironside who, with his Belgian team drove them back to the farm. Thus the couple, who were welcomed by the bagpipes on their arrival on their honeymoon in Vancouver, returned home accompanied by the cheery jingle of the horses' bells all the way from Scapa to the farm.

Alex never was of robust health but he was hard working and took a pride in his Scottish heritage. His home and buildings were always neat, well arranged, well painted and gladdened the eye of all callers. In April 1948 a daughter arrived to bless this home. The mailman Fred Harvey helped the stork in this case, having taken the expectant mother by cutter from Garden Plain Store just four days previously, to catch the train for Hanna. The previous winter had deposited lots of snow, and Alex drove Ruby by team over Mr. Corry's field to the store, and the remaining miles to Scapa she accompanied Fred Harvey with his mail. That was a very long day, having left home at nine in the morning and arriving at Hanna shortly after seven in the evening. The post office officials in Calgary, on learning of Fred's assistance, honoured him with a scroll. A month later on her return trip the happy couple called [illegible] Frances Unsworth's to show her their treasure — Frances was the first neighbor to share with them their new found joy. [illegible] May 1950 a son, Fraser, was born and their cup was full.

Often in the winter when the roads were not too bad Ruby would take the sled and pull it the one and a half miles to Garden Plain Store for provisions, and enjoy the exercise. The children were taken out most days in the buggy and she often walked down to Mrs. Patton's, a dear Irish lady who lived about four miles from the Wilson farm. Babysitters were not for Ruby, her children were too precious to trust to another's care.

When Fraser was about fifteen months old Alex's health deteriorated and his prognosis was poor. [illegible] that time Prairie Bible Institute were advertising for stenographers, and on enquiry Ruby was informed that in the event of Alex's demise [illegible] position would be available for her, supplying room and board for herself and children, plus fifteen dollars monthly for incidentals. Fortunately the need never arose.

The fall of 1951 was a lovely one and on October seventeenth, the Wilson s drove with a student minister, Graham Clark who had been staying at the Wilson's and helping with the harvest. The minister, Rev. Harder, who had married the couple had moved to Wimbourne the year previous, and as he was having special services that weekend had invited the family. During the service a snow storm arose and the Wilson s and Clark had to remain in Three Hills overnight; the following day after being pulled by three different tractors they arrived at Gadsby only to find the hotel being renovated and with no heating. They had to sleep with their clothes on and coats piled on top of the blankets. The following day (Tuesday) highway twelve was cleared and when they finally reached home they found the block of the tractor had cracked and their crop deep under snow. So winter had arrived once again and there was nothing one could do but accept the fact.

The following spring the Special Areas Crew bulldozed out the stooks and the farmers then had plenty of feed, the rabbits and mice too.

Ruby still hadn't tried milking; cows were fine at a distance, but with Alex's failing health and more prolonged stays [illegible] bed this had to be overcome. Her neighbor, Inga Strandberg, elected to teach her. The following evening at Strandberg's farm the lesson began, Inga demonstrating the milking technique on Ruby's index finger, explaining that squeezing, not pulling, gave results. With an upturned pail for a stool Ruby got under the cow and gingerly commenced and by the time she got a cup full Inga's pail was almost full. At that precise moment a cow entered the barn (the cows were not chained) and Ruby's cow side-tracked, Ruby fell, knocking Inga over on her back with the pail of milk streaming down her face. All Ruby observed were two legs up in the air and she ran — that was her first and only milking lesson. [illegible] proved to be instant learning.

Once a year the train from Scapa to Hemaruka would run and it was a highlight for the children as it passed through the pasture close to the house. When its whistle sounded at the Elevator one mile west Ruby got out the buggy and hurried down the road with the children so that they could wave to the engineer. Quite often he would pull the whistle an extra time for the enjoyment of the children. These men often stopped and filled their large cans from the Wilson well as [illegible] was known for its lovely water. The elevator families also came to the Wilson's twice a week for their water supply.

The Alex Wilson family were a close-knit family, their lives revolving mainly round the farm and church. They attended Sunday School first at Solon, later at

Dundee and then at Netherby. When the roads were too muddy to drive they walked.

Ruby never ventured on the road with the truck or car before committing herself and children to the Lord's care and when highway thirty-six was reached they stopped and gave thanks. Similarly on the return trip: it could be thirty below zero and colder yet Ruby always left home coatless and on the return trip would take off her coat prior to venturing on the remaining five miles on the dirt road. The five miles of that road were prayed on every inch of the way. The children never argued or fought in the truck; when they became concerned about the road condition they would bow their heads in prayer — such co-operation from the family made Ruby's burden lighter.

Another source of concern to Ruby was the annual trips to Halkirk for coal. In earlier years Alex accompanied her but soon the distance was too long and the trip too tiring for him so Ruby would go alone. She left early in the forenoon calling on Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse enroute and would enquire if they wanted anything taken to Castor, or mail and groceries delivered on her return trip. The truck was always loaded to capacity making the return trip a nightmare for fear that it had been overloaded. Mrs. Waterhouse who was a Glaswegian loved to visit with a fellow Scot and always had the kettle boiling and a cup of tea ready. The children often accompanied Ruby and loved visiting Mrs. Waterhouse and for years thought her name was Mrs. Hooch Aye, an expression she often used. The trips would continue until twenty tons had been hauled, then Ruby would sigh with relief and thankfulness. Flat tires and slipping into the ditch were only some of the mishaps she encountered, but always some kind person came to the rescue. By the time Hope was eleven years old, she could change a tire as efficiently as anyone.

The crop year of 1963 promised to be a good one. The wheat and oats had never stood so tall nor looked better; the garden was good and people's hearts were gladdened and all sorts of plans were being formed, when in August hail struck twice, a week apart. The second severe hail storm was accompanied by extremely high winds. Following the hail, heavy downpours of rain fell, which also contributed to the general damaging effects of the storm. Windows in farm homes were smashed, siding on homes dented, shingles ripped loose, and even some smaller farm buildings twisted from their foundations. When it was over, Alex commented "Never fear, dear, God has always supplied our needs, and He will never fail us", and He never did.

Alex was not a lazy man and when his health permitted he would resume his farming operations, often attempting too much. A portion of the land was rented out but brought very little remuneration. Thus the years passed until 1964 when Hope was in grade ten and Fraser in grade eight.

All during the years Ruby had kept up her shorthand speed by taking down lectures from radio talks, and her typing by submitting articles to various papers and magazines. A position as secretary with the Provincial Government became vacant and now that the family was in their teens Ruby felt she could best contribute to the household finances by resuming, if possible, her former occupation. It was a day of thankfulness and joy when her acceptance was received and she was officially appointed to her office, a position she has continued in to the present time.

The day prior to commencing her employment Alex once again was admitted to the Hanna Hospital and remained there six weeks. When Ruby took up her first pay cheque to show him, he wept, and remarked, "I'm the one who should be supporting you."

Hope entered the Seventh Day Adventist College later that year (she had been baby sitting during the summer for one of the Doctor's wives, who evidently got her interested in the college). The following year Fraser entered the same college and completed his education at that institution. For almost a year Ruby commuted from the farm to Hanna but it really was too long to leave Alex alone so in the fall of 1965 the farm was sold to Stanley Strandberg.

Alex was a very quiet man and it was only [illegible] the latter months of his life he revealed just how much he disliked living in Hanna and missed the farm. He always liked to take a run out at the weekends just to see the old home and surroundings.

The year prior to selling the farm, Dan Trefz rented the farm and after all expenses were paid the Wilson s got a thousand dollars, the most they had seen in many years. The Trefz' were real friends in need, coming up in the winter and taking the milk cows to their own farm, milking them for the Wilsons, and then bringing back milk. Dan Trefz sold his farm the following year and the remainder of our cows the same day and moved to B.C., otherwise the Wilson s would probably still be the owners.

Hope was married in 1966 and has a daughter, Coleen Michelle. Fraser [illegible] a bachelor and resides with his mother in Hanna.

In May and June of 1968 Alex and Ruby revisited their homeland, spending some time at the home where Alex was born, the school he attended as a lad, his church and his kindred. The weather was very kind, only one shower [illegible] the five weeks. Alex returned to Canada looking ten years younger; everyone remarking on the great change. The stewardess confided that she had not expected him on the return trip he had looked so frail when going over. At eighty-three he still was not grey-haired and often was taken for a much younger man.

[illegible] June 1971, after a long spell in hospital, Alex passed away and lies in Netherby Cemetery awaiting the coming of the Lord. He left to honor his memory his loving wife Ruby, Hope and Fraser, and one grandchild Coleen Michelle.

In retrospect, despite the many setbacks experienced, their lives on the farm were complete; in fact, the trials and tribulations became a source of strengthening of their faith and reliance on the Lord, and they could reiterate with assurance the old saying, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

SARAH and WILL WRIGHT'S STORY, as remembered by their daughter, Jessie Wright McMurchie and compiled by granddaughter Sarah McMurchie Brown — Sarah Jane West and William Wright were both born in 1853 in the village of Dundas [illegible] New Brunswick. They were married [illegible] October, 1882, continuing to live near Dundas where they farmed and cut out a home for themselves from the forest [illegible] which they lived. They had nine children, Edwin, Jim, Harry, Emily, Bill, Nelson, Jessie, George and Vernon, who died at the age of seven.

In 1906 their second son, Jim, came west and took land in Alberta near Castor. He did not prove up on it, but moved farther south and took up strip mining in the Garden Plain district.

In the spring of 1911 Jim sent back to New Brunswick for some of his family. Those who came were his father and mother, Sarah and Will Wright, his sisters Emily and Jessie, and his two younger brothers, Nelson and George.

Later Will Wright took over land at Garden Plain, the SW 32-34-13. Jim and Nelson also had land at Garden Plain and George had land near Sullivan Lake. All three boys lived at home until they married.

Back Row: Emily Wright, Jess Wright, H. Simon, William Wright Sr., George Wright. Front Row: Eva West, Mrs. H. Simon, Mrs. Wm. Wright Sr. and Mrs. George Wright.

In May, 1916, George married Elizabeth Cattanach. They had three sons, Bill, Lorne and Edwin, and three daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Georgean.

Nelson married Georgina Hilts in October, 1918. They had one son, Vernon, and a daughter, Wilma.

Jim was married in January, 1920, to Mabel Dawson. They had two sons, Jim and Norman, and two daughters, Audrey and Nona.

When the flu epidemic broke out in 1918, Emily returned to Moncton to nurse her brothers' families, and never returned to Alberta. She married Wylder Cudmore. They had five children and she died at Christmas of 1947 in Moncton.

Jessie Wright married a World War veteran in October, 1922. They were married at her folks' home at Garden Plain. It was a double celebration that day as it was her parents' fortieth wedding anniversary. After the wedding they moved directly to their new home north of Delia. They lived on the family farm until his death in 1961. Since that time she has lived [illegible] Delia, Calgary and Drumheller. Her four daughters, Sarah, Margaret, Jackie and Elizabeth have given her seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Wright returned [illegible] New Brunswick to live with their son Bill at Moncton. She died at Christmastime in 1932; he passed on in June of 1933.

GEORGE WRIGHT, ***By Margaret Wright Nelson*** — My dad, George Hugh Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, April 20, 1895. He came west with his parents and two sisters to Castor in 1911. His father. took a homestead on the SW ¼ 32-33-13 in June 1912. There the family moved and made Garden Plain their home. Dad took out a homestead SE 4-34-14 W4 on January 20, 1912, proved it up and continued to work and live at home. In 1916 Dad went into service in World War I. He was stationed in Calgary all during his stay in the army.

Elizabeth Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, on February 23, 1899. In 1910, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cattanach, their five daughters and one son sailed for Canada. They went to Calgary where they spent about two years, before coming [illegible] Garden Plain. In 1914 a post office was opened on the premises of [illegible]

Cattanach and Mother became Postmistress. I believe the post office was moved to Garden Plain store, west of there, in 1916.

In 1918 Mother and Dad married, and lived a few years with Dad's folks. [illegible] 1920 or 1921 Dad bought the James Manson place and started farming on his own. By this time he had acquired four mules. During the winter and off season he worked [illegible] the coal mines for Bryanton and [illegible] the last Cattanach mine. But this came to an end in the early twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wright — 50th anniversary May 11, 1968. Back Row: Lorne Wright, Edwin Wright, Doreen Rahill, Georgean Mohl. Front Row: [illegible]l Wright, Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, Margaret Nelson.

Crops were good, bad and indifferent during the roaring twenties as they were later called. Then came the tragic thirties. Poor crops, grasshoppers, wheat prices dropping to the twenty-two cent mark for some grades of wheat. Cattle prices about a cent a pound. I can remember Dad selling pail bunter calves for six to eight dollars apiece. During the early thirties things were worse. I can remember that it cost eight dollars for licenses for the 1926 Model T, just the price of one steer. Dad just couldn't afford to buy the license. [illegible] was driven illegally at times but not very often as one had to buy gas too. In 1935 we moved from the farm to Jim Wright's place. He had just sold his machinery at a farm sale and moved to Edmonton.

This additional land meant that more horses were needed. Dad had quite a few good horses by now. Jesse and Dick Roberts had a number of horses and dad would get horses from them and break them. By then it was in the very late thirties, and with the two older boys able to help, at least sixteen horses were used for two outfits.

As far back as the twenties Dad always had cattle. There were generally six to eight cows to milk twice a day most of the year. There were also chickens and turkeys to tend. In the early years Mother made butter and took it to Hanna and traded it at the old Stephens Store for groceries. Later on the cream was collected by the creamery truck from Hanna or Spondin.

It was a big winter job cutting ice for the ice house. If it wasn't cut and packed

properly it melted too fast in summer, and by early September when it was needed to keep meat for threshing it would be gone. There was a big difference in price between a five gallon can of special cream and one that had soured and Graded one or two. The ice helped keep the cream sweet. By 1950 power was put [illegible], and so ended the ice age.

The year 1929 saw the railway bed laid from Scapa to Hemaruka. In 1930 the steel followed and in 1930-31 the Pioneer Grain Company built an elevator [illegible] Garden Plain. This elevator was opened in August 1931. Mr. George Wilson was the first elevator agent. Dad had the first load of grain to go into the elevator. Bill, then only ten, proudly drove the team to the elevator, and had the honor of delivering the first load of wheat to the Pioneer Grain Company. Finally, the Great Depression was over. There were hardships, but we never suffered like some for which we were [illegible] grateful. The 1940's brought [illegible] gradual return to normal, although cattle prices in the forties were from ten to fifteen cents for fat steers.

The mid forties to mid fifties saw all the family marry and leave home. In 1961 Dad thought he and Mother should sell out and retire to Calgary. They enjoyed good health and happiness until 1969 when Dad's health started to fail. In 1970 they moved back to Hanna.

Mother and Dad celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 11, 1968 with all their children and grandchildren present. On June 21, 1972 after two years of poor health Dad passed away and was laid to rest in the Netherby Cemetery. Mother, in fair health resides in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. There were six children [illegible] the family. Margaret married Harry Nelson in 1945. Bill left the farm to work and went to the west coast. In 1953 he married Hazel Johnson [illegible] Vancouver. A few years later he moved [illegible] Gibson's, B.C. and has resided there ever since. They have two children Wayne and Heather.

Lorne worked [illegible] Hanna part time and in 1951 married Betty Marlowe. They have one daughter Lorna. They moved to Stettler in 1965 and still reside there where Lorne works for Wootton Tire Ltd.

Edwin left the farm at an early age and in 1947 moved to the west coast. He never returned home after that. He worked on the coast for a number of years before going to Arizona. He lives in Phoenix. He and Stella enjoy the Arizona climate especially in the winter.

Doreen married Bob Rehill [illegible] 1950 and has two sons, Ken and Jack both at home.

Georgean married Richard Mohl in 1953. Their oldest child Scott died in 1974. They and their two children Jeffery and Winona live in Hanna, where Richard [illegible] owner of Dick's Men's Wear.

JAMES EMERSON WRIGHT, By Mabel Dawson Wright — James Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, on November 28, 1883, the second oldest of a family of eight. At the age of twelve he left home to work in the Glace Bay Colliery and in 1903, left for the West. He worked in lumber camps and mines until 1906, when he took up a homestead near Castor. Later he and his partner, Ed Fortner, operated a mine near Saunders, Alberta.

Mabel Dawson was born in England in 1894. She came to Lethbridge [illegible] 1914 to visit her sister Ella and her husband William Thompson. When war broke out, Mabel moved with them to Calgary where she attended business school. Upon finishing her course, she worked in the Royal Bank and in 1918 was transferred to Castor.

James Wright and Mabel Dawson were married [illegible] January, 1920, and moved

to a farm at Garden Plain, the SW 6-34-13. James Wright also strip mined on this farm.

They had four children. James was born at the farm in November, 1920 and died in 1974. His wife, May, and daughter Moira, live in Edmonton. Norman was born [illegible] England in 1922 and lives in Edmonton with his mother, who is still enjoying good health. Audrey was born in 1925 and lives [illegible] Edmonton with her husband, Will Bowe, and their two daughters. Nona was born in 1926 and lives with her husband, Cecil White, at Peers. They have eight children, six from a previous marriage.

James Wright Family — Nona, Mable, James and Audrey.

Jim Wright farmed until 1935, when after repeated droughts, he sold out and moved to Mirror where he leased the Imperial Hotel for one year, with the option of buying. He found that the hotel business was not to his liking, so they moved to Jasper Place where he bought a garage and store from [illegible]. A. Gas and Oil Company. Jim was happy with this business and continued to work at the garage up to his death on March 21, 1963.

Donald Cattanach — taken in Peace River area.

DONALD CATTANACH, By Margaret Nelson — My uncle, Donald Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, October 5, 1885. At the age [illegible] 21 he decided to come to Canada. He left Glasgow March 9, 1907 and 13 days later landed [illegible] St. John. Heading west, [illegible] worked in Winnipeg, North Battleford, Calgary and Langdon, where he met his brother Alick and friends, Jack Campbell and Jim Adams.

In 1908 he filed on his homestead on SW 6-34-13 and in January 1909, with a team and wagon and six month's provisions, landed on the homestead.

In 1910 Walter's Store with Mr. and Mrs. French as storekeepers, opened one-half mile west. He used [illegible] go and help them look after the store every Sunday. On Christmas Day of 1910 Mr. and Mrs. French cooked dinner for all the bachelors of the area. About twenty were there.

In the spring of 1910 he went to Calgary and worked on the First Street Subway. He came back to the homestead in the fall. Hugh McRae rented the twenty acres which was broke and there was a good crop of oats. That year he also built a twelve by sixteen shack.

In 1911 coal was found just south of the present house, on SW [illegible]. By 1913 R.

Livingstone, Donald Campbell and Donald Callanach had a mine operation. They rented it to Mr. Unsworth. Shortly afterward it caved in.

In 1913 the first wheat grown was on thirty acres of new breaking. Fred Saar threshed [redacted]. It had been stacked and after threshing it heated and spoiled. He said, "I even took it out of the bin and put it on ice on the slough, but it still spoiled." About this time Donald proved up on his pre-emption and sold [redacted] Kane.

From 1913 till 1919, he worked in Stettler during the winters, helping Mr. Davidson look after the bulls he consigned to sales in Calgary and Kamloops.

[redacted] 1920 he sold to Jim Wright. He put in the crop for him that spring, and ended his homestead days in Garden Plain. In 1921 he moved to Fleet, Alberta and in 1929 to the Peace River area.

In the fall of 1965 he came to spend the winter with his relatives at Garden Plain. In late January he became [redacted] and passed away in Hanna General Hospital on February 4, 1966 at the age of 80 years. He was buried in the family plot [redacted] Netherby.

Alick McLean — mixing mortar for Harry Nelson — 1945.

ALEXANDER M. McLEAN, By Margaret Nelson — Alexander [redacted]. McLean was born in Nairn, Scotland on March 6, 1876. As a young man he learned the stone mason trade. He enlisted his services in the Boer War, and upon returning home decided to come to Canada.

[redacted] 1906 he left Scotland, on arriving in Canada he headed west. He spent some time [redacted] the North Battleford area, with homesteading in mind, before deciding to go farther west. He went to Calgary where he obtained work and in 1908 met his brother Donald, Jack Campbell, a friend from Scotland, and Jack's partner, Jim Adams. All filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain area in 1908, Alick's being NW 6-34-13.

In the fall of 1908 John Grove and Bud Hackett built a sod house and barn for him, and later that year he moved to the homestead for good. He proved up on his land and took a pre-emption across the road, NE 1-34-14.

Brother Donald, who homesteaded the next quarter, needed help with his homestead duties, so Alick lent a helping hand whenever possible. When homes or schools needed brick chimneys he always built them. This he did until into the late forties.

Alick lived a very quiet life, by himself in [redacted] one room shack. During the depression years times were hard, but in 1946 he got his Old Age Pension and lived much better.

He passed away in the Hanna General Hospital after a brief illness, at the age of 85 years on March 10, 1961. Burial was in the Netherby Cemetery.

GEORGE MATTEY — I was born in England, came to Canada in July of 1906, and after working [redacted] various jobs in Manitoba, I joined my brother, Fred Mattey, on his homestead in the Lauderdale district in the fall of 1907. My first job in Alberta was keeping the straw away from a twelve-horse threshing machine.

In the spring of 1909 my brother and I took up land [redacted] what is now the

Netherby district, one mile south of where the schoolhouse was later built. My brother broke forty acres with oxen; he plowed through the full mile, making twenty acres on his land and twenty on mine. Meanwhile I picked rocks, built a lumber shack on my place, and a sod barn on his. Later on in the summer we put up hay, using oxen for power. That fall a big prairie fire swept through the country; Fred and I were away harvesting at the time. Our hay was burned, and Fred's barn, but thanks to the neighbors my shack was saved.

That winter I worked for George Rutherford north of Castor, and the next spring he loaned me the money to buy a team of horses. We seeded the breaking to oats, broke more land and put up hay. As it had been a dry year the crop was very short, and we cut it with a mower with a sacker attached to the cutter bar to catch the heads. The job was hardly worth doing. That fall I sold the team, Fred and Bones, to J.W. Taylor, and spent the winter with the Rutherfords.

The next spring I bought a team of oxen and seeded our breaking to oats. As Fred did not come [illegible] the homestead that spring, I made a deal with a young fellow to put his oxen with mine to do more breaking. I hardly got started when one of my oxen died, so that stopped the breaking. I traded my remaining ox to Chic Wickson in return for him working the land, and started to work for William Goldsbury. One Sunday afternoon Charlie Blaney, who lived on the same section as Goldsburys, and I walked over to my place. While we were there a hail storm struck. We sheltered in my shack but the hail smashed the west window and came through the roof. Charlie crept under the bed. The oats were too badly hailed to be worth threshing and I sold the stack [illegible] bundles two years later.

In 1912 I seeded to oats, and summerfallowed the twenty acres of old land. I used Goldsbury's outfit to do my field work, giving them three days' work for each day I used the outfit. That fall I threshed with the Fred Sear outfit, which charged eight cents a bushel for threshing. Crops were good but there was no real market for the oats. I had worked [illegible] summer for Goldsbury, but didn't ask for wages, as I knew that blood doesn't run from stones. Mrs. Goldsbury's mother, Mrs. Pyle, loaned me money [illegible] pay my thresh bill.

That fall I took two loads of Goldsbury's wheat to Castor. There were no grain elevators in those days, but some townspeople bought and shipped wheat. When I got there the buyers' bins were full. I stayed the night and in the morning I phoned the dealer at Halkirk. He said he had room, so I headed for there, but when I arrived I learned that he had filled his bin while I was on the road. I left the wheat in a bin on Goldsbury's homestead three miles east of Halkirk, and headed for home. Later that winter I boarded up the end of a stall [illegible] the livery barn and carried a load of wheat into it with pails, because the buyers had no room.

The following spring I sold most of my oats to James Burns for about fifteen cents a bushel. After seeding I went north of Castor to work, and in the spring [illegible] 1914 bought a team and went back to the homestead. I did summerfallowing and breaking, and dug some wells for neighbors. There was a good crop in 1915 and the price was good, but there was a shortage of elevator room. J.R. Willett and I built a bin in Hanna and hauled into it. When elevator room became available [illegible] the spring we moved the grain from the bin to the elevator

There was a good growing season in 1916, but after an August hail storm, my wheat was not worth cutting. I did some plowing for Jim Manson, and later worked for the Johnston threshing outfit. The water tank driver quit and I took over his job. We were still threshing in February, and the weather was too cold for a pump, so I used a long-handled ladle. By night I was covered with ice which made music when I moved and which could be heard for a considerable distance.

By 1917 I had progressed to four horses, the crop was fair and the price

good. In 1918 it was very dry, with frost in July. The crop was a complete failure. In 1919 I had a fair crop and hauled my wheat and some oats to the Bonar elevator. In January 1920 I sold the homestead to Len Taylor through the Soldier Settlement Board.

This ended my homesteading experience.

KEN and ANNIE BRYANTON, By Fred Johnston — Ken Bryanton was born in Prince Edward Island in 1861; Annie was born 1867. Both had gone to the state of Maine to seek employment, and there they met and were married in 1893. They lived in Maine until 1909 when they came to Alberta to homestead on the NE 15-33-13.

He soon had a strip mine in operation on his homestead, and he and Annie milked cows. One should say that Annie milked cows. Ken was much troubled by rheumatism. One time when my dad was visiting there when Ken was recuperating from a bout of rheumatism, Ken held up his claw-like hands and said, "And how can you milk with hands like these?"

Annie replied, "I would get down on my hands and knees and suck them."

They were childless, and liked dogs. They had one intelligent dog, Fanny, who was trained to bring the cows in from the pasture.

Ken belonged to the old U.F.A. and was a threshing syndicate member. He died in hospital in Hanna in 1926, aged sixty-five, and was interred in Netherby cemetery.

Annie was in hospital at the same time. Shortly afterward she had a sale and disposed of the farm to Eric Small. She kept house for Billy Hoodless until about 1928 when she went east and was house mother at a young ladies' finishing school, in New York. She retired to the home of her nephew and his wife in New Brunswick. She died in April, 1961, soon after her ninety-fourth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Jensen 1908.

PETER VALDEMAR JENSEN, By Helen Jensen Merthey — Peter Valdemar Jensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1881. He worked as a grocery boy for a couple of summers and went to sea at age thirteen, sailing on German and Danish merchant ships to New York and as far south as Central America. He worked in iron mines in Michigan and Minnesota about 1906. Then he worked building dams in Montana and Washington. He married Anna Carlson in February 1908. Mrs. Jensen said they changed their place of residence seventeen times in the first year of their marriage as Pete changed from one place of employment to another. Daughter Helen was born on December eighteenth.

When his friend, Tom Ryan, drove from Spokane to Bassano, Alberta, Pete ventured with him. In the autumn of 1910, he went by train from Spokane to Castor, and walked to look around the country to the south. He filed on a homestead thirty miles south of Castor and made the acquaintance of Judd, Charley and Arley Doran, who kept a stopping-house. In the spring of 1911 Pete loaded his wagon with tools and household goods and drove north from Spokane.

[illegible] June, Anna and child went by train to Castor and travelled to Dorans by stage-wagon (not coach), and stayed [illegible] Dorans' six weeks waiting for Pete.

Meanwhile Pete pressed on with team and wagon. When he crossed the Old Man River near Pincher Creek his wagon almost hung up on a rock as he forded, and he feared that his goods would be swept away into the deeper water. An Indian woman had told him, "Stay [illegible] rough water, still water deep."

After Pete camped that night a hailstorm struck. One of his hobbled mares broke her leg. Pete walked to an R.N.W.M.P. Station at Fort MacLeod and got a revolver. He walked back, killed the mare, returned the revolver and went back to bury the mare. Then he hitched the other mare to the wagon and he himself supported the neck-yoke on the other side. In this way he went for about ten miles. He tried to buy a horse from an Indian woman, and while he waited for her husband to return, he ate his noon meal. Then the Indian woman said she would not sell the horse (because it was "Loco") to a poor honest man.

So Pete went on carrying the neck-yoke. After he had camped, a man named Brigham with an English remittance man for a cook, drove up with his horse and buggy and took Pete [illegible] his homestead shack. In the morning they hitched his stallion to the buggy, and hitched his mare with Pete's mare and drove the wagon to the homestead. Pete stayed for about three weeks framing some buildings and doing other handyman jobs. Then he traded his good set of harness for a not-so-good set and a mare, and travelled to Dorans' and to the homestead north along the Castor Trail.

There a sod house and canvas gave shelter to the family and Pete followed a walking plow to get some fields ready for planting. He worked out at times building, butchering and plowing. Pete hauled some sawed lumber from Stettler, and built a room beside the sod structure.

There, on February thirteenth, 1912, when the prairie was a trackless waste of snow, the first son Walter was born and tended with the help of good neighbors.

I can remember that when Dad went to the shelter he had built for the horses in the side of the cutbank below the sod shack, he sometimes came back with two eggs from the two hens that shared the barn shelter. I think we sometimes got milk from Ken and Annie Bryanton, good neighbors a half mile away. That winter we ran short of flour. Either Bryantons or bachelor neighbor Jim Manson had given Dad a gunny-sack of "chicken-feed", (screenings from the threshed wheat), as pay for some repair jobs, and I can remember Dad and Mother picking out the best grains of wheat and grinding them in the coffee-mill to make biscuits. As winter roads opened again I expect that flour came from Castor by stage-sleigh.

In the summer Dad was working for W.O. Stevenson of Richdale. While baby Walter slept, Mom would hitch our ox Tom to the stoneboat with a barrel on it and haul water from a well in the cutbanks a half mile away. By the time the barrel was hauled home, half its contents had splashed out.

Later, while Dad broke more ground on the homestead quarter, Mom kept house and tended three W.O. Stevenson children so they could attend school near Richdale. Walter and I found the older children stimulating company. One day they held a dead bull snake over a stick, calling to Mom, who was much shaken by the incident, to come to the window [illegible] "see". When they told how the snake had swallowed all her young ones to protect them, the incident became an indelible impression. I can still see in memory the arrival of W.O. in the black leather-upholstered buggy, wielding the long black driving whip, urging his high-stepping team in fancy harness and net covering.

The family spent the next winter in charge of the stopping-house while the Dorans were away. I remember so well a green pine tree brought from Castor for

Christmas and placed in a stand my father fashioned. We had been told that Santa wouldn't come until after we had gone [illegible] bed. We woke in grey dawn to view the tree laden with candles and strings of popcorn, and red netted bags filled with homemade turkish delight, seafoam, fudge and peanut brittle; a lovely doll with eyes that opened and closed; a warm wooly toque for my head. How long had Santa been gone? I ran to the door [illegible] my long nightgown, hoping to catch a glimpse of that elusive Santa and his reindeer but alas! all I could see were travellers leaving the stopping-house heading their horse-drawn sleighs down the snowy trail.

One morning, to try to keep Walter quiet, I let him shake pennies out of my iron bank. His face looked so crinkled when he swallowed one. It hurt his throat and I cried out in concern for Mom's attention. Then the vigil of the next twenty-four hours to see that the penny was passed, lest gangrene take the life of my loved brother.

Later Pete took a pre-emption quarter of land, still searching and digging for a supply of water. He found a flow of water, finished the well and cribbed it; soon he dug [illegible] cellar and hauled lumber and built a house and [illegible] privy, adding later a barn for cows and horses and a coop for chickens. By this time lumber and other necessities could be hauled about twenty miles from the new town of Hanna that sprang up in 1912 when the C.N.R. came through.

The J.W. Taylors north-east of us lived in a large two-storey house painted green. Mrs. Winnifred Taylor was the trained nurse who came pioneering with her husband James. She had assisted at the birth of my brother Walter. The winter of 1914-15 our family wintered [illegible] the Taylor farm while they spent the season at Victoria, B.C. All my early life was enriched by that winter's use of their gramaphone's musical records, among them "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and Harry Lauder vocals, also by a library that gave me the joy of "Little Tom, the Water Baby," "Black Beauty" and other books.

One day Walter decided to meet me walking home from school. While Mom and neighbors searched for the missing child, wondering if he had fallen into one of the deeper muddy holes in the meandering creek he arrived [illegible] a spot where Chris Lohrmann was getting the steam engine and grain seperator ready for harvest. Mosquitoes were constant irritants. Chris spoke with the little fellow. Yes, his name was Walter, but Walter who? Whose boy was he? "Mama's boy", he repeated, as he playfully answered so many times. Dad soon came to rescue him and calm the frightened women.

Walter started to accompany me to school before he was five years old. The winding trail took us past the Allan Taylor family home or, if we preferred, past the Durnington place. On a rise of the ground were many horned eyeless skulls of buffalo. Thunderstorms that shook the firmament were sometimes frightening in mid-afternoon, mosquitoes so troublesome that bags of green net hung from wide hat brims to ankles. Like the farm animals one sought relief with smoke from smudges, especially [illegible] the evenings.

Teacher MacDonald was replaced [illegible] mid-summer by a Mr. Eagan who took over a living area [illegible] what had been [illegible] small coal-shed at the back of the school. At noon hour, while Mr. Eagan was absent, an adventurous older pupil went into the coal-shed and brought a package of dates to the play area. When school resumed Mr. Eagan told all who had eaten dates to stand up. He had paid Mr. MacDonald twenty cents good money for those dates, so most of the pupils including myself were lined up and strapped on the hands. That was shame enough, for some of us had not known that the dates were stolen, but [illegible] add more shame, that big May English stood there on the platform and wet her clothes and made a puddle on the wooden floor. By later newspaper accounts Mr. Eagen did become rather notorious.

I remember being sent on errands to the home of old Mrs. Wylie who kept house for her son Charles, and trying to understand her Scottish speech. Or welcoming Mr. Israelson who was from a different part of Sweden from our Mother's Vermland, and sang his words, his eyes twinkling at our joy when he brought five sticks of gum wrapped in a felt flag of one of the world's countries. These flags, postcard size, made beautiful cushion tops. Sometimes Marie Bartsch, who tended Tom Kane's Garden Plain country store and post office near Kane's coal-mine, sent the gum with our grocery order, a loved treat, the gum wads saved in strange places, usually inside the kitchen cupboard, and lamented when Mom decided it was time to throw them in the fire. Later the flag wrapping gave way to smaller silken flower-bedecked pieces.

Winter gave Dad time to mend harness and make our wooden toys: wagons, sleds, blocks, derricks of wood and string and wire, wheelbarrows, rocking chairs of swan or rabbit designs. Empty thread spools made wheels and spinning tops. I used to marvel how our Dad knew so much; and how Mom could make a tasty meal of so little; how she could fashion dresses, jumper skirts, aprons, even under-garments from flour and sugar sacks bleached, dyed and trimmed with lace or embroidery or hemstitching.

The land of the homestead and pre-emption was not productive, and in a few years, Dad bought a quarter of land from Tommy McCafferty, who was moving away. Our household goods were loaded on the hayrack and arranged in the new home. Cows, calves, pigs, chickens and dog were moved, and our pleasure was real that we acquired a buckskin pony with black mane and tail along with the farm. Buck was patient with us and carried us three and a half miles to Netherby School. He was a shrewd old cow-pony who herded strays so well that his sudden turns and dodges sometimes dumped us on the prairie. One time I lay very still and Buck came to nuzzle me, so he was more easily caught that time. We couldn't always jump up bareback without the help of a fence-wire or a burn-out.

It may have been the autumn of 1920 that we noticed from the schoolyard that our house in the distance was burning. Such a feeling of disbelief and foreboding! Walter and I rode to Bryantons where we found Mama and Laura and baby Russell safe, sheltered and comforted by dear Annie Bryanton, Ken having gone with other neighbors to help Dad keep the fire from other buildings. Dad and Mom had been digging and storing potatoes. The Home Comfort range sat squarely on the kitchen floor, and later Mom remembered that she had emptied the ashes that morning and probably hot coals falling from the grate had caused the wooden floor boards to ignite. Anyhow, when Mom and Dad looked up, smoke was coming from under the eaves, and as Dad broke the bedroom window to pull out Mom's trunk and articles of bedding, other windows blew out from the heat and all else was lost.

The neighbors were wonderfully kind. We cleaned the small blacksmith shop for a temporary shelter and were glad [illegible] move into a new clean twelve by sixteen foot building, using a granary in summer for extra space. Our home-site was moved to a hill [illegible] the centre of the quarter, where Dad had found an excellent supply of good well water. We planted caragana hedges and a big garden. After two years we were able to move into the downstairs of our new house built over a full cement basement, and in time, the stairs were built and the four upstairs bedrooms were ready for occupancy.

The move to Netherby School gave us good teachers: Mr. Fredericks, Mrs. Johnson, Miss O'Lacey, Miss Shufflebarger and Mrs. Ellen Grimes. That dear lady saw me through grade eight departmental exams, ready at thirteen years of age to go to work for my room and board at Harry Bertman's in Hanna where I took grade nine.

I can recall clear moonlight nights, the snow sparkling with millions [illegible] diamond lights as we walked or drove with team and sleigh to visit a neighbor or attend a social or dance. Sometimes [illegible] the week before Christmas holidays one could attend a concert each night in the surrounding schoolhouses. Card parties and dances in winter months often went on until daybreak, and morning chores would be completed before taking a few hours' rest.

Firing the kitchen range and heater was steady and the tank heater keeping the water for the stock from freezing should not be neglected. In all the winters on the prairies we never failed to feed, water, clean barns, bed down and sometimes "doctor" our stock, besides harnessing and saddling and the reverse, but the knowledge that there were people who did not go to the barn during a three-day blizzard has always wrung my heart's blood, thinking of animal suffering.

The Bryantons could not recover three turkeys when one blizzard struck. Imagine the shocked surprise and delight three weeks later of seeing the turkeys come out from under a melting snowdrift! Springtime! crocuses! birdsongs! buttercups! shooting stars! wading [illegible] the sloughs! tadpoles! making yards of chains from sloughgrass! discovering a patch of wild strawberries or a bush laden with ripening saskatoon berries or tart gooseberries!

First of July picnic and sports day! Dad had helped to build the community hall and barn and outhouses, the booth for refreshments, the swings and teeter-totters, even a merry-go-round propelled by willing feet, the chutes for the bucking horses, a smooth stretch of ground for foot races, three-legged, wheelbarrow, thread and needle and egg race.

A growing child looked for two outfits of clothing a year, one for Christmas and one for the first of July. I remember laying out outfits for the family in readiness for dressing up after all chores were tended and the picnic lunch basket filled with salads, sandwiches, pies and other goodies, fearing that the cows might get through the fence into the cropped field, or that the horses coming in off the range would break down the gate and drink the farm trough dry (filling that huge tank was labor on the pump-handle, but better than pail and rope), fearing that someone might need to stay with a sick animal and spoil the family outing! Sudden wind and rainstorm! Hurrying home to clucking hens hovering over drowned chicks, or worse still, hailed crops and gardens, broken windows and leaking roofs. Yet we survived as a family as did most of our neighbors. Sometimes we could attend church or Sunday school and [illegible] to the neighbor's for Sunday supper or have neighbors come to us.

Dad used to say that the section of land 15-33-13 of which his quarter was a part, was the only one around that supported four families: Bryantons, Wagners, Jim Manson and McCaffertys. Later the four families were Eric Smalls, George Wrights, Pete Jansens and Vieges.

To the Jensens five more sons and daughters were born before the family moved to Langley, B.C. Laura [illegible] 1916, Russell in 1918, Donald [illegible] 1920, Betty in 1923 and Leona in 1930.

An interesting follow-up was that in the spring of 1934 when Pete and sons, Walter and Russell left the dry Alberta farms and drove in an old car to settle in the Langley area near Vancouver, they had supper in MacLeod and an old man approached Pete and said, "I never forget a face. Where did we meet before?" Conversation brought out that he was the officer, since retired, who had loaned Pete a revolver in 1911.

Another interesting note is that Pete's naturalization papers are marked "duplicate, original lost through enemy action at sea, British Merchant Navy, 1940."

Pete sits in the sun with Tina, his second wife, in a cozy home and garden at Mazatlan on the west coast of Mexico, ninety-five years at this time of writing, May 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. George Standing Sr., Vera and George Jr. - - 1914.

GEORGE C. STANDING SR. — George was born in Cape Town, South Africa, August 23, 1882. His parents moved back to London, England when he was six months old. His father was a tailor by trade. His mother died when he was only eleven years old. He had four sisters, Edith, Vera, Mae and a baby sister who died and one brother, Ernie.

As a young man he went to work as an apprentice for his uncle in a butcher shop and learned that trade. One day in 1907, he and his brother Ernie decided to travel across the ocean.

They both worked and helped build a church in Saskatoon. When that job was finished they travelled west across Alberta, British Columbia, then down to Spokane, Washington, where they worked building churches and also in the harvest fields.

They went back to London, England, but didn't stay very long and returned to Calgary looking for land. While there they met someone who told them to go to Stettler as there was homestead land available there. They left by train but on the train they met another man who said to drop off at Carstairs, as there was land for sale but not homestead land.

They found a section of unbroken land which was to their satisfaction six and a half miles northeast of Carstairs. With financial help from their father in England, they were able to buy this land. They hired a steam breaking outfit to break six hundred acres the first summer. The crop was very good, the first on the new land.

In the fall of 1909 George married Roselina Mathews, an English girl from Bath. They had met on the boat as she was going to Yorkton to visit her aunt and he was on his way to Alberta. They had corresponded and he asked her to come to Alberta before she returned to England. They were married in Crossfield and settled on the farm at Carstairs. They had two children, a boy George in 1910 and a girl Vera in 1912.

World War I was declared in 1914, so they sold everything and he joined the forces in Calgary and went overseas, where his wife and two children joined him. He was wounded on Vimy Ridge in 1917. When he recovered they returned to Calgary. He worked in a garage for a while but soon got a job with the Soldiers Settlement Board as a land inspector. On one of his land inspecting trips he saw land in the Fertility district which was for sale. It seemed satisfactory to him and there was also a half section for his brother Ernie. The location of the land, northeast 16-33-13, the former Willet homestead, was also known as a stopping

place between Castor and Youngstown. His brother, Ernie, got the south half of 16-33-13, the Fred Mattle homestead. George Sr., his eight year old son George Jr., and Uncle Ernie came to these farms in May 1919. They batched on the farm until the fall of 1919 when his wife Rose and daughter Vera sold their home in Calgary and joined them on the farm. Their second daughter, Evelyn, was born on the farm in November, 1919.

There were good years and there were bad years in the early twenties. In the fall 1923-24 and 1924-25 they moved into Hanna and worked on the C.N.R. but always moved back to the farm in the Spring. The year 1927 was a very good year until a very bad hailstorm, the worst they had ever seen, destroyed their good crop. In 1928 there was another good crop but it froze. Their second son, Roderick, was born in 1928. The years 1919 to 1928 they hauled their grain by team and wagon to the Bonar elevator fifteen miles away, and to Hanna nineteen miles. They also hauled to Scapa twelve and a half miles away. During those years the price of grain was on the open market, which resulted in it fluctuating between $2.30 and $.19 a bushel.

Their oldest son, George Jr., was married to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma in 1939 and settled on his own farm, the east half of 15-33-13. Vera married Harvey Hancock, an R.C.M.P., [illegible] Calgary in 1941. They have a daughter, Heather, and are living in Ottawa. Evelyn married Leslie Swan in 1950. They have three children. Their home is in Regina. Roderick married Eileen Andrus from Pollockville in 1955. They have three children. Their home is on the family farm at Garden Plain.

In 1962 George and Rose retired to Hanna, but his happiness and thoughts were still on the farm. He passed away January 1, 1964. Rose is still living in their home [illegible] Hanna and enjoying good health. She walks down town most days and loves to travel.

GEORGE C. STANDING, JR. — We came to Hanna by train in May, 1919, and stayed over night in town. When my uncle bought the farm, he also purchased a team and democrat formerly owned by Fred Mattle. When Fred went to Calgary, he left the team [illegible] town so father, uncle Ernie and myself could drive out to the farm [illegible] the Fertility District, the south half of 16-33-13. I was only eight years old and lived with my father and uncle Ernie on his farm for the summer, as the Willets were still living [illegible] the house that my father purchased and the crops were just being seeded. The land wasn't all broke so they got busy and broke more land, while I spent time with the Willet family. The boy's name was Boyd and the girl's Roberta and on Sundays we went to Sunday School taught by Mrs. S. Herring in the Netherby school. Mother and sister Vera came [illegible] October and we moved [illegible] the Willet farm.

In the fall I started to attend school in Netherby; my teachers' names were Miss Hunt, Miss Green, Miss O'Lacey, Mr. Robert Wallace, Mrs. S. Grimes, Miss Gettas and Mr. George Smith. We spent two winters in Hanna so I went to school there in 1923-24 and 1924-25. The teachers I had were Miss Venus, who married Dr. Baxendale, and Miss Foot. I quit school in 1927 as my folks' crop was hailed. I went to work in the harvest field for Alex Richards in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Lake Thelma district too. Later in the fall I went threshing [illegible] the Centre Point district with Neville Thomas and Giltner threshing outfits. In the spring of 1928 I went to work for George Mattle in the Grassy Slope district, the farm now is owned by Fred Fecho. The wages in 1928 were $50.00 a month and two years later only $20.00 a month. I worked long hours and with horses. Then for a few years I worked at home with my father. I worked for Ironsides for over a year and then decided I would purchase land and start my career in farming.

In the spring of 1933 I leased the northeast of 9-33-13 and seeded my first crop and my only return was the seed. In 1934 I seeded ninety acres of back setting and got only five hundred bushels as the grasshoppers were so bad. That fall I sold a straw stack to John Corry for ten dollars and another straw stack traded [illegible] Theodore Ekelund for a yearling heifer and one dollar. I then jumped the freight train at Scapa and travelled north of Edmonton. It was too wet up there so came back to Camrose and walked back to Ohaton to our friends. Two days later I got a job shovelling wheat in flat bins [illegible] an elevator for Jim Mobler, the top wages were twenty-five cents an hour. I stayed there for two weeks and then went to work for his brother at Strome for the rest of the fall and all winter for twenty dollars [illegible] month.

Mr. and Mrs. George Standing Jr., Janet and George Arthur — 1947

When spring came I returned to my folks and went to a farm sale at Chester Bartman's in the Scapa district and invested my money in four cows and two calves for $66.50. I then had five cows and two calves and four horses to start farming. I seeded a crop in 1935 which yielded very well. In 1936 it was not so good. In the fall of 1936 I worked in the coal mines for Mr. Russel Hemstock in the Dundee district. In 1937 I had not a very good crop but in 1938 and 1939 had very good crops. In the spring of 1938 I bought the east half of 15-33-13. It had only eighty-five acres broke on it so I broke more as the years went by.

In the years that I was growing up there were church services at the school, stampedes at Garden Plain on July first and there were school picnics in most districts. We went and took an active part in playing ball, playing horseshoe, racing horses and at night there were the dances that lasted until early hours of the morning. In the winter time there were card parties, dances and house parties. We played hockey on the sloughs and trapped weasels and badgers for spending money.

I got married on November 11, 1939 to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma district and we lived on my farm.

The mail was delivered from Scapa post office on the mail route by Mr. Bottomley twice a week. Our grocery supplies were bought mostly at Garden Plain

store, managed for many years by Mr. J.W. Taylor. We milked cows so we would take the cream to the Spondin Creamery which was managed by Mr. Rasmussen. There was also a store there so we could get some supplies from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henrikson. The town for business was Hanna and I guess still is.

During the Second World War the ladies formed the Dundee Red Cross. They were busy knitting articles, wrapping food parcels for the boys overseas, and also made warm quilts for the Red Cross.

In the fall of 1940 a son, George Arthur, was born and in 1943 a daughter, Janet Arlene, was born.

I farmed with horses until the fall of 1944 when I purchased a John Deere A-R tractor at a farm sale. The following year I bought a combine. I was hailed out in 1944-45 and 1949, also in 1960. They were real bad hailstorms, but having cattle and doing mixed farming enabled us to survive on the farm.

When the children started school it was so far to Netherby so in 1948 we decided to buy the farm that was formerly owned by Theodore Ekelund, the east half of 4-34-13. The children then had only one mile to go to Buchan school. In a few years the schools were centralized so then the children were all transported by bus to Netherby; then a few years later to Hanna school. They both graduated from grade twelve. George Arthur then attended Olds College and decided to farm with me. He married Elizabeth Berthot from Big Valley and they have three sons and are living in their own home with us on our farm. Janet attended business college in Calgary. She married Ronald Thumlert from Castor and they have two children. They are presently living in Sherwood Park.

There were many good years and many bad years on the farm but I still enjoy the life.

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Standing, Roger, Charlotte and Greg.

RODERICK STANDING — I was born in the Hanna Hospital, December [redacted], 1928. I went to school at Netherby from 1934-45 with the exception of two months when I attended Buchan, because there was no teacher for Netherby. The winters of 1937 and 1938 my parents and I lived in Calgary, coming back to the farm in the spring. I attended Hanna High school for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47.

When I quit school I returned to the farm and worked with my dad. In 1955 I married Eileen Andrus of Finnegan district. In 1957 I started driving the school bus to the Netherby school. In 1963 Netherby was closed and I started driving into Hanna.

In 1962 mom and dad retired to Hanna and I took over the farm. We have three children, Roger born September 29, 1956; Charlotte born December 12, 1957; and Gregory born August 30, 1960.

MR. and MRS. E. J. STANDING, By Margaret Currie Standing — Ernest Jesse Standing was born in London, England, in 1883. He fought in the Boer and First World Wars where he became a sergeant. After the First World War he

Ernie Standing

worked for a short time as an appraiser for the Soldier Settlement Board. When [illegible] saw the present Standing farm, the south half of 16-33-13, he decided that this was the time and place [illegible] settle. He bought the farm from Fred Mattey and settled there in 1919. He resided on the farm until his death in 1961.

Margaret Gill Currie was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1895. Her mother died in 1902, leaving three children, including a ten-week-old baby. An aunt cared for the children for several years, and in 1912 Margaret, her sister Dorothy, and her aunt went to Calgary where another aunt was teaching school. Margaret completed her High School there and attended Normal School. In 1925 she taught the North Berry Creek school, and there she met and later married Ernest Jesse Standing.

My travelling to open that school in North Berry Creek was by horse and sleigh. As was commonly done in those days, I was delivered to my boarding place by the mailman on his rural route. Schools were social centres. Picnics, dances, local orchestras held sway here. The July First Dominion Day event was particularly of interest, well attended and enjoyed by all. Outdoor sports such as ball games, races and children's games, were followed by a dance at night, with lunches and snacks throughout the day. The school also had church services, Sunday school, and at times there were interesting evenings of lantern slides. The cemetery adjoins Netherby school yard, so funeral services were also held in the school.

We managed for several years with horses . . . work horses for the fields, and a team for road trips. In winter the roads, new and none too easy for travel, became impassable after heavy snow storms and blizzards left drifts. For fourteen consecutive years we were never in the town of Hanna. We got groceries and supplies at Jim Taylor's store at Garden Plain, or at Scapa.

As time went on, farms became more and more mechanized. No more sounds of hoofs or wagon wheels; the roads were much improved, and the snow plow kept them open. Tractors, wider discs and drills, swather and baler, the all-important combine . . . all made the farmers' work easier, as did also different sizes of trucks for everyday use and for hauling and shipping grain and cattle. To all this is added the family car, snowmobiles, skidoos, skis and airplanes for both work and pleasure.

Mechanization didn't stop outside. The home now has telephone, washing machine and dryer, color televisions, gas range and furnace and hot water heater, replacing the wash tub and scrubbing board, the wood and coal stoves and heaters, and there are no more coal or gas lanterns or lamps.

The Standing farm has been described as one of the prettiest in Alberta, having four brushpiles gloriously green in spring, and picturesque with color in autumn, and a slough of considerable size, both of which are aids in raising cattle.

We shared lease land for cattle raising with the neighbors, the water supply on the lease being a part of the slough, with a natural spring supplying water if the slough should dry up. This year is my fifty-first in the Netherby area, and only twice in that time did we have drought disaster, by which [illegible] meant no crop to harvest.

As for family life, my daughter Margaret, known as Peggy, married Ernie Matthews and lives in Bowness. Her two sons are both in the services, Donald in the Air Force and Brian in the Navy. My son, Jess Standing, is married and has five children. Their oldest daughter made me a great grandmother in 1974. My older son, Tom, died a diabetic in 1967. He had three children.

Margaret Standing is still living on the farm which is operated by her son Jess, and is very active.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS, By P.S. Herring — My parents, Annie and Sid Herring, were born and raised in New Westminster, B.C. After dad had cleared two farms, one on Lulu Island and then one in Pitt Meadows, he had his fill of removing large stumps, and in 1917 bought a farm near Fertility post office. My mother and two sisters, Nan and Frances, moved with dad to this farm where they planned to raise horses, cattle and grain. It seemed like an ideal area for this purpose, no trees to clear before plowing, and a large expanse of range ideal for grazing.

When the army was mechanized and stopped buying horses, the price for them went down, but dad had established a herd of purebred Angus cattle, and we managed to survive and educate the family.

Stephen Herring, Mr. and Mrs. Herring and Blythe Herring.

I was born at Castor simply because dad couldn't leave the farm at that time and the mail came from Castor. Dad arranged for mother to ride to Castor with the mailman who took her to the Castor hospital. I arrived a few days later during a blinding blizzard. My two brothers, Stephen and Blythe, were born in Hanna a few years later and did not get to ride to town with the mailman.

The arrival of the mail was always a big event. Fertility post office was in the kitchen of Mr. and Mrs. Crabb. One of my earliest recollections is that of waiting in the Crabb kitchen, along with all the neighbors, for the mail to be sorted and handed out. When a post office was established at Scapa, we received mail delivery to our own mail box twice a week. In the winter time I recall the mailman using a team and a covered sleigh which was fitted out like a miniature post office itself, it even had a little heater in it.

The party line telephone was a great convenience. The wires were properly strung on telephone poles rather than using the barbed wire fence, and I seldom remember when it was out of order. If the lines did cross in a storm, someone usually spotted the trouble and untangled the wires. Our telephone number was 714 and our ring was one long and four shorts.

I spent a good portion of my childhood summers riding horseback over the open prairie, trying [illegible] keep the cattle from wandering too far from their home range. Some summers were so dry that very little grass grew, and the cattle would wander away looking for better feed. Two or three times they found it [illegible] an unfenced grain field north of Spondin. Once some of the stock ended up in the pound and cash money had to [illegible] paid to get them back.

Harvest was always a particularly busy time for the whole family; stooking behind the four-horse binder required a lot of hard work and many long days. Dad had a steam threshing outfit in the early days and did custom work for many of the neighbors. It was a grand sight to see the steam engine with a long drive belt running the separator, the water wagon, the coal wagon, the numerous bundle racks and teams, and the golden grain pouring into the granary. When the outfit went away to thresh on other farms, a bunkhouse on wheels went with it, to accommodate those of the crew who did not live nearby.

When combines were invented, Dad sold the steam rig and bought the first swather and combine in the area. We missed the excitement of the big threshing crews, but the combine made threshing a job that could be handled by the family without much extra help.

We had a Titon tractor which dad used originally to break sod, and later for stationary engine power such as for grinding grain, but we did most of our work with horses. The largest team I remember was twelve horses used to pull a road grader on new road construction. The horses were arranged like three four-horse teams, one behind the other. They were not difficult to handle once you got the hang of it, but the line you drove had to be straight and you needed to depend on well-trained lead horses.

Horses provided us with a new car in 1929; Dad had arranged to trade the old car and about twenty horses for it. I remember him assemblying the selected horses into a herd and driving them to Delia, where the car dealer took possession and we picked up the car.

It was a great time to [illegible] young; one learned to cope with problems at an early age.

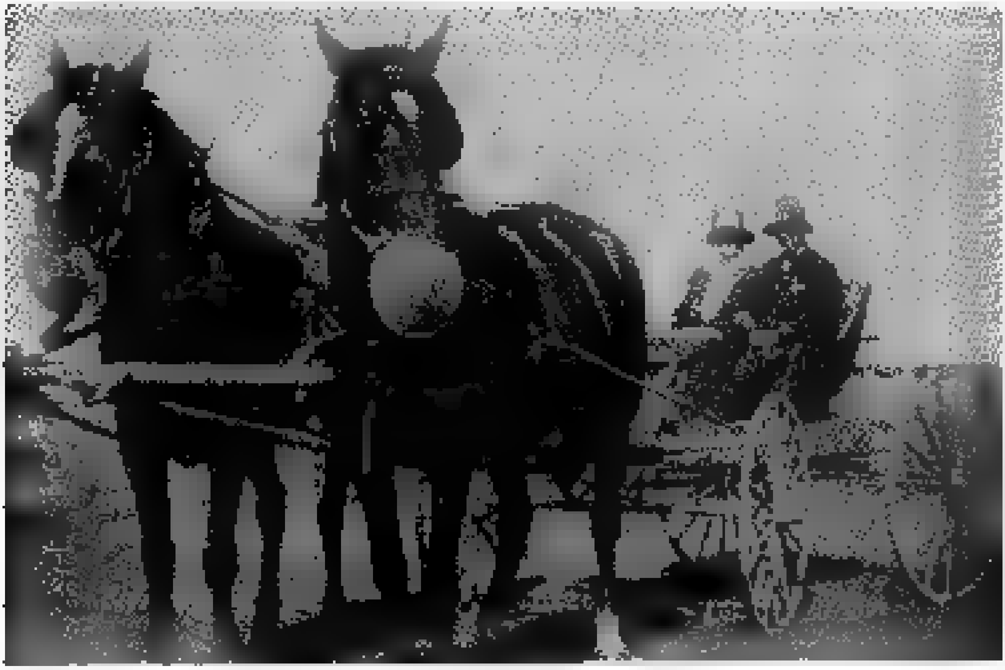
THE ROTH and JOB FAMILIES, By Carol Job — The Sid Herring farm was purchased by Mr. Jacob Roth of Burstall, Saskatchewan, in 1945. His sons Oscar and Art Roth farmed it for two years. Art Roth married Hattie Price of Medicine Hat in 1947. Oscar Roth moved to Medicine Hat and Art and Hattie farmed the land for three years. Then they returned to Medicine Hat where Art entered carpentry apprenticeship with his father-in-law.

Herb Pfahl married Mabel Roth in 1949 and rented the place for the next three years. Then they moved to Herb's father's farm about five miles north-east of Hanna, where they now reside.

Ed and Irene Job, nee Roth, purchased the farm from the Roth estate, and lived there until their son Willis married Carol Gustafson in 1964. In the spring of 1965 they moved a house trailer onto the new Netherby school site, and later built a new house there.

Willis and Carol Job and their three children, Clayton, Tracey and Pam, now live in the house Sid Herring built.

OUR LIFE ON THE PRAIRIES, By Eric Small — It was Friday, March 13, 1925 that my wife of one month and I set sail from England for Canada. We travelled by Immigrant train from St. John, N. B. to Calgary. The coaches had wooden seats which you pulled out at night for your bed, wooden racks above for your luggage, and a pot-bellied stove in the caboose to boil your water or heat your soup. Everyone supplied their own blankets and pillows. Needless to say, we all slept in the clothes we were wearing. The train did stop at the busier stations where we could buy something to eat.



Mr. and Mrs. Small — 1925

It had been spring in England, but on the prairies of Canada the grass was brown and the trees bare of leaf, and there was still snow in places. Where were the green fields dotted with white-faced cattle and horses, which we had been looking at for the past three months on brochures supplied to us by the C.P.R.? We did not expect to see fields of golden grain this time of year, but what we had seen impressed on us that we had landed in a cold, hard country, no place for weaklings.

We arrived in Calgary after four days of travel which we shall never forget. It was an eye opener for two British immigrants, at least. Our first view of the Rockies was fascinating. I think what impressed us most was the unlimited space of this Canada.

After spending two days in Calgary, we decided that we would not buy land, but would work out for a year to get some experience of the Canadian way of life. I had been raised on a farm in England, and I could see that farming over here was an entirely different proposition. Through the Soldier Settlement Board we hired out to Jesse Roberts of Round Lake, south of Fleet.

I should mention that my wife, Hilda, had lived all her life in a city, and that ride from Fleet to the farm was her introduction to life on the prairie. We rode in a wagon, on dirt roads; in the low places the water was up to the horses' bellies. But Hilda never complained, nor did she ever complain about the hardships we went through during the tough years ahead, and that is one reason that we came out on top in the end. She soon learned to drive a team and ride a saddle horse.

We stayed at Jess Roberts' until March, 1926. By that time we had decided that we should be on our own. We were both healthy and strong and enjoying the Canadian way of life, and nothing seemed impossible. So I bought the NW of section 18 from Mrs. Bryanton, whose husband, Ken, had died that winter. There were still a few open sections around at that time so we had free grazing for our livestock.

In 1926 we had a light crop, but raised enough feed for our six milk cows and their calves. We were expecting our first child, about the end of December, Dr. Baxendale said. The weather turned cold and there was snow the end of November so the doctor suggested that, it being Hilda's first baby, she should go and wait in Hanna, as the roads could be snowed in at any time. Pete Jensen had a Model T Ford and we took Hilda to Hanna in it the first week in December. She stayed at Mrs. Trenneman's until she went to hospital January 2, 1927. It was a complicated birth. We lost the baby and nearly lost Hilda too. Thank the Lord she survived, but was not able to come home until the end of January.

The spring of 1927 was wet, and there was lots of moisture in June. The mosquitoes were terrible for man and beast. That summer we put a graded road through for two miles straight north from Netherby school. I drove the eight-horse outfit on the grader, and I think it was Bill Hoodless who ran the grader, and Rudy Moore had the four horses on the plough. The mosquitoes were so bad that we had a smudge [illegible] both ends of the grade. I wore a wide-brimmed hat and mosquito netting and a leather jacket to keep the devils from biting. We were paid six dollars a day for a man and four horses, and the money was applied to your taxes. You had to put in eight hours on the grade, no travelling time, and as I had to travel two and a half miles, it meant a ten hour day.

On July 26, 1927, a hailstorm pounded our crop right into the ground. It also ruined the prairie for haying. It was not big hail, about pea size, but it was hard and so thick that you could shovel it up on the north side of the barn the next morning. Now what could we do ? No feed and no money to buy it. We sold the cattle and I went out harvesting and threshing. Walter Jensen, a lad of sixteen, went with me. Hilda went to Calgary and found work with a family in Three Hills. I managed to find work until the middle of December, when Alex Wilson and his mother went [illegible] the Coast for a holiday. I sent for Hilda and we looked after his farm until spring.

Some of the open range was beginning to be bought up, so instead of replacing my livestock in the spring of 1928, I bought the east half of section 17. Hilda went to housekeep for Bill Hoodless and I broke seventy-five acres with five horses and a sixteen inch sulky plow. That fall the Netherby School Board decided to drill a well, hired a driller from Scapa, and I helped him. Four dollars a day, and the last day I got my hand smashed and was handicapped for the winter. For compensation the well driller gave me a heifer calf.

I did not break any new land in 1929, as it was a very dry year, but I had a fair crop on the breaking I had done the previous year. In September we were blessed with a daughter, Moyra. The next three years saw us struggling along with poor crops and poor prices. Pete Jensen and I opened up a coal mine on the Bryanton quarter. We stripped twelve feet of dirt with fresnos and got a three-foot seam of coal, which we sold for $2.50 per ton. In February, 1932, Pete Jensen and I moved our house and buildings over to the east half of section seventeen.

[illegible] 1933 Eric was born. By this time we were well into the Depression, and during the next three years prices for farm commodities reached rock bottom. How did we survive? We had our own beef and pork, cured our own bacon and canned our beef for summer. We had a garden, and canned saskatoons for winter fruit. We had chickens and eggs, ground our wheat for cereal, and took wheat to

the Hanna Flour Mill where we traded it for flour, shorts and bran. We never went hungry.

Those were the years of the grasshopper plague. We tried poisoning them with bran and strychnine around the outside of our crops; the wife would drive the team and I would spread the poison with a scoop shovel, but it was a useless effort. The only thing that got rid of them was a cold wet spring which killed the young as they hatched.

In 1934 I bought our first car, a 1930 Model T in perfect running condition, for thirty dollars. I turned it over one night coming from Hanna, after picking up some relief supplies for distribution . . . potatoes, apples and dried salt cod. Some of those cod were as big as sweat pads and looked the same, and that was what people called them. I couldn't afford to fix my car so turned it into a Bennet Buggy.

Crops were good in 1938, but it was doomsday year for us. Just before harvest time, Encephalitis (sleeping sickness) struck our horses, and I lost three brood mares and one colt. We raised the three orphan colts on skim milk fed from a pail. Then in October while we were threshing oats, the straw stack caught fire. The fire spread to my corral, my feed stacks and buildings. We managed to save a granary full of oats and the house. There was no insurance. There were enough oat sheaves in the field to feed the livestock if I reduced their numbers, which I did, and with the help of Jack Corry and Norman Greenway we put up a barn and some sheds.

After fourteen years of long cold winters, hail storms, dry summers and grasshoppers, we were just about where we had started, so we decided to take a look at B.C. Our old neighbors, the Jensens, were living [illegible] Langley, so we visited them, but tragedy followed us there. On January 21, 1939, we lost Moyra, nine and a half years old, after an appendix operation at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

Three tragedies within six months! No matter what the odds are you must keep fighting back, so we returned to the farm and put our crop in. It was a good crop, prices had improved, and since World War II had started, money had appeared back in circulation. I called a sale in October and got rid of the farm. We stayed in Hanna until December as Hilda was expecting a child, and after our experience in B.C. she wanted Dr. Baxendale to be with her. Barbara was born December 5, 1939, and soon afterward we bade goodbye to the Prairies.

I farmed at Cloverdale for six years, then sold out, dabbled a little in real estate, and finally joined a Cloverdale firm as an insurance agent. After twenty years with that company, I retired in 1967, and since then we have been enjoying the fruits of our labors.

Mrs. Patton, son John and Mr. Patton.

THE PATTON STORY, By Meta Patton Mason — My father, Samuel Patton, first came to Alberta about 1910. He travelled the length of Alberta, from Lethbridge to the Peace River country, and at one time, before the first war, held title to land where Edmonton's Municipal Airport is now. When World War I broke out, he returned to Ireland and [illegible] 1920 married Sarah Clyde. They engaged in farming for several years, but times were difficult, and in 1926 my father sold his farm and sailed for Can-

ada. He went to relatives in Toronto, heard there was good money to be made during the harvest season in the West, and decided to come to Alberta again.

He found work with Mr. Herring, a farmer of the Netherby district. He took charge of their farm and livestock while the family spent the winter [illegible] New Westminster. In the spring, he was able to rent the adjoining farm formerly occupied by Mr. Len Taylor, who had decided to give up farming and move to Vancouver.

During this time my mother, my sister Joan and myself had been living with my grandparets, but on August 4, 1928, we sailed for Canada, accompanied by my father's sister, Martha Patton, who resided with us until a few months before her death at the age of ninety-four. Our trip was uneventful until we reached Winnipeg, where we encountered one of the fiercest electric storms we had ever seen, and which gave us quite a scare. At the same time I became violently ill from the change of water, so my memories of Winnipeg are not too good!

The fall that we arrived at the farm the crop was beautiful, but it received an early frost, so consequently nobody made any fortunes that year. [illegible] 1930 a son was added to the family, my brother John. The following years were hard and lean at times, but they weren't unhappy, and we were luckier than some in that we had close neighbors. Prairie neighbors are a special breed, not found anywhere else.

Many of my early memories revolve around horses. I can well remember my father in the earlier days, hauling our winter coal from the mines north of our place. He had a beautiful black mare named Maggie. One evening, when he was coming home with a loaded wagon, she developed colic, but bravely brought the load home where she dropped dead in the yard.

In the years of growing up on the farm, we saw two of our closest neighbors at different times lose practically all their possessions by fire. During the dry thirties we were threatened by prairie fire more than once. During these years I can also remember my mother being called upon to officiate at both birth and death.

In later years, Mr. J.W. Taylor operated a general store at Garden Plain, which was a great convenience to the surrounding community. Mrs. Taylor, too, will be remembered for her many contributions to our early entertainment. The success of many a Christmas concert was due to the long hours of patient practice she put in with the children; when she passed away very suddenly, it was a great loss to our family as well as [illegible] the community at large.

After they lost all their crop by hail in the fall of 1952, my parents decided to move into Edmonton for the winter to be close to my sister and myself who had, by this time, married two brothers, George and Steve Mason. They spent the winter with us, but dad was restless in the city, and when the leaves started showing up in the spring, he decided that he wanted to go back to the farm again.

They continued farming for three years, after which they decided to give up farming for good, as my brother always had trouble with asthma and my father's health was getting progressively worse. They rented the farm to [illegible] Job, who later bought it, and moved to the city.

In October, 1957, my father passed away at the age of eighty-two years. The following year, my brother John married and has two daughters in high school. My sister Joan has three children, a girl and two boys, and I have three sons.

My mother continues to live with me and has very good health mentally and physically, considering her age which is eighty-seven.

THE STORY OF MY LIFE, By Henry Mattle — I was born at Leduc on October 28, 1908. I came to this part of the country with my parents when I was two years old. My father, Frederick Mattle, came here in 1910. He bought the south

half of 36-31-13, it was Boer War scrip, and took up a homestead, SW 12-32-13. He built a house and barn, put up a fence, and moved his family from Leduc.

As there was no school in our district, my father paid tuition fees so that my sister and three brothers and I could attend Centre Point school, three and a half miles away across country. I took all my schooling there.

From the time I was fifteen, I worked on the threshing rigs in the fall, putting in a day's work along with the older men. My brothers and I helped dad farm. We each drove an outfit of horses. In the winter it was almost a daily chore to haul grain to the elevators at Richdale, Sonar or Hanna. In the fall we hauled coal from the Brown mine, and later from Sheerness.

In 1916 or 1917 dad bought a threshing machine, hand fed, with a straw carrier in the back, powered by an eight-horse stationary engine. We threshed with this outfit until 1920, when he bought a 22 inch International separator which was powered by the first tractor he bought, a Titan. This outfit was run by my brother Dan until he bought a Rumley outfit for himself, then I ran the smaller one. My dad had bought a McCormick-Deering tractor in 1927 and then we threshed with it.

I worked with my dad until the spring of 1934, when I rented the Pete Jensen place, SE 16-33-13 in the Garden Plain district, but I still helped dad with his farming, as the other brothers were all on their own farms. I farmed with horses until the early years of World War II.

For entertainment, we used to have house parties and dances at the different homes in the district. It was always my turn to have the people of the district come to my home on New Year's Eve. We certainly had real fun in those days and we didn't need to have a bottle to have a good time either.

In the fall of 1938 Florence Wilkinson and I were married. She was born and raised in the Hiram district south of Coronation. Our three oldest children were born during the time we were on the Jensen place, Inza in 1940, Sandra in 1941 and Gordon in 1942.

In the spring of 1944 we bought the Bill Goldsbury place, three quarters of 10-33-13. About 1946 we bought the other quarter of the same section from Jim Cuthbert.

In the spring of 1944 our second son, Dennis, was born, and in 1947 Rosemary and in 1953, Doris.

When we moved on April 4, 1944, the roads were dry and the dust was blowing. I started seeding on April 18, and that was the last year I was able to get on the land that early, during the years we lived there.

The farm was quite run down when I took it over, the fences all needed repairing, and we rebuilt the house as we had to have a larger home. The first few years we had a bored well, which was about fifty feet deep and pumped by hand. The quicksand kept coming in, giving trouble all the time. In the winter time I had to water the cattle at a spring a mile away from the buildings, which was quite a chore for me and the stock in cold weather.

About 1953 Peter Boyd and I bought a well-drilling rig. We drilled a well for Pete, and put down two at my place, one at the barn for the stock, and later one next to the house. These proved to be excellent wells; we could not pump them dry. I also put up a larger barn, cattle sheds and corrals.

The children went to school at Netherby, Dundee, and again to Netherby. The youngest ones were bussed to Hanna.

Inza married John Carle; they have two children and live in the East Coulee district.

Sandra married George Callahan. They and their three children live [illegible] Slave Lake.

Gordon married Rose Schwier. They had three children but lost one of them when she was not quite two years old. They live [illegible] Nacmine.

Rosemary married Tom Jones; they have two children and live in Hanna. Doris married Gordon Edwards; they also have two children and live [illegible] Hanna.

Dennis died July 28, 1966, as the result of a car accident.

My folks lived on their farm until 1945, then they went to live in a small house [illegible] the same yard as Dan, their eldest son. There they lived out their last years; mother passed away March 25, 1950, [illegible] the age of eighty years, and my father died in November, 1958, at the age of ninety.

My sister, the oldest of the family, lived at home with my parents, and after they died she continued [illegible] live in the little house on brother Dan's place until 1969, when she went to the Sunnyside Nursing Home in Medicine Hat, where she died July 26, 1976.

My brother Dan farmed all his life on the land a few miles north-west of my dad's place. He married Belle Thomas and they had three children. He passed away suddenly September 26, 1966.

My brother Albert still farms just a half [illegible] mile from the home place. He married Emilie Jess and they had five children.

My brother Fred farmed at Spondin and Standard, and after all his family was married, he and his wife, the former Barbara Schram, moved back to the farm he had in the Garden Plain district. He lived there until his death in October, 1973. They had four daughters.

Due to poor health, I sold everything except the land in the fall of 1967, and moved to Hanna. In 1971 I sold my farm to Arthur Standing.

MR. and MRS. STANLEY STRANDBERG, By Inga Strandberg — For the first year after he finished school, Stanley worked for the neighbors, then rented the Theodore Ekelund farm from 1924-1926. [illegible] 1927 he purchased the east half of 21-34-13 on time. His crop was hailed [illegible] 1928, but he had hail insurance, and it was not until the depression years that he found it impossible to make his payments on his land. The agent of the Dominion Land Development Company promised him that if he signed a quit claim he would be able to rent the land; Stanley signed but the agent did not keep his promise. That served [illegible] a never-to-be-forgotten lesson to beware of agents.

In 1933 he started farming the NW 27-33-13, and continued to live with his parents until 1941, when he started to build up his farmstead. Over the years more land has been added until now we have a small mixed farm. In 1942 he and I, Inga Siverson, were married. We have three children. Muriel, who arrived in 1943, is now Mrs. Bruce Beach of Calgary; Kenneth, born in 1946, is farming at Dayeland, and Lloyd, born in 1948, farms with his dad.

We bought our first combine [illegible] 1950 and put an end to stooking and threshing. However, we still needed the straw for the livestock, so we obtained a contraption to pull behind the combine to collect the straw in. The straw would build up in front and for the next ten years it was my rather dusty job to stand on the side and fork the straw back, and dump the barge when [illegible] became full. It is now arranged that the straw can be handled from the tractor seat.

Whenever the combine got plugged up, Stanley used to prop up the feeder on a wooden block and crawl in and clean it out. Once when he was inside the block slipped, imprisoning him, fortunately unhurt. The first thing I heard was, "Get me out of here, I've got work to do. I need to keep combining." I am sure it

seemed a long time to him before I did anything because I could not lift up the feeder with him inside. I had to get blocks and a crowbar to pry it up. I am glad that I was close by so that he did not have to be in there for hours. After that he made sure that it was well blocked before he crawled in.

Muriel Strandberg, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Strandberg and sons Lloyd and Kenneth.

Stanley is handy at keeping machinery in repair, and with more modern equipment farming is not so time consuming or such hard work. For many years Stanley was the secretary of the Fertility Community Grazing Association. Later our son Lloyd took over the position and now Reg Corry has that office.

After some fifty years I still milk cows. In 1968 I received the Central Alberta Dairy Pool trophy and in 1972 the F.A. Rasmussen trophy at the Hanna Fall Fair for dairy products. In 1976 when the movie, "Why Shoot the Teacher?" was being filmed, I had the pleasure of having a small part in it, and also baked bread for some scenes. Unfortunately, no way would the fast-rising yeast make three such nice big loaves in one pan as those square Royal yeast cakes of other days.

On February 18, 1977, Harold and Marion Gustafson surprised us with a thirty-fifth wedding anniversary supper with a few friends. They presented us with corsages and an engraved tray.

We have wonderful neighbors in this community.

THE DONALDSONS, by Helen Jensen Northey — Alexander and Euphemia Donaldson, known to family and friends as Sandy and Phemie, were a delightful couple who came to the Netherby area about 1918. They had worked at Nanton, Alberta, for a farming and ranching company; Sandy was the foreman and Phemie the cook. They bought the J.W. Taylor farm. Sandy's sister, Madge Kay, and her husband who had been invalided home from war service, lived with them for a time. Phemie's mother, Mrs. Patterson, also lived with them, and received tender and devoted care until her death about 1920.

Sandy was a hard-working dour Scot with a heart of gold and a quiet humor

that showed in his laughing blue eyes. Phemie went about her labors, indoors and out, usually on the run. She always had scones and oatcakes on hand for visitors stopping for tea, and Scotch shortbread, and haggis in season. She loved to tell jokes on the Scottish people, and had a never ending succession of tales.

She led a busy life, sympathetic to everyone's need. Our home and most of its contents had been destroyed by fire in 1919; Dad had built a twelve by sixteen shack to shelter the family temporarily, but when the fifth child of our family was expected, the Donaldsons insisted that mother come to them and be cared for through her confinement. There our youngest brother came into the world with the help of Dr. Baxendale, and was named Donald.

Setting out for home — Sandy and Euphemie Donaldson.

In later years Phemie often told that when Donald stopped by on an errand she offered him two nickels, but he backed away, saying, "I'm only saving dimes."

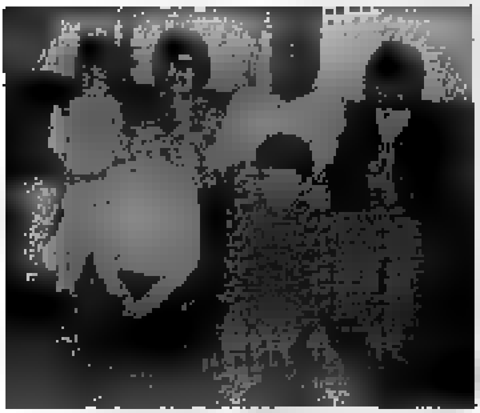
The Donaldsons were members of the Beef Ring. They participated actively in the affairs of Netherby school and cemetery, and of Garden Plain hall. Phemie sometimes cooked on the cook car of Sid Herring's threshing outfit. Sandy and Billy Hoodless were partners in a Hart Parr tractor and a Nichols and Shepard combine. After Billy died, Sandy sold the outfit.

In 1943 the Donaldsons sold their farm and moved to Calgary where they operated a chicken farm and sold eggs. Phemie, who had been born in Lunbrition, Perthshire, Scotland in 1879, died in Calgary in August, 1952, aged seventy-three years.

Sandy moved back to Hanna where he enjoyed the fellowship with his sister and her husband, and his many friends until his death in April, 1960 in his seventy-ninth year. He also was a native of Perthshire.

HENRY NIELSEN — I was born in Castor on February 6, 1930, and started school at Buchan in 1936. At that time there were six pupils attending, Murray and Raymond Halverson, Bill and Betty Marlowe, my sister Eva and myself. The teacher was Miss Bonnie Shoults.

The next year I went to Corinne School. At that time there were twenty-six pupils: Margaret, Velma, Lois and Joyce Waterhouse; Arley and Murl Chidley; Dave Wallace; Francis, Andy and Nellie Harvey; Mae and Alfred Delker; Dorothy, Donna and Harold Lepard; Irene Kennedy; Mary, Isobel and Donald Campbell; Gordon, Mary and Allan Ironside; Alf Siverson; Joe Higgins; Eva and Henry Neilsen. Teachers during my time there were Mr. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Daisy Kerner, and Doreen Lyxzen.



Henry Nielsen Family — Shiela, Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, Kathleen, Kenneth and Douglas.

The two main highlights of the school year were always the Christmas concert with all the preparation and excitement of concert night and Santa, and the school picnic at the end of the term in June. I remember during one of these picnics at Corinne, two moose came up fairly close to the school yard during a ball game. This was a real oddity on the prairies.

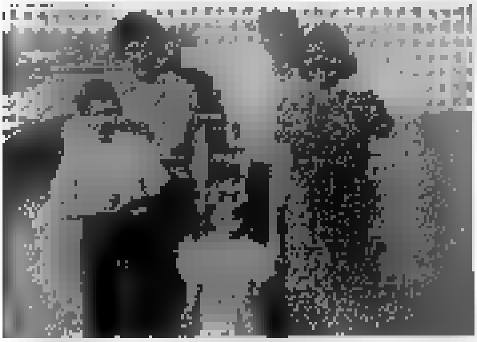
Our mode of transportation in the summer was a two-wheeled cart made from a Model T differential, and a little buckskin mare called Nellie. In the winter it was a cutter or shank's pony.

I started grade ten in Hanna in the fall of 1945, staying in the dormitory there, but quit in November of the same year. I helped at home, and when we were caught up there I stooked for some of the neighbors and hauled bundles at threshing time. During the winter of 1949–50 I worked for Lyman Grove in the Garden Plain district. That was the coldest winter I remember. The potatoes froze in the house behind the heater in the front room. The temperature didn't get above zero for I believe forty-two days straight. In the winter of 1953 I did Rudolph Haessel's chores while they were on a holiday to Germany.

In 1958 I went to Lacombe and got a job with Ellis Construction, doing carpenter work. While I was there I met Irene Holman who was a secretary for the Department of Highways in Red Deer. We were married on August 3, 1961, and lived in Lacombe for one year.

In 1962 we bought a farm in the Garden Plain district formerly owned by George Wright. In 1971 we purchased the SE 2-34-14, and also have other land rented.

We have four children, Kathleen, Sheila, Douglas and Kenneth. They are all attending school in Hanna.



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Boyd and Family — Donald, Ilene and Dorothy

PETER BOYD, By Dorothy Boyd Harvey and F. Johnston — Pete was born in Dauphin, Manitoba in 1905, the eldest of a large family. In the summer of 1926 he came to work for Charlie Noyce. Pete became one of the family and worked for Noyces for years.

That fall of 1926 Pete ran the 20-40 Case twin opposed kerosene engine while Charlie was separator man. In 1928 Charlie purchased a new 20-40 Rumley Oil Pull and Pete worked with it until 1938 when one of the first rubber tired tractors in this area, a 25 Massey, was purchased. Pete did most of the field work for Noyces with the tractor.

During the first few years that Pete was here he drove horses for field work. In 1927 Pete and Charlie were caught in a severe hail storm when they were driving sixteen head of horses abreast on a big double disc. Sensing the impending storm, they hurriedly tried to unhitch but didn't quite make it. The horses tore

loose and went with the storm, scattering harness and equipment over a wide area. Except for minor wire cuts the horses escaped serious injury, but both men spent days gathering up the pieces.

When Pete lived in Dauphin he owned a Case car so when he arrived, an experienced driver, he was relegated to drive Charlie's trucks. The first two were, a Model T with Ruxel axle and a Graham Paige. One hundred bushels was a big load for either one. At Bill Goldsbury's sale a 1928 Ford Phaeton was bought and Pete and the Noyces got good mileage out of it. Charlie bought a No. 7 Massey combine in 1939, one of the first in this area, and Pete operated it. Winter arrived early in 1941 and Pete was hired to straight combine flax for Paxmans, Tom Campion and Fred Engel. He worked off and on during that whole winter, finishing in January. The fall of 1950 he went with Art Welch to do custom combining in the Vulcan area.

Pete and Margaret Noyce were married in 1936. They set up housekeeping in a small house in Noyce's yard for awhile. In the spring of 1939 they moved to the Hudson Bay section, two miles east. A house had been moved in by Kirby from the south country and placed in about the middle of the section. A barn and other outbuildings were built on the place. Water was obtainable at seventy feet but quicksand was always present requiring a new well quite frequently. Joe Slepecka bored a well for them; however, before Joe got to the water bearing formation, a big sandstone rock stopped him from going any further. Pete got the Fred Johnston's machine and eventually punched a hole through. Later Pete and Henry Mattis acquired an old well drill of their own. An eight hundred pound bit suspended by a cable from a walking beam on a high tower pounded its way through the soil without any water being used. This machine, though old and rickety, drilled a number of successful wells. There were some of the other kind too. The drilling machine ended its usefulness abruptly when the bit got wedged in a rock formation while Pete was drilling a well for Shorty Bossert. No amount of hammering could budge it. As a last resort a charge of dynamite was set off somewhere near where the bit was lodged. They were very disappointed when, after winding the cable up, they found that the hammer portion of the bit was all that they retrieved. The rest of the bit is still down there.

In 1955 the school division started bussing to Netherby school. Pete drove one of the routes. Later on he bussed the high school students to Hanna once a week for special classes.

Pete and Margaret and the children liked to go fishing. When Carolside Dam was stocked he and the family, the Rudy Haessels and Ralph Bailey family would spend a Sunday trying to get the early pike. Buffalo Lake was another favorite spot that the family loved to go to.

In the spring of 1963 Pete and Margaret sold their farm and moved to Hanna where Pete operated a gravel truck until he retired in 1974.

Margaret was very active helping form the Association for Retarded Children and the school for Retarded Children in Hanna. She was also active in the women's group of the United Church.

Margaret passed away in March of 1965 and Pete in January of 1975. The children are, Dorothy, Mrs. J. Harvey of Hanna; Donald, of Hanna; Ileane, Mrs. Dale Cox, of Winfield, Alberta; Leslie, of Calgary; and David, of Hanna. There are five grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. STAN SANDERSON — In the fall of 1939 Stan Sanderson opened the new Pool elevator at Garden Plain and the following September he married Marguerite Martin of Oyen. There was no Pool dwelling at Garden Plain so George Wright moved over a one-room dwelling which served as a home until the Pool moved one from Excel the next year. We were blessed with two sons, Harold and Fred, while we lived at Garden Plain. In June 1947 we moved [illegible] Sibbald, leaving behind many lasting friendships and taking with [illegible] fond memories of our years at Garden Plain. In the fall of 1963 Harold went to Dowling and Garden Plain as Pool agent and was there for three years.

After leaving Garden Plain we moved to Sibbald where we were blessed with two more sons, Dennis and Richard. In 1965 we moved to Oyen, where Stan passed away on March 13, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ness and Family — Margaret, Gordon, Evelyn, Russell and Tom.

THE EARL NESS STORY, By Tom Ness — Earl Ness was born in 1916 and was raised in the Nevis, Alberta district. In 1933 he met Hedvig Hein, who was working on a neighboring farm. They married in 1934.

In 1936 Earl, Hedvig and children, Tom, Russel and Gordon, moved [illegible] the Garden Plain district, settling on the Wickson farm, now vacant but owned by Louis Unsworth. Margaret was born a year later and Evelyn two years later. Water had to be hauled by stone boat from neighbor Don Cameron every day. Due to the long dry spell and several dry wells it was the nearest source of water for them.

To supplement earnings from the rather poor crops Earl worked in the Unsworth coal mines. In the fall of 1941 Earl and the family moved to Scapa. Then he worked in the coal mines in Drumheller. In 1942 they moved one half mile south of Scapa where Earl worked for the C.N.R. During the fall of 1943 the family moved back to the Wickson place. The children then attended Garden Plain School which was four miles away. Earl and Tom hauled their coal supply from Tiff Ironside's strip mine. They also used railroad ties that the C.N.R. had discarded for fuel.

A spectacle to see was the geese migrating south in the fall. Many was the morning while they were feeding on Cameron's fields their honking woke us up. Because Earl's house was on a hill he often shot his supper from the front door step.

The fall of 1946 Earl started hauling freight from Scapa to Garden Plain for Taylor's General Store, with his faithful old team "Tony and Baldy". There were many stories about Earl and his team. At the time when threshing crews moved from farm to farm, hauling bundles, an unusual cloud of dust often appeared. More times than not it was just "Tony and Baldy" [illegible] another runaway. Being a fast runner Earl was very seldom left very far behind.

In 1948 the Ness family moved from the Wickson place to the Taylor place now occupied by Gerald Unsworth. The children attended Netherby school, which was two and a half miles away. The next year, 1949, was a highlight year for Earl. He modernized his operation with the addition of a well worn Rumley tractor and a 1936 Pontiac car.

In 1952 Earl and the family moved to Hanna where he was employed by Imperial Oil and Massey-Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Grover and Family.

LOOKING BACK, By Glen Grover — Owing to the rapid progress made in scientific farming, modern machinery and transportation, it is unlikely that any generation will ever experience again the hard times and rough life that we had during the hungry thirties.

We were living in Hanna in those years, and we thought we would try farming. So in the spring of 1939 we moved to the Taylor farm at Garden Plain. Mr. Taylor owned and operated the Garden Plain store, and was a fine gentleman to have as a landlord. We were very fortunate as 1939 was the beginning of the good crop years. Mr. George Wright did our threshing.

The following year they tore down the Pool elevator at Scapa and moved it to Garden Plain, and to help our finances I helped tear it down and rebuild it. We were milking thirteen cows that summer, so we delivered milk and cream to the crew, and could those Swedes drink milk!

It was not all work though. I played ball with the Scapa Club and I believe we won the league that year.

We had five children, two of school age, and they attended Netherby school. In the summer they rode two Shetland ponies and in the winter the sons of our good neighbor, the late Robert Unsworth, picked our children up in their sleigh and took them to school with them. How times have changed [illegible] regard to school transportation!

The winter of 1940-41 was the winter of the deep snow. I hauled Mr. Taylor's freight from Scapa to the store. Many trips were made with four horses in order to break trail.

It was with regret that we left the Garden Plain district, as we liked the farm life very much, but there was no more land available, as everyone was farming every acre of arable land. Garden Plain was one of the best neighborhoods to be found anywhere; the people were always ready to give a helping hand to anyone in need.

After we left the farm I started working for the Special Areas, where I remained for twenty-five years until retiring in 1967.

THE GARDEN PLAIN STORE 1933 - 1951

By Marion Taylor Fox

In 1933 my Dad and Mother decided to open a store at the new Garden Plain siding on the recently-built C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka. However, after a few trial runs, the line was not used too often; only in harvest time and whenever carloads of grain had to be brought out, or coal shipped in. Occasionally during the drought years, feed grains were shipped in to be distributed among the farmers for their cattle.

Across the road from, and facing the Pioneer elevator, was a small three-roomed building which the grain company had rented from [illegible]. W. Moore, to be used as a home for their buyer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Shand. About 1933, the

J.W. Taylor in front of his store at Garden Plain.

Pioneer Grain Company built a house, and so,Dad was able to rent the Moore building for use as a store. He continued to rent it until 1951, mainly because Mr. Moore didn't want to sell it.

The large front room was fitted up with a counter, and shelves along the east and west walls. With a bank loan, and Dad's good credit standing, he was able to stock staple articles from groceries to nails, Leckie's shoes, and a few dry goods. In the granary warehouse outside near the hitching rail, were stored Robin Hood flour, sugar, sacks of bran and blocks of salt. Later there was a B. A. gas pump in front, serviced in later years from Drumheller, but in those early years Kirby's truck from Hanna kept the bulk gasoline tanks and the kerosene barrels filled.

I can remember the odd sleepless night when one of us who weren't used to serving fuel oil would lie awake most of the night, wondering if we'd filled some customer's kerosene can with gas by mistake. Nothing serious every occurred, but on occasion one of us would have to make a flying trip to some farm to check, mainly by sniffing. There weren't too many phones then and who'd want the others on the party line to know of such carelessness, in any case?

For almost two years Dad continued [illegible] operate the store from our farm a mile and a half away, across from Robert Unsworth's. In the slack season, one of us children, home on holidays, would walk or ride the bike across the old Wright farm to the siding, to serve the few customers. If the weather turned nasty in winter, Dad would sleep on an old Winnipeg couch in the phone room at the store. Business was quiet in the early years.

In summer freight was often picked up [illegible] Hanna with our half-ton truck; or from the C.N. station in Scapa, as it had [illegible]en shipped from McDonald's Consolidated in Camrose. Fresh fruit and bakery products usually came from Calgary wholesalers. In winter the freight trips were really hard on the horses and drivers. Often fresh produce was frozen during its long trip in the sleigh, in spite of the effort of the drivers to prevent it.

I'll never forget the horrible experiences of driving over gumbo roads after a heavy rain, [illegible] get freight and bundles of mail from the Scapa post office. Our customers, like ourselves, were always anxious for letters, especially during the war years when many of our local boys were serving overseas.

In August, 1935, Dad and Mother commenced building a small bungalow between the Pioneer house and the store, and lived there after October. How well I remember the thrill of coming home to the store from Mrs. Kennedy's, with whom I boarded in the Corinne district, the first weekend of November, 1935. And later, going [illegible] to Hanna to attend the teachers' convention, via team and sleigh with Mr. and Mrs. George Wright; a long weary trip, but no grumbling, just thankful to be able to attend.

My parents continued to operate the expanding store until my Mother's sudden passing, in February, 1943. Dad sold his stock, closed the doors, and moved to Calgary. However, he never felt comfortable in the busy city. He missed his community, his old neighbors, his independence. He left his Calgary house for Patsy and me to live in while she worked for the R.C.A.F. and I in C.W.A.C., and re-

opened the Garden Plain store in August, 1943. He continued [illegible] operate it until he retired [illegible] Castor in the fall of 1951.

I remember the friendly visits with the regular Friday customers, many of whom were bachelors from the Buchan, Corinne and Lake Thelma districts. We could almost write up their weekly order from memory; bread, butter, jam, rolled oats, tinned milk, tobacco or snoose, kerosene, etc.

I remember the wonderful happy feeling of thankfulness when finally the trucks and horse-drawn wagons would bring their newly-threshed wheat to the elevators, and everyone was hustling and bustling to get back home for another load.

I remember the many, many times we would run from our barb-wire phone in the house to catch a local Dad in the store, to have him add another item to his list. Often we had to redirect a local message to someone on the regular phone line, but Mother and Dad performed the service cheerfully, slipping on a sweater to run to the store to relay the message.

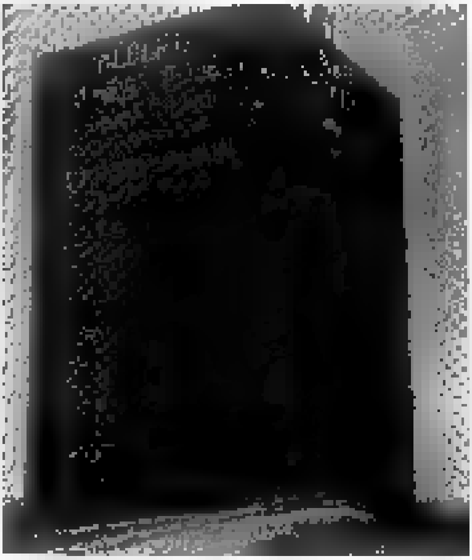
I remember our kitchen table being covered with paper bags, treats for the Christmas concert, and what better place to fill them ? And the Community club wrapping parcels for overseas.

Dad and Mother had an extensive library, and were always lending to or exchanging books with regular customers. Newspapers and magazines were never thrown away, but rolled up, and tucked in someone's grocery box, along wih a bonus bag of candy if there were children in the home.

Those years had their hardships, but they had their rewards too, stemming from the need for each other in the community. No matter what, everyone cared and was willing to help in times of fellowship , distress or illness. I am grateful to have been a part of the growth of the Garden Plain store.

GARDEN PLAIN ELEVATORS

By Margaret Nelson



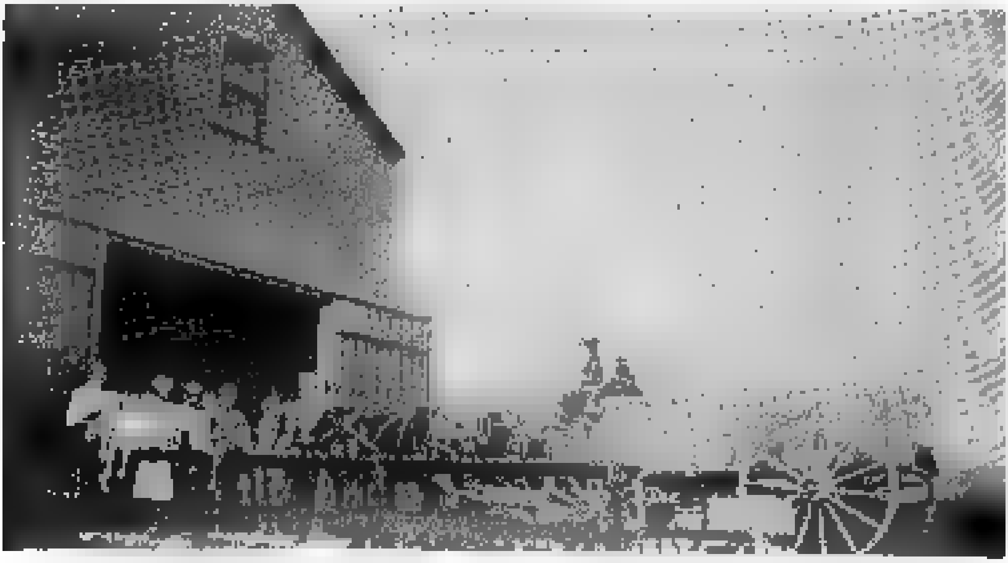
Tearing down elevator at Garden Plain — 1974

Following the completion of the C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka in 1931, the Pioneer Grain Co. started building an elevator. This was opened for business [illegible] August 1931. It is believed nearly all the material was shipped in by rail. The first agent, Mr. Wilson rented the W. Wright house. Mr. Shand rented a small house which R.W. Moore had built until the Pioneer Grain Co. had completed their own house.

The following is a list of agents who were at Garden Plain: George Wilson, August to October 1931; A.W. Shand, October 1931 [illegible] May 1937; Elevator Closed, May 1937 to July 1938; W.J. Kennedy, July 1938 to May 1945; H.M. Taylor, May [illegible] July 1946; C.J. Hergott, July 1946 [illegible] June 1947; D.C. Ross, June 1947 to May 1949; J. Peetz, May 1949 to July 1950; [illegible]. Renschler, July 1950 to September 1951; J. Biko, September 1951 to April 1952; S.T. Canning, April 1952 to September 1952; L. Fraser, September 1952 to July 1956; B.B. Stickney, July 1956 to November 1960; J.C. Foy, November 1960 to April 1962; [redacted]. Burns, April 1962 to November 1967.

The elevator at Garden Plain was closed in November of 1967 and was subsequently moved to Cereal, Alberta by G. Champagne Movers from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The elevator left Garden Plain February 26, 1968.

The Alberta Wheat Pool elevator was built in Scapa and in 1938 torn down and the lumber hauled to Garden Plain. It was rebuilt, along with new material hauled from Wainwright by Albert Storch. This was done in time for the harvest of 1939. The elevator had a 40,000 bushel capacity.



First load of grain to Pioneer Company, Garden Plain — August 27, 1931.

Grain delivered to the Pool's Garden Plain Elevator from 1939 to 1972 totaled 1,478,437 bushels. The highest handling was 108,856 bushels in 1942 to 1943, the lowest handling was recorded in 1949 to 1950 at 5,249 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Garden Plain Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: S.B. Sanderson, Aug 17/39 to June 9/47; J.M. Ferguson, Jun 9/47 to Aug 4/48; A.T. Chaney, Aug 4/48 to Apr 3/49; L.O. Paulson, Apr 3/49 to Jun 10/49; A.W. Garbutt, Jul 19/49 to Oct 19/51; H.R. Cunningham, Oct 19/51 to Jan 15/52; P.J. Moran, Feb 7/52 to Dec 10/53; R.C. Baily, Dec 10/53 to Oct 27/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; R.L. Stapley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66.

A local Pool member who was elected as Delegate, to represent the members in the Sub-District in which Garden Plain is located was Edward D. Blain, Hanna in 1924-26.

A house was moved into Garden Plain in 1941 for the agent. Prior to that [redacted] boarded, then rented a small house.

The elevator was torn down early in 1975. Some of the lumber was hauled to Hanna. This was mainly dimensional lumber which was used in the construction of the new Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. The scales were sold and the unuseable remains were burned.

After the elevator closed [redacted] Job bought the house and dismantled it.

BAILEY STORY, By Mrs. Marie Brix — The Bailey family arrived in Garden Plain on January first, 1954. Ralph was the new Alberta Wheat Pool agent. We came from Craigmyle where he had been second man.

Ralph was of farming background, and we soon got some cows to milk and some Shetland ponies. We bought a quarter section of land close to the elevator from Mr. George Wright, for pasture. Ralph loved horses, and it seemed to me that when he took one to an auction market to sell, he brought two more home.

The children rode Shetland ponies to school and on visits to their friends.

We soon became involved in community life, taking in the dances and card parties. We enjoyed learning the game of "500" which was played there, and missed it when we left.

We found the people of Garden Plain area were among the friendliest we had ever met.

In June 1963 we bought a farm in the Viking area. The children and I left in August 1963 so they could be ready to start school. Ralph remained at the elevator until after the cut-off in October.

We have four children, Ronald now resides in Red Deer, Sharon in Edmonton, Bill at Drayton Valley and Lee at Viking.

Ralph passed away while visiting his son at Drayton Valley [illegible] November of 1973.

I have since remarried and live at Ryley.

MR. and MRS. FRANK LEE — When the Lee family, Eileen and Frank, Trevor (12) and Robert (10) dismounted at the C.N. Station in Hanna, at 3:00 a.m. 14 August 1954, our sense of curiosity and adventure really awoke.

These senses were kindled by our trip out to Netherby School. While being driven out by School Superintendent, Gordon Hay, we had the sight of Rayford and Freddie Johnson trying to coax a bull back [illegible] the pasture from Highway 36, and by coming upon Winnie Grove in distress with a flat.

We were not left out of things for very long, for less than a week later, I was called upon by Rudolph Haessel to bring a hammer, and joined the men in putting in the new hardwood floor at Garden Plain Hall.

The school certainly was the centre of the community, with card parties, Christmas concerts, film shows, meetings, church services, funerals and other activities. All seemed to go off well, even if we did have the occasional skunk under the school to disrupt the proceedings.

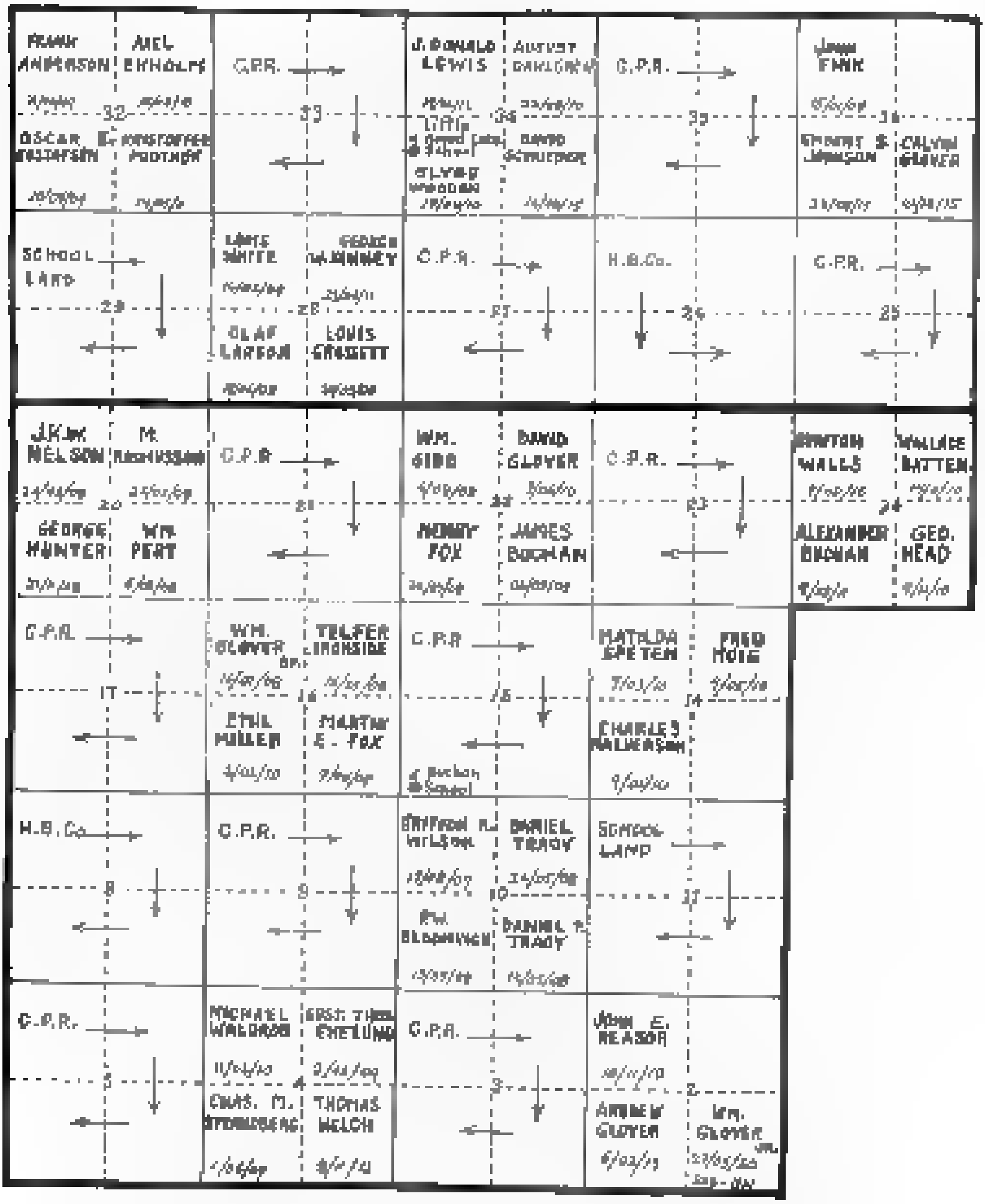
The winter of 1955-56 was a memorable one as Grassy Slope School had been pulled in to centralize the area. [illegible] was cold and we had so much snow we had to utilize two "bombadiers" to haul the students to school. That was the winter also when we had a dozen cars and trucks parked in the school yard, with their batteries being kept warm behind our wood and coal stove [illegible] the teacherage kitchen, while their drivers drove home in sleighs or on horseback.

Memories flood back especially such incidents as the "wash-out" on the new two mile high grade in the spring of '56; the Boxing Day fire at Basil Stickney's elevator house; grass fires on the community pasture; and the day that Walter Haessel broke his leg [illegible] the middle of writing his Grade Nine examinations. This was a memorable day because my mother arrived from England that evening and accused me of being drunk because of the way the car was weaving from side to side during the six mile trip on the back road from Norman Greenway's corner, and I was congratulating myself on having kept in the ruts to get us home successfully after all the rain we had had!

Although conditions in the teacherage (and in teaching) were so vastly different from those we had been accustomed to in the old country we thoroughly enjoyed our three years in the community, and still have many friends we look forward to seeing whenever we travel down in that direction.

BUCHAN No. 2330
LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 2819
TOWNSHIP 34, RANGE 13

HOMESTEADERS



OTHER RENTERS and OWNERS IN BUCHAN and LITTLE ROUND LAKE S.D.

Section 2 NW ¼
W. Glover Jr.
F. Tetz
J. Nielsen
G.P. Grazing Group

Section 3
W.R. Storch
A. Storch

Section 4 NW ¼
S. Calderbank
H. Strandberg

NE ¼
N. Williams
D. Morris
J. Sleeth
S. Strandberg
T. Ekelund
G. Standing

SW ¼
H. Strandberg

Section 9 NE ¼
S. Armstrong

J. Marlowe

SE ¼
R. Armstrong
G. Standing

Section 10 SW ¼
A. Anderson
K. Storch

Section 14 W ½
H. Halverson
R. Halverson
P. Dobija
A. and R. Storch

SE ¼
H. Wilson
G.P. Grazing Group

Section 15 SE of SW ¼
W.L. Storch

Section 16 NW ¼
M. Quaschnick
W. Glover
R. Roberts
E. Strandberg

SE ¼
C. Blayney

F. Evans
W.L. Storch

Section 20 NW ¼
H. Nelson

NE ¼
T.F. Ironside
E.B. Ironside
W.J. Ironside
C. Unsworth

SW ¼
N. Storch

Section 21 E ½
[illegible]. Doyle
P. Russell
J. Marlowe

Section 22 N ½
W. Glover Sr.
A. Storch

SE ¼
E. Halverson
K. Storch

Section [illegible] NW ¼
Mrs. Arthur
E. Storch

NE ¼
J. Scott
F. Evans
R. Roberts
M. Johnson
M. Lamb
B. Ramsbottom
E. Dawson
B. Collins
Morgan Transport

SE ¼
J. Hutcheson
Keller & Williams
J. Keller
J. Marlowe

SW ¼
T. Williams
E. Storch

Section 32 NE ¼
H. Gustafson

SE ¼
J. Nielsen
H. Gustafson

SW ¼
C. Dahlgren

[illegible]. Gustafson
H. Gustafson

Section 33 NW ¼
C. Bergan
Morgan Transport

Section 34 NW ¼
J.H. Roberts
J. Morgan
[illegible]. Thomas
R. Heckenlible
V. Howery
F. Maltis
Morgan Transport

NE ¼
Orvin Dahl
Morgan Transport

Section 36 NW ¼
W. Grantham
E. Welsh

BUCHAN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2330

To the best of our knowledge, Buchan School opened in the spring of 1912 with Miss Laura Amanda McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia, as the first teacher. The Secretary was Daniel Tracy and the Trustees were T.F. Ironside, Charles Halverson and Martin Fox.

The school was built by Mr. Julius Block of Maunders on the south west of 15-34-13 and was named for the district of Buchan in Scotland from which a number of area residents had come a few years earlier. An early homesteader, Jim Buchan, plowed the fireguard around the school yard with a team of oxen. A caragana hedge planted shortly afterward is still there today.

As the number 2330 indicates Buchan was the first school built in the area and it operated continuously until 1935, when lack of students forced it to close for a short time. Due to consolidation with Netherby it closed permanently in 1956.

Some Buchan teachers were: Miss L.A. MacDonald, Mrs. T.F. Ironside, Marjorie Dixon, Sidney Gilson, E.V. Springbett, Wm. Marsh, Hal Henry, Mrs. Richard Morris, Ralph Barnett, Mrs. [illegible]. Grimes, Albert Oke, Mrs. Wells, Morris Carnet, Ralph Cook, John Vanderberg, Chester Laing, Donald Green, Florence McRae, who also taught as Mrs. Wm. L. Storch, Bonna Shoults, George B. Holt, Georgina Horne, who also taught as Mrs. Norbert Dylke, Joyce Evans, Wm. Gibb, Mrs. M.D. Cook, Irene Hohm, Marlene Schultheis and George Patzer.

Buchan and Little Round Lake districts are flat and treeless, drained by branches of the Berry Creek, which flows north-east into North Berry Creek and then on to the Red Deer River near Wardlow. The soil varies from clay to sand and gravel with numerous burned out holes where there is very little growth, perhaps due to tree roots being burned following a prairie fire. The numerous arrow and spear heads, hammers and pieces of pottery as well as campsites, stone tent rings and burial sites indicate that this area was once either Indian hunting or battle grounds.

LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 2919

In 1913 the contract [illegible] build Little Round Lake school was let to Henry Dunington for the cost of roughly nine hundred dollars. With the help of local farmers the school was built on the homestead of Clyde Wooden on the south west of 34-34-13. A well was dug by Mr. Wooden and the school opened for the fall term with Mrs. T.F. Ironside as first teacher. She was also the last, for the school operated for less than six months and closed because a family having five school-aged children left the district. As the attendance was now too low to justify paying a teacher, the district consolidated with Cowan, Lake Thelma and Buchan.

The building was used as a community centre for picnics, card parties and dances until the early forties, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Dahl and moved to their farm three miles to the north-east where it was used for a dwelling. Today it forms part of the modern farm home of Mr. and Mrs. George Welsh and family.

EKHOLM — ANDERSON, as told to Harry Nelson by Emil Ekholm — Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm, Mrs. Ekholm's brothers Frank and Otto Anderson, and her father Mr. Anderson came to Alberta from Spokane in 1909. Frank Anderson filed on the NW 32-34-13, Otto Anderson filed on the NE 30-34-13. They [illegible] went back to Spokane for the winter of 1909-10. In the early spring [illegible] 1910 they all returned to Alberta and Axel Ekholm filed on the NE 32-34-13 on the fourth day of April 1910.

Their closest neighbor was Oscar Gustafson who had filed on SW 32-34-13 on the tenth day of April 1909. He had built a house on the south-west corner of his homestead and Otto built one on the north-east corner of his homestead. Neither house was very big so these families ate and cooked in one house and crossed the road allowance and slept in the other one. This went on till Axel Ekholm got his own buildings put up.

Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm had a family of three. Emil, born in 1905; Ruth in 1907, and Andrew (Pete) in 1912. Axel proved up on his homestead and was getting pretty well established when his health began to fail. He passed away on December 21, 1914. Mrs. Ekholm, being of hardy pioneer stock, continued to farm and look after her children. Mrs. Ekholm's father lived with her and helped with the work on the farm. [illegible] those days you did not buy bread at the store, which was too far away anyway, and Mrs. Ekholm, being very industrious and a hard worker, used to bake bread for the bachelors for miles around, [illegible] Lewis, B. Ludlow, D. Carlson, J. Nelson just to name a few. She used to get $2.50 for baking up 100 pounds of flour. She did this for quite a number of years.

Mrs. Ekholm's brother Frank Anderson, proved up his homestead and also worked out in his spare time. He used to work around Stettler, or wherever work was available till 1917. He then came back and stayed on the farm with Mrs. Ekholm and family, working his land from there as it was on the same section. Frank bought more land and raised good crops for some years.

In 1937, after a number of bad years, Frank and Mrs. Ekholm and Andrew (Pete) left this area and moved [illegible] Donalda where they farmed for a number [illegible] years. Mr. Anderson passed away in 1929 at the age of ninety-two years. Frank Anderson passed away [illegible] 1964 and Mrs. Axel Ekholm passed away July 19, 1968.

Otto Anderson proved up on his homestead. He used to rent his land out and go up around Stettler. He did a lot of carpenter work, as [illegible] was good at that, but he would take any kind of work. He generally spent the summer around Stettler and part of the winter in this area. Otto was a great guy for walking and when he went visiting around here he always walked. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside in the 1950's and more or less retired around Donalda and Stettler. He passed away on April 1, 1959 at the age of 79.

Emil Ekholm, the oldest one, spent his school years at Little Round Lake School and Cowan School, mostly at Cowan as Round Lake was only open for a few months. After he finished school he started farming, buying some land and renting some. He also played a guitar with some of the early day orchestras. In the winter time he often rode horseback or drove in a cutter fifteen or twenty miles to help play for a dance and a lot of the time the temperature was well below zero.

Emil married Erna Blum on November 1, 1933. They have one son, Donald. After they were married they continued farming around here till about 1937. After a series of poor crops and low grain and cattle prices they decided to move to Donalda.

Emil has producers' Certificates from Scapa elevators dating back to 1929. That year number one wheat sold for 82¼ cents a bushel, then in February 1931 it was worth 23½ cents [illegible] bushel, up just slightly from the winter of 1930 when it had dropped to 22½ cents a bushel. By October 1935 it had gone up to 66¼ cents a bushel. Some of the later certificates were from the Pioneer Grain at Garden Plain. In 1936 he shipped thirteen head of mixed cattle, cows, calves, and some steers, [illegible] grain fed, to A.W.W. in Calgary and received a cheque for $130.00. Could that be what they call 'The good old days?'

Emil and Erna continued farming in the Donalda area for a number of years. They are now retired and make their home in Donalda.

Ruth Ekholm, the only daughter, married Walter Rochan on December 10, 1931. They farmed her uncle's (Otto Anderson), farm till 1935 then decided to move to the Red Willow - Donalda area where they farmed for some years. They had one son Gordon.

Ruth and Walter were killed in a tragic train-vehicle collision in Bashaw on May 17, 1976.

Andrew (Pete) Ekholm grew up in this area. When he was through school he farmed with his mother and Uncle Frank, and went with them to Donalda. Pete was musical, and used to play and sing at the local dances. He passed away on February 12, 1976.

AUGUST DAHLGREN, By Harry Nelson — August Dahlgren was born in Sweden and as a young man immigrated to the United States. In the summer of 1910 he came to Alberta in search of a homestead.

He filed on NE 34-34-13 on August 8, 1910.

He proved up his homestead and also worked out. For a number of years he was grader man for the local municipality, building roads. In his later years, after he retired, he lived in a small house in Mrs. Ekholm's yard.

He passed away [illegible] the early thirties and is buried in the Castor Cemetery.

CALVIN S. GLOVER, By Margaret Nelson — Calvin Glover homesteaded the SE 36-34-13 on December 21, 1915. He proved up his homestead by building a small house and breaking some land. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glover were musical. Mr. Glover played the violin and Mrs. Glover was a beautiful singer. In 1918 he took the job of secretary of the Sullivan Lake Municipality No. 336. He then moved to Castor and later on to Calgary. Mr. Embert Johnson, who homesteaded the next quarter, farmed his land into the twenties.

DAVID SHRIEBER, By Margaret Nelson — Mr. Shrieber was a late homesteader, coming [illegible] the area in February 1915, to file on SE 34-34-13. He farmed his land and proved up from his other land holdings a few miles north. He married and remained in the area [illegible] the early twenties when Dick Roberts bought his land.

JAMES DONALD LEWIS, By Margaret Nelson — Don Lewis homesteaded the NW 34-34-13 [illegible] June of 1912. He proved up his land and remained in the area about six years. On leaving he sold his land to Jesse Roberts.

Willis, Pam, Carol, Tracy and Clayton Job; Marion, Harold, Lee and Brenda Gustafson; Carol and Fred Jenkins.

OSCAR GUSTAFSON, By Henry Nelson — Oscar Gustafson was born in Minnesota September 11, 1879. He came from a large family and [illegible] there was not enough to do at home, he decided [illegible] head for Canada where homesteads were still available. In March of 1909 he arrived in Stettler where he met another Scandinavian by the name of Olaf Larson.

It was through Larson that Oscar decided [illegible] file on SW 32-34-13 as this was only about two miles from where Larson had homesteaded. He proved up his homestead, breaking ten acres every year for three years, and also working out in his spare time [illegible] make ends meet.

Mr. Oscar Gustafson

Mrs. Oscar Gustafson

Oscar and William Nelson worked together a lot stacking hay and bundles in the fall. They also had their first binder in partnership. Oscar handled the binder in the fall as he was very good at that, and Nelson did the stooking.

In the early days when it was not easy to get threshed early, they often stacked [illegible] their grain crops and threshed them late in the fall or early winter whenever a machine was available. They did this exchange work for years and I never once heard one complaint about one doing more work on one farm than the other.

Oscar was married to Miss Hattie Dahlgren in the teens but his wife passed away in the early twenties when their son was born. After his wife passed away

Oscar rented out to his brother-in-law, Charlie Dahlgren, and went up to Stettler and worked out for some years. He eventually returned to the homestead and took up farming again. He bought another quarter of land and farmed and raised a few cattle for some years. He was also a municipal councillor for a term [illegible] two or three years.

When he got older, Oscar got rid of his cattle and straight grain farmed till about 1950 when he decided to retire. He bought a house [illegible] Castor and lived there till January 1966, when he passed away at the age of 86 years. He is buried in the Castor Cemetery.

Oscar had only one son, Harold, who still farms his Dad's homestead. Harold was married to Violet Walker in 1943. She was killed in a tragic car accident near Blairmore in August 1962. She is buried in the Castor Cemetery. They had three children, Carol, now Mrs. Willis Job; Lee on the home place; and Brenda who married John Taylor and is living on a farm [illegible] the Halkirk area.

CLYDE WOODEN, as told by Mrs. Wooden written by Margaret Nelson — Clyde Wooden came from Missouri U.S.A. in 1909. He filed blind on his first homestead and on coming to find his land found it to be in Sullivan Lake. He cancelled this claim. On locating another claim, a friend Bill Knight, also from Missouri, drove him to Stettler with a team of mules. He filed on SW 34-34-13 in April 1910. This land had been homesteaded previously and thrown up, Clyde paid for the shack and what improvements were made.

Clyde spent much time working in coal mines. His mining career in early years has been traced from strip mining to the first underground mine in the area. Mrs. Wooden also cooked for the men at the first mine he worked at.

By 1913, the homestead shack now consisted of three rooms. Clyde built a barn that summer. Also that year Little Round Lake School was built and to earn extra money Clyde dug a well at the school.

In 1912 a hail storm swept through, the oat crop was destroyed. The next year the shelled-out oats volunteered and an eighty bushel per acre crop was harvested.

In the spring [illegible] 1917 Clyde fenced his quarter of land with cedar posts. This was the only land fenced with cedar posts at that time.

In summer Clyde was an ardent ball player. Mrs. Wooden recalls some others, Harry Fox, Howard Wilson and Seaba Brothers as being on the same team. In winter his talents turned to music. He played the banjo, mandolin, or guitar whichever was handy. Later he mastered the violin. He helped play for many dances and house parties.

Mrs. Wooden recalls a picnic at Corinne School in 1913 when lemonade was made in a galvanized wash tub and an old hammer used to crush the lemons. Many people were sick after drinking it. No one was ever sure if it was the lead from the tub or the hammer.

Mrs. Wooden tells of going back [illegible] the homestead site about 1960 to find some rhubarb planted [illegible] 1913 still thriving. By this time Mr. Fred Mattis owned the land and had sheep grazing on it. Apparently the sheep didn't care for the rhubarb.

In the fall of 1917 Clyde sold his homestead to Roy Scott and moved to the Rumsey, Alberta area where he continued coal mining.

Clyde Wooden was united in marriage to Virgie Cressy on January 31, 1913. To this union four children were born. Lester died as the result of a car accident in July 1976. Anna and Elsie live at Byemoor and Clifford at Ashcroft, B.C. There are twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mr. Wooden passed away at Kelowna, August 6, 1975 at the age of eighty-five years.

Mrs. Wooden lives at Heart Haven in Stettler, where she enjoys good health. A remarkable lady to talk to about the Good Old Days!

LOUIS WHITE, By Margaret Nelson — Louis White filed on NW 28-34-13. This land was proved up. He married Miss Hackett from the Castor area. Mr. White passed away. Mrs. White later married Mr. Arthur. They farmed the original homestead till 1917 when they sold to Olaf Larson.

Jesse and Dick Roberts

JESSE HERBERT ROBERTS, By Trevor Roberts — My uncle, Jesse Roberts, was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales. In 1907 he came to Innisfail, Alberta, where he hired a team and buggy to go in search of a homestead. He drove over the Three Hills - Ghost Pine area and decided if the land wouldn't grow grass it was no good. This same land is some of the best [illegible] Alberta today. He finally homesteaded on the northwest quarter of 10-35-13 on land that grew prairie wool but very little grain. Later [illegible] bought land farther south and made his home on the northwest of 34-34-13 where he raised Clydesdale horses and registered Shorthorn cattle.

In 1917 he married Belle Ironside but they separated in 1924.

For many years Mr. Roberts was councillor of Sullivan Lake Municipality and was also secretary of Little Round Lake School.

In 1948 he sold his ranch to Fred Mattis and retired to Wales where he died [illegible] 1959. In his will [illegible] left one hundred dollars to be used for the upkeep of Netherby Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts in Wales

MR. and MRS. RICHARD TUDOR ROBERTS — Mr. Roberts was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales [illegible] 1884. He came to Canada in 1907 and homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 10-35-13. Later he moved to the northeast of 28-34-13, where he raised Aberdeen Angus cattle and Percheron horses.

[illegible] 1942 he married Mrs. Marjorie Donaldson Kay who had been keeping house for William Glover Sr. since the death of Mrs. Glover in 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts continued to farm until they sold out [illegible] Fred Mattis in 1948. They moved to Hanna where Mrs. Roberts was a charter member of

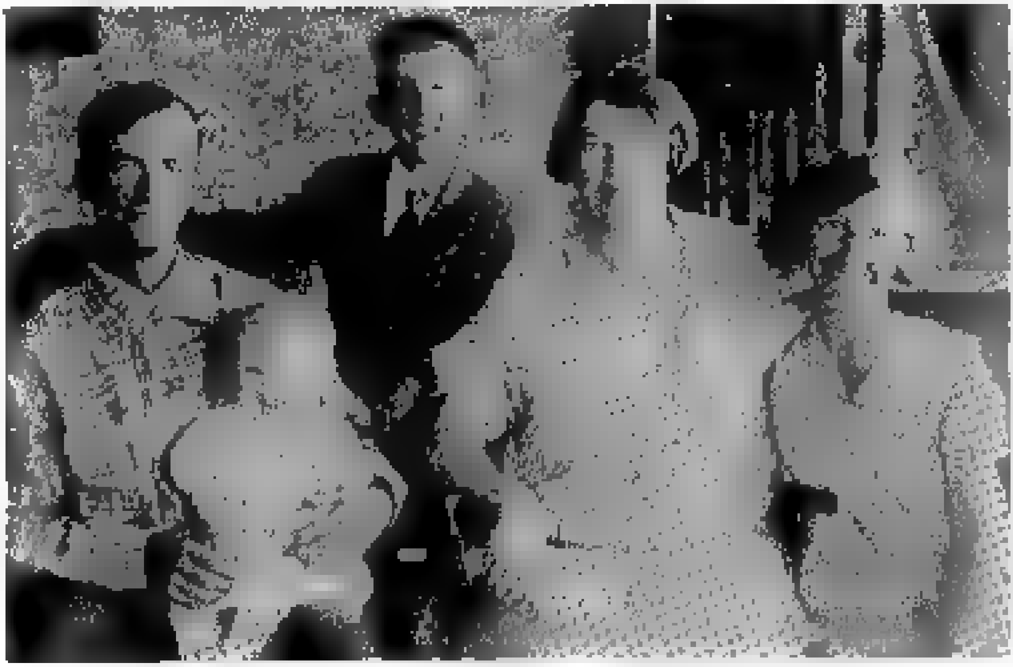
the Hanna Social Credit Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a member of Hanna United Church and was a life member of the Missionary Society.

Mrs. Roberts passed away in June 1965 following a lengthy illness. Mr. Roberts died in December 1965. Both are buried in Hanna.

OLAF LARSON, By Jeanie Larson — In June of 1908, Mr. Olaf (Ole) Larson and Mr. Louis Grossett put packs of supplies on their backs and walked from Stettler, Alberta to the area now called Garden Plain, Alberta to file their homesteads. They were the first homesteaders in that district. Mr. Larson's land was SW 28–34-13.

Mr. Grossett filed on the quarter section east [illegible] Ole Larson.

Mr. Larson built a sod house to live in, then walked back and forth to Stettler for supplies. He eventually brought back an ox and [illegible] mule which he put to work breaking the land. [illegible] order to improve the homestead he had to go out on other jobs to earn a grub stake. These jobs included, helping to build the C.P.R. from Lacombe to Castor and hauling lumber to start the building of the town of Hanna.



Ole Larson, Norman Larson, Mrs. Ole Larson, Mrs. Emil Paasche, baby Esther Larson

In 1914, [illegible] managed to build a very nice, large red barn with the help of a very good friend Mr. Chris Midthun. Also in this year he received the title to his homestead.

In 1917 Mr. Larson married and bought another quarter of land, north of his homestead. He then invested in some cattle and started mixed farming. In the meantime other settlers had arrived.

Mr. C.A. Wickson opened a store at Garden Plain and a hall was built, where all the gatherings and dances were held.

Mr. Olson is remembered as bringing mail and supplies from Castor to Garden Plain for a number of years.

Buchan School was built and Norman Larson attended this school until Mr. Larson sold the farm [illegible] 1928 and moved to Castor.

Mrs. Larson remembered some very hard times when there was a [illegible] of hard work to do and not many returns. She remembers selling butter for twenty-five

cents per pound and eggs for ten cents a dozen. First class steers sold at five dollars a head.

The first homesteaders hauled grain into Castor for nineteen cents a bushel. Some years of drought and hail were experienced and crops were destroyed. At that time no restitution was made to the farmers by the government.

Mr. Olaf Larson was born in Bodo, Norway in 1885. He passed away in Penticton, B.C. in 1967 at the age of eighty-three years.

His wife Jennie was born in Nordsand, Norway in 1895. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

They had three children. Norman was born in Coronation Alberta on November 27, 1918. He lives in Grande Prairie, Alta. Ernest Larson was born in Coronation, Alberta on August 28, 1920. Their second son met death by accident in June 1923, and is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

Esther Larson Grover was born in Castor, on August 3, 1927. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

EMBERT JOHNSON, By Margaret Nelson — Johnson filed on the SW 36-34-13 in August 1915. Because of his health, he was persuaded by his family to return home. He had only been here long enough to prove up. The last year or two he farmed Calvin Glover's land.

JOHN FINK, By Margaret Nelson — John Fink homesteaded the NW 36-34-13 on July 15, 1909. He built his first sod shack into the coulee bank. He proved up his land and worked out doing carpenter work around Coronation. He worked for Carl Stettler when he built a hotel in Castor. He also built a frame house for himself.

In the late twenties he built a big chicken house, raised chickens and sold eggs. The chicken house was built into a coulee bank and was two stories high. At the back you could go into the top floor at ground level. This was used for feed and incubation. The lower floor was used for the laying hens.

He sold his farm in 1930-31 to Mr. W. Grantham and moved to British Columbia. Here he continued chicken ranching.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink had one son Earl. When Earl was a young boy he had the misfortune of having one of his legs cut off below the knee in a binder accident. At that time he was fitted with a peg leg and attended school playing like any other boy would. When he grew up he was fitted with an artificial leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink both passed away some years ago.

Earl made a trip out to see the old homestead in 1950; at that time he lived at Rossland, B.C.

GEORGE KINNEY, By Margaret Nelson — George Kinney came to the Castor area from the United States. In June of 1911 he decided to homestead and filed on NE 28-34-13.

Mr. Kinney was a carpenter before coming to the homestead. He worked at his trade in Castor for extra money. He helped the contractor build Little Round Lake School, along with Mr. Spalding and Mr. Waldron.

Mr. Kinney had the first car in the area, about 1916. It was a Chevrolet model.

Delbert, the only child, went to school at Little Round Lake, Cowan and Buchan. When he was young his Mother drove him to school, later he rode a horse.

In 1917 the Kinneys sold their farm to J. Scott. At that time they returned to the United States. Mrs. Kinney passed away shortly after and Mr. Kinney some time later. Son Delbert still lives in Billings, Montana.

LOUIS GROSSETT, By Henry Nelson — L. Grossett was one of the earliest homesteaders in this area having filed on the [illegible] 28-34-13, on March 28, 1908. He proved up his homestead and worked out part time. A cottage roofed house was built and still stands there today.

He farmed his land for a few years and then rented it to his neighbor. It was later sold [illegible] J. Hutcheson. This land was later sold to Keller and Williams and the present owner is Mr. J. Marlowe.

It is believed that when Mr. and Mrs. Grossett left here they went to the Rocky Mountain House area as he was very fond of hunting and trapping.

MR. and MRS. JOHN HUTCHESON, By Mrs. John Hutcheson 1934, and reprinted from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, The Dundee Women's Institute — First of all I will tell how I came to be among the early pioneers of this community when I was Mrs. Matilda Speten.

Those of you who have lived in the United States are familiar with, or have at least seen the pamphlets that are sent out picturing Canada the Golden West. My brother-in-law, Mr. Halverson, took the Canada fever, and as I was of a roving nature it did not take me very long to decide that I would see Canada too. Cars were ordered on April 23, 1910, and were billed out for Canada. My car consisted of two horses, six head of cattle, six hens, household goods and some implements. A few days later my sister and I followed and we landed in Castor on May 2, where we camped for two weeks.

Mr. Halverson then located the homesteads after which applications for filing were made. A few days elapsed before we found out if they were open for entry. At last the great day came, and everything was packed for moving again. We started out on the morning of May 16 and landed on our homestead on the seventeenth at four p.m. on the north-west of 14-34-13.

Chrissie Glover, Mabel Speten and Mrs. Matilda Speten in front of the tar paper shack. Note rocks on roof.

What a change from the land we had left! We had lived in the Park region of Minnesota where small lakes and rivers were numerous and there were plenty of fish, trees of all kinds, and plenty of wild fruit and game.

A prairie fire which passed through in the fall of 1909 had left this a very barren country indeed. The ground was covered with black ashes four inches deep, and one was ready for a bath after walking through it only a short distance. There hadn't been any snow in the winter to pack it down. To the east the white rocks showed up like sheep lying on the hillside. Feed for stock was very scarce, there was only a little grass along the coulee.

We lived in a tent while waiting for a shack to be built. This was a one-roomed, car-roofed, tarpapered building twelve by fourteen feet, which cost sixty-seven dollars. A barn, a temporary shelter, was erected for the horses, cows and hens. Next a garden patch was broken for potatoes and vegetables which did very well.

On May 31 I could see a storm coming up so I packed Mabel, my daughter, on my back, and set out for the cattle. I saw them but could not get to them three quarters of a mile away. The snow and small hail pelted my face so hard that I was forced to turn back to the shack without them. In the morning, the first of June, there was a snow drift in front of the house three feet deep, and also a lot inside which came through the knot holes in the walls, and no cattle to be seen. I started out to look for them plunging through the snow drifts on horseback. The snow lasted for six days, then a neighbor told me he had seen the cattle on the place where Dave Carlson now lives. It was seven o'clock the same evening when I set out to look for them, and brought them home at midnight. No roads or fences in those days, just crossed the prairie anywhere.

My only cow died four days after being fresh, leaving me with a little calf and no milk. I had to take it over to Mr. Halverson and they fed it until I got a cow, which was a range cow, the price being thirty-five dollars. She was some kicker, too, believe me!

Later in the summer a well was dug, a hen house built, also a coalhouse, all of prairie sod, or Alberta bricks, as they were sometimes called. The settlers in the district were made up of ninety-six per cent bachelors and four per cent families, being Ironside, Fox, Halverson and myself. There was a store at Garden Plain known as the Williston Trading Company. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Watson opened a store and post office at Fertility. The Buchan school was organized in 1910 and was built in 1911. The first term of school opened on April 7, 1912, the teacher being Miss McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia. On the last day of school, August 7, the first U.F.A. picnic was held. A good crowd gathered in spite of the mosquitoes. Baseball and races made up the sports.

Our nearest railroad was Castor, twenty-five miles away, and many a time a round trip was made with a team of horses and a lumber wagon. In April, 1911, the farming began. Breaking was done with one team of horses, two three-year-old steers and a walking plough. I broke ten acres in time for crop on my own and rented nineteen from Jim Buchan; this was into oats. Twelve hundred bushels were threshed that fall by Fred Sear. The year was wet and the mosquitoes near ate you alive. Everybody wore mosquito nets down over their faces, all the colors that were going. Smudges were going night and day for the stock. I even took a smudge pail into the barn when milking to save my own skin.

Later in the summer I had enough broke to make thirty acres, the homestead duty. This was all in crop in 1912. Twelve acres in wheat and the rest in oats. It was hailed on August 27. Hay was cut anywhere on the prairie for winter feed. By this time I had thirteen head of stock.

On February 27, 1911, I took a quick trip back to the States and came back in time for the first dance held at Mr. William Glover's house, which was built while I was away.

In the spring of 1913 I sold five pigs, which brought one hundred and three dollars. This was a dry year and the crops were light. In the fall I sold my oxen and bought a saddle horse. From her I raised five colts. I sold three and kept two which are still going strong. In 1914 all my field was summerfallowed so I had no crop.

By 1915 the first stages of pioneering were over, and I had settled into a routine much as it is today. That was a very wet year, the first part of the season,

and the crops were the best they had ever been. I had two hundred bushels of wheat from five acres and oats went seventy bushels per acre. This crop was threshed by Mr. William Glover and Company two weeks before Christmas.

The crop in 1916 was good too, but slightly frozen. The fall was very wet and the wild ducks were playing hide and seek among the grain. This summer I spent three and a half months in North Dakota. During my absence a creamery was built three-quarters of a mile south-east of where the Spondin Creamery now stands. The old creamery was operated by Louis Kofoed.

I weaned the calves and sold cream. It was worth thirty-five to forty cents a pound in those days. This was a new stunt for me and still stays by me. The cream was collected with horses and a wagon once a week. Late in the fall they moved the outfit to Hanna, and then the cream had to be taken by the farmers in turn.

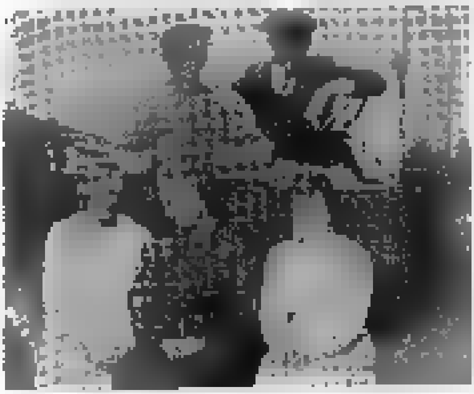
By this time I was fed up with my tar-papered hut so I raised the roof and added another room. This made a room ten by fourteen feet and the other twelve by fourteen feet. In 1920 another room was added, six by ten feet, and then I had room to let so I boarded a school teacher, E.V. Springbett.

Nothing of any particular interest took place during 1917–18-19. The winter of 19 and 20 was very hard, lots of stock dying for want of feed and feed was not to be got for money anywhere. Oat bundles sold for fifteen cents each and straw stacks brought sixty-five dollars apiece.

In the fall of 1920 I had a sale, and so put an end to my homesteading days. I have not said much about the entertainment in the early days. Our first Dominion Day in Canada, 1910, was spent at Clement Lake, which is on the quarter where Jesse Roberts now lives. Halversons and I packed our lunches and hit for a clump of trees and ate our dinner. The rest of the day was spent splashing in the water.

The first Christmas tree and program in 1911 was held at the Buchan school. The Christmas tree was furnished by John MacCurly, a young minister who held services through the summer. The second U.F.A. picnic was held at Corinne in 1913. During this year the Garden Plain hall was built and the third U.F.A. picnic was held there on the first of July, 1914, where it was held annually until the late twenties.

Editor's Note: In the twenties Mrs. Speten married a local bachelor, John Hutcheson, and they moved to the southeast quarter of section 28-34–13 where they farmed until the late thirties when they moved to the town of Stettler. They later settled in Calgary where they both died the same day. Mr. Hutcheson died of cancer on the morning of October 25, 1953 and Mrs. Hutcheson of shock that afternoon. Both are buried at Netherby.



Brinton Walls, Jim Hamilton, Mabel Speten, Clara Halverson, Gladys Hamilton

BRINTON WALLS — Brinton (Shorty) Walls came from Nova Scotia and in 1910 homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 24-34-13. While proving up, he worked in pool halls in Castor and Coronation. In 1912 he hauled water for the Fred Sear steam engine at threshing time.

After living alone for some time he moved in with another bachelor, Jim Buchan, on southeast of 22-34-13. They farmed together until Mr. Walls passed away in 1947. He is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

FRED HOIG — Fred Hoig came to Canada from Minnesota in 1910, at the same time as Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halverson and family and Mrs. Matilda Speten and daughter. They all homesteaded on section 14-34-13.

When war broke out in 1914 he enlisted and was killed overseas.

Howard and Emil Halverson

THE CHARLES HALVERSON STORY, as told by his son Howard Halverson — My father, Charles Halverson, was born in Droman, Norway and came to Canada from Minnesota in 1909. He homesteaded on the southwest of 14-34-13 southeast of Castor in the Garden Plain district.

In 1910 he went back to Moose Creek, Minnesota and brought his wife, Bertha, his five daughters, Clara, Mamie, Pearl, Matilda and Lenora, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Matilda Speten and her daughter, Mabel, back to the homestead. Mrs. Spelen homesteaded on the adjoining quarter.

They built a huge sod barn for their four horses, four cows and their chickens. Their machinery was small, a six foot binder, a small drill, a diamond harrow made of oak and a fourteen inch, one-share sulky plow which had [illegible] be steered with a lever. They had a logging sleigh, four inches wider than average, handmade of oak with chain connections and cast runners.

The lumber for our house was hauled from Castor and the house was built by John Reesor who homesteaded south of us on northwest 2-34-13.

My dad plowed twenty-five acres, one furrow at a time, the first year.

To make money he hauled freight from Castor to Hanna before the CN railway came to Hanna. The trip took two days each way. The stopping house was Hunt's south of Castor.

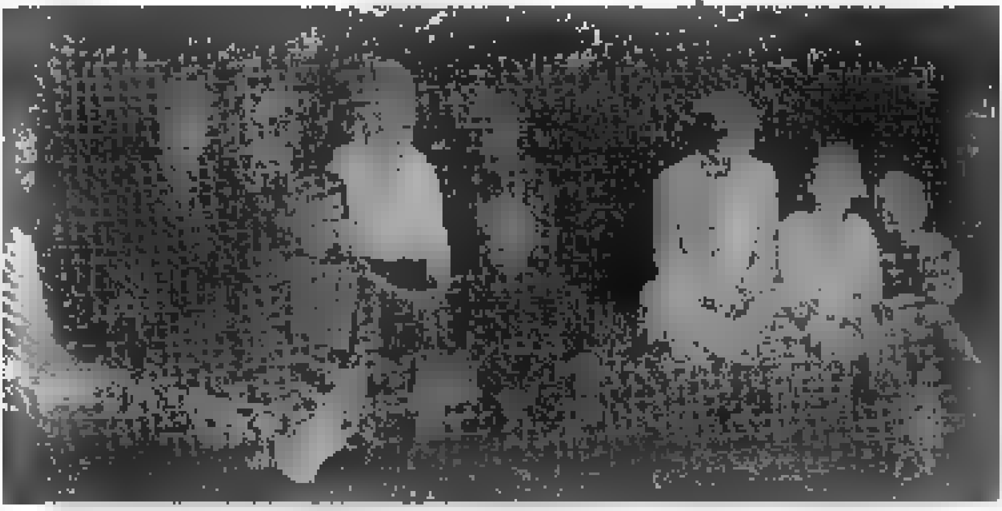
Coal and groceries came from the Kane mine and store at Garden Plain on section 1-34-14. Our mailman from Castor was Mr. Olson who drove the mail to Fertility post office on southeast 28-33-13. He drove nothing but broncs and made the round trip of fifty miles in one day.

When the C.P.R. was extended from Castor to Fleet we hauled our grain there and received twenty-two cents per bushel. When the C.N.R. track was extended east of Hanna to Bonar, my dad would leave at four o'clock in the morning with a load of grain and return from the fifty mile trip at midnight.

From 1911 to 1925 seven more children were born. They were Clarence, Emil, Irene, Roy, Howard, Mamie, Murray and Raymond. The reason there were two Mamies in our family was that the first Mamie died of flu in April 1919 and the baby girl born June 10, 1919 was named Little Mamie.

We certainly had some storms in those days. When we still had the sod barn the cattle were out by the straw stacks when the storm hit. We had to knock the icicles off the cows' eyes so they could see. The milk cows and the horses were in the sod barn and we had to dig them out as the snow was three feet deep. The storm was so bad that my dad never got home from Hanna for three days. The willows and poplars which were twenty feet high were covered with snow. The

rabbits could find no food so they came like flocks of sheep to eat at our feed stacks



Back: Lenora and Tillie Halverson, Mrs. Charles Halverson, Mrs. Matilda Spelen, Mabel Spelen, Irene and Roy Halverson. Front: Clarence and Emil Halverson

We would undermine the snowbanks, and when two bachelor neighbors, Jim Buchan and Shorty Walls, came [illegible] night to listen to our radio, Shorty fell through the tunnel and Jim couldn't figure out what happened to him.

We all went to Buchan school which was one mile west of us. My dad used to play the violin for dances, house parties and chivarees. We had the best Christmas programs [illegible] the school and people came from miles around to our concert and dance. One time before Christmas we all got scarlet fever so that ended that. We had box socials at Buchan and some boxes sold for fifty dollars.

We went to church at Netherby in a democrat with two seats, as we had no car.

We had dust storms which turned day into night and lasted for a week at a time. Then the army worms came and cleaned the leaves off the trees. No matter how tight you closed the doors and windows they came in. Then the grasshoppers came and just wiped the crop out leaving only a few spears here and there. We got some stuff from the government to poison the grasshoppers. Then the best horses died when they got sleeping sickness.

Then [illegible] October, 1930, my dad took sick. He had heart trouble and died at home. William Storch senior went to Hanna and got the casket and brought it out to the house and prepared my dad for burial. He [illegible] buried in Netherby cemetery. Then my sister, Tillie, who was going to college in Calgary got her knee hurt while playing basketball and became a cripple. I used to carry her around and I was only fifteen years old at the time. Mrs. Charlie Bleyney was at our house the day Tillie died in August 1936. William Storch senior brought out the casket and she was buried at Netherby with Reverend Scallon conducting the service.

When I was fourteen I worked for one dollar a day stooking and helping cook meals. I pitched bundles and got two dollars [illegible] day.

My sister Mamie and I and Irene Williams and Harold Gustafson poisoned gophers and got paid twenty dollars each by the Castor Municipality. We had to walk about four miles a day and put poisoned oats in gopher holes. Out of the twenty dollars I bought myself a pair of long pants, a blue shirt, a tweed cap, a pair of shoes and still had money left over.

I played guitar and banjo for dances all over, sometimes five nights a week. I

would have to ride nine or ten miles on my saddle horse, milk four cows when I came home, get one hour sleep and then go to school. I was so tired from playing all night that I fell asleep at my desk and started to snore. The teacher told me to lie down by the platform and catch some sleep.

Mrs. Harry Saar and I played together at house parties and dances for two dollars a night. We would [illegible] bunch together and take one team to dances at Bingo, Saar, Spondin, Dundee, Netherby, Corinne and Buchan.

We had stampedes at home. I rode a big red pig with spurs and got flattened out. We also rode cattle when our parents were in town and got heck for that, because we put the saddle on the cows and tied it to their tails. When we came out of the chute we called each other cowboy names, rode a few jumps and got bucked off. Best days of our lives!

My mother became crippled with arthritis and was in a wheel chair. All other members of the family had left home but I stayed on the farm and looked after her for seven years and did the farming and cooking and cooked for ten men at threshing time.

We went to Vancouver and she went to the St. Paul Hospital where they found out she had cancer. After an operation she went [illegible] live for a year with my brother Roy and his wife Mabel [illegible] Vancouver. We moved back to Hanna and mother died in the Hanna Hospital on January 26, 1951.

In 1962 I married a wonderful girl, Sylvia Lokken, from Vancouver. We now live in Calgary and have two fine boys, Charles and Harold.

JAMES BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Jim Buchan was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The family were fishermen. Jim was a cooper, a barrel maker by trade.

In 1905 he came to Canada with the Ironside family as Mrs. Ironside was his sister. He spent two years in Ontario and one [illegible] Manitoba. In August 1908 he came to Stettler and filed on a homestead on SE 22-34-13. The spring of 1909 he returned again from Manitoba and began homesteading. He had a team of oxen. With no buildings on his place, he lived with John Hutcheson. John had a team of horses. Together John and Jim broke up land for themselves and anyone else requiring help.

Jim went to Calgary in search of work. He found a job at the Breweries, but being an abstainer he didn't stay long. Returning home [illegible] found work at Dykie's farm south of Hanna. When Louis Kofoed built his first creamery in Hanna he worked for him. When it was time [illegible] return to farming he moved back to the homestead, milked cows, raised chickens and turkeys. He remained there many years, with his friend Brinton (Shorty) Walls living with him.

Jim returned to Scotland where he passed away about 1947.

MATT DOYLE, By Harry Nelson — Mr. and Mrs. M. Doyle came into this area in the early twenties. They came from the Munson area. Matt, as he was known, bought the east half of 21-34-13 from the Canadian Dominion Development Co. He hired Mr. S. Armstrong to break some of the land, also breaking some of it himself. While Matt farmed this land he had about one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, the balance was used for pasture. He owned two purebred Clyde stallions that stood for service.

Matt generally kept a hired man as his health was not too good. I believe he was gassed in World War I.

In the spring of 1927, not being able to keep up with the payments on the land, he was given sheriff's orders to leave. This he did.

While in the process of moving one of those three day blizzards blew in which slowed things up.

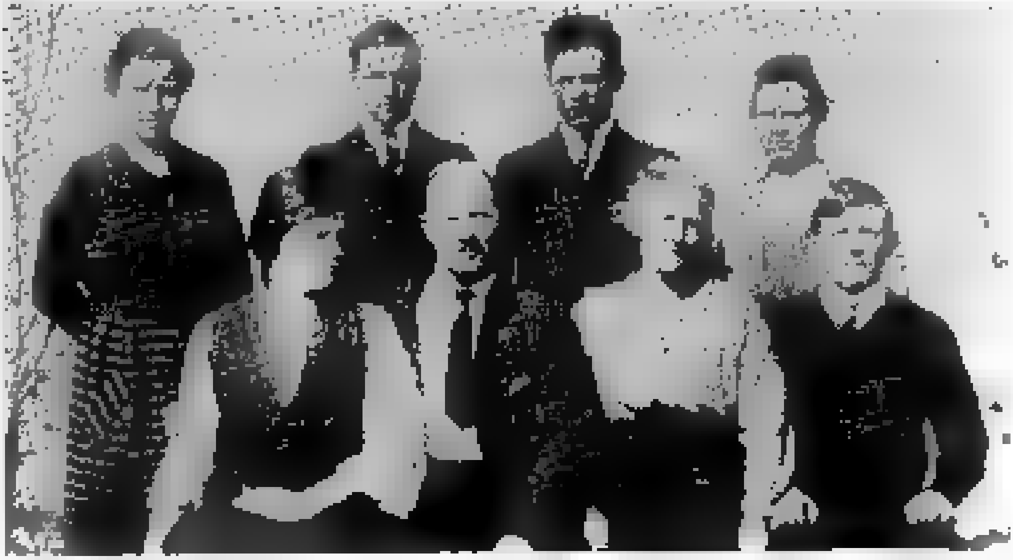
Mr. and Mrs. Doyle moved back to Munson taking their belongings with them. It is not known what happened to them after this.

Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Ironside

T. F. IRONSIDE, By E.B. (Butch) Ironside — In 1905 Dad and Mother set sail from Scotland for Canada. They lived in Ontario for two years before going on to Manitoba. Manitoba held their interest only for a year, and in the summer of 1908 they came to Alberta to homestead. A group of Scotsmen, George Hunter, John Hutcheson, William Glover, Jim Buchan, and Dad all set out for Stettler to file on land.

Dad filed on the NE 16-34-13 on the sixteenth day of July, 1908. [illegible] due time Dad returned to Manitoba and in October of 1909 the family came to the homestead. He brought two horses and two cows with him. The rest of the equipment came to Stettler later. A sod shack, and a sod barn had been built in the summer [illegible] 1909 by Pap Rickard and Bill Seaba. We were the first family here at that time.

In the summer and fall of 1909 lumber was hauled from Stettler to build a frame house. Our friends Hunter, Hutcheson, and Glover helped us to build. This became a stopping house from 1910 on. In 1910 we built a big sod barn. The roof was made with poles and straw or hay. We shipped the poles up from Manitoba for this. I remember that winter the snow was so deep and built up so much around the barn that a cow walked on top of the roof and fell through, doing much damage.


1923 — T.F. Ironside Family. Back: Belle, Butch, Tiff, Jean. Front: Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. Ironside, Will.

Dad helped organize the Buchan School district in 1910 and realized his goal when the school was built in 1911. [illegible] 1913 he was busy organizing the Sullivan Lake Municipality. He was a councillor for many years and [illegible] the time of his retirement in 1934 was Reeve. About the same time he was active in a Co-Op store which was formed [illegible] Castor, and also in the United Farmers of Alberta movement.

By 1914 more good horses were needed so a Stallion Club was organized. A purebred stallion was obtained through the government. This horse was travelled throughout the country. Some of the members of the club were: Kinney, Don Lewis, as secretary; J.H. Roberts, H. Waldron [illegible] well as Dad.

The winter of 1912-1913 Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor [illegible] Hanna [illegible] winter.

Church services were held in our home before Buchan School was open, later [illegible] the school.

In 1913 Dad bought the homestead of Marinus Rasmussen, this being NE 20-34-13; 1915 saw the start on a new house there. The crop being good that year, some of the grain was put into the started house. The weight of the grain pushed the single floor into the cellar below. In 1916 the house was completed. The spring of 1917 we moved there. A big barn was also built. Chris Midthun did a lot of the work on both buildings.

Mother was a teacher. She taught at three schools, in 1913 at Buchan, about six months at Little Round Lake, and a year [illegible] Cowan School.

By 1923 there was more need for horses so Dad started dealing in horses and cattle, buying, trading and shipping. Some of these went to Calgary.

Because of poor health, Dad and Mother left the farm in 1934. Both Dad and Mother were born [illegible] Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Dad on October 2[illegible], 1873, and mother February 5, 1873. Dad passed away in Vancouver April 5, 1935.

Mother returned to the farm about 1940 to live with Will. She stayed there till the fall of 1948 when she went to High River to live with Belle. She passed away in April 1951 and was laid to rest [illegible] High River.

There were seven children [illegible] the family. The oldest child a son, died [illegible] infancy in 1899. Belle Cooper, 1900, resides in Vancouver; Jean Adams, 1901, lives in Calgary; Telfer, 1902, at Castor; Edward (Butch) 1905, resides [illegible] Hanna; Margaret (Mag) Smith, 1906, at Calgary and William, 1908, in Hanna.

TELFER (TIFF) IRONSIDE, By Tiff Ironside — I was born on a farm in Newdeer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1902. I came with my parents and two older sisters to Shaw Station, Ontario in 1905. Two years later we moved to a farm in Carman, Manitoba. The family had now grown by two brothers and a sister.

In the fall of 1909 we came to Alberta to homestead in the Garden Plain area on the north east [illegible] 16-34-13 where we lived in a one-roomed sod shack with a dirt floor. That winter we hauled lumber from Tom Finlayson in Castor and built a two-storey house which soon became known as the Ironside Stopping House for travellers between Castor and Youngstown and points between. Wagon trails across unplowed fields are still visible in 1977. Some poles were hauled from north of Castor [illegible] roof a sod barn, which would hold twenty head of horses. Martin Fox, who lived on the same section, had a team of white oxen and a wagon and took Dad and me to Stettler. The first day we got to a stopping house just west of Castor where the menu was biscuits, bacon and [illegible]ans three times a day. The second day we got as far as Botha where we met George Hunter who was helping to build a hotel there. The third day we reached Stettler.

[illegible] 1917 we moved [illegible] the north east of 20-34-13 where Chris Midthun helped us build a new house and a hip roofed barn. My mother taught Cowan School.

eight miles north of us. I drove my mother and my two brothers and three sisters to school in our covered wagon driven by a spirited team, picking up other students along the way.

After I quit school I fired [illegible] steam engine for Alex Richards each harvest for six years. As I fired with straw I had to get up at quarter to four to get steam up for the day.

I learned to play the violin so with sister Belle and brother Butch, we played for Garden Plain dances every two weeks. Others I played with were Ed Berg, Jens Sands, Torlif Bergum and Earl Hemridge.

On Sundays, unknown to our parents, we would go to Dick Roberts farm and ride bucking horses, but no one was ever seriously injured. I broke broncs for Dick so he could sell them as work horses. Some ended up bucking in Hand Hills Stampedes and some became race horses. One race horse I remember was Cricket. In 1921 I rode him for Dick at the Bingo School Stampede. The same year he hired a jockey to ride him at the Garden Plain picnic. He won easily at both places. Bets were high.

In 1923 I went to Roberts Creek, B.C. where I worked in a sawmill but I soon returned to Garden Plain where in 1929 I married Ruth Clark of Maunders. We farmed on the north east of 19-34-13. On this property there was a burn out where coal was visible near the surface. For forty dollars I leased the mineral rights from the C.P.R. and started a strip mine. I had [illegible] pay the Alberta Department of Lands and Mines ten cents per ton for each ton sold. In 1932 I opened another mine on 5-34-13 where there was a better grade of coal. In 1934 we moved to the south west of 30-34-13 where I still live. We have four sons and four daughters, Gordon [illegible] home, Mary Towers in Florida, Allan a missionary in India, Clark at Devon, Margaret Sleppert in Calgary, Bruce in Youngstown, Mabel Pfulster at Blackfalds and Marilyn Gurnett in Edmonton.

E. S. (BUTCH) IRONSIDE, By Butch Ironside — I was born in Ontario June 6, 1906. At the age of four I arrived at our homestead with Dad, Mother, three sisters and two brothers.

In 1912 I started school at Buchan, at the age of seven. That year Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor to Hanna. My oldest sister Belle, then thirteen, and I did the chores. We had pigs to water, this we did by cutting a hole in the ice in the creek. One day we cut the hole too big and a pig fell in. Next morning only its head was out of the hole, the rest was frozen in the ice. There were also bundles to haul in on a stone boat out of the stooks in the field.

My first year of threshing was in 1919, I hauled bundles for Alex Richards. The next six years I hauled water for his steam engine at threshing time.

I remember my first trip to Hanna. It was in 1913. I went along with Tiff, my older brother, when he was taking a load of freight in. I thought it was great riding on top of the load.

In the winter of 1919-1920 I worked for Dick Roberts. Wages were good at that time; I got forty-five dollars a month.

My first attempt at farming on my own was in 1923. That year I rented August Dahlgren's land and farmed it with horses. In 1926 I bought the SW 21-34-13 and broke a hundred acres. In 1927 it was [illegible] crop, 1928 it was hailed out. The spring of 1930 I rented Dan Tracy's land. I had a good crop [illegible] 1930 but 1931 was different. It had been hailed and snow came early. Some of it was cut late as the snow went away [illegible] November. Some still stood and I pastured horses that winter.

I bought a Ford ½ ton truck in 1929. It was two years old then. I had hounds so

did quite a lot of coyote hunting. In the fall I used the Ford; two hounds rode in the back and one in front with me. In winter I used the team and sleigh.

I bought an International 15-30 tractor in 1928. The next year we got a Massey Harris combine and did some custom work. In 1932 we got our first grain separator.

When Dad and Mother left the farm in the fall of 1934, I took over the home place. I stayed there until 1942 when I bought the homestead of Billy Wagner from a mortgage company. I farmed this land until 1951, when I started working for Ducks Unlimited.

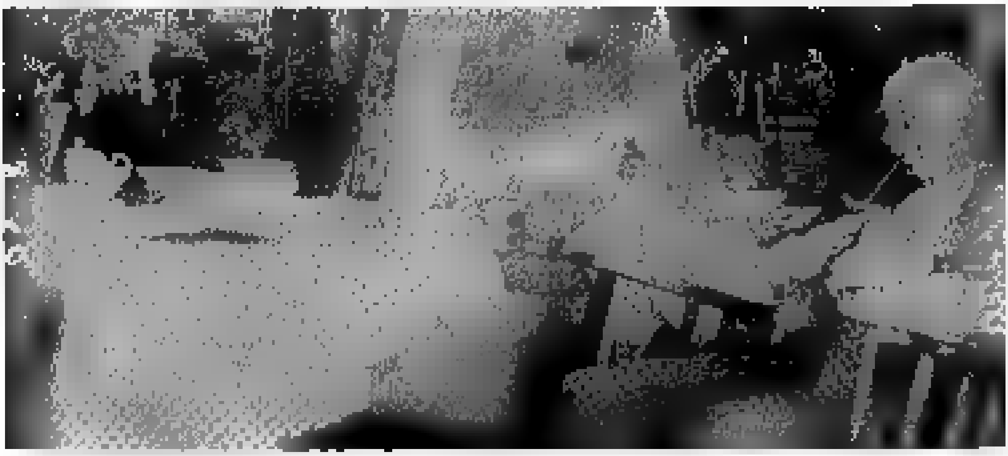
In December of 1951 I moved to Hanna where we still live. I sold my land to Henry and Elmer Nelson.

I married Cora Nelson on November 17, 1934. We have three children. Corinne, Mrs. Glen Brown, resides in Jasper where Glen [illegible] employed. They have two boys. Gladys, Mrs. Lyle Robbs, lives at Bluffton. Lyle farms and works at a Gas Plant. William married Marion McLean, they live at Didsbury where Willie is employed by Shell Oil. They have two children.

ALEXANDER BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Sandy Buchan came from Scotland to Canada in 1910. His wife remained in Scotland. Sandy had been a Sea Captain. He filed on SW 24-34-13 in September 1911. He stayed at Ironsides, as his wife was a sister of Mrs. Ironside. From here he homesteaded and worked out around Coronation. He returned to Scotland [illegible] 1913.

MARTIN and HENRY FOX, By Margaret Nelson — Henry Fox, Harry as he was best known filed on SW 22-34-13 in July [illegible] 1908. Brother Martin Fox filed April 1909 on SE 16-34-13. Harry and Martin worked together, Martin having the equipment to prove up. Harry worked out. In 1915 Martin Fox traded homesteads with Mr. Charles Blayney of the Castor area. Martin Fox was married and had three children, Harry was a bachelor. From Castor they went to Calgary.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES BLAYNEY, reprinted in part from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, the Dundee Women's Institute — Charles Blayney was born in Dolgelly, Merionethshire, West Wales. He came [illegible] Canada [illegible] 1906; in 1910 he homesteaded at Lauderdale on the southwest quarter of 12-39-16. A few years later he traded his homestead to Martin Fox for the southeast quarter of section 16-34-13 in the Garden Plain district, where he farmed until his death in 1950.



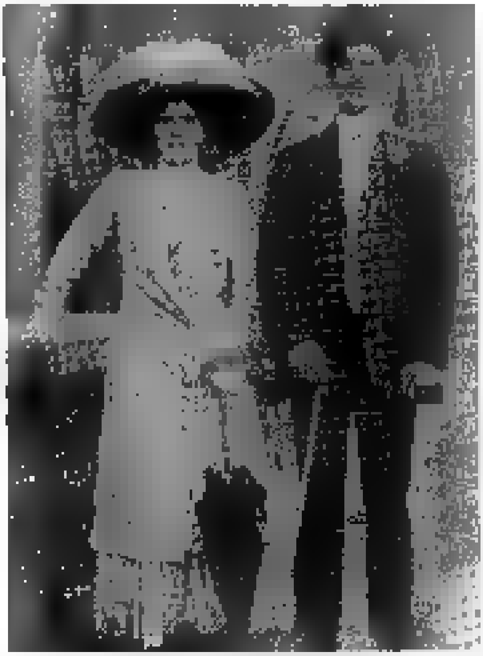
Charles Blayney enjoying his paper and pipe.

In 1917 he married Winnifred Evans who came to Canada from Abermule, Montgomeryshire, Wales and together they made their grounds a show place in the community. They planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables of all kinds, some of which had never been grown before in this part of the province. After establishing a shelter belt which included four kinds of evergreens, they started to grow fruit trees such as cherries, plums and crabapples as well as red, white and black currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries. Asparagus planted before 1919 was still producing forty years later in 1959. Oak trees and evergreens purchased from Estevan, Saskatchewan, grew and flourished after much care and watering during our dry summers.

Mr. and Mrs. Blayney had no family, but when Mrs. Norman Williams, a family friend, passed away following a lingering illness, the Blayneys took their two small daughters, Ruby and Nora, to live with them. They cared for the two girls until they went to live with their father who was now working in Hanna.

Mrs. Blayney was a staunch member of the Anglican Church and was always interested in community work. Mr. Blayney was for years the chairman of Buchan School Board.

Mrs. Blayney died in 1948, her husband in 1950 and both are buried in Netherby cemetery.



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams in Wales

MR. and MRS. NORMAN WILLIAMS, By Nora Froelick and Ruby Betts — Norman B. Williams came to Canada from Abermule, Wales in 1913. He had visions of becoming a cowboy so the first thing he bought was a pair of red sheepskin chaps which he wore on Hallowe'en for years.

He had been a school teacher in London, England so took a teaching job at Netherby in 1913-14.

His wife Pauline and small daughter Ruby left England in 1914 on the day the First World War started. They had a hazardous trip dodging mine fields but arrived safely in Halifax and took the train to Hanna, Alberta. They lived in a sod shack with another Welshman, Charles Blayney, until Mr. Williams took up a homestead on the northwest quarter of 7-33-12. While there he taught North Berry Creek school.

His wife suffered from tuberculosis, so a nurse, Winnifred Evans, came from Wales to look after Mrs. Williams and her baby daughter, Nora.

Mrs. Williams died in 1917 and is buried in Calgary. Winnifred Evans married Charles Blayney and they cared for the two small girls on their farm on southeast 16-34-13.

In 1918 Mr. Williams was seriously injured when a small cyclone went through the area. He was on his way back from Hanna after dark and turned into a farm yard to escape the hail. The roof blew off a barn pinning him beneath and breaking his pelvis. He managed to pull himself up onto his horse who was lying beside him.

He got to the farm house and was taken to the Hanna Hospital. For many years he was badly crippled.

In 1923 he gave up his homestead and found a railway job in Hanna. He took Ruby and Nora to live with him, then in 1926 they moved to Calgary.

He died in 1960 while on a visit to England and Wales. Ruby lives [illegible] Calgary and Nora in Edmonton.

THE FRANK EVANS STORY, Told in part by Nora Froelick — Frank Evans was the youngest brother of Mrs. Charles Blayney. He had enlisted [illegible] the British Army at the age [illegible] seventeen and arrived in Canada immediately after the war ended in 1918. He made his home with his brother-in-law and sister until [illegible] rented the northeast quarter of 28-34-13.

He was always a happy-go-lucky person and will be remembered for his love of animals and on his frequent visits to neighbors he was always accompanied by "me dog". He had a habit of leaving his mitts behind when he visited. Next day he would come back looking for "me mitts".

Frank never married and when his health failed he moved [illegible] the Senior Citizens Lodge [illegible] Castor. He died [illegible] 1969 and was buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

JAMES SCOTT, By Margaret Nelson — James Scott came from Nanton, Alberta, in 1917 and bought the George Kinney land. His son Roy farmed the land along with other land he rented. One of Mr. Scott's sons was married to a Miss Loree from Nanton. Her father purchased land close by and Scott's farmed that too. After five or six years the Scott's decided [illegible] return to Nanton. Frank Evans rented the land for a short time before it was sold [illegible] Dick Roberts.

EMIL MILLER, By Margaret Nelson — Emil Miller homesteaded S.W. 16-34-13 in February 1910. Thirty acres was broke in the southwest corner. Martin Fox farmed it, later Mr. Glover rented it. [illegible] was then bought by Mr. Blayney.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glover Sr. taken in Glenboro, Manitoba.

THE GLOVER FAMILY — William and Elizabeth Glover were among those courageous people who emigrated from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, stopping temporarily in Manitoba for a while, and finally venturing on [illegible] Alberta to homestead on NW 16-34-13 in the Suchen School District in 1906. They had farmed in the old country on a 300 acre farm between Peterhead and the village of St. Fergus. The farm was then and still is known as Lunderton, and borders right on the North Sea. In fact, they have a saying that there are 100 more acres when the tide is out. Old records held by the present owner show Mr. Glover as the reeve, or foreman, for a while, and later before deciding to leave for Canada, he was the tenant, or lessee. The farm of course [illegible] those days was owned by a laird. While still [illegible] Scotland, the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland awarded Mr. Glover a silver medal for his prowess in a ploughing competition.

Mr. and Mrs. Glover had eight children, five sons and three daughters, all of whom came to Canada. They were not joined by all of their children in the homesteading venture.

Bessie stayed in Manitoba, married there and farmed with her husband, Fred Davidson. She brought forth twelve sturdy children, eleven of whom are still living. Bessie is now a widow and lives in Cypress River, Manitoba. She is the last living member of the original Glover family.

Annie came west to Alberta with the family and in 1911 she married Jack MacRae. Annie lost her husband in 1962 and she herself died in 1966.

Christina married Norman MacLeod [illegible] 1916 [illegible] Red Deer, Alberta. Prior to her marriage, Christine had worked in Hanna for Black & Macleod who ran the Dominion rooming house there in the early days. They had two children Elizabeth and Chrissie. She died in March of 1948 and is buried in Calgary.

William married Margaret McGee and they farmed in the Buchan and Dundee Districts. In 1955 he died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage and is buried in the Field of Honour, Burnsland Cemetery.

David, who homesteaded on NE 22-34-13, had been in poor health when the family lived in Manitoba. He lived only to be 22 years old, and in 1913 he was the first one of the family to be buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

Hugh was well known around Hanna and the Goose Lake Line as he travelled these areas as a service representative for the International Harvester Co. for over 40 years. He passed away in High River after a short illness and is buried in the cemetery there. He left to mourn him a wife, Selina, and two sons, Bill and Harry.

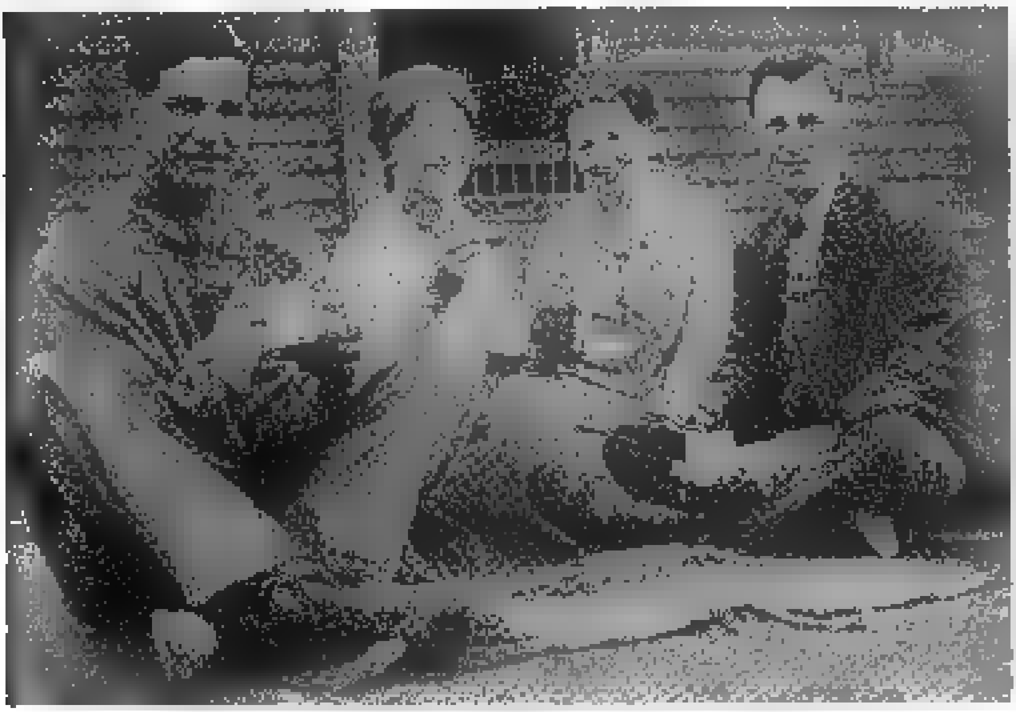
John homesteaded on NE 28-34-13 but before proving up decided to be a policeman in Calgary. He died in Edmonton and is buried there

Last but not least was Andrew (Andy for short), the baby of the family. He was the bachelor type and stayed pretty close to his parents. As a lad of 14 he worked side by side with his father freighting supplies of all kinds by team and wagon from Castor to Hanna townsite before the railroad was built through Hanna. Close to the end [illegible] World War I, Andy was conscripted since he was still single and living alone on a quarter section. He went to Calgary, passed his medical, got his army number then returned to the farm to wait to be called for army service. However, the war ended and he did not have [illegible] go to fight. In 1922 he left the area for a short while and worked in Calgary on the construction of the Imperial Oil Refinery. The city lights held very little attraction for him and he returned to rural life again and resumed farming. It is interesting to note that the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed in 1923 and on the 50th anniversary of the Wheat Pool, Andy was one of the original founding members still living. Andy farmed [illegible] Scapa until suffering a stroke in the early fall of 1973 and was hospitalized in Hanna until he passed away [illegible] February 1975. He is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

William and Elizabeth ran into some pretty rough times during their homesteading days in Alberta. Although the land was virgin territory, some years crops were good and other years they were burned out from lack of moisture, or they were hailed out. A great many of the farmers left the area. William had a great love of the land, and [illegible] was not one to give up easily. One of his great joys was an appreciation of good cattle and he did his best to improve the strain he liked best — the white-faced Herefords. William's pride showed greatly when in 1919 he was successful in achieving a first prize for one of his Hereford bulls at the Calgary Bull Show & Sale. It was a four year old bull by name of George Rex. The next year William tried again with another Hereford — a two year old by name of Rob Roy, but no luck this time. In competition you learn to take the losses with dignity.

Tragedy was soon to come into William's life in the loss of his wife, Elizabeth, in 1921. She died in Calgary and is laid to rest in Union Cemetery there. When a man loses his life partner, something goes out of his life; the challenge the land demands from him becomes different; yet William hid his sorrow and courageously faced the future with determination to go on through whatever was to come. He continued to farm until 1943. He was fortunate indeed to obtain a very capable housekeeper [illegible] the person of Mrs. Madge Kay, a widow, who kept house for him faithfully all through the years that remained of his life. He took sick suddenly in September of 1943; just a three day illness and he was gone. Another pioneer had finished the role God had set out for him. He was laid to rest in Netherby Cemetery.

ANDY GLOVER, By William L. Storch — Andy Glover homesteaded on SW 2-34-13. As a young lad he helped his dad freight lumber and merchandise from Castor to Hanna. He often told how, when he got dry, he would take a drink or two from the jugs of whiskey he was hauling, and when they came to a well they would fill them up with water.



Andy Glover, Miss L.A. MacDonald, Miss Margaret Fisher and Sidney Gilson.

He was known for the humorous stories and jokes he loved to tell. If he could get a joke on someone he really thought he had something going.

In the later years of his life he lived in a shack on [illegible]E 16-34-13. Then he built himself a two roomed house, and from his east window he could take his binoculars and watch what the neighbors were doing.

He used to farm with four horses. In later years he farmed with a small tractor. He would take his tractor and two old tractor tires and drag the roads.

He didn't have any cattle, but used to talk about the striped gopher he had. Sometimes a cat would come around and he would take it in and feed it. He loved dogs but he never had one.

He liked to be among people; he never married, but he often said if he could get a woman with no less than fifty thousand dollars he would marry in a minute.

He always attended the Netherby Cemetery clean up day. At one time he made markers for all the unmarked graves.

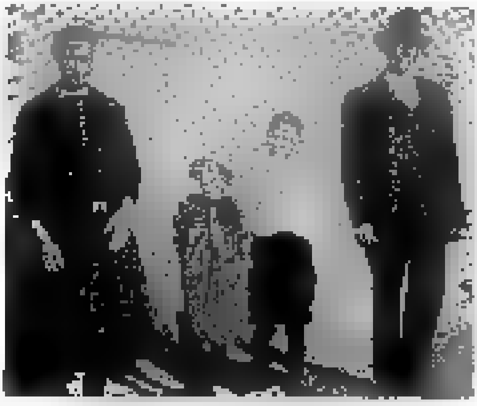
He was on the barbed wire telephone with the neighbors. He got a great charge out of rubbering on the neighbor ladies as they talked on the phone. If what they said wasn't right he would butt in and tell them so. If something was wrong with the phone, he was right out there fixing it, rain or shine, as he didn't want to miss any of the gossip.

He was very fond of children and they liked him too. At picnics he would buy them candy bars and when he met them in town he would buy them some kind of sweets, for he loved sweets himself.

He was a very handy man to have around. There was no job he wouldn't tackle, he was called the handy man of the neighborhood. When he would come around at meal times, he would say, "Just put another cup of water in the soup." He enjoyed his meals when [illegible] was out as he had to cook them himself at home.

Late one Hallowe'en night a bachelor neighbor dressed up as a fat lady, came to Andy's house, crawled into bed with him, and tried to make love to him. I won't say what [illegible] had to say about that. It was out of this world anyway.

He used to say that [illegible] he came home the worse for drink, he could throw his cap in and [illegible] wouldn't come out; "But you married guys can't do that." And then he would have a good laugh. He was born [illegible] Scotland and passed away after a stroke in 1975.



1928 — Mrs. Michael Quaschnick, Emma, Jack and Mr. Michael Quaschnick.

THE MICHAEL QUASCHNICK FAMILY, By Elsie Quaschnick Bennett — My parents, Michael and [illegible]aria Quaschnick, and six children, Ida, Olga, Bertha, Elsie, Jack and Emma, came to Canada from Leipzig, Roumania in October 1927.

We bought land from William Glover Sr. and made our home on the northwest quarter of 16-34-13, where for the next eight years we all worked hard at farming in a strange new land.

In the fall of 1935 we sold out and moved to British Columbia where we were able to make a better living.

My dad died in 1948 of a heart attack in Chilliwack, B.C., at the age of 68. Mother passed away in 1970 at 84 years of age.

GEORGE HUNTER, By Harry Nelson — George Hunter came [illegible] Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1905. He came to Ontario, then to Manitoba where he spent about two years. In 1907 he came to Erskine, Alberta where he did carpenter work for about one year. In the fall of 1908 he, along with John Hutcheson, came in to what is now known as the Garden Plain area looking for land. George filed on the SW 20-34-13 on November 20, 1908. John Hutcheson filed on the NE of 18-34-13 on November 21, 1908. They farmed jointly for the first few years, John doing the homestead duties and George doing the carpenter work in the area. After they were established George did his own farming, also doing carpenter work for other homesteaders in his spare time. He was co-owner of the first steam threshing outfit in this area, the Hunter-Campbell-Glover-Hutcheson Syndicate, which threshed throughout the country for a number of years. George batched for

about twelve or thirteen years of his homestead days. On March 27, 1923 he married Miss Rebecca Benzie who lived with her brother Frank on the former John Hutcheson homestead. After they were married George farmed this land along with his own for a number of years. They lived on the Benzie farm as the house was better there.

About 1931 George had a house built on his own land. After it was finished they moved into it. From then on he farmed only his own land. He continued to farm his own land till about 1952 when he decided to retire and have a sale. All his machinery and buildings except the house were sold. He sold the land [illegible] Rudolph Storch but reserved the right to stay on the place as long as he wanted to. George Hunter passed away on December 21, 1955 at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Hunter continued to live on the farm [illegible] about 1958 when she moved to Coronation, to live with her brother George Benzie. She passed away on March 12, 1966 at the age of eighty years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

MARINUS RASMUSSEN, By Harry Nelson — Marinus Rasmussen filed on the NE 20-34-13 on May 20, 1908. He proved up his homestead, breaking so much every year and worked out in his spare time. In the spring of 1913 [illegible] had a farm sale and went back to Denmark where he came from. He sold his farm to T.F. Ironside in 1913, who farmed it till the fall of 1934, when he left for Vancouver. It was then farmed by his son E.B. Ironside [illegible] 1942. After that it was farmed by the youngest son W.J. Ironside till 1964. He then had a farm sale and the land was bought by Cyril Unsworth who still farms it.

WILLIAM PERT, By Margaret Nelson — William Pert filed on the SE 20-34-13 in August 1908. He built a shack and broke thirty acres of land in order to prove up. After four or five years on the prairie he decided [illegible] go [illegible] Calgary. Wm. Glover bought the land; after his death Dick Roberts bought it. Ironside bought from Roberts and in 1964 sold to Cyril Unsworth.

1912 — Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, taken in Denmark

WILLIAM NELSON, By Harry Nelson — William Nelson was born in Denmark May 19, 1886. [illegible] the spring of 1905 he left Denmark for the United States in search of work. He came to North Dakota where he got a job on a farm. I can recall him telling of some terrible blizzards in North Dakota while he was there. From North Dakota he went to Montana where he worked on railroad construction until the spring of 1908. He then left for Alberta with the intention of filing on a homestead which he did in May 1908, at Stettler, Alberta. The land that was filed on was the north west quarter of 20-34-13 in the Garden Plain area. After homestead duties were done for that year, he went back to work on the railroad construction in order to make enough money to buy livestock and equipment to prove up on his homestead.

He got a job with Leach Brothers, a contractor from the United States, who

had three elevating graders plus a large number of dump wagons. The graders were pulled by eight horses or mules in front and four behind the grader. Most of the dump wagons were pulled by two mules. Most of the construction was on the Stettler to Castor C.P.R. line and at Fox Coulee in the Drumheller area.

When the railroads were done [illegible] this area he worked on the irrigation ditches at Bassano and Brooks. By this time he had an outfit of mules of his own so got work from Jackson Contractors. They would sublet sections of ditching which paid off pretty well. By the winter of 1911 he had made enough money to return to Denmark and was married on February 23, 1912. In the spring of 1912 he returned to Canada and worked on railroad construction in Saskatchewan for the summer, then came back to the homestead.

When the people first homesteaded Stettler was the closest town and they often walked [illegible] Stettler and back home a distance of sixty-five or seventy miles one way. In the fall of 1909 the railroad reached Castor, so for a number [illegible] years what grain was grown was hauled to there, a distance of about twenty-four miles, [illegible] two day trip. Later [illegible] was hauled to Fleet which was about sixteen or eighteen miles. Then Scapa was built and later Garden Plain which was only five miles.

From 1914 to 1923 there were good years and years when there was frost or hail. There were bumper crops in this area in 1923 to the early thirties so there were good years and bad years, some with dust so thick that it was almost impossible to see.

Then came 1934 and the grasshoppers. They pretty well cleaned off the grain as fast as [illegible] came up, in spite of all the grasshopper poison that was spread. Andy Glover had the poison mixing station and every evening the surrounding farmers would go and get the poison for spreading in the morning, but in spite of all this work the grasshoppers cleaned off the crops. Through the dirty thirties, as they were called, a lot of the original homesteaders left this area for greener pastures.

From the homestead days till 1938 all the field work was done first with mules then horses. Threshing was done with steam power. Some of the first steamers in this area were W. Glover, G. Hunter, J. Campbell Syndicate, and A. Richards outfits. Then later there was gasoline outfits. In the early thirties combining became the way of harvesting. T.F. Ironside owned one of the first combines in this area.

About 1928 Mr. Nelson bought another half section of land from the C.P.R. Land Company. This was all broken up with horses and a two-bottom breaking plow. A lot of C.P.R. land was sold about this time. Prices ranged from about eight to fifteen dollars an acre. Terms were a down payment and so much per year. About 1935, when crops had been poor for some years and payments were not being made the C.P.R. decided [illegible] sell it to the original purchaser for whatever cash payments he could offer. A lot of the land was bought for about fifty dollars for a quarter section.

It was about this time that the local Municipal Council was dissolved and the Special Areas took over. A lot of vacant land with back taxes owing was taken over by Special Areas and is still controlled by them. It is leased out to local farmers either for grazing or cultivation lease.

[illegible] the late thirties or early forties things started improving. Crops and cattle prices were better. By the late forties and early fifties everybody had changed from horses [illegible] tractors, which enabled them to farm more land. When anyone sold out the land was bought by the local farmers. Through the fifties and early sixties crops were reasonably good and so were cattle prices, so everyone prospered.

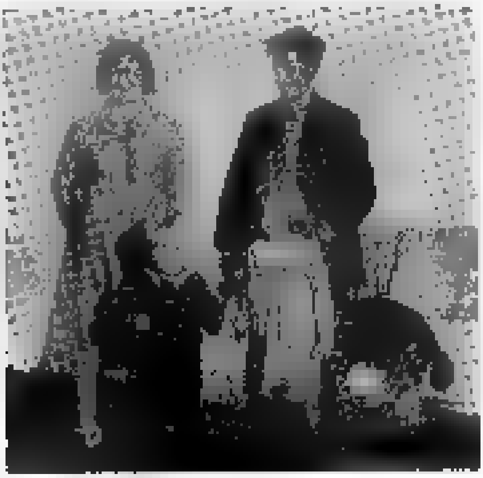
William Nelson retired from active farming about 1960 after suffering a heart condition. He passed away July 27, 1968. He was predeceased by his wife and one

son in 1946. He is survived by one daughter Cora, Mrs. E.B. Ironside living in Hanna, and one son, Harry still on the original homestead.

CHRISTOPHER MIDTHUN — Chris Midthun came to Alberta from Norway and homesteaded on south-east 32-34-13 in May 1911. As he was a good carpenter his services were in great demand by homesteaders who were building for the first time.

Butch Ironside, Tiff Ironside, Christoffer Midthun and Emil Paasche

In 1919 he married Edith Ekman of the Lake Thelma district. Shortly after they moved to Castor where he became a full time carpenter. Later they moved to Washington where he was a building contractor. Chris will be remembered as a good-natured helpful neighbor.



1933 — Mr. and Mrs. John Nielsen and children Henry and Eva.

JOHN NIELSEN, By Henry Nielsen — I left Copenhagen, Denmark on May 12, 1916 to sail to Canada on the Scandinavian-American Ship "Frederick VII" and landed in New York on May 28. From there I went by train to Calgary, then to Lacombe and Castor where my brother Bill met me and took me to his homestead on the NE 20-34-13. I stayed with Bill and his family until July when I went to work for a Danish family by the name of Alfred Jensen who lived north of the correction line. I worked there until November and then spent the winter with brother Bill.

In the summer of 1917 I worked for Arthur Groves who lived five miles north of the correction line over near Sullivan Lake. We broke a number of horses that summer as well as doing the general farm work. The winter of 1917-18 I

worked at Shuswap Lake, B.C. for Adams River Lumber Company. The spring of 1918 I rented the NE 30-34-13 from Otto Anderson. I farmed this land with four horses that I bought from Arthur Groves. In the winter of 1918-1919 I was out in the B.C. logging camp again, returning in the spring [illegible] farm the Otto Anderson land. In 1920 I bought the SE 32-34-13 from Chris Midthun and farmed that as well as Anderson's.

I remember one winter in the early twenties, I went over to Roy Scott's to find that he had broken his leg that day. Apparently he had hooked up his team to go somewhere, and got down off the sleigh again [illegible] do something when one of his horses kicked him, breaking his leg. The doctor had been sent for and arrived about the same time I did. The doctor, needed some help setting the leg, asked me to assist. My job was to stretch the leg while he manipulated the bones back into place and put a cast on. Six weeks later I took Roy to Castor hospital to get the cast removed and found the leg was alright again.

About 1923 I bought my first two cows from Timmerman who lived north of the correction line.

In 1926 I rented the farm to Vagn Hansen and went to Denmark. On July 15, 1927 I married Ane Paulsen and we returned to Canada again that fall.

At a land sale [illegible] Coronation in June [illegible] 1928 I bought the NE 29-34-13 and then we quit farming Otto Anderson's. On November 15, 1928 our daughter Eva was born in the Castor Hospital. Henry was born February 6, 1930 also in the Castor Hospital. In 1930 we moved the house from the original place on Chris Midthun's down to the school land because of better water. A sod barn was built there also. We farmed here until the kids had to start school. By this time Round Lake School was closed so our nearest school was Buchan, almost four miles away. So after much deliberation, in 1935 we decided to move to the W ½ 2-34-13 which was only 2½ miles from school.

In June 1936 Elmer was born. Eva and Henry started school in September of 1936 and completed one term at Buchan. This same year we didn't get enough wheat to fill a triple wagon box. Our first Angus bull was bought this fall from Sid Herring for $15.00.

The summer of 1937 there were quite a number of vacant farms so we decided to move to a better location. We rented the S ½ 25-34-14 formerly farmed by Blums and moved there in October 1937. It was just across the road from Corinne School. In 1939 we moved again, this time two and one half miles south of Corinne to the SW 12-34-14 which had been previously farmed by Rutherfords. Along with this we leased the NW 1-34-14, N ½ 24-34-14 and the NE 25-34-14. During the next few years things got better as prices improved after the depression and we had more rainfall. Now we were able to increase our cow herd and get some new machinery.

When Eva completed her high school she supervised [illegible] the Ozark School from September to Christmas. In 1948 she attended Normal School and took up teaching. She married Clarence Moran in September of 1953. At present they are living in Bowness and Eva is a librarian at Eugene Coste School while Clarence is employed at Burns Packing Plant.

Henry helped at home until he went to Lacombe to take up carpentry. Later he returned to the area and went farming. He married Irene Holman and they have four children.

[illegible] November 1959, when Elmer got married to Doris Hoffart, we bought a house in Hanna and Elmer and Doris lived on the farm. They have two children, Terry and Peggy. When we retired from active farming we had a herd of good

Angus cows, all descendants of the first two cows I bought from Timmerman and the $15.00 bull I got from Herring.

In 1969 I took a trip to Denmark by air. Owing to poor health Ane was not able to go, but after I found what relatives were left, we both went back the following year. In September of 1974 we sold the house in Hanna and moved into the Acadia Lodge. On February 11, 1975 Ane entered Hanna Hospital and remained there, except for a few months in the Palliser Nursing Home, until her passing on February 7, 1977. At present I am a resident of the Acadia Lodge.

HARRY NELSON, By Harry Nelson — I was born on September 21, 1914 on NW 20-34-13 W4, my dad's homestead, and am still living there.

The first years of school my sister and I drove a horse and buggy in summer and a cutter in winter. When we were a little older we rode horseback a distance of three and one-half miles.

In those days I believe it was permissable [illegible] quit school [illegible] the age of fifteen.

In June or July of 1929 work was started on the C.N.R. line from Scapa [illegible] Hemaruka and it was an awful dry year and not much to do at home; I decided to try and get work with some of the contractors on this line.

About three miles west of Spondin, an American company by the name of J. Owen & Sons had set up their camp, so I rode down to see them about getting work. They asked if I could drive horses, I assured them I could and was told I could start work the next day. The next morning after breakfast I followed the rest of the men down to the barn. The barn boss told me to wait until the other boys had their horses out and then helped me get my three horses harnessed and hitched up to a dump wagon. I spent the summer of 1929 with them and stayed on until they completed their contract on the grade which I believe was late October or early November.

The Harry Nelson Family. Rena, Bill, Scott, Margaret and Harry Nelson; Keith, Diane and Barry Hutton. Gordon Hutton in front.

The wage those days was forty dollars a month and [illegible] you remained with the company in the fall it was sixty dollars a month plus room and board. Not much by today's standards but pretty good in those days.

The company had one elevating grader which was pulled by a Holt [illegible] Cat.

The cat skinner on the grader was the youngest son, Bill Owen. The next son was John Owen who drove another Holt [illegible] pulling two large steel dump wagons. The rest of the dirt was hauled by dump wagons pulled by three horses. There were approximately fifteen or twenty wagons. Ralph Owen, the oldest son, was the foreman and a great fellow [illegible] work for. Then there was John Owen senior, a fairly elderly man and father to the three boys. He did a lot of grumping and growling if you happened to have a breakdown.

The crop [illegible] home in 1929 was very poor. There was hardly any rain all summer. I remember in 1928 my dad had the SE 19-34-13 rented from F. Benzie. It was new breaking and would have been a good crop but it was hailed out. The following year (1929) was pretty well dried out though some of it was cut. I believe dad threshed something like one hundred and thirty-five bushels off the hundred acres.

I was at home during the winter of 1929 and summer of 1930.

The fall and winter of 1930-31 I believe the C.N.R. laid the steel between Scapa and Hemaruka. I hired on with the railway helping lay the steel starting approximately one mile east of Scapa straight through [illegible] Hemaruka.

The winter of 1930-31 was fairly mild with very little snow. It was possible to drive a car home every weekend even though there were no high grade roads at that time. The railway line was completed in the winter of 1931. This same line [illegible] now abandoned and has not been in use for several years. The last piece of the rail from Scapa to Spondin was removed during the fall and winter of 1976. (Progress in reverse.) The track from Spondin to Hemaruka was removed several years ago.

The first elevator at Garden Plain was the Pioneer Grain Co. built in the summer of 1931 and operating that fall. George Wilson was the first grain buyer followed by A.W. Shand in 1932. A store was opened about this time by Mr. J.W. Taylor who operated there for a number of years.

I was home most of the time from 1931 until the fall of 1933 helping around the farm.

The winter of 1933 and summer of 1934 I worked for the next door neighbor, Mr. T.F. Ironside.

During the fairly dry summer of 1934 the grasshoppers moved in. They destroyed the crops in spite of all the poison bait that was spread out. That fall a lot of feed grain was shipped in [illegible] Garden Plain to feed the livestock in the area.

Cattle prices were at an all time low the fall of 1934. A lot of people had to sell because of the feed shortage. A lot of good cattle were shipped that fall for a penny a pound or less.

In the fall [illegible] 1934 I went to Calgary to work for Maxwell Smith, a well known Thoroughbred breeder, who lived about ten miles west of Calgary. I worked there for most of the time until 1938 when I came home and started to farm with my dad.

We acquired more land and the first tractor in the spring of 1939. The crops were good in the fall of 1940 and I bought my first combine. I did our combining plus a lot of custom work.

There was a series [illegible] good years in the 1940's. In 1942 there were exceptional crops although several of them were out all winter.

Through the forties and fifties there was a series of good years with better than average crops.

We also got through the 1960's and 1970's with not many problems. There was one year, 1962, started out dry and it looked as if there would be a feed shortage. A couple of the neighbors and myself went up to Vegreville area to put up feed. While we were there it started raining so we decided to go home. When we got home there was water everywhere. There had been five inches of rain

overnight and two inches more the following day so that solved the feed problem that year. This rain came about the twelfth of July so all the later sown crops produced a lot of feed.

There was more progress in 1974. The East-Central Gas Co-Op was formed and gas lines were laid through most of this area. Now everybody that wanted it has natural gas on the farm, a real benefit.

In January 1946 I was married to Margaret Wright. We built a house on the home place and still live there.

We have two children, Diane, now Mrs. Barry Hutton, is living on a farm north of Watts. Bill married Rena Braconnier and they are living in their own trailer on the home place.

I still farm and raise cattle and haven't thought of retiring for awhile yet.

KEN WILLIAMS STORY, By Ken Williams — My father Tom Williams purchased the Ole Larson farm in the fall of 1928. My mother and I, brothers Keith and Bud, and sister Irene moved on January 6, 1929. The weather was just like the first of July. Soon after that, winter set in and we had lots of snow.

My first job was [illegible] get coal [illegible] Bob Unsworth's Three Star Mine eight miles south.

Next thing we had to find our school. We were actually in Little Round Lake district but that school was closed. We enrolled at Buchan School three miles away and Mr. Vanderburg was our teacher.

We always looked forward to the mailman coming around. Earl Hill made his rounds by cutter and team in winter. In summer he drove a "Bennett Buggy". The mail came from Scapa, sixteen miles away.

The depression of the thirties set [illegible] so Dad decided he had better continue his job on the C.N.R. so he stayed [illegible] Hanna and I was left to take over.

As we had good neighbors, we managed. There was John Nelson to the north, Ironsides and Bill Nelson to the west, Quaschnick to the south and John Hutcheson and Bill Glover to the east. They were always willing to lend a helping hand.

We had three sisters born into the family while on the Larson place, Joyce, Shirley and June.

In the spring of 1935 Dad decided to move the family closer to Hanna so we moved to what was called the old Overton place, fourteen miles north of Hanna. There we met new neighbors, to the north lived Fred Johnstone and Greenways and Jim Taylor, to the east Marlon Wright and the Rehill family, south were Harry Lumsden and Ed Loveday. William Lumsden was west [illegible] us.

I took over the farm in the fall of 1935 and Mother and sisters including Bud went back to town. I was married to Mildred Harvey of Corinne district [illegible] the fall of 1939. She taught at Solon for two years.

In the summer of 1941 I got a job with the C.N.R. in Hanna, later I left the farm and moved back to Hanna. Our two sons, Bob and Jim, were born [illegible] Hanna.

After serving three years in the Air Force we moved to Mirror where I continued with the C.N.R. I am retired now. My wife taught at Mirror School for twenty-four years and retired last June. We are now enjoying visiting with our sons and three grandchildren, and looking forward to travelling and relaxing at our cabin at Pelican Point on Buffalo Lake.

FRED and BARBARA MATTIS, Written by Barbara Mattis — Fred Mattis homesteaded west of Spondin in 1927, and it was here that I, Barbara Schram, met him when I came to teach Sear school in 1931. We were married in September

of 1933 and managed to make our way with hard work and horse power through the "Dirty Thirties" on the homestead.

In 1938, Fred did some horse trading and obtained his first tractor, and I.H.C. Caterpiller, which contained under its hood much more horse power that didn't have to be fed and harnessed every day. With this, he became ambitious for a larger farm in a better district where he could also expand in livestock. He found one at Standard and seeded the first crop in 1939 and the children and I moved down [illegible] the fall of 1940.

Fred was a great lover and judge of good horses and, as the herd increased beyond the capacity [illegible] the homestead and the open range became leases, he sought to find more pasture for them. It was then that Jesse Roberts was wanting to sell out and go back to the "Old Country". His brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts, who owned adjoining property, also decided to sell out and retire to Hanna, so Fred bought them both out in 1948 and this became our ranch. Both the house and barn on the Jesse Roberts place burned and were rebuilt. Vivian Howery managed the ranch and looked after the place for twelve years.

The Dick Roberts place was fitted for sheep raising and a man was placed there to look after them. At shearing time, many neighbors would come to watch.

By 1960, our family of four girls were away from home and married, so we began to think about reducing the work load for the "Old Team" to handle, so advertised the farm and went out of the sheep. The Standard farm was sold in 1965, so we moved our livestock and equipment to the Jesse Roberts place, whose buildings were situated on northwest 34-34-13, a picturesque spot between two bodies of water known as Little Round and Clement Lakes, and continued farming and ranching in this area.

We concentrated on a large herd of good Belgian and Percheron horses and buyers came from everywhere to purchase them. A lot of them were shipped to the United States and some went to Hollywood to be used for entertainment purposes, while others went all over Canada and the United States to be used in lumber camps and for wagons of various kinds. In 1975, I went to Victoria, British Columbia, especially [illegible] see our horses hooked to the "Tally-Ho Sightseeing Tour" wagons. At the 1976 Camrose Fair, I got the thrill of my life to discover that a lovely grey Percheron gelding brought in from Saskatchewan had our brand on his left hip and was taking prizes. I learned that he had taken second in his class at the Royal Winter Fair. We sold most of our remaining herd to two men [illegible] southeastern Saskatchewan and they are still raising horses from them.

In the spring of 1973 we sold the ranch to Jack Morgan and had an auction sale in June. We were preparing to move and retire to Castor when Fred passed away suddenly October 27. The house on the ranch was not going to be used so I remained there for another year, then moved into a new home in Castor.

VIV HOWERY, By Ina Howery — I came from the Spondin area to work for Fred Matlis in 1962, and lived on the former J.H. Roberts place. I became foreman and worked for him eleven years. Fred operated eleven sections of land and had about two hundred head of draft horses.

I generally had a hired man, we had to keep up the fences and put up hay for feed. I had to bring the horses off the lease each fall. Winter pasture was close at home.

I ran about a hundred head of feeder cattle of my own each year and also had some ponies of my own. I bought my grain and roughage.

I did some farming each year. Some years Fred sent up help from Standard,

where he had other land. On December 3, 1962, I married Ina Mulgrove [illegible] Spondin. We have three children.

The two oldest children went to school at Netherby by bus. Garry is married and living at Viking. Debbie married Barry Quinton and lives in Edmonton. Valerie is still [illegible] home and is in her last year of high school.

In 1963 we moved to Viking where I bought a farm. Here we grow grain, feed cattle and have ponies which I drive in summer on Pony Chuckwagons. Ina [illegible] a hairdresser.

JOHN REASOR — John Reasor came to Alberta from Texas in 1909. He homesteaded on northwest 2-34-13. He farmed and hauled freight with oxen for several years, even after most of his neighbors had horses.

One year he did not have any seed grain or the money [illegible] buy any. In order to fulfill his homestead duties he had to seed something; so he sent an order to the T. Eaton Company for fifty cents worth of turnip seed. He seeded it by broadcasting with a hand-cranked seeder. That fall, people for many miles around came to buy his turnips.

John Reasor plowing with oxen

In October, 1912, he rented Charles Strandberg's homestead quarter and moved onto it. His own homestead turned out to be a poor piece of ground, as it was in an area three to four miles wide and about twelve miles long which became known as the "Poverty Flats" during the homestead days. This land is very rocky and has [illegible] thin layer of top soil; at present it is divided into grazing leases.

[illegible] 1918 Charles Strandberg, with his family, returned from the United States, so John moved back to his own place. He did not farm much after that. He had an auction sale in the spring [illegible] 1920, held at Strandberg's farm. He sold his land to the Soldiers Settlement Board and moved [illegible] New York where he married a childhood friend.

He died in 1924, aged eighty years.

The Charles Strandberg family. Harold, Eric, Mrs. Strandberg, Mr. Strandberg.

CHARLES M. STRANDBERG, by Harold Strandberg — Charles [illegible]. Strandberg was born in Sweden in 1876, the oldest of eleven children. His parents moved to the U.S.A. in 1880 where they homesteaded about twenty miles north of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1906 he married Beda Ekelund who had come from Sweden in 1903. A son Stanley was born in 1907.

In May 1908 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead about sixty miles southeast of Stettler, southwest 4-34-13. His brother-in-law, Theodor Ekelund, who came with him filed on the northeast quarter of the same section. [illegible] October that year, Mr. Strandberg received the sad news that his wife had passed away, along with her infant daughter. He went back to the U.S.A. the same month.

Due to the circumstances, his entry for this quarter section was protected for one year, although [illegible] had not been able to stay the required six months. He returned to the homestead in April 1909 and continued with the work that was required in order [illegible] "prove up". He went back to the States in November and returned in April of each year until the fall of 1912 when he rented the one hundred and sixty acres to John Reesor.

During the time he was on the homestead he did a lot of breaking using three oxen and a walking plow. He broke about eighty acres of his own and also broke land for several of his neighbors who would be away working for wages during the summer months and living on their homesteads during the winter.

In the fall [illegible] 1909 a prairie fire burned through this area; he lost his shack and everything in it.

He married Anna Anderson in 1913. She was born in Sweden in 1880, one of a family of ten children. She had come to Minneapolis in 1899 and resided with an older brother who had arrived two years earlier. She soon obtained employment at the Oak Ridge Farm, a country estate owned by the former president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison. She was still employed there as a cook when she married.

A son, Harold, was born in 1918. In July of that year the family moved to the homestead in Alberta, arriving by train [illegible] Castor and travelling the rest of the way in Theodor Ekelund's new model T car. A new house was built the same year. In 1921, a son, Eric, was born. Stanley, Harold and Eric attended Buchan school.

The next years were up and down financially. Several times the crops were hailed out, sometimes they were frozen; it seemed that whenever there was a good yield the price was low. During the thirties there were several dry years in succession and some of the neighbors left for what they hoped would be a better farming area.

In 1942 Stanley married Inga Siverson. They live about two miles southeast of the homestead.

During the forties and fifties, cattle prices improved and there were fewer crop failures, so in 1952 [illegible] new house was built with running water, electricity and eventually natural gas. Mr. Strandberg fell and broke his hip [illegible] 1951 and was never able to walk after the accident. He passed away [illegible] 1959. Mrs. Strandberg passed away in 1953 after a short illness.

In 1967 Eric married. He lives in Hanna but owns land and cattle, and shares his farming operations with Harold, who still lives on the old homestead.

MR. and MRS. THEODOR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Gustave Theodor Nilson Ekelund was born in Skattebol, Varmland, Sverige (Sweden), the year 1880. He worked there as a policeman before he sought adventure by sailing for the U.S.A. He worked in the logging industry and at other jobs. Theodor, his brother Oscar, and sister Beda met the Sven Johan Strandberg family in Wyoming, Minnesota. Beda became the bride of Carl [illegible]. (Charles) Strandberg in 1906. Glowing reports of next-to-free land inspired Theodor and Charles Strandberg to head for Canada. Theodor filed on his homestead NE 4-34-13 on June 2, 1908. He was taken to his homestead by Haldor Bratsberg, who assisted homesteaders to locate their places.

He built himself the necessary shelters of sod. At times strange noises were heard in his barn. Believing that he had built it on the grave of an Indian Chief, he buried a box of snuff in the floor as a peace offering. He believed that helped to stop the racket, for he never heard the noises again.

Edit Elisabeth Lindroth was born in Sweden, in 1891. She lived in Bergforsen, and Karlsborg before immigrating to the U.S.A. She worked there until she came to Castor, Alberta, where she was married to Theodor Ekelund on November 11, 1911. After the ceremony they drove to the homestead where together they built up a nice little farm which they named Newhem.

In the spring of 1920 they had a sale and went back to Sweden until 1927, when they returned to Newhem. Mr. Norman Williams and daughters Ruby and Nora operated Newhem after Ekelunds left for Sweden until Morris arrived in the late summer of 1920. Mr. Richard Morris operated the farm until 1923, while Mrs. Morris taught Buchan school. Two boys were born to the Morris's while on the Ekelund farm. From the fall of 1923 to the spring of 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sleath lived there. Stanley Strandberg operated the farm from 1924 until Ekelund's return in 1927.

Theodor and Edit loved their animals. Once they sold four steers to Pete Kennedy. When he came to get them the animals had strayed away down the road so Theodor boarded the truck with Pete, drove to where the animals were, and instructed Pete to park the truck against a bank so the animals could walk into it. Carrying a pail of chop, Theodor then called, "Come Kalven, Come Kalven" and walked into the truck. To Pete's amazement, the steers followed him.

As Theodor had no brand, Pete had been rather dubious about loading cattle anywhere else than on the owner's property, in case people would think he was stealing cattle. Theodor proved without a doubt whose cattle they were.

In 1948 they had another sale. In 1949 they went back to Sweden where they both passed away.

BLOOMVICK — ANDERSON, By Margaret Nelson — P.W. Bloomvick homesteaded the SW 10-34-13 May 13, 1908. Mr. Bloomvick came from the United States. His wife remained there. One daughter and one son came out later. The daughter became Mrs. Gerritz of the Cowan School district. The homestead was worked and all improvements made that were necessary. In 1914 or 1915 son Anton Anderson took over the land. He also bought the homestead of Griff Wilson.

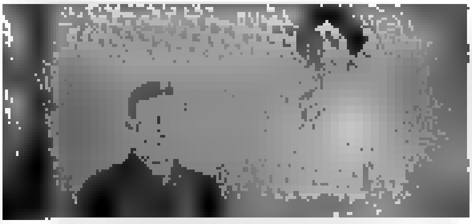
Anton's brother came out from the States and stayed with him for a year in the early twenties.

In summer Anton liked to play baseball. He was a member of the Sullivan

Lake Ball team and was their pitcher. One story told of his records, that he pitched three games in one day and won them all.

About 1924 Anton decided to return to the States. Mr. Halverson rented the land for a few years, then it was sold to Mr. Storch in 1926.

In the summer of 1976 Anton Anderson, over eighty, was still living in the State of Washington.



Mr. and Mrs. Griff Wilson

GRIFFON WILSON, By Margaret Nelson — Griff Wilson homesteaded the NW 10-34-13 in August 1909. His brother Howard lived on SE 14-34-13. Griff broke his land and built a shack. Griff and Howard Wilson were brothers of Mrs. Martin Fox. In 1914 or 1915 Wilsons sold to Anton Anderson.

WALLACE BATTEN, By Margaret Nelson — Wallace Batten filed on the NE 24-34-13 in December 1910. He spent his time, off the homestead, working in Coronation and at harvest time on the Fred Saar threshing crew. He left the area only four or five years after arriving.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF THE WELCH'S, By Margaret Welch Foss — My folks, my Dad's brother Frank Welch and I came to Canada from North Dakota in 1911. We crossed the border at Portal, came to Castor by train and the rest by horse and wagon. We had a wagon filled with all the items needed for the days ahead; such as a grind stone, post hole digger, picks and all types of shovels, dishes, clothing, pots and pans, wash tubs, a boiler and even a churn. It seemed to me, if my memory is correct that we had two wagons but considering the fact that I was only two and a half years old, I am not too clear on some things.

1918 — Tom Welch, Margaret Welch, Mrs. Welch Sr. and Mrs. Tom Welch.

There are things though that I do remember very clearly. The nearest town to our homestead was Castor and from there they took the horses, and the cattle were brought along by foot. My Mother and I took the Stage to the stopping house

which was run by Mr. and Mrs. Herm Simon. They served meals and provided rooms for overnight guests. It was situated on what was known as "The Castor Trail" and believe me, [illegible] those days, it was truly a trail; strictly wagon ruts.

I'll never forget our arrival at Simon's stopping house that day, as I refused to get out of the stagecoach for a very good reason. It had rained the night before and there was a little puddle of water on the seat where I had to sit, consequently, I was soaked and knew that the wet would show on my white dress and I was sure everyone would think that I had suffered an accident. Finally my mother and Mrs. Simon convinced me that no one would think that, [illegible] Mrs. Simon promptly went into the house and told the stagecoach driver that [illegible] better [illegible] more careful in the future and dry off the seats before letting people get aboard. Then and only then did I feel vindicated and ready to face the world.

Garden Plain consisted [illegible] a small store which had groceries, dry goods, hardware (even the pickle barrel), and the Post Office was located in the store as well. It was owned by Tom Kane who had [illegible] bring all the supplies by horse and wagon from Castor or Stettler to supply the people who settled in the area. Mr. Kane also owned and operated a coal mine about a quarter [illegible] a mile from the store.

He had a young lady help in the store and Post Office, who was invaluable [illegible] everyone as she was quick and more than willing to serve people and a very good worker; her name was Marie Bartsch. In later years she married Don Cameron. I always appreciated her kindness to me a few years later when I was able to ride my horse over to get the mail and groceries. My folks felt I was too young to use a saddle, in case I would get hung up in the stirrups, so I had to ride bareback. The only trouble with that was that, even though I could get off the horse I just never mastered the knack of getting on again. Consequently I had to be helped upon the horse, a Pinto Indian pony that was blind in one eye, and when I went to the store Marie would pack the groceries and the mail in two saddle bags, tied together and thrown on the pony's shoulders, then she would give me a boost up and away I'd gallop the three and a half miles to my home. No matter how many people were in the store or how busy she was, Marie was never impatient and would always tell others they would have [illegible] wait their turn, because I came first. I'm sure she never realized how important she made me feel, giving me such priority. She made sure the bags were evenly balanced so everything arrived home safe and sound. I guess [illegible] child never forgets a kindness like that and I felt so grown up and responsible to be able [illegible] go for the groceries and an inner glow of pleasure [illegible] many such kindnesses people bestowed on me. I was truly a very fortunate youngster in that regard.

My Dad (Tom Welch) had come to Canada beforehand, filed on the homestead and had built a one room shack, so we had a place to go for a roof over our heads. My Dad had worked on the Railway during the time they were completing the line beyond Castor. My Mother and Dad bought the first lots to be sold in Coronation, and built a small house on the lot. We packed up and moved to Coronation, stayed for six months and then reversed the procedure and went back to the homestead for another six months. Coronation was one of the real frontier towns, which really mushroomed in a short time.

I remember the school being built, when it was finished I thought that was all anyone needed to have to be able to attend. I was so anxious to go to school that one day I took [illegible] into my head that This Was The Day For Me, so I walked right into school classes in session. The teacher was very nice, asked me my name and what I wanted, so I told her I was starting school that day and she showed me to a desk, gave me a pencil and paper and told me to pay attention like [illegible] of the others were doing; after all this was the fifth grade (I didn't believe in starting at the bottom). I remained until recess and then the teacher told me I had to go home because she was afraid my Mother would be looking for me. She also said that I could come back any time as long as I was quiet as I had been that day. I was never more grown up when I was twenty-one than I was walking home from school that day! My Mother was embarrassed when I told her I was going to school, so much so that she bought a nice box of chocolates and we both went to school and gave them to the teacher with a most heartfelt "Thank You" for her understanding and kindness [illegible] a three and a half year old school girl.

One time when we were going to Coronation there was still a great deal of snow on the ground and some very high drifts, to keep warm we had lap robes and a couple of foot warmers, these were containers covered with asbestos and velvet and inside was a couple of bricks of coke, which when lit burned a long time and gave an unbelievable amount of warmth.

On the way Dad bought a cow from someone and the poor thing was so thin she just looked like hide and bones. They loaded her in the sleigh with plenty of nice hay which she started to eat with great relish. I was holding my little tin box of doll dishes. All of a sudden we hit a high snowbank and the sleigh tipped upside down. We were thrown clear and were not injured but my Mother and Dad were afraid the cow had been killed because she was on her back and the sleigh was upside down on top of her. When they got the sleigh turned right side up again they looked at her with concern and were astounded to see that she was still eating hay and was unconcerned. In the meantime, I was standing on a snowbank crying and my folks came over to see if I had been hurt, even though they had checked me over first of all. When they came over to see why I was crying, I told them I was afraid my doll dishes were broken; the day was saved when upon opening my little tin box they found everything in perfect order.

This brings to mind a time my husband and I needed to have our car pulled out of the snow. We had our young baby with us and try as we would we could not budge the car. We were right in front of a neighbor's farmhouse and my husband had to ask their help with a team. The horses gave one good pull and in a matter of minutes we were in the clear once more. Where upon the neighbor said "That will be six dollars." Now this was in the depression when six dollars was a lot of money, comparable to about $50.00 nowadays.

I've often wondered how much good that money did them. One thing for sure that's one neighbor I've never forgotten, even though the memory isn't kindly. That person had been on the receiving end of more than one favor from our family. No doubt the memory of this incident remains so clear in mind because such events were few and far between.

Both of my parents loved Canada very much and were always very loyal to their adopted country. Many people in this day and age of television, radio and planes would think our lives as dull. I doubt very much that any child in today's living has as full and enjoyable life as I did. I was most fortunate in having parents who showed their love for me and each other. We shared everything and I went everywhere with them. In those days this was not unusual because there was no such thing as a babysitter. It was anything but a lonely life because as time went on and more people came to our country there were card parties at people's homes and dances at the school houses. Coffee was made in a wash boiler with coffee tied in a cheese cloth bag added and was a beautiful brew. After lunch the chairs and card tables were cleared away and everyone danced to four or five a.m. The youngest children were put to bed, usually on the stage. The parents brought blankets and pillows and made very comfortable beds. The kids went to bed undisturbed by the music or laughter or talking. All of this made for a wonderful relationship between adults and the children. The children had great respect for the adults. The togetherness enjoyed by all in those days is something that could well be employed by the families and friends in our present society to the advantage of all. The families not only enjoyed recreation together but worked together. My job after I was seven or eight years old was to round the cattle up off the open range every night and corral them. Also I was supposed to gather all the eggs. There were sometimes when I slipped up on the latter, not through neglect on my part but because I had a further distance to go for the cows which were chased by the heel flies.

Our home was always a gathering place for young and old for parties and fun. I never had to hesitate if I wanted to bring my friends after a dance for a lunch and more fun and music. Mother wasn't long making a plate of sandwiches and producing another plate of cookies, a pot of coffee plus a pitcher of milk for us to feast on. Sometimes Mother and Dad would be in bed when we arrived home, however, my friends would troop into their bedroom to relate the evening events with them. The folks always wound up being served coffee in bed. This program continued even while I was away in the U.S.A. My folks were not very rich in worldly goods, but were rich in the most worthwhile things in life. They both remained young at heart and in their interests.

One thing that stands out in my memory is the storms in winter and summer. The lightning storms we had were more than a little vicious. To this day I'm terrified of thunder storms, and I blame it on the fact that I stood at our kitchen door and watched lightning strike six fence posts one after another, and strike and stun cattle in the corral. I also saw lightning strike the house next to ours in Coronation. The only thing that saved it from fire was that the people who lived there had the baby's bath water in the tub and used it to put out the flames. The crash was so loud we thought it was our house that the lightning had hit.

The winter storms in their own way were equally frightening. With all that open prairie and high winds those blizzards were something to behold. The visibility was nil and it wasn't too unusual to hear of someone getting lost between the house and the barn. They were terrible storms for the livestock, especially to those caught on the open prairie; they would drift with the storm and be found miles away, many times unfortunately dead. There were others over the years who weren't found until after the storm, frozen to death or still alive with serious frost bites on their bodies. It's surprising there weren't more such cases considering the ruggedness of our dear frontier land in those days.

The two years I spent in the Convent in Castor, when I was nine to eleven years old was a far cry from my home life, but all in all was a good experience for me. Looking back I feel for the poor Sisters dealing with me; they were determined to make a lady of me and I'm afraid they had to fight an uphill battle in that respect. I had been accustomed to dealing with adults on more or less equal footing, but of course with proper respect. However, the Sisters, who were French and French Canadian had another view point entirely concerning the proper attitude of a child towards adults. I finally saw the light and found I really could defer with proper respect and decorum toward my superiors. Somehow answering my parents "Yes Ma'am" was short lived when I went home to stay! Thank goodness we were so close in our relationship, for such stiff formality was strictly for the convent. I really didn't mind the two years spent in Castor, but it was good to get home again and back to a normal life once again.

One thing I had in my early childhood that the children of today missed out on, was waking up to the beautiful song of the meadowlarks, there's no music in

this world so sweet and wonderful. Another thing I enjoyed, was when my Dad was breaking the new land and I would follow bare foot in the deep, moist wonderful smelling furrows of the freshly turned soil. Every so often we would find a duck's nest, which Daddy would very carefully pick up and transfer to the sod, being so careful not to disturb the nest or the eggs. The duck would stay at a distance but after we did a couple more rounds we would see her settle on her eggs once more staying there to hatch her brood.

One time Daddy took a few eggs from a duck nest and put them under one of our setting hens. I'll never forget the consternation of that poor hen when the little ducklings hatched and promptly took off in a straight line for the slough half a mile away, the mother hen in hot pursuit, cackling at them all the way. The last straw for her was when they reached the water and took off swimming happily. The hen ran up and down scolding the ducklings every step of the way and they paid no attention [illegible] her. We finally picked up the poor distraught hen, carried her home and put her on some chicken eggs that hatched in three weeks and everyone lived happily ever after. The ducklings had taken up with their own kind and fared much better I'm sure, than had they been raised as chickens.

The heel flies seemed to be worse in the early days, probably because of all the growth of prairie wool, that wonderful grass we had for hay. Haying was done in August, the hottest month of the year. The fresh cut hay had such a wonderful aroma but the pleasure was diminished by the pesky hay needles that would penetrate any type of clothing and work their way into the skin. They burned like old fury, when removed from the flesh. Haying was much hard work for all concerned but when there were rows of stacks ready for the cattle and horses in the winter time it seemed all very worthwhile. Now they raise tame grass but I'm sure it doesn't compare with the old fashioned wild hay of by gone days.

Our animals had another benefit, something very necessary for animals, all the water they wanted. My Dad dug the well by hand and only had to dig down twelve feet, where he hit sandstone and water came rushing in clear, ice cold beautiful drinking water. The water was ice cold even on the hottest days and my Dad built a shelf about half way down the well and we put milk, cream and butter in containers and lowered them with a rope. In the days of no refrigeration this was a distinct benefit because everything came out cold. During the terrible drought we suffered in later years so many wells went dry and the poor cattle and horses, as well as people could have perished if it hadn't been for our wonderful well. People would drive a whole herd of cattle and horses to our place for a drink. It was pathetic to see them bury their faces in the water, drink their fill; walk away for awhile only to return and drink some more. The people would bring large barrels on a stoneboat a[illegible] fill them up to take home for household use.

That drought period is something I'm sure everyone who lived through it would love to forget — the parched, burned up fields and grassland. The farmers would optimistically seed grain, praying for rain while working in violent dust storms. The drifting of the soil was tragic, it blew so hard that the fence posts along the field were almost buried in top soil. The animals were skin and bones from lack of food, the cows had their poor little calves and didn't have enough milk to give them a good start. Then we were plagued with grasshoppers. A field could be green and within minutes after the grasshoppers landed it looked like a ploughed field; stripped [illegible] every vestige of growth.

How the people could stand [illegible] year after year and still try again is hard to comprehend. Of course every year there were those who took off for greener pastures. Like so many of the pioneers, Tom and Agnes Welch held on through seven years of drought and grasshoppers. Then my Dad said, [illegible] could take lack of money for their own needs, cut back on so many things but when his prized horses and cattle were starving to death, hardly able to walk; their hides stretched over their bones; that was more than he could take and they were leaving. They packed up all they owned in a Bennett Buggy and hayrack and headed north to the Vermilion district, where grass was plentiful for the animals.

When the cattle showed results of good food and got fat enough to sell, the folks packed it in, sold everything and came to Calgary where they remained the rest of their lives. When the war broke out my Dad was accepted in the army, was stationed at Currie Barracks as a Batman. Dad was well liked by the officers he served. After the war they put him in charge of the horses of Strathconas and once more was in his true element and loved every minute he remained there before retirement. He died in December 1955, my mother in August 1967.

My dad was a hard working man and he appreciated all my mother had done for him, not only at threshing time but all year. He also had the same feeling for me. In spite of the fact my mother was raised in the city, she soon learned to drive an outfit of horses in the field and she loved it, not only did it save hiring outside help but the two of them enjoyed working together. The only time I remember them having an argument was when putting up new stove pipes (no one has lived until they have tackled this job) and when they papered the house. This was before the convenience of the selfstick paper of this day. The paste used was a mixture of flour and water mixed in a large dish pan. Once when I was about five years old, I inadvertently backed into and sat down in a full pan of this mixture. Naturally I cried out because I could not extricate myself from my predicament. When my folks turned around and saw me they both burst out laughing and came to help me out of that pan of paste, which was clinging in thick gobs all over my overalls and right through to my skin. Mama had to take time to remove all my clothing, including my long underwear children had to wear in those days, wash me and my hair and dress me up again in clean clothing. They finally got back to their job of papering; the one bright spot of this episode was the fact that it was the only time I can remember that they didn't have an argument while papering; every time they were on the verge, they'd look at me and roar with laughter. I guess it was worth the humiliation I suffered.

The Christmas Concerts held at various schools were the highlights of the year to every child taking part, each one working for weeks on learning their piece. I'll always remember one little one in the first grade who had a piece to recite and part of it was to do with "Santa came down the chimney like a shot." The little guy had a strong Swedish accent and the above came out some what like this, "Santa Claus came down the shimney like a snot." He, of course, didn't realize the poem didn't come out as exactly as written and when he finished with a flourishing bow, he was delighted to receive a resounding laugh and applause from the audience. Another happy memory of Christmas I have is of Mr. Storch giving me a lovely Christmas tree every year. He went somewhere up north and brought back a load of trees to sell to neighbors and to the schools in the district. He always picked one for me because he knew how much pleasure I got out of trimming a tree to the best of my ability. Imagine my surprise the first Christmas after I was married to find Mr. Storch at the door with the nicest tree he had ever given me. He continued the practice as long as we lived in Hanna.

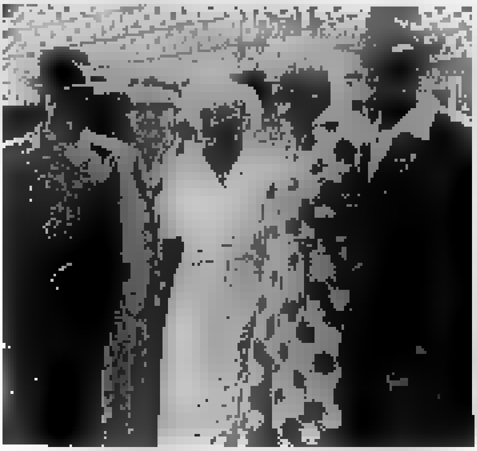
Harry Landis, a man who worked for us during harvest time was from Pennsylvania. His folks had a radio which he spoke of often. He was determined we should buy a radio because he realized how our lives were inter-woven with music. He insisted on digging a deep hole and installing an enormous pole for an aerial. In November 1925, my folks purchased a King Radio, a large box with dials

on it and a horn which plugged into the front of the machine. It was run with batteries, a large A battery as is used in cars and two sets of B batteries. No one can realize the enjoyment we got from that radio and reception was unbelievable, especially during the winter months. We could get stations over our radio from the U.S.A. The neighbors all dropped by to hear the new contraption and within a year or so most people had purchased one. No one who ever listened to C.F.C.N. can forget the resonant tones of W. W. Grant as he read baseball results and gave a play by play account of the games.

Speaking of entertainment I swear that people enjoyed the telephone more than anything else. It was a party line and the pastime was listening in on other's conversations. One person on our line had a squeaky receiver and it was quite the usual thing when talking to someone to hear that squeaky receiver being lifted. In this case no one really minded because the party involved meant no harm, it was only curiosity that made them listen. However, such wasn't the case with some who made it a point not to miss any conversation and repeat them to all and sundry, without regard for the truth. Another man really got my Mother and Mrs. Storch's natures in high gear; he not only listened, but would interrupt with what he considered smart remarks. I'll never forget one day they gave him a jolt; he felt he was hiding behind the anonymity of the party line but they called him by name. They were bothered much less by him from then on. Whenever they heard a receiver being lifted they would greet him by name and a cheery hello. They were guessing he was on the line. He must have been on because immediately someone would hang up.

No matter what happens in our lifetime, the sweetest memories always come to the top of our minds. In my case those memories are of my very happy childhood. The time between then and now has all gone by much too fast. I was more fortunate than most, having happy well adjusted parents with wonderful sense of humor.

I married a good man, Stan (Bud) Foss and we have been blessed with two lovely, decent daughters, Loy Demers and Gail Ruff. All in all my life has been very good in those things that really count. Thank you for giving me the chance to share some of these memories with you, and I hope all who read this will enjoy this trip to the past as much as I have.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Waldron, May Rush, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Welch

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL T. WALDRON, By Margaret Welch Foss — My mother's sister, Belle Waldron, and her husband filed on the quarter section which cornered our place. For six months each year for three years my uncle Mike did barbering in Coronation, as well as looking after a feed mill there. They lived in the living quarters above the mill.

They didn't stay in Canada too long and left to return to the United States with some unhappy memories. When they came to Canada their daughter, Dorothy, was just a tiny baby and a very dear little thing. While living in Coronation she took ill and in a matter of a few days she passed away and was buried in Castor cemetery. A few months later, Roy, a son was born.

My aunt and uncle stayed long enough to prove up on their claim and moved [illegible] Spokane, Washington where he again went into the barbering business.

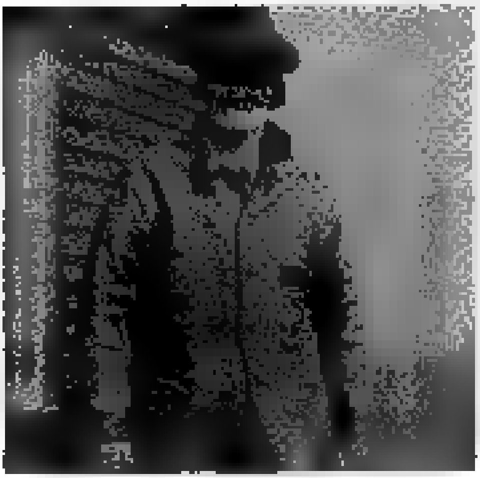
1926 — D.P. Tracy Sr. and his granddaughter Margaret Welch.

***DANIEL TRACY SR., By Margaret Welch Foss* —** My grandfather, Daniel Tracy, filed on the southeast of 10-34-13 in 1908. He also filed on a homestead for my uncle Dan Tracy and built a house for himself. Grandpa stayed on the homestead year round and in three years proved up and got the deed to his land.

After we came [illegible] the area I can remember going to Grandpa's and having him tell us of some of his experiences in the Civil War. Somehow the vision of Grandpa is always with a book which he would put down on his lap to talk to me. Before our conversation was finished he would tell me what he was reading and outline all he felt I could understand of the story.

My Grandad remained for some time and my folks always looked out for him.

When my aunt Jen Cooney from North Dakota visited us, Grandpa returned with them and went over to South Dakota to the Civil War Veteran's Home and Hospital where many of his Civil War cronies were living. He stayed there some months, then took up residence in Spokane where he spent his remaining years.



Dan Tracy Jr.

***DANIEL P. TRACY JR., By Margaret Welch Foss* —** My uncle Danny homesteaded in 1908 on [illegible] quarter adjoining the land of his father. He was a barber and had a barbershop in Stettler where he worked for six months each year for three years. After proving up his homestead he rented his land and returned to the United States, spent quite a few years in Omack, Washington where he had his barbershop, and eventually spent several years in southern California. When he retired from barbering he returned to Canada and lived with my family as long as they remained in the Garden Plain district. After they left there he fixed up a place, with my Dad's help, on his own property and remained there for several years until [illegible] took ill and passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1945.

***THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY, By Howard Armstrong* —** We came from Bethany, Illinois, to the Garden Plain district [illegible] the spring of 1922. My grandfather, Sylvester Armstrong, came in 1921 and built the house and the barn. There were five of us in our family, my father Ray, mother Cree, brother Bill, sister Helen and

myself, Howard. We were all born in Bethany, Illinois. Bill in 1911, Helen in 1913 and I was born in 1915.

We came to Canada by railway, crossing the border [illegible] Emerson, Manitoba. We brought most of our furniture with us. We settled on the north half of section 9-34-13 with buildings a quarter mile west of Buchan school where John Marlowe now lives. In 1928 we moved to the south half of section nine, one half mile south of the school.

Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Ekelund, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ekelund, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Armstrong

Our first store and post office was four miles west of us at the coal mines at Garden Plain. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Chib Wickson. [illegible] later years, when the railway came through and elevators were built, it was moved to the farm of R.W. Moore and owned by J.W. Taylor. Our mail was then sent out of Scapa.

Living conditions were not too bad in the twenties but in the Dirty Thirties it was terrible, no crops, no rain, just grasshoppers and caterpillars to eat what little bit did want to grow. It was always said the gophers had to carry their lunch when passing through the district in those years. Cattle prices were next to nothing. We sold cattle for one cent a pound as there was no feed for them.

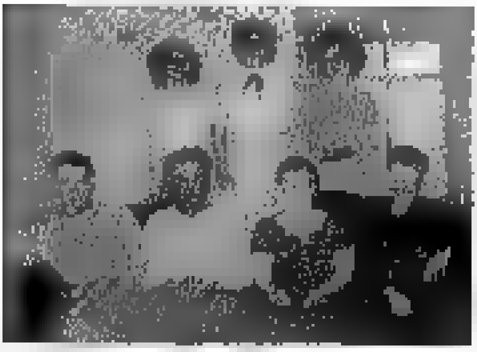
Even through the hard times everyone looked forward to the dances and card parties held at the Garden Plain hall and Buchan School. Christmas was good with all the Christmas concerts at the various schools. [illegible], Helen and myself [illegible] attended Buchan school.

My dad was interested in [illegible] sports and was [illegible] rodeo fan. In the twenties he was catcher for the Garden Plain baseball team.

We left there in the thirties, but mother and dad stayed on for a few years until they retired to Hanna and later to Calgary. Bill married Violet Bertschy of Majorville and they are living in Medicine Hat. They have one daughter, Faye, now living in Houston, Texas. Helen married Ed Lindy of Vancouver where she still lives. They had one son, Richard. I married Gladys Robinson of Sunnynook and we live in Calgary. We have two sons and one daughter [illegible] living in Calgary. We have five grandchildren. Mother passed away in Calgary in 1962 and father passed away [illegible] 1970, also in Calgary. Ed Lindy passed away [illegible] 1963 in Vancouver.

MR. and MRS. LORNE WRIGHT, By Betty Wright — I am the eldest daughter of the John Marlowe family. I attended Buchan School for the first seven years, then attended Netherby for two years. From there I stayed in the dormitory [illegible] Hanna and attended Hanna High School.

In 1951 I married Lorna Wright also from the Garden Plain district. We lived in Hanna for fourteen years where our only child was born; a daughter, Lorna Louise. She attended grades one to three at Hanna Elementary school, then we moved to Stettler in 1965. Lorna finished her schooling in Stettler and then went on to College. We still reside in Stettler.



The John Marlowe Family. Back: Marie, Shirley, Bette. Front: Bill, Mr. Marlowe, Mrs. Marlowe and Jack.

THE JOHN MARLOWE STORY, [illegible] told [illegible] Shirley Carlson — I made my appearance into the world on September 17, 1899 to Elmer and Ada Belle Marlowe in Clark County, Illinois.

I'd yearned to see the country of Canada so when I got the chance [illegible] work [illegible] Alberta, I accepted. Sylvester Armstrong and I had known each other for years, having lived in the same town [illegible] Bethany, Illinois. He offered me fifty dollars per month plus board and paid my fare to Alberta.

After a four day train trip, I arrived in Hanna, April 16, 1928, with only a suitcase of clothes. When Sylvester Armstrong and I arrived at my present home we were met with snowdrifts [illegible] the front yard. Snow didn't appeal to me as I'd worked on the land two weeks before leaving Illinois.

Before starting to work we had to buy feed for the horses. What little machinery we had was in poor condition. Mr. Armstrong had come to Canada in 1923 when he had bought land from the Dominion Development Company. His son, Ray, farmed the land until we came up in 1928.

Our crop that first year was partially hailed and the grain was frozen. Mr. Armstrong returned to Illinois for the winter and asked me to stay to take care of his farm. I agreed on one condition; if my girlfriend would come up, I'd stay. Eva Lillie Sharp arrived (paying her own fare) on August 24, 1928, and we were married that day in Hanna by the United Church minister, Reverend Coone. One of our witnesses was Carol Mathe. The neighbors chivareed us at home and had a dance [illegible] Buchan School. Charles Halverson played the violin. In this way we became acquainted with our fine neighbors.

Our first winter was spent quietly as there was very little to do. We had one cow to milk and our eight horses foraged on their own. The saddle horse also served as a work horse.

Spring finally arrived and Mr. Armstrong returned driving a Dodge car. I was pleased to be back on the land but the type of farming was entirely different from what I was used to. I wasn't too pleased to think that the only source of income was from grain so I decided, then, that if I ever farmed on my own I'd raise cattle.

After four years of farming for Mr. Armstrong, I bought out the farm. The first quarter purchased was where Buchan school is, then the home quarter, northeast 9-34-13.

The crops were fair but prices were low, about fifty cents per bushel, but in 1932 wheat was as low as nineteen cents per bushel.

Every time I had the chance, and the money, I bought a cow. A good neighbor often helped by loaning me the necessary cash. I got into the cattle feeding business and for forty-seven years I've fed cattle. My first bull was a registered Shorthorn bought in the thirties. Frank Kennedy bought my first fat steer for fifty

dollars. I changed [illegible] Herefords and have always tried to improve the herd by buying as good a bull as I could afford.

During the thirties prices received for produce were low, cattle for sixteen dollars per head, a five gallon can of cream for a dollar and a half, and eggs for three cents a dozen.

I bought my first car from Mr. Armstrong, the Dodge he'd driven up in 1929. I made it into a truck, the back seat serving for years as a couch in the house.

A John Deere A-R, which I bought [illegible] 1944, was my first tractor. Since then there have been eight Case tractors on the farm.

The farm was added to in the spring of 1947 when I bought the Jo Keller farm and Jo moved to Oliver, British Columbia.

Coal was the source of fuel for the house. I stripped coal at Tiff Ironsides and at Bradshaws long enough to get sufficient coal for the winter. I also bought coal at Unsworths and at Finkbiners. Our house was a convenient stopping place for coal haulers who loaded at the Tiff Ironside strip mine and on their homeward trip to the east stayed overnight with us.

My wife and I were blessed with two sons and three daughters, William Wayne, June 2, 1929; Betty Louise (Wright), July 25, 1930; John Keith, August 30, 1932; Eva Marie (Vigen), June 7, 1934; and Shirley Jean (Carlson), March 27, 1938. I have twelve grandchildren and one great grandson. My wife passed away September 5, 1963.

My first four children went to Buchan school, then the "kids" had to drive a horse and homemade "cab" (wood frame covered with tin) five miles to Netherby. Marie and Shirley finished their junior high at Buchan and [illegible] but one went to Hanna for their high school.

Our neighbors were of the highest calibre, always kind, friendly and helpful when needed. Mr. Blayney often offered us fruit from his many trees. The Blayney's, Charles and Winnifred, and Frank Evans always spent Christmas Eve at our house. The Jo Keller family spent Christmas night with us and we went to their place for New Year's day.

The Christmas concert was an event the children looked forward to. On one occasion Bill noticed that Santa had a hat "just like Dad's".

Over the years there have been a few renovations to the house and farm, so I still live comfortably in the once tar-papered shack on the prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marlowe and son David

JACK and JOAN MARLOWE STORY By Joan Marlowe — Jack, (John K.) the son of John and Eva Marlowe was born [illegible] 1932. He has always lived on the farm his father purchased from Mr. Armstrong in 1932, in the Garden Plain district.

He received all his education at Buchan and Netherby Schools.

I, Joan, the daughter of Fred and Louise Cook was born in 1940. The first seven years of my life were spent on the farm, five of which were on the Leo Kirby farm 3 miles north of Hanna. [illegible] 1946 my parents moved to Hanna. There I received my education. In 1959, I graduated from the Sisters of Charity Commercial School in Hanna.

We were married in 1966. In 1973 our son David was born. We now reside on the original farm; where we farm and ranch with Jack's father, John Marlowe senior.

The Jo Keller Family — 1945. Mary, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Keller, Jolan and Anne.

THE JO KELLER STORY, By Jolan Keller Inkpen — My father, Ignacz (Jo) Keller was born in Tesa, Hungary on January 1, 1898. He was a steam engineer and blacksmith by trade. He married Rozalia Servojc and they had four daughters, Elizabeth, Jolan, Mary and Annie, of which I am the second eldest.

Shortly after the First World War the economy of the country was in a very poor state. Rumors had it that Canada was in need of farm laborers rather than skilled immigrants. Thus, father became a farm laborer and as such he set out for a new life in Canada.

After his arrival in Canada in May, 1928, he travelled to Calgary and from there was sent to a farm at Acme. Apart from not knowing too much about farming, his immediate problem was the language barrier. In addition to Hungarian, father was fluent in German. Neither language was of any use to him until he made the discovery that the farmer also could speak German. For lack [illegible] communication his immense misery of the first few days was now over, he no longer had to drink his coffee without sugar and was told how to command his team of horses in English. The team on a previous occasion had run away, dragging him along the ground.

After a couple of years on the farm, father decided to go to Vancouver to try his luck there and to be near an aunt, also an immigrant, who was working there.

By this time jobs were getting more and more scarce and father took whatever jobs were available. He worked on the docks, demolishing old buildings, was on a bridge building gang for the C.P.R. and for a while he even tried panning for gold.

Canada was well into the depression years by now. Without a steady job, his responsibilities for the maintenance of his family at home drove him once more back to farming. Jumping freight trains was his only means of transportation (a necessary mode of transport for many [illegible] those days). He returned to Alberta for fall harvesting.

At the end of the harvest season, [illegible] stayed on with a farmer, repairing farm machinery in exchange for food and lodging. At this time he met a James Williams, also a farm hand, and together they bought land in the Garden Plain area (southeast quarter 28-34-13) which they later farmed jointly.

As father became financially more secure, and could provide a permanent home for us, arrangements were made for us to follow him. Nine years had passed, then in May, 1937, after a long and tiring journey, we were reunited with a man we could hardly remember.

We came from a fairly large town, according to European standards, with many fruit bearing trees, beautiful flowers, clean and well kept houses and yards.

I remember well the impression my sister and I had upon arrival at my father's house. Our shock was immense and most unbearable. As we stood in the yard and observed this vast open prairie, where the naked eye could see for miles

in any direction, we looked at each other and broke down crying for the things we had left behind.

Our readjustment period started soon after. We attended a one room country school. Over the next few years our teachers worked patiently and diligently to teach us this language we found so hard [illegible] learn.

That first summer we learned to cope with many strange things. Our first "sand storm" made us flee indoors with terror, where we covered our heads with blankets, because we did not know what was coming next. The drought and myriads of grasshoppers were other things we had to learn about.

In the winter the inclement weather, heavy snowfall and snowdrifts were another new experience for us, coming from a fairly mild climate. Father had to string rope from house to well and barn before a big storm as a safety measure against being lost in the yard. In bad weather we had to stay in school until father came for us with a team and sleigh. The sleigh had a box built over it and a coal stove inside it to keep us warm on the way home. Otherwise we walked the two miles to and from school.

The two older ones of us girls always had specific chores to do after school, while our younger sister could take her time drowning gophers on the way home. The gophers were a plague to the farmers and we were forever poisoning them.

We children were adapting to the use of English relatively quickly, but the subtle nuances eluded us for a long time. When my older sister went to visit my aunt I was asked at a picnic by a neighbor — "Do you miss Elizabeth?" My reply was "No, I'm Miss Jolan." That error, one of many, was rather embarrassing to me for quite some time.

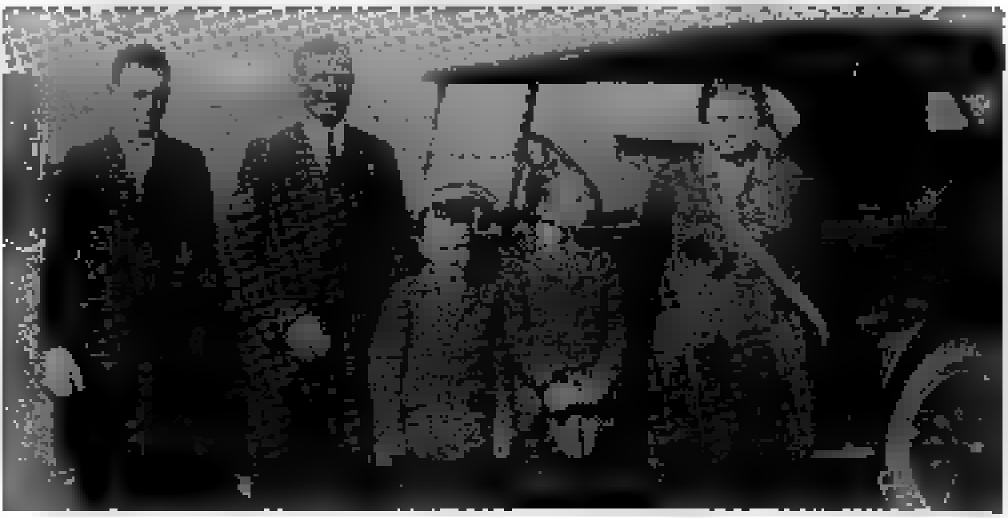
Both of my parents were very industrious people, idleness was never tolerated.

The role of my mother as wife and helpmate was a very hard one. She had already had the care and responsibility of our upbringing alone for nine years. In coming to Canada, she had to accept an unknown partner of father's. She had to adapt to a new life style on a remote farm, learn a new and strange language, and in addition, had a new Canadian born daughter, Annie.

With World War Two now raging in Europe, my father's partner joined the Armed Forces, so father managed the farm on his own for a few years until he became ill. Later, by mutual agreement, they sold out, thus dissolving their partnership. The family moved to Hanna, Alberta, for a few years and from there to Oliver, British Columbia, where my father bought and managed a fruit farm until his death in 1967.

THE W. R. STORCH STORY, as told to Rodine Storch by Mrs. Louise Storch — William Rudolph Storch was born [illegible] Congo, Arkansas, in 1890. His parents had originally come from Germany. Mrs. Storch was born [illegible] Germany in 1899 and had immigrated to Arkansas with her mother and brother at an early age. They were married February 16, 1916 at Little Rock, Arkansas, and made their first home at Congo.

W.R. Storch and his father, John, operated a general store and butchering business in Congo. In 1909, John and a younger son, George, came to Canada and filed on land in the Morrin district. They returned to Congo with reports of rich and virgin farmland in Alberta. In 1912 William visited brother George at Morrin. Later George filed on what is now the home place at Garden Plain, and realizing that he could not handle both farms, turned the latter over to William. In 1921, William sold his share in the store [illegible] his brother-in-law and decided to move to Canada.



William Jr., Mr. William R. Storch, Rudolph, Albert and Mrs. William R. Storch in front of their Chevrolet touring car

By this time his family consisted of himself, his wife and three sons, William, Albert and Rudolph. They were accompanied on the journey by George and his bride, who had been honeymooning in Arkansas, and a nephew, Louis Schaufele. The family loaded all their possessions on a three-ton, Federal truck with solid rubber tires, and a rear-end chain drive; and a 1918 Studebaker eight-passenger touring car with side curtains. They were three days packing for the 3200 mile journey across country to Canada. They had purchased a large army tent, sixteen by sixteen, an oil stove, three adult beds, a child's crib and food for the journey. The party, including Tippy, the dog, left Congo on a bright warm morning, January 28, 1921. They travelled through the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming and Montana, and crossed the International boundary into Canada on April 2, 1921. They were forced to camp for a week at Warner, Alberta, on account of heavy snows and impassable roads. George and Mary took the train to their home at Morrin so that he could start spring work. On April 13 the travellers took to the wet, slippery roads again, arriving in Calgary two days later. Here they had to go through customs and register their guns and pistol. Once more on the road, they spent an hour pushing and shoving the two vehicles up the muddy Drumheller hill. They arrived at George Storch's at Morrin on April 17, after travelling 3200 miles in thirty-one days travelling time.

The expenses for the trip were: gas, $159.10; oil, $55.50; repairs, $34.85; groceries, $130.56; tolls, $3.00, for a total of $383.01.

After helping George finish seeding his crop, the rest of the family continued their journey to the farm on section 3-34-13. There were no roads, no fences, no buildings. From May till September they lived in the tent. The day after their arrival they awoke to a heavy snowstorm, so went to Hanna to buy lumber to put a board floor in the tent. Their next task was to dig a well; when they had dug to a depth of twenty-four feet they found an abundance of clear soft water. The digging was done by hand, and in the meantime water was hauled in barrels from a neighbor's well.

Lumber for the house was hauled from Castor, and a carpenter from Stettler, Mr. MacMillan, was hired to do the building. Meanwhile, nephew Louis had moved eight horses from Morrin to break one hundred acres on the home quarter.

Their first crop was good, oats and wheat on breaking. All was lost to severe hail storms in 1923 and 1928. Other devastating hail years were 1935 and 1959.

Dad and the boys constructed and used the 'poverty box' to harvest short crops in the dry thirties. They farmed through hail, drought, frost and grasshoppers, always looking for better times ahead.

The three boys walked to Buchan school. Rural entertainment consisted of card parties in various homes where "500" was played. Card parties and dances in nearby schools helped raise money for the annual Christmas concerts and treats. The family tell of driving miles with team and sleigh to plays and dances; of attending picnics and rodeos in the summer.

The family attended Lutheran church services, first at St. John's, Castor; later at St. Peter's at Scapa and Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna. Mother was the only lady in the district who drove a car and she travelled many miles picking up the local ladies [illegible] take them to their meetings.

Dad became very active in community affairs. He installed the first telephone in the area in 1926 and for many years relayed important messages. He was secretary of Buchan school district for nineteen years, and also acted as secretary of the Mutual Telephone and Trunk Line committee, and the Garden Plain Grazing Society. He was on the executive of the R.E.A. to bring electricity to rural areas, and Chairman of the Church Council of Redeemer Lutheran. He was a member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local, the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the Hanna Board of Trade.

He was elected to the Sullivan Lake school board in 1937 and was Chairman of the board until his retirement in 1952. During this time he served many years on the dormitory committee. The following are exerpts from a tribute paid to him at his retirement party by J.O. Aikenhead, Superintendent of Sullivan Lake school division.

"W.R. Storch came [illegible] Alberta . . . to make it the richer, especially for twenty-three years work [illegible] the school business. His shrewdness is as sharp as the twinkle in his eyes. No detail is too small for his attention, no problem too minute for his thought, no day too long for him. Parallel with his ability to work is his abililty to get along with others, and to pour oil on troubled waters . . . as long as there are men like Bill to act as a tower of strength, no problem will ever be too difficult."

In 1931 Dad won the Hanna Kiwanis Club silver cup award for Marquis wheat in the standing field crops competition.

The highlight of his farming career was receiving the Master Farm Family award in October, 1954, from the provincial Department of Agriculture. The Storchs were the first family in this area [illegible] receive the award, which gave them a cash prize of $1000, an engraved wall plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance. Judging was based on good farming, right living and clear thinking.

Dad continued farming actively until his death in the Hanna Hospital on November 1, 1960. His sons remained in the area.

William started farming on his own land nearby in 1936. In November of that year he married Florence McRae of Coronation. They have three sons, Donald, Edward and Leslie.

Albert married Rodina McRae [illegible] Coronation in November 1941. They have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman.

Rudolph farmed with his dad and brother Albert until he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the fall of 1942. He served in Sicily, Italy and North-west Europe, and was mentioned in dispatches. He returned to the family farm in 1945, where his main interest was in Hereford cattle. He died in the Col. Belcher hospital on August [illegible] 1970.

Mrs. Storch still lives in her own home on the farm and has supplied the details for this story.

MY STORY, By William L. Storch — I left Arkansas with my parents and two brothers to come to Alberta in the spring of 1921. We came in a touring car and a solid rubber tired Federal truck loaded with things for the farm. We got stuck with the truck lots of times on the way up. One time mother and Aunt Mary did our washing, then they threw the wash water under the truck and when we went to move the truck we were stuck. We had a big rope block and tackle which we used to pull the truck out.

When we first arrived at the farm we put up a high square tent. Next morning a neighbor living three-quarters of a mile east of us saw the tent, so he ran back into the house and said to his wife, "Maw, the Indians have moved in on us."

My dad was in the yard one day and he heard the neighbor and his wife to the west of us shooting, so he went over to see what the trouble was. The man and wife were trying to drive a skunk away from their yard. Dad picked up a few rocks and started throwing them at the skunk. The wife, who had quite an accent, said to her husband, "Don't get too close to the skunk or he may vet on you."

One of those dry windy years another neighbor said "You know, I put seventeen posts up before dinner and when I came back all but five had blown down."

In those days, we as kids often got measles or chicken pox. One neighbor said one day "You know, I've had the measles fourteen times, sick enough to die every time."

After I quit school, I helped my dad farm till 1932. I bought the east half section of 15-34-13, where I still live today, for which I paid eight dollars an acre. That was a big price for land at that time. Price of wheat was twenty-five cents a bushel for number one wheat. Oats were six or seven cents a bushel; it didn't pay to have them threshed. I farmed this land from dad's place till 1938. In the fall of 1938 I married Florence McRae, who taught the school I had attended some years before. Her home was at Federal. I used to take the saddle horse and ride to see her. I had some long rides and cold ones too, but I put up with it.

Late in the fall of 1938 we moved a house on to the farm. We remodelled it in 1939. Since that time we have gone from coal to propane to natural gas; coal oil lamp [illegible] thirty-two volt power to one hundred and ten power.

I did my farming with eight head of horses, cut crop with four horses on a binder and did the stooking. I hauled bundles on my dad's threshing rig in harvest time. I hauled grain to the elevator in winter with two horses on a sleigh and wagon box.

When I was farming with horses I used to take one of the boys, when they were small, and hold him on my lap and he would go to sleep as we went up and down the field.

I bought my first D–Case tractor in 1947. Since that time I've had four or five Case tractors. At present I'm using an air cooled Deutz tractor. I'm amazed at how it stays cool in hot weather. It handles real well under heavy loads.

In these later years my sons and I have been feeding cattle. We feed our bull calves out, they are virgin bulls. They get a lot bigger and finish quicker than steers. They are ready a month before steers are ready to go but we have to keep them away from heifers.

We have been using artificial insemination on our cows for the past few years. We get bigger calves and a better type of calf and can try different breeds.

We have three children. Donald, who married Janet Hennig, lives [illegible] Edmonton. Edward, who married Margaret Pangle, lives five miles to the northwest of us. Leslie, who married Elsie Wolfert, lives on the home place. Donald has

three children, Edward has two children, and Leslie hasn't given us any grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT STORCH — Albert Storch was born in a small country town, Congo, Arkansas, on December 28, 1916. He travelled across country with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Storch and two brothers, William and Rudolph, to Garden Plain, Alberta, in the spring [illegible] 1921. He attended at Buchan; his first teacher was Mrs. Sid Grimes.

His farming career started when Mr. Dan Tracy, a close neighbor, asked the boys to do his summer fallow for him. They used three eight-horse shifts daily and a small eight foot cultivator. Their payment for the summer's work was a wagon and box as cash was very scarce then. The boys got their start in Hereford cattle when good neighbor, Alex Wilson, gave them an orphan calf [illegible] raise. For spending money the three brothers spent many a happy hour shooting rabbits; these were skinned and sold to Mr. Chris German, fur and cattle buyer from Hanna, for the handsome sum of ten cents per hide.

1954 — Master Farm Family. Back: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Storch, Rudolph. Front: Terry, Mr. W.R. Storch, Norman, Mrs. W.R. Storch, Kenneth.

[illegible] 1936 Albert went into partnership farming with his brother Rudolph and rented Mr. Dan Tracy's land, the east half of 10-34-13 and seeded their first wheat crop. The rent agreement read that they would deliver one third share of the crop to the Garden Plain elevator for Mr. Tracy. That fall they bought their first Chev truck from General Supplies, Calgary for $933.00 ($23.00 extra for heavy duty tires). The farm work was all done with horses until the spring of 1940 when they were able to buy their first rubber tired Case tractor from E.A. Laughlin, Hanna, for $1,891.00 and their first tiller, also from Laughlin, for $590.00. Horses were traded in on the deal. Meantime their cattle herd grew and prices were as follows: 1936, sold 3 heifers at $19.00 each; 7 steers at $25.00 each, [illegible] Mr. Wm. Duncan, cattle buyer from Coronation. 1939, sold 3 heifers, 800 pounds each, at 4½ cents per pound; 5 steers, 850 pounds each, at 5 cents per pound, to Mr. Wm. Duncan, Coronation.

Albert was a member of the Scapa baseball team for several years. He married Rodina McRae of Coronation in 1941 and they have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman. Kenneth married Lynda Sunbury of Castor and resides on the family farm. They have three children. Terry married Rita Splide of Provost and they have two daughters. They reside at Huxley where Terry is principal of the Huxley school. Norman married Leona Kneller of Castor and they operate an extensive poultry project on their farm near the home place.

Like his dad before him, Albert has always taken an active part in the affairs of the community. During the war years he was president of the Garden Plain Community Club. The club raised large sums of money by putting on plays, dances, card parties, etc. [illegible] send packages overseas [illegible] all the local boys who were in the services. The Garden Plain hall was renovated by the club; all the windows on the north side were boarded up and a new hardwood floor laid. Albert has been the Red Cross canvasser [illegible] the Garden Plain district for over twenty-five years. He was operator of the local snow plow machine for many years.

Goose shooting has always been a favorite sport on the Storch farm.

Albert has retired on the farm and enjoys his hobbies of wood craft and carpentry.

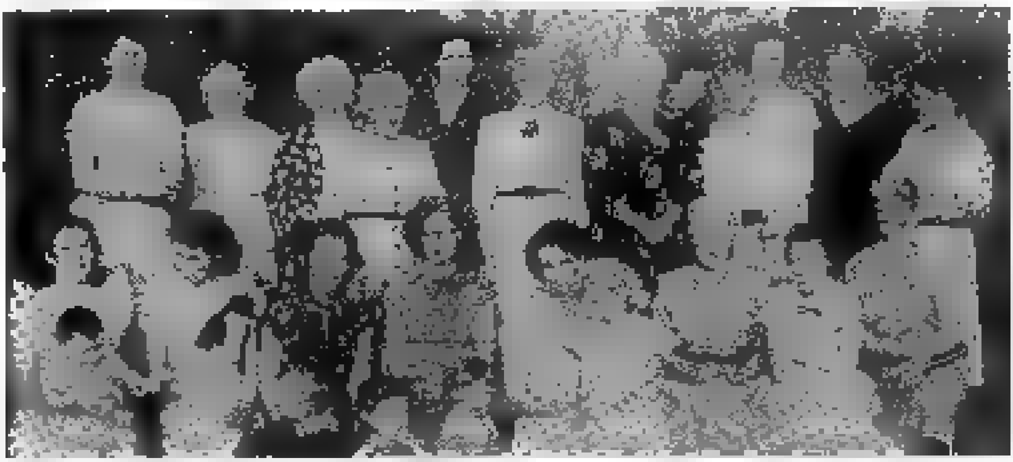
WILLIAM GIBB, By Margaret Nelson — On August 6, 1908, Bill Gibb filed on the NW 22-34-13. For extra income to help with the homesteading he worked on the C.P.R. line around Castor. After proving up he left the homestead and worked for the Department of Public Works under the U.F.A. Government. Later he bought Rabbit Hill Collieries out of Edmonton, which he operated a few years until it flooded out. Going north again, he worked [illegible] construction. He passed away while in the far north in the late thirties.

Mrs. Gibb, a sister of Mrs. T.F. Ironside, lived in Edmonton. She passed away in the fifties. Both are buried in Edmonton.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

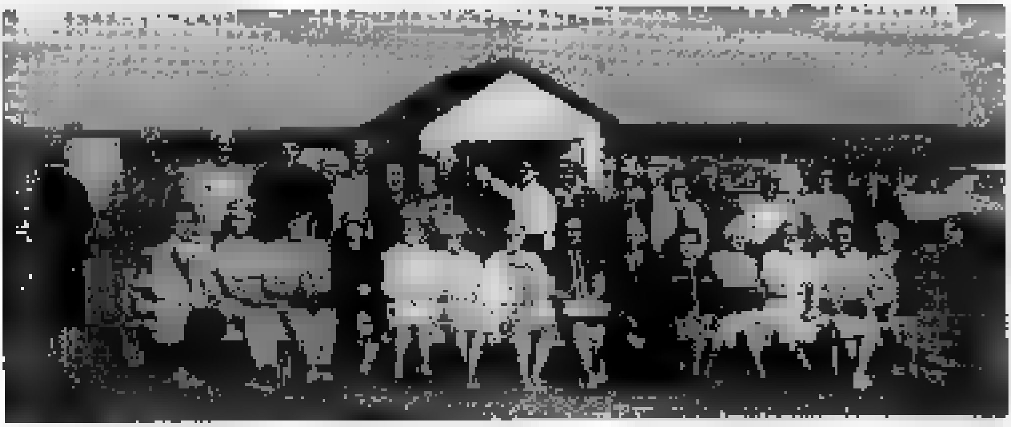
Farewell Tea for Mrs. Calderbank - 1934. Back Row, Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Strandberg, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. G. Wright. Front Row: Mrs. Corry, Mrs. Rudy Finkbiner, Mrs. A. W. Shand, Kenny Calderbank, Mrs. Calderbank, Doreen Wright, Mrs. J. Wright, Mrs. Bradshaw.

Round Lake Ladies Aid Group — 1933 Mrs. J. Marlowe, F. McRae, M. Speten, Mrs. G. Hunter, Mrs. J. Hutcheson, R. McRae, Mrs. C. Blayney, Mrs. R. Armstrong, Mrs. S. Herring, Mrs. M. Kay, Mrs. J. Wilson.

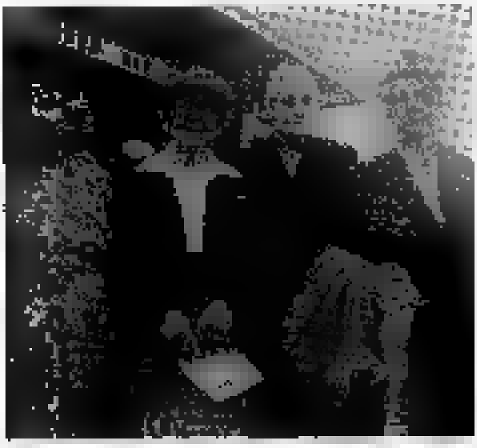


Guests at a shower for Isubel Campbell at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright. Back Row: Mrs. Murl Chidley, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. Herb Waterhouse, Isobel Campbell, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Fred Lyxzen, Mrs. Fred Hildreth and daughter, Marion Taylor, Nan Campbell, Mrs. George Wright. Front Row: Mary Kerner holding Dallas Chidley, Lois Waterhouse, Velma Waterhouse, Mrs. Stuart McRae, Mrs. John Cattanach holding Diane Nelson, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Stemp, Mrs. Ray Armstrong. Children in front unidentified.

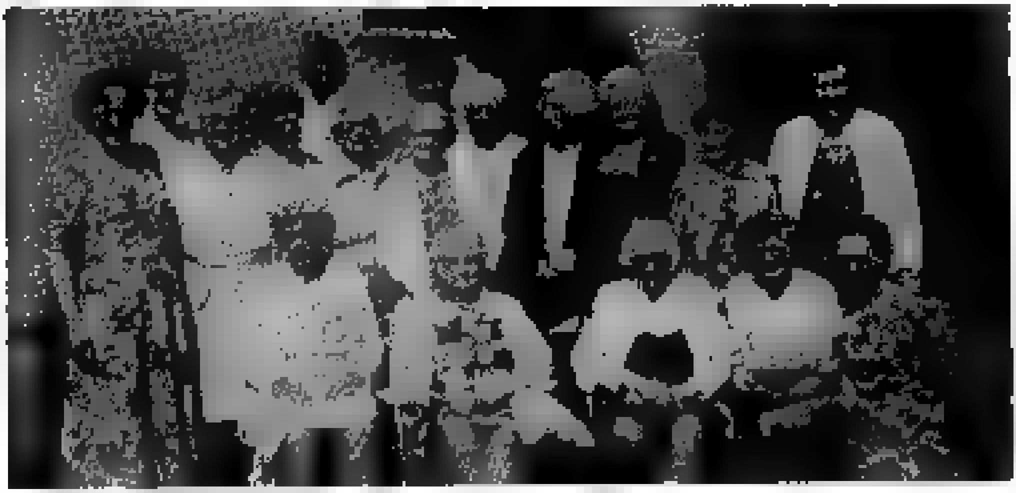
1955 — Shower for Mary Kerner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nelson. Mrs. Viv Howery holding son Garry, Mrs. Harold Gustafson, Mrs. Arley Chidley, Mary Kerner, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Lyxzen, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. Harry Nelson. The children are Diane Nelson and Lee Gustafson.



Garden Plain Pioneer picnic — 1972. Back: Ralph Tucker, Tom Northey, Jack Temple, John Marlowe, Andy Glover, Mrs. Butch Ironside, Mrs. Harry Nelson, Butch Ironside, Stanley Strandberg, Mrs. Stanley Strandberg, Erbin Grove, Harold Davies, Mrs. George Unsworth, George Unsworth, John Nelson, Mrs. Will Ironside, John Grove. Front: Mrs. Ralph Tucker, Mrs. Tom Northey, Mrs. Jack Temple, Mrs. George Vigen, Mrs. Jack Corry, Mrs. George Standing Sr., Mrs. William Storch Sr., Mrs. Erbin Grove, Fred Johnston, Mrs. Fred Johnston, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. R.J. Unsworth, Mrs. John Grove.



1962 — Garden Plain Pioneers meet at the Golden Age Club in Calgary. Mrs. [redacted] Harvey, Mrs. Herman Simon, Mrs. Tom Welch and Mrs. Jo Higgins, Sr.



Strawberry Tea put on by Dundee W.I. at home of Blanche Johnston -- June 1976. Back : Mrs. Erbin Grove, Mrs. Ed Storch, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. W.L. Storch, Mrs. Art Standing, Mrs. Margaret Standing, Mrs. Selma Vigen, Mrs. Rod Standing, Mrs. Louise Storch, Mrs. Sarah Noyce, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. Effie Crossfield, Mrs. Frances Unsworth. Front: Mrs. Rose Standing, Mrs. Rachel Corry, Mrs. Nellie Greenway, Mrs. Blanche Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr.

BUCHAN SCHOOL PUPILS AND TEACHERS

Buchan School pupils with teacher, Sidney Gilson — 1915. Back: Pearl, Mamie and Clara Halverson, Delbert Kinney, Margaret and Butch Ironside. Front: Tillie Halverson and Will Ironside.

George [illegible]. Holt (teacher) — 1938. Betty Marlowe, Mary Keller, [redacted] Marlowe and Jack Marlowe.

Buchan Students at Netherby School — 1955. Back: Jack McLaren (teacher), G. Arthur Standing, Donald Storch, Kenneth Storch, Terry Storch, Jim Taylor, Kenneth Strandberg, Muriel Strandberg, Carol Gustafson, Frank Lee (teacher). Front: Janet Standing, Edward Storch, Judy Ironside, Diana Nelson, Hope Wilson, Lloyd Strandberg, Lee Gustafson.

"THE DUTCHMAN"

'Twas in the early nineteen - hundreds
In an area not far from here.
That a stranger known as "The Dutchman"
Came hiding in terror and fear.

He tended his land and his cattle
As all of his neighbors did.
But of his fears and suspicions
He never seemed to be rid.

What made him shun his neighbors?
Why did he live under a ban?
Why was his heart filled with terror?
This stranger known as "The Dutchman."

Then one day in the stillness
His neighbors heard more then one shot.
When finally they went to investigate,
The sight was not soon forgot.

His livestock were all shot to death,
His home was burned to the ground.
And of the man called "The Dutchman"
No trace was ever to be found.

Who was it that slew his cattle?
Who set his buildings aflame?
Was it someone from the past who found him?
Or was "The Dutchman" himself to blame?

Where did this stranger come from?
Where did "The Dutchman" go?
Was his body burned with his buildings?
No one will ever know.

Helen Standing

COMPRESSOR STATION

As told by Mike Yakimowich, written by Harry Nelson

Over a period of years Triad Oil Co. Ltd. drilled several exploratory wells in the Sullivan Lake and Garden Plain areas. Some of these turned out as good gas producers, but were not put into production as there was not too much demand for natural gas and the price was too low. Also there was no pipe line close enough to carry it to a market.

About 1972 Alberta Gas Trunk Lines installed a carrier line west of Sullivan Lake. In 1974 they also ran a feeder line east to the Garden Plain area and built a meter station on SW 16-34-13.

In the meantime B.P. of Canada had bought the Triad wells in this area and proceeded to put them into production.

They leased approximately seven and a half acres of land on the SW 31-34-13 to build a compressor station and access road.

In 1974 they built the compressor station and also a pipe line gathering system from the Sullivan Lake wells to the plant, and a three mile line of pipe from the plant to the meter station. By September of 1974 they had four wells from the Sullivan Lake area in production.

In 1975 and 1976 more wells were drilled and two were producers.

[illegible] the present time there are eight wells feeding into this compressor plant, six from Sullivan Lake and two from north Garden Plain area.

The compressor station is used to pick up the low pressure gas from wells and to increase it to high pressure before putting it into Alberta Gas Trunk line. It consists of a 1400 horsepower V16 Wakeshaw motor to drive the compressor. It is run by natural gas from the line and uses approximately two hundred and sixteen thousand cubic feet of gas per twenty-four hour period.

This plant is fully automated. If anything goes wrong the plant automatically stops, and by means of an A.G.T. connection sounds an alarm at the home in Castor of either of the two operators of the plant.

To date there are about fifteen miles of carrier pipe from wells [illegible] plant site.

In 1962 a well was drilled in the south Garden Plain area. It was owned by an American and called Eden Gas Co. This well had the potential of being a high producer. Sulpetro of Canada Ltd. also had a number of wells drilled in this area. In the spring of 1976 InterCity, who had bought the Eden Wells, leased a six acre site on the W ½ 15-33-13 and put in a small portable compressor plant. It is powered by a 400 horsepower motor. When this was completed they also began selling gas to the Alberta Gas Trunk line, which is also carried to the same Alberta Gas Trunk Line meter station on SW 18-34-13. A seven mile carrier line had been put in in the fall of 1975.

In the summer of 1976 Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co., who had bought the Sulpetro rights, also built a Compressor Station on the same site as InterCity. This is powered by a V12, 1000 horsepower Wakeshaw motor. They also installed a processing plant to take out water and hyrocarbons from the gas. The by-products from this plant are trucked to a refining plant. At the present time Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co. have one well in production.

These Compressor Stations are both operated by Mike Yakimowich and Frank Gutenburg. Mike also travels to other parts of Alberta if any problems develop at other compressor sites or gas wells.

BLIZZARD OF 1937

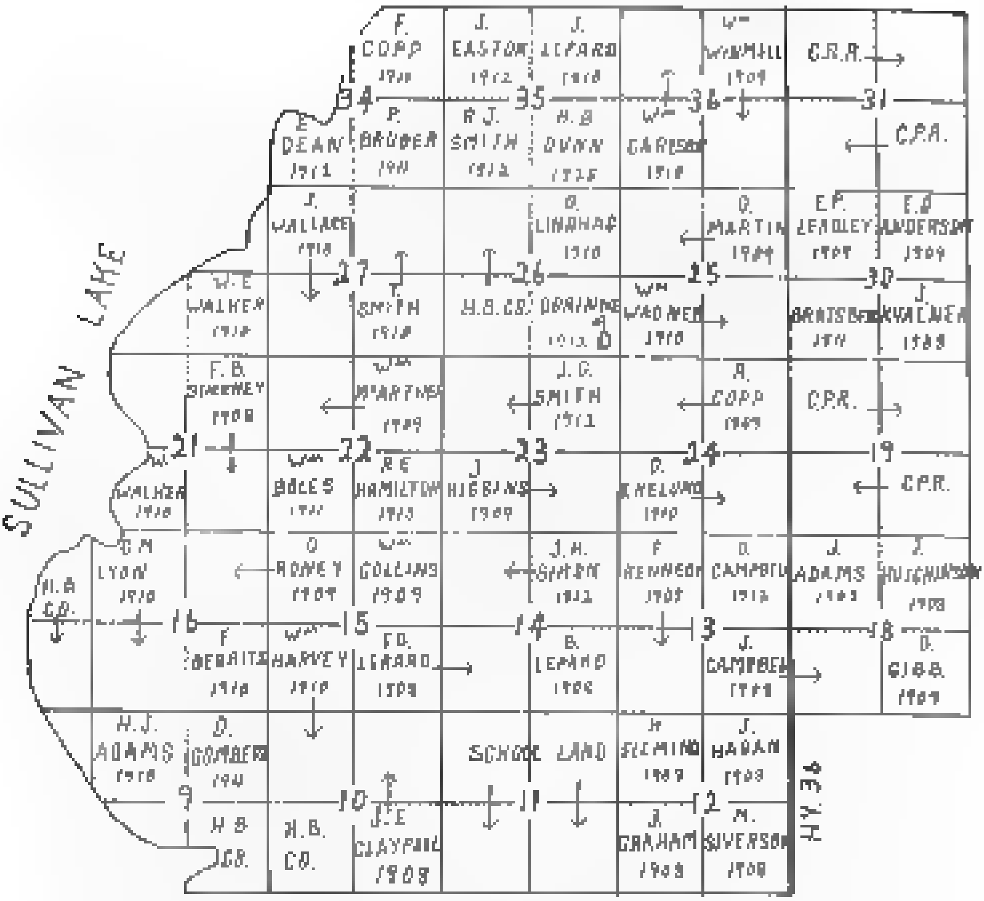
By Harry Nelson

Good Friday dawned [illegible] bright clear balmy day in April. The snow had all melted, except a few drifts in the trees and coulees. All the sloughs had already filled with water. About four o'clock in the afternoon the wind started to blow a little from the north and it soon clouded over. Pretty soon the first flakes [illegible] snow began falling. By nightfall the wind had risen and snow was really falling. Visibility was near zero. This kept on all night and the next day and into the next night temperatures dropped to well below zero.

As the weather had been good and the snow gone, a [illegible] of farmers had turned their cattle on the open range to graze. When the storm came with no warning it was impossible to get them home. The cattle drifted with the storm. A lot of them waded into sloughs and stayed there. After the storm was over there was a great loss of livestock. The ones in the sloughs froze in and died there.

This was only one of the early day blizzards, but coming at that time of year there was probably more livestock lost than in most of them. There may be contradictions on this but that is the way I remember it.

CORINNE S. D. No. 2497



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS and OWNERS OF SAID LAND

Homesteaders top the list with the year of filing following their name

Present Owners at the bottom of the list

By Orpha Wolfert

NW 18-34-13
James Adams, 3-9-1908
Oscar Ekelund
Andy Glover
William Storch

[illegible] 8-34-13
John Hutchinson, 20-11-1908
Frank Benzie
George Hunter
A. Walbank
E. Ekholm
John Wallace
George Benzie
Harry Nelson

SW 18-34-13
John Campbell, 24-6-1908
Hugh Campbell
M. Chidley

SE 18-34-13
George Gibb, 2-7-1909
A. Glover
Wm. Storch

N ½ 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
[illegible]. Nelson
E. Storch

SW 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SE 19-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Benzie
Wm. Nelson
A. Walbank
E. Ekholm
[illegible]. Benzie
H. Nelson

NW ½ 30-34-13
E. Leadley, 29-3-1909
Miss O. Leadley
Charlie Dahlgren
Tiff G. Ironside
Edward Storch

NE 30-34-13
Otto Anderson, 1-4-1909
E.J. Nielson
W. Nelson
E. Ekholm
W. Rochan
H. Nelson
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SW 30-34-13
J. Bratsberg, 21-2-1911
C. Dahlgren
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SE 30-34-13
J. Kvalner, 16-7-1908
Hubert
A. Kennedy
H. Nelson

S ½ 31-34-13
C.P.R.
Wm. Nelson
H. Nelson

NW 31-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Anderson
J. Oelker
G. Ensign

NE 31-34-13
E. Ekholm
J. Delker
G. Ensign

NW 9-34-14
Henry Adams, 30-11-1910
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 9-34-14
Otto Gombert, 23-3-1911
Henry Adames
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

S ½ 9-34-14
H.B. Co.
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Linden Boyson

NW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

E ½ 10-34-14
John Claypool Sr.
John Delker Sr.
Mary Delker

Section 11-34-14
Tom Kane
Herman Slemp
Edgar Slemp
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

NW 12-34-14
H. Fleming, 11-6-1908
Frank Kennedy
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

SW 12-34-14
John Graham
Dan Campbell
Wm. Rutherford
J. Nelson
E. Nelson

SE 12-34-14
M. Siverson, 27-6-1908
Alf Siverson
Hugh Riddle
Elmer Nelson

NE 13-34-14
D. Campbell, 14-7-1913
Hugh Campbell
Campbell Estate

SE 13-34-14
J. Campbell, 4-9-1908
Hugh Campbell
Dallas Chidley

W ½ 13-34-14
Frank Kennedy, 7-9-1909
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

N ½ 14-34-14
John Simon, 28-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Albert Delker

SW 14-34-14
E. Lepard, 19-8-1908
Ted Smith
James Roney
Joe Lepard
Arley Chidley
Wm. & Thelma Boyson

SE 14-34-14
Ben Lepard, 7-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Arley Chidley
William & T. Boyson

SW 15-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SE 15-34-14
E. Lepard, 19-8-1908
T. Smith
Willard Roney
Albert Delker

NW 15-34-14
C. Roney, 6-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
Fred Harvey
Fred Lyxzen
Andy Harvey
John Schedeck
David Cattanach
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 15-34-14
Wm. Collins, 26-1-1912
Robert Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

NW 16-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
H. Adames
Melvin Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

NW 16-34-14
C. Roney, 6-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
F. Harvey
F. Lyxzen
E. Haessel
J. Schedeck
A. Harvey
D. Cattanach
D. and J. Boyson

SW 16-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd.
Linden Boyson

SE 16-34-14
F. Gerritz, 19-5-1910
Wm. Lepard
J. Lepard
A. Harvey
Morgan's Transport
L. Boyson

NE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

SE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

SW 21-34-14
W.E. Walker, 28-1-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

E ½ 21-34-14
F.B. Stickney, 5-10-1908
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NW 22-34-14
William H. McArthur,
10-6-1909
William Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
M. Chidley
D. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

SW 22-34-14
William A. Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
M. Chidley
B. Chidley
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NE 22-34-14
William H. McArthur
W. Roney
R. Chidley
Arley Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

SE 22-34-14
Robert E. Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

N ½ 23-34-14
J.C. Smith, 16-12-1912
A. Kennedy
C. Wigley
A. Wigley
R. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

S ½ 23-34-14
J. Higgins, 6-5-1909
H. Campbell
A. Wolfert
D. Boyson

N ½ 24-34-14
Robert Copp, 17-11-1909
M. McMillan
C. Dahlgren
J. Nielson
E. Nelson

SW 24-34-14
Oscar Ekelund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
A. Wolfert

SE 24-34-14
Oscar Ekelund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
H. Campbell
D. Chidley

N ½ 25-34-14
George Martin, 1-4-1909
J. Easton
J. Nielson
E. Nelson

S ½ 25-34-14
Wm. Wagner, 29-1-1910
C. Blum
F. Blum
J. Nielson
B. Ironside
H. Nielson
E. Nelson

NE 26-34-14
David Lindhag, 15-6-1910
M. Walker
L. Lohrmann
D. and L. Lallier

SE 26-34-14
H.B. Co.

E ½ 27-34-14
T. Smith, 17-9-1910
R. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm and T. Boyson

W ½ 27-34-14
J. Wallace, 17-9-1910

A. Lynzen
J. Schadeck
E. Haessel
B. Chidley
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 29-34-14
W.E. Walker, 17-3-1910
C. Blum
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd.

NE 34-34-14
Frank Copp, 29-11-1910
Mac Lepard
R. Chidley

A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

SW 34-34-14
E.H. Dean, 28-8-1912
J. Wallace
A. Lynzen
J. Schadeck

SW 34-34-14
B. Chidley
E. Haessel
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 34-34-14
Phil Bruder, 31-5-1911
H. McCafferty
R. Chidley

M. Chidley
Morgan Transport

NW 35-34-14
John Easton, 3-7-1912
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

NE 35-34-14
John Lepard, 6-9-1910
T. McCafferty
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann
D. and L. Lahler

SE 35-34-14
Rob Smith, 27-7-1912
J. Simon
H. McCafferty

T. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

SE 35-34-14
H.B. Dunn, 22-12-1925
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

W ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Carlson, 26-6-1910
O. Eklund
J. Nielsen
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

E ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Winmill, 1-4-1909
H. Nelson

I am sorry for any errors or omissions in the names and land locations. Land presently being lived on:

SE 27-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. D. Boyson

NE 10-34-14
Albert & Alfred Delker
Mrs. Mary Delker

NW 13-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. A. Wolfert

SW 12-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. E. Nelson

CORINNE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2497

By Orpha Wolfert

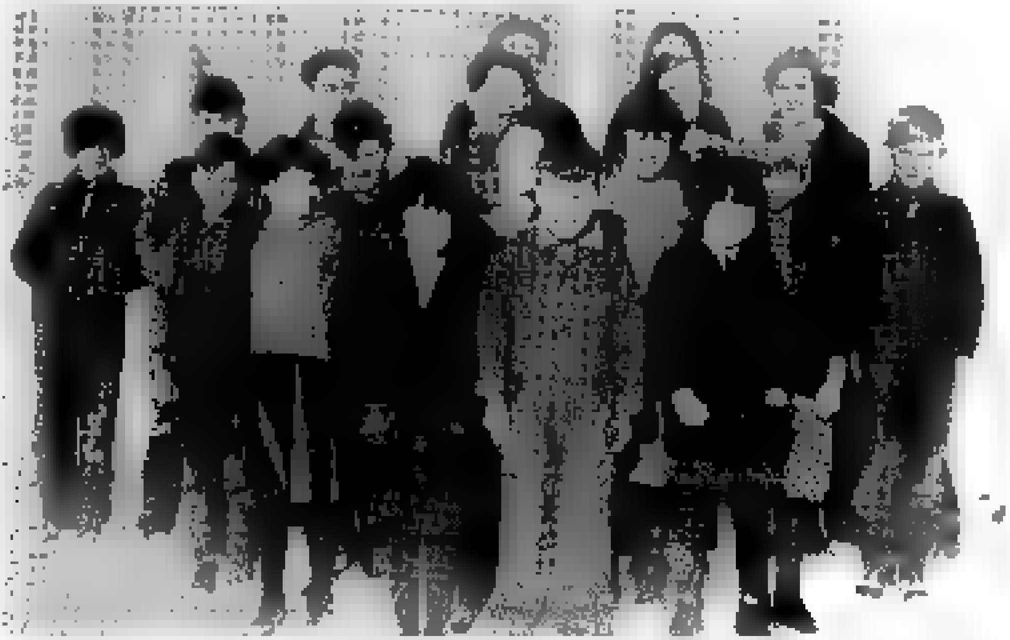
In July, 1911, the Department of Education gave instructions to Mr. Frank Kennedy to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a board to transact the business of the district. Trustees were Edward Lepard, Herman Simon and Frank Kennedy. By September they had chosen a site in the centre of the district, the south-east corner of the south-east quarter of 26-34-14.

Corinne School built in 1912

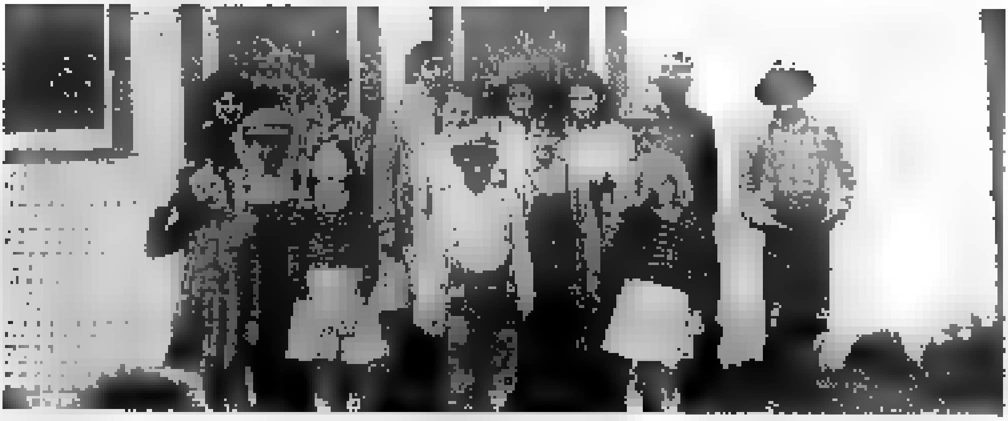
In order to build the school house, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars was borrowed on the securities of the district. The money was to be repaid in ten installments at eight per cent interest. The lumber was purchased from the Stettler Lumber Company at a cost of $485.00. John Wallace did the mason work and the plastering, furnishing all materials except the stones, which were supplied by William Collins. William Harvey hauled all the lumber and hardware and supplied the labor. The Illsey Brothers furnished all the hardware for the erected schoolhouse, coal shed and outbuildings. The business of purchasing the building supplies for the proposed school was completed on December [illegible], 1911, and the school was built in 1912. It was named Corinne after the birthplace [illegible] an American settler, Hermen Simon.

The first meeting after the completion of the school was held in the building on January 15, 1913. The minutes tell of holding classes only eight months of the year, [illegible] take advantage of the warm summer months. School started in March or April, and there was a two week vacation in the middle of the term. In 1927 the school had to be closed for ten days due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

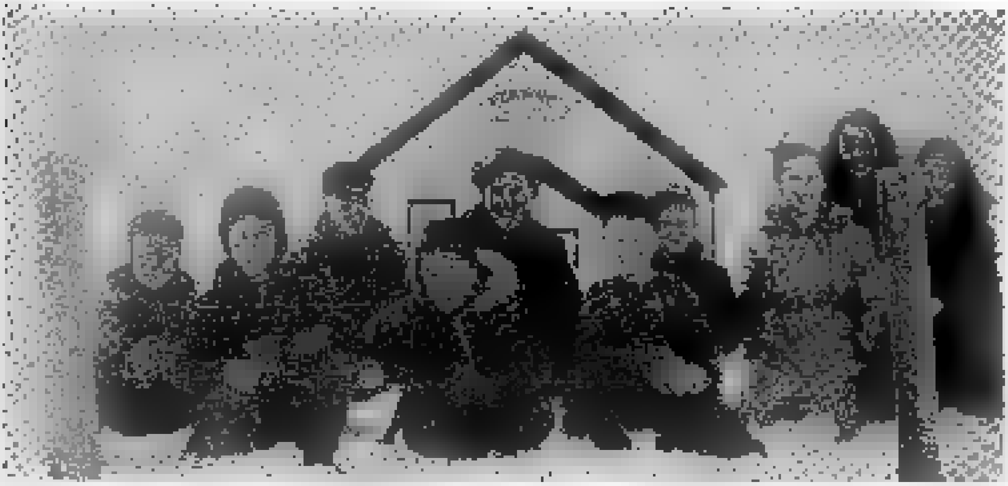
Corinne School students — 1931. John Wallace, Arthur Ekelund, William Rutherford, Ken Simon, Lucy Wigley, Grace Wigley, Fred Harvey, Arley Chidley, Janet Easton, Jewel Adams, Mary Campbell, Margaret Simon, Alex Rutherford, Bill Chidley, Zelma Baum, Patrick Lepard, Fred Wigley, Albert Delker, David Wallace, Francis Harvey, Josephine Harvey, Ethel Rutherford, Joe Higgins, Jessie Rutherford, Harold Simon, Margaret Wallace, Hazel Kennedy, Hugh Campbell.



Corinne School students — 1934-36. Teacher, Marion Taylor. Back Row: David Easton, Joe Higgins, Bill Chidley, Albert Delker, Margaret Wallace, Mary Campbell. Second Row: Andy Harvey, Murl Chidley, Arley Chidley, Mae Delker. Third Row: Dorothy Lepard, Irene Kennedy, Isobel Campbell, Evelyn Ekelund, Alfred Delker. Front Row: Nellie Harvey, Don Campbell, Donna Lepard.



Corinne School pupils — 1944. Teacher, Doreen Lyszen. Dorothy Lepard, Donald Campbell, Henry Nelson, Gordon Ironside, Allan Ironside, Mary Ironside, Clark Ironside, Harold Lepard, Corinne Ironside, Elmer Nelson, Gladys Ironside.



Corinne School students — 1946. Taylor Twin, Bert Chidley, Clark Ironside, Taylor Twin, Margaret Ironside, Georgian Wright, Gladys Ironside, Norman Wallace, Norman Stamp.

There seemed to be the need for another school to accommodate the children from the southern part of the district, so a new school district, Pleasant Site No. 4210, was formed. According to the minutes of the meetings, the school district was formed but no building was ever erected. Apparently the formation of a district was sufficient to allow a grant to be paid [illegible] Corinne for the pupils who attended there from Pleasant Site. Corinne accepted the eight pupils from the area, and the new district was never mentioned again. Mr. William Henderson was the teacher at the time.

In 1931, a room was rented [illegible] the William Harvey home for the purpose of holding high school classes. Grades one to eight remained [illegible] Corinne school. [illegible] 1934 the district had financial problems and hiring a teacher was almost impossible. After advertising [illegible] the papers, the board hired Miss Marion Taylor, brought grade nine back to Corinne, and closed the high school. Pupils from grades ten, eleven and twelve had to go to Castor or Hanna to further their education.

In 1936 the small school districts became part of Sullivan Lake school division, with offices in Hanna.

Corinne was not only the centre [illegible] the education facilities for the district, it was also used for church services, concerts, card parties and dances. [illegible] the earlier years the people of the Endiang community came to entertain with plays and songs. After the concerts there would be lunch; then the desks would be piled up and pushed against the walls and the dancing would start. Old and young enjoyed these dances. Music was supplied by the Lepard family, or the Ironside brothers with violin and guitar. For the Christmas concert, all the boys and girls had the pleasure of new clothes.

Corinne school was kept open until 1952, when the children were vanned to Scapa. It was difficult to get teachers to come to a school which was so far from town. At one time Corinne consisted of a school, a barn, a coal shed and a well, and the yard was surrounded by a page wire fence. Trees had been planted. But now the time has taken its toll and all that remains is the schoolhouse, which is used as a granary.

Names of families who attended the school were: Adams, Blum, Boles, Carlson, Campbell, Chidley, Copp, Coulter, Delker, Easton, Ekelund, Gustafson, Herring, Harvey, Higgins, Hamilton, Ironside, Johnson, Keller, Kerner, Kennedy, Lepard, McRae, McCafferty, Nelson, Ortt, Parro, Rehill, Rutherford, Simon, Slemp, Tucker, Taylor, Wallace, Walker, Waterhouse, Wigley, Wright and Winmill.

Teachers and supervisors who taught at Corinne and the high school were Miss Dawson, Mr. Frederickson, Miss McEachern, W.H. Pedley, Miss Ford, E.V. Smart, C.A. Sullivan, M.G. Scott, James McPherson, Jean Blackwood, Jean Palmer, Annie English, Violet Williams Lepard, E.G. Hamilton, Edith Smith, William Henderson, Mary Trenaman, Edna Blackwood, L.A. Reid, Scollan, Violet Diprose, Marion Taylor, C.O. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Daisy Kerner, Doreen Lyxzen, Miss Nester, Shirley Ekman, Mrs. Art Welch, Jos. A. Connelly, Francis R. Thompson, A.R. Barton, Harold Unsworth, William Coulter.

These names are not in the order that they taught in the district, and I am sorry for any omissions.

Superintendents were W.G. Hay, Mr. Korek, J.C. Jonsson, L.A. Thurber, G.K. Haverstock, J.C. Butchart, C.B. Yule, W.J. McLean, J.D. Aikenhead and F.J. Carr.

Of all the farm steads in the school district that were occupied at one time, now only four have families living on them: Delker, Wolfert, Boyson and Nelson.

One evening in February, 1977, we visited with Mr. Donald Simon and Mr. Harry McCafferty. They began to reminisce about school days at Corinne. The conversation went something like this:

"Donald, do you remember when we used to squirt the teacher with those old fountain pens? Boy, would she get mad!"

"Yes, Harry, that was Miss Williams. She was a good teacher and very nice to us, despite what we put her through."

"Do you remember when you and Bob Hamilton used to sign each other's report cards, until you signed Tom instead of Thomas on Bob's card. Boy! That strap sure did hurt!"

"Well, that didn't hurt our dignity as bad as the time when we washed my brother Ken's face with frozen potatoes and Miss Williams nearly wore herself out strapping us boys. Counting us to see how many she had spanked she said, 'There is one more. Who is it? ' Alex Wallace spoke up and said, 'All I did was rub dirt on his face.' Out came the strap again."

"We had fun at school, although I sometimes wonder why we went."

"Remember how you used to hide your books under the bridge when you didn't get your homework done?"

"Yes, Don, and she would send me back to get them, and I had to do my homework at recess, but that wasn't too bad. At least my parents didn't find out."

Taken at Corinne School — 1942. Dorothy Lepard, Joe Lepard, Herman Simon, Harold Lepard, Mrs. Tom McCafferty, Harry McCafferty, Mrs. Harvey, George Benzle, Bill Haner, Frank Benzle, Mrs. Simon, Joe Higgins, Bill Harvey, Tom McCafferty, Donna Lepard.

"Do you remember the time we went poisoning gophers and sampled that snuff in the little round box?"

"I thought I was poisoned. Snuff chewing wasn't for us."

"I thought you were going to die on me!"

Leslie Walker, another former student at Corinne, remembers two of his teachers. "Mr. Frederickson was an elderly man with grey whiskers, and he drove to school in a buggy with a single horse. He travelled seven miles each way, and to get his horse to go faster he would say, "Hip-a holly!" After lunch hour he would put his feet on the desk and lean back against the chalk rail below the blackboard for a siesta. Three of [illegible] boys would get out our elastic bands and roll up inch squares of paper for spit wads, and aim them [illegible] his number nines. All was fine until one went between his feet and smacked him on the chin. That fun was short-lived, and we were punished by having to stay in after school to clean the blackboards and sweep the floor. After that he took his rest at noon hour while us students were outside eating our lunch.

"Miss Sullivan was a good-sized teacher with an Irish accent. We boys thought she was very strict, as we couldn't get away with any pranks on the girls anymore. One of the boys' pastimes was [illegible] have about thirty feet of chalk line and make a slip knot in one end and catch gophers. We would lay the loop around the gopher hole and when the gopher would stick his head out of the hole, we pulled the string and we had him around the neck. One morning we caught one and put it in the desk with the attendance records. When she pulled open the drawer for roll call, the rodent squeaked and jumped on her lap, she squealed and jumped on her desk. No one knew who had done the trick, but everyone helped chase it out."

MRS. DOREEN LYXZEN KERNER, By Victoria Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — I was born on the farm on August 15, 1920. My first seven years of schooling were [illegible] Crow Hill. My first teacher was Agnes Cameron. In 1933 I took my grade nine in Scapa so Marie Lohrmann and I rode to school. I had an old chestnut-colored horse appropriately named Chess, who shied at everything and sometimes dumped me off. For the next two years I was back at Crow Hill, but the Board wouldn't allow instruction in Grade 11 so I worked by myself with help from Wilma

Symth after school hours. It was a lost year. I spent one year at Stettler High School and then went back to riding to Scapa, a bay this time I called "Beauty". Ralph Ringdahl was teaching high school. I never missed many days [illegible] school, except if there was a blizzard.

In 1938 the Dormitory opened [illegible] Hanna and I attended Hanna High school to get my remaining subjects and grade twelve. Because I couldn't get a third year Latin course which I needed, I stayed home one year and took correspondence. In 1940 I attended Calgary Normal School.

Tea party [illegible] Corinne School teacherage — 1943. Dorothy Lepard, Mary Ironside, Sheila Barnes, Doreen Lyxzen, Mrs. Chidley, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Campbell, Cora Ironside holding Willis, Hazel Stemp and Faye, Mrs. Lepard, Ruth Ironside.

My teaching career started at Bingo, a school set in the north-east corner of a twelve mile cattle lease. I was never short of 'Beef on the Hoof', especially one night during a blizzard when they all crowded on the south side of my teacherage. Thank goodness the fence was a few feet away from the teacherage. There were three families there, the Lebmans, Sarrs and Roesslers. I boarded with the Roesslers and their seven children, until the powers that be hauled in a two-roomed teacherage.

I did the janitor work for the use of the teacherage. I split a lot of wood and hauled in a lot of coal, as well as clinkers and ashes which went out. Those old Waterbury furnaces had enormous appetites and were quite disconcerting at times, such as when a solid clinker formed, and as one tried to remove it, all the hot coals would fall into the ash pan. So one would hurriedly try to start a new fire and hope the school would get warm enough. School started at 9:30 during the winter months. Sometimes pupils ran up and down the aisles to keep warm or brought desks up close beside the furnace to do their work.

I had many varied experiences in my first teacherage and school, once a family of skunks decided [illegible] make their home under the school. My teacherage was pretty wide open. Water in the wash basin, three feet from a huge cast iron range, would freeze during forenoon while I was at school. I had a pot-bellied heater next to my bed in the second room and often sat on the bed with my coat on, to eat my lunch. One morning after a blizzard I discovered a snow drift inside the house as high as my window sill on the north side, and petering out at my range. I had [illegible] shovel snow before I could get my breakfast; of course there was a film of snow over everything in the room. The second year my eight-year-old cousin Myrna Erickson stayed with me.

In October 1943 I started teaching at Corinne. This was the year the polio was

bad and all schools were closed for about a month. The second year Mary Keller stayed with me to finish her grade nine. We lived in a one roomed teacherage and our main problem here was the chimney. When the wind blew from a certain direction all my stove would do was smoke. One morning I left the door open while I was over at the school and Mr. Keller who was bringing Mary back, breasted the hill and came hurrying down because [illegible] thought the teacherage was on fire. Finally a cap was put on the chimney that was almost tall enough to be a spire, but [illegible] solved the problem.

In the fall [illegible] 1945 I started teaching grades one to six in Scapa, and also working in the store. I quit at Christmas. Mrs. Harry Cook was teaching Junior High. No teacher was available for the smaller grades at first so a Supervisor was hired for a few weeks. I returned to teaching in 1947 at Rosebud, near Drumheller. I was to teach nineteen pupils, but opening morning I thought there was no end. The last one in the door was number 33. I hadn't enough desks, seats, space or anything. Many had to double up in a seat. Imagine the discipline problem! Finally more desks were brought in, but there wasn't enough spaces so rows were pushed together and right up to the blackboards. I had trouble moving between desks and the blackboards. After the New Year a larger school was hauled in. That was the year Seven Creek flooded and we were without mail for a month.

I completed my Junior Home Economics that summer at the University of Alberta and started my specialized career on the circuit at Champion, Carmangay and Barons. I had unique boarding facilities at Champion. I lived [illegible] Libby Latif's and had breakfast there. For dinner (when not on circuit) and supper I had to go to the Marshman's. Lunch was non-existent out on the circuit unless I bought something to eat. After summer school again I moved south to the Bow Island-Foremost circuit.

I married John Wendlane Kerner on July 7, 1951 and we started wildcatting in the oil fields for four years. [illegible] took us [illegible] such places as Lac La Biche in north-eastern Alberta, Hudson Hope [illegible] B.C., Aden near the Montana border and Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. One son Brian Wayne was born at Castor on October 16, 1953. In the spring [illegible] 1955 we bought a quarter of irrigated land three miles east of Bow Island and left the oil fields for good. After John died of cancer on July 12, 1971, I rented the land but continue [illegible] live on the farm. I had gone back to teaching Home Economics at Senator Gershaw High in 1962, and fifteen years later, I'm still there.

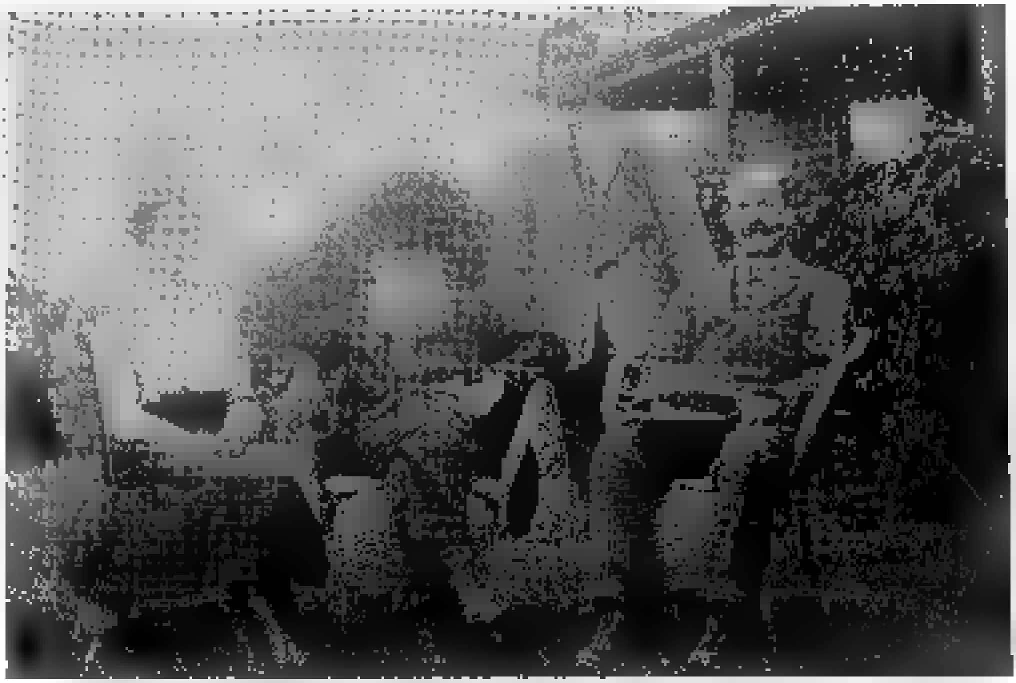
FRED STICKNEY, [illegible] Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Fred Stickney homesteaded on the NE 21-34-14 in 1908. He and his wife lived in a sod house. His wife was a very handy person so she undertook the job of plastering the inside of their home with plaster [illegible] paris. The walls were snow white. Mrs. Chidley commented on Mrs. Stickney's management. This house was the most beautiful home to walk into.

During threshing time, Fred was engineer on a steam threshing machine which belonged to Fred Saar. He was a brother of Harry Saar [illegible] the Spondin district.

JULIEN KVALNER, By Harry Nelson — Julien Kvalner filed on the SE 30-34-13 on July 16, 1908. He proved up on his homestead and also worked out. After he got title to the land he rented it out to Albert Kennedy for a few years and later sold it to Mr. Hubert who farmed it for a short time. It was then sold to Oscar Gustafson who farmed it till he retired. Harry Nelson bought it and still farms it. Not too much is known about Julien Kvalner as he was only here a few years and then left the country.

JOHN GRAHAM SR. STORY, By Inga Strandberg — John Graham homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14 in 1908. His son John junior filed on his homestead on the NE 6-34-14, and a pre-emption on the NW 12-34-14. They made their home on the SW 12-34-14. John Graham Sr. had two children, a son John and a daughter, who was a trained nurse. The daughter came to live with her father and brother for a couple of years and nursed in the district. She enjoyed driving around with Mrs. Lepard in a buggy.

Siguard Larson courted her and later they were married. Later Mr. Graham Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Larson left for New Zealand. While Mr. Graham was in the district he was chairman at the first U.F.A. meeting in the Garden Plain hall. He sold his land to Dan Campbell before leaving. Mr. Graham lived to the ripe old age of 104.



Graham family and Larson — Kathy, John Sr., John Jr., Sigrid Larson

THE JOHN GRAHAM JR. STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — John Graham Jr. was the son of John Graham Sr., and he homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14. He was a bachelor and enjoyed his life.

Mrs. Elechia Chidley remembered the Lepard boys catching John Graham's chickens and tying them to the fence posts, as the chickens were squawking. Mr. Graham came out in his pyjamas, seeing who it was and what they were doing he jumped on his horse in his pyjamas and rode his horse as fast as [illegible] could to see Mr. Lepard. By the time he got there the boys were already home, and he didn't have much to say or explain why he was wearing his sleeping attire. He was a good sport about it all. The boys liked to play tricks on the old man. Another night they took one of his little pigs and put it in the attic of his house. Poor John didn't know what to do, but [illegible] got his thoughts about him and rescued the poor little animal and laughed about it.

Mrs. Chidley enjoyed playing the violin and remembers her first store violin (the others were homemade ones) this was a gift from Mr. Graham.

THE DAN CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Mrs. Dan Campbell — My husband, Dan Campbell returned to Canada after four years with the Canadian Army in 1919. I came as a war bride and we decided to go farming. Before the war, Dan had a homestead north of Cochrane, where he owned several head of cattle and horses, which had multiplied during the years. We bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm twenty-four miles north of Hanna, where Mr. Graham lived. We shipped the cattle there as soon as we could. Mr. Bob Smith was the Superior of the Board at that time. With the war gratuities we bought a team of work horses from Mr. and Mrs. Wickson, who operated the General Store and Post Office, just a mile north of us. Later we purchased a saddle horse and a buggy from Mac Lepard.

That first winter was a hard winter with lots of snow and severe cold weather. We had a terrific blizzard towards the end, and most of the cattle perished in the deep snow drifts. We fed the cattle on green feed bought from a neighbor for five cents a sheaf. We drew water from a well which was a few yards from the house. The water contained alkali and made us both quite ill for a while.

We lived in a two-roomed house which was very small and very cold. Eventually Dan built a bungalow, hauling the lumber for it with a team and wagon from Castor. After the first planting [illegible] wheat, Dan broke more acres of land for next year's crop. We also planted a garden and raised chickens, borrowing brood hens from our very kind neighbors. Our crops were very poor, yielding scarcely enough seed for the following year.

In May 1920, our daughter was born in Castor, where Doctor McPherson was our doctor. Our nearest neighbors were the Donald Campbell family.

The work was hard, we milked cows and were able to ship cream to Hanna. Our eggs and some cream we took [illegible] the Garden Plain Store and exchanged them for groceries. Our water for washing had to be carried from the well and clothing had to [illegible] scrubbed on a wash board.

We were sorry to leave our first home, but decided to give up farming after a lot of hard work and only one crop, which was destroyed by hail just before being harvested. We never regretted leaving when we did. Dan went into the garage business in Calgary and was with General Supplies for over twenty years. During the Second World War, Dan worked as an Instructor in Mechanics for the Navy; later lived in Victoria where he owned a Service Station [illegible] Langford. He passed away July 6, 1964.

WILLIAM RUTHERFORD and FAMILY, By Ethel Rutherford Martin — William Rutherford and his wife Dora and seven children landed in Hanna in November 1923 during the biggest blizzard they had had in years in the Hanna district. They came from England and had never seen snow. We lived with Granddad Rutherford on his farm at Dowling Lake for a year, then Dad got a job on the railroad (he was a coal miner in England) and we moved to the town of Hanna.

We lived in town for a couple of years, then dad, a World War veteran, arranged to buy a farm in the Garden Plain district, through the Soldier Settlement Board. We farmed there for eleven years, were dried out and hailed out at least eight of the years we lived there. Our garden more than once was blown onto the road allowance and the lettuce and radishes grew out there. I will never forget the sandstorms and blizzards. More than once Mrs. Higgins let us children stay at her house when we couldn't get home from school on account of the storms.

We worked hard on the farm; Mom had chickens and turkeys, dad kept some cattle, horses and pigs. He was very busy and very fussy also, every thing had to be kept tidy and in its place. We planted hundreds of carraganas and always had a

big garden. We all had to help pull mustard weed, make hay, stook bundles and so on. Mother was a jolly Scottish lady and kept us all as happy as she could. She had to work hard as the rest of us although she was never very strong. My parents had never farmed before and we had left a real nice home in England where we didn't know what hard times were. Dad made us a swing and homemade sleigh, and would go out to play ball with us when he had time. When he wasn't too tired he would sing or play the mouth organ.

Alex was the family cut up. He would make plasticine bucking horses, etc., and when the teacher wasn't looking, he would make them prance on his desk. When he was caught and the teacher would give him the strap he could bring on the tears, so she would end up feeling sorry for him.

Once when Isabel and Dora had gone [illegible] Scapa in an open cutter for groceries, a blizzard came up. Dora ran behind the sleigh to keep warm, but Isabel froze the toes on her left foot. Two of her toes fell off at home before the folks could get her to the hospital, as the roads were blocked and there was no way to get to a doctor. When she did get to Hanna they operated and removed all but her little toe. It was very painful, but it didn't hold her back. She danced and lived life [illegible] the fullest.

We have all had a good life and lots of memories, happy and otherwise. The folks moved [illegible] Armistice, Alberta in 1937.

Mary married M. Campbell and passed away when she was thirty. The cause of her death was unknown.

Dora married C. Nessen. Isabell married G. Hoover, they lived in southern Alberta. They both have passed away.

Ethel married P. Martin, and we live in Edmonton. Jessie married M. Abram, of Dewberry.

Bill was in active service overseas, he married Daisy Hawker, a[illegible] English war bride. They live at Ponoka.

Alex was killed in Action on D Day at the age of twenty-two. Dad passed away in 1950 at the age of [illegible] years, and Mother in 1953 at the age of 75 years.

JAMES ADAMS, By Margaret Nelson — James Adams came to Garden Plain area with his partner John Campbell to homestead in the year 1906. He filed on NW 18-34-13. Little is known of his early days. He proved up his land and a short time later returned to Calgary where he had worked before his endeavor in homesteading.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Don Campbell — Jack Campbell came to the Garden Plain district in 1906, approximately one year after the area north east of Drumheller was opened up for homesteading. He and his partner, James Adams, settled on a homestead on the SW 18-34-14. James returned to Calgary but Jack remained on the homestead until 1909 when he, too, returned to Calgary. On New Year's Day in 1910 he came back to the homestead and remained in the district until his death in 1974.

Soon after he settled on the homestead he was joined by his sister Nan and his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campbell Wedding Day

His brother, Don Campbell, homesteaded the NE 13-34-14. He served overseas for four years during World War I with the 31st Infantry Battalion. On his return after the war, he and his wife Agnes and son Hugh, who had been born in Scotland, lived in a granary in Jack's yard until the home across the way was built. Four more children were born in Canada, Leslie who died at the age of four, Mary, Isabel and Don. Jack's original homestead remained in the family for some sixty-seven years, until it was sold in 1976 after Hugh's death.

During his early years on the homestead Jack was very active in community affairs, serving on the board of Buchan school and the United Farmers of Alberta. Being the musical member of the family, he enjoyed playing the accordion at get-togethers.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Mrs. Betty Waterhouse — My husband, Bert Waterhouse, first met the Campbells in 1919. He was on his way to Unsworth's with his team and wagon to get his first load of coal, and stopped in at Campbell's to enquire where the coal mine was, as he was an easterner from Ontario, and didn't know too much about the west, especially the bald headed prairies. He was asked in for a cup of tea and a piece of shortbread, and that was the beginning of a long-standing, wonderful friendship. Donald and Bert had both been in the first World War and had lots in common to talk about.

Mrs. Campbell came from Nairn, Scotland, in 1918, I believe, and I came from Glascow in 1920, so the Campbells and I had lots to talk about and it was good to meet someone else from Scotland. I am sure a finer family would be hard to find; they were so kind to everyone. One just got inside the house when the kettle was put on the stove and there would be tea and shortbread, a favorite of Mrs. Campbell's which she loved to bake.

I remember one time in the twenties, Donald was taking a load of grain to the elevator, and on his way back home from Castor he called in at our house. I put the kettle on for a cup of tea, but Donald said, "I just came in because I have a wee treat to share with you." He had bought sausages in Castor and shared them with us. We never forgot that treat; that was only one of the times. They were always sharing with others, no matter what it was.

I also remember Donald's Dad, a wonderful old gentleman and very Scotch.

Nan and Jack were wonderful people too. One never left their place without having a cup of tea and a good friendly chat. Donald's garden was something to be admired, flowers of all kinds and colors. He took such pride in it, and I always came home with a lovely big bouquet.

Hugh never complained and never turned down anyone if they needed a helping hand. They have all gone from us now to a well-deserved rest where I am sure their kindness has been rewarded.

My four daughters and I still correspond with Poll, Isobel and Don. We like to keep up the friendship that started so long ago. We will never forget the good times we had and the people who helped make them. We were all poor, but rich in the things money cannot buy.

MR. WILLIAM BOLES, By Orpha Welfert — Mr. William Boles homesteaded on the SW 22-34-14 in 1911. He had a brother in the Scapa district. William and his wife had two daughters and one son: Gladys was the oldest born in 1905, Della was the youngest girl born in 1913. Their only son Byron, was born in 1911.

Garden Plain Breezes in the Castor Advance in 1916 read; in 1916, William Boles was elected to the council of the Municipality of the Sullivan Lake School Division No. 335. He served on the council until 1927.

The Bole Family sold their land [illegible] Willard Roney and left the district. Their destiny is unknown.

Clarence Roney

CLARENCE RONEY, By Gladys M. Roney — My husband, Clarence W. Roney was one [illegible] the first settlers in the Garden Plain district, along with Harry McArthur and Joseph Higgins who homesteaded together.

Clarence Roney was born in Wilmington, Delaware, [illegible] 1887. He went to the Yukon to pan for gold and then came to Canada, became [illegible] Canadian citizen, and homesteaded in 1909. He worked on the homestead for six months of the year, the other six months [illegible] worked as a surveyor on the Banff-Windermere highway. He built a sod house on the homestead, and made his own bread, pies and cakes.

In 1914 he joined the army and trained in Calgary, went overseas with the 31st battalion, and returned in 1919. He built a house and started farming, obtaining his stock and machinery through the Soldier Settlement Board.

In 1928 he married Gladys Hamilton, daughter of R.E. Hamilton. We have one daughter Betty. We stayed on the farm until 1932 when we went into business at Dinant, Alberta.

In 1937 we moved to British Columbia. Clarence was in the retail business until his retirement [illegible] 1958. He died on July 26, 1971, in Vancouver, B.C.

WILLARD RONEY, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1910, Willard Roney, his brother James and their parents, came from Unionville, Iowa, to the Corinne district. Their brother Clarence had come in 1909. Willard purchased the Boles homestead and the Harry McCafferty farm. He had filed on a parcel of land which [illegible] didn't keep, and let Mr. R.E. Hamilton take possession of it.

Willard returned to Unionville, but later came back to the Corinne district. He and his wife Nellie had a daughter, Gladys, who married a man whose surname was Light. Willard has passed away; his wife still lives in Unionville.

Alberta Kennedy, Mrs. Frank Kennedy, Mrs. Herman Simon, Helen Kennedy, Donald Simon, Maxine Simon, Ken Simon, Jim Adams, Herman Simon, Frank Kennedy, Willard Roney, William Harvey, Mildred Harvey, Irene Kennedy, Margurite Simon, Fred Harvey, Andy Harvey, Frances Harvey, Harold Simon, Nellie Harvey.

MR. and MRS. MARTIN SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — Martin Siverson was born in Oslo, Norway on September 16, 1885. His mother made a living washing clothes by hand, scrubbing them on a washboard. In the winter the clothes would freeze on the line and my dad would help bring them into the house to finish drying. Dad worked in a cork factory, cutting corks by hand with a sharp knife from slabs of cork tree bark. It was a very tiresome job, and made him decide to emigrate to try to make a living in a more interesting way.

In the United States he worked on the railroad and as a lumberjack, but the slogan, 'Go west, young man', and the desire to own a farm so he could eat all the eggs he wanted, inspired him to go homesteading. Perhaps eggs were expensive because all chicks were hatched by hens on the farm in those days.

He arrived in the Garden Plain area during the wet years and with the tall ungrazed prairie wool to hold the moisture, water was abundant. He had come from a land noted for its fjords and fish; he chose to homestead the SE 12-34-14 because it had a couple of sloughs on it, and he believed they would have fish in them.

Harold, Stanley, Inga Strandberg, Alf Siverson, Mr. and Mrs. Strandberg holding Kenneth, Mr. and Mrs. Siverson holding Muriel.

What wonderful plans for a farm that would produce crops, livestock, chickens and even fish, went through his mind as he filed on his homestead on June 27, 1906.

In Stettler Dad met Jacob Hagen who had filed on the NE 12-34-14 the same day, and Siguard Larson. The three men walked together to their homesteads. Jacob had bought some oxen and a walking plow. He built a sod shack and a barn; Larson, a carpenter by trade, built a sturdy ten by twelve building of lumber on my dad's homestead for their home.

Once Dad went duck hunting on Sullivan Lake. A very heavy fog came up suddenly, and lasted for thirty-six hours. Dad became lost and walked in circles for two nights and a day; he had to keep moving so that he would not freeze to death. A search party found his footprints only fifty feet from a home north of the correction line. When the fog finally cleared he was half a mile from a stopping house where he sought shelter. He was too tired to eat; a bed never felt better.

During the winter Dad went to Calgary and Gleichen to work. In the spring of

1908 he returned to the homestead with a walking plow and four oxen. One of the oxen was a white bull that sired a white heifer calf for John Campbell. John kept the heifer, and for as long as he farmed, he occasionally had white calves from her offspring.

During the summer Dad broke some land and worked for Kane. He built another shack to replace the one which had been destroyed by a prairie fire, but that was blown down by a strong wind, so he had to start all over again. During a hail storm in 1928, a gust of wind which shook the house we were living in, picked up the shack. It flew past the window, then up in the air, twirling around, tearing into pieces which scattered for some distance. It really frightened me and every time it blows hard I remember that shack flying past the window.

After Dad got his shack built, Larson moved his building to the Hagan homestead, and lived there until he married Miss Graham. Hagan then occupied it until he left for Prince Rupert, and from that time until 1927 it was used for storing grain. That summer the Johanssons, mother's brother and his family, arrived from Sweden, and lived in it. While they were there, my uncle worked in the mine and hunted ducks and rabbits for meat. One time he shot a badger. My aunt borrowed my mother's meat grinder and made hamburger from it. When our relatives left for Edmonton in 1928, the shack stood empty until it was moved to Dad's farmstead to be used for storage. When Alf operated the Garden Plain service station during the sixties it was moved there to be used as an office building. It is now a chicken house on the farm of Walter Gross of Spondin.

In 1913 Sigurd Larson helped Dad dig a well in his hog pasture, but the water contained so many salts that it was fit for neither man nor beast to drink.

When Hagan left he rented his homestead to my dad. During the thirties when times were so bad, the taxes were not paid, and the Special Areas took possession of it. Dad rented it from them until Alf took it over. He eventually sold the lease rights to Lloyd Strandberg who is now operating it.

About 1916 Larson built a two-roomed cottage which was Dad's home for the remainder of his life. That same year Karin Johansson left her homeland in Sweden and visited her sister, Anna Peterson, at Richdale. Then she came to stay with another sister, Matilda Ekelund, in the Corinne district. She worked for the Frank Kennedy family for a while, then in 1918 she married Martin Siverson.

On May 13, 1919, their daughter Inga Marie was born, with Mrs. Matilda Speten assisting. Incidentally, my birth was not registered, so when I applied for a birth certificate in 1957, Mr. Alex Wilson and my Dad had to sign a form stating that they had known me all my life. My brother, Alf, was born on November 17, 1924. This time Mrs. Halverson was with my mother.

In 1920 Dad bought two cows, the herd foundation and the beginning of milking cows. At first the cream was churned and the butter sold at the stores. I can remember when Dad brought the first cream can home. From then on the cream was shipped to the creamery.

Hail can be destructive, but in 1928 I gained from it. I took my total savings of $7.50 and insured Dad's crop. When it was hailed out I received $75.00. With the money I bought a black calf from James Bradshaw for $20.00, and later sold it for $40.00 I was rich. However, the depression struck and daddy borrowed it all. He did not forget it though; after I was married he gave me my favorite cow, Gullros, and a mare. The mare produced two colts, but they have all been sold. The cow gave me a heifer and a bull calf; money from the sale of offspring bought a purebred cow which has increased into a small herd. There are still descendants of Gullros in our herd, and she had come from one of the cows dad had bought at Mrs. Speten's sale in 1920.

Because of the distance to school, I did not attend until I was twelve years old. Mother had the equivalent of a grade eight in Sweden, she was partially deaf, could not read English, and spoke it very little. But with the aid of a first reader and an arithmetic book which Mrs. Halverson gave her, and a dictionary, Mother began [illegible] teach me. She discovered that school books were obtainable through Eaton's mail order service, so for years I received new readers for Christmas presents. I used [illegible] love the stories in those readers, and would read them through silently, but Mother insisted that I had to read aloud for an hour every day. I used to read aloud and churn the butter at the same time. Due to mother's efforts, I was able to go into grade seven when I started school, and obtained my grade eight diploma after two years at Corrine.

Firewood and kindling was very scarce, and I can remember helping my mother gather dry cow chips to use as fuel.

One fall day when I was quite young I noticed the buckbrush turning black on SW 7-34-13. My mother was milking a cow, and how I must have frightened her when I came running and yelling that the prairie was on fire. She quickly went to the house and wrote a note, "Please send Martin home as there is a prairie fire east [illegible] our house." She instructed me to go to James Wright's place, where Dad was working on the threshing outfit, as fast as I could. I ran most of the way, not far short of a mile. Mrs. Wright got the message to my dad, and people from far and near came to fight the fire. Mrs. Burt from Scapa came in a car; she took my mother, Alf and me with her, and cream cans of water so the men could soak the sacks they were using to beat out the flames. Luckily there was little wind so the fire was brought under control before [illegible] caused much damage to the native grass.

Those golden straw stacks of the threshing era provided food and shelter for the livestock during the winter. As the animals ate around them they became mushroom-shaped; with a blanket of snow and ice on them they could become death traps if the tops slid on top of the animals. Such an avalanche put me in a tricky situation one time when I had gone with my father for a load of straw.

He was using a wagon box on bobsleighs, pulled by a team of horses. My dad started to load the straw when [illegible] noticed the top of the stack starting to move. He yelled a warning, but before I could get out of the way the top of the stack came down on me, pinning my face against the wagon box. It was God's providence that the team did not move; I shudder [illegible] the thought of what would have happened if my face had rubbed against the box with the stakes and bolts sticking out of it. My dad dug me out, none the worse for the experience, except for some black and blue spots which disappeared [illegible] time.

Horses can be balky. My dad had one, a pretty little bay called Maud. As [illegible] was short of horses, he had to use her, but after a night's rest she would balk; she just refused to work in the morning. So I would hold the rest of the horses while dad jumped on her and rode her at full gallop around the field. Then he would hook the horses to the implement and away she would go and work, sweaty, puffing and blowing.

Our bachelor neighbor used to leave the oven door of his coal and wood stove open, so that the heat from the oven would help warm the one-room shack which was his home all of his days at Garden Plain. His beloved cats lived in the shack too. One morning he put kindling [illegible] the stove, filled the teakettle, shut the drafts enough that the fire would not burn out of control, closed the oven door and went out to feed his horses. When he returned he was met by an unfamiliar smell, so he opened the oven door, and there was his cat, roasted. What an awful feeling that kindhearted man must have had! To my knowledge he never closed that oven

door again. The last time I saw that stove he had put so much stuff on the oven door that it would be impossible to close it without thinking.

He also kept some chickens. Once they were visited by a striped kitty who helped himself to breakfast; the owner borrowed a gun and sat down [illegible] the chicken coop to wait for the unwelcome visitor. The animal was so long in coming that the man fell asleep. When the skunk did arrive the squawking of the chickens awakened the man, who sleepily grabbed his trusty pitchfork and killed the intruder, but not before it had sprayed man, coop and all with the offensive odor reserved for anyone getting in its way.

In the dry thirties, those sloughs that my dad had believed might have fish in them, turned out to be alkaline flats with big cracks in the parched soil. The rainfall of the forties filled them again, and for a while one of them became the neighborhood skating rink; my dad donned skates and played goalkeeper.

It was during the late thirties that some hot fat spattered into one of Mother's eyes when she was frying something. From that day on she mentioned that it bothered her. [illegible] turned to cancer which spread, and she passed away in July, 1949. Dad remained on the farm until his death in 1964.

My mother instilled in me a faith in God that has never left me; it is the one thing I can turn to when the going gets tough. As I enter the sunset years I thank God for my wonderful mother who made the best of what she had. She missed the Bun Hus or mission place that she used to go to in Sweden, as she did not get to go to meetings here, but she taught me that you don't have to go to church to worship God as He lives within us. May we meet again in the house of many mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

MR. and MRS. ALF SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — After Alf finished school [illegible] worked on the farm with his dad. He married Helen Pincombe in 1953, and they had six children, Marie, May, Sandra, Arthur, Terry and Annette. May is now married to Walter Peach; they have two daughters, Vickie and Bertha. Sandra is married to Henry Scheffelmaier and has one daughter Tammy. Marie and Arthur are working in Calgary.

At first the family lived on SW 12-34-14 but later moved to the SE 1-34-14 where Alf operated the Garden Plain service station as well as the farm. In 1967 Alf had a sale and moved to Calgary and later to Langdon.

Alf and Helen are now divorced, and she is married to Hugh Riddle. Terry and Annette are with their mother. Alf lives at Langdon where he is an Amway and Rawleigh distributor.

MR. and MRS. OSCAR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Oscar Neilson Ekelund was born [illegible] Skattebol, Varmland, Sweden in 1878. Like other young men he wanted adventure, so with his brother Theodor and sister Beda set sail for the United States where [illegible] worked in the logging industry in South Dakota and Washington. Later he went back to his homeland for a visit and in 1910 immigrated to Canada. On May 25, 1910, he filed on NW 24-34-14 as his homestead and NE 24-34-14 as his pre-emption in the Corinne district. He built his homestead shack alongside the burnout on his pre-emption, and later built a house a mile further west.

Matilda Johansson was born on April 25, 1886 in Varmland. On June 2, 1909, Matilda and her sister Anna Maria left Sweden for Chicago where they both worked until 1913, when she immigrated to the Corinne district near Garden Plain, and was united [illegible] marriage with her childhood sweetheart, Oscar Ekelund.

To this union seven children were born. Four died in infancy. Astrid, Arthur

and Evelyn attended Corinne school. The family loved to visit their relatives and friends, and attended local social functions such as concerts and picnics. They were well liked as Oscar was [illegible] very honest man.

The depression years and the drought inspired the family to look for greener pastures. They found a likeable place in the Daysland district, where they moved in 1937. In the first letter I received from my cousin Astrid after they moved she wrote, "And all the nice clear water we can use!" In the Corinne district their farmstead must have been where coal was close to the surface, as the water was a very dark brown. It must have been hard for my godmother, Aunt Matilda, to keep house at Corinne, as water for washing clothes was hauled from the neighbors. And if my godfather, Uncle Oscar, was like most men, she must have heard often, "Do you have to use so much water [illegible] the time? I've got other things to do besides hauling water for you to pour out."

Mr. and Mrs. Ekelund, Evelyn, Astrid, Arthur Ekelund.

They farmed in the Daysland district until they retired to the town of Daysland [illegible] 1956, only a few months before Astrid passed away after many years of painful suffering from arthritis and waiting for the day she would meet Jesus face to face.

Arthur [illegible] married [illegible] Ann Gordash, and farms the home place. They have seven children, Gordon, Douglas, Vickie, Timmy, Danny, Barbra and Marilyn.

Evelyn is married to Ole Larson and has three chosen children, Allen, Carol and Joy. They live in Wetaskiwin.

Oscar passed away in 1965 and Matilda in 1972.

THE WINMILL STORY — Mr. William Winmill came to the Corinne district in 1909 [illegible] take up a homestead. This homestead was on the [illegible] 36-34-14. Mr. and Mrs. William Winmill had three children: Doris, the oldest child was born in 1921. Ervine, born in 1909, and the youngest was Raymond born [illegible] 1920. The three children attended school in the Corinne School. They are all married and the two boys Ervine and Raymond are living in Edmonton.

Several years ago Mr. William Winmill was seen in Edmonton, a friend of his remembers visiting him in the hotel in the southern part of the city. Mrs. Winmill has remarried and [illegible] Mrs. Flynn and is living in Edmonton.

GEORGE GIBB, By Margaret Nelson — In July of 1909 George Gibb filed on the SE 18-34-13. He broke up the required land and built a shack; during the winter of 1912-13 he freighted from Castor. After his homestead was proved up, he had enough of Alberta. He went to Saskatoon where he worked for a time

before going to Calgary. He later spent some time in British Columbia before retiring in Calgary where he passed away a few years ago. About 1921, Andrew Glover bought his land.

EDWARD LEADLY, By Harry Nelson — Edward Parker Leadly homesteaded the NW 30-34-13 on March 29, 1909. He apparently proved up his homestead.

Sometime later he was found dead in his shack, apparently a victim of ptomaine poisoning. His land was taken over by the Special Areas in the early thirties. It was leased by T.G. Ironside for pasture and at the present time E. Storch has the grazing rights.

ROBERT COPP, By Orpha Wolfert — The year 1909 brought numbers of families to the Corinne area in search of land to homestead. Robert filed on the north west of 24-34-14 to make this his home. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Copp had two children, Frank and Vivian. Vivian attended school at the Corinne School. She was a very pleasant girl and full of laughter. She would ride her horse about four miles for the mail each day.

Frank homesteaded on the north east of 34-34-14 in 1910. Later he married Bessie Ogg. They had one son, Robert.

The Robert Copp and the Frank Copp families lived together and owned and operated a stopping house. This along with other stopping houses provided lodging for people travelling north and south on the main road. Later he sold his property to Thomas Smith.

WILLIAM HENRY McARTHUR, By Orpha Wolfert — William McArthur homesteaded on the NE of 22-34-14 in 1909. After farming his land, he moved to Castor where he owned and operated a butcher shop. William sold his homestead to Mr. Willard Roney. Later he moved to British Columbia. While in B.C. he found a loved one and married. William passed away in 1970.

GEORGE MARTIN, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1909, George came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead on the north half of 25-34-14. He farmed his land until 1920, when he left the district. George was a very short man and acquired the name of Little George. While homesteading he found it very difficult to harness his horses; he built himself a box to stand on to bridle and harness them.

In 1919, George worked with Alex Richard on a large steam threshing machine doing threshing for the neighbors. In 1920, George left the district.

George was a very sociable bachelor with a nice personality. He enjoyed his "oil of happiness" and while walking down the streets of Castor he would sing his favorite little song, "I built the Rocky Mountains and placed them where they are. Sold Whiskey to the Indians, from my little Bar."

THE HIGGINS FAMILY, By Mrs. H. Higgins — Joseph Higgins filed on a homestead and pre-emption about halfway between Castor and Hanna in 1909. He built a sod house, dug a well, and farmed for a time with oxen, then changed to horses.

About the same time, Mary and Edward Lepard settled in the Garden Plain area. In 1913, Mary Lepard's widowed mother, Mrs. O'Connor, and her only sister, Hanora, came to visit them. Mrs. O'Connor died about ten days after their arrival, and Hanora remained in Alberta. She married Joseph Higgins in 1917. Their son, Joseph Junior, was born in 1922.

When Mr. Wickson, the storekeeper and postmaster, moved to British Columbia, he sold his house to Mr. Higgins, who moved it on to his homestead.

Joseph Higgins' health failed and his son, relying on his father's experience and advice, took over the operation of the farm. But conditions were poor. Very little rain fell, crops were damaged by frost. Grasshoppers ate the little that did grow.

The farmers didn't lose hope; they kept saying, "Next year will be a good year," but it didn't happen that way. Almost every year, some part of the district was hailed. The Hail Insurance companies considered it a high risk area, and charged very high premiums. The government would insure the crop for a smaller amount at a lower premium, but if the farmer was unable to pay it, it was charged against his land.

Some farmers were lucky enough to sell their property; others packed what they could, took their horses and cattle and left to start a home elsewhere. Others decided to stay as there was so much land that couldn't be used for farming but could be used for pasture, they went in to ranching. It proved to be a wise choice and worked out very well.

Joseph Senior died in 1946. Joseph Junior put in one more crop, but didn't even get enough feed for the stock. He wanted to try something else, so he sold the farm to one neighbor and the house to another, and [illegible] and his mother moved [illegible] Castor. He got a job supervising a school near Coronation and the next year went to Normal and started to teach.

He taught several schools near Castor, and periodically spent a year at University to upgrade his qualifications. He taught in Calgary until his health failed. He died of cancer in 1975.

His widow, his three step-children and his mother live in Calgary.

IT'S THE LANDING THAT TELLS, By Marie Lepard Claypool — In the year of 1909 my parents with eight of us youngsters moved from a coastal city in the state of Washington to the prairies of Alberta. After rattling through the Canadian Rockies in what the Canadian Railway Company called immigration cars, we arrived in Calgary, a city snuggled in the foothills. There, the scene changed (but not the cars) to a rolling green prairie dotted with yellow buttercups and white daisies. After swaying and bumping along over the unballasted railroad for many hours our train pulled into the little wooden town [illegible] Stettler and the end of the line, but not the end of the journey for us, for a whole new life was opening before [illegible].

Stiff and tired from our journey we stood on the platform of the tiny red depot looking around us with mixed feelings of which dismay was not the least.

For Father's sake I had kept my feelings well under my hat. [illegible] was when he came into the hotel the next morning, calmly telling us we would have [illegible] go before a North West Mounted Policeman and kiss the Union Jack — well, what had been so carefully hidden came out as I told all and sundry that I would kiss no flag but the Stars and Stripes and I did not care if King George himself gave the order. Of course Father enjoyed this and when he was able to stop laughing told us he was only joking. But there was no joking when [illegible] brought around a lumber wagon piled high with everything including the kitchen stove. On the very top he had placed mattresses and the ten of us climbed on to them holding on the best we could. Then as [illegible] to add insult to injury two red long-horned oxen were hitched to this monstrosity and we started our sixty mile trek as the crow flies to journey's end, over hills and valleys, through and around mud holes, for four of the longest days of my life.

We arrived at dusk at two small shacks where we hastily prepared supper and without any coaxing retired for a much needed rest. The ground looked like

that we had passed over and not too promising and as the last chore of the night we staked out the oxen.

Something went wrong for the next morning the oxen were gone. Two of my brothers went in one direction and my older brother and I went in the other. We walked for miles before we found them on the bank of a ravine. Being tired and hungry we were anxious to get home. I got the idea that perhaps we could ride the creatures. Did you ever ride an ox? Well don't.

There was one short rope we had and my brother put that on his ox and I had my mother's hubbard apron to tie onto mine. After putting the horns of the animal through the straps of the apron my brother gave me a boost sending me on top of a very resentful ox. I got a good grip on the apron, using it very much as one would reins on a saddle horse, when the fun began. The ox started bucking up and circling around, then humping his back — head down and tail in the air — plunged down the ravine into a gooey gumbo mud puddle. The other ox with my brother perched on his back was walking in all the dignity you please up the other bank. Where was my dignity? Well! that is what I landed on in the mud hole. The moral of this story is: It's not the take off as much as the landing that tells.

THE JOHN DELKER FAMILY, By Alfred and Albert Delker — John and Mary Delker and their five children came from Bessarabia in July, 1927. They bought the John Claypool farm north-east of Scapa on the east half of 10-34-14. The children attended Garden Plain and Corinne schools. John Delker Sr. passed away in 1936.

John Delker Jr. married Violet Tschritter and lived on a farm twenty miles south of Castor. They have two children, Shirley and Douglas. John Delker Jr. passed away in 1972.

Elsie Delker married Earl Burt and now lives on a farm north of Craigmyle. They have three children, Sheila, Gary and Diane.

Mae married Don Welch and lives in Calgary. They have two children, Gloria and Marilyn.

Mrs. Mary Delker, Albert and Alfred still live on the original farm.

THE ED LEPARD STORY, By Belle Lepard Provost — Mother and Dad were married in Michigan, United States of America, where all of us eight children were born, Marie, Ed, John, Dave, George, Mary, Belle and Laurette. My Dad had a lumber mill in Michigan. He sold out in 1907 and moved to Hoquiam, Washington, where [redacted] worked in a saw mill till the spring [redacted] 1909.

The family came to Canada and settled in the Garden Plain district on the south west quarter of section fourteen, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen. We arrived in Stettler on the eighteenth of April 1919.

They bought a yoke of oxen and wagon, also a little cook stove and some dishes and other necessary items. They loaded the bedding, two guns, two trunks, the stove and dishes. Mother, Dad and us eight children piled on top. The load was completed.

With a cow behind the wagon, we started across country to the homestead. After wandering around sloughs and mud holes for several days, we came to the Smith and Wallace homesteads just two and a half miles from our own.

They had come in just before [redacted] and had built two shacks. So we stayed there for a few days, while Dad and Dave took the oxen and wagon back to Stettler to get lumber to put a floor in our tent. They also hoped to get our other belongings which were shipped from Washington. When Dad went to the station, someone else had claimed the shipment. This was a big loss to our parents as Mother's

sewing machine and all our clothing and other household goods were all gone, and it was impossible to trace things like that in those days.

While Dad and Dave were gone, a prairie fire came from the north, headed straight for our tent. It was coming fast as the grass was long then. Mother got all us children together and gave us our orders. The older ones hauled water from a slough nearby and Mother and the older ones back fired around the shacks. We younger ones dipped coats or anything we could find to keep wet for them to use. Mary and I had to watch Laurella as she was too small to do anything.

That was a long hard fight, but the shacks and all of us were saved. My Dad was so relieved to find us all safe when he got back. He had heard of the fire on his way home, and was very proud of Mother for the way she had managed in such a terrible situation.

They put up the tent on our homestead and we lived in it until they got the sod house built. Then in June we got a blizzard and the roof blew off the sod house. By that time Jack Claypool's father had finished his sod house so he took us all over there.

Later when Dad had the oxen on a hay rack and the heel flies were bad and took after the oxen, Dad had a merry ride till the oxen stopped in the middle of a big slough.

We sold out and moved north of Castor in 1919. This was after brother John and cousin Mack Lepard came home after the end of World War One. We liked the Lauderdale district and remained there till the end of Dad's farming days. Of the eight children only two remain, George of Calgary, and Belle of Edmonton.

THE BEN LEPARD STORY, By Elechia Lepard Chidley — Ben Lepard was born and raised in the Township of Mara, Ontario. He married Hannah McMillan in 1886. To this marriage there were born nine children, Bill, Mary, Maggie, Belle, Lizzie, Mack, Joe, Hannah and Elechia, all born in Ontario. In 1910 Ben had heard of the Great North West from his brothers, who were already here, so he landed in Calgary in the early spring and filed on the south east of 14-34-14. He broke up the thirty acres that was required for a homestead and built a twelve by sixteen, found work north of Castor for awhile and finally worked for Mr. G.B. Hoover of Gadsby until the spring of 1913. Then he returned to Ontario for his family and such belongings as could be made use of in Alberta. He shipped a railway carload about April 1st, it took two weeks to get to Lacombe. The family had left Ontario a week later, and when our train pulled into Lacombe, we were very pleased to see dad and the dog standing in a box car door. We continued on to Gadsby to the Hoover farm where the men worked until late October, then we came to the homestead in the Garden Plain area. The men built an additional twelve by sixteen shack to the original, plowed sod three inches deep and fourteen inches wide cut into eighteen inch lengths and laid them around our shiplap shack. That was a warm place to live. They also built a sod barn and chicken house.

We were very fortunate to be living beside a very good clear water spring, and farther up the creek we had our own coal. It was about four feet down to a two foot seam of very hard shiny coal. All our neighbors helped strip coal every fall for their own use.

The fall of 1913 was very warm. On Christmas Day my mother walked all over our quarter section with only a white blouse and skirt on. On January sixth, Ed Lepard broke up a few acres and seeded wheat, also Mr. Claypool seeded some, it came up a few inches then winter came.

In 1917 Dad built a house twenty by twenty-six with twelve foot studs. This was shiplap, two layers of tar paper and drop siding. It too was warm. And the price! Five hundred and seventy-five dollars, this was five, two-year-old steers sold to Harold Hunt from Endiang at one hundred dollars each, the other seventy-five was some of my brothers' wages.

This house held many happy occasions for the Lepards and their neighbors. As the front room and dining room were all one, thirteen by twenty feet, we had many dances there, supplying our own music — a mouth organ, which most of us played, a violin and guitar, and we rattled the bones too. You may be able to understand what our parents had to listen to. They were very tolerant; only once did Mother tell Mack to quit, but he just went outside and kept playing. A violin is a very squeally thing.

Mother must have had a lot of patience or else she would have crowned me early in life. Shortly after we came to Alberta, I was washing all her fancy cups and saucers that the kind relatives had given her when leaving Ontario. I never noticed the open cellar door and pushed the table over it. A leg went down, and all the dishes too. Oh my! I was ten years old then and not very smart, eh?

When I was seventeen, and Russell Chidley was our regular Sunday visitor, I decided to really clean the separator room. So I put plenty of water on the floor and sprinkled it generously with Gilletts Lye, took an old broom and gave it the what for — then swished it all down the drain and away to the coulee. Later mother looked out and said, "Oh my goodness, all my turkeys are lying beside the drain, dead." Poor me again. So you see what some parents have to put up with. I guess they sighed with relief when I married and got out of there.

Mother and Dad lived there until about 1936 then moved to Castor and stayed with my sister Lizzie, Mrs. Bert Barnes. They passed away there in 1939 and 1941 respectively.

Of their children, only four remain [illegible] 1976. Belle eighty-three years in Edmonton, M.G. "Mack" eighty years in Surrey, British Columbia, Hannah seventy-five years in Orillia, Ontario and Elechia seventy-three in Hanna, Alberta.

MYLES G. (Mac) LEPARD — My Father, Ben Lepard, had filed on a homestead on the SE 14-34-14 in 1910. My brother Bill had joined him in 1912. In the spring of 1913 my father moved the rest of the family from Ontario to the G.[illegible] Hoover ranch north-east of Gadsby, where he and I and brother Bill worked for the summer. In the fall of 1913 the family moved to the homestead; the following spring I helped with the building of the U.F.A. hall at Garden Plain, then went back [illegible] the Hoover ranch.

In 1914 I filed on a quarter section on the north side of the correction line; I worked for J.H. Simon on the horse-powered threshing rig owned by the Simon brothers. This was a relic of the past, which was hand fed and had a straw carrier.

In the spring of 1915 I was turned down for the army because of being underweight; but was finally accepted in the fall of 1917. I was attached to the Tenth Battalion and went overseas, but came down with flu and was sent to England for the duration. I returned home in July 1919, bought another quarter section, and tried to farm, but without much success. I moved to Ohaton and later to B.C. where I worked as a logger.

In 1939 I joined D Company of the Westminster Regiment at Chilliwack, went overseas with them and later transferred to the R.C.E.M.E. When I returned home in 1945 I got married and have lived at Surrey, B.C., ever since.

During my stay at Garden Plain I was on the hall committee for much of the time.

MR. and MRS. JOE LEPARD, By Violet Williams Lepard — I am the youngest of ten children of the C.B. William family. My parents and seven children came from North Dakota to the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill area. Three children passed away in Iowa from diphtheria. My father heard [illegible] homesteads in Alberta, so he came west and homesteaded in the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill district.

Dad was a carpenter, so he built a shack for Mother and the family, who came [illegible] 1907, a sod room had to be added to accommodate us all. Dad and the boys built the Hill Park School, which later I attended until I was eleven years of age. Later I attended the Neutral Hill School, taking grade eleven [illegible] Consort and finishing my education in Normal in 1921-22.

I taught the Silver Beach School near Gooseberry Lake for ten years and in 1924–25 came to the Corinne School and boarded with the Frank Kennedy family.

In June 1926, Joseph Lepard and I were united in marriage and lived in the Ben Lepard home until the spring of 1927 when [illegible] began carpentering with Bert Barnes. We moved back to the Lepard home in the fall of 1930, we had two small daughters, then a baby brother kept them company at Christmas of thirty-one.

During the thirties the grasshoppers and the dry weather didn't leave much for the people to get by with. In those years there were nasty blizzards, feed was scarce and had to be shipped into Scapa.

Some families had left the district, among them was the Hermon Simon family. We rented and lived on their land until the spring of 1948. About the middle of April a snowplow opened the highway to Hanna. We had to sell cattle as we didn't have enough feed [illegible] keep them. That summer Joe farmed our own quarter and the McCafferty place.

In the spring of 1949 there were only a few spots of snow left by the first of March, when we moved to a farm south of Nevis.

Joe passed away in July 1963. That fall I moved into Stettler and have been residing there since. Harold and his wife, Joan live in the Erskine area, Keith, Dorothy and their daughter are [illegible] Whitecourt.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley Wedding Day

THE RUSSELL CHIDLEY STORY, By Elsobie Chidley — Russell came to Manitoba from Devil's Lake, North Dakota with his family. Russell had three sisters and two brothers. One sister Grace, had long hair and while she was blowing out the coal oil lamp, her hair caught fire. She breathed in the flames and passed away shortly after.

The family later moved to Edmonton, then to Castor or rather Old Williston as the town was known then. Russell attended school there for a few years. After the Railroad reached Castor, the family moved to Hanna, where they felt there was more opportunity for a pioneer family. In 1913, they pitched their tent and Russell often told of the very severe cold in that tent that winter.

He attended school here for some years, attending Hanna's first school, and during Hanna's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, he had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances with the first teacher, Mr. Herb De Bow.

Russell's sister, Gertrude, had returned to the United States of America with

the rest of the family in 1917. She later became an actress in Hollywood, we watched her on T.V. one evening in 1967.

Russell remained in this area and later took up land about three miles south of the Garden Plain store. As I recall, he had a very nice looking horse and buggy, and many a girl had a buggy ride with him. That horse could walk the slowest and trot the fastest of any horse in the district. I guess I enjoyed the most rides as he married me, Elechie Lepard in 1921.

Of this marriage there were four sons, Bill, Arley, Murt and Bert.

Russell left the farm there and bought the Tom Smith homestead one mile west of the Corinne School, and one mile from the shores of Sullivan Lake.

Our boys all attended school at Corinne. There were many laughs and many hard times as the years rolled by. I took great pleasure [illegible] dressing my boys in white shirts and dress pants for school. These were homemade. Finally Arley at twelve years of age came home the last day of school in June and said, "Ma, Ma, do we have to wear white shirts next year?" I said, "Yes, and you will be wearing ties too." All was forgotten till the first day of school, when he stood in front of me and said, "Do we have to wear ties too?"

Russell farmed that area for about forty eight years, raising black Angus cattle. He also was a Councillor in the Sullivan Lake Municipality for several years, and an original member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall Committee, having helped build that hall [illegible] 1914. He was a staunch Co-Op member until his demise in 1966.

The boys all married and are now living in the Hanna area.

It might be of some interest [illegible] the readers to learn that while visiting my sister [illegible] Ontario, I learned that my grandfather had been a Quaker, and they took me [illegible] the one-time home of that group north [illegible] Toronto. It [illegible] now maintained as a Museum. While there I was told that each member had his name engraved on the under side of his chair seat, and sure enough, there I found Ezekiel Lepards' name. In one of the clippings from the papers kept there, it said my grandfather had been one of the finest fiddlers in North America.

Now I never heard my father mention this, and I'm sure grandfather never told the family he had been a Quaker or a fiddler (as he moved north to Orillia) and this was granddad's secret.

Two of his sons were real old time fiddlers. Jack Lepard played in the Garden Plain Hall and surrounding Schools; he could get the nicest sound from that fiddle I believe I ever heard. There wasn't much rubbed off on me, I was too busy with dishes and diapers. I played [illegible] it a bit. My brothers George and Mack as he was known, was a nice smooth player. My son Bert inherited more than the rest of us, he is [illegible] real good fiddler, just a natural.

I wonder how many remember the mild winter of 1913 and 1914. One of my uncles did some breaking of sod in January, and another seeded some wheat on January sixth. Of course, it came up but was frozen off in February.

ARLEY CHIDLEY, By Leoma Slemp Chidley — Arley Chidley, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley, was born in Castor on June 15, 1923. I attended school at Corinne and [illegible] 1954 married Leoma Slemp of Rest. They have four children, Gary was born in Hanna in 1958; Debbie was born in Hanna, 1960; Donna was born in 1961; and Dixie, the youngest, was born [illegible] December, 1962.

Gary started school in Scapa and later attended school in Hanna, graduating from Hanna High in 1976 and is working for Special Areas. His three sisters, Debbie, Donna and Dixie are attending school in Hanna.

Arley took over his Father's farm in 1954 and in 1974 sold it to Mr. William

Boyson. Arley and I had an auction sale and moved to an acreage west of Hanna. Arley is employed as janitor [illegible] the Hanna Elementary School.

MURL CHIDLEY, By Sylvia Kerner Chidley — Murl Chidley, the third son [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Russell was born in Castor on November 24, 1924. He received his education at Corinne School and later married Sylvia Kerner of Stanmore. Murl and I have one son Dallas. He was born in Hanna, November 29, 1950. Dallas attended school in Scapa and Netherby, finishing his education in Hanna High.

[illegible] 1945 Murl and I lived on the Roney place the north west of 22-34-14. Then we bought the Walker farm in 1949. We moved to the Walker farm in 1953 to make this our home. We remained on this farm until 1974. Dallas started farming his own land in 1971. In July 1974 we decided [illegible] leave the farm so Murl and I along with our son, sold our farms to Morgan Transport Limited. We had an auction sale and moved to Hanna.

Murl is employed with Special Areas and Dallas works with Special Areas and the Co-op Gas Company. Later Murl and Dallas purchased the Hugh Campbell Estate, farming this land from town.

THE BERT CHIDLEY STORY, By Mary Chidley — Bert Chidley is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley. He was born in the Castor Hospital on February 11, 1934. He received his schooling at Corinne, later married Mary Kerner from Stanmore.

Bert and Mary lived on the Fred Stemp farm and the Wallace farm, later moving to Hanna. While residing in Hanna, Bert was employed in the Jenkin's Grocery Store and Grover's Transport.

Their only child, Dale, received his schooling [illegible] Scapa and Hanna. He graduated from Hanna High in 1976 and [illegible] presently working in a grocery store [illegible] Hanna.

WILLIAM GEORGE BOYSON, By Phyllis Boyson — Bill, his wife, Thelma and their three children farmed in the Airdrie district before moving to the Craigmyle district. They purchased the Berchi Farm [illegible] the Craigmyle district in May of 1964. They resided there until April of 1973 when they purchased the Arley Chidley farm one mile west of the Corinne School. Bill and Thelma have three children: Linden Archie born in Calgary in 1943, Dwight William born in Calgary [illegible] 1946 and Lela Mary born in Calgary in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. William Boyson, Dwight, Lela, Linden

Linden received his education in Airdrie and is presently farming in the Corinne district.

Dwight attended school in Airdrie, Elmer, Hanna High and later went to S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968.

Lela received her education at Airdrie, Elmer and Hanna High School. In November 1967, she married Laurence Nicholson of Vegreville. They have three children: Chris, Charlene and David. They are presently living in Peace River where Laurence is a Public Relations man for the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Bill and Thelma moved from the farm to Hanna in October of 1976.

DWIGHT WILLIAM BOYSON, By Phyllis Boyson — Dwight Boyson married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968. We resided in Hanna where Dwight apprenticed as a heavy duty mechanic at C.C.I.L. In the spring of 1970 he received his Heavy Duty Mechanic License after attending school at S.A.I.T. in Calgary.

The spring of 1970 saw Dwight and myself off to the mining hamlet of Pine Point, N.W.T., where Dwight was employed as a H.D. Mechanic for Cominco Mines. The type of mining operation is open pit and experimental underground mining.

In the spring of 1972 we returned to the Corinne district and later purchased the Andy Harvey farm. Then Dwight, myself, our two children and Dwight's brother Linden took up residence and the management of his father's farm as well as our own.

We have two children: Kelly Dwight born in Hay River, N.W.T. in the fall of 1971 and Evonne Ann born in Hanna in the summer of 1974.

THE THOMAS SMITH STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — Thomas Smith came to homestead in 1910. He filed on the south east of 27-34-14. He homesteaded on the land until joining the Army in 1913. Thomas made his home with the John Wallace family.

During the war Thomas lost an arm. Returning with this handicap, Tom acquired the job of superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board. He sold his land to Mr. Russell Chidley in 1926 through the S.S.B. Later he moved to Edmonton.

The Castor Advance of 1916 stated "Garden Plain: A farewell and dance was given in December 1916 in the U.F.A. Hall in honor of Thomas Smith, who is a war veteran and is leaving the district."

He died in Edmonton where his wife still resides.

MR. ROBERT SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — Robert Smith homesteaded in the Corinne district on the SW 35-34-14 in 1912. Robert never lived on his homestead but lived with the John Wallace family. When the war started he joined the army in 1913. When he returned he worked as a superintendent for the Soldier Settlement Board. In later years he sold his land and went to live in Edmonton and later moving to Calgary, residing there until his death.

JAMES COOPER SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1912, James Cooper Smith, who is a brother of Robert and Thomas Smith, came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead. James filed on the NE of 23-34-14. He and his wife lived on their homestead until 1916. They left the district to find better land. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. FRANK GERRITZ, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Frank Gerritz was among the homesteaders that came to the district in 1910. He didn't take up residence in the

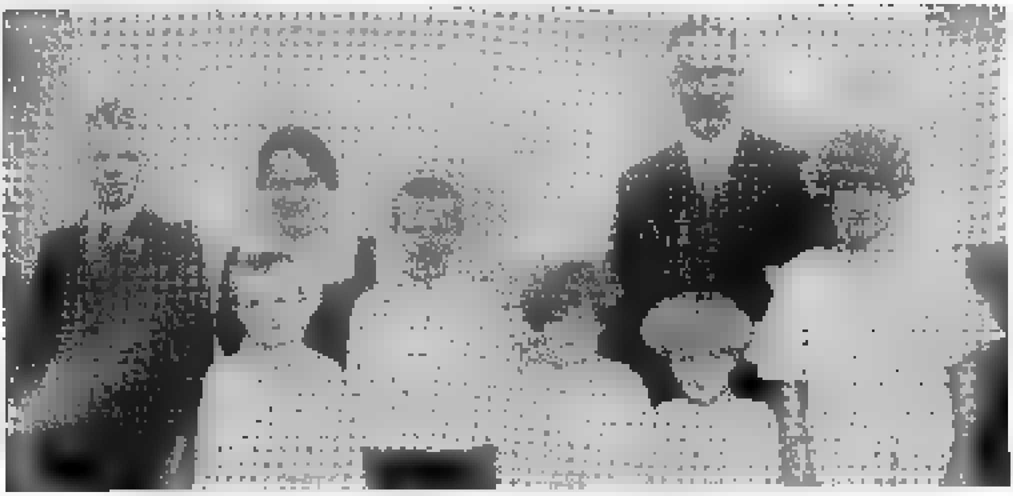
area but lived with his brother in the Cowan district, which [illegible] north of the correction line. [illegible] later years he sold his land to William Lepard. His destiny [illegible] unknown.

WILLIAM WAGNER, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. William Wagner homesteaded on the south half of 25-34-14. He and his wife Maggie had one son who remained in the States. He married there and came to live with his parents for a short time, then returned to the States.

William had a great interest in witching wells and helped the neighbors find water. William had a problem speaking, as his stuttering was very noticeable.

Bill and Maggie had a farm sale, selling their horses and cattle to the neighbors, before leaving in the thirties.

THE CARL BLUM STORY, By Paul Blum — Carl Blum homesteaded in the Bullpound district near Hanna in 1909, coming from the United States with the Mohl, Gall and Wiedrick families. In 1910 he married Johanna Wiedrick. To this union six children were born, Fred, Erna, Albin, Paul, Lillian and Selma. The latter passed away in 1942.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blum and family, Fred, Paul, Albin, Lillie, Zelma

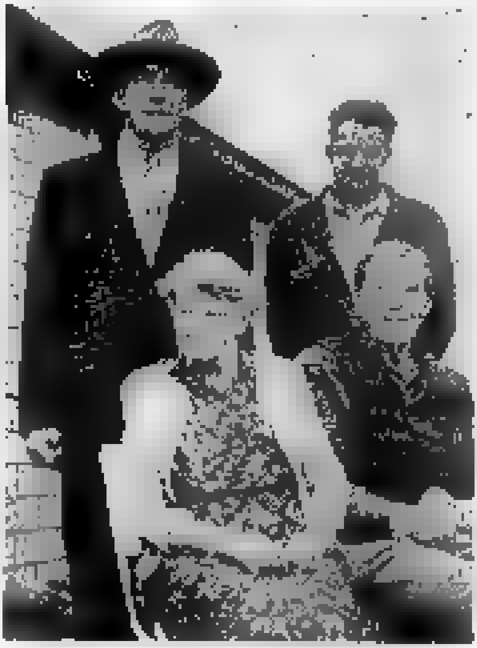
In 1923 we moved [illegible] the Garden Plain district on what was then the Walker farm. Later my father purchased the William Wagner farm. [illegible] 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Blum moved north to Wetaskiwin. They both have passed away.

MACK McMILLAN, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Mack McMillan was a returned soldier from World War II. While in the war he was a Commanding Officer in the army. During the war he fell in love with a girl who was in the English Army in England, they were married and came to live in the Corinne district after the war. Mr. and Mrs. Mack McMillan bought the Frank Copp homestead through the Soldier Settlement Board, they lived in the district for a few years and then they left. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. CHARLES MAY LYON, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Charles May Lyon homesteaded on the NW 16-34-14. Charles and his wife came to the district in 1910. They had one daughter who was married to Mr. Walker. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lyon didn't live here very long. They sold their land to Melvin Walker and left the district. Their destiny [illegible] unknown.

MR. WILLIAM CARLSON, By Orpha Weltert — Mr. and Mrs. William Carlson came west to take up a homestead. They filed on the SW 36-34-14 in 1910. William and his wife didn't live there very long. While here William helped to make hay with James Hildreth, later they left the district, their whereabouts is unknown.

EDGAR DEAN, By Orpha Weltert — Edgar Dean came to the Corinne district in June 1910. He took up a homestead on the east side of Sullivan Lake on the NE 28-34-14. Edgar never lived on his homestead very long before disposing of his land to a neighbor. His destiny is unknown.


Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Walker, taken in 1952. Mr. Walker was ninety-two years young. Sons standing: Melvin and Leslie

WALTER EARL WALKER, By Leslie Walker — Walter E. Walker was born in 1860. He came west at the age of twenty to the wide open spaces, so in 1909 he emigrated from Bonners Ferry Idaho to Alberta. He spent the last half of October with a Government Land Agent looking for land to settle on. Some snow was on the ground when he decided on the south half of 28-34-14, which was on the south east ridge of Sullivan Lake, so he couldn't have known that lake was an alkali flat. After filing on the homestead he worked helping to build the Castor Railway Depot.

In the summer of 1910, he freighted enough lumber from Stettler to build the fourteen and sixteen foot shack. He hired a man to break sixty acres of sod and in the spring of 1911 the first crop was planted. Not much profit was realized due to the expense of hiring the work done.

In March 1913 his wife and three sons were packed and ready to leave for the homestead, snow was still on the ground when we left Castor with a team of horses and a sixty bushel grain tank on a sleigh. We had horse blankets tacked over the top of the box and a kerosene lantern burning under the blanket for warmth.

A three foot snow drift had formed in front of the storm door and had to be shoveled away before we could enter. There had been no fire in the little cook stove for two days, so the house was really cold. In one corner was a four foot square bin, five feet high, full of seed grain for the spring planting. The shack had a dirt floor and a wooden floor couldn't be put in until the wheat was out, so the children's bed had to be made on the top of the wheat. We shivered for two nights till the wheat got warmed up.

The snow melted in April and by the first week in May it was time to seed again. When the grass became green, we got our first cow and calf. There was free range, so livestock roamed the prairie, where an occasional buffalo skull lay. Cropland had to be fenced.

Several trips were made to the Battle River area, this was fourteen miles north of Castor to bring home willow posts and poplar poles for the fence and corrals. The posts were sharpened and all the wood chips had to be saved and used for kindling.

The oldest son Melvin age seventeen worked in Hanna at the Royal Bank to help with the expenses. The second son Leslie-age seven walked two miles to school and back each day, then walked to bring the cows in each night for milking. Also his chore was to draw water from the well with a pail on a rope to water the livestock and for the household use. The youngest son Kenneth age five, kept his mother company in the house.

Our summer vacations were short as the winters were so severe with blizzards that school would [illegible] closed for three or four days at a time. So we would have our Christmas concerts then and no school until March when it was warmer.

Time went fast and we got our first McCormick binder to take off the harvest in September. The wheat bundles had to be stooked up with a fork or by hand in a bunch [illegible] eight with heads upward for them to mature. If a threshing machine wasn't available right away, the bundles were hauled into the centre of the field and made into nice round stacks that were quite high and tapered in at the top to shed off the rain in the fall. Sometimes it would [illegible] February or March before the threshing crew came to separate the wheat from the straw. Oats were harvested green and when the bundles were dry, they were stacked to feed the livestock during the winter. Sometimes it seemed like six months of winter, then three months more of cold weather.

[illegible] the spring of 1915, Melvin came from Hanna to help on the farm. we got more horses and cattle. The farmers all went together and bought [illegible] threshing outfit of their own so they could get their own grains threshed before it got too late in the fall. This was a big steam engine and separator.

The year of 1916-17 we had early frosts, so the wheat sold for feed at a reduced price. The fall and winter of 1919 was a bad one, as winter set in early in September and the wheat and green feed was still in the field. It snowed and kept on snowing, so we had to go out every day to dig out a load of bundles to feed thirty-six head of cattle and sixteen horses. We salvaged some of the grain in the spring and threshed it, more feed grain in the spring again. Spring planting was very late in 1920, mostly oats for feed. Right then I thought about going south with the birds, but I stayed.

The year 1921 was another dry one, the grain came up six inches, then turned brown and died. I got a job driving four horses on a fresno north of Castor on a highway job, and made enough to go to Spokane, Washington to spend the winter.

After that, trips out to the old homestead were just visits. I came back [illegible] 1923 [illegible] help harvest a bumper crop [illegible] fifty bushels [illegible] the acre and ninety bushels of oats to the acre. Every available space was filled with grain. That helped the old farm out of the red, and that was the only real crop I saw there.

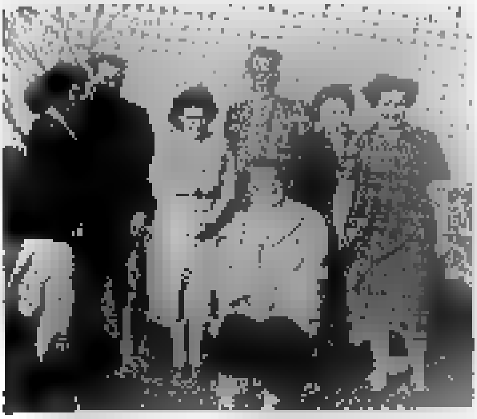
I left Alberta then for good. Dad and Mother and Melvin remained for a couple [illegible] years. Eventually they sold to Murl Chidley and returned [illegible] Lewiston, Idaho, where Leslie had established a home, and my parents enjoyed several good and happy years before passing away.

Melvin and I are still living here. Melvin is eighty years young and I am seventy. We have an acreage and grow alfalfa for a pastime.

THE JOHN WALLACE SR. STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. John Wallace Senior homesteaded in the Corinne district [illegible] 1910 on the NW 27-34-14. John Wallace was a very handy man. He was a carpenter and did some mason work. When the Corinne School was being built, John did the mason work and the plastering inside. Besides the schoolhouse [illegible] plastered many houses [illegible] the country and in different towns. One of his main projects was plastering the

courthouse in Hanna along with many other houses. When any plastering was to be done the people called on John Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace Sr. had four children: Jane, John, Alex and David. All four children attended school [redacted] Corinne. Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace moved from their homestead to Calgary. John passed away a few years ago and his wife died in 1976.



Mother Harvey sitting. Nellie, Andy, Frances, Fred, Josphine and Mildred

THE HARVEY STORY, By The Harvey Family — William Harvey, born in 1881 in Hansport, Nova Scotia, worked his way west doing carpenter work. He homesteaded the northwest quarter of section ten, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen, [redacted] 1912. He was later married to Adline De Gunther, born in 1886, who was a native of Ackley, Iowa. She came to Alberta to visit her sister, Mrs. Henry Simon. She taught Cowan and Lake Thelma schools.

They had a family of eight children born [redacted] Castor. Their first child passed away [redacted] birth; Mildred was born in 1916, Josephine in 1917, Daniel in 1920 — died at the age of three, Fred in 1922, Frances in 1924, Andy in 1926 and Nellie in 1928. The children took the majority of their schooling at Corinne School, travelling a distance of four miles by horse and buggy [redacted] summer and team and cutter in winter. A number of years the three oldest children attended the Catholic Separate School in Castor [redacted] avoid the long winter trips.

In 1927 Dad with the help of two neighbors, Jim and Harry Adams built a ten-room farm home. The gravel for the basement was hauled with team and wagon from the Camp farm, north west of Scapa, a distance of seven miles. The lumber came to Scapa by rail, and was hauled to the farm by team and hay rack. The plastering was done by another neighbor, Jack Wallace.

Then came the notorious dirty thirties, when grasshoppers and drought prevailed. A number of years Dad could not harvest enough grain for next year's seed. Relief was shipped to Scapa.

At the peak of the depression Dad was forced to sell one of his favorite horses to pay the grocery bill. Other horses were sold to buy milk cows to supply milk and butter, and have ready cash from cream cheques.

Regardless of the depression we still recall having many good times attending Christmas concerts, dances, picnics, card parties and ball games at Corinne School.

In the year 1932 one room of our house was converted into a high school classroom and was classed as a second room to Corinne School. This allowed us a government grant with which the teachers were paid. This amount was subsidized by each family paying fifteen dollars a year. These two amounts paid the teachers' salary. This facility provided education for children from surrounding areas. The students who attended were Marion and Patsy Taylor, Frances Herring, Dorothy Rehill, Ruth Ortt, Stuart McRae, Bill Riddle, Hazel Kennedy, Maxine, Marguerite and Kenneth Simon, Bill and Grace Wigley, Johnny Wallace and Mildred and Josephine Harvey. In the course of the three years that this was in

operation our home life was vastly changed. The girls from outlying districts roomed with us, and the teachers, Mr. Reid and Mr. Scallon boarded with us.

Many evening hours were spent doing homework around the dining room table.

In 1937 Dad's asthma and heart trouble forced him to leave the heavy work of the farm to his family. He passed away September 17, 1947. Mother continued to live on the farm with Andy and Nellie.

Mother spent the last few years [illegible] her life [illegible] Nursing Homes in Castor and Red Deer. She passed away January 6, 1970. The farm was taken over by Andy until 1973, at which time it was sold to the Boyson Brothers. Andy retired in Hanna, where he passed away April 8, 1976.

Mildred married Kenneth Williams, and has now retired from twenty-nine years of school teaching and is presently living in Mirror. They have two sons.

Josephine married Bernie McCullough, has a family of three girls and three boys, and was widowed in 1958. She has taught for thirty-three years.

Fred married Elsie Hein, has one son and two daughters. He has bought grain in Scapa since 1951 and been Post Master since 1946.

Frances married Charlie Johnson, and has one daughter and five sons. She taught school for four years. They reside in Hanna.

Nellie married Louie DeGiano and has one daughter and one son, and at the present time are living in Spirit River.

Our family house was used as a setting in the filming of the movie, "Why Shoot The Teacher" — shot [illegible] 1976.

THE JAMES EASTON STORY, By Elschie Chidley — James or Jimmy, as he was well known, came over from Scotland in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, and took up a homestead near Corinne School. He lived with the John Wallace family and worked in the coal mine owned by T.A. Kane. Later he worked in another mine that was operated by Mr. Bradshaw.

In 1916, a lovely young Scottish lady by the name of Janet Wilkie came over from Scotland and landed in Hanna with no one there to meet her. She hired Mr. Dick Hannah to drive her to the Wallace farm to meet Jimmie, her future husband.

Having no building on his farm yet, they lived with the Wallaces for a short time, and were married a few days after she arrived in the new country that was to be her future home. I will always remember their Chivaree. While we were all banging the pans and plow shears, near me was Jimmie pounding on a dish pan, he looked around and said, "Chivaree her darn good boys."

They built a shack on their land and lived there for some time. Jimmie always worked in the mine. Later they bought a quarter section north of Corinne School and lived there till they moved [illegible] Castor, where Jimmie continued [illegible] work in a coal mine till he retired and then was Night Clerk in the National Hotel for some time.

Of this marriage, there were three children: David, Janet, and a baby who lived only a few years. David now lives in Red Willow near Stettler. Janet married Alex Mix, they live at Grand Forks. Janet and her husband had the misfortune to lose their home by fire, [illegible] which some of their children lost their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. James Easton were a friendly couple and took part in the community affairs, [illegible] could sing the Scottish songs, which we all enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth remembers when Miss Wilkie came to Canada to marry Jimmie Easton. She spent her first Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis of the Garden Plain district. Miss Wilkie had a nursing career in Scotland before coming

to Canada. Her nursing profession was a great help to the people of this district.

One winter Mr. and Mrs. James Easton lived at the Three Star Mine, where she cooked for eight men and looked after her sick baby [illegible] the same time. Her husband worked in the mine. Mr. Bob Unsworth took Mrs. Easton and her sick baby to see the doctor, but the baby died in the car on the way to town. On different occasions Mrs. Easton was asked to accompany sick people on their way to see a doctor.

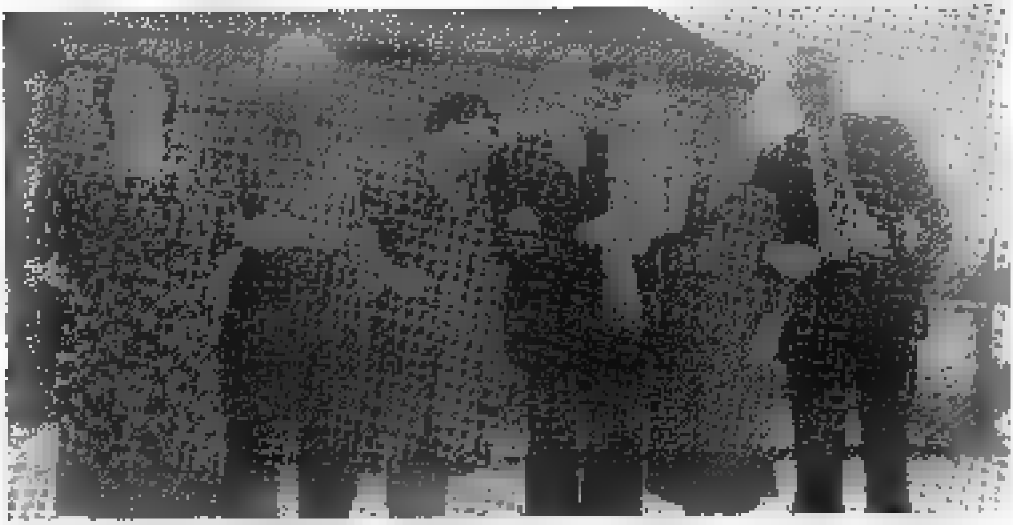
Mr. Easton passed away after they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. Mrs. Easton moved into the Paintearth Lodge in Castor. She was noted for her handicraft which was just beautiful, doing this until her passing.

JOHN BRATEBERG, By Margaret Nelson — John Brateberg was born in Norway. As a young man there, he became a Ship's Pilot. He gave this up to come to Canada and try his luck [illegible] homesteading. He arrived in this area in 1911 and filed on the SW 30-34-13. He did his homestead duties and worked out breaking land for extra income. When World War I broke out [illegible] enlisted, and joined the Merchant Marines. He never returned to the homestead after the war. It is believed he remained in Norway.

In the early twenties Charlie Dahlgren bought the land.

CHARLIE DAHLGREN, as told to H. Nelson by Mrs. Clyde Wooden — Charlie Dahlgren came [illegible] Alberta from Rockford, Washington with his father, A. Dahlgren in August 1910, at the age of seventeen.

He filed on a homestead in township 35-13 with his father signing a proxy as he was not eighteen years old.



Dahlgren family and Wright family

He farmed there for about five years. On April 14, 1919 he was married to Rose Cresey at Edwall, Washington. He worked in that district till the fall of 1920 then returned to Rumsey, Alberta where he worked with his brother-in-law, Clyde Wooden for the winter. In the spring [illegible] 1921 he returned to his father's homestead.

About 1922 he rented a farm from his brother-in-law, Oscar Gustafson, which he farmed for some years.

About 1927 or 1928 he built a house on SW 30-34-13 which he had bought from J. Brateberg some years earlier. He also bought a threshing outfit and threshed throughout the country for some years.

When the dry and dusty thirties came Charlie decided that it was time to leave this area. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside and moved to Red Willow where he farmed for a few years. When they retired from farming they bought a house in Red Willow and Mrs. Dahlgren looked after a small store, which she had always wanted to do.

A year later they sold this house and built a house and store combined. Mrs. Dahlgren looked after the store and Charlie worked out. He did carpenter work and also ran the road patrol in that area.

Some years later they moved to Kelowna where Mrs. Dahlgren passed away on June 25, 1968.

Charlie then moved to Nanaimo where he died in his sleep the next fall. Mr. and Mrs. Dahlgren had a family of five. Two of these children died in infancy and are buried in Castor Cemetery. Marjorie Winterburn lives in Seattle Washington. Shirley McLeod lives in Vancouver and Ronald in Nanaimo, B.C.

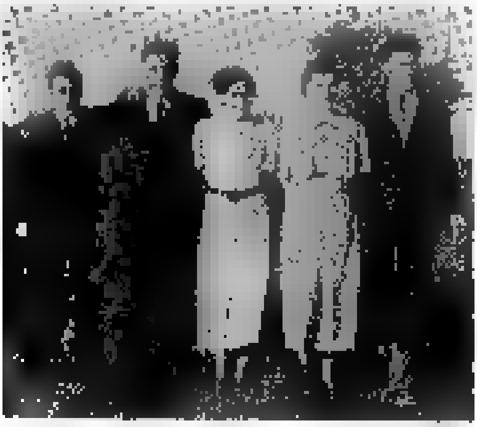
FRANCIS BENZIE, By Harry Nelson — Francis Benzie was born May 23, 1884, in Scotland. While a young man he came to Alberta to join his brothers Robert and George who had come out a while before. Liking the look of the country, he decided to file on land.

In the spring of 1910 he filed on the NW 35–33-15 at Stettler. This was in what is now known as the Scapa area. He proved up his homestead and being a tailor by trade, he worked also in a tailor shop in Castor.

In 1917 he sold his homestead to C. Lohrmann and moved into the Garden Plain area, buying the J. Hutcheson homestead. This land he rented out to his neighbors and continued working for farmers in the area. He also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

In 1927 he purchased a quarter section from the C.P.R. land company. He hired Alex Richard to break up about sixty acres which was done with a Caterpillar and eight bottom plow. He also hired W. Winmill to break forty acres which was done with a gang plow and eight horses. He rented this land out also, and continued working out.

About 1939 or 1940 brother Robert passed away and his brother George moved up on Frank's farm. George and Frank farmed in partnership till November 1957, when Frank passed away. The farm was sold in early 1958 to Harry Nelson. George retired and moved to Coronation. After the death of his sister, Mrs. Hunter in 1966 he went to Saskatoon to reside with a niece. He passed away there a year or two later.


The Simon children: Harold, Kenneth, Marguerite, Maxine and Donald

MR. and MRS. JOHN HERMAN SIMON, By Maxine Simon Lee — My parents came from South Dakota in 1910 and lived in Castor for the first year where Dad worked in the lumber yard for Mr. O.W. Colley. Donald was born while they lived there.

In the spring of 1911 they left town, travelling by horse and wagon to the land of promise on their homestead in the Garden Plain district. Roads at this time were only prairie trails and before they reached their destination the mosquitoes left Mother in tears. She was ready right then to go back to the States.

During their first years on the homestead they lived in a small house but Mother provided many meals for other immigrants that were hauling freight from Castor or Stettler. While their horses were resting they enjoyed a good meal for a quarter.

Miss Isabell Ford, a teacher at Corinne School boarded with them. She was very good company for Mother, as she was lonely after leaving all her family in Dakota. In later years other teachers stayed with us. I remember Miss Hamilton and Miss Scott as two of them and I think both of those ladies were from Ontario. Dad served on the Corinne School Board and on the municipal council for some years.

Mother's brother and wife (Dad's sister) Mr. and Mrs. W. Collins came out a year or so later by covered wagon, but they didn't care for the prairie so went back to Dakota the same way. Dad's brother, Henry Simon, came up to Canada and stayed with us for awhile until he settled near the Correction Line. He and his family also went back to Iowa after a few years.

Times were difficult for these pioneers but the community spirit was wonderful. For entertainment people gathered at the school houses for card parties, Christmas concerts, and dances with music supplied by local talent. The main event of the summer was the U.F.A. picnic held at the hall in early July. No one would think of missing that picnic.

The family consisted of five children, two of them born at home in March. Doctor McPherson came out from Castor by team and cutter both times to attend.

There were many hardships to endure such as drought, hail, cold weather, poor prices and grasshoppers. Eggs and cream were sold in order to buy groceries but many items had to be stroked off the list because the cream cheque wouldn't pay for them. Cattle cheques weren't much better.

My first memory of a store and Post Office was at Wickson's. Mr. Olsen hauled the mail from Castor and went as far as Fertility and back two or three times a week. Later there was a rural route from Scapa.

Before the railroad went through and elevators were built at Scapa, Dad hauled the grain to Castor. It was always a two or three day trip. He hauled coal either from Kane's or Bradshaw's mines.

In the spring of 1936 they left the prairie and settled at Red Willow, where they farmed until 1943, then retired to Stettler. Dad passed away in December of 1944, Marguerite in May of 1968 and Mother in November of 1969. There are four living children, Maxine (Mrs. R. Lee) in Chilliwack, B.C. and the three boys, Donald, Kenneth and Harold all in Stettler, Alberta.

WILLIAM COLLINS, By Mrs. Orpha Wolfert — In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. William Collins Jr. came to the Corinne district in a covered wagon. They homesteaded on the NE 15-34-14. Mrs. Collins was a cook in the cook car for a threshing crew working with a Case horse-powered threshing machine. She took her milk cow along so they could have milk [illegible] drink. The threshing machine belonged [illegible] her brother, Herman Simon.

Mr. Collins Sr. persuaded his son and his wife to return to South Dakota. On a very cold day [illegible] May they left by covered wagon and arrived there in July.

PHILIP BRUDER, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1911, Philip Bruder came west to file on [illegible] homestead. He homesteaded on the SE 34-34-14, but Philip didn't live on his homestead very long. Later he sold his land to one of his neighbors and went to live with his brother at Cremona, Alberta. Philip's health started to fail, he then went to live in a nursing home south of Calgary, remaining there until his death.

R. E. HAMILTON FAMILY, By Jim Hamilton — I am the oldest of the seven children who arrived with our parents in Castor, Alberta on March 31, 1913 from Ontario. April 1, 1913 was a beautiful day, when we started out to our homestead. We had along with us, four cows and four horses, a few chickens, a couple of geese, one pig and some furniture. We arrived at the homestead before dark. My Grandfather was out a year before and started to build a two-storey house. It had a roof and walls up, and a plain board floor, building paper on the inside and one ply of shiplap on the outside. The wind sure blew for a couple of days. I was wishing I was back in Ontario. My Mother thought the same.

My Mother sure had her hands full. As there were seven children, the youngest being only four months old. We had to haul water from William Collins' place on the next quarter for several years. We had dug several wells with no luck, but after several tries we did get water and lots of it, fourteen feet deep.

I still remember the beautiful springtime on the prairies; it was wonderful after some very cold winters. The neighbors were most friendly, always willing to help one another when it was needed, with no thought of money changing hands.

I can well remember our first grain harvest and the threshing machine. It belonged to Herman Simon, it was powered by seven teams [illegible] horses. My uncle, Jack Lepard and Herm Simon always fed the machine by hand, the straw came out the back. Two men had to stack the straw by hand. My brother and I cut the bands on the sheaves for fifty-two days. One year we got finished the day before Christmas. [illegible] was all stack threshing in those days.

In all, I think we enjoyed the times as they came. We were young and kept ourselves busy, the time went fast.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy Wedding Day, November 29, 1907

THE FRANK A. KENNEDY FAMILY, By Hazel Kennedy Stemp — Mr. Frank Allan Kennedy was born May 29, 1879, his wife, Margaret Mabel Adams was born July 29, 1891, in the town Austin, Minnesota. They were married in the same town November 29, 1907.

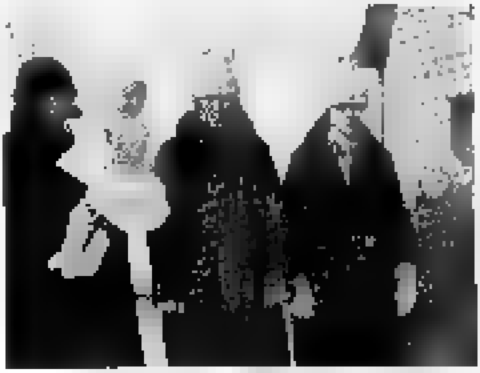
My Dad had acquired farming experience in the Dakotas. He and mother and my oldest sister Alberta, who was a mere infant, immigrated to Canada in 1910. He took up a homestead on section 13-34-14. this was on what was later highway 36. Strenuous labor at stripping coal and freighting, soon enabled him to build the home he longed for. His success was made evident by that landmark, the halfway point between Castor and Hanna.

My dad was always a baseball player and enthusiast; in recent years he always had the usually thankless job of umpire. In later years he branched out into buying cattle, not only for himself but for Adams, Wood and Weiller stock yard firm in Calgary. He would freight loads of cattle to Minneapolis, Minnesota, also bought and sold horses. Besides buying cattle and horses he did his own farming with horses and machinery consisting of sulky plows, harrows, drill, and a binder.

He served the Sullivan Lake municipality as a Weed inspector for five years and was trustee and chairman [illegible] the Corinne School District No. 2497 for several years. My dad was elected [illegible] call a meeting to form the school district and get the school board organized [illegible] 1911. He was president of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local for several years beginning in 1913. The local group consisted of Laughlin Campbell, Steve Wagner, George Claypool, Olaf Larson, Martin Severson, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charlie Lohmann, Billie Vischie, Bob Livingston, Billie Collins, Charlie Stanfield, Hugh McRae, my dad Frank Kennedy and Albert Kennedy.

My dad installed a Premier Gasoline service tank and pump to accommodate the travellers, tourists and hunters who travelled on highway 36. The tank was installed in the farm yard, this being the only gas available between Castor and Hanna.

In the summer of 1930, there were a number of grade VIII children graduating from the Corinne School. High School was not available and our parents couldn't afford to send us to town to go to school, so Mr. H. Simon, Mr. William Harvey and my dad managed to get a grant for a high school from the government, if they could get twelve pupils [illegible] attend. They were able to get fourteen pupils, and Mr. W. Harvey offered one room in his home, to turn into a regular school room. Besides our school work, we enjoyed putting on plays for entertaining the public. We used to make our own costumes and dress up to disguise ourselves.


Mrs. Frank Kennedy and daughters, Alberta, Helen, Hazel, Irene

On November 28, 1931, dad was taken suddenly ill and was taken to the Hospital [illegible] Castor. He was operated on and in spite of every effort and spirit, he passed away with peritonitis on December 4, 1931 at the age [illegible] fifty-two. My mother was left with four girls to raise; this was quite a task. She carried on farming operations with the help of us girls and hired help until 1936.

Later she moved to the coast where she lived for fifteen years and in 1952 she returned to Alberta and made her home with her daughter Alberta, Mrs. Mac Slemp, at Fleet, Alberta. She went to her final resting place on April 10, 1954. My oldest sister, Mrs. Alberta Slemp, passed away in Edmonton on March 18, 1974 after a lengthy illness.

The three remaining girls are all widows: Mrs. Helen Hill, Red Deer, Mrs. Irene Roxburgh, San Jose, California and Mrs. Hazel Slemp, Hanna.

ALEX WOLFERT FAMILY, By Orpha Couturier Wolfert — In 1927, Alex Wolfert, his parents and sister Matilda and three brothers: Jacob, Fred and Albert, who was six months old, emigrated from Bessarabia, Roumania. Arriving in Hanna in October, they were met by a friend who had previously immigrated. Living with this family in the Maunders district, later moving to a farm in the Spondin district. Alex attended the Great Star School. When he was a student in that school, his teacher then, [illegible] presently teaching in Hanna. She is Mrs. Housch and has taught his youngest daughter in Junior High. Alex and his brothers had to walk two or three miles to school to start the fire before the other children arrived. This wasn't a very nice task in real cold weather.

Later Alex worked at various farms for wages of ten cents a day to five dollars per month and to eighteen dollars a month. The highest wages he received were eighty-five dollars a month on a farm in the Coronation area.

Elsie and Leslie Storch, Orpha and Alex Wolfert, Phyllis and Dwight Boyson, Evonne and Kelly Boyson

In 1947, Alex Wolfert and Orpha Courturier were united in marriage. To this marriage two daughters were born; Phyllis in August 1949, in the Coronation Hospital and Elsie in Hanna Hospital in July 1957. Both daughters were educated in the Scapa and Hanna Schools. While going to school Phyllis worked as Secretary in the Hanna High and on the completion of school she worked for Mr. Charyk, Principal of the Hanna High School. Later she married Dwight Boyson of Craigmyle. They have two children; Evonne and Kelly. Elsie finished her education in Hanna, working at office work while she attended school. Elsie married Leslie Storch and is still employed by Mr. Douglas Todd, a lawyer in the firm, Ross, Ciozza, Todd and Gough.

The Wolfert family settled on a farm near Coronation before coming to the Corinne district. We settled on the Fred Slemp farm, formerly the Frank Kennedy homestead, the west half of 13-34-14.

While establishing our home here we have had a few disheartening experiences. A severe hail storm in 1960 broke windows and battered the shingles so badly the rain came in. We tried to hold plywood over the broken windows, but the wind was so strong this was impossible. We were putting the storm windows on when the Delker brothers stopped in and said, "Alex, we don't put storm windows on in the summer." We had to. Crops and gardens soon became green from all the moisture.

The summer of 1976 was dry and windy. Hay crops were poor. One day while we were away from home, a terrible strong wind came. Visibility was almost nil. Coming home was a nightmare. Two power poles had broken off letting the line drop to the ground and starting a fire. The fire started about a mile north of our place, driven by the strong wind, it soon travelled south burning grass and trees in its path. Neighbors tried to keep the fire under control, but to no avail. We arrived home to see flames shooting skyward with only two by fours standing and people

silhouetted against the fire. The garage was burned to the ground, the grove of trees were a sad looking sight. Cars and trucks were parked on the road and fire trucks with their flashing lights were busy fighting fire. Entering the yard we saw that a friend had a car parked, she was serving coffee to the fire fighters. Her Salvation Army training gave her the insight to go home for food and refreshments. Neighbors stayed till the next day to watch so the wind wouldn't start it up again.

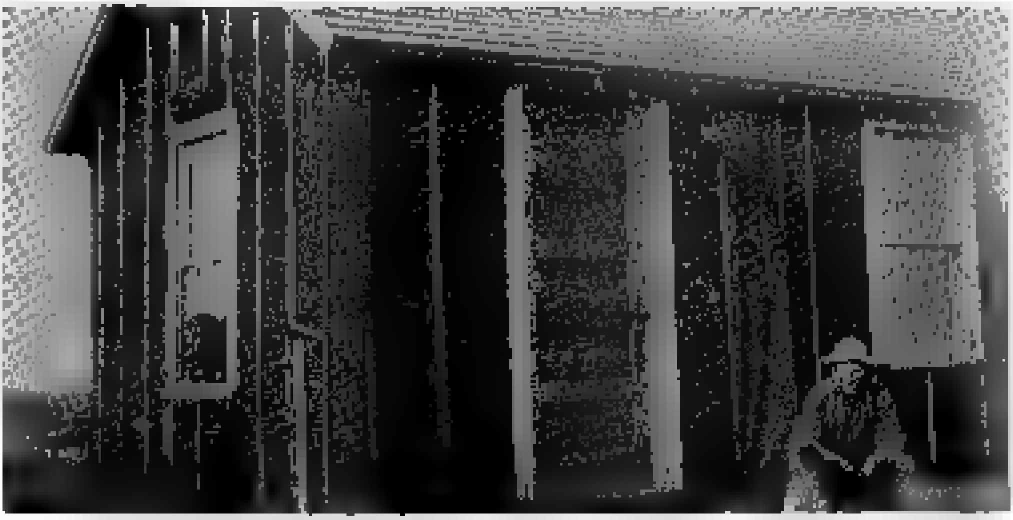
A few days later a clean-up bee was organized to clean the debris left from the fire. The ladies of the district helped to supply coffee, cake and sandwiches and helped serve the workers.

Gasoline pump in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy home with James Adams at the pump — 1923-30.

JAMES and HARRY ADAMS, By Hazel Slemp — James Adams came from Austin, Minnesota in 1908 to homestead on the NW 18-34-13. He was followed in 1910 by his son Harry who homesteaded the NW 9-34-14. Uncle James had lost his wife and another son Walter before coming to this district.

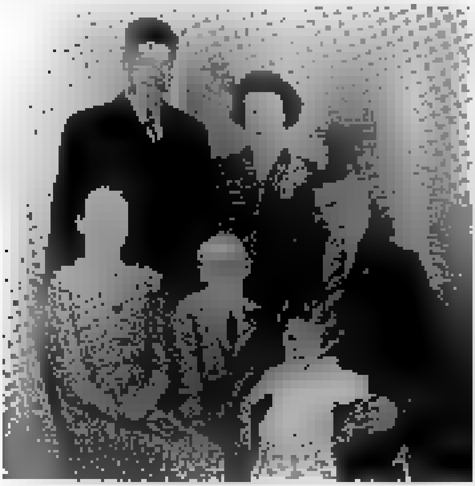
Harry Adams married the former Jean Ironside of Garden Plain. They had two children, Elaine and William. They lived on the farm only a few years, then moved to Calgary where Harry passed away.

After Harry and Jean were married, Uncle Jim came to live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy. He was my mother's brother. Uncle Jim was a great help to mother and dad. He would pump gasoline from our underground tank and serve the customers as they stopped for gas on their way down highway 36. At that time the highway ran in front of our home, but was later moved one mile east to its present location.



Harry Adams sitting in front of his first home in 1911

In 1932, Uncle Jim suffered a slight stroke which invalided him. From 1936 to 1940 he was a patient in the Hanna hospital, and died there on June 6, 1940, at the age of seventy-five years.



Slemp Family. Standing: Fred and Hazel Slemp. Seated: Mrs. and Mr. Edgar Slemp. Children: Faye and Norman Slemp

THE FRED SLEMP STORY, By Hazel Kennedy Slemp — Fred Slemp was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp. He was born at Verden, Oklahoma on October 23, 1912 and came to Canada with his parents in 1914 to Fleet, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp and son Fred lived in Fleet until April 1914. They travelled by team and wagon across country, staying with the Harvey Burt family until they built a sod house. In 1917 they built a frame house. Fred took his lower grades in the Crowhill School and later attended high school in Fleet, Alberta. After his schooling he returned to his parents' farm in the Scapa district to help with farm operations.

In October 1936, Fred and I were married. We lived with Fred's parents and helped with the work till 1941, later moving to my parents' farm, the Frank Kennedy homestead. Our first home in the yard at the Kennedy farm was a garage that Harry Adams, my cousin had built on his farm. It was moved to this location and Mr. W. Harvey transformed it into a lovely home for Fred and me. We lived in it approximately twenty-two months and then moved into my mother's big house, after she moved to Vancouver. We sold our ranch to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert, and they are presently living in the original house that Kennedy built on his homestead.

We had two children: Norman Rae born July 1940 and Marjorie Faye July 2, 1942. They attended school at Corinne for their lower grades.

We farmed the hard way with horses and the old fashioned machinery until we could afford a tractor, then we moved up to more up-to-date machinery, but in order to get this, Fred worked for a few years on the C.N.R. at Scapa and on the rip track from Scapa east line and at Big Valley. We had quite a herd of Hereford cattle, several pigs and chickens, which I helped to look after while he was at work.

In the early years Fred was an ardent baseball player, pitching and playing in the field for the Scapa baseball club, when the sport was highly popular. After his playing days were over, he was manager of the local team and the Hanna team. He was a great booster for sports and recreation of any type.

After leaving the C.N.R. he obtained a job with the Federal Government as an inspector with Prairie Farm Assistance Administration for several years and later was promoted to P.F.A.A. Supervisor, having an office in Hanna in the Post Office Building.

We moved to Hanna in 1952 so our children could attend school, as Corinne was being closed due to the lack of pupils. In that year Fred carried the Liberal banner in the Hand Hill Provincial Constituency opposing the Honorable W.W. Cross, Social Credit Candidate, Minister of Health and Public Welfare. He was on the losing end, but received over one-third of the votes.

In October 1961, Fred had a heart attack and was hospitalized for six weeks,

but returned to his work as P.F.A.A. Supervisor in December of that year. He worked very steadily and strenuously until July 14, 1964, when he passed away quite suddenly from another heart attack.

Faye our daughter was married to Ted Morris formerly of Grande Forks, B.C. in June 1961. They have two children: Sherri-Rae and Darren Fred. They now reside in Calgary, previously lived in Hanna, where they owned and operated Ted's T.V. and Appliances.

Norman, our son, was married to the former Darlene Shubert of Acadia Valley, Alberta in June 1967. They had one daughter, Michelle Marie. Norman worked for Jimmie's Auto Service in Hanna as partsman for years and then took over as agent for Shell Bulk Oil until his untimely death in a tragic accident in his truck east of Cereal on August [illegible], 1973. Norman was a lover of ball games, as was his father.

I reside in Hanna and enjoy my job in the Hanna Herald Office.

EDGAR DEAN, By Orpha Wolfert — Edgar Dean homesteaded on the SW 34-34-14 in 1912. He farmed his homestead while living with his parents in the district north of the correction line. Edgar returned to the United States to live.

Donald Simon, Jim Roney, Harry McCafferty, Ken Simon

HARRY McCAFFERTY, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1916, Harry McCafferty, his sister and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCafferty came to the Corinne district. They lived on the north east of 34-34-14. This was the Frank Copp homestead. Harry and his sister attended school at Corinne.

After his father's death, Harry took the management of the farm. Later his mother took up residence in Castor and several years later moved to the Botha area. He enjoyed his bachelorhood on the farm there until he decided to live a more relaxed life in the Heart Haven Senior Citizens Home in Stettler. He enjoys driving his truck to visit his old friends. Reminiscing old times as a boy at school brings a chuckle from Harry. He enjoys good health and the comforts of the Home.

H. BASIL DUNN, By Orpha Wolfert — Basil Dunn, two brothers and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunn came to Canada from Wisconsin and settled in the Cowan district. Mr. Charles Dunn was superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board.

His son H. Basil was in the first world war, he returned and got married. In 1924 Basil lost his wife. His mother lived to the age of 103 and died in 1975 while residing in Edmonton.

Basil took up a homestead on the south east of 35-34-14 in 1925. He proved up his homestead, but never built any buildings on his land. Later Basil worked for the Stettler Flour Mill. He died later as the result of a car accident.

GILBERT and AGNES TUCKER, By Agnes Thiel — Gilbert Tucker was born in Fisherville, Kentucky, in 1901. He came with his parents, the Watson Tuckers, to the Endiang district in 1907. He received his schooling there.

I was born in 1909 in Apache, Oklahoma, and came with my parents, the

Harvey Burts, to Castor in 1912. We settled five miles west and two miles south of Garden Plain store. We lived in a tent until Dad got the ten by twelve shack built for the winter.

I went to Wiese school for three months and stayed with the Wieses. Our school, built in 1919, had many German-speaking pupils. It was a struggle for the teacher and hard for the students [illegible] learn to speak and write English. A lot of learning was done by all, as we learned German words while they learned the English ones.

In November, 1928, Gilbert and I were married. We lived in the Endiang district for three years, then moved to the Huson place in the Crow Hill district. Ziemmers, Mattheis and Joe Camps were our neighbors. Our son Harvey arrived [illegible] 1933. A few years later the Mattheis lost a baby girl. It was just before Christmas, and I went to spend the day with Mrs. Mattheis. We bathed and dressed the wee one's body, ready for the casket when the men folks finished building it, and made paper flowers to line the casket. It was thirty below that week.

The hungry thirties came; in three years of seeding we threshed sixty-seven bushels of wheat. [illegible] 1936 we moved to the Corinne school district to the Willard Roney farm. It was no better; no rain and the soil drifting so that it covered up the fences.

When Harvey started to school, one of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook, who had been my teacher when she was Miss O'Neil.

Our daughter Jean arrived in 1938 and son Frank [illegible] 1939. There were no baby showers in those days, and we passed baby clothes down from one to the other. We seemed to manage to grow a garden and I canned everything I could.

Gilbert worked so hard, but with few returns, and his health started to fail. We moved in with my brother Harvey. Gilbert had several operations, but passed away [illegible] 1948.

Later we moved to Hanna, where the children went to school and I picked up what work I could. In 1955 I left Hanna and married Otto Thiel of Viking. We moved to Ponoka, where Otto had a mishap and lost the fingers of his right hand, so I went to work at the Alberta Hospital.

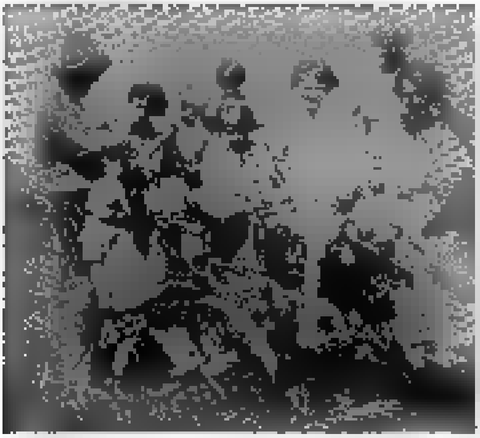
That was a very rewarding place to work, and I often thought of a talk that Mrs. George Banner had given to the U.F.W.A. about visiting the mental hospital. What she had said was so true.

In 1974 I retired. We make our home [illegible] Ponoka, where I have my garden and do lots of knitting and crocheting. We also have a hobby of collecting and polishing rocks, and make table tops, lamps and costume jewellery with them.

Harvey and his wife Mary are farming seven miles south of Westlock. Jean works at Sears in Kelowna, B.C.; she has three daughters and one son. Frank, his wife Lena and their two sons and daughter live in Calgary, where Frank works for Skip's Auto Glass and Lena is at the Foothills Hospital Intensive Care Unit for babies.

CHARLIE WIGLEY FAMILY, By Rose Wigley — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wigley with two daughters Lucy and Grace moved from Lethbridge to the Garden Plain area. They came to a Soldier Settlement Board farm which was purchased by his brother Art in the spring of 1920. That same year in December Bill was born in Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital in Castor. In those days we had no car so we went [illegible] Castor with a team and sleigh and changed horses at the farm of B. Schuffle.

We did not get rich as we never had very good crops. One year we were left with nothing as the grasshoppers were so thick. We threw out poison to try to kill them; they even ate the tobacco plants Charlie tried to grow.



Charley Wigley and family

We had very good neighbors in those days, that's what counted. Once a week in the winter time we would go to different places to play cards and would stay all night, have breakfast, came home to do chores and then go to bed for awhile. Fred, Charlie, George and Betty were born while we lived in the Garden Plain district.

The children always have a good laugh about me learning to drive the first car we had. One day I got real brave and was going to put the car in the garage. Instead of putting my foot on the brake I stepped on the gas and went right through the other end, so I took another try and I made it O.K. The kids helped put up the end of the garage so Charlie wouldn't see what I done. The next time he wanted to use the car he went to crank it and his seat hit against the end of the garage and it fell down. This caused a little commotion for awhile but everybody laughed it off.

It seemed to me we had more snow those days then we get now. In the winter the neighbors gathered at our place; while waiting for the mail man to arrive we visited over a cup of coffee. Those were the days when there were more visiting with neighbors and social evenings at the Corinne School. Television changed that.

We moved to Castor in 1935 where Charlie worked in the coal mine until his retirement. Richard was born after we came to Castor.

Charlie passed away in August of 1959. He was predeceased by one son Charlie who was killed in the Airforce over Germany during the last war.

I am living in Stettler now and the rest of the family are all married and live in different places in Alberta.

THE CORINNE THRESHING SYNDICATE

By Mildred Williams

In the early twenties the farmers in the Corinne district realized their need for a threshing machine so they formed a Company and purchased a steam engine and a large separator. When threshing they required a crew of about twenty men. Engineer, fireman, waterboy, separator man, two grain haulers with wagons and teams, eight men with bundle racks and teams, two field pitchers to help them load and two spike pitchers, who helped put bundles onto the separator. Mr. Clarence Roney was the engineer. Mr. J. Higgins looked after the separator. The rest seemed to work as their health and ability allowed. Although they worked hard, they were always ready for a good laugh and were constantly pulling pranks on each other.

The farmer's wife had a big job feeding these hungry men and usually obtained help of a neighbor. There was no power, no fridges or deepfreezers. Huge roasts and big pots of potatoes and vegetables were cooked for both dinner and supper. The women seemed to race for the title of Best Piemaker. The men were also given morning and afternoon coffee and sandwiches and cake or buns and cookies.

All made their own bread. Mother used to have eight or ten twenty-pound syrup pails that she filled with cookies and doughnuts in preparation for threshers.

If it rained or snowed before they got there we used to have a real treat, considering they could not be fresh a week or ten days later. Then she started baking all over again. It was our job to keep the wood box and the coal pail filled on such occasions.

I often wonder how they managed to keep meat on hand, and keep it fresh. The nearest butcher shop was in Castor twenty-six miles away, so they usually butchered their own.

I can still remember hearing the steam engine whistle blow loud and shrill every morning [illegible] six o'clock. It could be heard for miles around. Men got up and went to feed and harness their horses before breakfast around seven. They worked until dark each evening.

THE MURA FARM STORY

By Orpha Wolfert

In 1956 an Edmonton businessman, John Schadeck, became interested in the small animal with pastel colored fur, the Mura. He decided to start a Mura farm near Scapa, on the NW ¼ 27-34-14 W4. At the rate the Mura multiply he figured a farm was the smallest possible place to keep them on. By the end of 1958 the few pair of original stock had increased to 17,000 animals. This fur farm was expected to pay its way. Women soon were to be wearing lovely fur coats of stunning colors, white, black, brown, palomino and a beautiful sapphire blue.

The Mura was much the size [illegible] a Norway rat. They were kept in cages in rows inside a barn which had a cement floor. Each cage housed a family until they were separated according to color and put into other cages. Fresh water was supplied by an automatic system with water nipples in each cage. The barn was heated by a coal furnace.

Pest control officers worried about the rat-like rodents escaping. Yet a fur farm was a business even in this day of synthetics. To [illegible] certain of their identity as a fur animal, the advice of the Zoology Department of the University of Alberta and the British Museum was sought.

Mr. Schadeck drove from Edmonton [illegible] his Mura farm each week to see his stock increasing. His investment came to around $50,000 and within three years he saw his first fur, a sapphire blue.

The future of the fur farm came to an abrupt end when Mr. Schadeck lost his life in a traffic accident. His daughter inherited the business, but stated she was not interested in carrying on.

On April 7, 1960, a provincial fur supervisor and a pest control officer watched the death by drowning of lovely, but unwanted, Muras. Then, just to be safe, they sealed the Scapa Mura Farm by spreading rat poison all around the buildings where the animals had been housed.

DAYS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

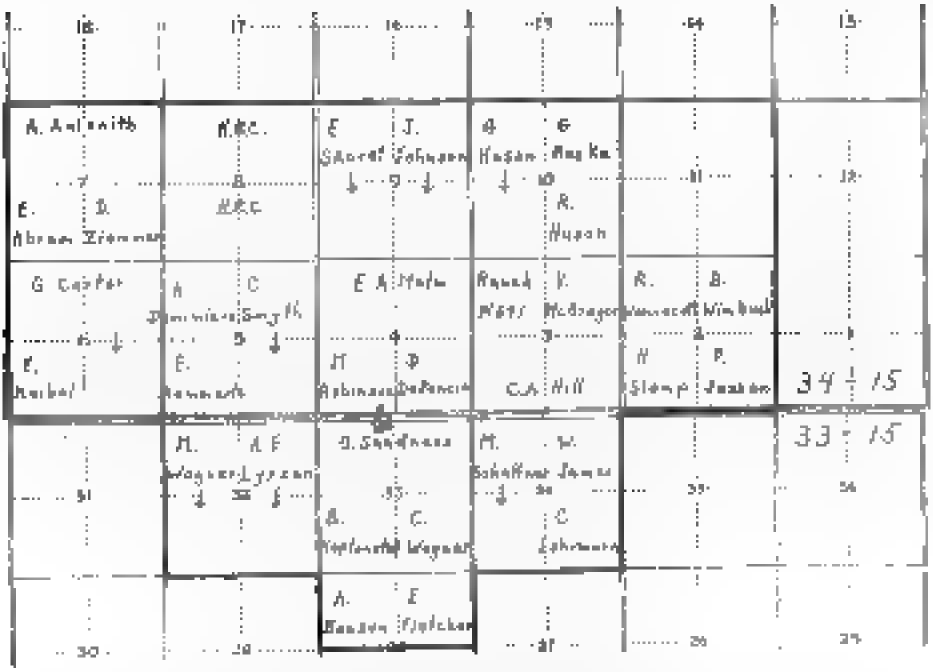
Attending Chivarees was a highlight of the early settlers. Jack Campbell often spoke of going to a chivaree for Mr. and Mrs. Corry and how they were all dressed in their best clothes for the occasion, riding along with a team and sleigh was fun until the sleigh tipped over dumping them out into the snow. This is when the horses bolted back to the farmstead, leaving them stranded. Jack and his friends collected their belongings, one [illegible] which was Jack's accordion, and hiked along to the chivaree and enjoyed the evening in spite of their disaster.

The early settlers had a unique way of entertaining themselves during the long winter evenings. With no radio, T.V. or telephone they resorted to card

games, reminiscing and musical evenings with whatever form of instrument they could find.

Christmas in 1906 saw a group of bachelor settlers in the community getting together, each one displaying their culinary art. Jack Campbell was chosen to cook the plum pudding. In Scotland, the traditional way to cook a plum was to prepare it in a cotton sack. However, such a luxury was not to be found in Jack's shack, not to be outdone he washed one of his good socks, stuffed the sock with pudding and cooked the pudding the steam method. The results the bachelor friends remarked tasted very good. To this day we are not sure whether the rest of the bachelors were ever really informed about this incident, but possibly the expression, "What the eye don't see, don't hurt the heart," would apply in this case.

CROWHILL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3633

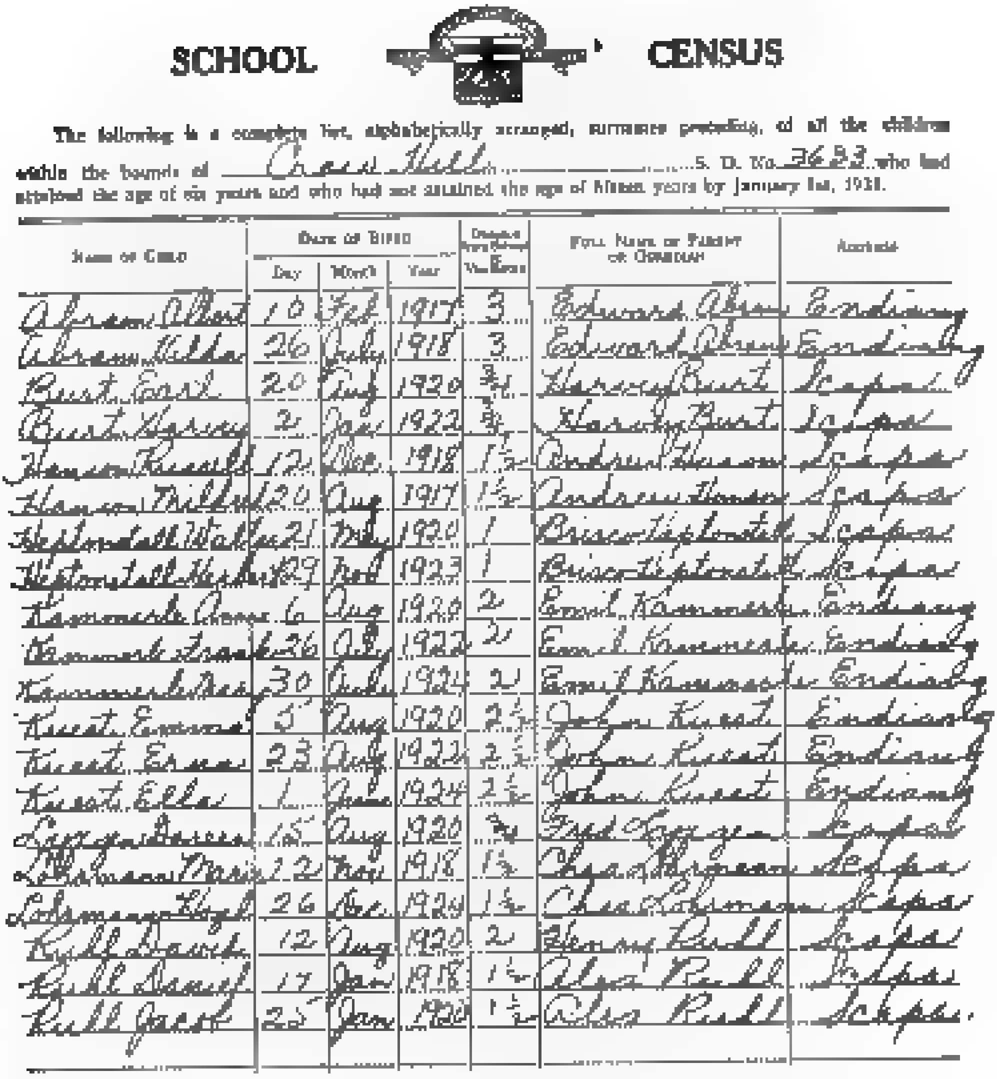


CROW HILL SCHOOL

By Jean James

Crow Hill School district No. 3633 was organized in 1916. In June of that year the total estimated cost of purchasing land, building the school, and buying furniture and equipment was two thousand dollars. The trustees managed to float a debenture for that amount of money, to be repaid over a ten-year period. As the maximum school tax at that time was sixteen cents an acre, and the school district comprised about fifteen sections, there was not too much money available for paying [illegible] teacher's salary, operating expenses and repayment of the debenture.

The Department of Education supplied blueprints [illegible] four possible plans for the school, depending on its location in relation to the road allowances. Each plan was for a single classroom with five large windows facing east, two cloakrooms, and sometimes a small entry. Quite often there was a platform about eight inches high across the front of the room. This [illegible] where the teacher's desk and chair were placed, and the few teaching aids which were available at that time. The platform also served as a stage.



SCHOOL CENSUS

The following is a complete list, alphabetically arranged, surname preceding, of all the children within the bounds of Crow Hill S. D. No. 3633 who had attained the age of six years and who had not attained the age of fifteen years by January 1st, 1931.

Name of Child	Date of Birth			Distance from School in Miles	Full Name of Parent or Guardian	Address
	Day	Month	Year			
Abram Albert	10	Feb	1917	3	Edward Abram	Endiang
Abram Wilbur	26	July	1918	3	Edward Abram	Endiang
Burt Earl	20	Aug	1920	¾	Harvey Burt	Scapa
Burt Harvey	2	Jan	1922	¾	Harvey Burt	Scapa
Hanson Russell	12	Dec	1918	1½	Andrew Hanson	Scapa
Hanson Mildred	20	Aug	1917	1½	Andrew Hanson	Scapa
[illegible] Walter	21	May	1920	1	Brisco [illegible]	Scapa
[illegible]	29	Feb	1923	1	Brisco [illegible]	Scapa
Kammerle Anna	6	Aug	1920	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kammerle Frank	26	July	1922	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kammerle [illegible]	30	July	1924	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kuest Emma	5	Aug	1920	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Kuest Erna	23	July	1922	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Kuest Ella	1	June	1924	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Lagge [illegible]	15	Aug	1920	¾	Fred Lagge	Scapa
Lohmann Marie	12	Nov	1918	1½	Chas Lohmann	Scapa
Lohmann Lloyd	26	Dec	1924	1½	Chas Lohmann	Scapa
Ruhl David	12	Aug	1920	2	Henry Ruhl	Scapa
Ruhl Daniel	17	Jan	1918	1½	Alex Ruhl	Scapa
Ruhl Jacob	25	Jan	1920	1½	Alex Ruhl	Scapa

School Census — 1931

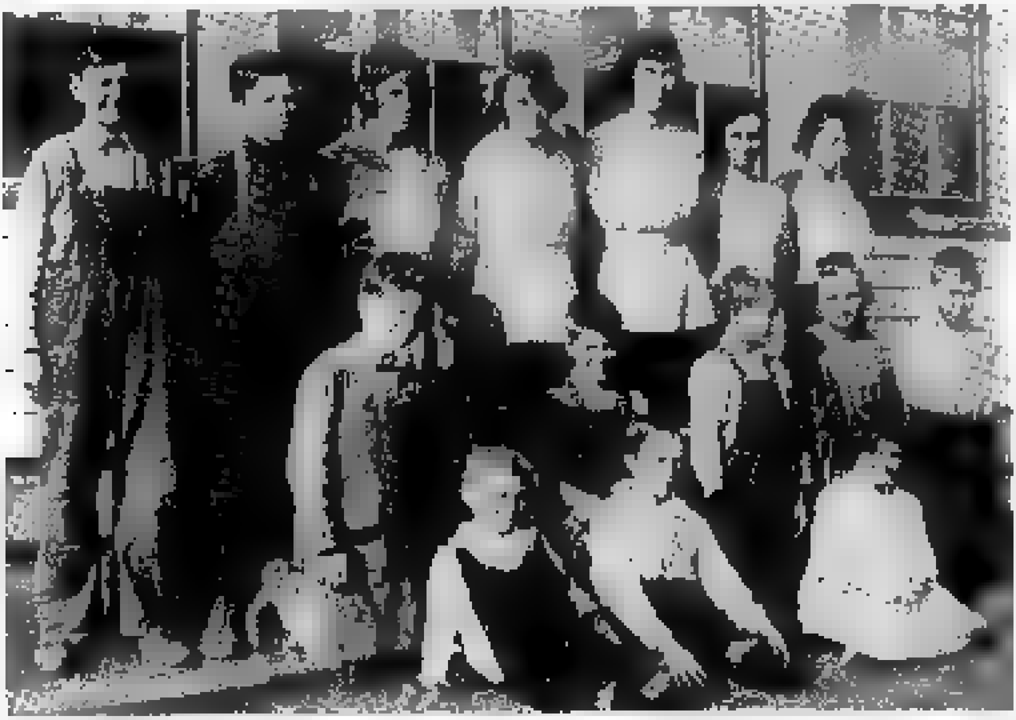
Ells Malm was awarded the contract to build Crow Hill school. He supplied the materials and erected the building, (excluding the blackboards and heater) for $1,800.00. The following year, 1919, he built and painted a school barn for the sum of $104.90.

The original site chosen for the school was on the south-east quarter of 33-33-15, but the Department of Education advised the trustees to build it on the north-west quarter of that section, so that it would be more central in the district which was five miles wide and three miles long. The borders of the school district were re-arranged in 1929. At that time several families who lived along the southern edge of township 34-15, were transferred from Hunt Lake to Crow Hill school district, and one family was transferred from Annasheim to Crow Hill.

When the school was first opened, the school year began in late February and ended just before Christmas, with a short break during July or August. Although the records are sketchy, it appears that some of the first teachers were university students who spent their summer holidays in the classroom, and it was not unusual to have two or three different teachers in one year.

Names found on old teachers' contracts and inspectors' reports indicate that

the following taught at Crow Hill school: Christina Campbell, Jessie MacLachlan, Mrs. Eleanor Flatman, Mr. C. Bourne, Elizabeth Smart, Helen Hamilton, Aldra Malhiot, Lavina Raymond, Zelma Samson (Mrs. Milne), Vivian Graham, Marjorie Chapman, Georgina Marois, Agnes Cameron (Mrs. J. Temple), Nielsine Hansen, Mrs. Katie Brocklebank, Louise Wade, Dolly Slemp, Olga Bakken (Mrs. Walter Jensen), Wilma Smyth, Miss Stewart, Lillian Kelly and Mrs. [illegible]. Williams (nee Harvey).



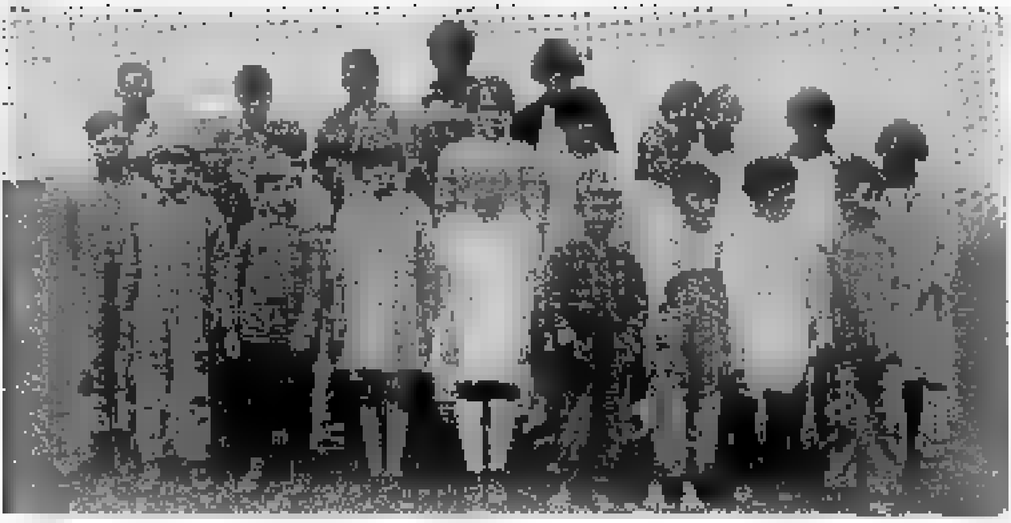
Crow Hill pupils in the early twenties: Herman Ziemmer, Adolf Abram, Wilma Smyth, Iris Smyth, Alice Smyth, Lizzie Wagner, Arthur Skaret, Jim Smyth, Morest Skaret, Chester Hill, Martha Ziemmer, Earl Hill, Albert Ziemmer, Bennie Ziemmer, Vivian Skaret.

Teachers' salaries varied with the economy of the country. In the early twenties nine hundred dollars per year was a good salary for an experienced teacher; by the mid-thirties a teacher with a second class certificate could expect only five hundred dollars per year, and might have to wait for that. In 1936 the government grant of twenty cents per pupil-day did not go very far toward paying expenses.

Among the trustees who struggled to make ends meet were C.S. Smyth, Emil Kammerle, Chester Hill, Mrs. Hazel Fletcher, Joe Camp, Ron Huson, Mrs. H.A. Burt, A.B. Hanson, W.E. Kading, and Mr. Lyxzen. Men who acted as secretary-treasurer were A.E. Tynzer, Edgar Slemp, H. Burt and A.B. Hanson. Here again, the absence of complete records may mean that we have omitted the names of some dedicated persons who gave unstintingly of their time to ensure that their children had the opportunity for an education.

Records do show that in 1926 Earl Hill was paid the sum of five dollars per month for janitor work, and that in 1927 Wilma Smyth earned five dollars by scrubbing and oiling the classroom floor.

At various times, high school classes were taught at Crow Hill. The minutes of 1935 state that Grace Donald and Lillian Schultz would be allowed to attend high school at Crow Hill, on condition that their tuition fees were paid by their home school district, Summerhill.

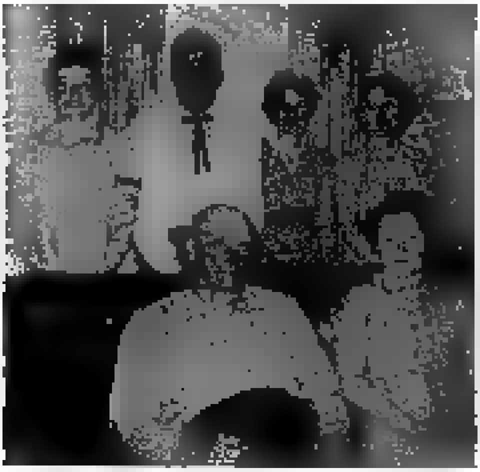


Crow Hill pupils in the late twenties: Albert Ziemmer, Bill Burt, Bennie Ziemmer, Fred Slemp, Olive Burt, Annie Ruhl, Dan Ruhl, Bud Hanson, Earl Burt, Albert Abram, Mildred Hanson, Connie Heptonstall, Elsie Abram, Katie Ruhl, Hilda Abram, Jake Ruhl, Walter Heptonstall, Doreen Lyczen, Annie Kammerle, Maria Lohrmann, Mona Camp, Arthur Camp, Fred Kammerle, Harvey Burt.

Crow Hill graduates in the early thirties: Jim Smyth, Herman Ziemmer, Fred Slemp, Dolly Slemp (teacher), Connie Heptonstall, Olive Burt, Hilda Abram, Carl Abram, Elsie Abram, Al Vanalstine, Ann Morley.

Crow Hill pupils — 1942. Emanuel Kalmbach, Ethel Diewert, Jean Smyth, Annie Mattheis, Ted Smyth, Bennie Kading, Lillian Kelbel, Doris Kelbel, Arthur Mattheis, Edwin Mattheis, Lucy Kalmbach, ? Smyth.

Crow Hill school closed its door [illegible] 1942. Family names which appeared on old school registers include: Abram, Burt, Delvert, Hanson, Hunt, Heptonstall, Hill, Kammerle, Kalmbach, Kuest, Lyzen, Lohrmann, Mattheis, Nill, Ruhl, Schill, Stauffer, Symington, Schuler and Ziemmer.



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann and their children, Tilly, Hazel, Lou and Doris.

CHARLIE LOHRMANN, By Christina Lohrmann — Charlie Lohrmann was born April 12, 1887, in Iowa, U.S.A. In the fall of 1909 he came to Castor where he worked on a construction crew putting up buildings.

He had a room [illegible] the hotel. One day he came down with measles. The hotel manager, afraid that his hotel would be quarantined, hustled him out, telling him to get on the freight train that was leaving for Stettler. Charlie was so sick he could hardly stand, so he went out the front door, around and up the back way and went back to his room. Sometime later the passenger train came [illegible] from Stettler, and the manager came up with some guests for that room. Was he ever mad to find Charlie there! A Mr. Lepard and another man told the manager that Charlie was his guest and it was up to him to call a doctor and take care of him, and that if he did not do so they would report him. Charlie got good care after that.

By the time he was able to get out [illegible] bed, his parents and sisters (Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Lohrmann, Polly and Marie) had arrived with their freight cars. After that it was a busy time to locate a homestead and get settled on it. He helped his father with the farming, and did his own homestead duties, until December 12, 1917, when he and I, Christina Leicht, were married.

By this time Charlie had four quarters of land, the north half of 35-33-15 and the east half of 34-33-15. One quarter he bought from Frank Benzie and one from Bill James. The 1917 crop was hailed out completely but he had hail insurance on it, so that helped.

In the winter of 1918-19 when the flu was raging, Charlie would do his chores, then get on a horse and go to see if any of the neighbors needed help. He made a couple of trips to Hanna for the doctor.

We had a lot of wonderful neighbors . . . I was to learn how wonderful. The Charley Hill family and Kate and Herman Siemp were the closest ones. Late in the fall of 1919 Charley Hill had a sale, rented the land to my brother Jack Leicht, and took his family to the United States.

A couple of days before Christmas Charlie and Jack went to Hanna in the car to get the Christmas order. They had a very bad trip; it was very cold, and they got stuck, and got chilled after shovelling and riding in the open car. Next morning Charlie went out to do the chores, but came back in a very short time, too sick to carry on. He came down with smallpox.

The councillor and the Mountie came out and quarantined us, but did not appoint anyone to look after us. So Edgar Siemp, coming two miles, and Harvey Burt coming four miles, took turns day about and hauled feed to the outside cattle. Mr. Burt also got what we needed from Hanna. I did the rest of the chores, with water to haul uphill for some distance. Our baby Marie was just creeping and

trying to walk, so I had to make many trips back to the house to see that everyone and everything was safe. Charlie was very sick. After he was able to be up and around the house, the baby took sick. We sat up all one night fearing the worst. I was so thankful that I did not take sick too.

In a couple [illegible] years the Hill family came back to their farm. Jack and Polly moved back to the Chris Lohrmann place.

Charlie, coming from a corn country, decided to try a field [illegible] corn. As it was a field variety it grew tall and had tremendous ears. At threshing time the girls in the cook car kept a pot of it on the stove all the time. As the bundle teams came in the drivers would run [illegible] and get an ear. When the threshing was [illegible] finished, Charlie turned the cattle into the corn field. It almost took the place of a fattening pen.

One year our crop was snowed under in the stook. To thresh it they had [illegible] dig it out of the snow. Some of the bundles were frozen to the ground and had [illegible] be cut loose with a spade. Needless to say the grain was damp. Some farmers left theirs till spring. The grain was dry then but they had trouble getting help to thresh it as everyone was busy with spring work. The mice had taken their share too, so I am not sure which was the best way [illegible] do it.

Hauling the grain to Hanna was a real problem. When you got there you had to wait in line to get unloaded and sometimes that was not until the next day. Some farmers bought, built or rented granaries in Hanna and stored the grain till spring. The trips were hard and cold . . . it was twenty-one miles to Hanna.

One day Mr. Hill and Charlie got their loads ready, two four-horse sleigh loads of wheat. They started next morning. The road was all drifted over and built up high; they were breaking trail all the way. They walked most of the way to keep from freezing. When they were about one and a half miles from Hanna, (it was dark by this time), they met a couple of the neighbors on their way home. They stopped and produced a bottle. Charlie said that if it had not been for the drink he did not think they would have made it. The horses were just as tired and hungry as the men. They made many such trips.

We had the horses that we did not need for hauling turned out. One cold morning Herman Siemp noticed one of our mares with a new colt. She was on one side of the fence and the colt was on the other, so he walked down there. The poor little thing was almost frozen. Herman took [illegible] his mackinaw, put the colt's front feet in the sleeves, and buttoned it up over its back, then hurried to tell us. Charlie hitched a team to a sleigh and brought them home. The poor little fellow froze part of his ears off, and a few patches on his legs and hips, but came out of it fine, thanks to Herman and his mackinaw.

The summer of 1922 things did not look very promising; it looked as if the crops would be a complete failure. Charlie got discouraged so we went to the Calgary Stampede for a few days. That trip was like a shot in the arm, for Charlie could not get home fast enough to get to work. He ploughed part of the crop under, getting ready for next year. It really paid off as we had a good crop the next year.

When that crop was cut and tied, but not one stook up, it looked like an endless job when we started stooking. But who should come along but Charlie's brother, Chris, who said, "If you go and haul some coal for me (he ran a big steam threshing outfit) I will move right over and start to thresh. No need to stook, we will pick it up right out of the windrow."

Needless to say Charlie went as soon as he could get a team hitched to the wagon.

In the fall of 1926 Charlie bought a threshing machine; he already had a tractor. Through the years he did a lot of threshing, and would be away from home

a great deal in the fall. That was the time of year when skunks would invade the chicken coops. Our chicken coop was a lean-to on one side of a granary; on the other side there was a lean-to for the car. I noticed that something was getting the chickens, so I set a trap. Next morning I had a skunk, but it had got under the door into the chicken house. I opened the door, but it would not come out, nor would the chickens, and I would not go in. I had no choice. I got the gun, went into the granary, put the barrel through a knot hole, and shot the skunk. The air got kind of blue. When I happened to think of the car, I got it out, but the fumes had done their work. You could smell that car for a long time afterward.

Shipping cattle was a problem, as they had to be driven the twenty-one miles to Hanna, where they were loaded into freight cars and shipped to Calgary. After the railroad came through we had just two and a half miles to go to Scapa, where there were stores, elevators and post office. That was a great help.

During the dry years of the early thirties we sold two head of cattle to the government for two cents a pound. We shipped some to Calgary for little more than the freight. We sold cream for sixty-five cents for a five gallon can. We had our share of hoppers, cut worms, wire worms and dust storms. We lost some horses through sleeping sickness. One year, after all the crop was harvested, we had two rack loads of unthreshed wheat for feed. We put Russian thistle through a threshing machine, then through a hammer mill, and fed that along with what little else we had. We lived by the rule of the old saying, "Use it up, make it do, wear it out."

This may all sound very grim, but we never suffered. We had a lot of good times and a lot of fun in the community. Charlie had a great sense of humor and always looked on the bright side of things, and somehow made troubles seem very small. One of his favorite sayings was, "It will be better next year. We will just chalk this up to experience."

Charlie was interested in all sports. He managed the Scapa ball team for a number of years. He and the neighbors got together and built the Scapa community hall, which he also managed for a number of years. Our children attended Crow Hill and Scapa schools.

We were blessed with four children, Merle (Tiny), Hazel, Lewis (Lou) and Doris.

In 1962 we sold the farm to Lou. We reserved the house and retired there, as Lou and his wife had built a house of their own. Charlie passed away March 16, 1964. I still live on the farm during the summer; I spend the winters in Hanna or Big Valley.

Andy Hanson, Ernest Fletcher, unknown, Tom Symington in front of Hanson's shack with the hogs in 1912.

A. B. HANSON STORY, By Mrs. Hanson — My husband, Andrew B. Hanson was born in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, on July 6, 1880. His father, Rasmus Hanson, had come to the United States as a young man; and after service in the Civil War settled on land granted to veterans. His fiancee, Gertrude Helmark, came from Norway after the Civil War to marry him, and to them eight children were born. Andrew was the second youngest of the family.

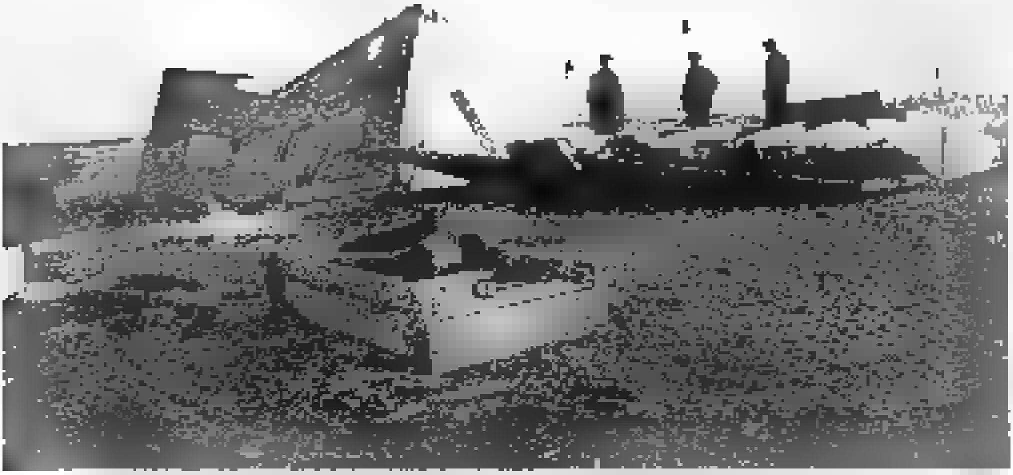
Andrew got his steam engineer's papers so he followed the harvest from

Minnesota to Washington, where he met a Mr. Ernest Fletcher; the two of them moved on with the harvest to Medicine Hat, with Andy running the engine and Fletcher the separator. Then they went to the Galahad area to work. Fletcher remained there with his brother, and Andrew bought lumber at Castor and moved down to the homestead to build his shack. He stopped for the night with his closest neighbors, the Bodemans, and the next morning they drove over to the farm and helped him build his shack. It was completed on December 16, 1910, and he moved into his new home.

Herman Kasten of Sheerness, Gordon Maxwell, Andy Hanson, Gust Cook and Joe Major. A storm had turned the bunk car on its side with the door down; the men had to make a hole in the roof to get out — 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Mildred and Bud in 1923.

Andy Hanson's threshing crew in 1927: Emil Kading, Louie Welch, Joe Lidgett, Joe Stulberg, Donald McKenzie, August Hein, Paul Trettin, Bill Kading, Andy Hanson. Two days later a storm wrecked the building.



After the storm: Andy Hanson, Bill Kading, Freddy Cook

Many people looking for homesteads made this one-roomed shack their stopping place. The trail to the coal mine went right by the door, and people travelling it were always glad to stop for a hot cup of coffee.

In the first years Andy Hanson got his mail [illegible] Flagstaff, Watts and Garden Plain post offices, and like other homesteaders, walked a good many miles to get it. After the railway was built through Hanna, mail was delivered from the Dowling Lake post office to the Nick Lund home by horse and buggy, and Andy and his neighbors had only a few miles to go to get it.

For the first few years, Ernest Fletcher and Andy Hanson lived together [illegible] Hanson's shack, sharing the work and the money they earned. Andy was a mechanic; he would never drive oxen or even horses if he could help it. He ran Ed Donald's tractor for plowing and threshing and later operated George Chapman's outfit [illegible] threshing time. Wages in those days were low. The engineer got $2.50 a day; the bundle haulers got $1.50 and an extra fifty cents a day if they supplied the team and rack.

One year Andy took a team of oxen for wages. Fletcher was doing some breaking with them when the heel flies took after them and they ran into a slough. No one had a very large wardrobe in those days, so Mr. Fletcher climbed up on the seat to get out of the water, and removed his clothing. He was planning to hold his clothes up out of the water while he walked to shore, but was startled to hear a giggle, and looked up to see a couple of the neighbor ladies driving by. I think that must have been the first high dive ever taken from the seat of a plough!

The men had made a dugout shelter in the hillside for their pigs. One morning they got up to find them all roasted. Mr. Fletcher had been smoking and had dropped his cigarette while he was feeding them.

I came with my parents, my brothers and sisters, to the Craigmyle area in 1910. We had come from Germany to the United States in 1908, and the following year my father came to Canada to get some of the free land we had heard so much about. In July of 1909 he went [illegible] Acme and travelled from there to look for a homestead. In the fall my mother and we eight children came to Linden, and spent the winter at the Mennonite colony there. Next spring we moved to the homestead with all our possessions, three horses, one cow, four sacks of flour, a few sacks of potatoes, eight kids and seven dollars. It took us eight days to cover the eighty-five miles to the homestead three miles south of Craigmyle, my home until 1916 when I came here [illegible] marry Andrew Hanson.

That was over sixty years ago, and I have lived here ever since, except for a couple of years that we lived at Craigmyle and Delia, where Andy worked in garages. Our daughter Mildred was born in 1917, and our son, Russell, in 1918. In 1923 I was confirmed in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, and our children were baptized there.

We tried to give our children an education, but it was not easy. In 1917 we still did not have a school in our district, and there were neighbors who had fifteen-year-old children who had never been to school, but who had been taught by their mother. Finally the district of Crow Hill was formed, and in 1923 Mildred and Russell (Bud) started school there. They took some of their high school at Scapa, but when it came time for them to take grade twelve, it was during the hungry thirties and we could not afford to send both of them. We sent Russell to stay with my folks at Craigmyle so he could finish his grade twelve in 1936.

Mildred and Russell took music lessons from Mrs. Banner, an accomplished musician in spite of a handicapped hand. She was a real lady, with a world of patience; and while she was still taking lessons, Mildred began to play for church services.

In 1928 we were hailed out completely. My husband got work threshing in the Galahad area. I cut and raked the hailed grain and we put it up for feed. A neighbor lady, Mrs. Heptonstall, helped me haul it home. We would leave the last load of the day on the rack, and when her husband came home from work, he would put the top on the stack, which when finished was 125 feet long and 35 feet across the end.

My husband passed away in 1944. Mildred married Richard Zeamer. They had two daughters, Charlotte and Marlene, and are living in Hanna.

Russell is an electrician, working from home.

We still live on the same farm. All my old neighbors have left; some have passed on, some thought they could do better elsewhere. I have a small house in Hanna so I spend my time between town and the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ziemmer

MR. and MRS. DANIEL ZIEMMER, By Bennie Ziemmer — Daniel Ziemmer came to Canada from Wollinia, Russia, about 1900, and worked for a number of years with the Mennonites in Manitoba. While there he married Justina Rother, and my oldest brother Gerhard was born there in 1903.

Dad obtained his first land at Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and John, Herman and Martha were born there. In 1909 he homesteaded the SE 7-34-15. That fall he sold out at Lanigan; at that time anything bought at an auction sale did not have to be paid for in cash, but could be on time. He spent the winter at Leduc with his sisters, the Wetter and the Bienert families.

In the spring of 1910 he and Andrew and Louie Wetter shipped their equipment by train to Castor. Dad had a team of oxen and a horse, and he broke land with a walking plow. The family lived in a sod house on the homestead for the first year. Albert and I were born on the homestead.

There was open range then and at milking time the cows were sometimes miles from home. Mother churned butter and put it up in prints to be traded for groceries.

Their post office and store was at Old Endiang.

In the fall of 1916 we moved to the NE 10-34-15, where Dad had purchased land from Emil Reske and [illegible]. Eisentraut. We farmed with horses and lived off the farm, keeping cattle, hogs and poultry. At one time we hand-milked more than twenty cows, and every week Mother would drive to Hanna with a team and democrat, taking in eggs and cream and returning the same day with groceries and other necessities. The round trip was forty-six miles.

Grain was hauled to Hanna and livestock was driven to market there. Wheat was milled into flour, livestock was butchered and the meat was cured or canned. Neighbors would get together in the fall to butcher or dress poultry. For use during the winter, eggs were preserved in salt brine or waterglass.

On Sundays we dressed up and drove to church services as far away as Spondin, Craigmyle and the Hand Hills. Later we attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

At home we played horseshoes and baseball, boxed and rode steers. I recall a rodeo being held at Fedor Prokupuk's place. The first ball diamond was north of our place on the Keibel land, later it was moved two miles south, and still later, to Scapa.

When the railway came in 1925, the real pioneer times were over, as most of the farm land had been broken, fenced and improved with buildings. Some farmers had cars and tractors.

About that time Dad built a new barn, and had a well drilled, and a windmill installed to pump the water. We had a Coleman gas lamp for light and a radio with earphones. I can remember listening to the Dempsey-Tunney fight on that radio.

Dad purchased his first car in 1927, a Model T Ford, but driving in mud, half a mile in low gear and it would boil. In 1930 it was replaced by a Model A, which was a good unit.

Mother served as a midwife until the thirties. In 1931 Dad passed away and mother remarried. She and her husband, Gottlieb Schuler, lived on the homestead until they retired to Hanna. Both are deceased now.

Our sister Martha, Mrs. John Mohl, died on Christmas Day, 1973. Brothers Gerhard and Herman live in the Mayerthorpe district, John is at Lacombe, and Albert and I live at Endiang.

HERMAN and PAULINE ZIEMMER, By Herman Ziemmer — In 1931 my dad passed away and that was when I started on my own. I batched until 1935 and then married Pauline Stulberg. As we remember, it was a very cold day, thirty below and the snow drifts six or eight feet high. It was so cold in the church that we froze our toes.

I had a quarter section of land, and rented another quarter from Ron Huson. I later bought that, and also the Charlie Hill half-section from the Ruhl brothers.

We lived in a two-roomed house for ten years. Then in 1945 we bought a school house, moved it from south of Hanna, remodelled it and lived in it for ten years. We did not like that house, for it was a high building and when the wind blew, the whole house shook. One day a window blew in. So we bought a house and moved it down from south of Edmonton.

In the dry years all that really grew was tumble weeds and Russian thistle. Towards fall the tumble weeds broke off and blew against the fences, then the dirt blew against them, until the fences were covered over.

Herman Ziemmer's courting days

We farmed with horses and horse-drawn machinery, as most people did. Herman went into the horse business. Over the years he travelled five different stallions. He broke horses to drive, and got paid ten dollars for each one he broke. He also had a little trap line which caught rabbits, weasels and skunks. At first he would get five cents for rabbit ears; later he skinned the rabbits and got as high as seventy-five cents for them. Skunks and weasels brought from one to five dollars. One winter we sold one hundred dollars' worth of skins, which was very good.

During the war years, we gathered dry bones from cattle that did not make the winter and took them in to Scapa where we sold them. However, this brought only a small amount of money.

We always milked cows and raised pigs, and in 1949 we bought a purebred Hereford cow, which had a heifer calf. That cow had twelve bull calves, which we always sold for good prices, as there were not too many purebred breeders in the area. We still have purebred polled cattle, but only enough to keep us busy.

FRED LYXZEN, By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Andrew Ernfred (Fred) Lyxzen was born October 17, 1885 in Vannes, Sweden. He had two brothers and one sister. His sister and one brother died of diphtheria while youngsters. His younger brother died in 1974. His father was the only one who came over here but he returned to the old country after a couple of years. In 1903 Fred immigrated to South Dakota where he had relatives. He worked on a large farm there for a couple of years and then went to Vancouver Island to work in a lumber camp. In 1907 he started working for a harness maker in Stettler, Alberta. Three years later he bought a building and started his own harness shop. Andy Robinson, an oldtimer of Stettler, worked for him.

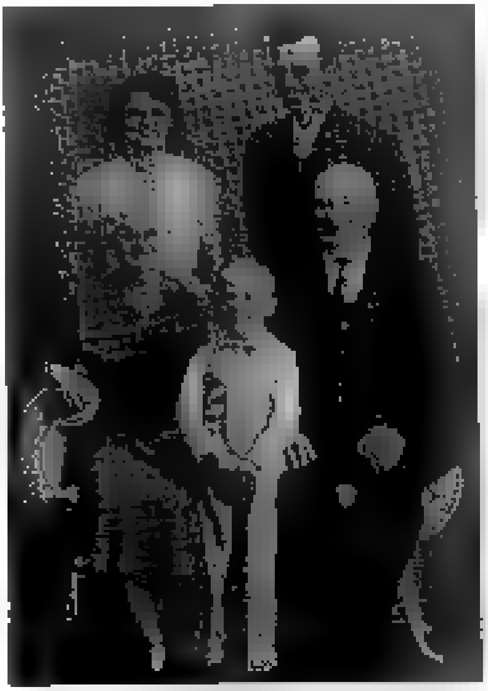
After getting married [illegible] 1911, he operated his shop for a couple more years, till he went broke due to too much credit on the books and no cash. He never did collect the money that was owing to him. After renting land south of Erskine and near Hanna, he took up a homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1915, and then went to work for the Government, at Great West Saddlery, for thirty-five cents an hour. He made bridles and saddles for war purposes until the quota was reached. He returned to the homestead with two horses and five cows he had acquired. Over the ensuing years he improved and increased his herd [illegible] Shorthorns many times over. Before the advent of tractors he farmed six quarters with horses.

They, as did all other pioneers, experienced many set backs; hail, drought, grasshoppers and the dirty thirties. In 1916 they had only a one-roomed shack covered with rubberoid roofing. A terrific hailstorm struck and tore off all the roofing, so they had to stand under an umbrella with their rubbers on. A canvas had been spread over the bed so it was the only dry spot. The chickens were startled and ran out only to be killed, so none were left. This was the storm that

killed Mr. Depencier, about one-half mile west of them. He was returning from Craigmyle with a load of lumber. He managed to crawl to some bush and was found with his hands over his head as though trying to protect himself.

Money was non-existant. Sometimes a pound of butter or such like was traded for some much-needed commodity. There was a flour mill in Hanna where farmers had their wheat ground. The closest trading centre was Endiang until Scapa was established.

Mr. Fred Lyxzen and coyote hounds



Doreen and John Kerner, Hilda Lyxzen, Brian Kerner and Fred Lyxzen.

Since Fred was a harness maker, [illegible] early winter and spring one would find him astride his "harness horse" making and repairing harness of his own and as a favor, also his neighbors'. He owned a threshing machine, before the advent of combines, and did threshing on various farms for many years. He owned three quarters of land and rented two quarters from Olaf Saunders who had returned [illegible] Sweden. Crow Hill School was [illegible] the north-east corner of this land. The Depencier quarter, which he had purchased after Mr. Depencier was killed, just cornered this to the north-east. In the twenties he purchased the quarter west of the homestead.

In the spring of 1945 he held an auction sale and bought the Red and White Store [illegible] Scapa from H.A. Burt Sr. They actually switched places. In 1949 the Pounds from Dowling bought the store and the Lyxzens moved to the land referred to as the Wallaces and Roneys; nine miles north-east of Scapa. In 1956 they bought a house in Hanna and retired from farming.

Fred was an avid hunter of coyotes, big game and birds — mostly geese. For most of the years on the homestead he kept numerous hunting dogs of various breeds — some were greyhounds. He spent the winters covering miles and miles of territory hunting coyotes. The pelts had to be carefully skinned and stretched on boards to be saleable. With fall came the goose hunting season. In later years on his second farm, he took many hunters out. His farm bordered Sullivan Lake and thousands of geese landed there. Today his guns are a prized possession of his grandson. After his retirement he did a lot of fishing, especially at Carolside Dam.

He also upholstered furniture. He made two sets of harness, one for a team of Shetland ponies in the Garden Plain area, the other was regular size. Unfortunately the harness, which was left locked in the garage, disappeared after his death. Somewhere there [illegible] an excellent set of hand-stitched harness made about 1959.

Because his wife was in hospital and his health was failing, he spent the winter of 1964–65 with his daughter, Doreen in Bow Island. He suffered [illegible] stroke and passed away twelve days later on May 20, 1965.

MRS. FRED LYXZEN, By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Hildur (Hilda) Karolina Erickson, daughter of Per and Elizabeth, was born December 25, 1888 in Helgum, Sweden. She is one of a family of one sister, four brothers and two half-brothers, one [illegible] whom, Edward, lives in Hanna. Two brothers Enock and Abe are still living at ninety-one and ninety. Her mother died when she was six years old, so she had a step-mother, Maria. She left Sweden [illegible] October 1903 with the Molander family to come to Erskine, Alberta where her father and brother, Albert, were. Except for her sister, the rest of the family came a year later.

[illegible] the spring of 1904 she started work in the kitchen of the Adelphi Hotel in Lacombe. There were no specified working hours; if a train happened to come in at midnight, she worked. There was no overtime pay; she earned fifteen dollars a month, most of which was given to her father. She worked eleven months, learned English and then did odd jobs for a while before she started her apprenticeship as a dressmaker. After recovering from an illness she rented a room above the Harness Shop [illegible] Stettler; opened her dressmaking shop and launched her career [illegible] a professional dressmaker in 1907.

On April 5, 1911 she married Andrew Emfred (Fred) Lyxzen. Four children were born of this union but only the youngest, Victoria Doreen survived. They lived in Stettler for a couple of years where she kept on with her shop. After moving south of Erskine and then to the Reddel place four miles south of Hanna, she moved to the homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1915. Since her husband was working in Calgary, her brother August helped her on the farm.

Like all pioneer women she had to work out on the land, so she could handle horses as well [illegible] any man. She was a member of the old U.F.W.A. and later of the Home Ladies Club at Scapa. Upon retiring in 1956 with her husband, she became an active member of the Church of Christ in Hanna.

No matter where they lived, she always had a wide assortment of material, for she sewed for countless people in the Scapa and Hanna areas. For example, one Christmas season she had twenty dresses to make. Everyone had to have a new dress for the Christmas Concert.

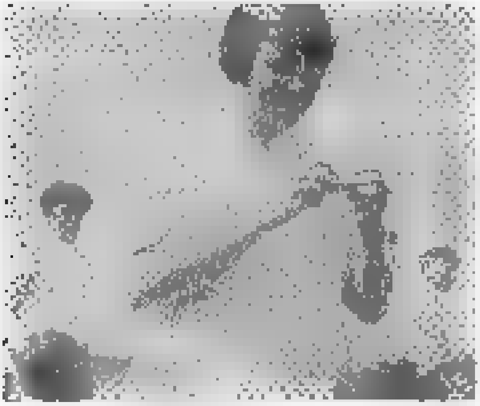
She [illegible] an avid gardener and plant lover; and had lots of produce, beautiful flowers and house plants to prove it. At the age of eighty-eight, she still does a variety of handicrafts.

On October 19, 1962, she fell off the back step of their home in Hanna and broke her hip. Arthritis set in and after three operations and many months in various hospitals, she can get around only in a wheelchair. She remains cheerful and retains a sharp and agile mind. She now resides in the Bow Island Nursing Home.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SLEMP, By Kate Huson Slemp — Herman Slemp came to the Fleet district from Oklahoma with his parents and the rest of the family in 1912. His wife (nee Kate Huson) came from England with her parents and one sister in 1913. Her four brothers had come in previous years. Her mother's sister, Mrs. Bob Climie [illegible] Lane and Climie ranch of Castor district, had come to Alberta

in 1901 when Red Deer was the nearest town. The fact of so many of the family being here decided her parents to leave England for a life in sunny Alberta.

Herman homesteaded the southwest 2-34-15, proving up in 1920. He was married in Castor in March 1920, driving the same day by team and cutter to the homestead where he and his wife made their home for forty-four years; moving to Castor in May 1964 where they enjoyed retirement until Herman's sudden passing in October 1976. His wife is still living there.



Kate Stemp: Pie eating contest at Hudson Bay School

June 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stemp and John Wallace, raising Stemp's two-roomed house to put on a foundation.

Herman worked at various jobs before his marriage, one being a freighting job between Castor and Hanna with a four horse team. He also worked for Mr. Kane at Garden Plain Store and coal mine which was our post office for several years, the mail coming from Castor by team, twice a week I believe.

Their first home was a small two-room house, twelve by twenty feet and the few acres of crop grown in 1919 was snowed under and stooks stayed in the field until being threshed in May 1920.

The railroad came in the fall of 1925, bringing three elevators the following year; Herman operated the Searle elevator from about 1929 or 30 to about 1937 or 38. During the early thirties (commonly known as the hungry thirties) the elevator handled relief feed made possible by the government to aid farmers in carrying their stock through those difficult years.

There was very little income those years as wheat was nineteen cents a bushel, cattle one to one and a half cents a pound, eggs five cents a dozen and cream from two dollars to two dollars and seventy-five cents for a five gallon can.

Everyone tried to be optimistic, making their own entertainment by visiting families and gatherings at local school houses, at card parties and dances. In winter a group would organize a play, practising at different homes until ready for showing before spring work commenced. Sometimes they would journey to different places, affording people in other communities an opportunity to see the play. One year when roads were bad the railroad hand car was pressed into transporting the cast to another point along the railroad.

Farming was done with horses and Herman had two six horse teams — "Big Six" and "Little Six."

Times were hard those years but made one appreciate to the full the better years that followed.

THE HILL FAMILY, By Mrs. Maymie Hill Cattanach — Charles Ancin Hill (known as Charlie), his wife Alma, and their four children; Jessie Dee, Maymie,

Earl and Chester; arrived all the way from Steedman, Oklahoma to Fleet, Alberta to become "new citizens". They arrived in August, 1912 in time to help with the harvest. Alma helped in a cook car where the threshing crew were fed while Maymie looked after the baby, Chester. Chester was only one year old and Maymie six years of age so it was understandable that there were a few arguments!

In 1914 Charlie filed on a homestead two miles west of what is now known as Scapa. By 1917 [illegible] received his Naturalization Papers and his homestead rights from the Federal Government. He also received what was known as Pre-Emption Rights. Luckily for his children he named all of them on his application for Naturalization, thus they became Canadian citizens.

In 1918 Homer was born on January 13, while on September 13, 1919 Haskell (known as Hack) arrived on the scene. Mrs. Sexsmith, midwife in the district, ushered both new Canadians into the world without any benefits of a doctor.

It was in 1918 that Crow Hill School was built. Charlie Hill was the main "pusher" of the school as well as Chairman and Trustee. The first Crow Hill teacher was Miss Christine Campbell — later to become Mrs. Milo Loomer of Endiang. The school had an enrollment of approximately thirty children from grade one to grade nine. How about that, you 1977 teachers of today!

To make ends meet Charlie went to work for Harold Hunt of Endiang while Alma and Jessie ran the farm and the rest of the kids ran the house.

After a few years things got better and the work eased up, especially when the price of wheat went up. Charlie and Jessie built a two room building in Scapa in 1926 where Jessie ran a butcher shop on one side and Maymie ran a small restaurant on the other side. By 1925 there were two elevators in Scapa and farmers really appreciated something to eat after driving so far with their wheat. Ella Malm had started the Scapa Store by then, so a cup of hot coffee and a piece of pie was quite welcome.

In 1928 Charlie and Alma took over the restaurant after the farm was sold to the Ruhls. The rest of the kids had gone out working, leaving Homer and Hack the only kids at home with their parents. Scapa School had started up by then so schooling went on — much [illegible] their disgust.

In 1929 John Cattanach and Maymie Hill were married and continued farming on John's farm two miles east of Scapa. [illegible] 1931 Charlie, Alma, and the two younger boys moved [illegible] British Columbia for health reasons, as Homer had developed diabetes and was on a salad diet — something they couldn't get in Alberta. They sold the building [illegible] Scapa to Jim and Olive Boehlke who set up [illegible] store in it.

Homer passed away in 1942, Alma in 1944, Charlie in 1947, Jessie in October of 1966, Chester [illegible] May of 1967, Earl [illegible] September of 1971, and Hack in December of 1974, leaving Maymie as sole survivor of the Hill family from Scapa.

OLAV SANDNESS, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Olav Sandness homesteaded the NW 33-33-15 about 1912. Crow Hill school was built on two acres of land [illegible] the corner of his farm. In the mid-twenties he rented his land to Mr. Lyxzen and took a trip back to Norway, where he died.

THE WAGNER FAMILY, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Mr. and Mrs. M. Wagner had a homestead and pre-emption on section 32-33-15. They had four children, Lizzie, Chris, Benny and Mary. Their son Chris, who was married and had two children, also took out a homestead and a pre-emption. When Chris' house burned down, he and his family moved in with his parents.

When the men had proved up on their homesteads they sold them; C. Nill bought the M. Wagner homestead and H. Burt bought Chris'. The pre-emptions were let go back. Mr. Lyxzen took M. Wagner's as a second homestead, and Mr. Heptonstall filed on Chris' pre-emption.

In 1926, the Wagners returned to the United States. The only member of the families to remain in Canada was Mary, who had married Andrew Riebe of Delia.

Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren

HJALMAR HOLMGREN FAMILY, By Norman Holmgren — Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren and their two children, Lila and Norman, came from North Dakota to Craigmyle about 1916. Dad got a house for us to live in, then found a job [illegible] the coal mine at Garden Plain. My brother Archie was born in 1916, and my sister Ellen two years later, when we lived on the Rom place.

Dad decided to try his hand at farming so rented land. There wasn't much money to be made at that, but with a part-time job in the coal mine we managed to survive. Lila and I started school at Princeton; about 1923 we went to Lilloo school and while we lived on the Lyxzen place we attended Crow Hill. Dad put some land into crop on the NW 5-34-15 but had the misfortune to get hailed out.

When we moved to the Charles Loomer place we went to the Endiang school which was later re-named Hunt Lake. In wintertime Earl Hoover took us to school in a covered van pulled by horses. We left Endiang in the late twenties. Dad filed on a homestead in the Lindale area where he made his home until he suddenly took ill and passed away [illegible] 1941. Mother died a few years later.

Lila, Mrs. Norma Phillips, had one son. She died at Lindale in 1967. Archie died in 1975. His widow continues to operate the store and service station which he had bought at Carnwood. Ellen lives in Vancouver. My wife and I have three married sons. We farm at Lindale and I drive a school bus.

Going to school to learn to speak English; Emil Kading, 1927

EMIL KADING, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Emil Kading came from Germany in the summer of 1926 to stay with his brother, Bill Kading. As he was anxious to learn English, he did the janitor work at Crow Hill school, and stayed to listen [illegible] the children's instruction. Every day he drove by team and sleigh to the school, taking my children with him.

During World War I he had been an airplane mechanic for the German ace, Baron Von Richtofen, and he was hoping to continue the work he had been trained for in Canada. In 1928 Andy Hanson took him to Medicine Hat

to see if he could help him get his Canadian license. As he could not speak English very well, the examiners gave him an airplane engine to work on, and Mr. Hanson translated for him. He was given his permit to work in Canada and was sent to Vancouver.

In 1930 he was travelling as mechanic with a bush pilot whose plane was damaged after a forced landing. The three men aboard the plane spent two months in the mountainous country near the Liard River in B.C. before rescuers found them. One of the party had died from injuries and exposure.

After he had regained his health, his company sent him to Thunder Bay; he remained there throughout the Second World War and until his retirement. Then he returned to the Scapa area to live with his brother and his wife. He stayed with them for seven years; when Mr. and Mrs. Bill Keding decided to retire to Stettler, Emil was to go with them, but wanted to take a trip back to Germany first. The Bill Kedings moved his effects to Stettler with their own, while Emil visited with relatives in his homeland.

He died suddenly of a heart attack while visiting the home of his nieces in East Germany, and he was buried there.

The Heptonstall Family: Ron, 'Hep', Connie, Herb, Walter and Mrs. Heptonstall — 1963

MR. and MRS. S. HEPTONSTALL, By Connie Heptonstall Steeves — Mr. and Mrs. Heptonstall and their three children, Connie, Walter and Herb, arrived in Hanna from Yorkshire, England, on March 27, 1927. During their first few months in the area, they lived with Mr. Heptonstall's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Linley, and the children attended Chain Lakes school. They also spent some time with the Joe Liggett family in the Scapa district, and then moved to the Hill place about four miles west of Scapa. Late that summer 'Hep' as he was known to all his friends, took up the homestead that Chris Wagner had given up, a mile south of Crow Hill school.

Mrs. Hanson tells an amusing story. Apparently Walter Heptonstall became ill at school, and the teacher sent Connie home to get her mother. When Mrs. Heptonstall discovered that her son's illness had been caused by chewing tobacco, she switched him all the way home.

The youngest son, Ronnie, was born while Heptonstalls lived on this farm. In 1933 they moved south of Hanna, and the farm was taken over by their daughter Connie and her husband, Paul Schultz.

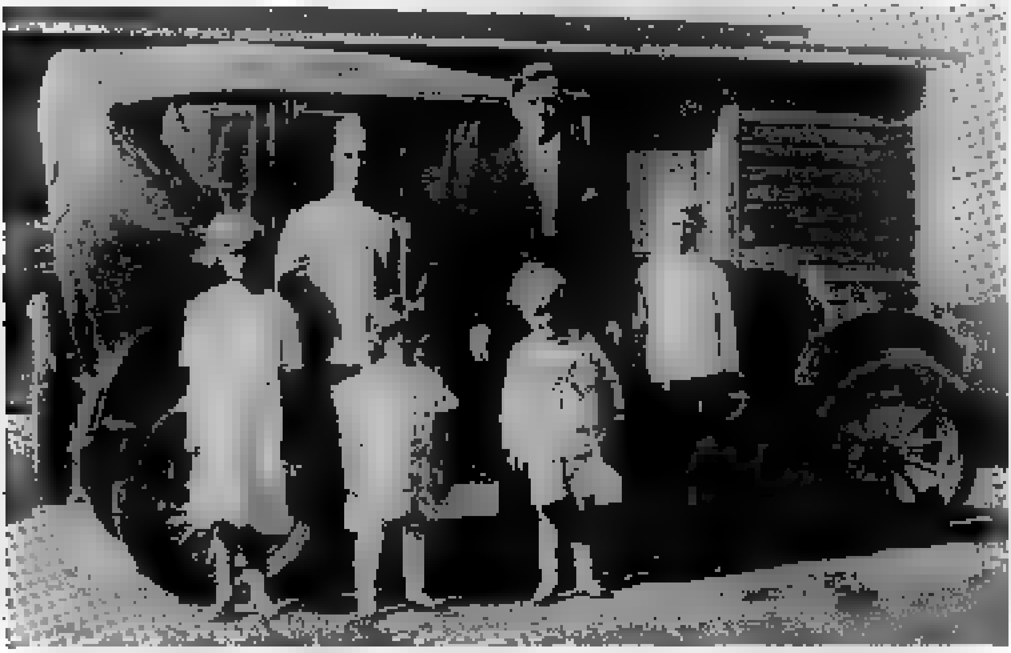
Hep, who was a veteran of World War I, joined the Home Guard during World War II, and moved his family to Hanna in 1941. Mrs. Heptonstall passed away in 1966, Mr. Heptonstall and their son Walter in 1975.

Ronnie still lives in Hanna, Connie and Herbert reside in Calgary.

EMANUEL KALMBACH, By Lucy Kalmbach Gutsche — In October of 1927 my dad, Emanuel Kalmbach, his wife, the former Bertha Irion, and their four children immigrated to Canada from Romania. Their family consisted of Roland, who was then six years old; Lilly, aged five; Hilde, two; and Emanuel Jr., who was

about seven months old when they arrived here. They stayed with relatives at Scapa for three or four months.

My dad had been a school teacher in the Old Country for a number of years. Conditions there at that time were very unsettled, and the country was over-populated: I think that correspondence with relatives in Canada convinced them that they would be much better off living here. I don't know if Dad intended to teach school here, but three or four months after they arrived, he made a down payment on a farm which at that time belonged to Alex Kalenith.



Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Kalmbach, Lilly, Roland and Emanuel Jr., and Ethel Diewert

He started farming with very little in the way of machinery, but I was told that in spite of that he grew a thirty-five to forty bushel crop in either 1928 or 1929. Unfortunately a severe hailstorm destroyed the crop just before harvest. Things looked very bleak, as he had no means of supporting his family. He finally obtained work with a threshing crew south of Hanna.

In 1930 my dad's wife was not well, and was taken to Hanna where Dr. Baxendale diagnosed a tumor and performed an operation to try to remove it. It was not successful and she died in October [illegible] 1930, at the age of thirty-four. It was a severe blow for Dad and the children. He had no idea how he would be able to look after his family, so they were cared for by their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Irion, who lived just across the road. After her father's remarriage, Hilda continued to make her home with her grandparents and attended Endiang school.

Through friends, my mother, Mrs. Alvina Diewert, learned that my dad needed a housekeeper, and took the position. From previous marriages she had one son, Albert Brandt, who was employed at Mayerthorpe and who remained there, and one daughter, Ethel Diewert, five years old. Dad and mother were married in 1931 and I, their only child, was born in 1934, with Mrs. Gottlieb Schuler as midwife.

Ethel, Lilly, Emanuel and Roland all attended Crow Hill school in the thirties. I went there only two years before it was closed. We travelled back and forth to school with a horse and buggy in the summertime and a cutter in the winter. I can remember one day that Ethel and Emanuel had gone to school in the morning,

and later that day a terrible blizzard came up. Due to the severity of the storm they didn't make it home that evening. The storm raged all night, and it was bitterly cold. Mother and dad were terribly worried about where the children could be. They stayed up all night, and as soon as the storm abated somewhat, Dad took a team and sleigh and went to look for them. He found them at the Fred Lyxzen place, where they had spent the night. Possibly the teacher at that time was boarding with the Lyxzens, and had taken them there with her.

My dad was a faithful worker for St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He was church secretary from 1929 to 1955, church organist for the same period of time, and as choir leader organized and directed the music for the annual Christmas and Easter services.

I remember the crop failures, and Dad not always being able to make his land payments when they came due. Mother was an ardent gardener, and usually grew more than enough for the family. Sometimes she would make part of the land payment with vegetables; she also raised a lot of turkeys, and sometimes the money from their sale was used to help pay the taxes.

When Dad's health began to fail he disposed of the land and had an auction sale. He and Mother moved to Calgary where he worked as painter in a steel plant, but he developed lung cancer and died in 1958. Mother remained in Calgary for a couple of years, then moved to Hanna where she is still able to care for her own home.

Roland Kalmbach and his wife Margaret live in Calgary. They have four children.

Lilly and Ben Meyers live in Vancouver. They have four children.

Hilda Fischer is a widow. She and her children live in Vancouver.

Emanual and his wife Darlene and their children are on Vancouver Island.

Ethel and Ed Bertsch and their three children reside in Calgary.

I, Lucy, married Art Gutsche in 1953. We have three sons. We bought Dad's farm in 1958 and still live on the original farm site where we built a new home four years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mattheis, Ed, Irma, Art, Annie and Gus

THE DANIEL MATTHEIS FAMILY, By Art Mattheis — Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mattheis emigrated from Romania to Canada in the fall of 1927. They spent the first winter with Mrs. Mattheis' parents, the Pahl family, who had come earlier and who were living in the Scapa district.

The following year they purchased a half section of land from John Johnson. They lived there for a number of years and then moved one mile south, in order to be closer to school, and built a new set of buildings on land bought from Harvey Burt. Later on the house on this farm was traded to a machine agent for a 600 Case Diesel tractor, and moved to Hanna. The family moved to the Edgar Slemp farm because the house had a phone, was closer to town and was served by better roads.

All the above land is now farmed by sons Arthur and Gustav.

The children attended Crow Hill school, a two mile trek summer and winter.

After that school closed they went to Scapa and [illegible] Hanna. The family regularly attended church services at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

On one occasion, Mrs. Mattheis and her children, Art and Annie, were taking two crates of eggs and three cans of cream to Scapa for shipment on the train. Just as they approached a railroad crossing, a speeder came down the track, frightening the horses. The runaway team galloped the mile and a half back to the farm. Mrs. Mattheis was very annoyed. She drove the team to the field where her husband was ploughing, traded the runaways for the team he was using, repacked her eggs, and still got to Scapa in time to meet the train.

In 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Mattheis retired [illegible] Hanna where they spent their remaining years. Mr. Mattheis died in 1965, Mrs. Mattheis in 1969.

They had five children.

Anna completed her nurse's training at the Holy Cross hospital in Calgary and is now married to Harvey Miller of Ottawa. They have two sons.

Arthur graduated from [illegible] two-year course at the Olds College of Agriculture, and is now farming north-west of Scapa.

Edwin became a petroleum engineer. He is married and living in Calgary. He has one son and one daughter.

Irma, a laboratory technician, married Henry Debre. They live at Valleyview and have two sons and one daughter.

Gustav completed a course in diesel engineering at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He is now farming and ranching in the Scapa district. He is married to June Keibel. They have one daughter, Kimberlie.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

By Mrs. A.B. Hanson

I hope you will find room in your book for this chapter on the wonderful neighbors we had. I know quite a few women who would not have survived if they had not had good neighbors. Since I am getting to be one of the older people in this part of the country, and have lived here since 1918, I have met and known most of the people who lived [illegible] this neighborhood.

Mr. Ernest Fletcher and my husband came to Medicine Hat from Washington in the fall of 1910. They had been working on threshing outfits; my husband was a steam engineer and Mr. Fletcher was the separator man. After harvest was finished at Medicine Hat they went to Galahad where Mr. Fletcher had a brother, and he stayed there for the winter.

In the spring he homesteaded the east half of 28-33-15, and my husband took the west half. In the winter Mr. Fletcher worked in the coal mines at Castor or Garden Plain. On November 12, 1918, he married Hazel Brum, a widow with one son. They lived on his farm until 1923, but Mrs. Fletcher did not like this country, so he rented his land to Bill Kading and moved back to Wisconsin.

Bill Kading took over the horses and cows with the land. In the spring he would get his cows in at five [illegible] the morning, milk eight cows and feed his pigs, and then go to work in the field to put his crop in. On March 24, 1929 he married Katie Morasch, and a better friend and neighbor no one ever had. They were my closest friends for fifty years and I do not know how I would have made it without their help when my husband passed on and my son was sick in bed for months. They remained on the farm until seven years ago when they moved to Stettler where their two sons were living. I cannot express what these people meant to us right up to the time of their passing.

The Heplevstells homesteaded the land that Chris Wagner had let go back.

it joined our place on the north. One year we were hailed out, so my husband went threshing in the Galahad area, and Mrs. Heptonstall helped me haul home the feed that I had cut and raked, and when Mr. Heptonstall got home from work he would top off the stack for me.

The Stulbergs, Gus and Emma. If it had not been for them, many of the homesteaders would not have been able to keep going. I do not know how many cows and calves, and horses he saved for the people, and never a penny, as most of the homesteaders had no money. And a good many times it put a lot of extra work on his wife and children, as he would stay with the animal till it was out of danger. And it certainly showed in their family; they never raised one lazy youngster, they all earn their own living and my son and I are good friends of these same children who are now grown up with families of their own.

The Witts did not come until 1927. It did not make any difference what you needed, all the way from sewing shoes to harness, as these Old Country people had learned many trades, and how welcome that was to us! Praise goes to the wife and children as they had to take on extra work while Dad helped the neighbors. And may I say that is why their children are such good workers; they learned this at home and this district can be proud of children and parents like that.

Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. Mrs. Banner was a music teacher. How thankful a lot of young people were to that lady, as most of the parents could not afford to have their children learn to play an instrument. She had the patience of a saint, and put in her time for nothing; not one cent did she take and always a lunch when they were finished, just to give the neighbors' kids a chance.

Mr. and Mrs. Gust Abram. He would tan cow hides. When the years were so terribly hard and he saw how the people's shoes had no place left to nail a sole to, he would make the nicest mocassin slippers for them. He would come to visit and when he left there would be a paper bag in a corner, and there would be a slip of paper in with the slippers, and it would say, "I did not know what size you take, but I hope you can use these." He would tell the neighbors not to spend money for brooms. "Just cut the tail off one of your horses and bring the hair over and I will make you a broom." I still have one he made from an old Charlie horse we had. He has been gone a long time, but his tail hair broom is still working.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt. Mr. Burt was a farmer but looked after the elevator in Scapa. It was one of the business places that took the place of a bank. Mr. Burt knew just how hard up the people were, so often helped out with a few dollars which were very much appreciated and paid back out of the next cream cheque or crate of eggs. If someone did not know which way to turn, he called at the elevator, and soon came out smiling.

In March, 1936, my mother passed away, and since Mr. Burt had one of the few phones in the district, he brought me word that she had gone. He handed me five dollars, saying, "You might need this, and if you ever have it to spare you can give it back." That is the way our good neighbors were; they knew what you needed most and when. No need to say I made a special effort to pay back that five dollars, with a very thankful heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen. When the hungry thirties were just past, we had not had any crops to pay our taxes, and my husband had been sick for ten years before he passed on. The government of the Province said they were taking over our farm. It had been my home for so many years, and I was at my wits' end where to get the money. One night when Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen were over for a visit, we told them about it. He never said a word, just made out a cheque for three hundred dollars, and said, "Shame the devil! Just pay your taxes. You can give it back when you sell your calves."

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz had a blacksmith shop in Gadsby. When farmers would drive a long distance there in a lumber wagon, it was impossible to make the return trip the same day. Many of them had no money for a hotel room, but instead of letting them sleep in the wagon box outside, Mr. Schultz would put their horses in his shop and took the people in his home where they were always made welcome and fed. The shop was filled with horses and the house was so filled with strange people that the Schultz children hardly knew which bed was theirs; it was usually on the floor, and strangers in their beds. They never charged anyone, so they were a Godsend to the poor homesteaders.

When they moved out [illegible] their homestead, they continued to help their neighbors. Half the girls in this part of the country should have been named Emma, for if a woman needed help, Mrs. Schultz would put on her white apron and put her medicines and other things she would need in a box, and stay until the mother was able to look after her new baby herself. And after the Lutheran Church was built, you would see the whole family going [illegible] church, and after the service they would not take no for an answer, and most of the young folks would go home with them, and they would be fed and made welcome; it did not matter if there were fifteen or fifty guests. They had eleven children of their own, and they each had their own friends, and after dinner they would play horseshoes or baseball or football. Everyone had clothes [illegible] cover them, and lots of food, and they did not have to work on a Sunday, that was the Lord's day.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker. Mrs. Steinbrecker used to have a big garden, I think [illegible] covered two acres. Spuds and peas and beans by the bucket full, and no one ever went home without all he could carry. I think not many folk bought seed for their gardens, or seed spuds, as long as Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker lived on the farm. Their son, Sam, lives on the place now, and he [illegible] right there if any help is needed. They have the nicest children; they always show real respect for old people.

Sidney Linley, Joe Lidgett, Ida Banner, George Banner, Mrs. Lidgett, Mrs. Linley — 1924

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trettie A harder working man never lived, and a kinder hearted man you will never know. If you needed help you did not have to ask for it; he would offer to do what was needed, and their children are just like that too.

The Burt, Siemp and Leicht families in front of the Burt home in 1927

The stack of hauled grain put up by Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Heptonstall in 1931. Mr. Heptonstall on top of stack, Mrs. Hep, Bud Hanson and dog at the end of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Ohlbrecht. They were not ones to say, "Let me know if you need anything", they could see what was needed. They brought food if there was sickness in the house, and would loan their car or anything else you had to have.

Bernice and George Burns were among the later comers to the district. When they had the store at Scapa it did not make any difference if you had the money to pay for your groceries or not; they would even bring the groceries to the farm if they were needed right away.

Now that most of the old timers are gone, the young folks like the Lohrmanns, Erions, Heins, Welchs and Pattinsons are a credit to the country. They are there to help whenever they are needed. Very many times we were so thankful to be blessed with kind neighbors, and you can tell their children, yes, and even their grandchildren, by their politeness and friendliness.

Believe me, I agree with my son Bud, when he says that the kindest and best people in the world live around Scapa and Endiang . . . Mrs. A.S. Hanson's neighbors!

Good neighbors — 1960: the Kadings and Glubrechts

THE CHARLES SMYTH FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smyth and their children, Charlie Jr., Alice, Iris, Wilma and Jim, came from the United States, and lived in the Endiang district until homestead land became available. On April 4, 1913, Mr. Smyth filed on the east half of 5-34-15 as a homestead and pre-emption, land which had previously been filed on but abandoned.

At first the children attended Old Endiang school, but when Crow Hill was built they went there, as it was much closer.

Charles Jr. married Madge Pierce, who taught at several schools in the area both before and after her marriage. They now reside at Spirit River.

Alice Slemp and Iris White live in the United States. Wilma Baxter makes her home in Kelowna.

Jim remained at home, and moved to Endiang with his parents when they retired there. He continued to operate the farm until his untimely death in 1972. He was very interested in 4-H work and did a great deal to help the young people with their projects.

Mrs. Charles Smyth died in 1959, and her husband in 1962. They, and Jim, are buried in the family plot in the Endiang cemetery.

JOHN and MARIA SCHILL — In the year 1930, John and Maria Schill plus their five oldest children, came from Romania to a little place called Scapa, Alberta. For the first year they lived in a little shack owned by Maria's brother, Dan Matthels. John worked for a neighboring farmer, Harold Hunt. For six months they lived on the Forrest Tucker place at Endiang, then they came back to Scapa once more, where they lived in the Garrett Zelmmer house. One winter John worked for Fred Lyxzen where the twins, Herbert and Freda, were born.

More moving — this time to the Jensen place in Sullivan Lake, where their youngest daughter, Hilda, was born. For two years John farmed three quarters of C.P.R. land in Sullivan Lake. Another move to the Louis Vedder place for two years, and from there to Halkirk where they farmed some more C.P.R. land for another two years.

Then one November day in 1943, the entire family made a big move from

sunny Alberta to beautiful British Columbia. This time they settled on a dairy farm in Pitt Meadows, farming for another nineteen years.

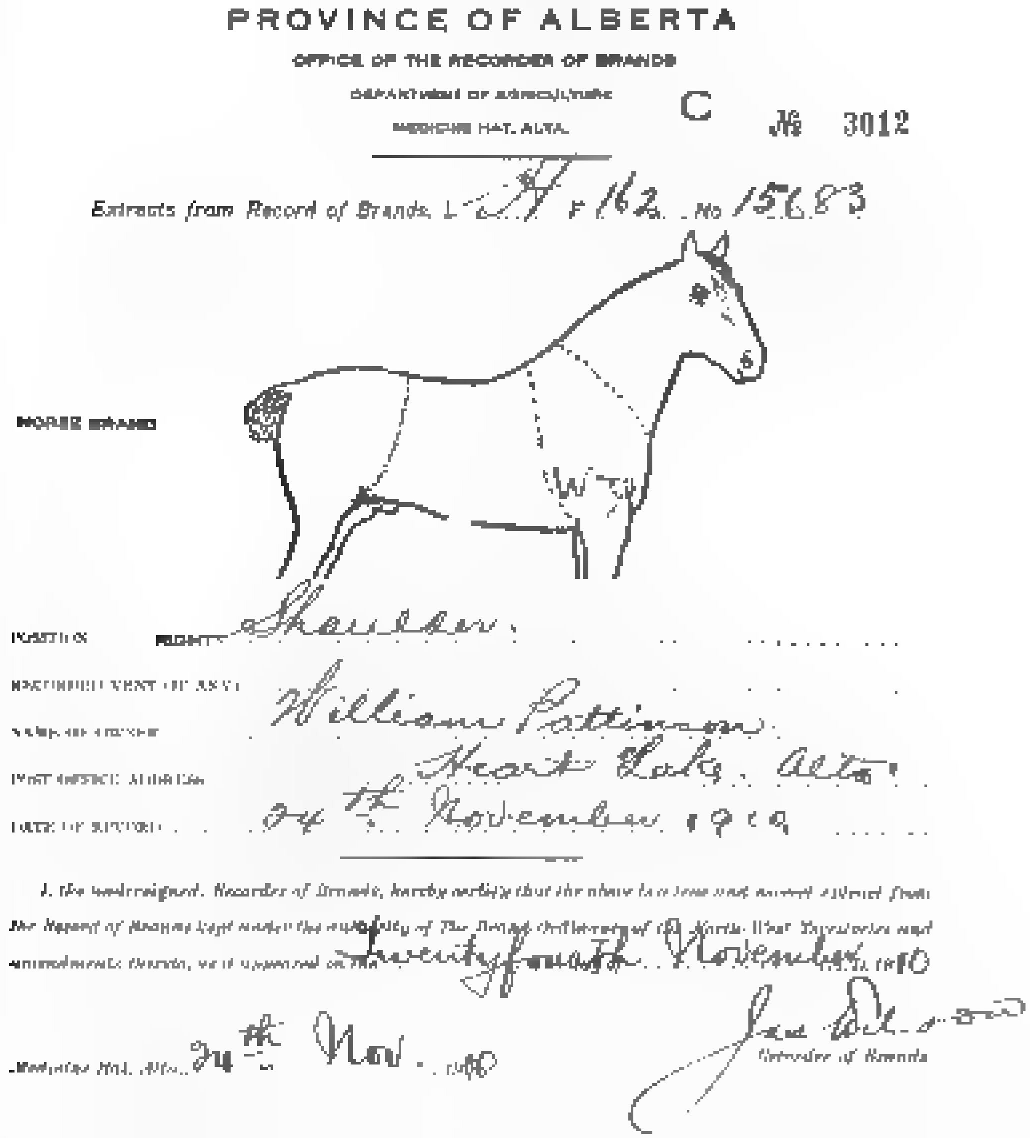
In 1962 John Schill sold his dairy farm and retired on a half-acre [illegible] Pitt Meadows.

They are both active and enjoying good health. They have a good sized vegetable garden and the most beautiful of flower gardens.

[illegible] February of 1978, John and Maria will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Little did they know what they had started! Besides their eight children, they now have twenty-one grandchildren and five great grandchildren. All are living in this area except for Hilda, who is in Fort St. James, B.C. The names of the children in order are: Gus, John, Arnold, Ella, Erna, the twins Herbert and Freda, and Hilda.

Gus is a blueberry farmer. John has an oil truck, also he and Arnold are commercial fishermen bringing in sockeye from the Fraser River. Herb is working for the school board.

BRANDS



PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

C № 3012

Extracts from Record of Brands, L [illegible] F 162 No 15683

HORSE BRAND

POSITION RIGHT Shoulder.
RECORDED VENT (IF ANY)
NAME OF OWNER William Pattinson.
POST OFFICE ADDRESS Heart Lake, Alta.
DATE OF RECORD 24th November 1910

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of The Brand Ordinance of the North-West Territories and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the Twenty fourth November 1910

Medicine Hat, Alta. 24th Nov. 1910

Recorder of Brands

PRESENT BRANDS

AJ	L.R.	F JOHNSTON	LM	R.S.H.	A.B. HANSON + SON	F	R.R.	A. WOLFERT
AJ	L.H.	B JOHNSTON	IH	[illegible]	B. MILLER	LB	R.R.	L. BOYSON
S2	L.R.	N. GREENWAY	LC	R.R.	L. LOHRMANN	AN	R.S.H.	E. NELSON
A6	R.H.	O. MILLER	4 L	R.S.H.	O. MATTHEIS	LR	L.R.	L. STORCH
JS	R.S.H.	E. SIEPPERT	OH	L.S.H.	G. HALL	XLX	R.R.	L. GUSTAFSON
KJ	R.R.	S JAMES	W	L.S.H.	H. WIMMER	3	L.R.	E. STORCH
8M	R.R.	F. MILLER	NH	L.H.	S. STRANDBERG	3	R.R.	A. STANDING
HK	L.R.	A KERN	-NH	R.R.	L. STRANDBERG	WN	R.R.	W. NELSON
IT	R.R.	C. KERN	UN	R.H.	L. UNSWORTH	MK	L.S.H.	J K. MARLOWE
T3	L.H.	G. ROBERTSON	LRE	L.H.	WIENS BROS.	X	L.R.	C. UNSWORTH
O W	R.R.	P. PAXMAN	MC-	L.R.	D CATTANACH	L S	L.H.	W.L STORCH
EJ	R.R.	J FORTNA	ZS	R.H.	D MATTIS	IS	L.H.	H. STRANDBERG
P 6	R.H.	L PAHL	UH	L.H.	DON MATTIS	OO	R.R.	A STORCH
JSP	R.R.	C PAXMAN	TF	L.R.	F FECHO	HG	R.R.	H. GUSTAFSON
MJ	L.S.H.	J MARTIN	TJ	R.H.	T. JESS	OU	R.H.	J MARLOWE
⊢7	R.H.	H PFAHL	IR	R.H.	R KAUTZ	-TS	L.R.	E STRANDBERG
IE	L.R.	E. WIEN	-7B	R.R.	C BOYD	GS	R.R.	G. STANDING
⊔	L.R.	O WRIGHT	JB	L.S.R.	K. REHILL	N-E	R.R.	H.G NELSON
JJ	L.R.	R. JOHNSTON	ZL	L.R.	L. HEIDINGER	WOB	R.R.	W. BOYSON
HL	L.R.	H HILDENBRAND	RR	L.R.	R.J. REHILL	AH	L.R.	A. HUTTON
MB	R.H.	A. BAES	JR	L.R.	J.J. REHILL	HB	L.H.	[illegible] HUTTON
BE	R.S.H.	E. BOSSERT	YM	R.R.	F. MOULDING	L I	L.R.	C HUTTON
AB	R.R.	H. BOSSERT	TF	R.S.H.	W. FAUPEL	62	L.R.	HUTTON + SONS
TZ	R.R.	K. HALVERSON	N-H	R.R.	A EVANS	S3	R.H.	SCOTT FARMS
Q4	R.R.	D WEICH	C<	R.R.	C. CORRY	JV	R.R.	W. VISTE + W. GAUGLER
3H	R.R.	A TRETTIN	C<	R.H.	R. CORRY	JV	R.S.H.	W. VISTE + W. GAUGLER
X V	L.H.	T PATTINSON	WE	L.H.	E. JOB	BJ	L.R.	R BRUNNER
LWD	R.R.	L. DIEGEL	Wb	L.H.	W. JOB	TXS	L.R.	A FECHO
NC	L.H.	F. NILL	-SO	L.R.	R. STANDING	SV	R.S.H.	S. VISTE
NZ	R.H.	L+K. GRANTHAM	VS	R.H.	J. STANDING	OJ	L.R.	C. VISTE
B	R.R.	R BOYLE	NH	R.R.	H. NELSON	JM	L.R.	M VISTE + SONS
3S	L.R.	R.-J. SCHULTZ	3I	R.R.	M. ANNAS	Y I	R.S.H.	[illegible] ANNAS
L3	L.R.	L. WIENS	TK	L.H.	W. MacKENZIE	IK	L.R.	W. T. MacKENZIE
73	R.H.	A CAMPION	DR	L.R.	R. MAYBERRY	⇇	R.R.	A. DUFF
BVB	R.H.	B. GLADDISH	-L↓	L.R.	J. LUMSDEN	WML	R.H.	W. LUMSDEN
Y	L.R.	A. BANCO	UI	L.H.	R. BANCO	KH	L.R.	H. KAUTZ
ZX	L.R.	W SNEATH	MX	R.R.	A. MIX	JS	L.S.H.	G. SCHMIEDT
TF	R.R.	H. FORTNA	A7	R.R.	[illegible] BOYSON	AQ	R.H.	DELKER BROS.

LH	LH	F HARVEY	Y4	RR	O. CHIDLEY	Z4	RH	DALLAS CHIDLEY
CO	RR	[illegible]. CHIDLEY	CH	RR	A CHIDLEY	AR	LH	T. G. IRONSIDE
JU	LSH	A.A. HUTTON	IP	LR	MORGAN TRANS. LTD.	RC	LR	D. JOHNSON

BRANDS 1915 – 1976

CL	LH	VELMA MOORE	3X	LR	G. MOLDON	MP	RR	M. L. POPE
R9	LR	J. D PARKER	3Y	RR	G. BUNBURY	LH	RR	J. WALLACE
SX	RSH	R. A. McCUISH	E7	RR	J BURNS	3→	RH	W. H. GILTNER
LH	RH	L. HANNAH	SL	RH	J H. LEWIS	LW	LH	W. D. LUMSDEN
FE	RH	F. ENGEL	LO	RSH	L. GROVE	N6	LH	N. BANGO
EE	LSH	E. PFAHL	EO	RR	E. GROVE	FK	RR	F. KAUTZ
KL	LH	A HARVEY	MC	LH	J. CATTANACH	L3D	[illegible]	R.T. ROBERTS
LY	RH	J-H. CAMPBELL	TL	LSH	O. PAHL	J-R	RR	J. H. ROBERTS
H	LR	E. SLEMP	OP	LH	A. PAHL	UL	LH	F. W. MATTIS
NL	RH	A. H. GALARNEAU	-OS	LSH	AL. DESILETS	I-R	LR	T. F. IRONSIDE + SONS
H	RR	H. BURT	5H	LH	H. H. SLEMP	EX-	LR	N. LUND
3H	RR	E. FLETCHER	3H	RR	W. KADING	CO	LR	M WALKER
AZ	LSH	H SIMON	BH	LR	MRS [illegible] HALVERSON	LY	LSH	A. E. + H. LYZEN

HORSE BRANDS

1-R	LSH	T. F. IRONSIDE + SONS	OX	RSH	R. T. ROBERTS	RR	RSH	J. H. ROBERTS
TK	LTH	J. BURNS	WO	RSH	W PATTINSON	8	LTH	L. DIEGEL
CO	RSH	C. OVERTON	C-h	RTH	[illegible]. BUNBURY	SX	RSH	R. A. McCUISH
UL	LTH	F. W. MATTIS	NH	RSH	S. STRANDBERG	WA	LTH	W. A. ANDERSON
AZ	LSH	H. SIMON	83	RTH	J. D. PARKER	C-C	RTH	JOHN CORRY

Compiled by Margaret Nelson and Mrs. Alex Wolfert

A SCENE TO PONDER

By Rita Storch

A season's growth of grass bends down, laid low
By passing wheels, the first to come this way
For many months. The maple trees still grow
And sturdy caraganas stiffly sway.
Two acres, maybe three, the trees surround,
And in the center of the yard huge stones
Lay strewn amidst tall grass upon a mound,
And [illegible] the east are sun-bleached cattle bones.

A squeaking windmill mourns the farm's demise.
It knows more than I of those who toiled
To build a better life beneath these skies.
Where have they gone? How were their efforts foiled?
As these and other questions flood my mind
I leave the lonely homestead far behind.

Reprinted from the 1974 Alberta Poetry Yearbook with permission of the author.

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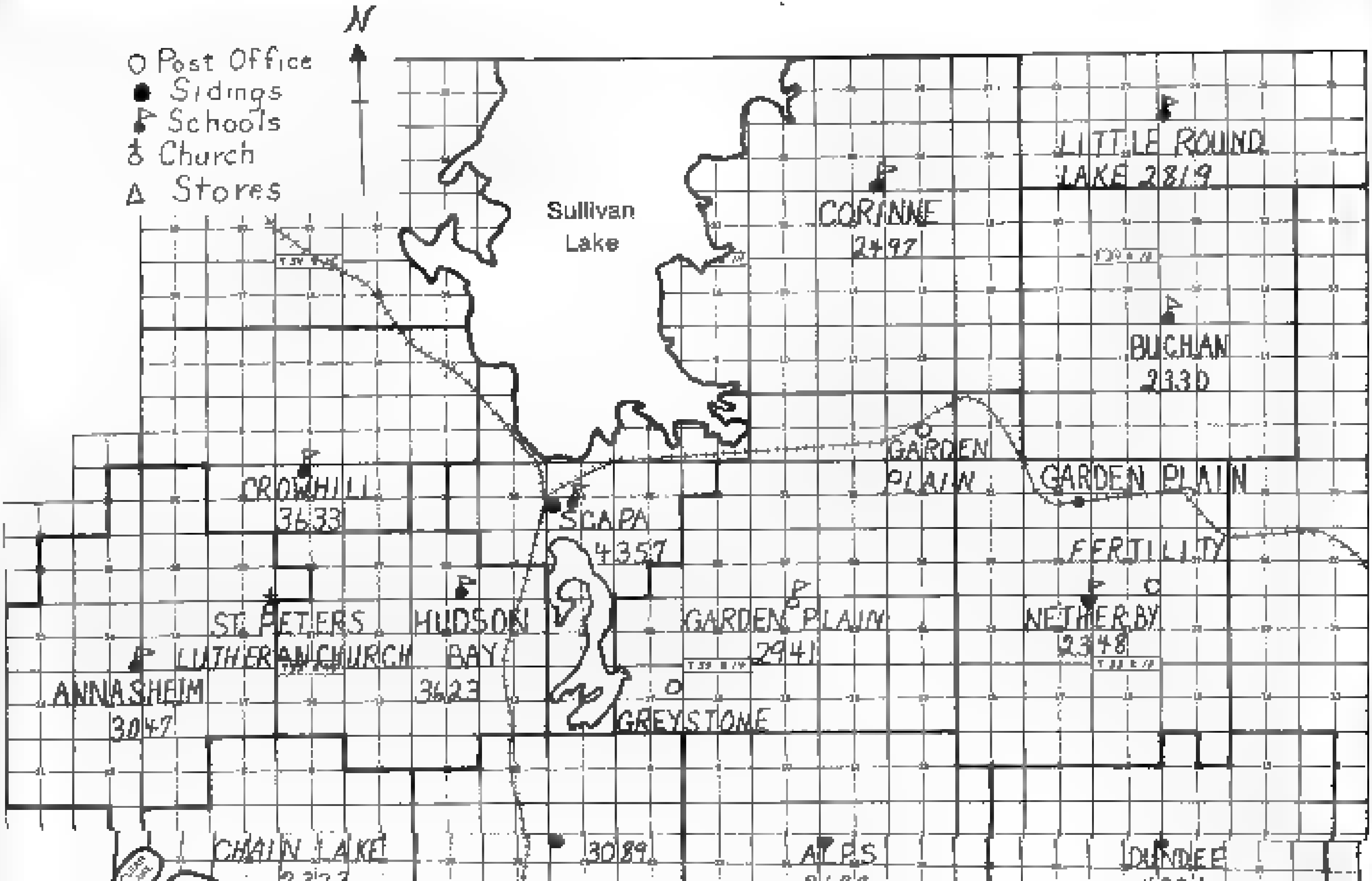
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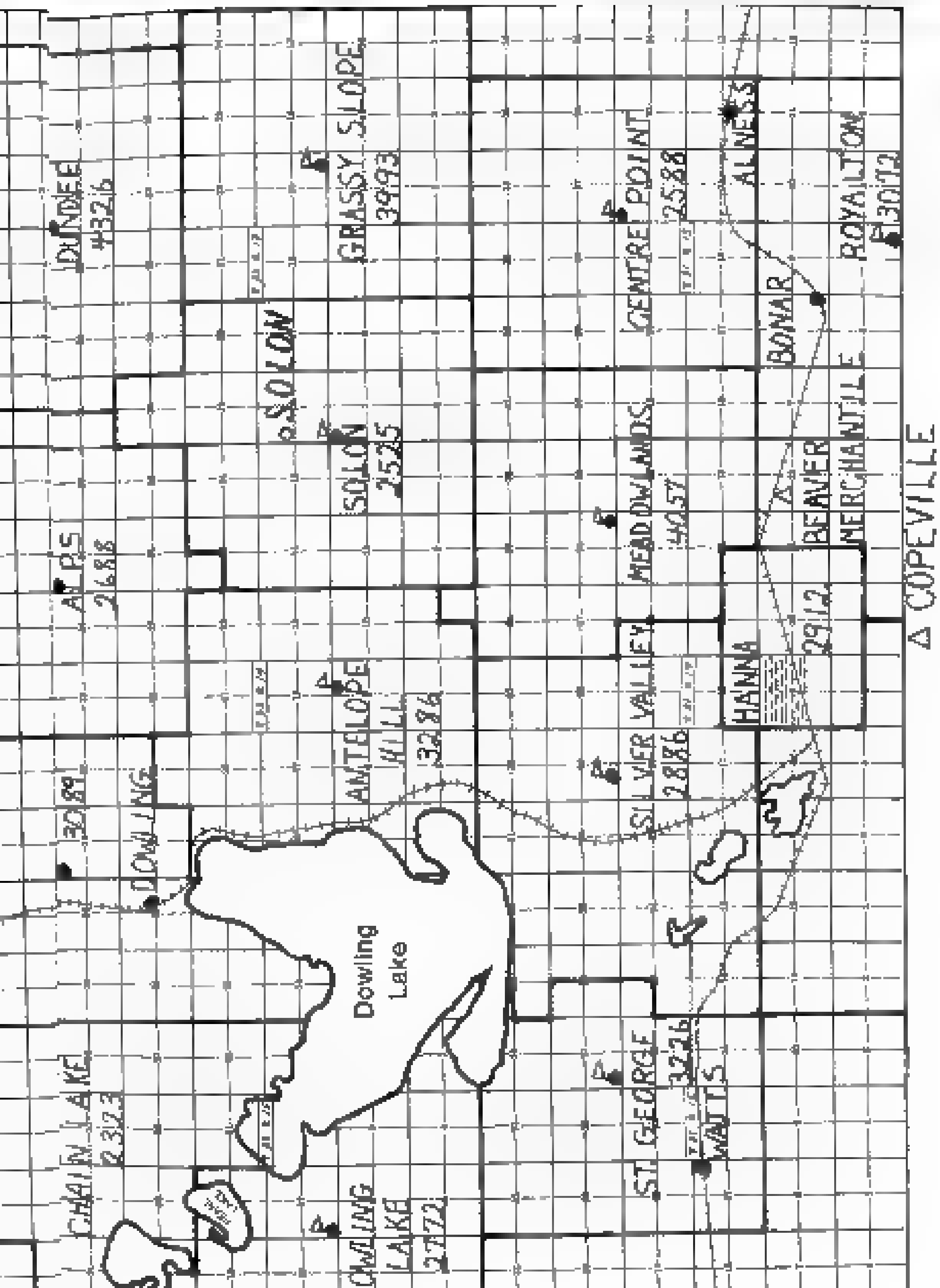
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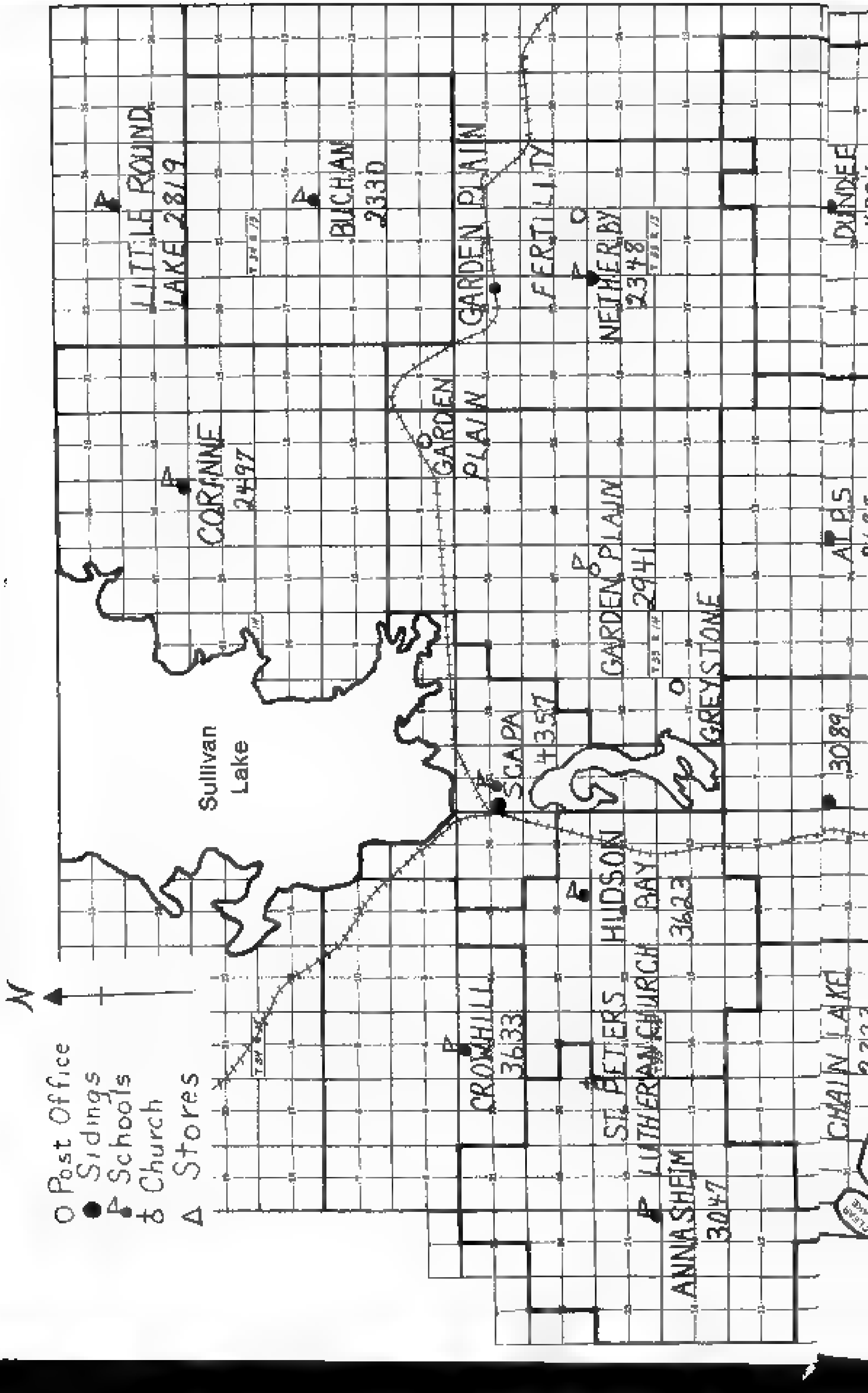
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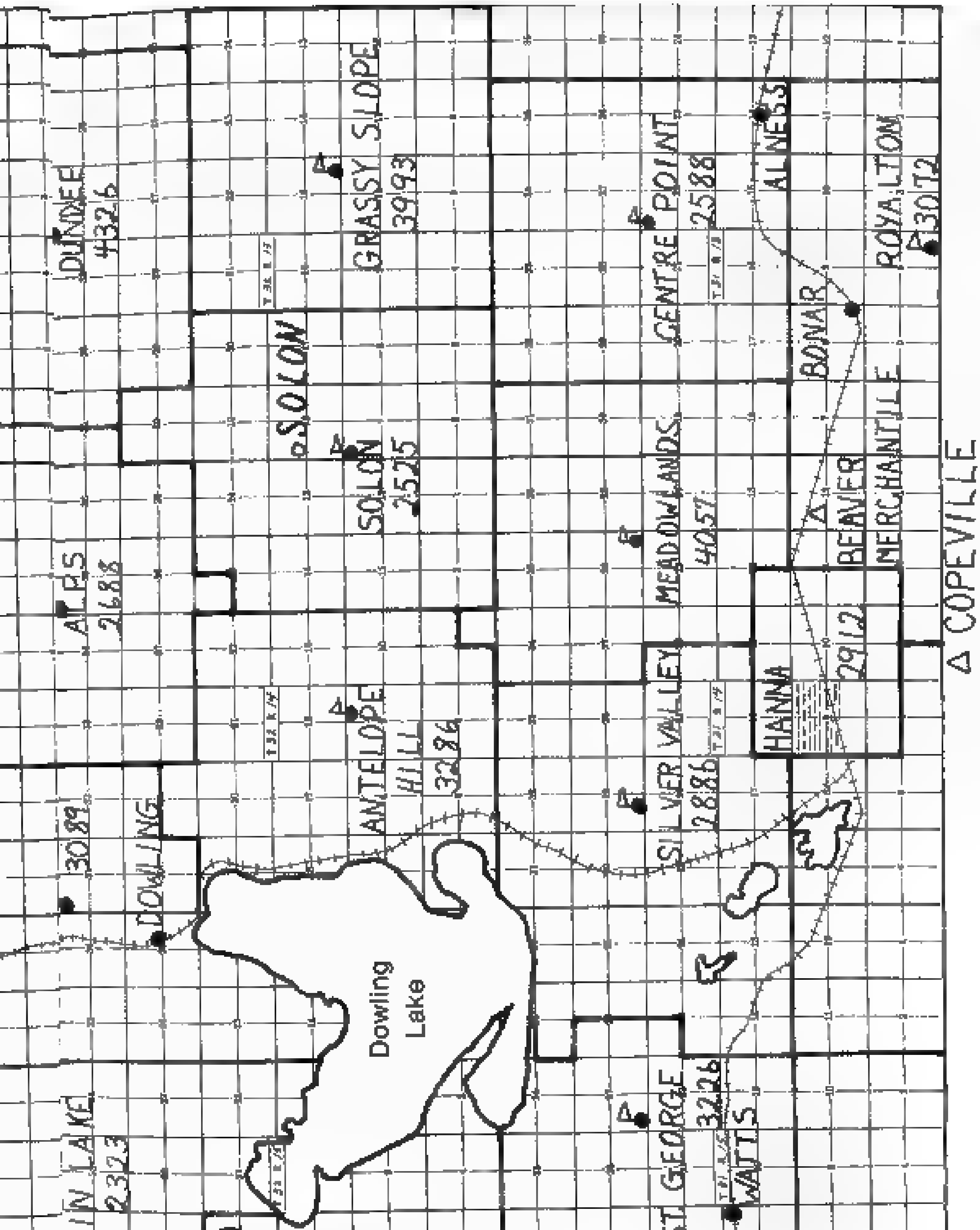
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HANNA NORTH

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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the pioneers . . . to the honored oldtimers still with us,

And to the memory of those who did not live to receive this tribute to them.

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TO THE READER

"We must write the history of our district, so that our heritage will be preserved for present and future generations, that they may know of the stamina and courage it took to turn a virgin land into what it is today." How many times and for how many years did we express these feelings to each other? It is with a guilty conscience, we say that we waited far too long to write this book. Had we taken up the challenge sooner, the task would not have been so tedious. History is being erased daily as old things are scrapped to make room for the new. Sometimes we must question if there are improvements being made, or just changes. The pioneers are also leaving us one by one and with the passing of each, there is another bit of history lost. And so, as the years pass, compiling local histories becomes more difficult.

We have done our best to get accurate accounts of people and events that are the history of the large area north of Hanna, which we have attempted to cover in this book. This wasn't always possible. Truth has only to change hands a few times to become "fiction," and many a pioneer story is no longer first hand. You will find mistakes, for they are easily made. You will find omissions, and they may offend you. We apologize [illegible] this has happened, it was unintentional.

The reward of writing a book such as Hanna North, [illegible] knowing that it brings pleasure to its readers. May you enjoy scanning these pages and may you find your own personal niche tucked away in a story or picture. If you do, then we have accomplished our purpose.

The Book Committee

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO

Each and everyone who contributed stories, poems and pictures. All those who patiently answered our many questions, in person, by phone and letter. [illegible] was your information that gave us a foundation to work from. Also the ones who helped us with maps and feature stories, the typists and proof readers.

We thank those, like Mrs. Pearl Rueteman, who shared their previous experience with us, and started us out in the right direction. Our Editor, Mrs. Jean James, who read, re-wrote, re-read and organized our jumbled pages into presentable form. The Scaps Athletic Assoc. for the use of the hall. The Editor of the Hanna Herald for giving us access to the Herald files and the material therein. The Glenbow Institute, Calgary and the Provincial Archives in Edmonton for allowing us information from their files. The Hanna Stockyards Ltd. for unknowingly providing us with a place to swap our stories and information. Last but by no means least, those who helped us with our finances.

THESE BUILT THE BOOK

School district representatives and assistants: Louis Unsworth, Bob Rehill, Norman Greenway, Bill Storch, Walter Viste, Tom Pattinson, Herb Wimmer; Inga Strandberg, Edna Weich, Earl Burt, Margaret Hage, Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Mrs. Johnston, Bill MacKenzie, Florence Storch, Margaret Nelson, Fred Johnston, Freda Viste, Cliff Kern; Austin Ludlow, Alex Wolfert, Bill Curtis, Albert Hutton, Frances Unsworth. Not present for the picture: Fred Nill, Ida Grosse, Doris Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fortna, Orpha Wolfert, Mrs. Bill Mackenzie, Harold Strandberg.

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Executive of Hanna North Book Club: Austin Ludlow, Vice-President; Bill Storch, President; Norman Greenway, Secretary-Treasurer; Jean James, Editor.

NEW HORIZONS COMMITTEE

New Horizons Committee in charge of the production of this book: Norman Greenway, Austin Ludlow, Harry Lumsden, Bill Mackenzie, Bill Curtis, Bill Storch; Erbin Grove, Winnie Grove, Frances Unsworth, Margaret Nelson. The New Horizons Committee wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Federal Department of Health through the New Horizons Program for Senior Citizens, and from the Alberta Culture Heritage Resources Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

One short year ago, Hugh Campbell began working diligently with us, to compile the history of "Hanna North." His untimely death on July 3, 1976, took from our midst a friend whose sense of humor inspired us to keep going when the hill looked too big to climb.

"To know Hugh Campbell, was to know a gentleman, one of God's gentlemen."

CHAPTER I

THEY WERE HERE FIRST

Between the Battle and the Red Deer Rivers, a broad plateau stretches eastward to the Saskatchewan border. The territory covered in this book, the land immediately south and east of Sullivan Lake, ■ undulating prairie, rising to hills 2800 feet in altitude, sloping to Sullivan and Dowling Lakes, 2651 and 2595 feet respectively. These lakes, as well as numerous smaller bodies of water, are shallow and alkaline. Springs, a few creeks and small sloughs provide fresh water.

Thick grass called prairie wool covered the land. It was ideal pasture for the buffalo which the Cree and Blackfoot hunted, but in spring and fall it was tinder dry, and carelessness or lightning caused many prairie fires which destroyed everything in their path. The only trees which survived were a few clumps of willow and poplar which ringed the sloughs.

There was no white settlement here before the twentieth century. Explorers who followed the rivers skirted the area. There were no trading posts, no missions, no R.C.M.P. outposts. Palliser's expedition crossed the area on its way from the Neutral Hills to the Hand Hills; reported outcroppings of coal, and suggested that except for a few fertile spots, the land was unfit for cultivation. It remained an Indian hunting ground, and signs of their life style can still be seen.

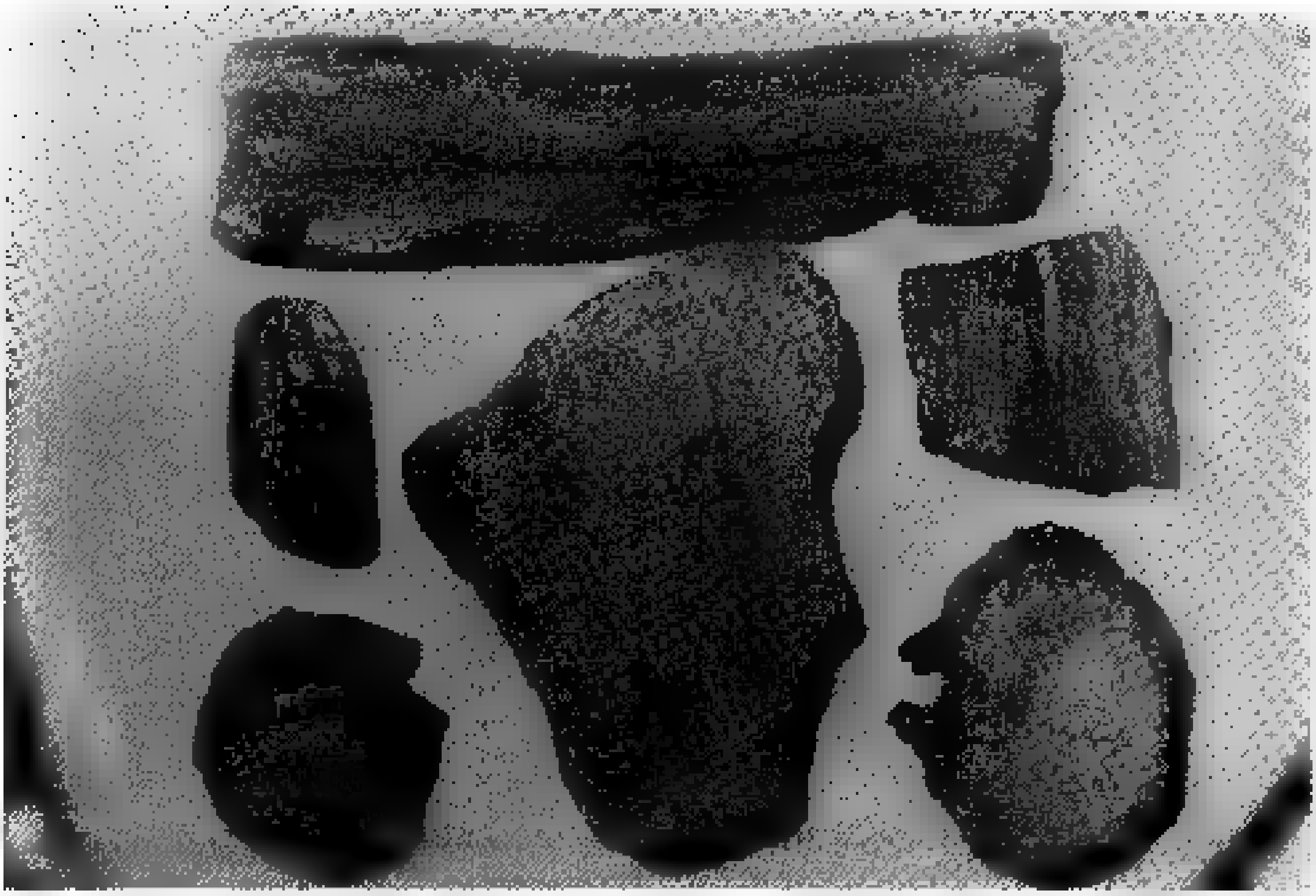
Several years ago there was an exceptionally heavy spring run-off, which cut a deep gully between two hills on the south side of Dowling Lake. Amateur archeologists discovered three distinct layers of buffalo bones and skulls, evidence that this may have been the location of ■ buffalo jump. Local enthusiasts declare that arrowheads can be picked up almost anywhere. The pictures on the following pages include artifacts from the collections of Harold Strandberg, Tom Pattinson, Bill Curtis, Al Werner, Bill Blois, Larry Bietelspacher, Rose Schissler, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Viste.

Mr. Harold Strandberg submitted the following information:

There are records of when the first men of European origin came to this area. The North American Indians were here before them; when their ancestors arrived will probably never be known. But they, too, left their records; there is evidence that they were here about ten thousand years ago.

Buffalo skulls dug out of bank along Dowling Lake.

Some of the older stone projectile points which appear on these pages date back to 7000 - 9000 B.C. These have been found in this area, along with grooved hammer stones, scrapers, knives, and various other tools, made of different types of stone, some not native to this area. The corner-notched and side-notched points were the later styles, made when bows and arrows were being used. Pottery shards have also been found; some bowls were plain, but most of them had



Dinosaur bones and petrified wood found locally.

designs on the outer rim. Iron points have also been picked up. These are of much later origin, when the Fur Companies started trading with the Indians.

Some of the Indian campsites can be seen. They consist of circles of stone, eighteen to twenty feet in diameter; at some sites the circles are only six or eight feet in diameter. The smaller ones are believed to have been used before the Indians had horses.

Fire pits can still be located. They are usually close to water and some were used to heat stones for the sweat baths.

Buffalo trails are still visible on some of the uncultivated land; and there are rubbing stones, worn smooth after thousands of years of use.

The Plains Indians lived a nomadic life, and did little, if any, damage to the land.

Photo No. 1 is a sample of some of the oldest projectile points found in this area. Those with the tapered base are believed to be the oldest, dating back to about 7000-9000 B.C. These are the 'Agate Basin' type.

Those with the square base are the 'Scottsbluff' type, also named 'Eden' or 'Alberta' points. The longest one in this photo is 4⅝ inches long. These were used about 5000-7000 B.C.

Photo No. 2. Those with the notch at the base are known as the McKean type; they were used about 2000-3000 B.C. Those in the bottom row with the base partly notched are dated about 1500-2000 B.C.

Photo No. 3. These points, corner-notched as well as having a notch at the base, are known as the Oxbow type. They date back to about 1500-3000 B.C. The longest point is 3¾ inches long, and could have been used as a spear point or a knife.

Photo No. 4. The large point which is about 4¼ inches long was probably used for a spear. The smaller ones may have been used as arrow points. The others could have been either spears or arrows. Date, about 1000 B.C.

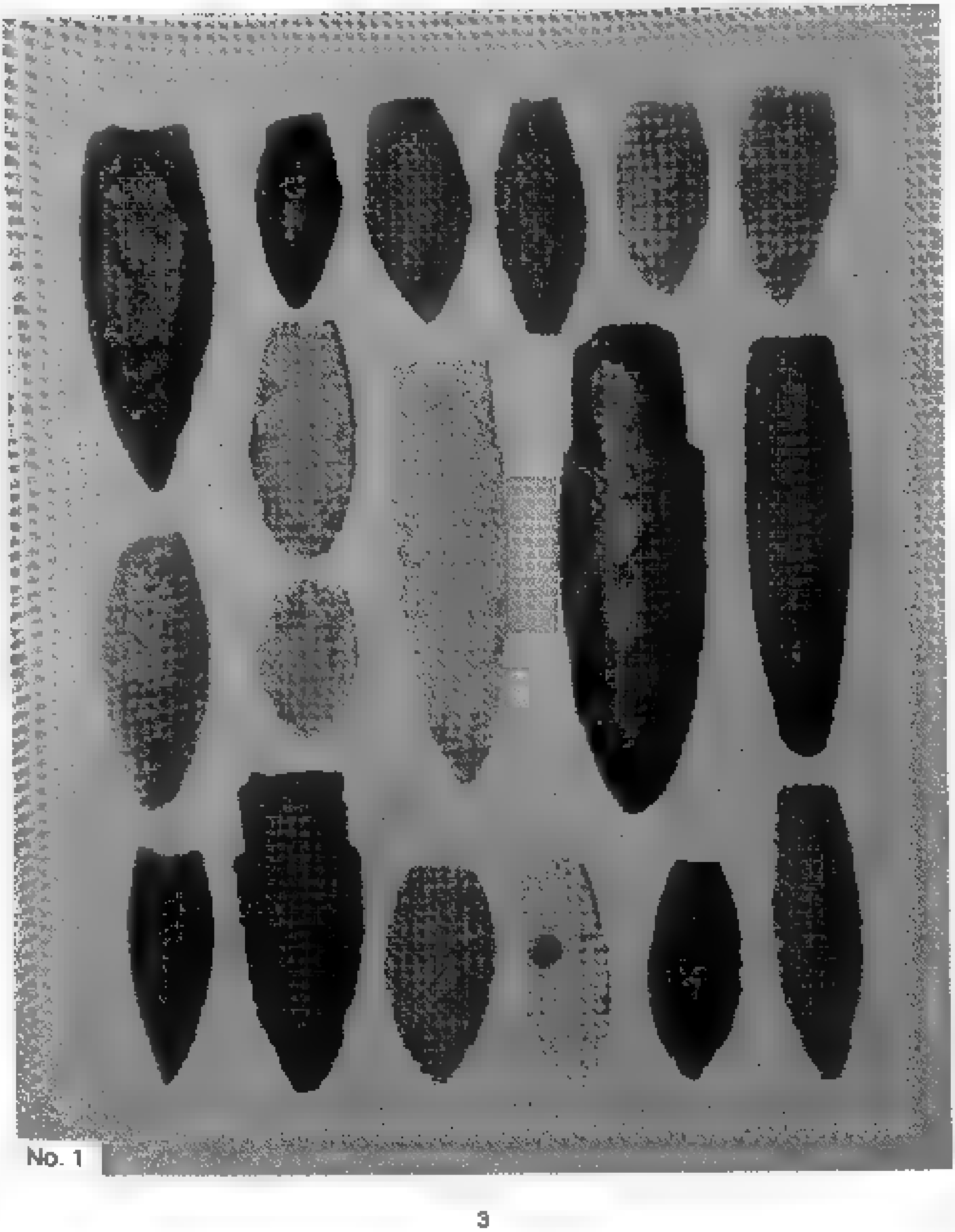
Photo No. [illegible]. These side-notched points are the later type. They were

probably all used for arrows. Very few of this type are more than one inch long; some are less than a half-inch. The bottom artifact, which has a hole in it, is made of glassy black obsidian. It is about four inches long and could have been used as a knife or scraper.

Photo No. 6. These are grooved hammer stones; they vary in size and shape. The stone with no groove, top centre, was held in the hand and used as a pounder. It is worn very smooth.

Photo No. 7. This shows a variety of stone tools, scrapers, knives and drills.

Photo No. 8. This also shows a variety of tools, some made of iron, two arrow points and one large spear point made from a double-edged I.K. Sorbi knife, about ten inches long. The artifact in the top left corner is a spokes shaver made from a piece of Hand Hills agate. The stone with the hole in it may have been used as a pendant. The others could have been used as knives or scrapers.



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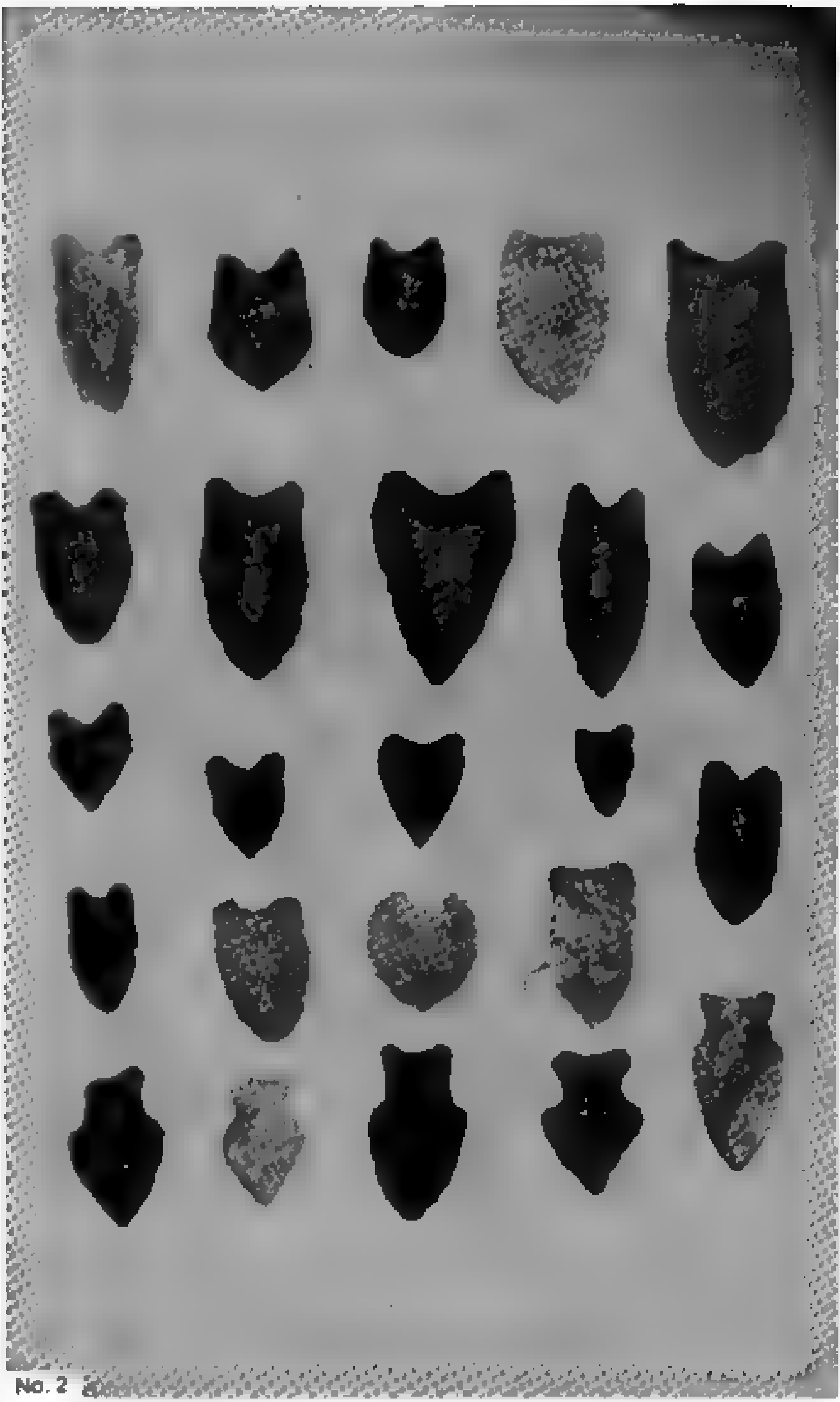

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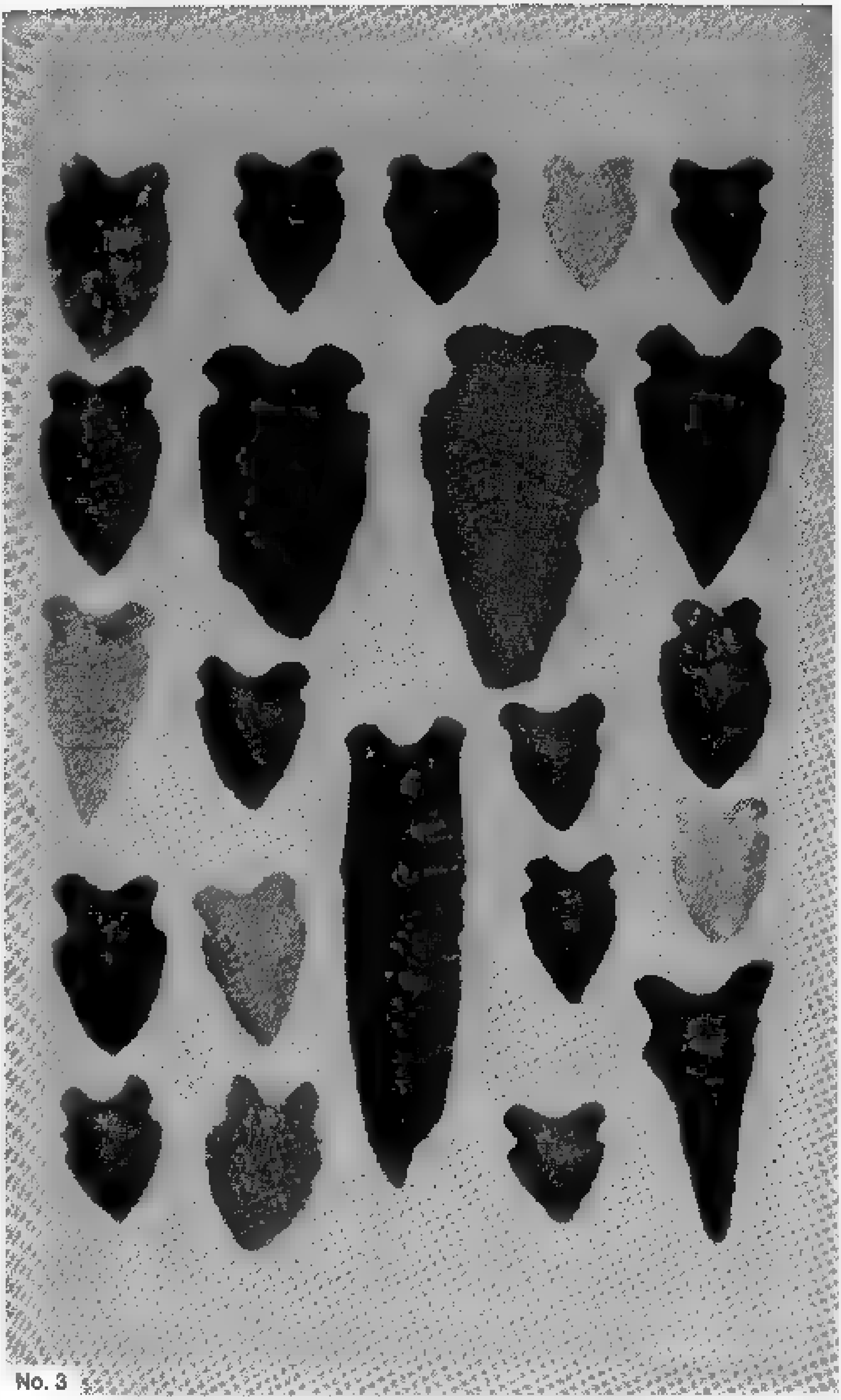

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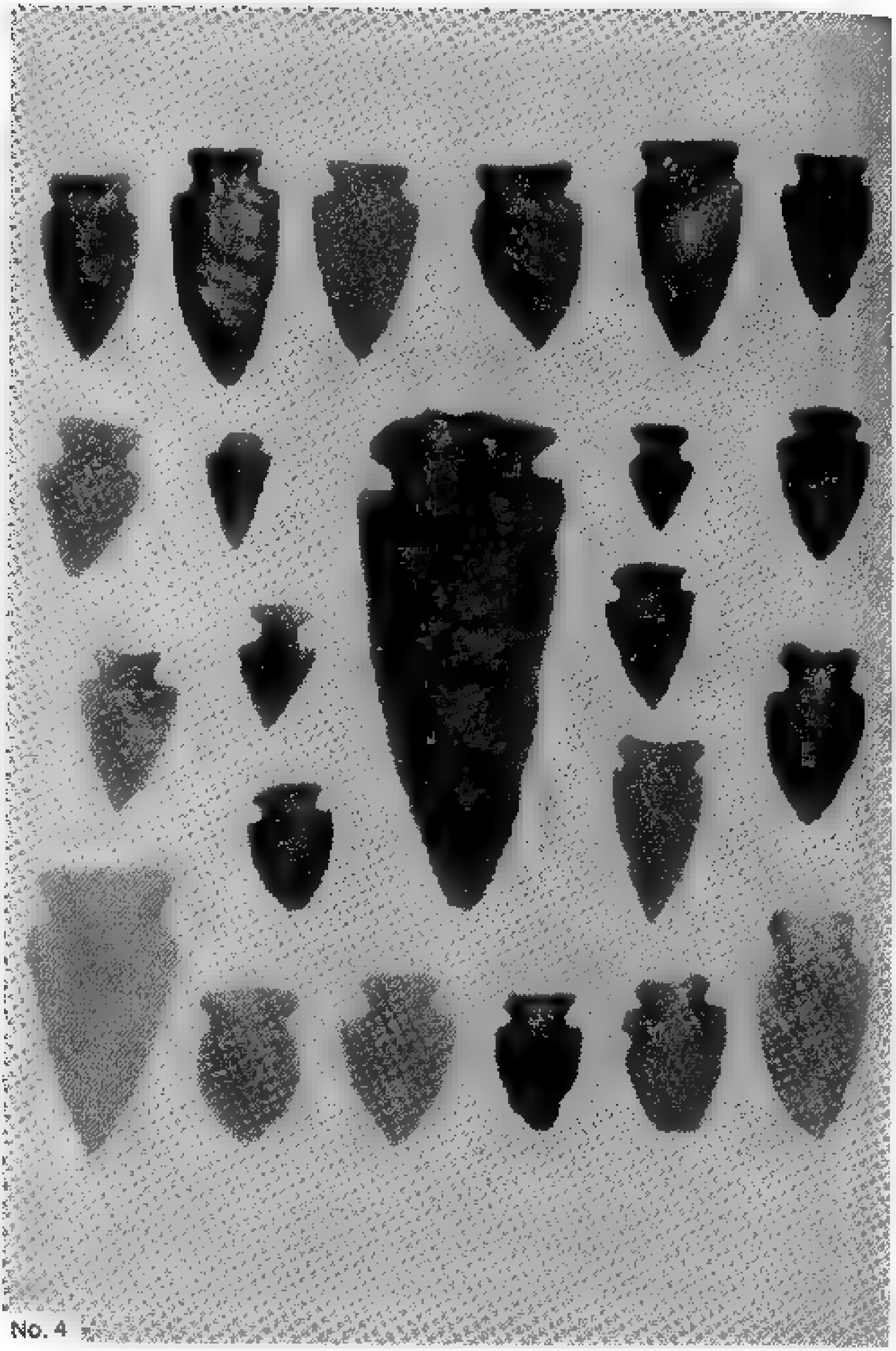

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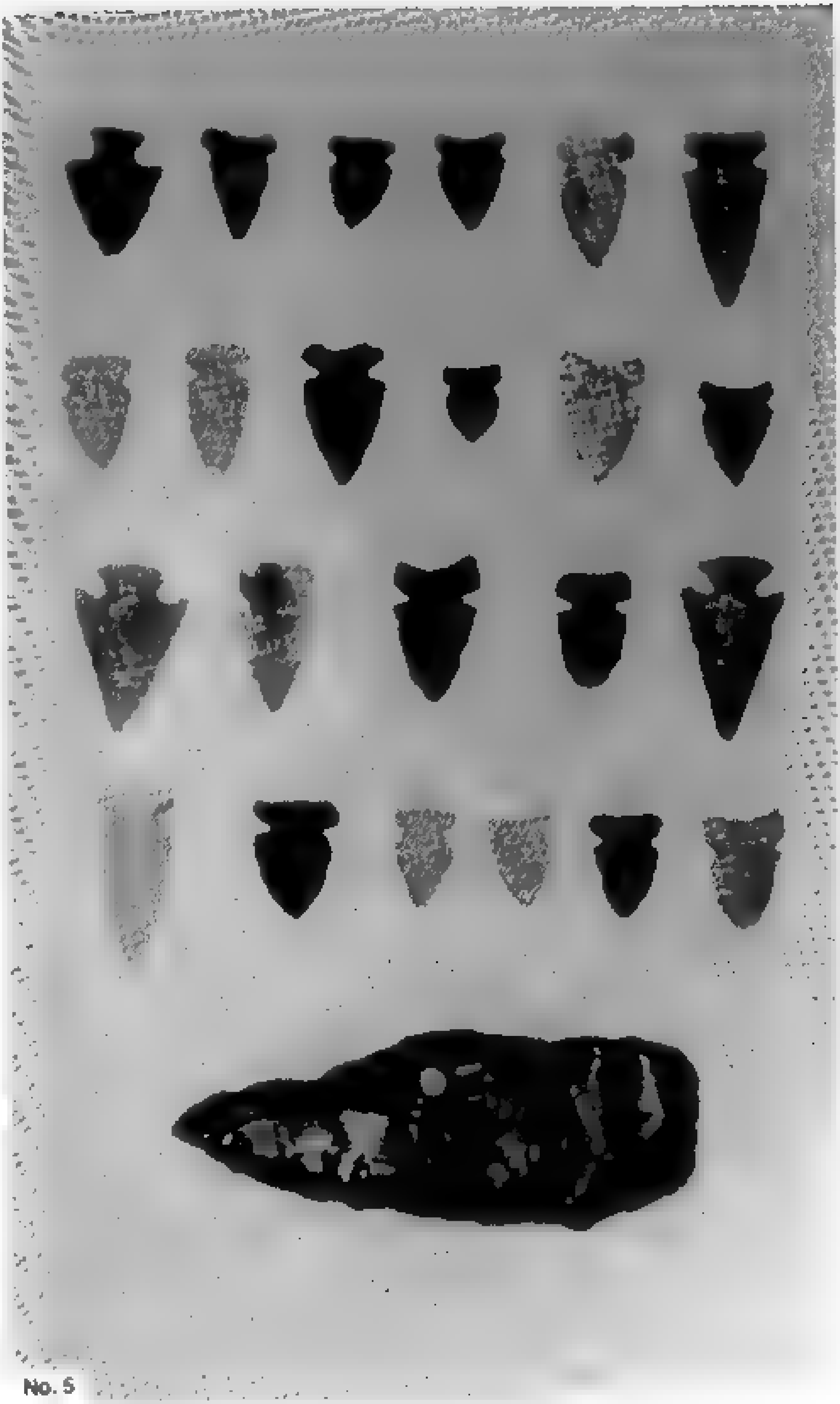

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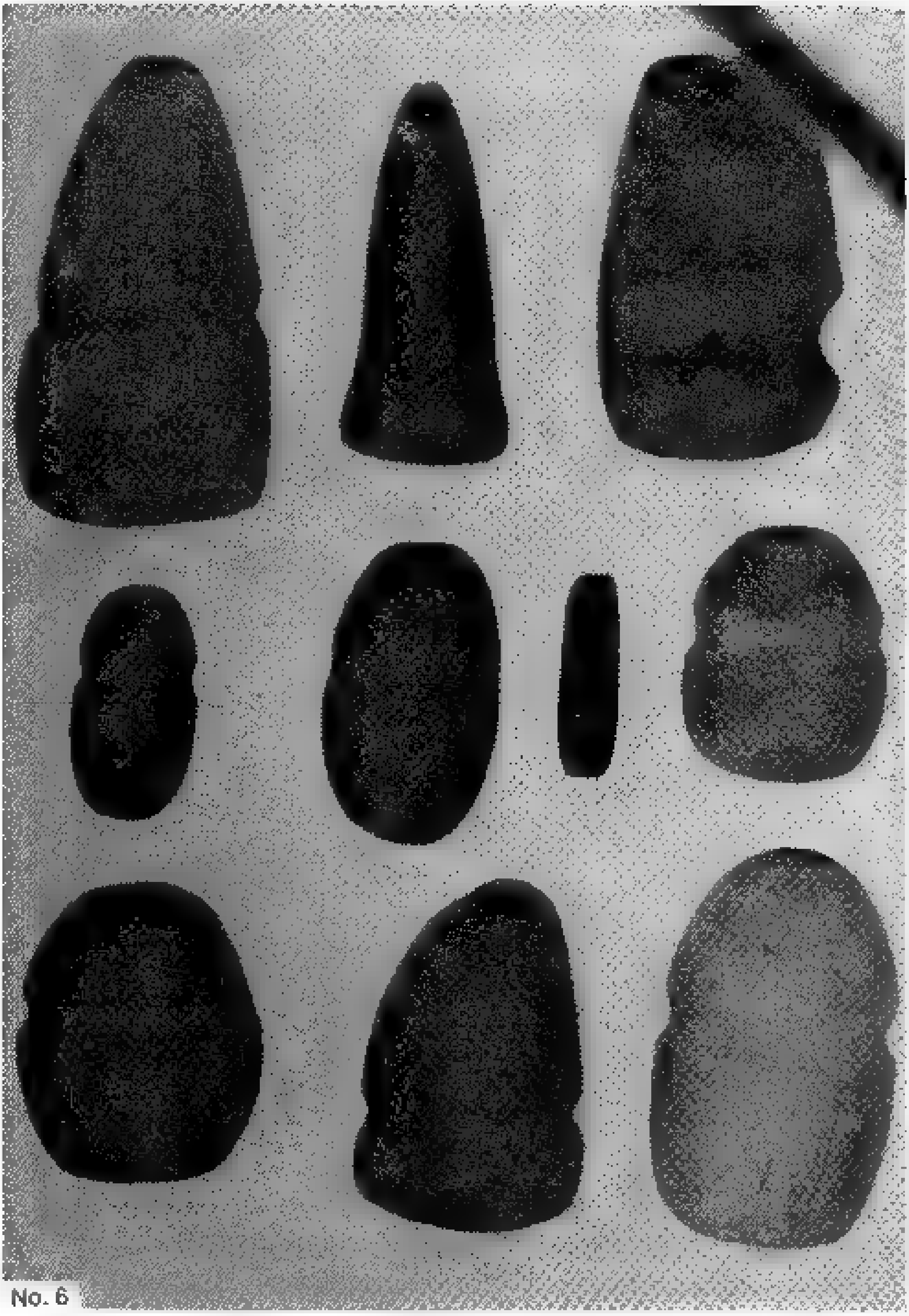

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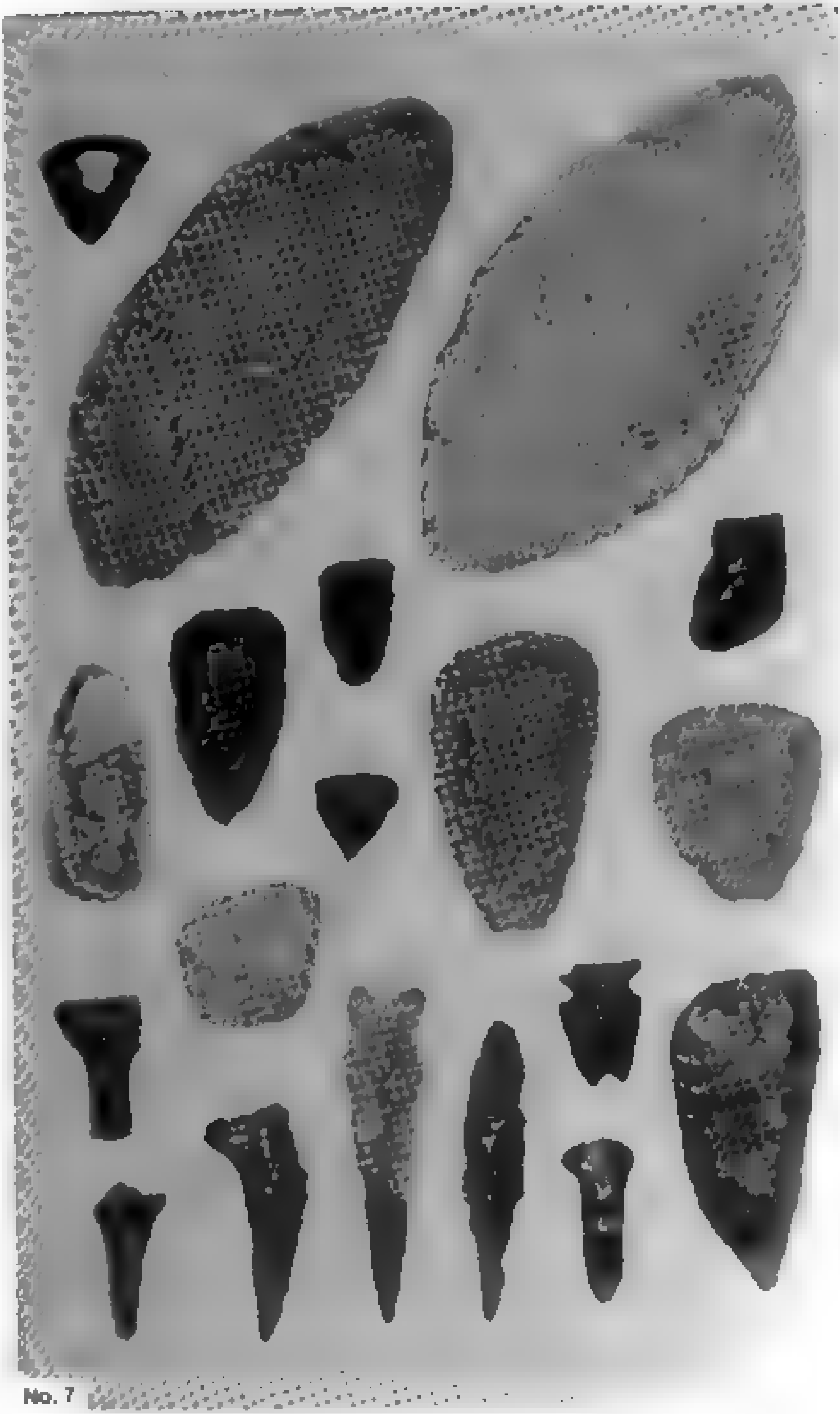

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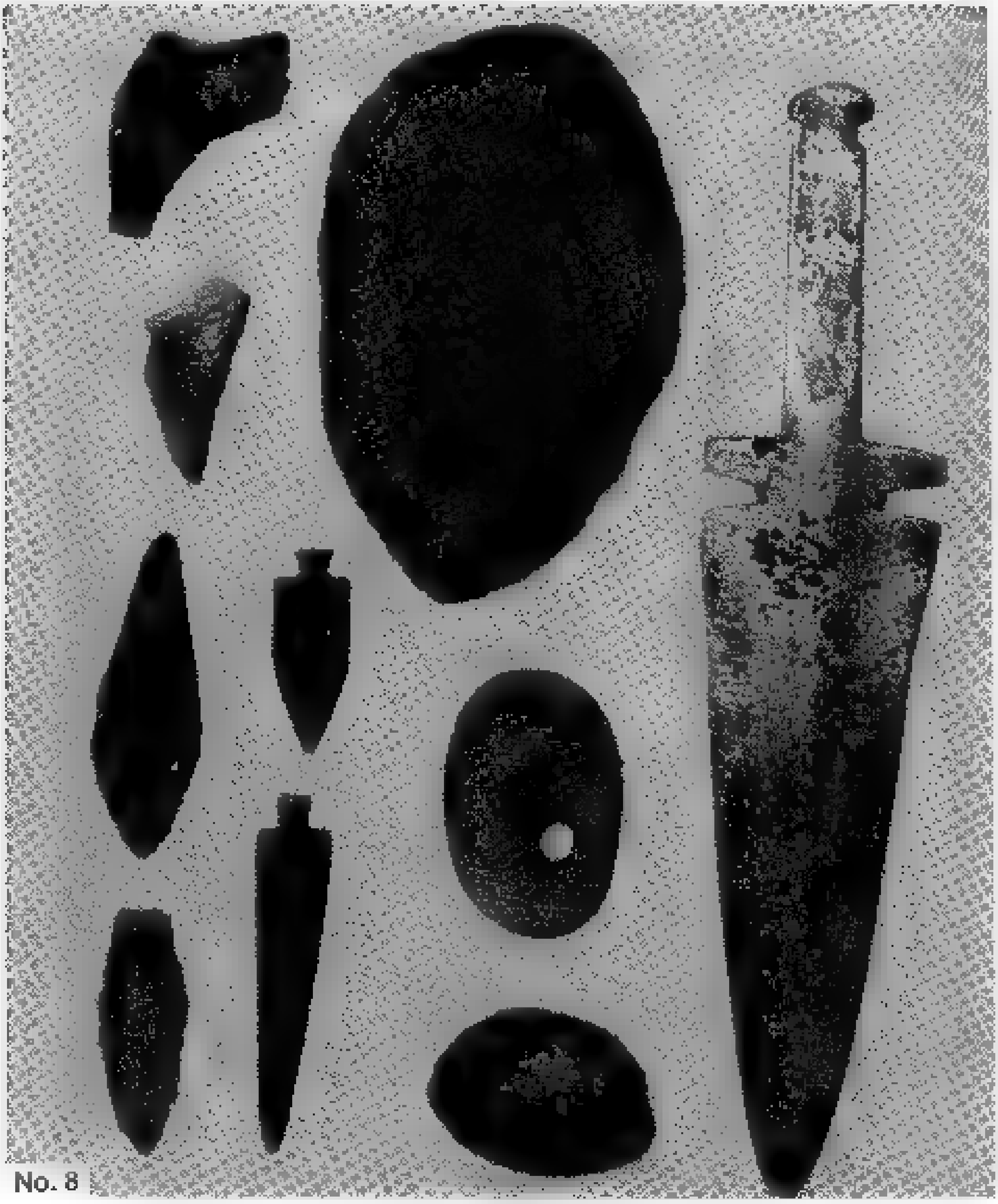


No. 8

CHAPTER II

HOW THE LAND WAS SURVEYED

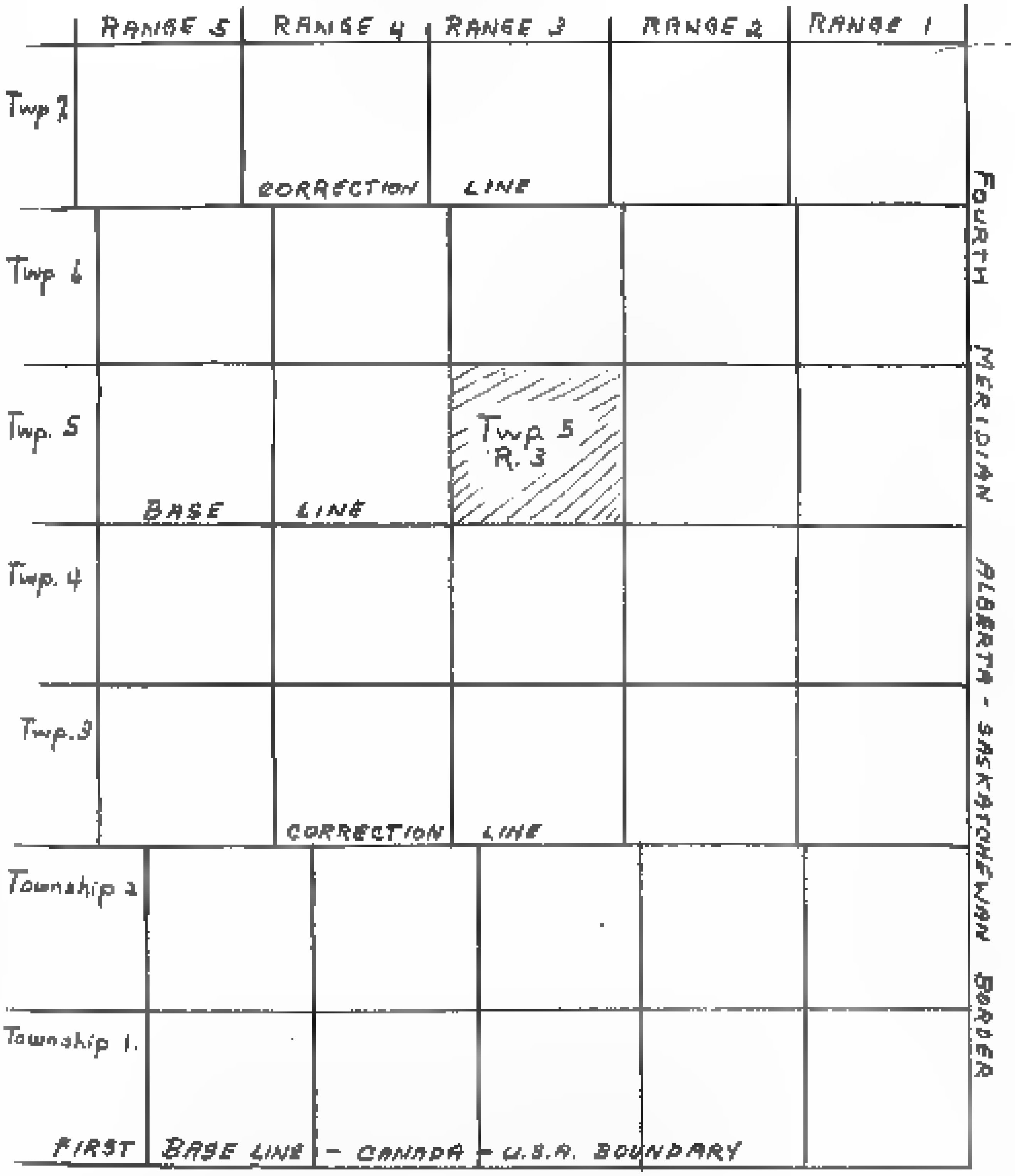
The territory covered in this book includes parts of townships 31, 32, 33, and 34 in ranges 13, 14, 15, and 16. Each quarter section of land has its own description, for example, the south-west quarter of section 19, township 34, range 15, west of the fourth meridian. This may be abbreviated thus: the SW ¼ of sec 19, twp 34, range 15, W4; or simply SW 19-34-15-W4. As all land locations mentioned herein are west of the fourth meridian, W4 has been omitted from the land descriptions.

Land numbers are meaningless unless one understands the survey system used in Western Canada, which actually marked off the area like a huge checkerboard. In essence, draw lines north and south, six miles apart. Call these strips ranges and number them westward from the meridian. Cross them with east-west lines the same distance apart; call the resulting squares townships. Divide each township into thirty-six sections, each section into four quarters.

The fourth meridian is the Alberta-Saskatchewan border; the first base line the forty-ninth parallel. Successive base lines were parallel to the American boundary, and twenty-four miles apart. At one-mile intervals west from the meridian, lines were extended twelve miles north and twelve miles south from the base line. Because of the curve of the earth, lines originating at one base line did not meet exactly those from the next base line. The variation could be as little as six feet, or as much as a mile and a half, depending on the distance from the meridian. The east-west road allowance where the jog occurred was called a correction line.

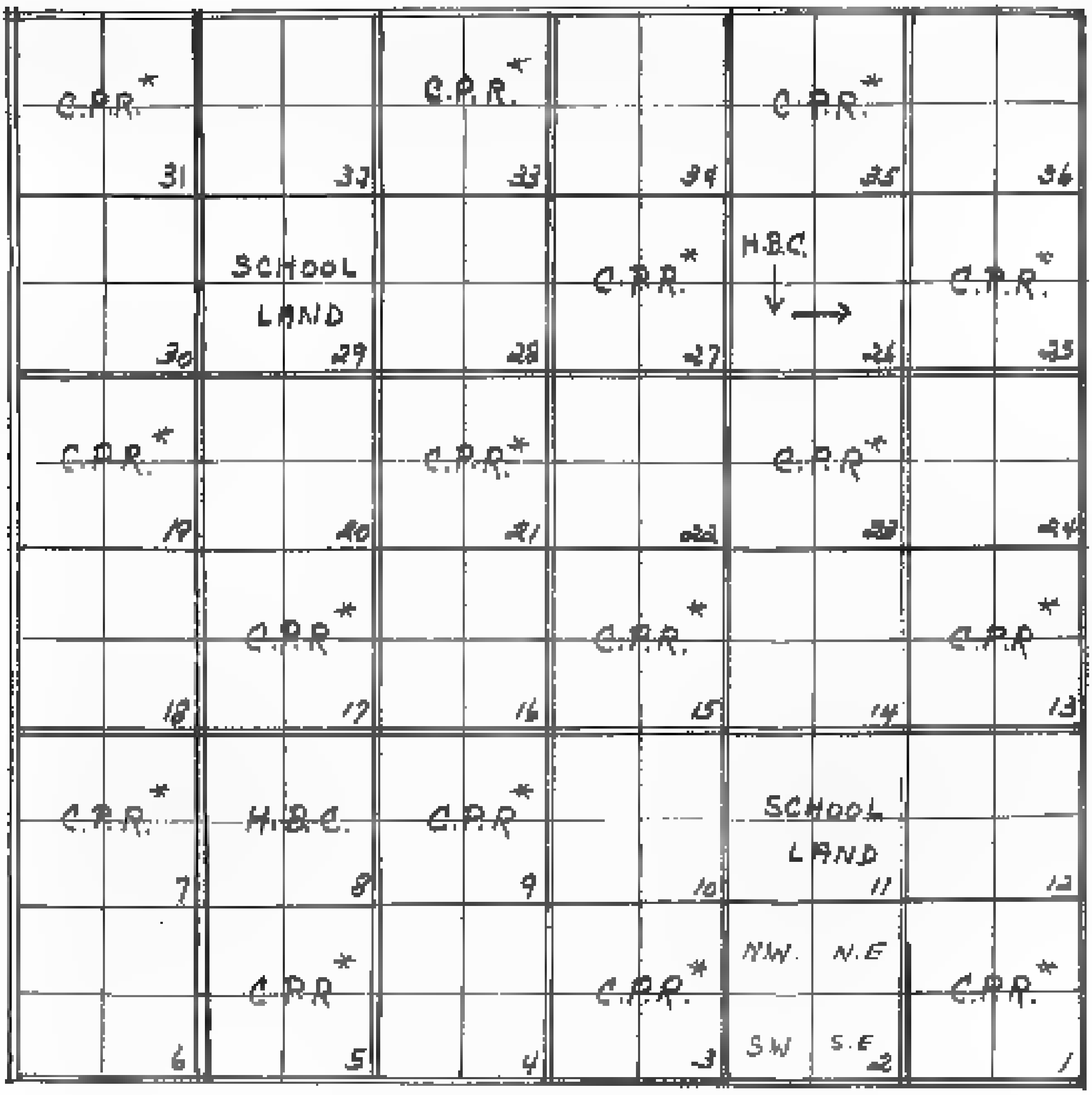
Road allowances, sixty-six feet wide, were laid out one mile apart running north and south, two miles apart going east and west. The overall picture would look like this:

SKETCH No. 1



Each section in a township was given a number, and divided into quarters which contained 160 acres each.

ONE TOWNSHIP



* C.P.R. Land was located within 20 miles of right-of-way — not in all townships.

On paper, the plan was clear-cut and simple; in reality, it involved a great deal of work. Pioneer surveyors were based in Winnipeg, and came west during the summers to plant their markers and make detailed notes regarding the soil, minerals, and wildlife of the area. Hampered by rough terrain, storms and smoke from prairie fires, the surveyors travelled hundreds of miles, climbing hills and circling sloughs and crossing rivers, to chart the range and township lines. In the north-east corner of every quarter-section they drove into the ground a long metal rod with the land number marked on it. So that they would be easier to locate, the rods were marked with a trench and four square holes.

During the winters, the surveyors worked in Winnipeg, transferring to maps the exact location of lakes, water courses, and any trails which were visible at the time the survey was made. The surveyors' notes, preserved in the Provincial Archives, indicate that this area was surveyed by E. Bray in 1883 and J. K. McLean in 1884. Here are their comments:

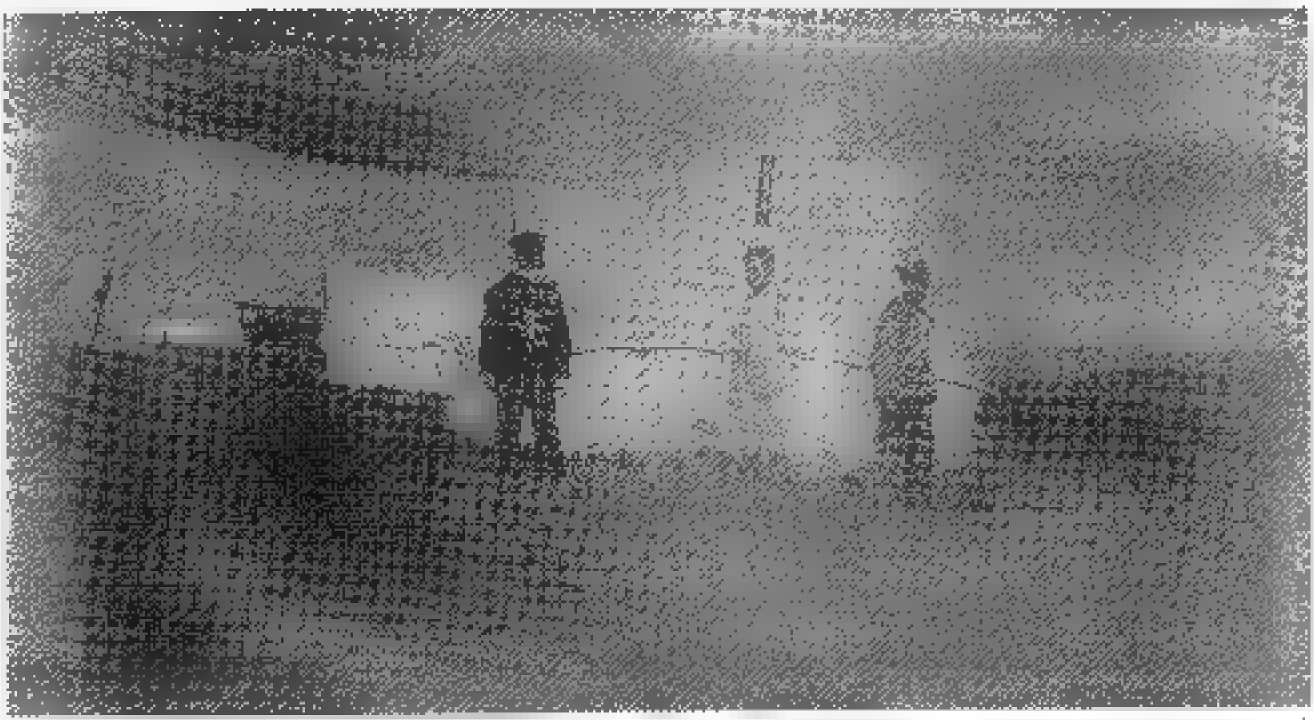
RANGE 13 — Twp. 31: Rolling and undulating prairie; clay loam soil; clay

subsoil. Class 2. In section 36 the east line crosses a small creek, but generally water is scarce. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, gently rolling prairie, with a fair soil. Creeks, flowing south, cross the line in sections 31, 34 and 36. (1883). Slightly rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. Class 2. Several large clear-water ponds were crossed by the west line, and the east line crosses creeks in sections 25 and 36. (1884).

Twp. 33: Rolling prairie. The western portion class 2; the eastern, being very stony, class 3. Creeks and ponds in sections 6, 19, 13 and 36. (1884). South, rolling; fair soil; creeks in sections 1, 3 and 6. (1883).

Twp. 34: Rolling prairie; clay loam soil; clay subsoil. The eastern portion is very stony, class 3; the western, class 2. In section 19 there is a cut clay bank flat, without alluvial soil. There are occasional small marshes, and a large clear water pond in sections 6 and 7. (1884).



Picture of a surveyor's camp, taken and developed by the Lund Family. The men in the picture are the surveyor, the cook and Andy Alpaugh.

RANGE 14 — Twp. 31: Broken and hilly prairie, with numerous intervening ponds of fresh water. A small creek, now (19th August) merely a succession of pools, runs south-east through section 7. The soil is clay loam, with clay subsoil. Class 3. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, hilly prairie, with a good soil. A number of marshes were crossed by the line. (1883). Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil, class 3. A bay, from a lake which extends several miles west, occupies sections 18 and 19, as well as a portion of 6 and 7. (1884).

Twp. 33: Broken and hilly prairie, clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. Section 6 is a level clay flat. In sections 1, 19 and 30 there are several large clear water ponds. (1884). South, hilly prairie, but good soil. Several marshes. (1883).

Twp. 34: Except for a strip of rolling prairie along the east side, the whole is in Sullivan's Lake. (1884).

RANGE 15 — Twp. 31: Except a few sections of first-class prairie near the north-west corner, this township is class 3. An alkaline flat takes up the south-west portion, the remainder being broken and hilly. A creek in section 6, a large pond of alkaline water in 7, and several smaller ponds elsewhere. (1884).

Twp. 32: North, rolling and hilly prairie, rising eastwards. In section 31 are arms of a large lake. (1883). A large lake occupies the south-east quarter of this township. An alkaline valley, dotted with small lakes, runs north-west from this

lake. The country is broken and hilly to the north, with rolling prairie towards the west. (1884).

Twp. 33: Very broken and hilly prairie. Clay loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 3. The north-east and south-west corners are low, and have ponds of water, but the rest of the township is high and dryer. (1884).

RANGE 16 — Twp. 33: An alkaline flat, dotted with small lakes, extends from the south-east to the north-west corner. East of this flat it is hilly prairie, with sand loam soil, clay subsoil. Class 2. Large bodies of water in sections 6, 30 and 31, the greater part of 30 being under water. (1884). South, rolling prairie with good soil. A long lake extends north-west into this township from the south-east corner. (1883).

It is notable that nowhere in these reports are trees mentioned; only in the summaries of townships further north, or nearer the Hand Hills to the south, do the surveyors speak of 'occasional patches of poplar or willow scrub', or 'small timber, suitable only for fuel.'

CHAPTER III

FREE LAND

When the Canadian government took over the administration of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, it became responsible for a vast empty expanse stretching from Hudson's Bay and the tiny province of Manitoba on the east to British Columbia on the west, and from the American boundary to the Arctic Ocean. In the United States, settlement was pushing ever westward, forcing ranchers off their open rangeland, and there was a very real danger that the Americans would try to annex the western Canadian plains in the same way that they had taken Texas and California from the Spanish. It was imperative that the Canadian government establish its sovereignty over the area; the scattered trading posts and the thin ribbon of C.P.R. steel were not enough. The empty spaces had to be filled.

Not only would settlement of the West establish Canada's claim, but it would provide business for the railroad, moving settlers in, hauling their produce out, and adding to the economic well-being of the country as a whole. But before the land could be offered to immigrants, it had to be surveyed, for the Canadian government had other promises to fulfill.

Part of the price Canada paid to the Hudson's Bay Company for Rupert's Land had been one-twentieth of the arable land in it. The C.P.R. also, had been promised twenty-five million acres, and the Indians had been persuaded to give up their nomadic way of life and accept the white man's law, in return for reservations. None of these land claims could be settled until the land was surveyed, and so in 1874 the first survey parties moved out from Winnipeg.

Meanwhile the government had passed its homestead act. Certain lands were set aside as Indian reservations. In the remaining townships, the Hudson's Bay Company was given all of section 8 and three quarters of section 26; sections 11 and 29 were set aside as school land, and the C.P.R. received all the other odd-numbered sections within twenty miles of its right-of-way. The rest was available for homesteading.

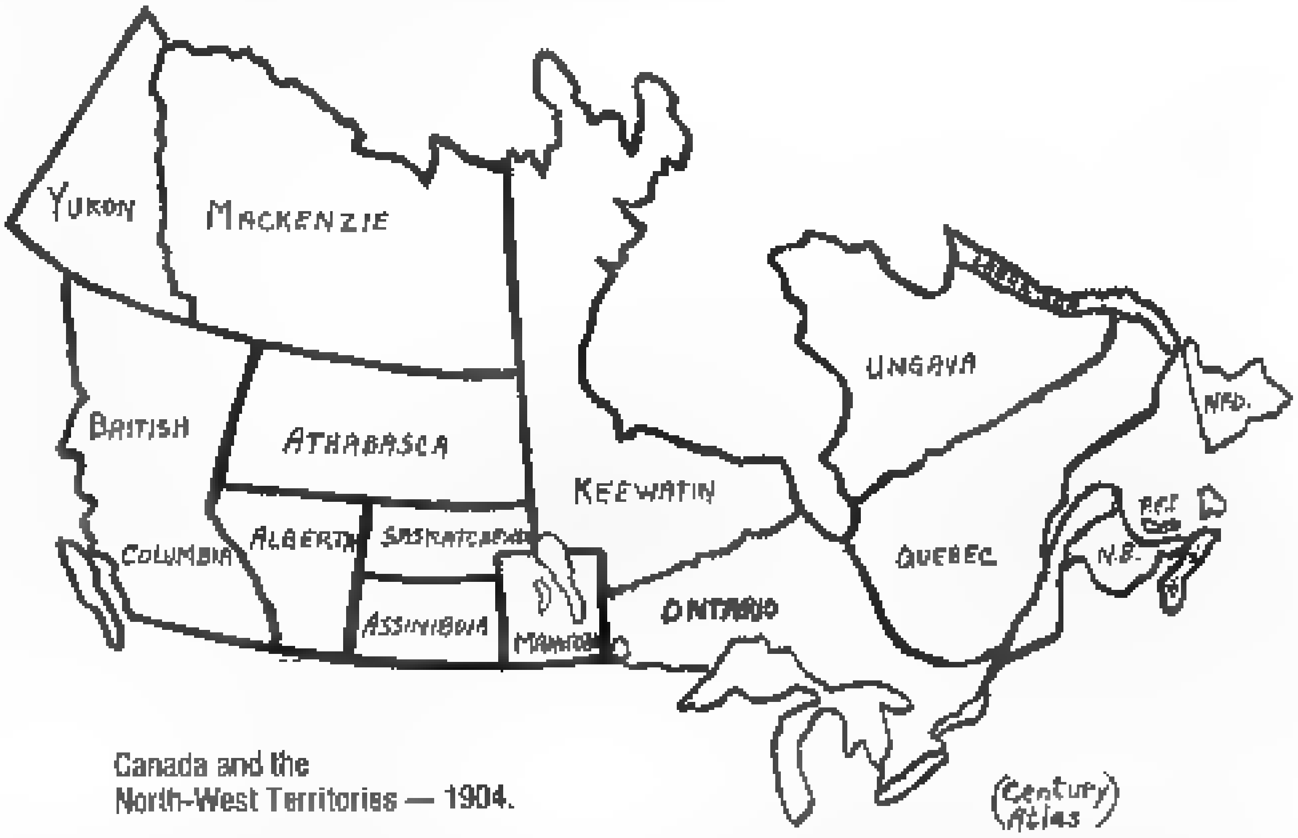
To provide for orderly settlement, the land nearest to already-settled areas and railroads was opened first; as this filled up, another area was opened.

Regulations stated that any sole head of a family, or any male eighteen years old, could obtain a quarter-section of land by paying a ten-dollar filing fee and performing certain duties. These included living on the land for at least six months

in every year for three years, cultivating thirty acres, and building a house worth three hundred dollars, or making other improvements.

The homesteader had to be a British subject, or declare that he would become one when he received title to his land. Application had to be made in person at a Land Agency. These regulations were relaxed to allow the applicant to live with his immediate family within nine miles of his homestead and for immediate family members to file by proxy for another. A parent could reserve a homestead for a son who was not yet eighteen.

In some districts pre-emptions or purchased homesteads were available. The latter allowed anyone who had already exhausted his homestead rights to buy land at three dollars an acre. Homestead duties had to be performed, and fifty acres had to be broken in the three years.



Canada and the
North-West Territories — 1904.

Many homesteaders coming to the Hanna North area had served during the Boer War, (1899-1901), and for their services had received South African Scrip, which entitled them to a half-section of land. Some of them took this land in addition to their homestead and pre-emption. Others sold the Scrip, with the result that a large number of quarters were held by people who had not seen service during the Boer War, but the land was still known as an S.A.V. homestead.

When all was prepared, the call went out. In Britain, Central Europe and the United States, advertising posters, magazines and pamphlets offered free land to any who would come. The extremes of climate, the isolation, the hardships, were glossed over; testimonials from earlier immigrants spoke in glowing terms of the freedom, the fertile soil, the bumper crops.

The advertising brought results. In the United States, available land was becoming scarce and expensive. In Britain, the farms were not large enough to divide among all the sons in a family; jobs in the cities were poorly paid and hard to find. Emigration seemed to be the answer.

There were even more urgent reasons for the exodus from Central Europe. Wars and rebellions and treaties were constantly altering the boundaries of Russia, Poland, Germany and France. Many people became aliens in the country of their birth, ruled by a foreign power, liable for military service in its armies.

Eagerly they grasped the opportunity to live in a country where they could be free of the fear of conscription, and at the same time become landowners for the trifling sum of ten dollars and a few years' work.

And so they came, factory workers and shopkeepers and teachers, doctors and professors and laborers. Some of them were farmers, able to wrest a living from the soil; others had never been outside the large cities which had been their homes, and had no idea how to farm. Some were well off, and could buy good animals and equipment, and build a decent home. Others had only what they could carry with them, and their faith in themselves.

They endured rough ocean crossings in crowded ships; crossed the continent in the immigrant cars the railroad provided . . . hard wooden seats which could be made into bunks at night . . . carrying their food and their blankets with them, preparing their meals on a stove at the end of the car.

When they arrived at their destination, some of the men found work in the towns, and spent the winters there. During the summers they would work on the homesteads and prepare homes for their wives and families. Others chose their homesteads, gathered enough supplies to last them for a few months, loaded their possessions and families, and struck off into the unknown.

PIONEERS

By Helen Standing

By horse-drawn cart and then by train
We came to our native shore
To cross the turbulent ocean
A new country to explore.

We travelled far, and farther,
By foot and by caravan
Until we came to virgin soils
At Scapa, Dowling, and Garden Plain.

We pitched our tents for shelter
Against the blustery weather
Till we found time to build a shack
Of logs, or sod, or both together.

Yet still we felt the stinging storms
Of wind and rain and sleet;
The sun became our enemy
In times of drought and heat.

But perseverence was the backbone
Of the settlers of early years.
We tamed the wild and rolling plains,
We, the dauntless pioneers.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY DAYS IN HANNA NORTH

Before 1908, only a few ranchers occupied the short grass country, letting their cattle range over the broad plains which not too long before had been the home of thousands of buffalo. There were the Hunt Brothers on the west side of Sullivan Lake, the McCuishes near Dowling Lake, the Madges on the Berry Creek, and Leo Brainerd on the flat north of Richdale.

The majority of the homesteaders came into the Hanna North area from 1908 to 1912, mainly Scots and Scandinavians and Americans. A few trekked in from the south, travelling overland from Calgary or Bassano; but the more favored route was from the north, by train to the end of steel at Stettler, and later Castor. There were Land Offices in these towns, where the homesteaders could examine maps of the area, find out what land was available, and if they desired, could file blind. Those who did often found their selection not to their liking; one man discovered that he had chosen land in a dried-up lake bottom. The more prudent looked over the country first, then filed their claims.

Immigrants from Europe could bring few possessions with them, but those from the United States and Eastern Canada often had railway cars of settlers' effects. These were shipped to the nearest town, with one of the men riding in the car to obtain the lower freight rate. The more well-to-do bought horses, or brought them with them; others bought oxen to haul the wagons and break the land.

The women and children usually remained in the towns while the men scouted the land and selected their homesteads. When the all-important claim had been filed, they loaded their wagons and struck out for the promised land. Most of them lived in tents until they could erect a house from the only material readily available, prairie sod.

Furrows were turned with a plow, and cut into sections about eighteen inches long. Like huge bricks, these were piled on top of one another to form the walls, with openings left for one or two small windows and a door. The roof was made by placing poles as beams, and covering them with tarpaper, hay and more sod. The houses were warm in winter and cool in summer, but were not always the easiest places to keep clean. Although some settlers lived in sod houses for only a short time, others occupied them for years, finishing them inside and out with plaster and whitewash.

It was an exciting and challenging time for the men. They built their houses and barns, protected them with fireguards, and began to cultivate their land. They plowed with oxen or horses, or hired huge steam engines which could pull a six- or eight-bottom plow. They sowed the grain and put up hay, and worked on threshing crews in the fall, and coal mines during the winter. In time the land produced, and they could buy milk cows and range cattle. Over the years many of these pioneers were able to build up fine homesteads, in spite of frost and drought and hail.

It was the women who suffered the greatest hardships. Many of the emigrants from Central Europe had been totally unaware that they were moving to a country with a language different than their own. The men who worked with English speaking neighbors, and the children who attended school soon learned the new tongue; the women did not have the same opportunity. They remained on the farm, bearing and raising their children far from churches, schools and medical facilities. The women who had come from the cities were especially aware of the isolation; many declared they would have gone back, if there had been any way they could have done so.

But most of them remained, learning to build fires with a handful of dry grass, a little wood, and buffalo chips. They baked bread for their own families and their bachelor neighbors, and raised gardens to supplement the diet of oatmeal and beans and rice. They learned to cook wild geese and ducks, and prairie chicken and rabbits. They knit socks and mitts and scarves and hats, and made clothing from flour sacks if nothing better was available. They carried water to wash their clothes, and watched their precious linens turn brown from the chemicals in it.

Somehow they found time to see that their children received an education, teaching them at home until there were enough pupils in an area to warrant the

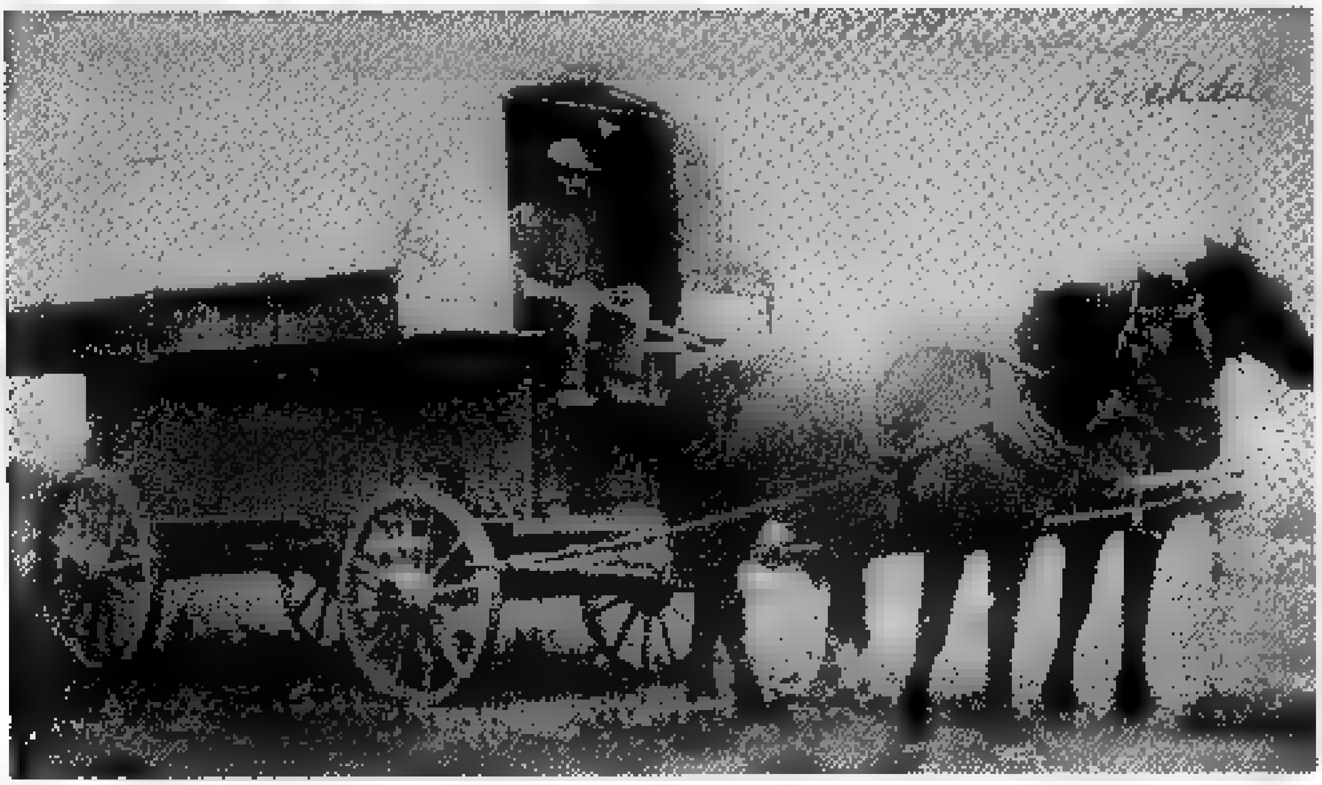
building of a school. They encouraged attendance at church services, and helped to organize community entertainments. They formed Women's Institutes and Red Cross groups, and always found time to [redacted] neighborly.

That is the theme that runs through so many of the family histories . . . "What would we have done without our good neighbors?" The women assisted one another deliver their babies, and when mother or child or both died, as was often the case, it was the neighbor women who prepared the body for burial. There were three registered cemeteries in the Hanna North area, Netherby, St. Peter's, and the Seventh Day Adventist cemetery on the Steinbrecker farm; but throughout the area there are tiny family plots which contain the graves of babies who never grew up, children who died of appendicitis or tuberculosis or diphtheria, men who were killed by runaway horses or overcome by gas while digging a well, and women who died before their time for lack of proper medical care.

When World War I began in 1914, huge tracts of land were turned under to assist the war effort. King Wheat was the motto, and the economy was booming. The heavy rainfall of 1915 produced bumper crops, and prices were high. Sod houses were replaced by frame buildings, wells were dug, new and better equipment purchased. After the war, the Soldier Settlement Board was set up to help returned men establish themselves on the land.

Unfortunately, prosperity did not last. After the war, the bottom fell out of the cattle market. War veterans who had bought land were hardest hit, for they had paid high prices for land and cattle, and were not yet established. The country was ravaged by an epidemic of Spanish Influenza; there were thirty thousand cases in Alberta, ten percent of the victims died.

The end of Prohibition in 1923 coincided with a return to more favorable weather conditions, and better prices. By the end of the decade some farmers had bought gasoline tractors, many were driving cars. Some homes even had telephones and radios. The pioneering days were over.



("The Lee Brainard Story" in verse, by Helen Standing)

DEATH IN THE BLIZZARD'S WAKE

Lee Brainard heard such wonderous tales,
Of a land both free and warm.

Where grasses grew so thick and high
Up to the belly of any longhorn.
So he gathered his horses and cattle,
His son Albert and their hired hand,
And in nineteen hundred six left Montana
For Alberta, the ranchers dreamland.

Several extra riders were needed
To start the herd on its way.
With seven hundred horses and cattle
They must keep them from going astray.
They herded their cattle towards the north
Letting them graze on the native grass.
When they crossed the border at Wild Horse,
Their excitement, no man could surpass.

Now they entered the land of chinooks,
Warm winds that melted the snow,
Allowing the cattle to graze all winter
With the deer, the antelope, and the buffalo.
When finally they reached Medicine Hat
It surely was a day of great glee.
They replenished all their exhausted supplies,
But their hardships they could not foresee.

Here was their first disappointment,
For the Mounties heard of their plan.
They warned them of the long, cold winters,
But Brainard was not a quitting man.
Then at the Government Land Office,
A second disappointment he bore.
Ranches were no longer available
On the South Saskatchewan River shore.

But North of the Red Deer River
Was a country rich and vast.
So they headed for the area near Richdale
Where they claimed a ranch at last.
One of their two covered wagons
Was taken to be their home.
The cattle were let out to graze.
Here there was space to roam.

But unknown to Mr. Brainard
Who thought that this was divine.
The "chinook belt" that he so desperately sought,
He had left very far behind.
So instead of harvesting the prairie,
He explored the country side.
Visiting his neighbors near and far.
Telling of his adventure with pride.

One day he rode upon a ranch,
Owned by the Hunt brothers, three.
He refused their kindly offer of help.
If only the future he could foresee!
For one morning late in October

He awoke to a landscape of white,
And the snowflakes continued falling
All day and all night:
floating; twirling; swirling; drifting.

'Twas in the cold month of December
When no warm winds had blown from the west.
That Brainard decided to move his camp,
This decision seemed one of the best.
The thin and starving cattle
Were driven towards Dowling Lake.
To graze on the partially bared hillsides.
At last he realized his mistake.

Then in the New Year of nineteen and seven,
A long sought chinook did arrive.
So the three men gathered the remaining herd,
Perhaps at the Hunt Ranch they could survive.
They travelled north about a dozen miles
To the south edge of Sullivan Lake
Here they were forced to stop and rest,
And themselves some food did partake.

They rested in the warm, calm air
The cattle quietly grazing nearby.
When suddenly Albert looked to the north
And gave a warning cry.
A dark grey wall was descending
Upon the unsuspecting herds.
A storm was quickly approaching
And the wind began, whispering;
gusting; whistling; roaring.

They used their wagon for shelter,
Against the piercing storm.
But the cold was so intense,
There was no way to keep warm.
They were forced to march in circles,
To keep from freezing to death.
All night they marched and rested,
In the blizzard's icy breath.

Next day in the freezing wind and snow
Mr. White was the first to succumb.
Young Albert lost all will to live
When he saw his good friend gone.
After a long and bitter half hour,
His body also lay still and cold.
So Brainerd laid them side by side
In a drift of the new fallen snow.

He then went in search of his cattle,
Found them frozen to death on their feet.
With an axe he chopped pieces from their sides
So that he could have something to eat.
Then turning his face into the storm
He started for the Hunt brothers' farm.

Stumbling and falling in the drifts,
Trying his best to keep warm
Against the storm that was. stinging;
piercing; stabbing; freezing.

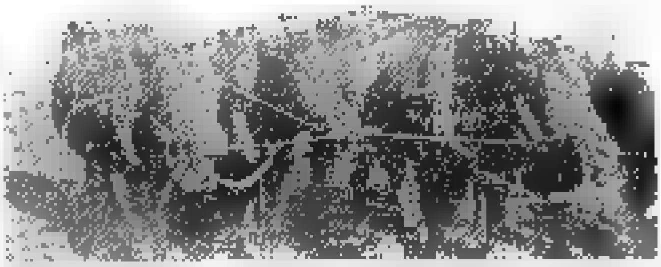
But on he struggled into the storm
Until something made him fall.
He found it was a barbed wire fence.
By then, on hands and knees he had to crawl.
He followed the fence past the feed stacks
Till he fell against the Hunts' cabin door.
He was pulled inside to the fire.
His long, cold trek was o'er.

Spring found him back in the saddle.
Most of his cattle were dead.
Of six hundred yearlings, cows and calves
He found only fifteen head.
Lee Brainard went back to Montana
For a fresh herd of cows, and his wife.
They returned to his ranch near Richdale.
Together they would start a new life.

SEEDING AND PLOWING

Newly broken Prairie Land (Courtesy of Glenbow- Alberta Institute).

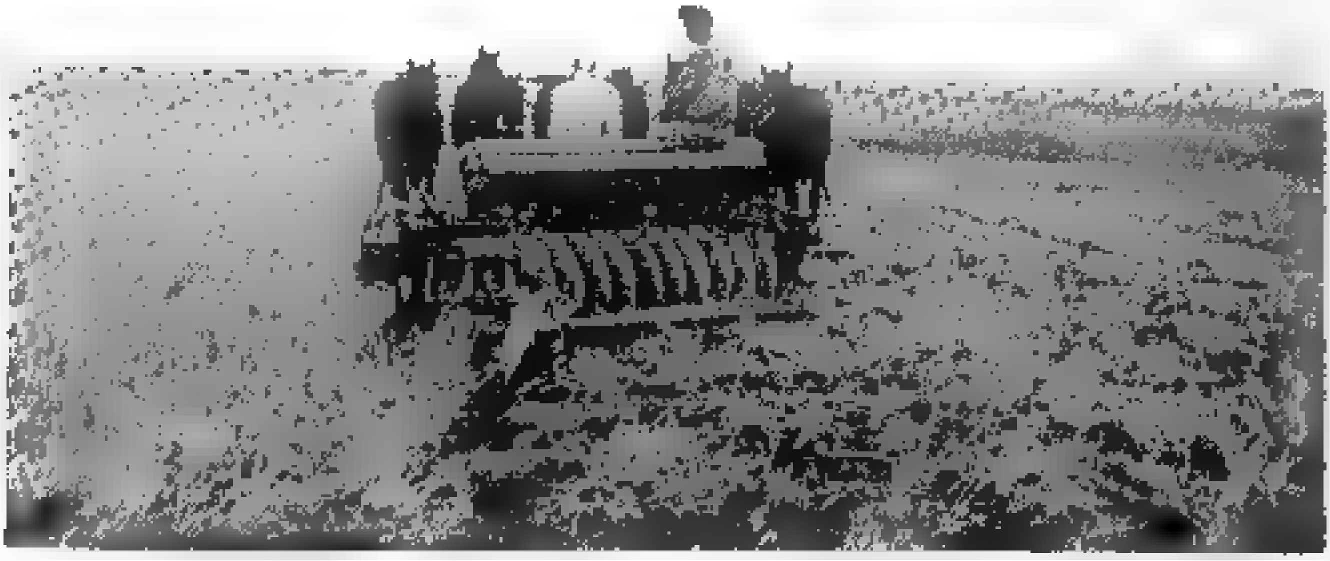
1916 — Steam engine and gang plow on Hannah farm. Jim, Tom and Dick Hannah.



Hanna — 1909 — Breaking with oxen. Driver unknown.

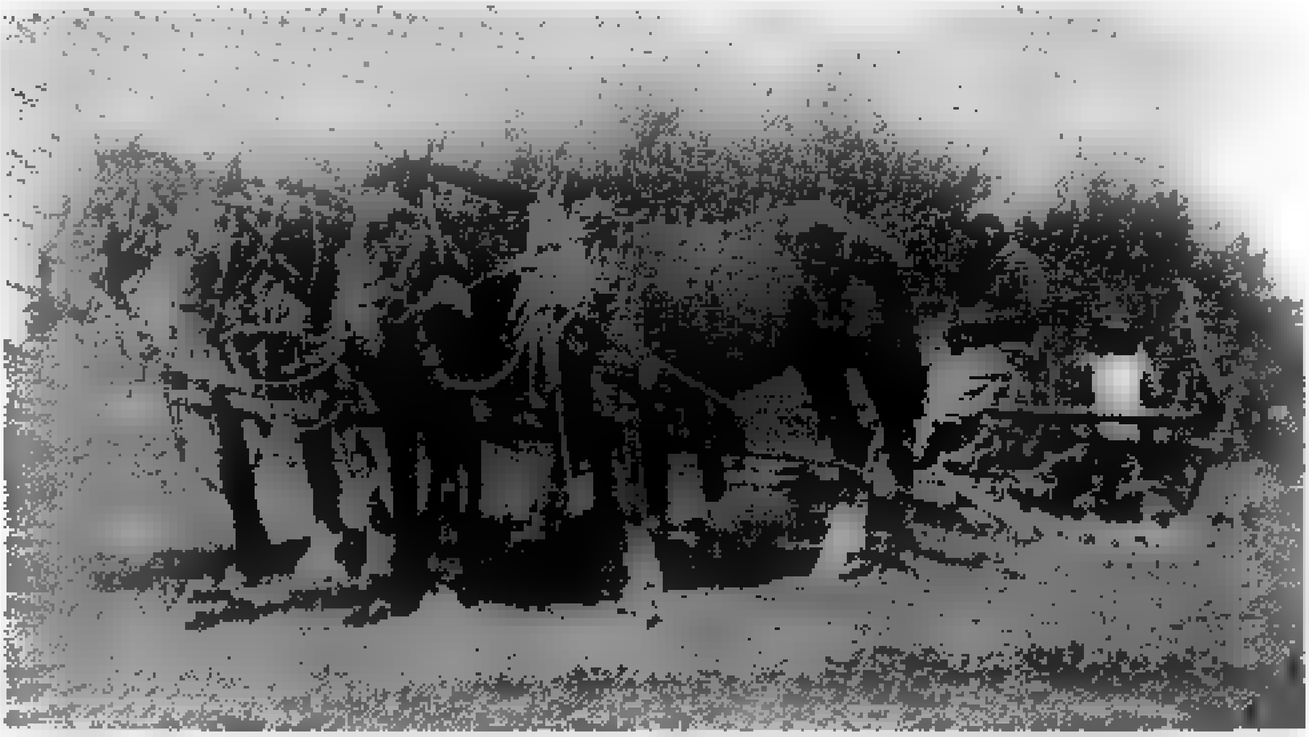
Charlie Glover breaking with sixteen horses.

Fred and Ed Elm breaking the prairie with their Pioneer tractor. Note the carbide lights on the car.



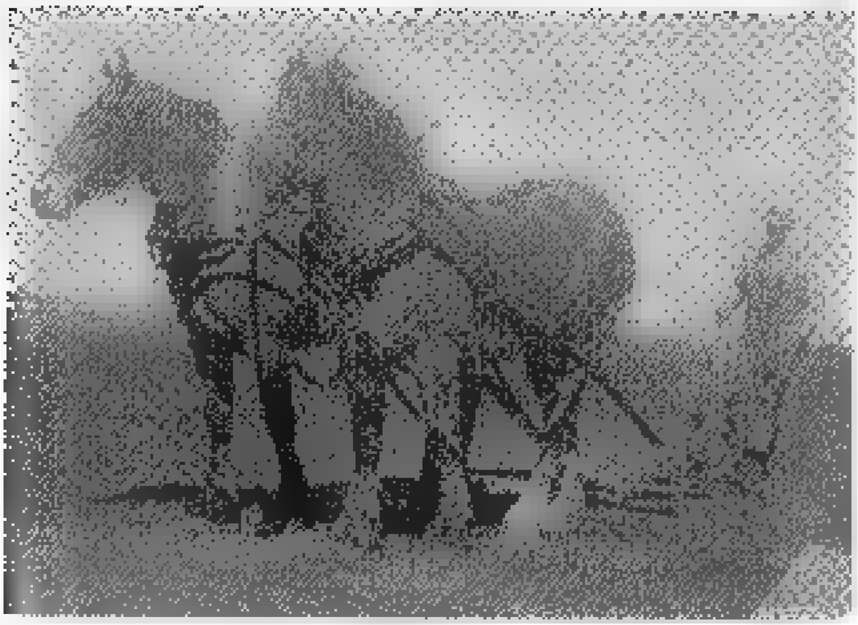
George C. Standing Jr. seeding in spring of 1940 with ten horses pulling a six foot tiller.

Howard Kern plowing with a sulky.



1921 — Frances Lewis discing with a minimum of harness. Sister Winnifred is behind the disc.

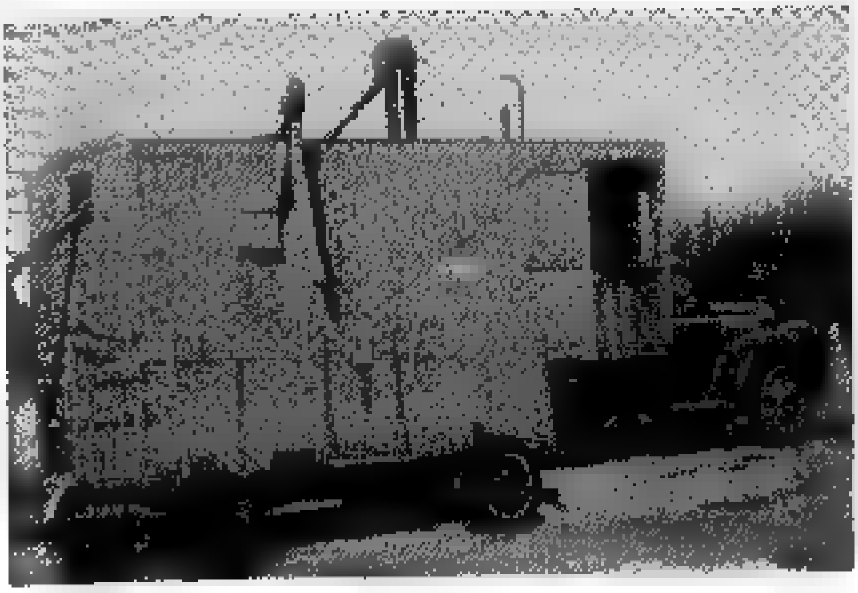
Riding in comfort in the buggy behind the harrows while driving six horses. Walter Lewis is on the seed drill.



John Marlowe planting potatoes with Babe and Baldy [illegible] the walking plow.

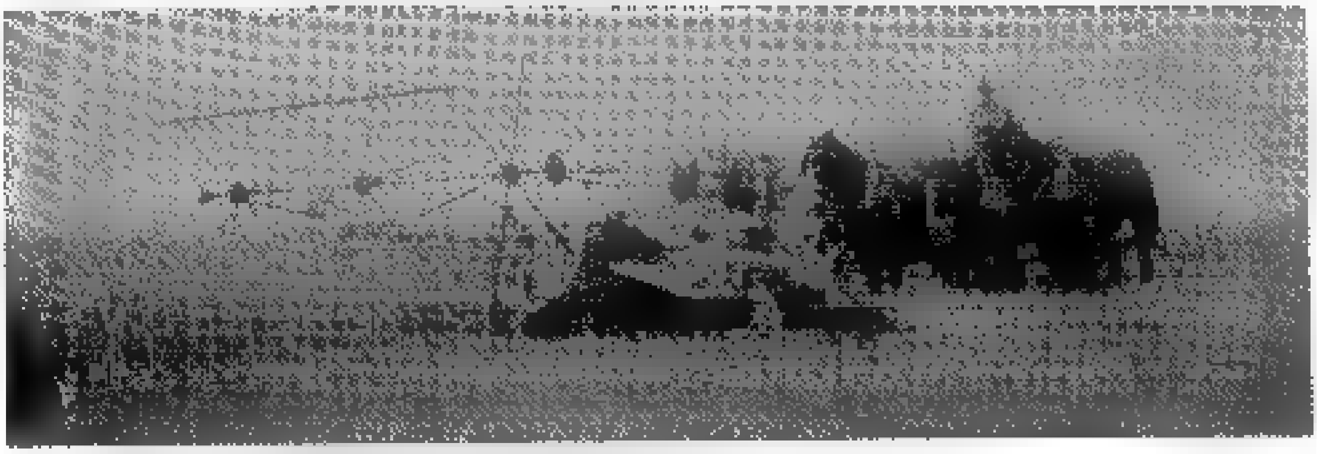
1956 — Fred Kautz and daughter-in-law Frances planting potatoes.

Mr. Fred Kautz broadcasting grass seed.

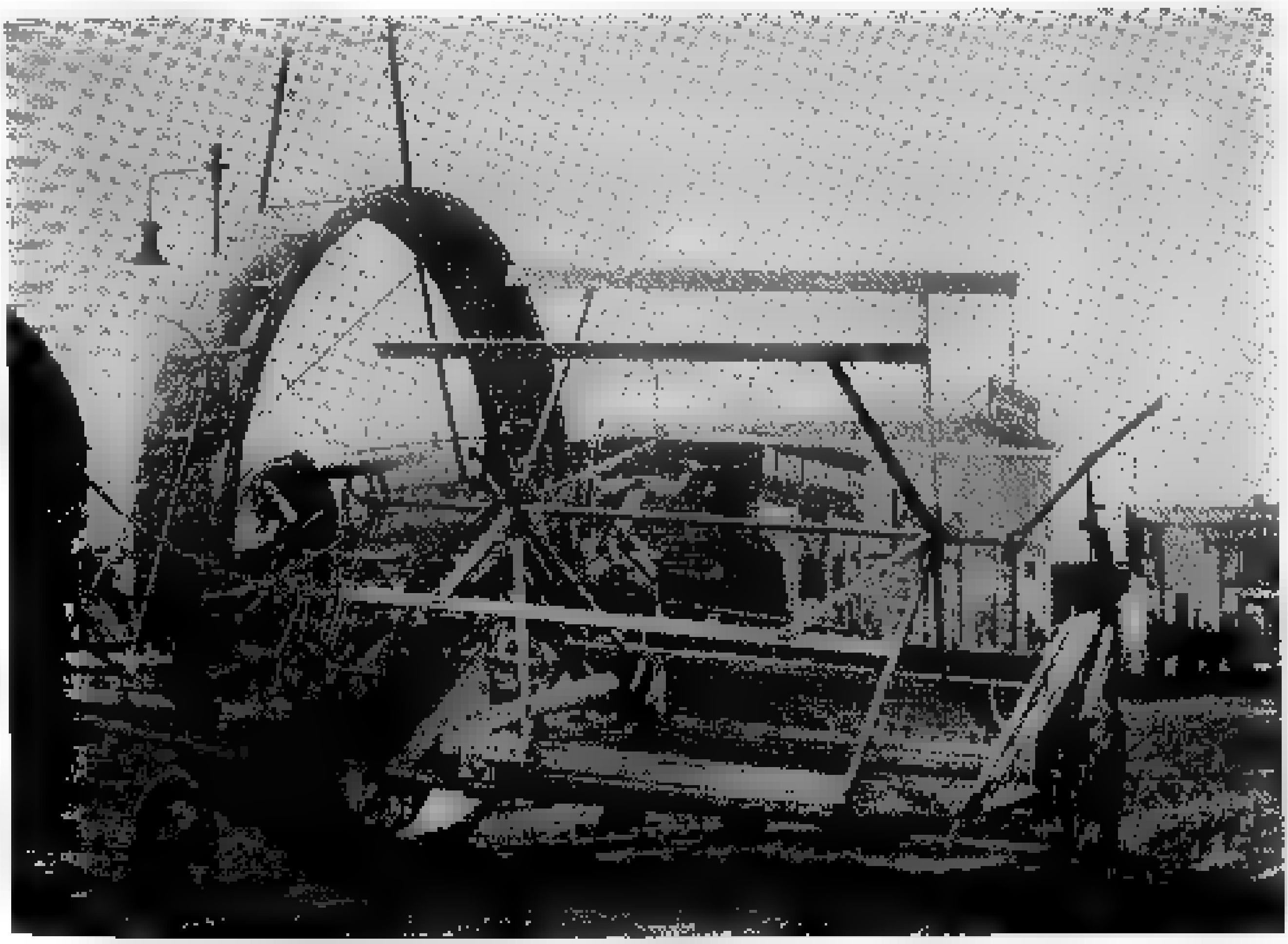


Much in demand before seeding. Arley Chidley's Carter disc grain cleaning outfit.

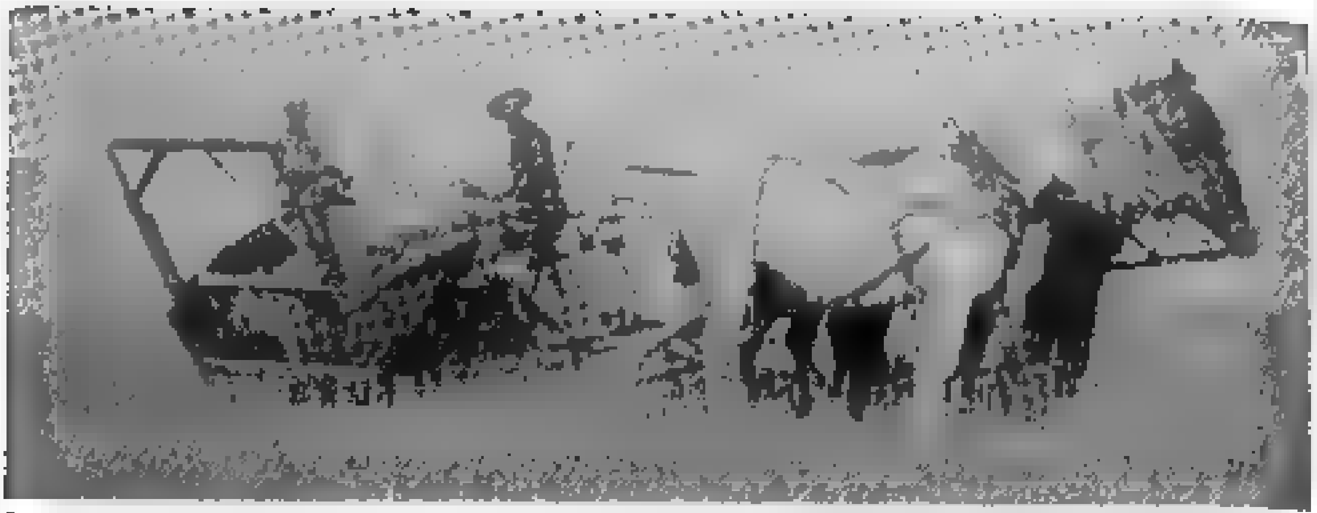
HARVESTING



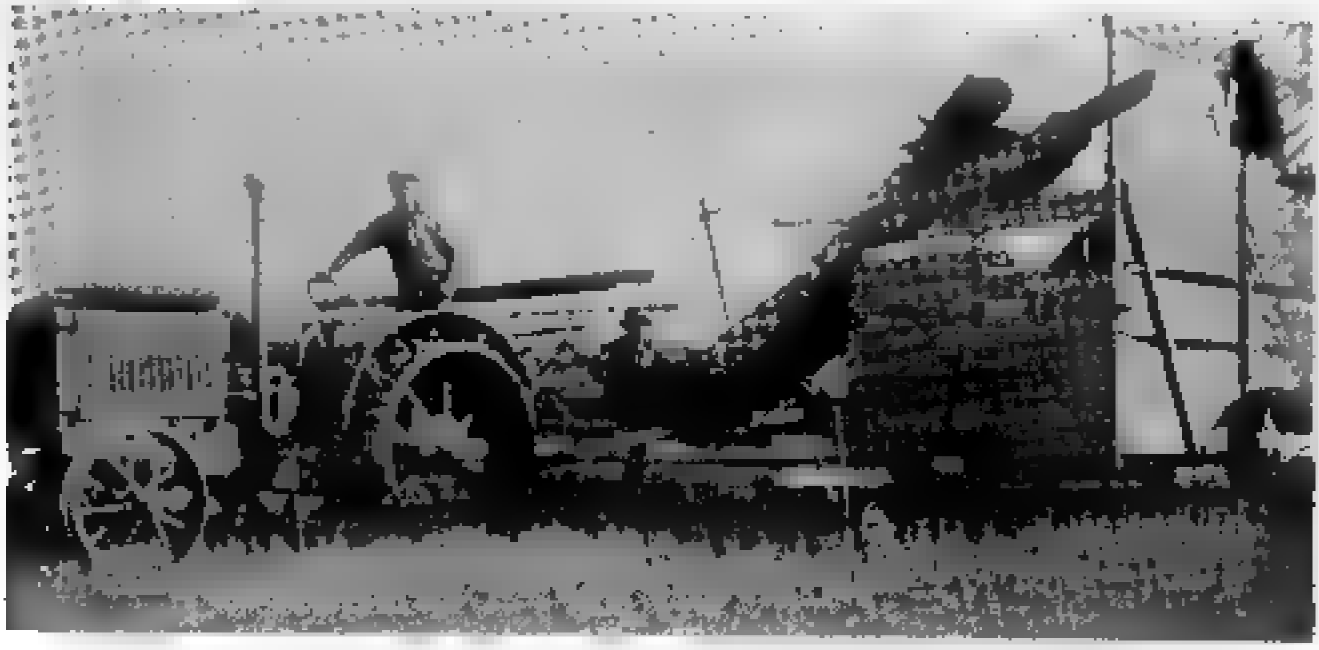
Charlie Glover cutting crop with a push binder.



Binder with small bullwheel inside big bullwheel for cutting grain in wet fields.



Tom Scott and Jack Greg harvesting a short crop with a poverty box on the binder in the thirties. No twine required.

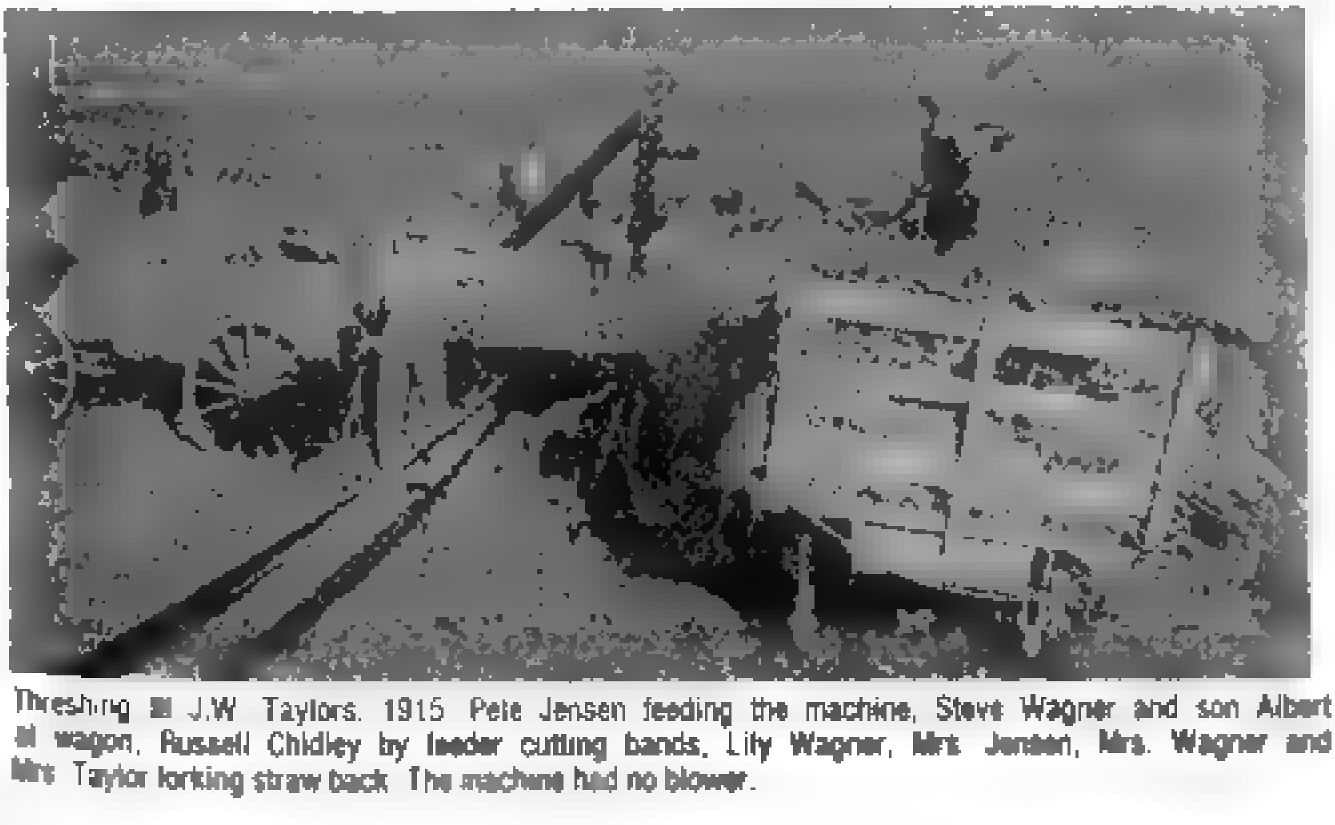


Harvesting with a barge on the Fred Mattis farm, 1937. The John Palzer outfit.

About 1920. Stook loader used for loading grain stooks into a bundle rack.

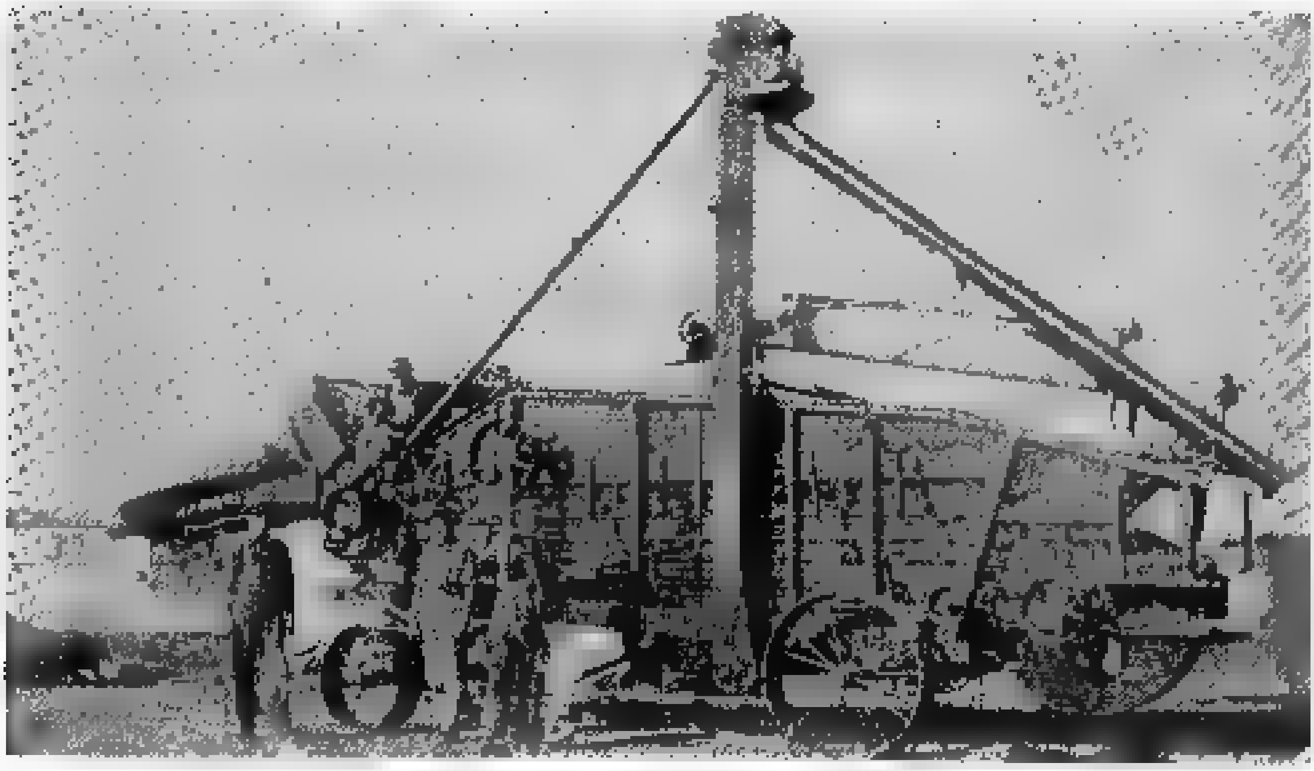
Labor saving device. Ropes pull clutch off and on. Steering equipment has two universal joints.

Hannah threshing outfit, 1913. Coal fired steam engine.



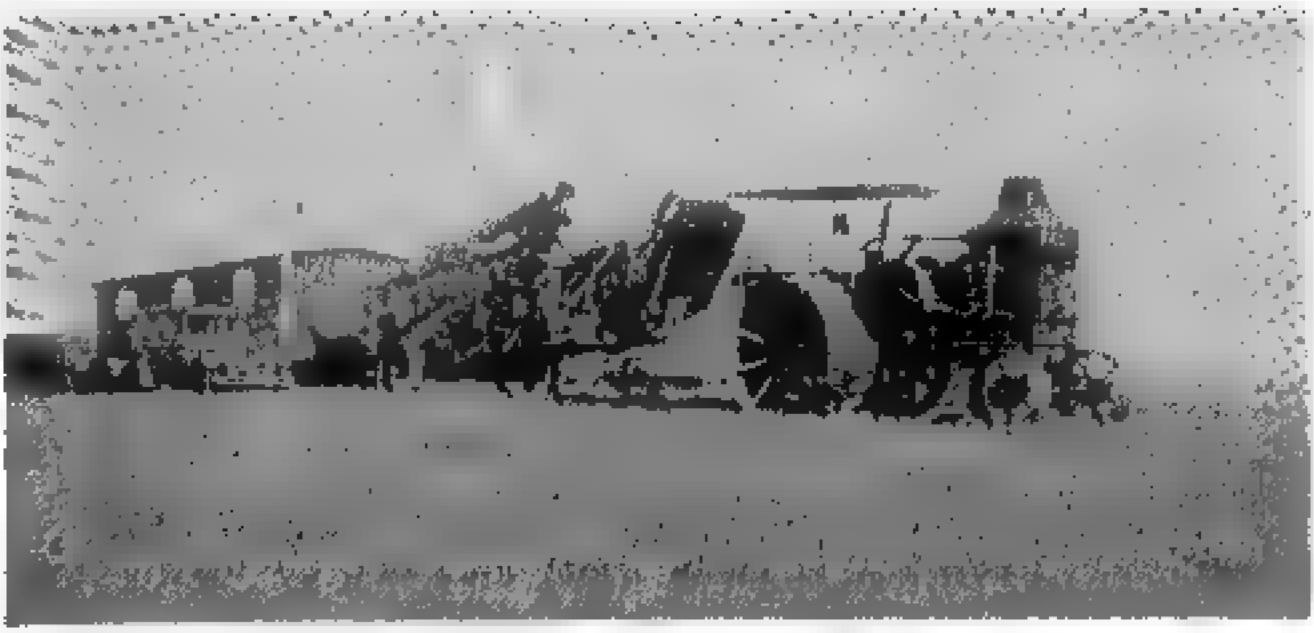
Threshing at J.W. Taylors. 1915. Pete Jensen feeding the machine, Steve Wagner and son Albert at wagon, Russell Chidley by feeder cutting bands, Lily Wagner, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Taylor forking straw back. The machine had no blower.

1917 — J.W. Taylor horse-drawn stationary engine.



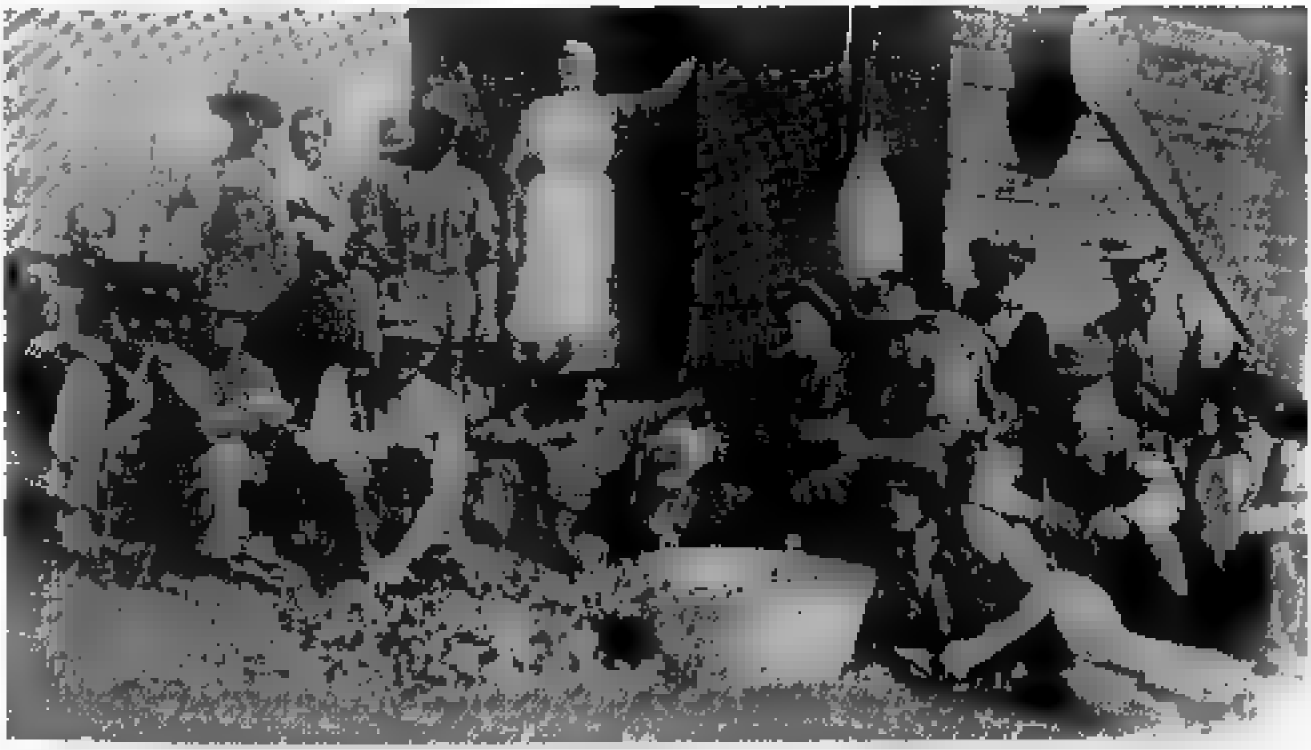
Harry Steeves wooden Rumley separator.

Threshing into the Fred Whaley barn in 1928.



Dan Mattis threshing machine and cook car, 1929.

Giltner threshing crew and cook car with Chinese cook.

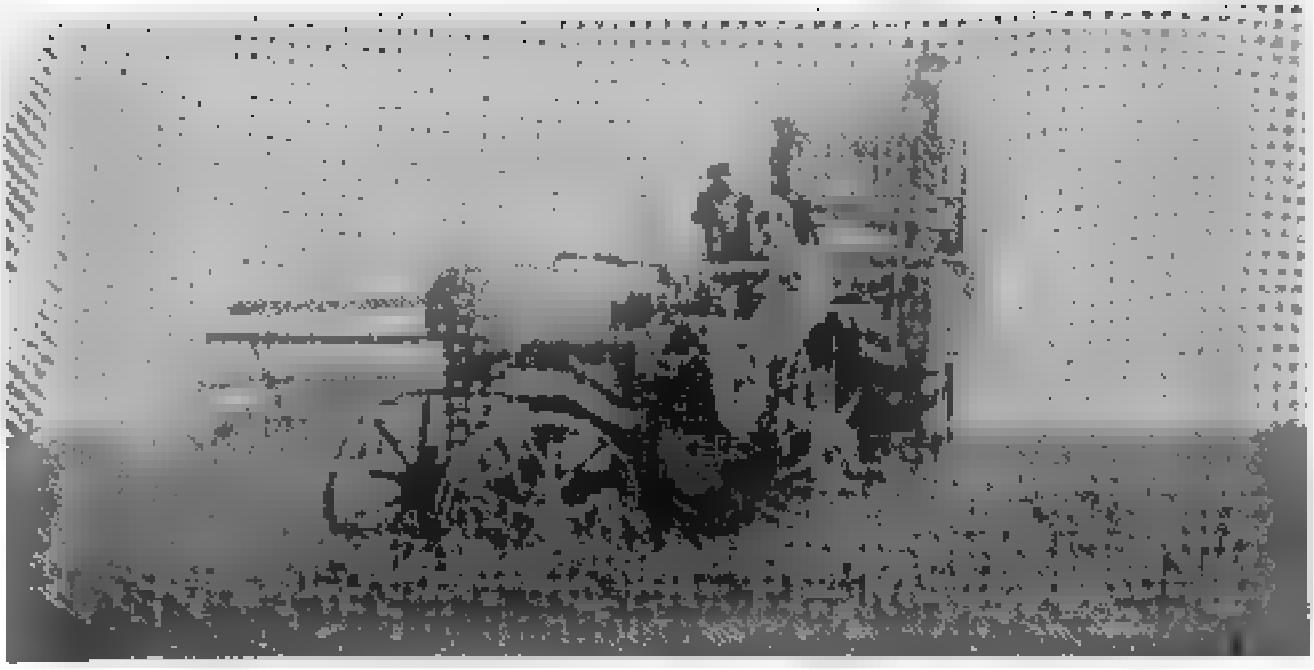


Roy Bartman threshing crew, 1920. Standing: Unknown, Norman Williams, Roy Bartman, Mrs. Vic Bartman (the cook). Seated: Alex McLean, Lyman Grove, Pearce Morris, Elmer Sleen, Fred Blaxhall (with pipe), Charlie Lohmann, against building is George Forster and Fred Johnston with Russell Chidley and George Benzie in front of them. The man lying down is unidentified.

J.W. Taylor and Bert Brown stacking bundles for threshing before 1915.

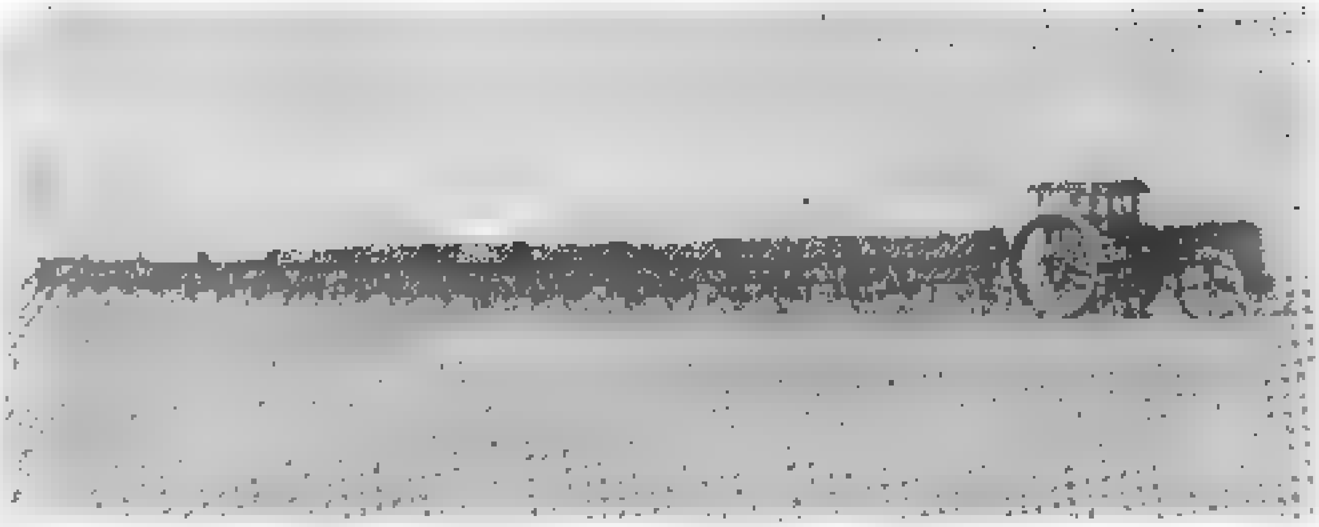
Stack threshing.

Stooks on the Chris Viste farm.



Rumley pull-type combine. Hans Hansen, John Hansen and Fred Lyxzen straight combining.

A hayrack loaded with slough hay.

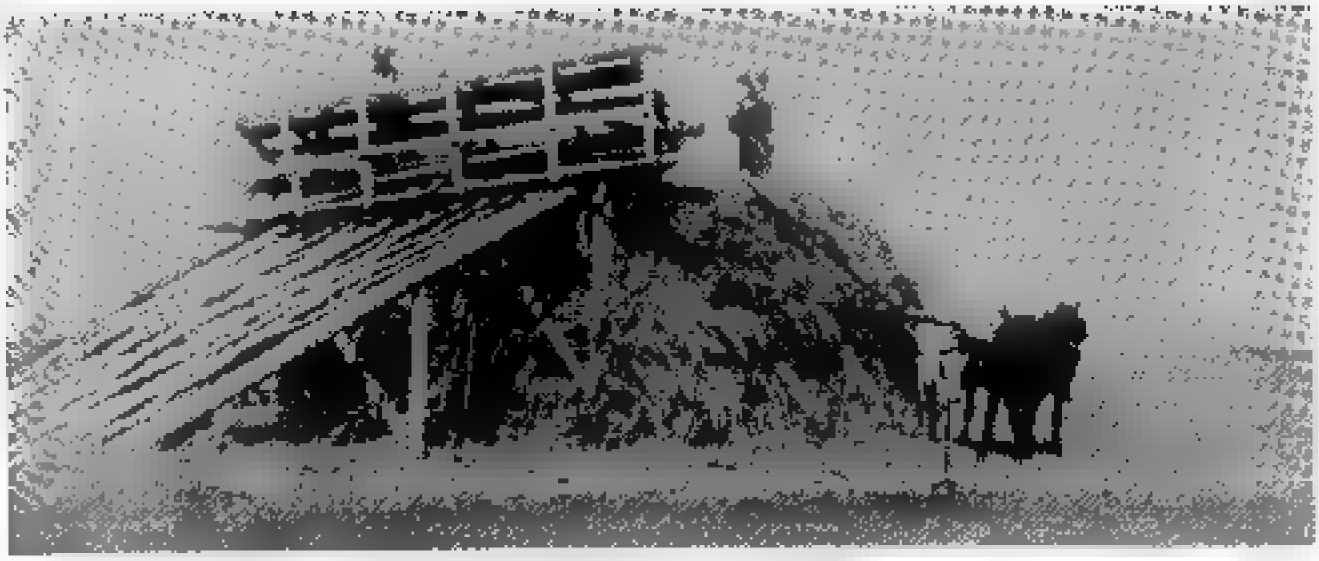


Hauling grain in 1913. 1912 Pioneer Tractor: fuel, gasoline, 60 h.p. 4 cylinder horizontally opposed engine. Drawbar [redacted] h.p. Grain Tanks, 165 bushels. Wagon train capacity, 1800 bushels. Operated by Fred Elm.

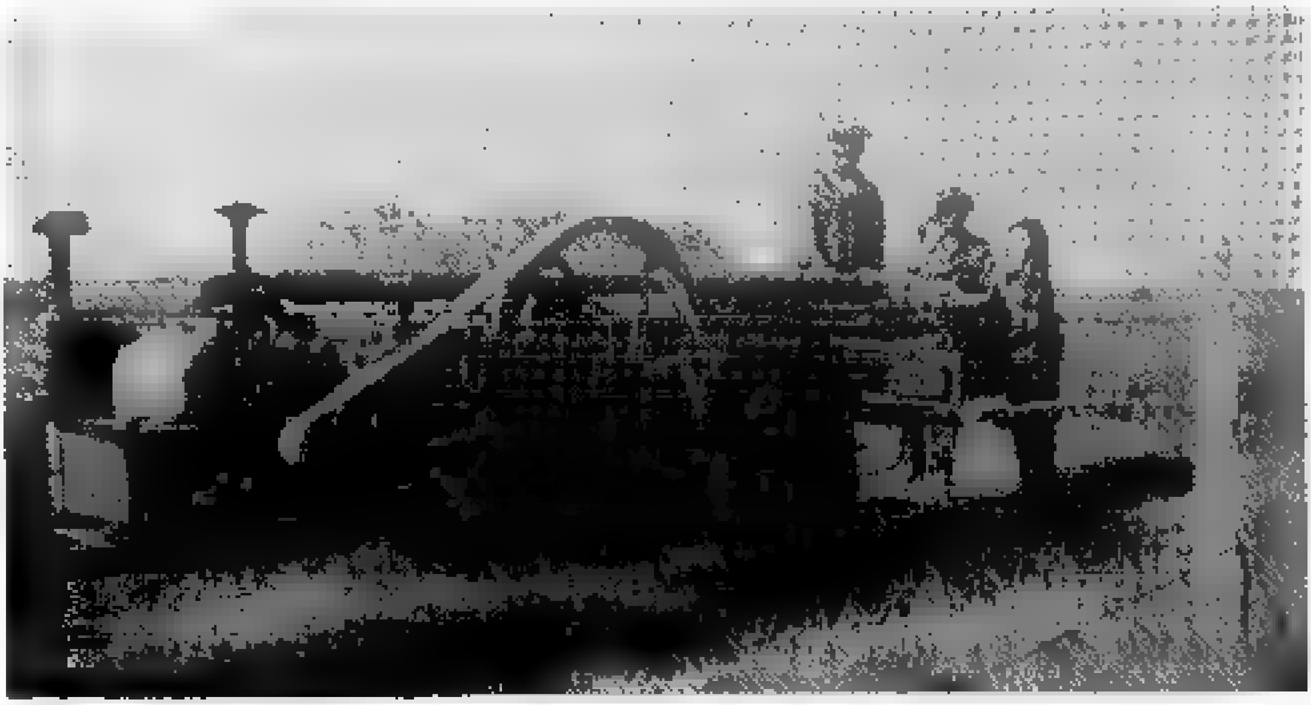
Harry Nelson and Case outfit combining a standing crop in 1944.

1928 — note the skeleton-wheeled tractor. Useful in gumbo and when pulling harrows.

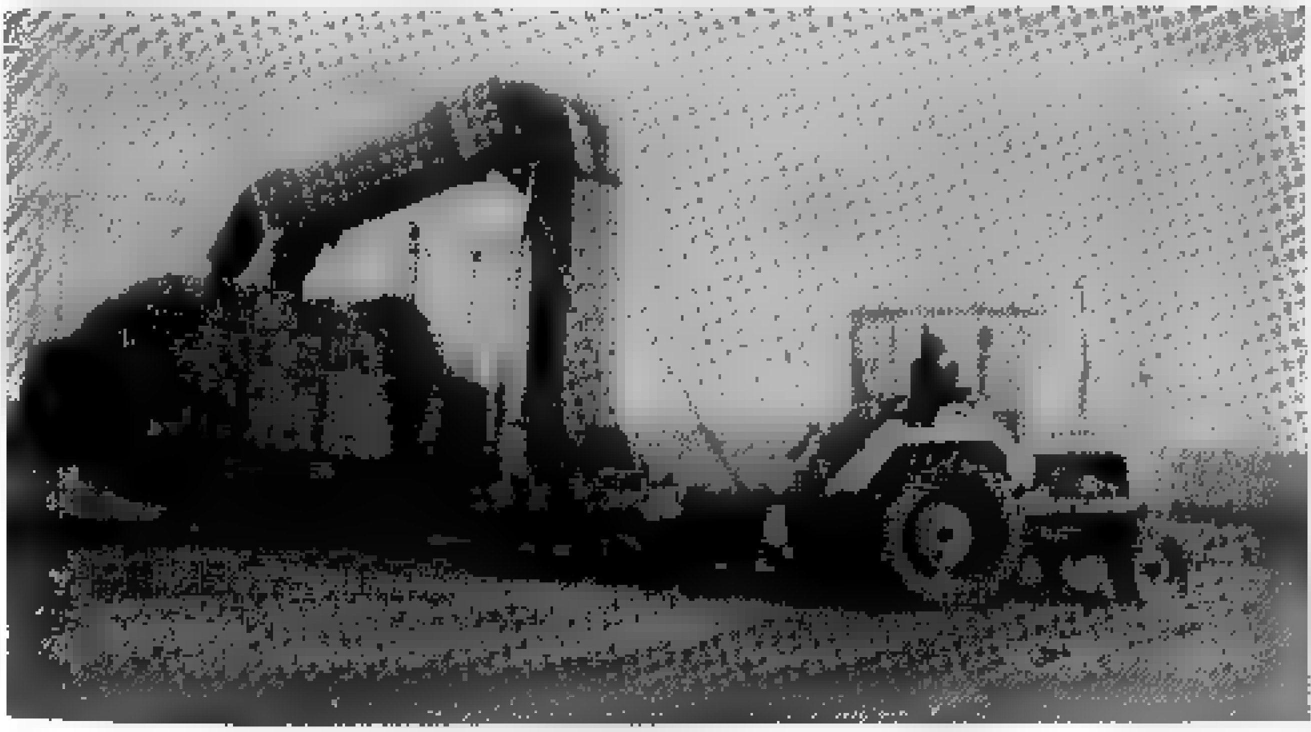
Louis and Gerry Unsworth stacking bales with their Knudson bale loader, 1975.



Putting up hay with slide and buck. J. J. Rehill and son Carl.

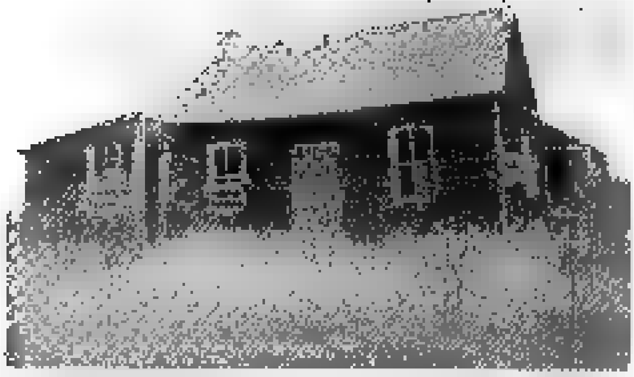


About 1949. Case wire-tie baler. Two men sat on seats [illegible] the back and tied the wire. Sure was hard on gloves.



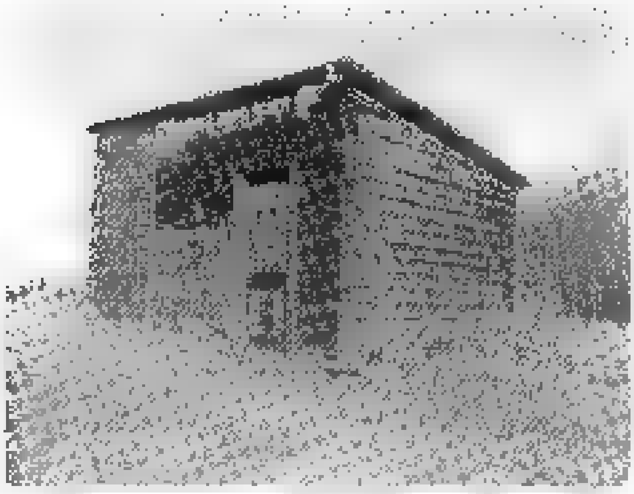
Dwight Boyson picking up hay with his Hay Buster, 1974.

OLD BUILDINGS



As the family grew so did the house. W. Glover house built in 1911.

Halverson's sod barn.



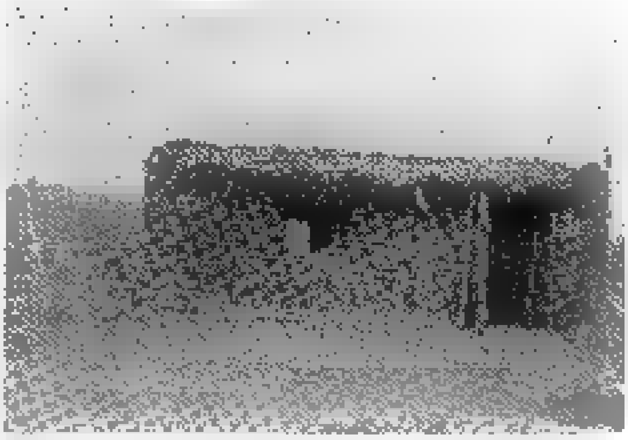
The shingled shanty-roofed bachelor shack.

The Frank Kennedy home built in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert are presently living in it, 1977.

Relics of the past, the ashpile and the out-house.

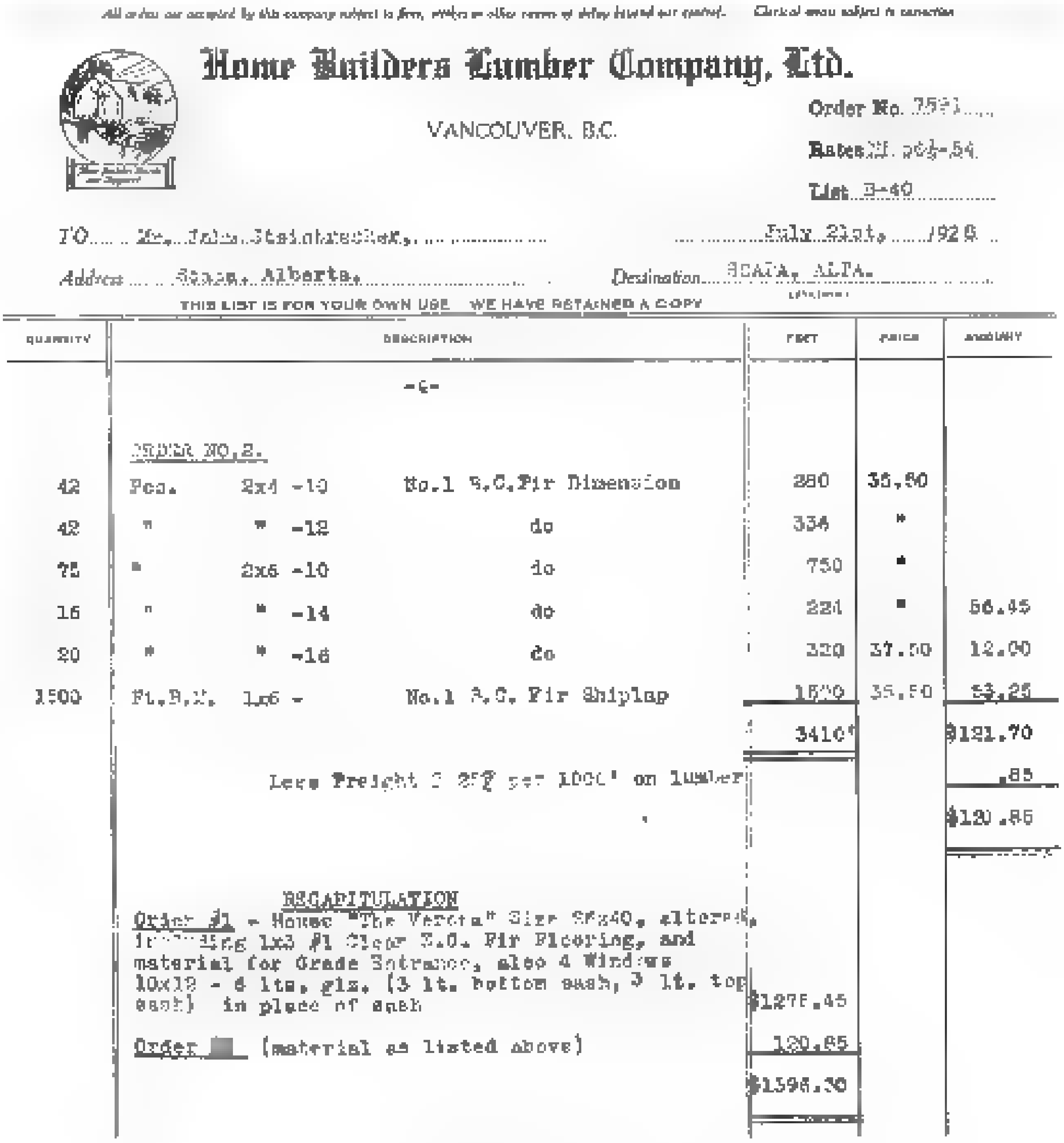
Old time windlass for pulling up pump pipes for repair. It was built in 1909 and is in good working order.

Square one-storey shingled home of Pete Jensen taken about 1917.



1909 — J. W. Taylor sod shack.

Alex Cooper relaxing in his homestead shack on SW 32-33-13 in 1909.



All orders are accepted by this company subject to fire, strikes or other causes of delay beyond our control. Clerical errors subject to correction

Home Builders Lumber Company, Ltd.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Order No. 7591

Rates Cl. 26½-54.

List B-40

TO Mr. John Steinbrecher,

July 21st, 1928

Address Scapa, Alberta.

Destination SCAPA, ALTA.

THIS LIST IS FOR YOUR OWN USE. WE HAVE RETAINED A COPY

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION			FEET	PRICE	AMOUNT
		-6-				
	ORDER NO.2.					
42	Pcs.	2x4 -10	No.1 B.C.Fir Dimension	280	35.50	
42	"	" -12	do	334	"	
75	"	2x6 -10	do	750	"	
16	"	" -14	do	224	"	56.45
20	"	" -16	do	320	37.50	12.00
1500	Ft.B.M.	1x6 -	No.1 B.C. Fir Shiplap	1500	35.50	53.25
				3410'		$121.70
	Less Freight @ 25¢ per 1000' on lumber					.85
						$120.85

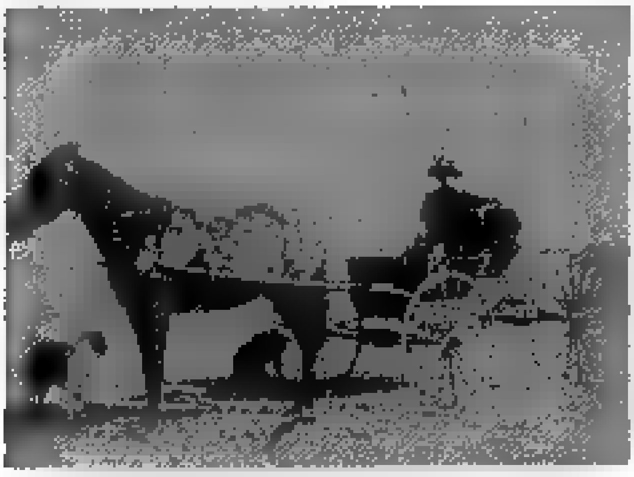
RECAPITULATION

Order #1 - House "The Verona" Size 26x40, altered, including 1x3 #1 Clear B.C. Fir Flooring, and material for Grade Entrance, also 4 Windows 10x18 - 6 lts. glz. (3 lt. bottom sash, 3 lt. top sash) in place of sash	$1275.45
Order [redacted] (material as listed above)	120.85
	$1396.30

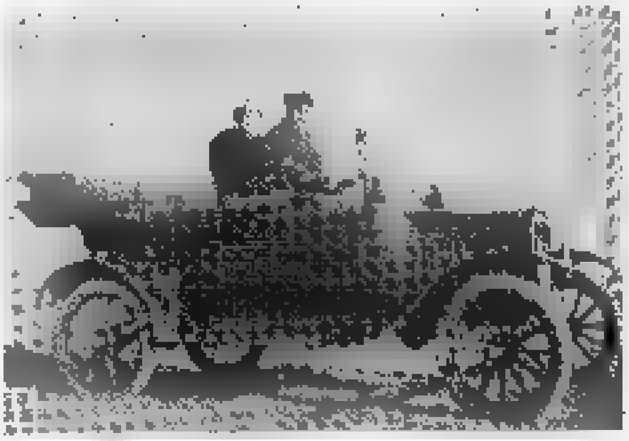
1928 — Lumber Billing.

1908 — All ready for the trip [illegible] the homestead with lumber, flour and roof jack. The wagon box is on top of the lumber.

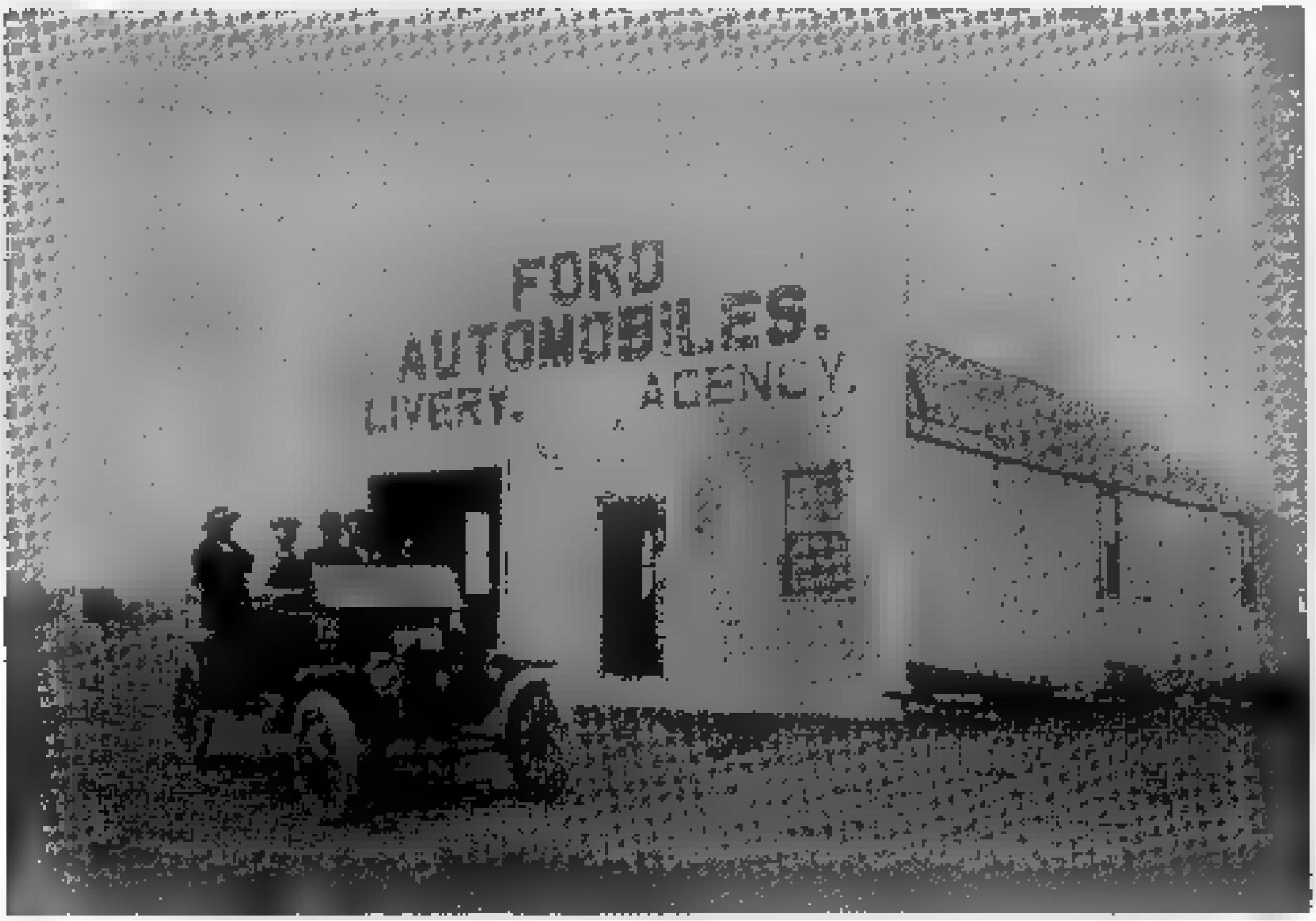
Anthony Waugh and William Glover Sr. beside the Sunday buggy.



Chrissie Glover all dressed up for a buggy ride.

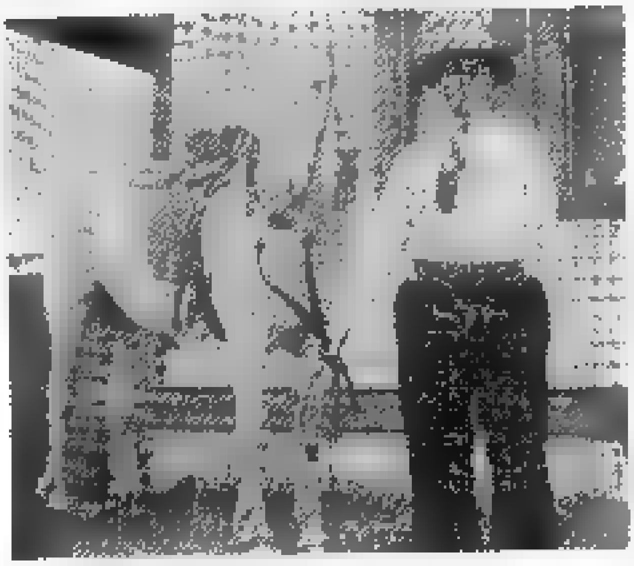


1917 — Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Ekelund in their new Ford.



J. Parker, driver, in front of his Ford Garage.

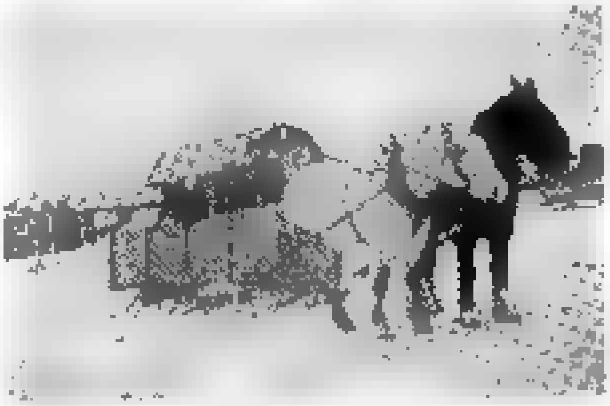
1918 — The Stopping House and farm buildings of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis on the Castor Trail.



1930 — All dressed up for a ride. Note the hair chaps.

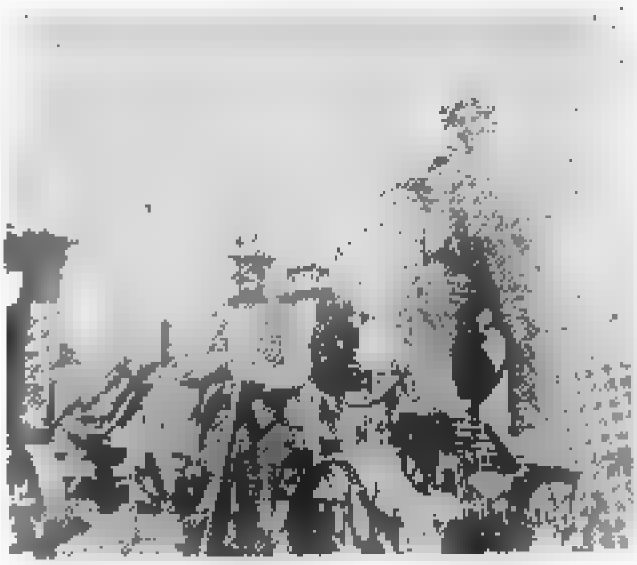
1949 — Janet and Arthur Standing [redacted] [redacted] Buchan School on Old Nellie.

William Nelson with his team of mules.



The Earl Ness children off to Netherby School.

Improvised cart the result of many runaways. Kenneth and Gordon Robertson. Note the pole shafts.



1915 — W. Wright Sr. and Horace Lewis grading roads with a horse-drawn grader.

1930 — Road work to help pay taxes. Theodor Ekelund, Stanley Strandberg, Frank Evans, Unknown.

Fred and Ed Elm road grading on the Castor Trail with their Pioneer Tractor. About 1913.

CHAPTER V

THE DIRTY THIRTIES, AND AFTERWARD

Perhaps the thirties would not have been so dirty or so hungry if farmers then had had access to the methods of cultivation and the weed sprays available today. In those days cultivation was the only way to control weeds, and trash cover was a sign of poor farming, and it was inevitable that during the dry years the land would blow. During the few years that there was sufficient moisture to produce crops, prices were at an all-time low. Unemployed men rode the rods, and gathered on the street corners in the towns, trying to find work.

The government introduced make-work projects, such as building the railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka. It encouraged farmers to hire help, paying the farmer five dollars a month to keep a man, and paying the man's wages, another five dollars per month.

Relief supplies were shipped in to the hardest-hit areas, apples and cheese and fish. There are still people today who cannot stand the sight of salted cod. Baled straw and slough hay, and feed oats, were made available, but the farmers had to pay for them, and in some cases it was years before they were able to pay the debt and have the lien removed from their land titles.

Some gave up. Their farms were mortgaged to the limit, and taking what they could, these disillusioned people moved to areas where they hoped the soil would be better and the moisture adequate. Others stayed; and when they were unable to pay their taxes, took advantage of a government offer to consolidate them, and gradually repaid their debts.

The depression years left their mark; no one who lived through them can forget the grinding poverty of those times. But the very lack of money fostered a closeness and a strong community spirit between neighbors, and when all were poor, making over, making do and doing without did not seem so bad.

By 1938 the cycle of bad years seemed to have run its course; the beginning of World War II in 1939 put an end to unemployment, as men and women joined

the services or took jobs in industry. On the farms, outworn equipment produced food for war-torn countries, and gradually prosperity returned.

Once again, at the cessation of hostilities, the government made money available to veterans who wanted to farm, through the Veterans' Land Act. For a time wheat was King again, but when surpluses began to build up, many farmers increased the size of their cattle herds.

Today there are no quarter-section farms in the Hanna North area. Lands abandoned during the drought years are administered by the government, and leased to farmers residing in the district. A few stunted trees or a sunken foundation may be all that remains to show that once someone had great hopes.

Today the population of Hanna North is sparse, its farmsteads scattered. Those who chose to remain in the area have learned to cope with blizzards and hail and drought; they have built on the foundations their fathers and grandfathers laid for them, and they can be assured that the pioneers would be proud of what they have accomplished.

CHAPTER VI

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

By Norman Greenway, with information on
Special Areas contributed by Art Spencer

Prior to 1905 the Federal government provided local government through Local Improvement Districts. When Alberta became a province in 1905, the L.I.D. came under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Public Works.

The performance of the L.I.D. was not very satisfactory. Taxes were low (a maximum of 7½¢ per acre) and expenditures had to be spread very thin. In 1912 a Department of Municipal Affairs was set up, and provision made for the formation of rural municipalities. They consisted of nine townships, numbered from one upward, starting at the south-east corner of the province. Residents of such an area could apply for incorporation as a rural municipality.

Dowling Lake Municipality was formed in 1913. The first meeting was held January 6, 1913, at Dowling Lake school. John Sims was appointed Reeve, Nicholas Lund Deputy Reeve, and C. N. Tingle Secretary-Treasurer. Municipalities had the power to borrow money by issuing debentures, to form hail insurance districts and hospital districts. They had a greater degree of self-government than the L.I.D.

The municipalities of east-central Alberta functioned quite well until the depression years. The stock market crash of 1929 coupled with drought conditions in the early thirties, brought bankruptcy to many municipalities as well as individuals. In 1929 the west portion of Tilley East was organized as a Special Area. By 1936 many more municipalities had been dissolved, including Dowling Lake on December 1, 1934.

In its largest state the Special Areas consisted of thirty-six municipalities comprising 7,838,826 acres. The area was considered to be over-populated and the number of farms was reduced from 13,000 to approximately 5000.

The administration of the Special Areas is set out in the Special Areas Act. It provides for a three man board which is located at Hanna. There are also district offices at Consort, Youngstown and Oyen. In addition there is a fully equipped Maintenance Shop at Youngstown to service the road equipment.

There are nine hospital districts and six school divisions wholly or partially within the Special Areas. The Special Areas are served by five community pastures accommodating approximately 9000 head of cattle annually. There are

several proven gas and oil fields in the Area, with 1400 oil and gas wells in production.

Hanna North is in Special Areas No. [illegible]. Generally speaking we have been well served by the Special Areas administration. In an area which is plagued by recurring cycles of drought and economic uncertainty, it is no doubt our best method of government.

CHAPTER VII

LIFE OF THE COUNTRY MAILMAN

By Bob Rehill

Our rural mailman was very important to us. Not only did he deliver our letters, parcels and papers, but often he would go out of his way to collect our cream cans for us, pick up express or freight, or even provide a ride for a traveller stranded in town.

He made two trips a week in our area, on Rural Route No. 1 from Hanna. The evening before he would go to the post office, collect the mail for the boxholders on his route, roll up the letters inside the papers, and make a list of the parcels. The following morning he would load it in his vehicle, putting it in the order in which his customers lived along the route. As an added service, because he was good natured and wanted to help the rural people, he would load up the cream cans and perhaps pick up some groceries or medicines that were needed.

The first mailman I remember was Dick Hannah. He drove a team and open buggy. The mail was in canvas bags and the parcels were covered with a blanket or piece of canvas. As long as the mailmen drove horses, they used to try to make the farthest point on the route by noon, usually a local post office where they had their dinner and fed and watered their team. They would leave the mail for those who had boxes along the route, and take the remainder to the local post office where other residents picked it up.

There were several postmasters in the Spondin district at the end of our route: Clarence Kensey, George Dawson, Coopers, Elliots, Harry Crego, [illegible]ll Starkie and Howard Mulgrove. When this post office finally closed, a group of metal boxes were installed at the end of the route.

In winter the mailman had a covered van, with a small heater in it. We used to be able to see him coming down the sleigh trail, with little puffs of smoke coming out of the stovepipe. Times when there were bad blizzards, he might get part way along the route and have to turn back. Occasionally he might have to stay overnight at a farm home.

When the mailmen started using trucks, they had trouble too. The roads weren't very good, and often in the spring or after heavy rains there would be wash-outs and mud holes, and if they got stuck they would have to walk to find someone to pull them out. In the winter they would find many of the side roads blocked with snow. Then they would go up the Castor trail to Greenway's corner, and someone from east of there would meet them and pick up the mail for the whole neighborhood.

I think the Pincombe family have had the route longer than anyone else. The father, Art Pincombe, did many favors for his customers. One time he delivered to me a twenty-four foot grain auger which had been shipped by freight. Other drivers I remember are John Fox, Bee Howery, Cecil Embree, Glen Grover, Bob Pollock, and Mrs. Albert Holtzer.

The route is not as heavy as it used to be, as many have dropped off the route in favor of a box in town. The mailboxes which remain along country roads remind

us of the faithful mail carriers who did their utmost to see that the mail went through.

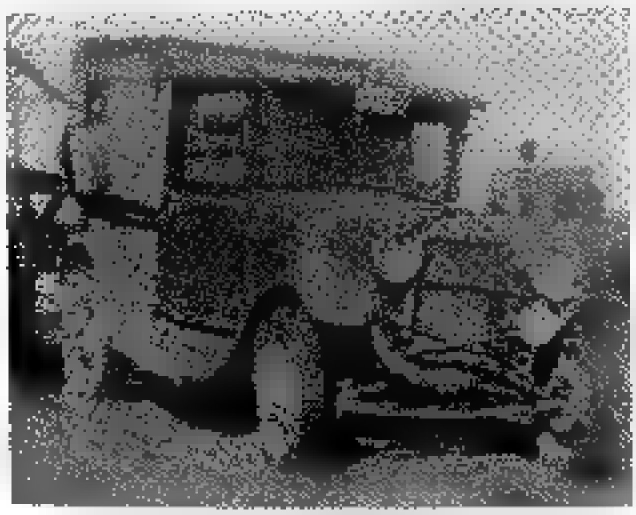
ARTHUR PINCOMBE SR. — Mailman on R. R. No. 1 from 1939 till 1968

By Helen Pincombe Riddle

Art Pincombe, mailman on Route One Hanna from 1939 till 1968.

Art was born in 1891 at Lobo, Ontario. In 1918 he bought a farm eight miles north of Richdale. He and Lillian McPherson were married the same year. He and his wife gave their time and effort in the pioneering and development of the area. In 1925 Art acted as butcher for the Riest district beef ring. While living here the Pincombes had four sons and three daughters.

In 1939 he and his family left the farm and moved to Hanna, at which time he took over the contract for rural route No. 1, from Bee Howery. For a time he drove a Model T and then he drove the well-known Model A pickup. In the winter he used horses and a covered sleigh. Leaving Hanna on mail day with a rested team, he would stop overnight at Spondin. Next day he would take the other team that had been barned at Spondin and continue on the route. The first few years the route was over fifty miles long; later on it lengthened. Those winter trips were punishing to man and beast. Usually he was the first one over the road after a blow.



Art Pincombe's mail truck

He braved a wide variety of weather in all seasons of the year to see that the mail, freight, eggs and cream got through. Freight went to the two Spondin stores, and the cream to the Spondin Creamery owned by J. A. Rasmussen. On his way back to Hanna he brought the mail from the Spondin post office, sometimes delivering a few groceries as well as the mail, and taking cream and eggs to the Dairy Pool. By 1950 he also had the contract for Rural Route No. [illegible]. This made four trips a week, two on each route. By this time the roads were greatly improved, so he used a truck all year round.

The faithful mailman, Art Pincombe, made his last trip on Tuesday, April 9, 1968, and passed away the following day. He had delivered mail for twenty-nine consecutive years, a record very few rural mailmen achieved.

He is survived by his wife Lillian, one son Gordon and a daughter Sylvia Holzer in Hanna; his other daughters Helen Riddle of Scapa and Eileen Sweep of Delia; and sons Arthur at Alsask, Albert in Calgary, and Percy at Mantario.

RURAL ROUTE No. 1 — SCAPA WEST

By Erbin Grove

Earl Hill also drove rural route no. 1, south and west of Scapa. In the winter time, in some of those hills, it was a hard job to make the trip. There were times the

only way he could make it was to ride one horse and lead a pack horse. A few times I helped him get his pack horse loaded; at Christmas time he sure looked like a wide horse. Other drivers on rural route no. 1 were George Hausher, Richard Zeamer and Emil Glubrecht.

George Hausher drove from 1932 to 1940. He would leave Scapa at ten in the morning after mail was sorted from the train and if roads were bad returned at eleven or twelve in the evening. As there were no snowplows, winter roads were often so bad he had to go through fields and then explain to the postal department why he had changed his route.

The pay was thirty-five dollars per month which was most welcome in the hungry thirties.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 — SCAPA EAST

By Erbin Grove

John Corry and William Storch Sr. were the main organizers of rural route no. 2 from Scapa east. It was started in the fall of 1927 with sixty mail boxes, and is still going in 1977, but there aren't so many now. The route was thirty miles long. In winter the trip was made by team of horses and covered cutter, which had a small heater in it.

Jesse Hill was first mail route driver, and then Earl Hill took it over. We had no snowplows at that time and the snow seemed to keep getting deeper all winter. The road would get so heavy that Earl would have to leave his team, named Belle and Fanny, at a farm along the route and exchange it for a fresh team. By the time he would get to our place just four or five miles from Scapa his fresh team would be very tired, so he would rest his team for an hour or so before he went on his way. He was a good mail man; he also hauled cream and eggs to be shipped by train to Hanna or to Alix next morning. Other drivers were Chester Hill, John and Maymie Cattanach, Ernie Riddle, Milt Stuart. Fred Bottomley, who had the mail route from 1937 to 1945, was a very faithful mailman. I remember one time he made the trip on Christmas day; he sure made a lot of people happy that day.

Fred Harvey is our present mailman, and has been since 1946. I can remember one winter he was driving a closed cutter with a little stove in it. The snow was very deep, so when he made the turn by our gate over went his cutter. The stove fell out in the snow but no harm was done. He picked up his little stove, put the fire back in the stove, put the stove pipe on again and he was on his way with the smoke pouring out of the stove pipe again.

RURAL ROUTE No. 2 FROM ENDIANG SOUTH

By Tom Pattinson

This route started on November third, 1928 with R. S. Gregory-Allan (Dick Allan) as driver on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Other route drivers were Albert Webber, George Baird, Forest Tucker, Carl Boehlke, Albert Boehlke, Hicks Cole, Cliff James, Roy Phibbs and Eric Stoneystreet who still delivers the mail.

George Baird carried mail for nine years by team. He missed two trips in that time, and came once on Christmas Day. Total length of the route is twenty-two miles.

CHAPTER VIII

NO DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

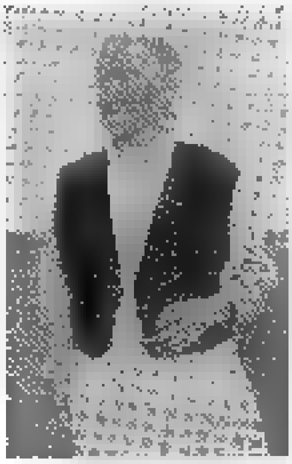
By Freda Viste

Of all the tribulations faced by the early settlers, the lack of hospitals and

doctors was one of the greatest. Putting it plainly it was "Survival of the fittest". It was fortunate that the very first to come west were generally healthy young men who seldom required a doctor's services, except for treatment of injuries due to accidents. As more of the wives and families joined their men and some of the bachelors married, the need for hospitals became more evident. Occasionally there was a nurse among the pioneers' wives. They were a godsend to any community, often being called upon to administer aid in the absence of a doctor. They ran into situations where they had to set broken bones, or sew up and dress wounds without anesthetic. The only thing available in most homes was a good strong whiskey or brandy, kept on hand for medical purposes. It was used as an antiseptic as well as a pain killer.

It was these nurses, or women who had some knowledge through experience, who became mid-wives. Their role was not an easy one, since they had to be prepared to go whenever they were needed, in any kind of weather, often travelling over rough terrain to get to the expectant mothers. It was customary for them to stay with their patients and care for the baby up to a week or more. Sometimes they found themselves working in circumstances where people couldn't even afford the necessities for the baby. There were times when a mid-wife couldn't be reached, and a neighbor who had a child or two of her own, might be called upon to assist with the delivery. In times of need everyone did what they could. The following women were among those who served in the area north of Hanna as mid-wives and nurses. Mrs. Henry Willie, Mrs. Julius Schultz, Mrs. Willington Hamilton, Mrs. Paulsen, Mrs. Dunkle, Mrs. Sexsmith, Mrs. J. W. Taylor (registered nurse).

Mrs. J. W. Taylor, R.N.


Mrs. Sexsmith, mid-wife and nurse, October, 1933.

Mrs. Taylor was a resident of the Garden Plain district. About 1913 she wrote the following account of a nursing experience she'd had, for her New York Alumni magazine. The first page of the original story was lost so her daughter Marion wrote it as she remembers it.

"It seems that there was an older bachelor, Shorty Snyder, I believe, who had wooed and won as his pioneer bride, a much younger lady. They homesteaded somewhere in the Grassy Slope area, I think.

"Anyway one morning he drove his team and buggy to our farm, to see if Mother, who herself was several months pregnant, would come back to his little home to help deliver their first baby. So mother, who never refused to help, checked her nurse's bag, which was kept ready for such emergencies, left instructions for her husband and family, and climbed into the buggy with Shorty. They were off in great haste, bumping across the prairie trails to the south east.

"Now from Mother's story: "One woman told me after that, when she saw us passing her place she said, 'Well, that couple are in a big hurry to leave the country'.

"We travelled thus for seven miles, until the thoroughbred horse he was driving with the other high-spirited one, nearly dropped from exhaustion. I kept telling him the case was not so urgent as he feared, and he had better save his horses some, but he replied, 'Oh, no, I can always get another horse, but it's not so easy to get a wife'.

"When we arrived at his abode, a crazy patchwork shack, about 10' x 10' in

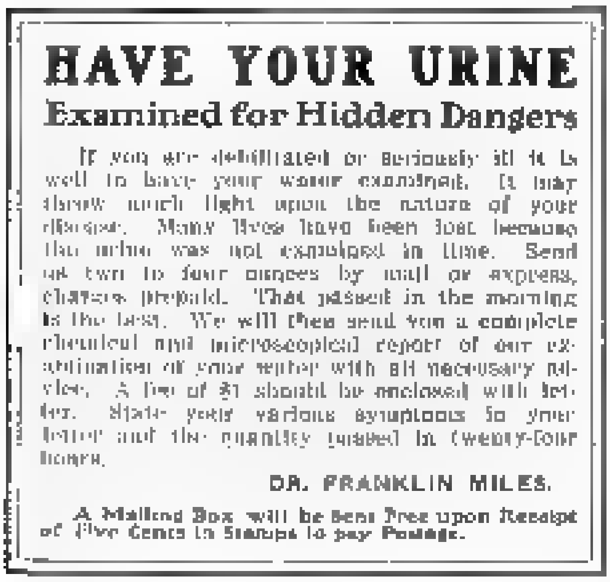
which were a bed, dresser, stove, table and chair, I found another neighbor lady with his dear wee wife, who was only 17 years of age. After talking things over I decided he would need to go S.W. to Hanna for a Doctor.

"Well, he hitched up the poor exhausted team again, and off he went alone. People who saw him passing say he was whipping his team all the way. The Doctor arrived about sundown, and decided an operation was needed. You can imagine the inconvenience, one kerosene lamp, one little table, and one basin.

"When I had the patient and all in readiness, the only place to set the basin of disinfectant was on the floor by the Doctor's feet. I administered the chloroform, the other lady held the lamp while the husband helped hold his wife in position. I kept thinking, 'Whatever shall we do if the lamp glass should break!' When horror of horrors! the Doctor changed his position a little, and stepped back — I heard a splash. Yes, he had stepped into the basin of disinfectant. He said not to worry as he could do without it. Soon he was finished. What a relief! The husband took the Doctor back to Hanna, and brought a nurse back from there. I felt sorry for her — a big girl having to manage in that small shack. But I was glad to start for home myself.

"I could tell of other cases — another time — some extremely sad. One lady patient was in convulsions for hours, and passed away thus. Thank God, the Doctor was in attendance with me there."

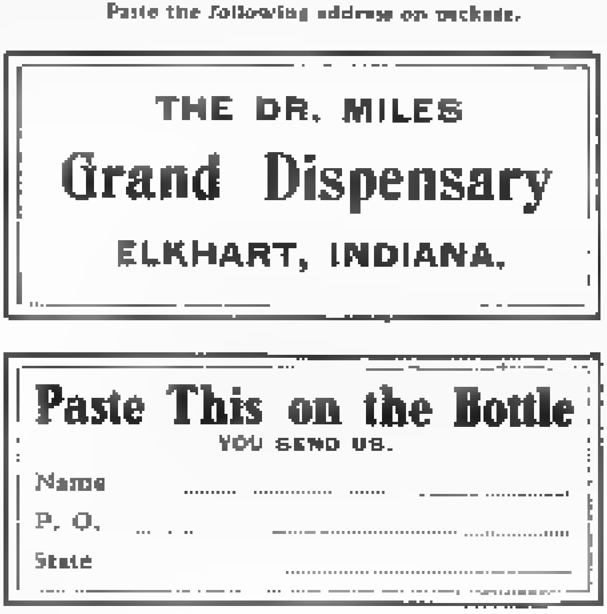
This was the era of mustard plasters, onion poultices, tonics, liniments and home cures of all sorts. Every family had its own pet remedies, and used them with great faith. Every newspaper had pages of advertisements of remedies to cure everything from a bald head to ingrown toe nails. They were always accompanied by letters from satisfied customers. The mail contained the same type of quack advertising, with cards so you could send in the names of your ailing friends so they too could be placed on the mailing lists.


HAVE YOUR URINE
Examined for Hidden Dangers

If you are debilitated or seriously ill it is well to have your water examined. It may throw much light upon the nature of your disease. Many lives have been lost because the urine was not examined in time. Send us two to four ounces by mail or express, charges prepaid. That passed in the morning is the best. We will then send you a complete chemical and microscopical report of our examination of your water with all necessary advice. A fee of $1 should be enclosed with letter. State your various symptoms in your letter and the quantity passed in twenty-four hours.

DR. FRANKLIN MILES.

A Mailing Box will be Sent Free upon Receipt of Five Cents in Stamps to pay Postage.


Paste the following address on package.

THE DR. MILES
Grand Dispensary
ELKHART, INDIANA.

Paste This on the Bottle
YOU SEND US.

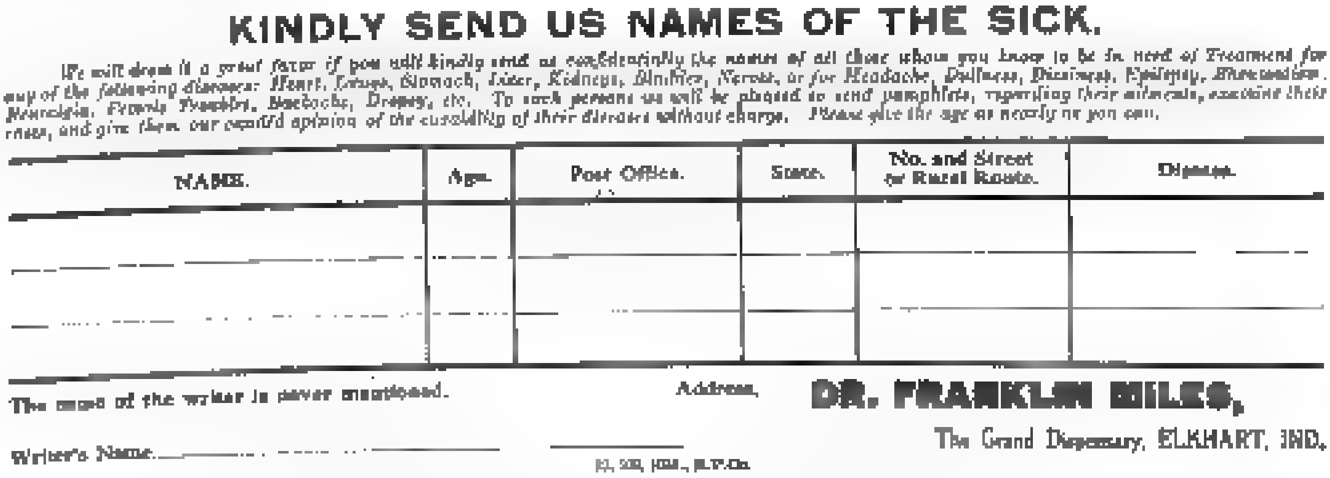
Name ....
P. O. ....
State ....

Quack Advertising

Before there was a hospital or doctor in Hanna, a Dr. Crawford from Craigmyle and Dr. Lyons of Castor were sometimes called into the district. Castor was the nearest hospital. In most cases the doctors went to the home. Appendicitis seemed to be the most common medical problem, often resulting in death. This was mainly due to the long slow trip to summon a doctor, or the rough ride in wagon or sleigh to a hospital. A tragic story of such an incident was written in the "Garden Plain Story" by Mrs. Margaret Taylor.

"In 1918 when our oldest girl started school she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. We called in Dr. Mason who operated right on the kitchen table, since

there was no hospital in Hanna. Although we had a trained nurse stay with us, we lost our little girl. As a result of this Jim worked very hard with Dr. Mason to start the Hanna Hospital."



KINDLY SEND US NAMES OF THE SICK.

We will deem it a great favor if you will kindly send us confidentially the names of all those whom you know to be in need of Treatment for any of the following diseases: Heart, Lungs, Stomach, Liver, Kidneys, Bladder, Nerves, or for Headache, Dullness, Dizziness, Epilepsy, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Female Troubles, Backache, Dropsy, etc. To such persons we will be pleased to send pamphlets, regarding their ailments, examine their cases, and give them our candid opinion of the curability of their diseases without charge. Please give the age as nearly as you can.

NAME.	Age.	Post Office.	State.	No. and Street or Rural Route.	Disease.

The name of the writer is never mentioned.

Writer's Name.________________ ________

[illegible]

Address, **DR. FRANKLIN MILES,**
The Grand Dispensary, ELKHART, IND.

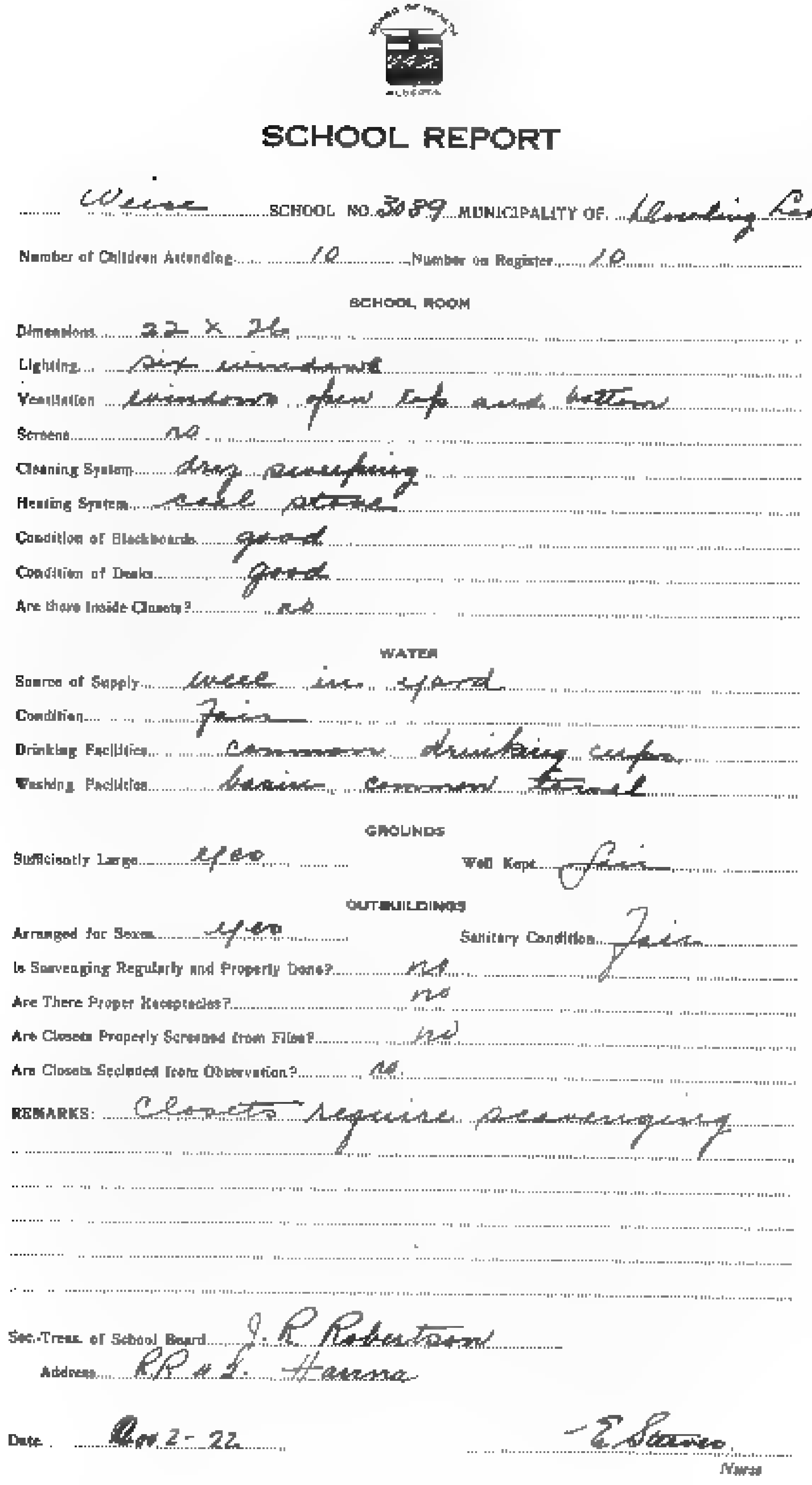
This is the type of advertising that frequented the mail.

At the mention of year 1918, any old timer would think of the "Spanish Influenza" outbreak, and all the suffering it brought. The few doctors in the area were exhausted and couldn't begin to tend to everyone. Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann told of their experience at that time. They were the only ones in the district that weren't down with the flu, so Charlie made the rounds on horseback, doing chores for all the neighbors. Mrs. Lohrmann did baking and washing to help out. All nine of the Hill family, who lived kitty-corner from them, were down at once. Charlie went to Hanna with the team to get Dr. Mason for them and then took the doctor back. He just got home and started doing his own chores when Mrs. Ernest Fletcher came for help. Her husband was delirious, so Charlie went to haul feed for them. Mr. Bodemann, who lived to the east, was very sick. Charlie was sure he had pneumonia, so he went to town for the doctor, but couldn't convince him to come out. Mr. Bodemann passed away. It was a similar story throughout the whole area, with the able, like Mr. and Mrs. Lohrmann, helping the disabled.

In 1914 the old Copeville post office was moved to Hanna and remodelled for an 8 to 12 patient hospital. There were four nurses on staff, who did all the housekeeping duties and the laundry service. In 1918 that building was abandoned for a larger one. Nick Lund was the first patient admitted into that hospital. It served a large area and was soon found to be too small. In 1922 the new Hanna Municipal Hospital opened, located where the present hospital and nursing home are. This was adequate for many years.

In the early twenties the Provincial Department of Public Health set up Public Health Nursing Services. Districts were formed, with a nurse to be appointed for each district. A letter to the school board stated, "It is the desire of this Department to make the Public Health Nurse a valuable asset in a community for the prevention of disease and reduction of infant mortality". This program was slow in getting off the ground. Meanwhile local doctors and nurses acted in the capacity of Public Health personnel. The purpose of the program was to look after immunizations, examine the children, inspect the sanitary conditions of the schools and even do minor surgery.

Miss Lomness, now Mrs. Jack Ross, of Chilliwack, B.C. was one of the pioneer nurses in this work. She was also matron of the Hanna Hospital for nine years, from 1929 to 1938. She was kind enough to submit the following information: "Health Clinics were formed, composed of a nurse, doctor or dentist to visit the rural schools annually. I believe there were about 28 schools altogether.



SCHOOL REPORT

Weise SCHOOL NO. 3089 MUNICIPALITY OF Sounding Lake

Number of Children Attending 10 Number on Register 10

SCHOOL ROOM

Dimensions 22 x 26

Lighting six windows

Ventilation windows open top and bottom

Screens no

Cleaning System dry sweeping

Heating System coal stove

Condition of Blackboards good

Condition of Desks good

Are there Inside Closets? no

WATER

Source of Supply well in yard

Condition Fair

Drinking Facilities common drinking cup

Washing Facilities basin, common towel

GROUNDS

Sufficiently Large yes Well Kept Fair

OUTBUILDINGS

Arranged for Sexes yes Sanitary Condition Fair

Is Scavenging Regularly and Properly Done? no

Are There Proper Receptacles? no

Are Closets Properly Screened from Flies? no

Are Closets Secluded from Observation? no

REMARKS: Closets require scavenging

Sec.-Treas. of School Board J. R. Robertson

Address R.R. #2. Hanna

Date Nov 2-22

E Stevens
Nurse

A typical report by a Public Health Nurse

We would examine the school children. Then later as a "follow up", minor surgery such as removing tonsils or adenoids, or dental work was performed in the school room. I remember with awe, helping the doctor remove tonsils or perform minor surgery with our limited supplies at hand. Afterward the child patient would be laid on a makeshift bed, lovingly prepared by the parents present, to recuperate. Later in the evening the child would be taken home by team and buggy, or sled, to be cared for by mother. To my knowledge there were never any serious complications — something parents today will find hard to believe.

"I have many memories of my days at the hospital; one mother instructing me regarding the special laundering care of her boy's (a patient) home knit, long woollen underwear; one father who would bring his children in for hospital care, with various accompanying colorful (?) oaths.

"I remember the special gold pieces the staff members received every Christmas, accompanied with a note of appreciation to us, a special thank you from the Hospital Board.

"Another fond memory concerns the Board meetings. The members who often had to drive over nearly impossible snow or mud-bound roads, or in blizzard conditions, rarely missed a meeting. Mr. J. McDonald Taylor and Mr. J. Corry were two of these stalwarts, who with the other board members would discuss and thresh over the ever present problem of financing in those depression years. Often the hour of dismissal was in the "wee small hours" of the second day. To allay some of these troubles and help soften their anxieties, thus helping them "get on with the job", I would hastily prepare bacon, eggs and coffee as a break period for them. It was not unusual in those hard years for staff members to have to wait for their pay until two or three months had passed, and funds for financing could be obtained.

"Whenever news of the Hanna district arrives at my door, courtesy of friends, fond memories return. Often I have deep longings to meet some of these old friends, the pioneers and others, to refurbish memories as we knew each other in those good old days."

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent to the school boards in 1930: "The Clinic comes to the district fully equipped for the work to be undertaken. Those responsible are notified of the date; parents may bring any children they wish to the Clinic, including pre-schoolers.

"To help meet the cost of the service, the charges are as follows: Removal of tonsils and adenoids $15.00. (Other minor surgery in proportion). Dental Services: Extractions 50¢ to $1.00, Fillings $1.00 to $2.00. Vaccinations against Smallpox, free of charge."

Some of the first dentists in Hanna were Dr. Sandercock, Dr. W. Honey and Dr. Scott. In this field there weren't very many home practitioners. Carl Welch had a pair of dental pliers and did extractions. The tooth-ache had to be unbearable to have it pulled without any freezing or anesthetic. Carl was also a handy man in other areas. He made a lot of caskets, and even prepared the bodies for interment, especially within the large Welch family.

Care of the elderly, mental patients, and the disabled, was swept under the rug as much as possible. It was considered shameful to have a member of the family mentally disturbed and they were kept hidden most of the time. The same went for the older members of the family when they became senile.

It would be utterly impossible for any of us to imagine what it would be like to live under the conditions that our pioneers did. Still they accepted things as they were, without much question. Perhaps it was the staunch faith most of them had, and the belief that whatever happened was what the Almighty had decreed for

them, be it injury, sickness or death. There was a peace of mind prevailed that we have lost in the struggle to make things easier and more secure for ourselves. We have almost instant communication, modern hospitals, wonder drugs that we rely heavily upon. They had each other.

CHAPTER IX

COAL

Indians, no doubt, discovered coal in the area and used it to fire their pottery cooking vessels. Perhaps they used the black "stones" around their campfires and found they would burn and give off more heat than buffalo dung, their only other source of fuel on these treeless plains.

In 1858, when Captain John Palliser noticed a coal seam burning along the cut banks of the Red Deer River, [illegible] asked the Indians how long [illegible] had been burning. They replied, "As long as we can remember." Cut banks, in what we call the bad lands, could be the remains of burned out coal beds from long ago.

Men seeking homesteads rode through the area, now known as Garden Plain, as early as 1905 and saw out-croppings of coal along the banks of Berry Creek, noted its location and returned to dig their winter fuel supply — a welcome change from buffalo chips. John Grove says, "I dug and hauled my first load of coal from Garden Plain in the summer of 1907. No mine was in operation then as no settlers were there, not even a sod shack could be seen."

In 1909 a mine was opened on 1-34-14 and was operated by Thomas A. Kane, assisted by Martin Siverson. This soft lignite coal had much moisture and little carbon but was [illegible] most welcome winter fuel. Two other mines were opened, one on 6-34-13 by Donald Cattanach and the other on 18-33-13 by Thomas McCafferty.

At the mine on Bert Kirkeby's homestead on 3-33-16 [illegible] 1914 Austin Ludlow recalls: "With the help of Bert's brothers Gilbert and Alfred, a shaft was sunk straight down and a bucket arrangement brought up the coal. Later a grade and tunnel were dug, and first a horse and quarter-ton cars and then a horse-powered winch and half-ton cars pulled the coal to the surface, where it was loaded by hand onto wagons which lined up from daylight to dark.

"A mud seam divided the top three feet of coal from the bottom foot. This mud was dug out with [illegible] pick, the top coal knocked down and then the bottom coal dug out.

"Trevor and Bill Wiles and then John Keehn took over the mine, followed by Hjlmer Holgren, Alfie Donald and in 1920, by Louis Anderson and Scotty Edwards.

"In 1928 Berk Kirkeby opened [illegible] new mine on Fred Borell's homestead on the southwest quarter of 3-33-16. He used a steam engine to hoist coal up from his mine, where tunnels were so low miners could not stand upright but had to pick coal from a kneeling position. This was most uncomfortable as the mine was always wet. This mine was soon closed down because it could not meet government safety regulations.

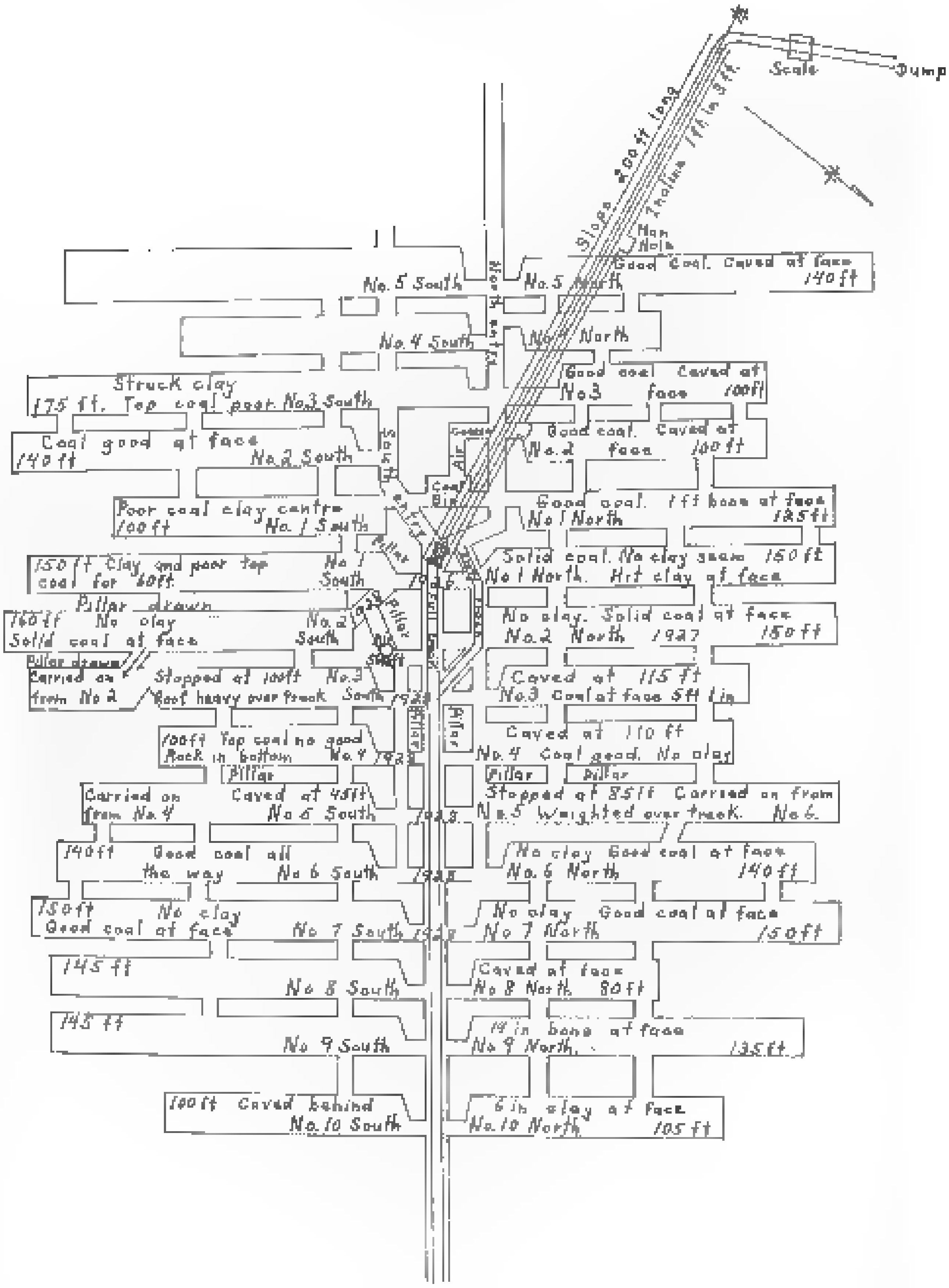
"In 1934 Bert opened [illegible] strip mine, where George Grosse drove twelve horses on a road grader [illegible] strip twenty-seven feet of dirt from a five-foot coal seam.

"Some other miners were Fred Gelde, Clyde Wooden, Bert Ludlow, Ed and Fred Rogers, Tom Samson, Conrad Hansen, Mack Sobolewski, Emil Kammerle, Clyde Coons, Louis and Martin Johnson, Melvin Kirkeby, Hicks Cole, Jim Clancy, Paul Wasdel and Elmer Holgren."

A strip mine on 29-33-13 was opened by Jo Zehner who sold to Bill Glover, who in turn sold to Clarence and Louis Dafoe, who operated the mine until 1928.

MINE No. 1236 GARDEN PLAIN

Location: L.S. 16 25-33-14 W4
Operated by R. J. Unsworth, and Owned
Strata Horizontal
Thickness of cover 70 ft.
Thickness of seam 4 ft. 6 in.


Scale
Dump
Slope 200 ft long
Incline 17ft in 3ft.
Man Hole
Good Coal. Caved at face 140 ft
No. 5 South
No. 5 North
No. 4 South
No. 4 North
Good coal Caved at No 3 face 100 ft
Struck clay 175 ft. Top coal poor. No. 3 South
Coal good at face 140 ft No. 2 South
Good coal. Caved at No. 2 face 100 ft
Air
Coal Bin
Poor coal clay centre 100 ft No. 1 South
Good coal. 1 ft bone at face 125 ft No 1 North
Entry
Pillar
150 ft Clay and poor top coal for 60 ft. No 1 South
Solid coal. No clay seam 150 ft No 1 North. Hrt clay at face
1926
Pillar drawn
160 ft No clay Solid coal at face No. 2 South
Pillar
Air Shaft
No clay. Solid coal at face No. 2 North 1927 150 ft
Pillar drawn
Carried on from No 2
Stopped at 100 ft Roof heavy over track No. 3 South 1928
Caved at 115 ft No. 3 Coal at face 5 ft 1 in
Pillar
100 ft Top coal no good Rock in bottom No. 4 1928
Caved at 110 ft No. 4 Coal good. No clay
Pillar
Carried on from No. 4 Caved at 45 ft No 6 South
1928
Stopped at 85 ft Carried on from No. 5 Weighted over track. No 6.
140 ft Good coal all the way No 6 South
1928
No clay Good coal at face No. 6 North 140 ft
150 ft No clay Good coal at face No 7 South 1928
No clay Good coal at face No 7 North 150 ft
145 ft No 8 South
Caved at face No 8 North 80 ft
145 ft No 9 South
14 in bone at face No 9 North 135 ft
100 ft Caved behind No. 10 South
6 in clay at face No. 10 North 105 ft

As this coal didn't stack easily it was stock piled in summer for sale later in the fall and winter. The dirt and sand stone was removed with a fresno pulled by four horses. They would drill a hole in the coal with a coal auger about an inch in diameter and put in a charge of black powder with a fuse on it, light the fuse and get back out of the way. The coal chunks were then loaded into the wagons by hand.

One late fall when there had been no snow, a blizzard blew up suddenly and caught men with loaded wagons at the mine. They had to stay in the bunk house for three days, then unload their coal and return home with empty wagons and difficult wheeling, to come back later with sleighs.

Before the Dafoe Brothers sold to Charlie Brown, who had a mine near by, they stripped dirt from five hundred tons of coal which are still there, covered with mud and water, as the seam [illegible] lower than the Berry Creek bed.

Some workers in the Dafoe mine were: Harry Lumsden, Charlie Overton, Ralph Cleary, Fred and George Whaley, Ed Cleary, Ed Loveday and Murl Wright.

Another operator of a mine in that area was Russel Hemstock.

Frances Unsworth tells of the coal mining experiences of her husband Bob.

"While trying to locate a water well, he struck a seam of coal and in 1925 he and a hired man worked all winter sinking a slope down to it. He started putting out coal and worked for over fifteen years in his own mine.

"He was unlucky enough to meet with an accident and got his back broken. After eight weeks in a Hanna Hospital bed he surprised his physician, Dr. Baxendale, by getting up and walking.

"After that he leased the mine out and was an overseer.

"Many a car of coal I hauled to the top with a team of horses, and weighed it and pushed it out to the tipple to dump it into the farmer's wagon.

"If you ever were caught in the dark you should try walking in a mine and have your light go out. Black is black and dark is dark, but it really gives one a funny feeling to try and grope one's way out long entries to get to daylight. I have helped load cars, helped drill holes in the face for shots, made paper dummies for tamping shots, and pushed a car of coal out while Bob was lighting the fuse. Believe me, that [illegible] when you test your strength, as I was so scared I'd be on the run before I'd gone far.

"Other mines opened up around us and began cutting coal prices with the result that no one made a living. Coal was sold at first for $3.00 per ton, then $2.50 and then $2.00. The miners were paid $1.50 a ton to dig it, so that left only fifty cents a ton for timbers, fuse, powder, tracks and tools and hauling to the top. The mines began to close down and the owners moved away. We also had to close down.

"Men from the mines department still come and check over our mine, perhaps with a view to reopening it in this time of energy crises."

Henry Finkbiner in 1927 opened a mine just north of Unsworths where they mined a seam about fifty feet underground. With a two ton truck they hauled coal to Hanna and to country schools. A royalty of ten cents a ton was paid to the government. In the depression years, coal was traded for cattle, grain or whatever they had. The mine closed in 1938. All that remains is a small mound of dirt.

Alfred Pahl tells us: "In 1930 seven farmers in the Solon area worked together to strip a small area of coal bed so they could have coal for their own use. Digging down about four feet resulted in some flooding so each morning the water was pumped by jacking up a model T Ford and running the pump off the back wheel. In 1931 my father, Fred Pahl, applied [illegible] the provincial government and was granted the right to legally operate a coal mine. In the hard years of 1933 to 1936

the government issued vouchers to residents of the area which they could use to buy coal. The mine owners sent the vouchers to Edmonton and a cheque was received back. People came for coal from as far as the Saskatchewan border with horses and wagons or sleighs. In the war years it was difficult to obtain powder and dynamite. When times improved heavier equipment was used and up to 3,000 tons were stripped each year. When gas was installed in Hanna and farmers switched to stokers, which required crushed coal, Fred Pahl and sons Alfred and Otto closed their mine in 1952."

In the Glenbow Institute in Calgary the following information was found.

Mine Number	Operated By	Year	Address	Location
375	T. A. Kane	1912	Garden Plain	1-34-14
398	Baxter & Camp	1913	Fertility	18-33-13
398	Tom McCafferty	1914	Fertility	18-33-13
486	Charlie Brown	1915	Hanna	29-32-13
487	Fred Giede	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
488	Zehner & Unsworth	1915	Garden Plain	6-33-13
490	Ken Bryanton	1915	Garden Plain	18-33-13
492	Don Cattanach	1915	Garden Plain	6-34-13
496	Bert A. Kirkeby	1915	Dowling Lake	3-33-16
646	Harry Trentham	1916	Garden Plain	1-34-14

Hanna's First Coal Shipment was in 1912

Hanna Herald: January 2, 1913 — "As Hanna is situated in the centre of one of the best coal districts in Alberta it is a surety that in a very short time this will be one of the most important coal shipping points. The first shipment of coal from this town went out last week by C. N. R. consigned to Alsask.

The car contained thirty tons of high grade lignite coal from the Brown mine north of here and Mr. Brown, proprietor of this mine, has the honor of being the first man to ship coal out of this district by rail."

Early miners were fortunate in having an experienced English coal miner in the area. He was Robert Unsworth Sr. Whenever they had a problem he was there with willing help.

When Walter Mansfield was trapped under a frozen overhang which collapsed on him at the Brown mine, the first thought was to send for Mr. Unsworth, but his help came too late and young Walter Mansfield lost his life.

A coal mine was started by Clyde Wooden the summer of 1914 on land owned by Nick Lund on the NW¼ of 18-33-15.

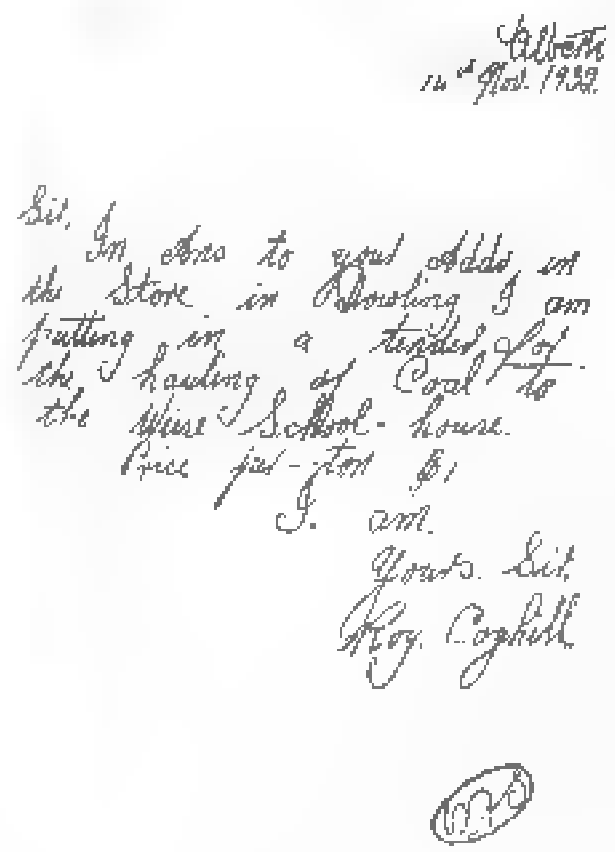
Attention was first drawn to this spot by the appearance of coal in a small spring at this site.

The entrance was at the foot of a steep high bank on the south east side of a seventeen acre slough where a tunnel was dug about 350 feet to a room where several tunnels branched out in search of a thicker seam of good coal. There were approximately fourteen inches of good coal with a thicker seam of poor coal on top. Coal was pushed out by hand in small low cars on rails. Among others who worked in this mine were Harold Lund and Gene Flanders. It operated during the winter of 1914-15, but was abandoned in the summer of 1915.

1910 — Tom Kane's Garden Plain Mine. Note the poles holding up the frozen coulee bank as coal is loaded into the sleigh box.

1940 — George Unsworth and first car of coal out of new slope at Bob Unsworths' Three Star Mine.

1939 — George Unsworth and Rudy Hoover at new slope of Three Star Mine. Children are Gordon and Albert Unsworth.



Alberta
14th Nov. 1932.

Sir,
In Ans to your Adds in the Store in Dowling I am putting in a tender for the hauling of Coal to the Wise School-house.
Price per-ton $1.
I. am.
Yours. Sir,
Roy Coghill

1932 — Letter of Tender.

CHAPTER X

SPORTS

By W. L. Storch

The pioneers had to make their own entertainment; and would drive for miles to attend a stampede, a ball game or other sports event. They were family affairs with something for every age group.

The first U.F.A. picnic in the area was at Buchan School in 1912. The next year [illegible] was held at Corinne and when Garden Plain Hall was built in 1914, picnics were held there where they had baseball, football, horse races and every other kind of races and even bucking horses without benefit of chutes or corrals. Just good pick up horses to rescue the contestants.

This is Charlie Seefeldt's story of the 1914 picnic. "I am going back to some of the things that happened around Hanna in the early days. I can remember of an incident in which I was involved.

"When the Railroad came through this district [illegible] 1912, things began to bloom as the saying goes. New towns sprang up all around us and the same could be said for the districts away from the railroad.

"In the summer of 1914, the district known as Garden Plain came to life. Word got around that they were going to have a big picnic, baseball, football, and a big dance. It was to be their first big picnic. They sent word to Hanna to have somebody bring out a ball team. Hanna's best ball team, of which I was a member, were playing at Big Valley for a purse of $500.00 so the manager asked me if I would pick up a team to go to Garden Plain. This certainly sounded like a big deal to me. I got word around that I was going to take a baseball team to Garden Plain for [illegible] big celebration.

"Now in order to get to the picnic, we had to find someone to take us, so we got in touch with a fellow by the name of Bill Vowel. Bill came in with a four horse outfit on a hayrack equipped with [illegible] few wooden boxes to sit on. About twenty-six or twenty-seven people got aboard. This was an overload to start with. The result was some of his horses played out and he had to go to some farmer to borrow two horses to get us to Garden Plain. A number of us walked and got there ahead of Bill.

"We got a sandwich and immediately started to play baseball. We won the baseball game quite easily, so later in the afternoon we were asked if we would like to play a game of football. We started to play, I got the ball and ran the hundred and ten yards, the length of the grounds and demanded [illegible] touchdown or six points. I was overruled and was told in no uncertain manner that the game would be played the same as it was in Europe. At the end of the first half the score was 37 to 0 against us. So while we were resting [illegible] team of horses got loose and in no time at all a lot of other horses broke loose. A number of buggies were upset and three or four horses started north-east as fast as they could go. Some of these horses ran all the way home, some sixteen miles distance to the north-east of Garden Plain. So by the time things quieted down, darkness had set in and they called it quits and we were durn well pleased because we did not want any more of that kind of football."

Margaret Welch Foss gives a child's impression of her first Garden Plain Picnic.

"The very first annual First of July picnic and celebration [illegible] the site of the Garden Plain Hall that I attended was one of the big events in my life. This was due mainly to the fact that the Big Band from Castor was in attendance and playing [illegible] March as we arrived. As we were approaching the main gathering, with me holding hands with my parents, I couldn't walk because the music went straight to my feet and I danced every step I took that day. No one will ever realize how full that band music made my day and being outdoors made the music even more beautiful. I couldn't really guess as to the actual size of the band, but to me it was huge. I guess it really was to a four year old. Those picnics were always filled with fun and good fellowship. They usually had a baseball game or two, all kinds of foot races for all ages from toddlers to the oldest adults, including sack races, three legged races, relays with potatoes on a spoon and every other type devised by man. Of course, they had a food booth with popcorn, peanuts, ice cream and other food items. Later in the day everyone pooled their picnic lunch they had brought, put it on a tablecloth spread out on the grass. No one could ever forget the delicious fried chicken, potato salad, pies and cakes to eat and enjoy, and to return to for added snacks later on. The day wound up with a dance in which children of all ages took part. The children didn't just dance with each other but rather with the kind adults who were so willing to teach us all kinds of dances. No wonder so many grew up to be extremely good dancers."

Clear Lake was the centre for a unique kind of picnic, which included water sports. Mrs. George Grosse tells the story of that area:

"The Clear Lake Community Club was formed in the early twenties, everyone working together. They had a real picnic, an annual affair; people from far and near were there. To start with everyone brought their lunch and a huge picnic supper enjoyed by all. There was every kind of dish you could think of and then to end up with, home-made ice cream for everyone. Yum was that good! Mr. Banner was a real swimmer and he gave lessons to most of the young ones, so we had some real good swimmers in the community.

"There were swimming races, a greased pig, horse races, fast and slow. In the slow event, anyone could get on an old horse, which there were lots of there, and try to come in last in this race. There were bucking events with no pick ups, no corrals, and some very good local talent, I can tell you; foot races for young and old, fat man's race, tug of war, three legged races and jumping contests, boxing matches, baseball and football. These were, of course all local people entering which made it more interesting, so different from this day and age. There might be a prize of anywhere from twenty-five cents to one dollar and chocolate bars for the kiddies. After this day came to a close, everyone travelled by horses east to Lee Doyle's or Jim McGuire's barn to a dance, which was packed. The music was supplied by Art Wales, Mrs. Benson and I think Miss Raisbeck from Hanna. We also had a local orchestra from the west at times which was very good consisting of Buckley Limpert, Charles and Frank Applegate, Herb Burrows, Roya Dechenne, Russ Bradford, Netta Limpert and Bill Limpert. It was one of the best, all played by ear.

"Everyone seemed to get behind this project, and there was a booth built out in the open with trees over the top, where ice cream, pop and lemonade was sold for five cents.

"As the years went by, in 1927 there was enough money raised to build a dance hall and two dressing rooms for the swimmers so again everyone pitched in. George Grosse and Elvin Churchill hauled all the lumber from Hanna with two four-horse outfits 10,000 feet of it, and I don't know how many shingles, so up went the hall. The Banners, Doyles, Lunds, Schultzs, Weiss, Bob Halloway, Fred Trottier, Hicks Cole and numerous others around all helped. Then for a short while they had a dance each week, which was well supported, and every Sunday ball games and a booth on the grounds.

"For the annual picnic then, up went the prices to fifty cents each. Mr. McCrea of the Hanna Herald did the advertising and printed real tickets and he was a great help; he just charged barely the cost, which was very much appreciated. Hanna was a great supporter of the club at all times.

"As years went on the hall was all paid for, and then in the hungry thirties the Lake went dry, the trees which had been planted died, and that was the end of all the good times there. The hall was finally auctioned off and sold to Carl Schultz, I think around 1939. The money was divided I believe between Craigmyle, Endiang and Hanna, all supporters of the project."

One resident of the Hanna North region entered a professional sport. Here is his story.

MY WRESTLING CAREER

By David Ruhl

In the winter season of 1946-47, I worked out at the north-east Calgary Y.M.C.A. wrestling with many light heavy and heavy weight wrestlers including Hubert Pelzer and Bob Kitchen before having my first match as a professional, in Acme, Alberta. I did farming in the summer months and wrestled in the winter, living on the farm until I started professional wrestling, this was in 1951 when I moved to Calgary turning to full time wrestling.

In 1955 I defeated Al (Mr. Murder) Mills for the Canadian Heavyweight Championship. In the years that followed I wrestled across the U.S.A. from San Francisco to New York City, and in Alaska. I have also wrestled all across Canada.

I wrestled for the World's Championship six times; these were with Lou Thesz once with whom I drew after 58 minutes, a one hour draw with Gene Kiniski, and four one hour draws with Dory Funk Jr. I won the Pacific Southwest Title from Abe Kashey in Phoenix, Arizona in 1959 and the North American Title from Abdulah the Butcher in 1970. I wrestled in Japan and Korea.

I retired with the Canadian Championship upon returning from my second trip to Japan in 1973.

I was married to Martha Miller in 1940. We lived on the west ½ 22-33-15. Martha and I have two children; a daughter, Diana Lynn, born in Hanna in 1945 and a son, Glenn David, born in Calgary in 1953. We make our home at 5646 Thorncliff Drive, Calgary, Alberta.

EXCERPTS FROM THE HANNA HERALD

Garden Plain — January 1923: The Rabbit Hunter's dance is reported to have been one of the most successful affairs of the season.

Chain Lake — February 8, 1923: We understand from reliable sources that the grounds at Clear Lake have been secured by the community for picnic or sports grounds for the nominal rental of $1.00 per annum. This was first taken up by the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local and afterwards it was found necessary to find a body acceptable to the government by the Municipality.

Greystone — December 11, 1914: A masquerade given by the young people of the district took place in Garden Plain School. They danced until 11 o'clock, had costume judging, then danced some more and had a big supper; it was said the bachelors shouldn't have to cook for a week. Dancing continued until 6:30 A.M. W. [illegible]. Ricket served breakfast. The dance went on until sun-up. Music was supplied by Mrs. Huskins and E. Himmelrich.

Greystone — May 27, 1915: A dance will be given in the Wiese School on Friday, June 11 under the auspices of the Greystone Football Club. Ladies are asked to bring refreshments. The proceeds will be given to the boys. All are welcome to attend.

July 4, 1915: At the July first picnic at Garden Plain the Greystone and

Garden Plain Football teams could not reach a winning point. The score was a 1 - 1 tie.

July 15, 1915: A football game will be played at Wiese School grounds on Friday evening at 6:30 between Greystone and Garden Plain. A dance will follow.

SPORTS IN SCAPA

By Earl Burt

Scapa was able to field a good baseball team until the late forties when baseball slowly died from a disease of fast cars and T.V.

Crow Hill junior team became the nucleus of Scapa seniors. The first game played was in 1926 with Scapa against Endiang with the score of 2 - 0 in favor of the latter. At Sports Days at places like Castor, Coronation and Hanna, Scapa came away with top money. In 1933 they were in a league with Hanna, Craigmyle and Delia. Scapa was coached by Harvey Burt and the team was a real power house, losing only two games all season. The Hanna Herald says: "At the Clear Lake Sport's Day the pitching of Stan and Wes James was too much for Harvey Burts' heavy hitters."

One Scapa boy said he could pitch well because he had strong muscles in his wrist from milking ten or fifteen cows by hand twice a day.

Another league was formed with Hackett, Byemoor and Endiang in the late thirties and into the forties with a new generation and a few old pros. One game this club lost which will never be forgotten was played in Coronation on July first 1940. Jim Boehlke was behind the bat, Reinhardt Welch on the mound with seventeen strikeouts to his credit and we lost 1 to 2.

When one thinks back to all the boys who played just for the fun of it; supplied their own uniforms; rode in the back of a two ton truck, rain or shine, for the love of the game and the club they represented; we wonder if they might have become super-stars if they had the opportunities that are here today.

It would be impossible to name all the boys but we should give credit to the coaches: Harvey Burt, Jack Temple, Charlie Lohrmann, Eddy Graham, Fred Slemp and Bud Hanson.

The Burt family presented a trophy to the No. 9 league in honour of their dad, Harvey Burt, who was widely known for his baseball knowledge.

In the early thirties, Scapa also had a men's softball team in the Byemoor league under the eagle eye of Eddy Graham.

Girls basketball was started in 1926 and lasted three or four years. Mac Slemp was their coach, Harvey Burt made the back boards and hoops, and the court was south of the hall where the Catholic Church now stands. Games were played with Fleet and Corinne.

The sport of Hockey was not too important in this area in the twenties and early thirties, broom ball played on sloughs was more popular, with an occasional game being played between Scapa and Garden Plain.

In the late thirties the Hein boys started a rink in their yard where Eddy Graham taught the basics of hockey having played with some of the best hockey men in Canada in his younger days.

In the early forties a rink was built north of Scapa beside the east section site where water was brought in by the C. N. R. to start the base of the rink. After the base was formed water was then pumped from a well to flood the ice. A four foot wall on the sides and an eight foot wall on each end made this a fine out-door rink with blue lines and good goals.

One of the big problems was trying to keep the snow off the ice when it blew in to a depth of five feet and had to be shovelled off by hand.

In the early fifties with players from Endiang, Dowling, Garden Plain and the surrounding area Scapa entered a team in the highway number 9 league which consisted of teams from Delia, Hand Hills and two teams from Hanna. During these games in Hanna the arena would be packed mostly with country people.

Interest in hockey in this area is growing; Scapa is once again forming a team with help from Dowling, Garden Plain and Endiang. As yet it is a fun thing but who knows what may develop as time goes on.

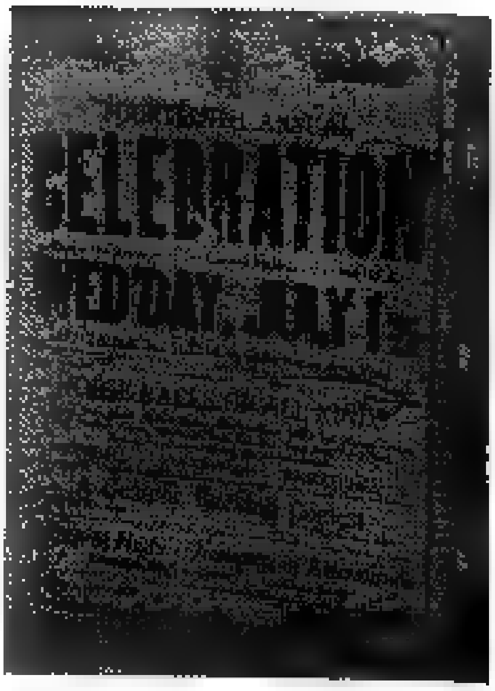
SPORTS

1918 — First of July picnic at Garden Plain. Horse race on Castor Trail, now Highway No. 36.

Letting the duck out of the box at Clear Lake picnic. You had to walk a greased pole to release the duck.

1911 — A Sunday ball game at Garden Plain complete with uniforms.

Dave Ruhl. Canadian Champion Wrestler 1955 until retirement in 1973. Pacific Southwest champion 1959 - 1961.



CELEBRATION

A poster from the collection of Ben Zeamer.

Clear Lake Picnic. Left to right: Agnes Burt, Luena Baxter, Nina Wiese, Edna Johnson, Lucy Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Bert Smith, Harry Wiese.

1950 — Winter fun on the farm. A sleigh riding party with skiis and sleds pulled behind the horse-drawn sleigh.

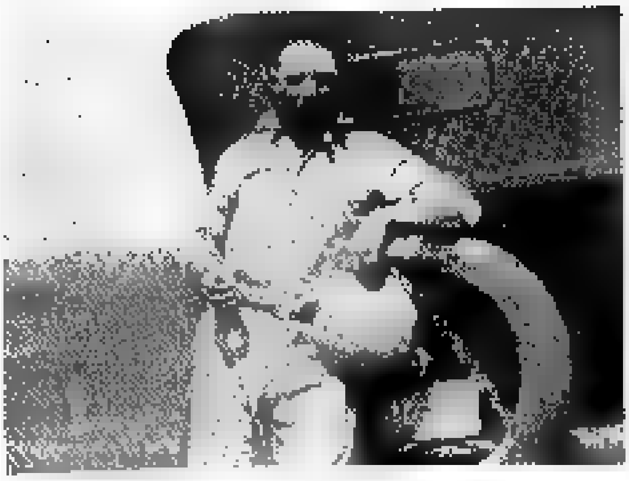
1939 — Scapa Baseball Team. Back Row, left to right: Reinhardt Weich, Earl Burt, Eddie Graham (manager), Albert Storch, Fred Slemp. Centre: Bill Riddle. Front Row: Walter Jensen, Bud Hanson, Eddie Newman, Bill Storch, Rudy Hein.

1949-1953 — Meadowlands Softball Team. Back Row: Cliff Kern, Bill Mackenzie, Wes James, Walter Kern, Ross Smyth, Al Sinclair, Leonard Smith, Jack Schmidt. Front Row: Albert Kern, Lawrence Wells, Ross McGuire and Stan James.

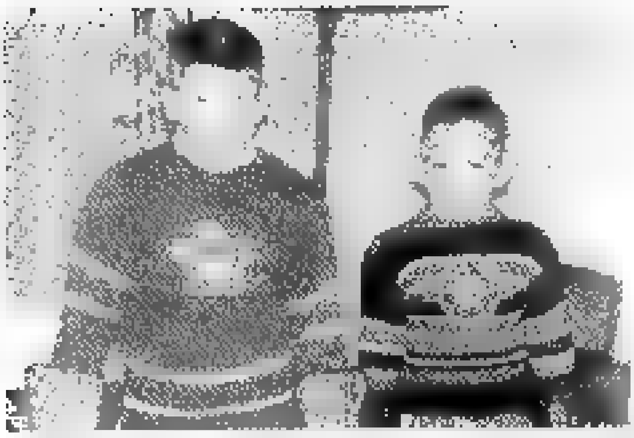
1925 — Corinne Basketball Team. Coached by Jim Mayne. Back: Alberta Kennedy, Lenora McCafferty, Violet Williams, Jane Wallace. Front: Helen Kennedy, Gladys Hamilton.

1971 — Scapa - Garden Plain Choral Group. Back: Glenda Diegel, Mrs. [redacted] Diegel, Mrs. Tom Pattinson, Mrs. Gus Mattheis, Mrs. Walter Viste, Mrs. Dan Welch, Mrs. Fred Nill, Mrs. Carl Smith, Mrs. Arnold Fecho. Front: Tom Pattison, Gus Mattheis, Fred Nill, Art Mattheis, Wm. Storch, Reinhardt Weich. Missing from [redacted] picture is Mrs. Cyril Unsworth (director).

Garden Plain goose hunters. Harold Strandberg, Albert Storch and son Kenneth, Clifford Corry, Wm. Storch Jr., Jo Ferguson (grain buyer), Eric Strandberg.



1927 — Jack Temple, Scapa baseball pitcher.



1957 — Scapa Hockey Boys. Pat Burns and Allan Harvey.

CHAPTER XI

THE WAY IT WAS

LIGHTING SYSTEMS

By Bob Rehill

Sometimes when the power goes off and it is necessary to resort to a coal oil lamp, one wonders how the pioneers used to be able to read or sew by their light.

I can remember my parents using the old coal oil lamps. They had to polish the glass chimneys, fill them with oil and trim the wicks. Occasionally they would get a bad batch of kerosene, and the lamps would smoke, yet they sat around the table, with the lamp in the middle of it, and read or played cards, and it seemed that they could hardly see each other.

Next came the Aladdin lamp, which was a big improvement as it gave a much brighter light. It had one disadvantage; when the room got warm the flame had a tendency to smoke and blacken the chimney.

Gas lamps were the next. Air was pumped into the tank which held the fuel, and under pressure produced a brilliant white light. They gave off a hissing sound, and the mantles were very delicate. A moth flying against them could make a hole from which a flame would shoot out.

The first electricity in farm homes came from wind-powered generators. Some men connected the generator from an old car to a windmill, and obtained six-volt power. Later six- and thirty-two volt generators powered by wind or motors could be bought. The electricity from these plants was sufficient only for lights and small appliances. Complete modernization of farms was possible only after power lines were installed throughout the country.

In the early years, only a few dim lights would be visible at night. Today, blue or yellow yard lights mark the location of many farm homes.

THE DAYS OF THE BALING WIRE

When the first hay balers were invented there was no such thing as an automatic trip to make different sized bales. They were hand-fed from stacks; the baler pressed the hay into the chamber and the operator would drop a heavy board into the chamber to divide the bales into the desired lengths. The bales were tied by hand. The operator would push two wires through at one end, bring them to the other end, circle the bale and twist the ends of the wire together.

When the bales were fed, the farmer accumulated a lot of wire . . . the handiest repair item a farmer had. For in those days money was scarce, repairs were hard to get and it was a long slow trip to town. So when a farmer went into the field, he always had a supply of wire tied to the outfit and a pair of pliers in his pocket.

Makeshift repairs made in this way before farmers were able to have electric welders gave birth to the expression, 'a hay-wire outfit.'

BEEF RINGS

Fresh meat for the farm. George Wright and Len Hage.

In the early years it was hard to keep much fresh meat on hand. A small amount could be kept in ice houses or down wells, but when a farmer butchered an animal, the women had to preserve most of the meat. This was done by pickling and curing, canning in jars, or sometimes, in the case of pork, by frying it down and covering it with lard.

In order to have a constant supply of fresh meat during the summer, the farmers started a meat ring. There would be ten or more members, and every two weeks one of them would contribute an animal to be butchered. One man did [illegible] the butchering. The meat would be allowed to hang overnight; the next day the butcher would cut it up and share it among the members in such a way that at the end of the summer, each farmer had received all the roasts, steak, stew, etc. from an entire beef. Members took turns delivering the weekly shares to the members. The ring operated until each member had contributed one animal.

In later years the Grover Butcher Shop started a meat route, and housewives could buy the cuts they wanted right at their doors.

The convenience of modern deepfreezes has put an end to the old time meat rings.

THE RAWLEIGH MAN

No account of the early days would be complete without mention of the Rawleigh man. Bob Johnston was the agent for years; he drove a buggy made into a van, with a big sign on the side. One never knew when he was coming, but everyone looked forward to his visits.

In the early years people didn't get to town very often during the winter, and they would depend on their Rawleigh man for their supplies of cold remedies, stock medicines, and spices. The products were good. Mr. Johnston always carried a supply of Rawleigh's chewing gum for his customers' children. That was a real treat for them as they didn't get pop, chocolate bars, chips and such that the children of today are accustomed to.

The Rawleigh man always stayed overnight at whatever home he happened to be visiting when darkness fell. In return he would give the lady of the house some of his products.

The travelling salesman of that era were not merely peddlers; they were often the only link with the outside world. So an overnight stay would allow the family to catch up on the news of the area and affairs in the world.

Bob Johnson was really missed, and people will always remember the excitement that his visits brought to their rather drab existence.

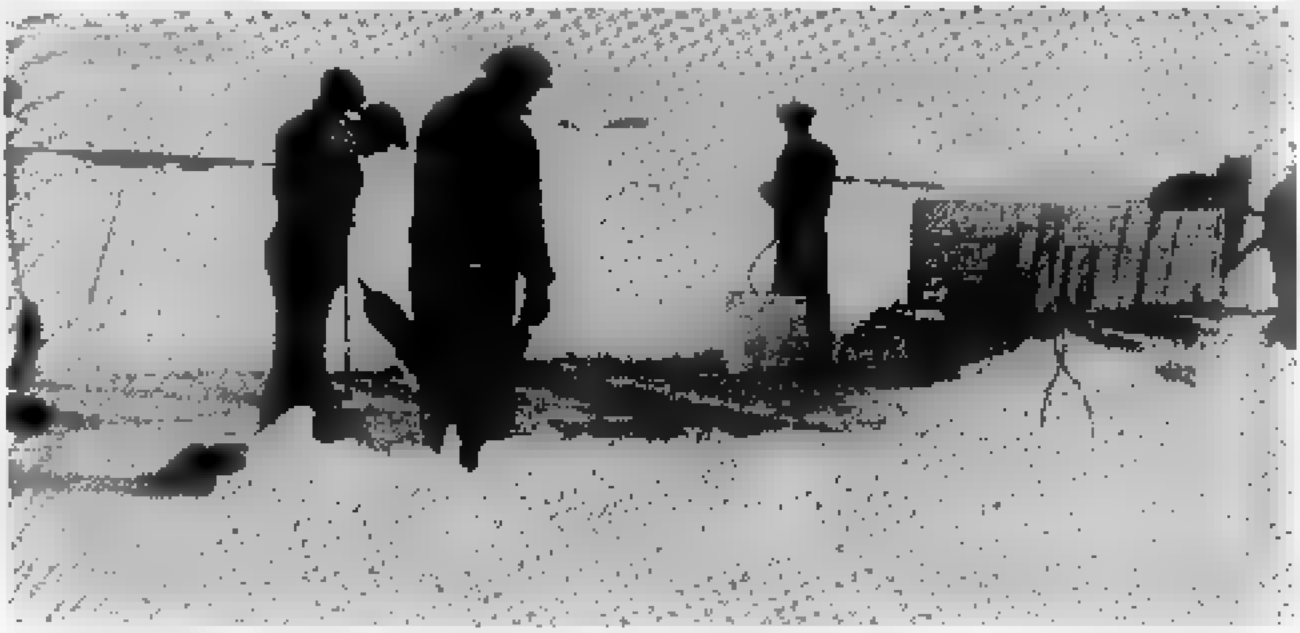
PUTTING UP ICE

In the days before electricity, the only way to keep food cool in the summer was to lay in a supply of ice during the winter.

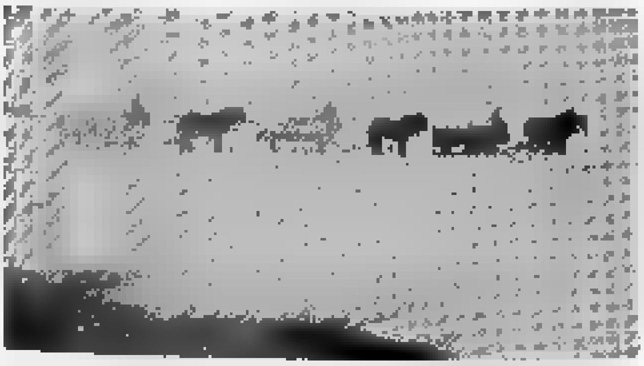
Bill Glover and Ken Williams with their ice tongs and saw, ready to cut a hole in the ice to saw blocks.

Bill Glover, Ken Williams

Jack Greenwood, putting up ice.



Putting up ice in 1938 at Pahl's mine. Bill Glover, W. R. Greenwood, Carl Rehill, Dave Temple, Ken Williams.



Putting up ice, 1939. Bill Glover, Carl Rehill, Sid Grimes.

Harvesting a load of ice. Lorne, Bill, Edwin and Margaret Wright.

The blocks were hauled onto the ice, loaded into sleigh boxes and taken to the farm, where they were stored in an ice well, or in a building, well covered with straw for insulation.

If the ice was carefully stored, it would last throughout the following summer.

THE LITTLE HEN OF THE PRAIRIE

By Blanche Johnston

Remember when farm wives tried to raise chickens for farm use and a little pin money? Sometimes it happened quite by accident, if a hen hid her nest and came out a few weeks later trailing a brood of chicks.

The more methodical housewife took the broody hens from the nests, put them in apple boxes on fifteen or sixteen eggs each, and locked them in some dark building. They were given feed and water and watched carefully. A setting hen turns her eggs, and her body moisture provides the humidity necessary for good hatching. After a week or so the eggs could be tested for fertility by shaking them or holding them up to a strong light.

If all went well, the little chicks would break their way out of the shell in about three weeks. They were fed hard-boiled eggs, chopped up, until they could eat grain. The hen would take her brood on excursions around the farmyard, becoming very excited when she found a tasty morsel for them. A manure pile was a great place for them to scratch in.

At night the hen would go to shelter and settle down, with the young chicks safely hidden under her. The growing period was not without its dangers. Mortality rate was high if the farm wife did not keep a watchful eye out for hawks, coyotes, badgers, skunks, or even the occasional cat. The watering trough, rain and hailstorms were additional hazards. If the chicks survived, the housewife had done her job well.

Predominate breeds were Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, White Wyandottes, Buff Orpingtons and Dominiques. Today we would call them a general purpose bird. They laid fairly well, and were good meat birds. To reduce inbreeding, neighbors would exchange roosters, a practice which produced some very colorful birds indeed.

In later years incubators became more common, but these involved work too. The temperature had to be kept regulated and the eggs turned by hand and sprinkled with water several times a day. When the chicks hatched, many people who did not have brooder houses kept them penned under the cook stove for a couple of weeks. As they got older, they would [illegible] put outside in a pen during the day, and gathered in again in the evening. One couldn't wait too late to gather them up or they would get cold, bunch up and smother.

The care necessary to raise chickens put the housewife and her flock on close terms. Each woman had some ingenious method of calling her chickens for feed or to shut them in. One woman made a pet of a young rooster which she called Johnny. One evening she called him but he did not come. That was when she remembered that he was in the frying pan!

CHAPTER XII

DO YOU REMEMBER?

. . . an Endiang ball game at which the Scapa left fielder was accused of carrying an extra ball in his pocket?

. . . the time that Wes Howery Sr. pitched a nine inning ball game wearing a heavy overcoat?

. . . the time Jack Temple said "Give me a catcher, a first baseman, and this center fielder and we will beat you guys?"

. . . when Eddie Graham studied the rule book every Sunday morning before a ball game?

. . . when the managers of the two local ball teams came to blows on July first at Scapa?

. . . the time Eddie Graham chased Reinhardt Welch from third base to home plate to make the winning run?

. . . when the elastic broke on the bloomers of one of the girls at a Garden Plain basketball game?

. . . when baseball suits for the Clear Lake ball team were made by the wives of the players at the home of C. L. Sittlington?

. . . when Charlie Hocket rode a bucking horse at Garden Plain picnic and pulled leather?

. . . when Charlie Johnson Sr. always hauled the brush for the roof of the booth at Clear Lake picnics?

. . . when Johnnie Stewart's wooden leg creaked with every step, as he gave a whole package of Rawleigh's gum to each child?

. . . two trustees who exchanged blows at a school board meeting?

. . . what it felt like when the seat of the two-holer was covered with frost on a January morning?

. . . when a gentleman from Garden Plain made for the door after the store keeper had traded the peppermint jar for a jar of mothballs on his counter. He also would cut the ends off the bananas before he would allow the store keeper to weigh them?

. . . when Fred Blaxall sang "Slap Dab, Slap Dab," and "When They Broke the Bank of Monte Carlo?"

. . . when Mr. Josley Olsen at sixty-eight years of age in 1924 missed only one trip in eight years, when he drove the mail from Castor to Garden Plain and Fertility?

. . . when Hugh Campbell had a different humorous story to tell at every gathering he attended?

. . . when John Vanderberg, Buchan teacher, was champion checker player of Alberta?

. . . when 2% beer was sold at picnics, some called it "Silver Spray," others had a different name for it.

CHAPTER XIII

CHURCH SERVICES

By Mrs. E. Grove

In the early years church services and Sunday school were held at many points in the country, which gave everyone a chance to attend without having to travel too many miles.

Presbyterian services were held from May, 1910, to 1912 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hannah. The first service was led by Mr. J. T. Warwick, a student appointed to the Copeville Mission Field by the Home Missions Committee. His Text was "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." Genesis 32:26.

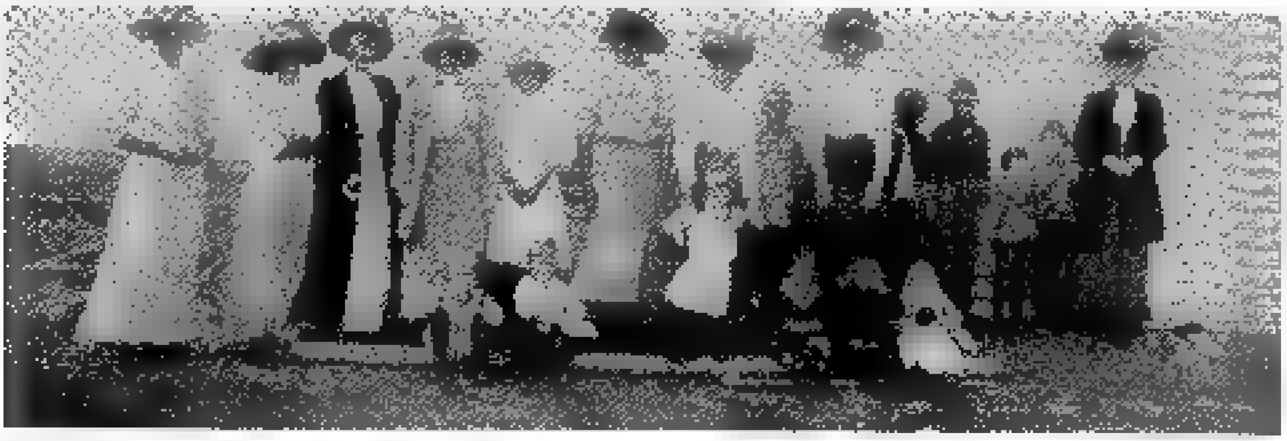
Among the many ministers who held services at the country schools were Rev. Tanahill, Rev. McNeil, Rev. Derby, Rev. Hartley, Rev. Gourlay, Rev. W. G. Shaw, and students M. D. Oliver, Mr. Walker, Mr. Farquerson, and others.

Church of Christ services and Sunday School were started in the Garden Plain area in 1913, and held in the homes of the Livingstone and Unsworth families.

In 1948 Rev. and Mrs. Fred Pahl held summer Bible schools in schoolhouses

around the area, and had a Bible school picnic at the Gaugler farm buildings to complete the summer session.

Margaretta Nelson, who taught Wiese school in the early Thirties, had some Salvation Army training and held church and Sunday school services. After she left the district she went back to Salvation Army work and spent some time as a missionary in Africa.



Netherby Sunday School - 1913. Back Row: Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Miss L. A. MacDonald, Miss M. Fisher, Lizzie Caruthers, Lily Watson, Frances Lewis, Mrs. Corry Sr., Frank Sturgess, Mrs. Tom Waugh, Lewis Sturgess, Tommy Watson, John Waugh, Reg Waugh, Mrs. W. Wright Sr. Front Row: Jim and Herb Taylor, Mary Waugh, Iona Wright, Dolly and Gerty Sturgess.

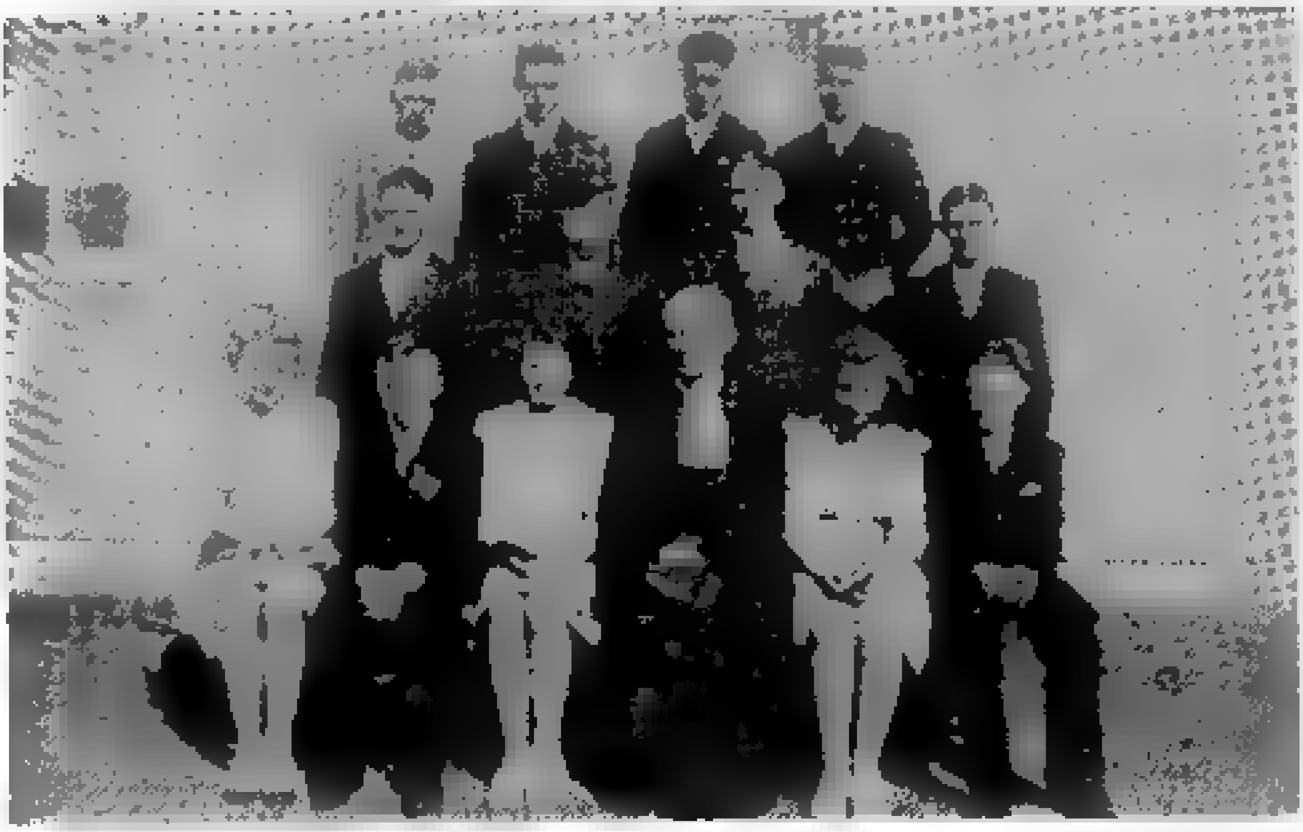
1952 - Sunday School at home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson. Back Row: Inza, Sandra, Gordon, Dennis Mattis. Others: Marilyn and Mabel Ironside, Hope and Fraser Wilson, Rosemary Mattis, Donald, Stephen, Brian Greenway, Miller boys.

Father La Conte and Father O'Halloran of Castor conducted masses at Garden Plain hall and at Corinne School.

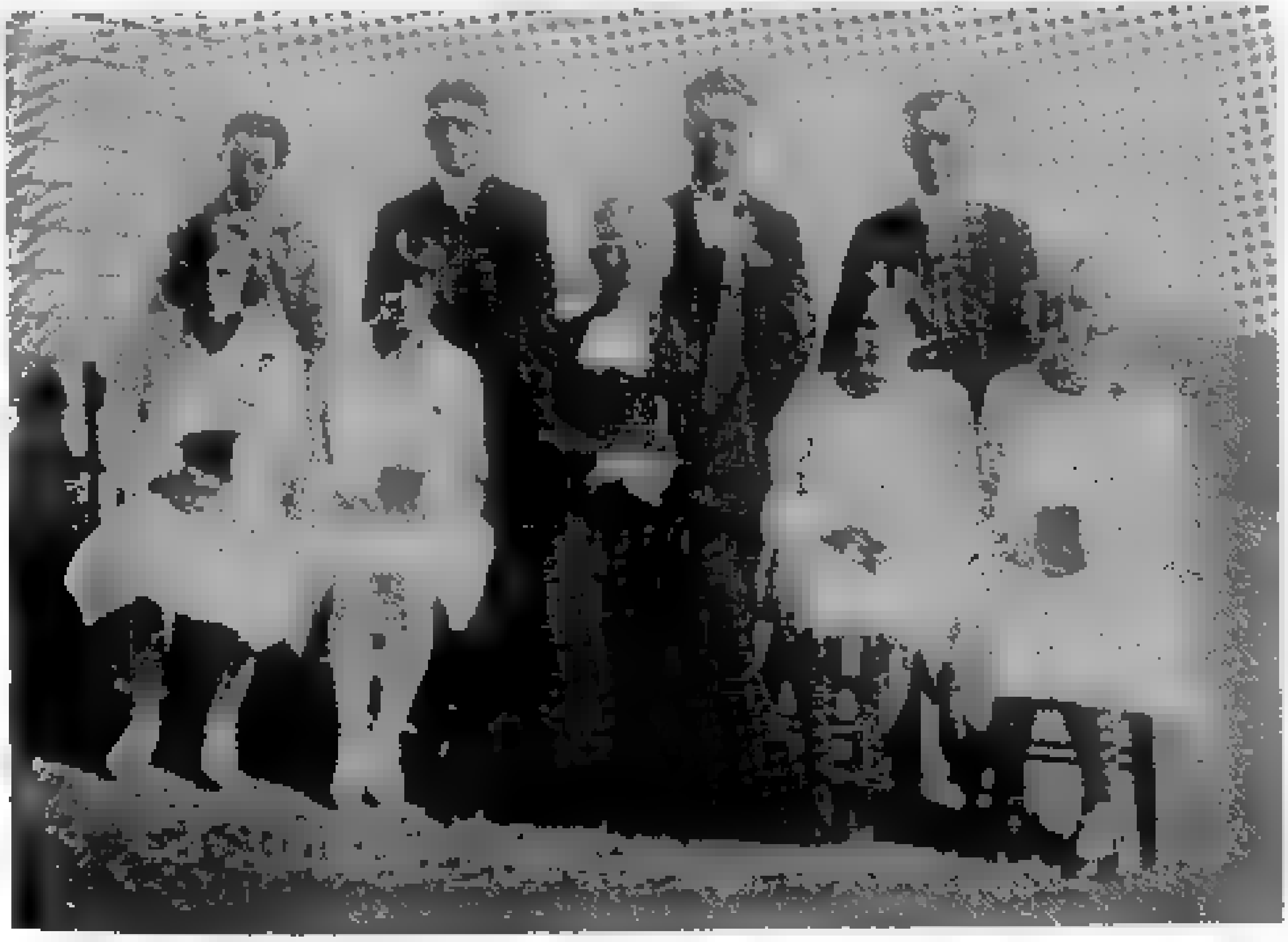
Catholic Church services were held at the Scapa hall by Father Harnett. In the 1940's a small building was moved into the village of Scapa to be used as a church.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church was opened in 1921, south-west of Scapa. Services have been held there since that time, and many former members of the

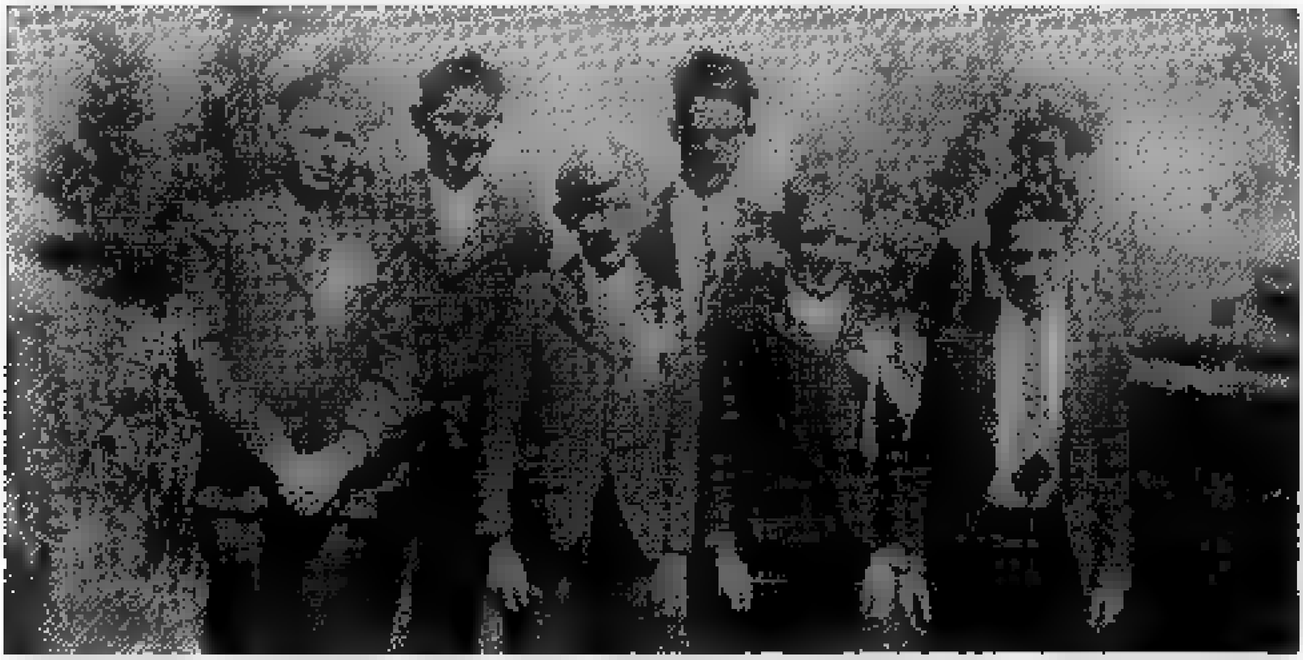
congregation are buried in the little cemetery which adjoins the church. To celebrate their golden jubilee, special anniversary services were held on August 1, 1971, and many oldtimers returned for the occasion. During the picnic in the afternoon many old acquaintances were renewed.



Pastor John Abs and Confirmation Class of November, 1943. [illegible]. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa. The Confirmands. Samuel, Christ and Reinhold Hintz, Nelson Annas, Reinhardt Welch, Ewald Otterstadter, Henry Nill, Archie Diegel, Bernard Kading, Art Mattheis, Katie Glubrecht, Emma Glubrecht, Pauline Hein.



The Rev. Henry Bietsch and Confirmation Class of 1928. St. Peter's Luthern Church, Scapa. Back Row: Rudy Hein, Gottfried Glubrecht, Herman Schultz, William Storch. Front Row: Elina or Ida Welch, Mary Schultz, Elizabeth Bietsch, Carolina Stulberg.



Confirmation Class, Scapa, Catholic Church. Back Row: Herb Wimmer, Philip Brunner, Leo Wiens, Alloys Brunner. Front Row: Alfred Brunner, Ken Hausher, unknown.

Sunday School Group taken at Solon School - 1924. The visiting minister was Rev. Green.

Netherby School also served as a church, and many Sunday school, church and funeral services were held there. Land adjoining the school grounds was donated for a cemetery in 1911; the first grave was that of William Lewis.

The following account of the history of the Anglican Church in the area was compiled by Mrs. E. Henlon:

In 1913 Rev. H. E. Scallon left Castor by saddlehorse to survey the area between the CPR line to the north and the CNR to the south, and decided to build a Mission House at Hartshorn, near the present hamlet of Byemoor. The first buildings were destroyed by a severe hailstorm, were rebuilt and served until 1920, when they burned to the ground during Rev. Scallon's absence. Once again it was rebuilt.

It was from this centre that Rev. Scallon came to conduct services in the Netherby and Garden Plain areas. Services were held once a month. He also visited the sick, and performed weddings, burials and baptisms. He served this

area for twenty-five years. He often married young people whom he remembered holding in his arms for baptism.

The beautifully carved oak altar that travelled with him for many thousands of miles folded up into the space of a suitcase, and contained all that is necessary for the celebration of sacraments, including silk robes, vases, cross and candlesticks, altar vessels and a portable font. This altar converted many an out-of-way spot into a Sanctuary of God.

Memories of the Garden Plain area are recalled by a former minister in the area, J. Mayne:

In May, 1923, I was appointed to the Garden Plain Mission Field. Conditions were dry, but with western optimism the fields were seeded. On Sunday, May 27, as I was going to my morning service, the rain started. A nearby farmer, Don Cameron, called me to take shelter in his home. After about twenty minutes the rain stopped, but by then the roads were too muddy for my bicycle, so Mr. Cameron offered me his horse to ride the remaining four miles. It was raining again when I reached the school where the service was to be held, but there was no one there. I returned to the farm. The rain lasted all day and I stayed till morning. Mr. Cameron was a Soldier Settlement Board man from Toronto, and had been five years in the area. This was the first rain he had seen in Alberta. He moved from one window to another saying, "This is great!"

The result of the rain was a bumper crop. I knew that help would be scarce and if I didn't do something I would be called a lazy preacher. I was not that. I got work on a farm and stooked barley, wheat and oats for five weeks. I hadn't stooked for many years and found the partly hailed barley hard work, and the heavy wheat and oat crops were not easy. My last stooking there was a twenty-four acre oat crop which took four days to do. The next spring the owner, Frank Kennedy, told me that he had threshed over twenty-four hundred bushels of oats from it. No wonder it took four days to stook!

I carried on Sunday services as usual. There was no Sunday work in the fields and congregations kept up very well. I can call my summer at Garden Plain a good experience.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth supplied the following information regarding Rev. Martin Holdom. He was a young Anglican minister who was stationed in Castor about 1910. A young nurse who worked in Castor asked him if he would ride to the present townsite of Hanna in January, to marry her to Jim Parker. He consented, and set out the day before the wedding, wearing a fur cap, sheepskin coat, chaps and felt boots, and riding a mare which he said could do about eight miles an hour, all day. It was fifty miles to the ranch, so he set out early in the morning, in twenty below weather with a breeze. He stopped at Garden Plain for dinner, but darkness fell before he reached the ranch and he missed the trail. He followed a fence for some time until he found a gate and eventually arrived at his destination.

The next day he performed the ceremony and rode the fifty miles back to Castor.

The homesteaders were not the only ones who braved hardships and danger when the west was being settled.

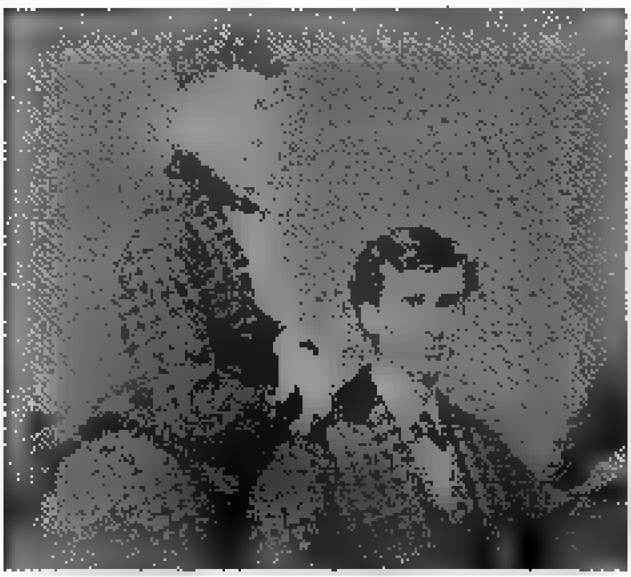
Mrs. Crowe recalled Rev. Scallon: "A very colorful person of that era was Rev. Scallon . . . It was he who married Aubrey and me. Mr. Scallon drove a team of horses and a cutter in winter, and weather permitting, an old car. He was constantly getting lost, stuck or broken down and was usually late for services, but he arrived sometime. He was a dedicated, well-loved man, and gave of himself and his worldly goods to the mission he served."

Hanna Herald, February 25, 1926: It is intended to hold a radio church service

in the Crow Hill school house in the near future. Any interested people should see Mr. C. A. Hill.

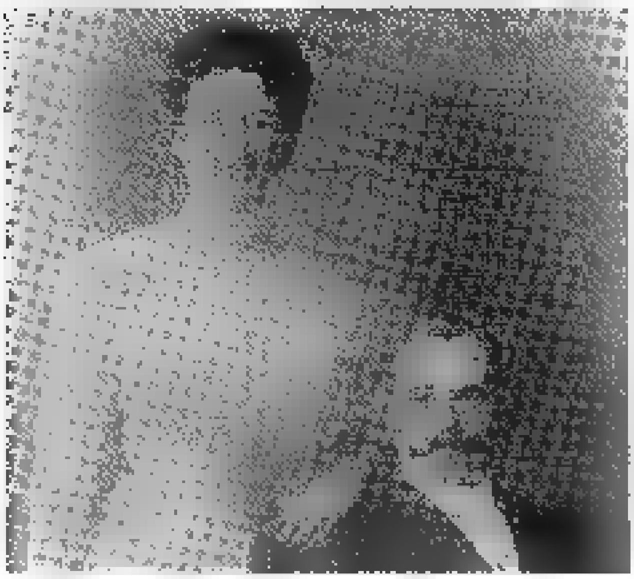
Later reports in the Herald indicate that the first service was very successful, and many such were held subsequently. One of these was an Easter service.

WEDDINGS

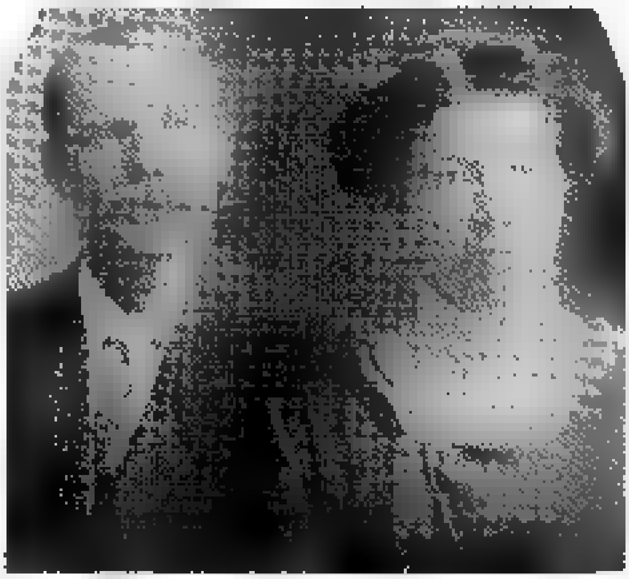


1875 — Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Guthrie.

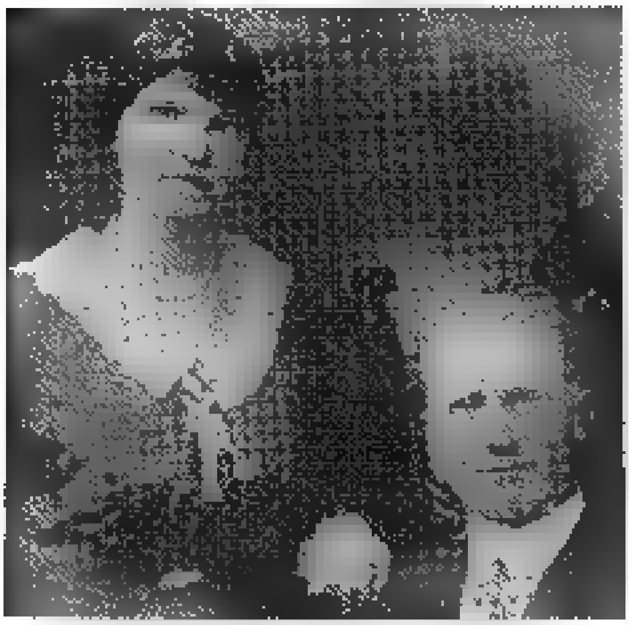
1906 — Karl M. (Charles) and Beda Strandberg.



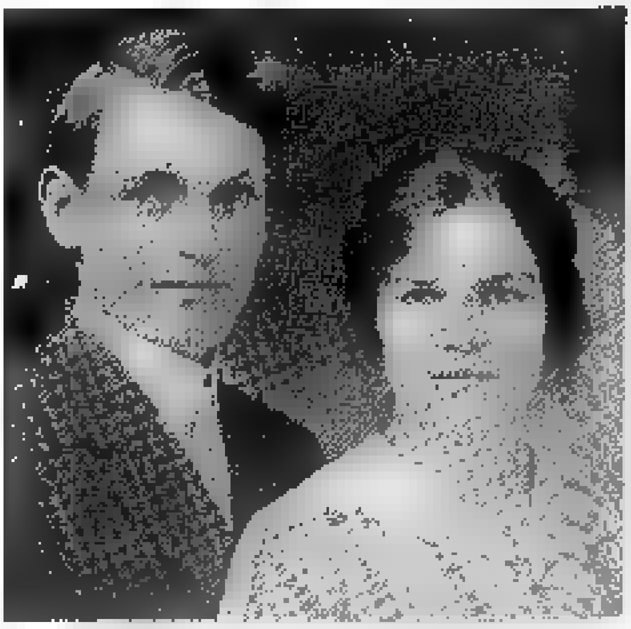
1909 — Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson.



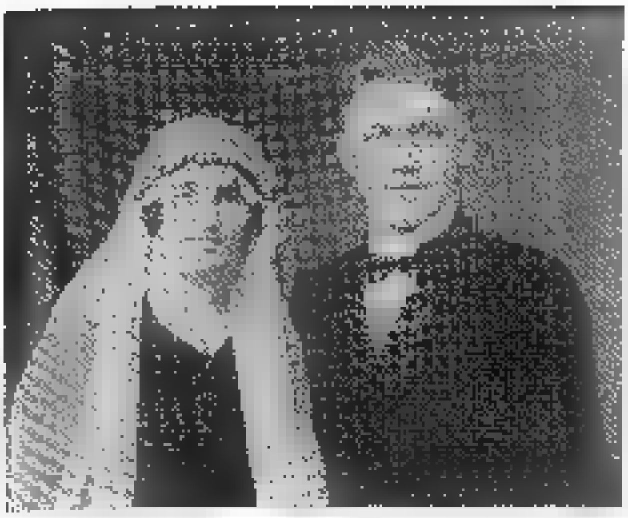
1911 — Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Rehill.



1916 — Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hanson.



1918 — Mr. and Mrs. George Wright.



1926 — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel.

1924 — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brunner.

CHAPTER XIV

ORGANIZATIONS

MUSICIANS OF HANNA NORTH

By Ellen Ironside

Anyone who could play an instrument in the early days was really an asset to the district for without some form of music there could be no dancing.

Among the very early musicians were, Mr. Jack Lepard, (an uncle of Mrs. Elechia Chidley), Clyde Wooden, Mr. Charlie Halverson and Jack Campbell as well as the Richardson brothers.

In 1912 the Garden Plain Hall was built and one of the first orchestras to play there included Mr. and Mrs. Earl Himelrich, Al Bowman, Jack Leicht, with Harry Wiese and Bill Sim taking part at different times.

Mr. and Mrs. Leech played for the first of July picnics at the Garden Plain Hall. They were from Castor where Mr. Leech owned the Pekin Theatre. They would bring extra musicians down as he taught music in Castor and it was an opportunity for his pupils to practise!

Roy Embree played for dances during this period also, accompanied by Bill Sim. He [illegible] well known as an old-time fiddler by everyone and down through the years has played with Gottfried Glubrecht, Marion (Taylor) Fox and George Gwin as well as many others.

In the Lake Thelma district, George Vigen on violin, Alfred Anderson on bass violin and Ingwell Vigen on guitar made a harmonious trio.

Farther east, the Johnson brothers played for dances. Their father was the Rawleigh dealer at Whatcheer.

In 1922 George Unsworth and his brother Bob played for many dances. Through the years till George left Garden Plain he played for dozens of dances from Spondin to Endiang and south to Wiese and Annasheim and eastward to Centre Point. He was accompanied by Bill Sim on piano and at times by Joe Fielding on trumpet. Walter Jensen, Bennie Weller, Bob Unsworth and George Jr. were on hand at various times to provide music for wedding dances, barn dances and at house parties.

In 1923 Tiff Ironside and his sister Belle Cooper on violin accompanied by Ed Berg on guitar played many peppy tunes. Other names to remember at this time were Gen Sans on violin, Thorcliffe Wangsness on guiter and Mr. Chappell. Then came Thorcliffe Bergum, Harry Wiese, Joe and Mac Lepard, Elechia Chidley and Jim Cuthbert followed by Butch and Will Ironside.

Around 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Benson played drums and piano with Reg

Wismore on violin. At this time Bill McLaren and Bob Rehill were called upon to supply music.

By 1945 a five piece band had started playing for dances in the district with Fred Johnston on violin, Herb Wimmer playing accordion, "Shorty" Glubrecht on banjo, Jack McLaren on piano and Bud Hansen on drums. When Jack left to teach elsewhere, Betty Herold replaced him, then later she left to be replaced by Ellen Ironside. When Shorty left Hanna, George Gwin took his place and this band played together for quite a few years.

Music was supplied north of Hanna in the late thirties by Sam Ball, his daughter Mrs. Smart and his granddaughter Helen Smart. George Gwin was on hand to play banjo or guitar.

Harry and Winnifred Parker, George Gwin and Bill Curtis played for dances at Wiese, Alps, Meadowlands and elsewhere. Later, Harry and his wife, Marion teamed up to provide good music for dancing.

Pat and Stuart McRae, Bill Burt and Bud Hansen played for dances at Garden Plain school and at Scapa also.

Harry Zimmerman came down from Castor to play violin at the Garden Plain Hall and Mrs. Harry Saar from Spondin gave of her talent also.

In later years Shirley Lumsden, Alex Garrow, Herb Pfahl, Joe Martin, Albert Banco, Danny Gall and Bert Chidley have given of their talents to supply music for dancing.

My apologies to those whose names I have missed, or for errors in dates and spelling.

GARDEN PLAIN LOCAL U.F.A. NO. 310

By Fred Johnston

At a joint meeting held in Edmonton in September of 1908, the Alberta Farmers Association and the Canadian Society of Equity amalgamated to form the United Farmers of Alberta. It was not till 1914 that the Union was incorporated.

The Garden Plain local was formed in August of 1911 at a meeting at Garden Plain store and post office with T. A. Kane, president, John Graham, vice-president and T. [illegible]. Ironside, secretary-treasurer. Directors were: John Hutchinson, Martin Gulseth, Fred Stickney, George Gibb, Martin Siverson and Bob Livingstone.

Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall - 1914. Left to Right: Laughlin Campbell, Steven Wagner, George Claypool, Albert Kennedy, Olaf Larsen, Martin Siverson, Frank Kennedy, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charles Lohrman, Bill Vleschie, Bob Livingstone, Bill Collins, Hugh McRae, Charlie Stanfield (kneeling).

At first they met at local farm homes and at the Buchan, Corinne and Netherby schools, but the members wished to have a meeting place of their own

and so a committee was formed. They chose a site at the Diamond mine, Donald Cattanach's homestead, to erect the hall. All materials were freighted from Castor. On February 21, 1914 work commenced on the hall and it was completed in time for the first meeting to be held there on March 7. Later on, there was talk of moving it to a more permanent location. In 1920 ten acres of land was purchased from the C.P.R. on NW-31-33-13 for $35.00 per acre. The hall was moved on July 7, 1920 to [illegible] present location. The kitchen was built in 1922. In 1945, with the co-operation of the district, a huge renovation project was undertaken. Monies received from dividends applied to purchases were put into the general fund for this job. The interior was lined with plaster board and the outside stuccoed with a porch added. Later a new floor was laid and a foundation poured. Electric lights were installed in 1954 and a propane heater in 1963. With aid from a Government Grant more renovations were done in 1975.

Through the years a variety of functions were held, dances; hard time, wedding and benefit dances; card parties; box and pie socials; minstrel shows; debating contests; Burns nights; St. Patrick's and New Year's Eve celebrations; Christmas concerts, Chataquas, and showers. Everyone's favorite was the annual picnic which at times featured bucking contests. One incident pertaining to the picnic was a motion to sell beer; this was defeated. Ball games and the "Old Timers" picnics of the last few years are still very popular. And of course there were U.F.A. (Unifarm) meetings, ratepayer meetings and polling booths.

The Garden Plain Local for many years ordered and distributed many farm supplies for its members' needs. Such a list would include, barrels of formalin, binder twine, car loads of posts and coal, barrels of machine oil, plow shares, flour, oatmeal, apples and even gopher poison. Through the years various trustees were elected to oversee the purchase and distribution of these items. Jack Corry held this position for many years.

Over the years, hundreds of resolutions were directed to the proper authorities on varied matters. Some such resolutions were in regard to the war effort of 1914-18, the influenza epidemic of 1919, the need for more threshing machines in the district, the erection of rural telephone lines in 1922 and subsequent transfer from A.G.T. to farmers' mutuals. There were also resolutions regarding U.F.A.'s action when it was involved with politics.

Until Highway 36 was highgraded and gravelled many resolutions were directed to Edmonton for its immediate construction. It was not till 1943 that construction commenced.

During the thirties a resolution directed to Dowling Lake R.M. was regarding removal of wire from abandoned farms. The Local was successful in petitioning for a Pool elevator at Garden Plain siding in 1939. In the late thirties this Local sponsored the local A.I.A. (Agricultural Improvement Association). Little Round Lake U.F.A. amalgamated with the Garden Plain local in 1939.

At one time or other almost everyone in the area belonged to the U.F.A. A membership of fifty to sixty was quite common. Many people served the Local faithfully for years. It would not be amiss to mention just a few: Jack Corry, Jack Campbell, Bill Harvey, Frank Kennedy, Pete Jensen, J.W. Taylor, Rudy Moore, Charlie Noyce, W. R. Storch, Fred Johnston and Sandy Donaldson. There were numerous presidents but secretary-treasurer F. W. Johnston held that position for twenty-eight years and Hugh Campbell had it for eighteen years. Today, our Unifarm Local 113-22 is still active, with Louis Unsworth as president and Ed Storch as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Garden Plain Community Club, registered under the Friendly Societies Act, now takes care of the needs of the Hall. Our hope is that the Garden Plain Hall

will serve the needs of the people for years to come.

This short history is gleaned from the minute books and materials preserved by the Local.

GARDEN PLAIN THRESHERS

By Fred Johnston

In 1923, eight farmers organized a co-operative called "Garden Plain Threshers." Members were: Fred Blaxhall, Ken Bryanton, Russel Chidley, George Forster, Pete Jensen, Fred Johnston, Steve Wagner and George Wright. George Forster was president for the first two years and Fred Johnston for the remaining years. Fred Blaxhall was secretary-treasurer at a salary of $25.00 per annum.

Some of the men looked at an all-steel Case outfit. The Case tractor used kerosene, the 28" steel separator was small enough to require only six or eight teams to operate it. However, they agreed to purchase a Sawyer-Massey from Mockett of Hanna. As events later proved, this was an acknowledged mistake.

The more expensive Sawyer-Massey was something else again! The steamer had to have a boiler inspection every year, required an engineer, a coal hauler and a tankee to keep it going. The steamer was a used one but in good shape. The thresher had a wooden body, a 32" cylinder and required eight teams and two field pitchers to keep it going, when it went.

None of the owners really understood the mechanics of threshing. Mostly through inexperience, some of the jobs done were pitiful. More chaff than grain in the bin, or too much grain thrown over. Eventually, the co-op had to hire a separator man. Sandy Hilts, Morgan and Lorne Hannah were hired different years. Even at that, the machine would break down at the most inopportune time, necessitating a trip to town, usually with a team. Very few had cars to make a hurried trip for repairs. Jim Hannah was engineer one year, but Pete Jensen was usually the engineer.

Coal at two dollars per ton was hauled from local mines. The water from Pete Jensen's well was used because it was more suitable for the boiler. Average wages through the years were seven to eight dollars per day for the engineer, ten dollars for the separator man and teamsters, bundle, coal and water haulers got four to seven dollars per day. Threshing charges were fourteen cents for wheat, twelve cents for barley and ten cents for oats. Meals were paid for at the rate of thirty-five cents per meal.

1923 was the year of the bumper crop, 1924 poor, 1925 good, 1927 hailed out, 1928 damp and tough, 1929 no crop. By this time farm prices had declined rapidly compared to prices after World War 1.

At the time of purchase the outfit cost $4,500.00 but by 1929 the co-op still owed almost the same amount. Miss a payment or two, add interest and compount interest; it was hopeless! About 1935, the remaining few members went through debt adjustment, sold the boiler to the Memorial Hall, Hanna, as a heating unit and were clear of the debt.

As of December, 1976, Pete Jensen is the only surviving member of the Garden Plain Threshers.

RHYMES OF A THRESHERMAN

By J. W. Taylor

In Sunny Alberta, the year twenty-five,
I hired for the threshing to keep things alive
To a place north of Hanna, they call Garden Plain
Where the fields are all yellow with plump, golden grain.

So I hired with a rig, a so-called Syndicate,
The farmers who made it comprised number eight,
The man at the head was a fellow called Fred,
And when he bawled you out, you wished you were dead!

The Engineer was a chap called Pete
And when he moved the engine, it sure was some feat,
With the crashing of gears and the hissing of steam
And a bill for repairs was soon on the scene.

The Separator man was a fellow from Sweden,
With a look on his face like the Garden of Eden,
With a pair of pliers and a greasy oil can,
He kept up his end as long as she ran.

Johnson, the farmer, a man from B.C.
As nice a young man as you would e'er wish to see;
But the weeds and the worms from his crop took a toll
And sadly depleted his fat pocket roll.

Our crack bundle man was a fellow called Steve,
The first to begin and the last to leave,
While his wonderful knowledge and visions afar
Have earned for him, a large golden star.

The coal man went by the name of Ken,
His time of arrival you always knew when,
But, boys, oh boys, he was full of old Nick,
And by his line of talk he was some Bolshevik.

George Wright was the name of the Tanky,
And he was surely lean and lanky,
And unless he slept in on a frosty morn,
He was Wright, alright, as sure is you're born.

The only one who had a car,
And made trips both near and far,
Was little George Forster, a happy Papa,
But the bumps we got on his farm
Made a lasting impression far from calm.

The outside men were a tough looking bunch,
Hungry for dinner and worse for lunch
But they stayed on the job and looked for the day,
They could pack their valises and draw their back pay.

GARDEN PLAIN A.I.A.

By Fred Johnston

A federally-sponsored organization called the Agricultural Improvement Association was formed under the auspices of the local U.F.A. group about 1935. Many of the members of the executive of the local U.F.A. were also on the A.I.A. directorate. The A.I.A. was a movement to help farmers and needed the co-operation of the farmers to succeed. The association was responsible for the distribution of Sweet Clover, Wheat grass, Brome grass, potato and Fall Rye seed. The government provided trees, accompanied by instructions as how they should be planted; and aided any farmer wishing to put in a stock watering dam, dugout,

or small irrigation scheme. Fruit trees and bushes were also supplied to be irrigated from these dugouts.

The Garden Plain and Hanna Locals of the A.I.A., in co-operation with the Neutral Hills Livestock Association and the Goose Lake Livestock Association, sponsored the sale of livestock by public auction at the local Hanna stock yards. A committee was set up to look after the details such as listings, advertising, hauling and selling. With assistance from the Provincial government a policy of distributing herd sires was also undertaken. One year, with the assistance of the local D.A. and federal engineer, a field day was held, demonstrating the setting of tiller seeders for ease of draft and coverage. The Regional Conferences of A.I.A. locals was hosted by the Lethbridge Experimental Farms of Lethbridge. This Local, having outlived its usefulness, was disbanded about 1943. The P.F.R.A. took over some of the projects initiated by the A.I.A.

GARDEN PLAIN JUNIOR GRAIN CLUB

By Fred Johnston

The Junior Grain Club was formed in the spring of 1940 under the auspices of the local U.F.A., and sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool. There were approximately twelve members, farm boys from the area from the age of fifteen to twenty. Each received five bushels of registered Marquis wheat. The grain was seeded on a summer fallowed plot isolated from other wheat varieties. A field day was arranged when all plots were inspected. Through arrangements made by Ken Walker, D.A. of Youngstown, another field day was held at the sub-experimental farm of Casey Pals of Castor.

Judging of the threshed samples was done in the Garden Plain Hall in November. Who won the competition and the trip to Olds has long been forgotten. The Club was in operation for that year only; however the use of this foundation seed in following years resulted in a decided improvement in yield.

SULLIVAN LAKE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

By Fred Johnston

On February 11, 1952, W. L. Marsh, Rural Supervisor of Canadian Utilities, Drumheller addressed a meeting of interested farmers in the Scapa Hall. His discussion centered around the procedures involved in setting up a Rural Electrification Association. The chairman for the meeting, Jack Corry asked for a show of hands and all who were present agreed that an R.E.A. should be formed.

The board of directors included Jack Corry, chairman; Ernest Haessel, vice chairman; and Fred Miller, Charlie Lohrmann, Manley Viste, Stewart McRae and Albert Galarneau. Fred Johnston was secretary-treasurer. W. [illegible]. Storch's suggestion of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. as the name of the association was approved. The directors, in a canvass blitz, successfully signed some fifty subscribers in a month's time. On October 1, 1952, the Master Contract between Canadian Utilities and Sullivan Lake R.E.A. was signed. As the Association was required by Co-op Activities Branch to pay half cash on the signing of the contract, the Provincial Government loaned the Association the balance. The money was to be repaid in ten yearly installments, plus no more than three and a half percent interest. The first payment was for $36,370.06.

Meanwhile a crew were busily surveying the actual route and sometime during July 1952 the contract for actual construction was let, with Harkness Construction of Calgary as the successful bidder. The members were also busy wiring or rewiring their farmsteads for the actual turning on of the power by Christmas 1952.

In 1954 the Spondin branch was constructed, nearly doubling the number of subscribers, bringing the total to some one hundred and thirty users of power. As the times changed, there was a drop in the numbers due to one farmer buying out another, and other reasons; and now the Association has approximately eighty customers.

The Sullivan Lake R.E.A. has always been a member of the Alberta Union of R.E.A.'s. The directorship has changed through the years; many of the original directors are no longer with us.

The board of directors of Sullivan Lake R.E.A. for 1977 are: Albert Storch, chairman; Erbin Grove, vice-chairman; Herb Pfahl, W. L. Storch, Harold Strandberg, Henry Nielson and Bob Rehill. Rayford Johnston is secretary-treasurer.

NETHERBY GIRLS 4-H; 1953-54

By Mrs. George Standing Jr.

In the fall of 1953 the first 4-H group organized in the Netherby District, consisted of the following girls (who had to be the age of twelve years or close to it): Annabelle Haessel, Janet Standing, Inza Mattis, Sandra Mattis, Muriel Strandberg, Lois Miller and Verna Tetz. The Club leader was Mrs. Battryn, school teacher at Netherby; the assistant leaders were Mrs. George Standing Jr., and Miss Lorraine Shatz, the Hanna Home Economist.

During the fall and winter the girls learned the 4-H pledge and how to conduct the meetings, prepared handicrafts and project books, studied and practised etiquette, listened to speakers and gave speeches; and served tea to their mothers.

Netherby Girls 4-H - 1954. Back Row: Mrs. George Standing Jr., Annabelle Haessel, Inza Mattis, Lois Miller, Sandra Mattis, Verna Tetz, Mrs. Ernestine Battryn. Front Row: Muriel Strandberg, Janet Standing.

On May 19, 1954 they held their first Achievement Day. Miss Lorraine Shatz judged their work and the results were as follows: Lois Miller won first but was too young to attend Club Week. Annabelle Haessel was Efficiency winner, Inza Mattis was the alternate winner, Lois Miller received the T. Eaton award. Annabelle Haessel was unable to attend club week at Olds, due to a holiday trip with her parents to Peace River, so Inza Mattis became the first girl from our group to attend Club Week at Olds.

The Efficiency winner must be fourteen years of age at the time of the Achievement Day. Expenses involved in sending the Efficiency winner to Club Week are borne by the Department of Agriculture or another sponsoring organization.

A Garden Club was their project for the spring and summer of 1954. The President was Lois Miller, Secretary, Annabelle Haessel. On July 29, 1954 they had their garden tour and they were judged by Mr. Ness, Wheat Pool Representative, and Miss Lorraine Shatz. On August 24, their Achievement Day was held at Netherby. The results were: Annabelle Haessel, first with seventy-nine percent and Janet Standing runner up, who was too young. Annabelle attended Club Week at Olds in 1955.

During the summer of 1954, Janet Standing, Inza Mattis and Annabelle Haessel attended 4-H camp at Bar Harbour for one week with leaders Miss Lorraine Shatz and Mr. Ness and assistants and girls from other groups. The girls were all happy with the training and experience they received in 4-H; but as some of the girls left to attend school elsewhere, the group was disbanded.

DUNDEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Doreen Rehill

Knowing the need for a Ladies Group in our area north of Hanna, Mrs. George Wright, Convener of the Acadia Constituency, asked some of the ladies of the district to meet at the home of Mrs. Robert Rehill on the afternoon of June 18, 1958. Seven interested women joined the Institute at the fee of twenty-five cents per member: Mrs. Rayford Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Roderick Standing, Mrs. Clifford Corry, Mrs. Wilf Lumsden, Mrs. Helen Standing and Mrs. Robert Rehill. The name of our Branch was decided upon and sent to Edmonton for approval. We received our Charter by registered mail later on; from that day we were legally formed and named The Dundee Women's Institute.

Our first President was Mrs. Rehill, secretary was Mrs. Johnston, Vice-President was Mrs. George Standing. We have held regular meetings once a month ever since we organized. We have had as many as twenty-two members, but now are only ten of whom three are charter members: Evelyn Standing, Eileen Standing and Doreen Rehill. We held our meetings for several years in Dundee School, and when it was sold to Mr. Halverson for use on his farm, we moved our meeting place to Netherby School. After a few more years our membership decreased, so we could accommodate the group in our homes, which was more convenient for our hostess of the month. At one meeting there were twelve ladies present, with thirteen pre-schoolers to add liveliness to our meetings.

At our meetings we have birthday gifts, tea prizes or amusing roll calls, to try to hold the interest of our members. Our Christmas Party has always been the highlight of our year. We used to hold them in the school to entertain the non-members with music, poems and the exchange of small gifts. Now we are a smaller group, we have a Christmas dinner in a member's home. We usually take a picture of the group which is amusing to look back at after a few years have rolled by. We still exchange gifts and each member is responsible for an entertaining item for our program. At our Christmas meeting we have a very short business session and pay our annual dues which are now three dollars per member.

Our Pioneer Picnic has been held every July since we organized in 1958, and it has now become very popular. People travel miles to meet their old friends at the Garden Plain Hall. Our W.I. Ladies usually try to present a program and we always serve tea in the hall, to those who wish to be our guests. The visitors always compliment us for our good day. The last few years we have had a Strawberry Tea in June to honour the Pioneer ladies of the district. We always have a very good turnout to enjoy the hospitality of our hostess, Mrs. Fred Johnston, who has always opened her home to us on that day.

In 1963 we published the Garden Plain Story, a history of the district and the pioneer families who lived there.

Dundee Women's Institute - 1973 - 15th Anniversary. Mrs. W. L. Storch, Mrs. Alex Wolfert, Mrs. Erbin Grove, Mrs. Rod Standing, Mrs. R. J. Rehill, Mrs. George Standing Jr., Mrs. Frances Unsworth, Mrs. F. W. Johnston.

The serious business of our group is to work for home and country. We have a hospital committee to send cards and gifts to the hospitalized neighbours of the district. We have helped to plan bridal showers; served lunch at auction sales in our district; usually have several card parties a year; and have sponsored pot luck suppers. We are very active in attending our own W.I. conference and annual conventions, held at different places in Alberta. We all enjoy them and always bring back valuable information to use in our own district.

We are a small group, but really enjoy every meeting and one another's company. We try hard to live up to our W.I. Creed standards; we feel we can be very proud of what our local Dundee Women's Institute has accomplished.

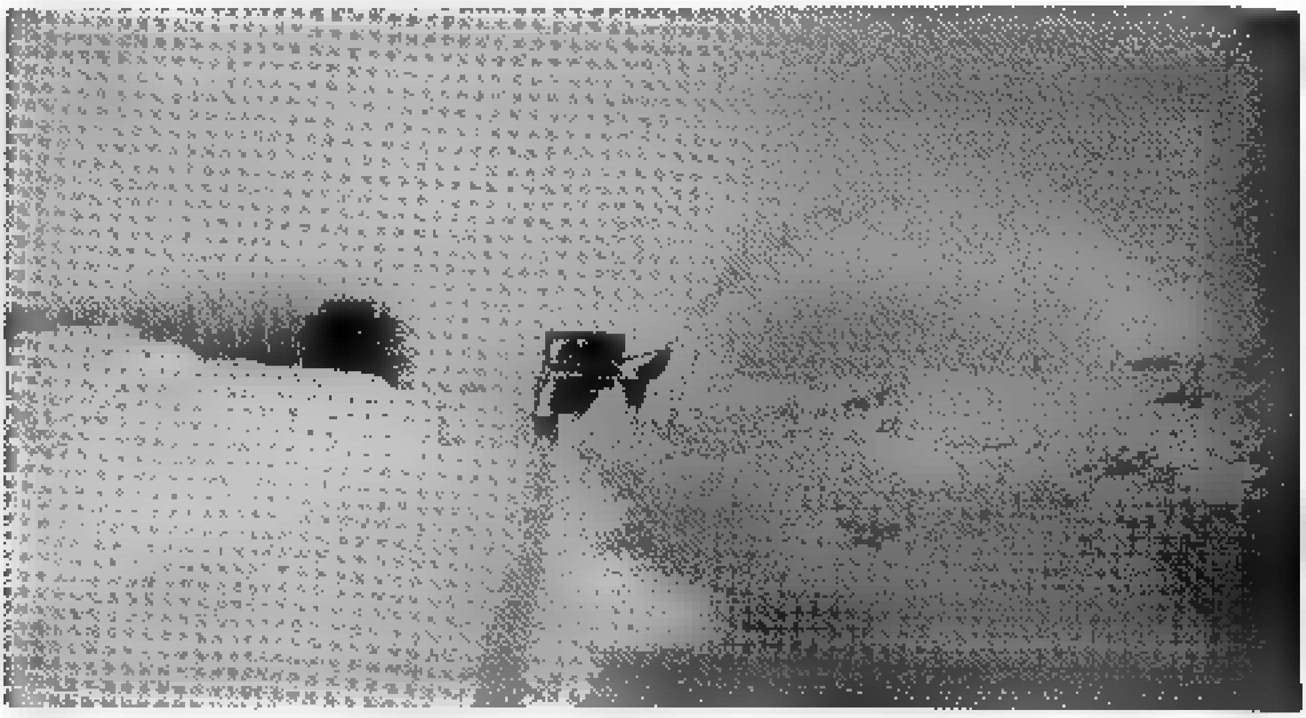
SNOW PLOWING

By Fred Nill

The first snowplow associations were formed about 1955 and carried on until 1964 when the Special Areas began plowing roads. Each member of the association paid from five to ten dollars each year, the amount varying with the amount of snow to be moved. The Special Areas matched this money to a maximum of five hundred dollars.

Six associations were formed, Annasheim, Chain Lakes, Scapa West, Hudson Bay, Wiese and Garden Plain.

The Annasheim and Chain Lakes plows were operated by Ervin Schultz, Albert Baes, Irvin Bossert, and Ken Robertson. The Hudson Bay and Wiese associations hired Faechner, Kirby, Grover or Gaugler to plow their roads with a bulldozer mounted on a cat. The Garden Plain association plow was driven by Albert Storch. The Scapa West plow was driven by each of the members in turn, using their own tractors to operate it.



Albert Storch with snow blower on front of Case Tractor.

School bus roads were the first to be opened after a storm; then the others were plowed out. The wage for snow plow operators was four dollars an hour, to a maximum of one hundred and twenty-five hours.

RURAL TELEPHONE LINES

The first rural phone lines were built in the area north of Hanna in 1921 and 1922. During the depression years many farmers were forced to do without this convenience; with fewer subscribers on each line and the resulting lower income, the government had difficulty keeping the lines in repair. Eventually the government decided to discontinue being responsible for rural lines; at meetings held in February, 1935, residents of this area followed the path taken by all rural areas if they wished to have telephone service. They formed Mutual Telephone Companies, and bought what was left of the old government lines in their area. With very little capital, and volunteer labor, they built a line in their area and in to the nearest telephone exchange; in this case Hanna.

There were several Mutual Telephone Companies in the Hanna North Region.

Hanna North East Mutual: The first chairman was Mr. Blain and Mr. Grimes was secretary. Members were S. Herring, W. Storch, J. Litke, B. Howery, A. Mattis, D. Mattis, A. Wilson, S. L. Grimes, E. Blain, G Thomas, J. Trefz, and H. Smith. Over the years a number of others joined.

One member on the circuit acted as central for anyone who had a barbed-wire phone. This person would take messages from the barbed-wire phone line and relay them over the main line; and periodically collect ten cents per call from the barbed-wire phone users. This amount was turned over to the Hanna North East Mutual to help pay their expenses.

A main trunk line came out of Hanna to the three mile corner, up the Castor trail to Garden Plain hall, and one mile west. This gave service to several mutuals,

and a representative of each formed the Board of Directors responsible for the trunk line. Each mutual company paid for pin space on the trunk line, according to the number of circuits each mutual had.

Shareholders paid from one dollar to a dollar and a half per month for phone service, excluding long distance calls. Occasionally a mutual would build up a little surplus, and then shareholders would have their phones rent free for a few months.

There were three circuits in this mutual, numbers seven, nine and eleven. Each had its own trouble shooter. In 1945 the line was extended further east to take in the Spondin district. The lines were rebuilt in 1960 in preparation for conversion to dial service the same year. In 1972 the lines were put underground and the government took over the operation of them. The old lines were torn down, the poles and wire sold, and the proceeds were turned over to the mutual for distribution among the shareholders.

The Garden Plain Mutual was formed on July 8, 1935. John Corry was elected President and Ralph Greenway Vice-President. Directors were C. W. Noyce, J. [illegible]. Hemstock and Mr. Donaldson. On a motion by [illegible]. Greenway, seconded by Eric Small, it was agreed that the secretary should not be called upon to work on the line. Shares costing $24.00 each were issued; the down payment was $4.50.

A meeting was called August 14, 1936, with representatives from the Meadowlands, Hanna North East, Scapa and Garden Plain Mutuals. One person from each mutual was chosen to act on the committee to look after the trunk line and collect pin money from each mutual. The men selected were Mr. Steeves, Wm. Storch, Mr. R. Unsworth and Ralph Greenway.

The Watts Mutual had thirteen subscribers and three rentals. The same men served as officials of the mutual during its entire existence. They were President, Ted Quaschnick; Vice-President, George Fleck; Secretary-Treasurer, J. L. Boyd. Directors: Albert Hutton, Jack Leech, Henry Quaschnick. Jack Phibbs served as lineman for many years, followed by George Edwards.

The Dowling Mutual, or Line 14 as it was commonly called, was formed in 1935. Early records are not available but men who figured prominently in its formation were Jack Robertson, Manley Viste, Christ Viste, Harold Lund, Harry Wiese, and of course there were others.

Line 14 served a large area east and north from Dowling, extending west and north-west into the Chain Lakes district, and after 1960 to the Annashlem district. With the advent of dial phones in 1962, Line 14 was split into three separate circuits with a total of over thirty subscribers.

Some of the presidents down through the years were Harry Wiese, Roger Doyle, Tom Pattison and Louis Welch.

In 1955, Calton Viste took over from [illegible] Grantham as Secretary, and served in that capacity until the mutual was dissolved when underground lines were built in 1974.

The Scapa Mutual, formed in 1935, paid the government one dollar per mile when they bought the old line from Garden Plain hall to Scapa. In 1960 the line was extended east to Louis Unsworth's and Henry Nelson's, and west to Fred Nill's. The Scapa Mutual had two lines, No. 15 and No. 16. Erbin Grove acted as secretary for twenty-one years.

The Scapa South Mutual was formed at a meeting on August 20, 1950. President was Emanuel Erion, Vice-President, Stuart McRae, Secretary, Henry Ruhl; and directors were Fred Welch, John Wimmer and Lyman Grove. The mutual obtained material for their line by buying from the C.N.R. the old telegraph

line from Scapa to Spondin. Pin space to the Hanna exchange was on the Dowling Mutual poles from Wiese school corner.

Original members were F. Haessel, E. Haessel, Ralph Gaugler, F. Welch, S. McRae, L. Grove, J. Wimmer, E. Erion, H. Ruhl, D. Ruhl, O. Pahl, J. Sexsmith, Ed Glubrecht, F. Brunner, W. Gaugler and J. Steinbrecker.

In 1958 Scapa South joined with Lines 14 and 17 to build a trunk line to Hanna in preparation for conversion to dial phones. The company was dissolved in April, 1973.

CHAPTER XV

WAR VETERANS OF HANNA NORTH

Compiled by Cliff Kern and Margaret Nelson

Lest we forget the brave men and women of "Hanna North" area who served in the Boer War, World War 1, and World War 11, we have researched names and pictures of same. Regretfully, some will be missed, not intentionally, but because of lack of information.

Some of these servicemen are homesteaders, former residents, present residents, and their sons and daughters. "Hanna North" had her heroes; some decorated for bravery, while others paid the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for King and country. May their memory linger in our hearts.

We pay tribute also to the Women's Divisions in World War II who served faithfully and well by the side of their soldier brothers.

THE BOYS OF THE MAPLE LEAF

Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to call of the Motherland the young Canadians came,
Eager to show their mettle, ready to shed their blood.
They bowed their neck to the collar and trained in the Salisbury Mud,
Shipped in the fulness of time, across to the other shore,
Heard a deep hum in the distance, the volley and thunder of War.

Fretted to get to the business, chafed for the firing line,
Forward with throbbing pulses, like pilgrims who near their shrine,
Spoiled for a fight and got it, lurid, merciless, red,
Trifled with death in the trenches, braved, battled and bled,
Then at a given order, gathered together and backed;
Not because they were bending, but to keep the line intact,
Four of their guns defenceless, left in the enemy's hand,
That was a bitter buffet, more than the boys could stand.

Back charged the men of the Maple, routed the jubilant Huns,
Captured a pack of Germans, and saved their precious guns,
Ripe for any adventure, sturdy, loyal and game,
Quick to the call of the Motherland; the keen Canadians came,
Hurrah for the young Dominion, cheer them with heart and voice,
The maple shall never wither; brave Canadian boys.

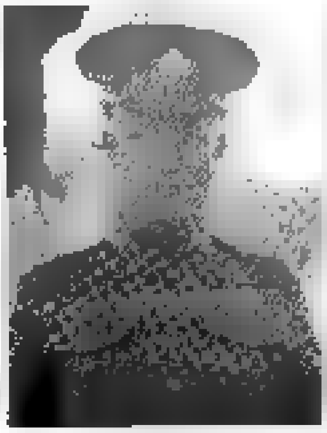
Thomas Smeed,
The poet of the Plains,
June 9, 1915.

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I

(* those who were killed in action)

Bert Brown *

Joseph Camp



Albert Coghill *

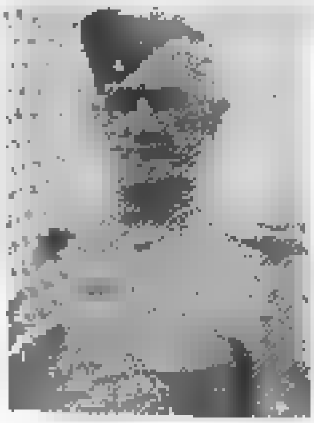
Frank Evans

Ed Elm

Gene Flanders

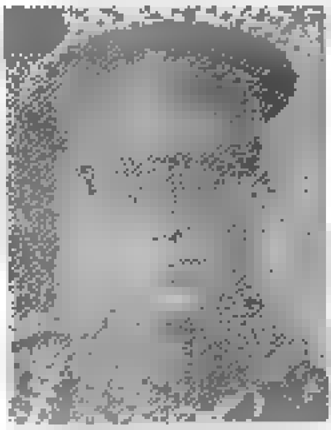
George Forster

Sid Grimes

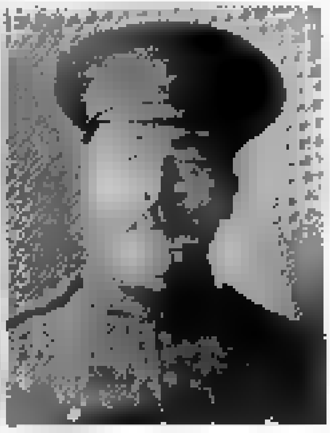


W. Glover

Ray Grantham



B. Heptonstall



Tom Hannah

Fred W. Johnston

John Knudson

M. G. Lepard

John Lepard

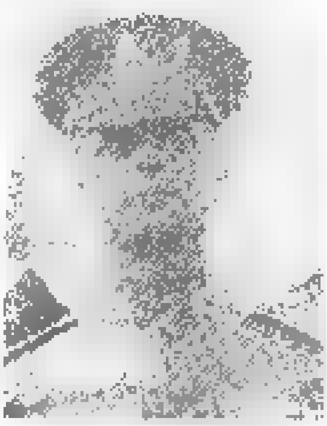
Alick McLean

Elmer Olsen

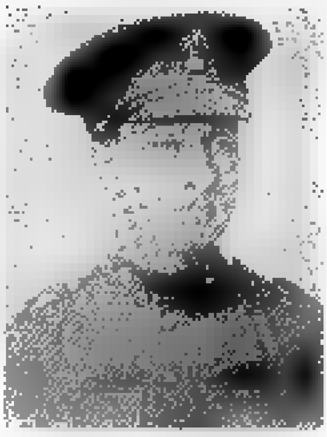
W. Pattinson

W. Rehill

George Standing



Ernest Standing



J. W. Taylor

Len Taylor

[illegible]. J. Unsworth

SERVICEMEN OF BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR I WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed [illegible] action)

Andy Alpaugh
Jim Boyd
Stan Boon *
Gibb Brown
Jack Binmore
David Boles
Edgar Burkholder
Fred Bottomly
Dan Campbell
George Crossfield
Donald Cameron
W. R. Curtis Sr.

Donald Campbell
Cyril Doyle
Lou Doyle
H. B. Dunn
Edgar Dean
Raymond Frederick
Ralph Gaugler
Jim Glover
John Glover
Andy Glover
Robert Gordon
Frank Hutton

Fred Hoig *
Clyde Holbrook
Ernie Howe
Bert Jones
Curry Johnson
Scott Johnson
Joe Lidgett
Sydney Linley
Ed Loveday
Bob Livingston
J. B. McKenzie
Jack McEwan

Joe Moulding
[illegible] McLaren
Bill Mowatt
Allan McKimmie
Andrew Murdock
Mack McMillian
Stan Peake
R. S. Penny
Jimmy Ridell *
Willie Ridell *
Mike Rils
Joe Robinson

James Riddle
W. W. Ryan
Clarence Roney
Bill Rutherford Sr.
F. J. Sim

Bill Sinclair
Thomas Smith
Robert Smith
Milton Stuart
Neville Thomas

R. J. Tait *
Bill Waring
George Wright
Harry Wiese
Jimmy Weir

John Wilson
Melvin Walker
O. S. Wimbush
Charlie Wood *
Charlie Wigley Sr.

Art Wigley

PICTURES OF SERVICEMEN WORLD WAR II

(* those who were killed in action)

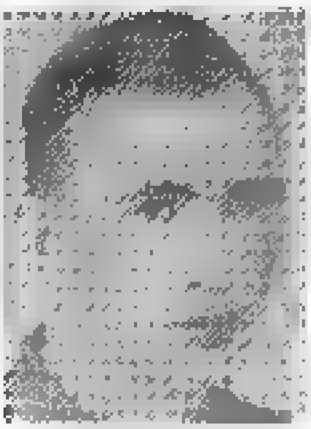
John Anderson

Freddie Artzenbacker

Earl Burt

Larry Boyd

Richard Brunner

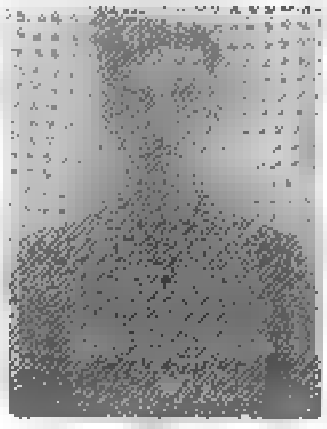

Frank Brunner

Hugh Campbell

William Chidley

Arthur Camp

Roy Chee Choo


Albert Chee Choo

Irene Chee Choo

George Campion

Elvin Churchill

C. L. Elm

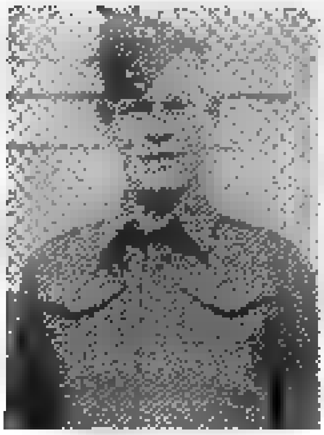
James Elliot

C. W. O. R. Edwards

Irene Elm

Luther Faupel

Edwin Fox


Clifford Fox

Katrina Glubrecht

Ed Glubrecht

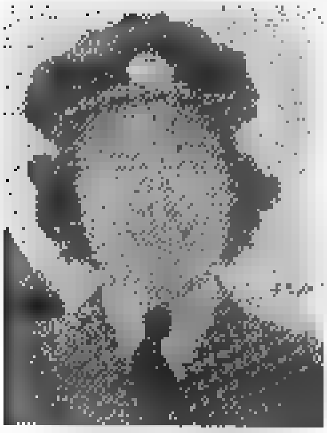
Jack Greenwood

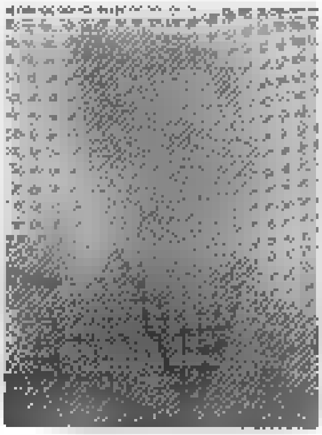
Norman Greenway

Donald Grimes *

Margaret Graham

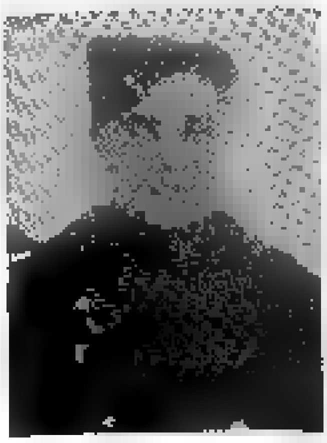
Marjorie Graham


Ruby Grantham


Walter Hein

Edwin Hein

Rudy Hein


Ivan Hannah

John Hannah

Ronald Hannah

Roy Hutton

Walter Heptonstall

Sid Herring

Martin Johnson

Charles Johnson

Gunnar Johnson

Walter Kern

Cliff Kern

Harold Kautz

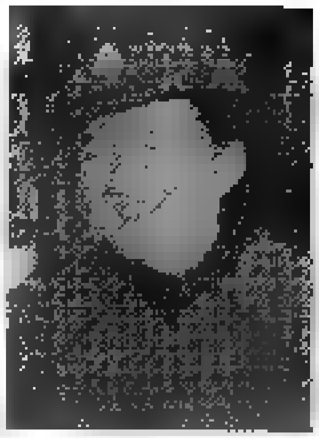
William Kautz

M. A. McCuish

Aubrey McCuish

J. M. McCuish

M. E. McCuish



J. A. McCuish

J. R. McCuish

Arvid Malm

Nancy Olsen

Tom Parker

Ben Parker

Margaret Riddle

William Riddle

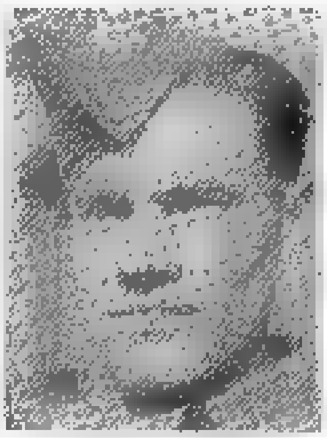
Kenneth Riis *

Harold Riis

Peter Ruppert

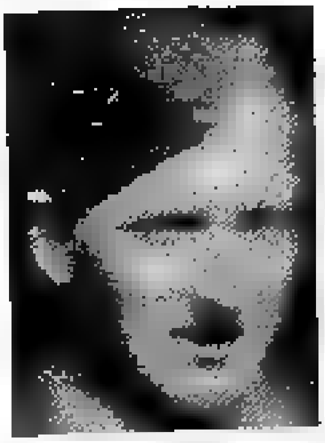
W. Ruppert

Hugh Riddle



Wilfred Smith

G. E. Scott


Stanley Scott

R. H. Storch

Glen Smart

Harold Strandberg

E. G. Taylor

George Taylor

James Taylor

Marion Taylor

Jim Temple

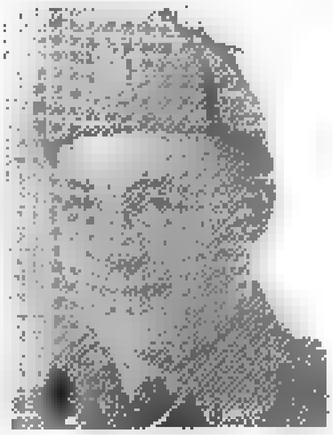
Tom Welch

Bud Williams

Ken Williams

Keith Williams

James Williams


Roy Unsworth

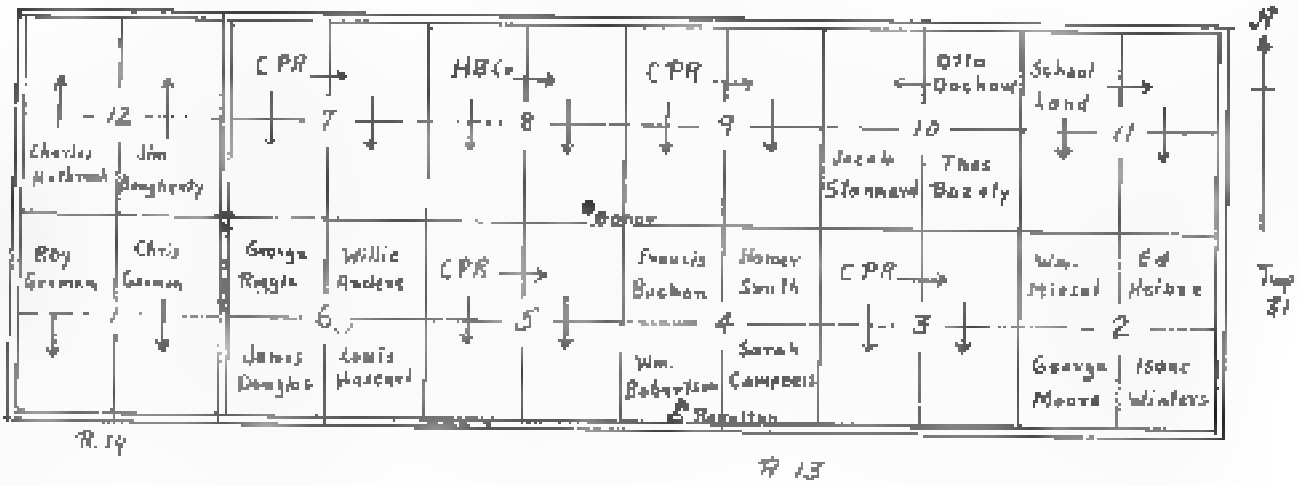
SERVICEMEN OF WORLD WAR II
WHOSE PICTURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

(* those who were killed in action)

Jim Bond
Margaret Bond
Bill Burns
Austin Bye
Calvin Bye
John Beich *
W. R. Curtis Jr.
Sam Diegel
Andy Duff
Art Evans
Arnold Erion
Jim Fielding
Charlie Fielding
Fred Fano
Lloyd Fleck
Dave Fano
Sam Giltner
Jack Giltner
Roy Giltner
Jack Glover
Russel Glover
Hank Hildenbrand
Phillip Herring
Roy Johnson
Ernie Johnson
Wes James
Henry Johnston
Alfred Litke
Wilf Lumsden
Robert Loveday
Lionel Loveday
Bill Miller
Ed Pahl
Helmer Pederson
Louis Pederson (U.S.)
Frank Parker
Edmund Pfahl
William Rutherford Jr.
Alex Rutherford *
Albert Schmidt
Gotthold Schmidt
Ed Schmidt
Lionel Thomas
Ward Thomas
Bill Temple
Louis Welch
Art Welch
Jim Wright
Norman Wright
Fred Wigley
Bill Wigley
Charlie Wigley *

DISTRICT & FAMILY HISTORIES

ROYALTON No. 3072



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS & RENTERS

Section 2
NE-2
Ed Heinze
Jim Hannah
R. A. Evans

NW-2
Wm. Miesel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

SW-2
George Moore
Wm. Miesel
Harry Dalton
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

SE-2
Isaac Winters
Lorne Hannah
R. A. Evans

Section 3
C.P.R.
R. A. Evans

Section 4
NE-4
Homer Smith
Mrs. Peterman
R. A. Evans

NW-4
Francis Buchan
Frank Hoskins
Abe Miller
Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans

SW-4
Wm. Robertson
H. C. Harder
Adam Hahn
Clyde Block
Fred Miller
R. A. Evans

SE-4
Sarah Campeats
Mrs. Peterman
R. A. Evans

Section 5
C.P.R.

E ½-5
H. Van derWeyer
John Sinclair

W ½-5
Wm. Adams
G and K Siewert

Section 6
NE-6
Willie Anders
Mrs. H. Shore
H. Siewert

NW-6
George Riggle
L. E. Pierce
G. and K. Siewert

SW-6
James Douglas
G. and K. Siewert
SE-6
Louis Hascarl
John Grove
Dan Pahl
G. and K. Siewert

Section 7
N ½-7
Lindsay McLiesh
Bob Regner
Bob Bitner
R. Kautz

S ½-7
W. S. Douglas
G. and K. Siewert

Section 8
H. B. Co.
N ½-8
W. and B. Sloan
H. H. Mann
Thompson Brothers
Bob Fraser
George Hamilton
Ida Kautz

S ½-8
W. & B. Sloan
Gibb and Bill Thompson
Bob Fraser
Mrs. Brashear
R. Kautz

Section 9
C.P.R.

E ½-9
Harry Winters
George Peterson
Bert Nash
Buckwalters
Dan Dyike
Jack Kennedy
Mel Lambert
R. A. Evans

W ½-9
T. B. Peterman
R. A. Evans

Section 10
N ½ 10
Otto Dochow (Scrip)

J[illegible] Martin

SW-10
Joe Stannard
Mel Lambert
Joe Martin

SE-10
Thos. Bazely
Joe Martin

Section 11
School Land
N ½-11
Joe Martin
S ½-11
R. A. Evans

ROYALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3072

By Fred Johnston

To meet the educational needs of the children of the area, Royalton School District No. 3072 was established on December 10, 1913, with William Boos as secretary-treasurer, and William Miesel as senior trustee. In April of 1914 approval was given for borrowing the sum of $1200.00 to build the school. It was erected and ready for occupancy that same year.

The school site was on the SW 4-31-13 and consisted of the lands shown on the map, which were north of the correction line (No. 9 highway), as well as land south of the correction line which are not included in this history.

Due to the same problems that faced most school districts during the thirties, Royalton became a part of Sullivan Lake school division and was eventually closed. The building was sold to a group of interested persons who moved it to Hanna where it served first as a rest room, later as a library, and more recently as a meeting place for the Hanna Pioneers Association. Called 'The Hut,' it is owned by the Town of Hanna but maintained by the Association, and is available to other groups as well.

Some of the teachers at Royalton were Mr. Moss, Miss Somme, George Burkell, Miss Lewis, Leona Goodfellow, Vera McCarthy, Miss B. Marquardson, Norine Maynes, Mary Morrison, June Smith, Virginia Thomas, and Frank Jacob.

The last Board of Trustees were Charlie Dyike as secretary-treasurer, John Evans as Chairman and John Evans Jr.

John Grove recalls some of the early homesteaders in the Royalton district. He had homesteaded on the east side of Sullivan Lake in township 35, range 15, about 1907. He and Alex Falconer established the Commercial Livery in Hanna in 1912, and claims that he was the first person to go bankrupt in Hanna. He dissolved his partnership with Alex in 1914, rented Andy Mackay's farm for a year, and then Louis Hascarl's farm.

Louis Hascarl, a miner from Carbon, homesteaded the SE 6-31-13 in 1909. In 1914 he became a partner in the Commercial Livery and eventually owned it outright. He traded it and his farm to Dan Pahl and moved to Esten, Saskatchewan. The Hascarl children were among the first pupils of Hanna school, and Louis was Hanna's first bandmaster. While threshing on Hascarl's land in the fall of 1914, the straw pile caught fire and the new threshing machine belonging to George Burkell and the Parker Brothers was destroyed.

George Riggle homesteaded the NE 6-31-13 in 1910. He became manager of

the Beaver Mercantile Co. store which was established by C. A. Walters of Castor east of the present townsite of Hanna. Chris German and Harry Long (who had clerked at Garden Plain) were working in the store. When the town of Hanna was established, the store was moved there and George continued as manager. He was elected to the village council and later moved to California.

On the NE 6-31-13, Willie Andus proved up and left. Jim Douglas, on the SW 6-31-13, had come with his brother Fred to homestead in 1909.

William Miesel also came in 1909, to the NW 2-31-13. The Miesel girls, Isobel and Irma, attended Royalton school. Irma married Harry Dalton, a World War I veteran, and they farmed the Miesel lands.

George Moore, a son-in-law of Charlie James, came in 1909 to the SW 2-31-13. Ed Heinze, who was the cook at the Sam Wadsworth mine, filed on the NE 2-31-13.

Three bachelors homesteaded on section 10. Thomas Bazely had the south-west quarter and Jacob or Joe Stannard the south-east quarter. Otto Dochow got the north half of it as scrip, but never resided on it; his home was on the south half of 14-31-13. The siding of Alness was on land purchased from him.

Frank Moulding recalls that Lindsay McLiesh, a bachelor from Illinois, purchased the north half of 7 from the C.P.R. He erected a tarpaper shack on the property but nearly smothered during a blizzard. The snow drifted in the cracks in the house, and if it had not been for a neighbor passing by, Lindsay would have perished. He sold the land to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bitner from Leader, Saskatchewan, who remained for a few years and then went to Medicine Hat.

On section 6, Hudson Bay Company land, William and Bert Sloan built a farm site, and their sister kept house for them. Later Gibb and Bill Thompson and their mother lived on the place, and later Bob Fraser and his housekeeper, Mrs. Brashear, lived there.

Today, almost all this area is a grazing lease. The only residents are the Art Evans and Reinhold Kautz families.

JOHN R. KENNEDY STORY

By Rosella Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kennedy and their three children, Helen, Archie and Rosella, came from High River to the Royalton district in 1912. Their fourth child, Tillie, was born in 1914. The Kennedys had come originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and were accompanied to the Royalton district by Mr. and Mrs. William Boos and their eight children; Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart and their three children, Elizabeth, Robert and Francis; and Uncle Charlie Stewart.

The school opened in 1914 with Mr. Moss from the Philippines as teacher. Archie Kennedy was allowed to start school at age five in order to have enough pupils to open the school. Rosella and Tillie attended Royalton school until 1925 when the school was closed because of a shortage of pupils; they boarded in Hanna and went to school there for one year until Royalton was re-opened.

Church services were held at Royalton. There were usually Catholic services as these people were all of that faith, but as in other districts, everyone attended, regardless of denomination.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy moved to the Buckwalter place, now owned by Art Evans. After a few years there, when the family were all gone, they retired to Hanna. Mr. Kennedy passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Kennedy made her home with her daughter Tillie Faupel until her death. She was loved and respected by all who knew her, and was very devoted to her family and her church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, John, Tiny and Lizzie Schulties, Uncle Bob Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy, John and Margaret Simpson, Robert and Rosella Anderson (just married), Frank Moulding, unknown, Jean Anderson, Myrtle Stewart, Tillie Kennedy, Marlene Schulties, Billy Simpson, unknown.

Helen married Dan Dyke of Royalton and they had three girls, Florence, Veronica and Patricia. They retired to Edmonton where Dan passed away, and Helen still lives there.

Archie married Mae Perdue and they have three girls, Thelma, Jean and Joan.

Rosella graduated as a nurse from Edmonton Misericordia Hospital. She married Robert Anderson and they had two boys, Joe and Jim. Robert passed away in 1962 and Joe in 1963. Jim lives in Hanna. Rosella nursed for several years in Hanna Hospital and is now retired and living in Hanna.

Tillie married Luther Faupel and had three children, Sharon Groat, Stanley, and Teresa Liggett. During World War II they lived in Calgary while Luther served with the Air Force, then moved back to Hanna where Luther passed away in 1972 and Tillie in 1974.

THE JACOB BUCHWITZ FAMILY

By Nat Buchwitz

After losing all their property as a result of a cloudburst and flash flood, my parents decided to leave the little farming village of Leipzig, Bessarabia, and move to Canada. A land agent, a native of Bessarabia who had settled in the Craigmyle district some time earlier, had been hired to encourage immigration to Canada, and he painted a rosy picture of life in the new land. My folks packed a few personal belongings and sailed for Canada, arriving in Hanna, where they had friends, on June 23, 1929.

Somehow it never occurred to my family that a different language would be spoken in the country they had immigrated to, and it was very difficult for the children to start school with only a few words of English. Through their friends, my father obtained part-time work on the C.N.R., and my mother got a job washing dishes at a circus which was in Hanna at the time. Both started work the day after their arrival.

The depression and drought of the next eight years belied the land agent's stories. My parents worked at any job that was available, and in 1934 moved to the

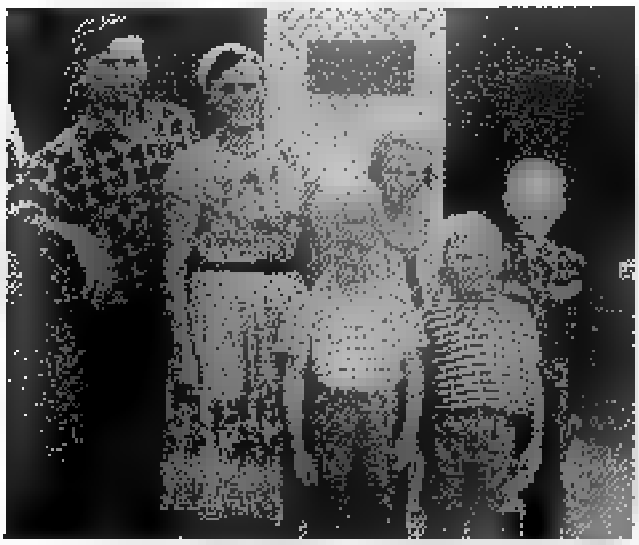
Chris German farm three miles east of Hanna. They milked cows and raised poultry; the first year they threshed 360 bushels of wheat from their half section. The next year the crop yielded six hundred bushels, but it had been frozen, and brought only sixteen cents a bushel, and cost four cents a bushel to thresh. In 1936 all they got was two level rackloads of feed, and they decided that it was time to move elsewhere.

My older sister, Pauline, had married John Engel and remained in Hanna. They had four children and still make their home there.

While we lived on the Chris German place, my sister Frida and I attended Royalton school, which closed the year we left the district because there were not enough children left to keep it open. The last teacher was Catherine Steven (Mrs. Knauft).

We moved to the Endiang district where my parents farmed until they retired to Hanna in 1952. Mother died in 1970 and my father in 1975. Frida, Mrs. Ben Hoenig, lives in Oak Harbor, Washington.

I married Alvina Erion. We have three sons, David and Robert in the Endiang district, and Danny at Netherby.



Reinhold Kautz Family. Left to Right: Reinhold, Ida, Jurgen, Anne, Karl, Willfried.

REINHOLD and IDA KAUTZ — Reinhold Kautz and Ida Baumann arrived in Hanna on February 14, 1951, and went to the home of our sponsor, my cousin, John Yasman. We were married in March of that year, and moved to Edmonton where we both worked.

In 1952 we moved back to Hanna, where we were happy and proud to work for John and Leah Yasman for $150 a month and our board. In the fall we made arrangements to purchase three quarters of land four miles east of Hanna. With the money we had saved from two years in Canada, we bought three milk cows with calves, and three brood sows; and John Yasman and Ida's cousin, Fred Schritter, each loaned us a cow to milk for a year.

Milking our own cows and raising our own hogs made us feel very worthy. Although there were a lot of things we went without, we said to ourselves, "We have nothing to lose, but all to gain." Cousin John let me use his machinery to prepare the land, sow the crop. In return I did manual labor on his farm. That autumn we purchased milk quotas from Bill Mackenzie, Chris German and Joe Martin, which were large enough to give us a good income.

Our first child, Anne Marie, was born while we lived in Edmonton; our second, Reinhold Willfried, arrived in 1953. In December, 1955, Jurgen George was born to us. Our last child, Karl Heinz, was born in 1957.

In 1955 crops were poor and we lost several good cows due to milk fever. The next year crops were much better and we were able to regain a substantial part of our losses. We accumulated more modern machinery, and purchased another four quarters of land. We still had problems in the winter months as the roads were poor and drifted in much of the time. Many times I shovelled snow for two hours to go the four miles to town. This particular spring, I had to build a wooden platform on the tractor, to set the milk cans on to take them to the dairy.

During the next ten years we built a dairy barn and a milking parlor, installed

milking machines, bought another half-section of land, and milked about fifty cows. When the Central Alberta Dairy Pool closed in Hanna, we sold several dairy cows and bought range cows.

In 1969 we left Anne Marie and Willfried to manage the farm, and taking our two youngest with us, we visited our homeland, West Germany. When we returned, Anne Marie went to Germany to live for eleven months, and worked there as a secretary. When she came back to Canada, she worked as a nursing aide for a few years before marrying Alan Harvey of Scapa. They have one son, Jason, and live [redacted] Sarnia, Ontario, where Alan [redacted] an accountant.

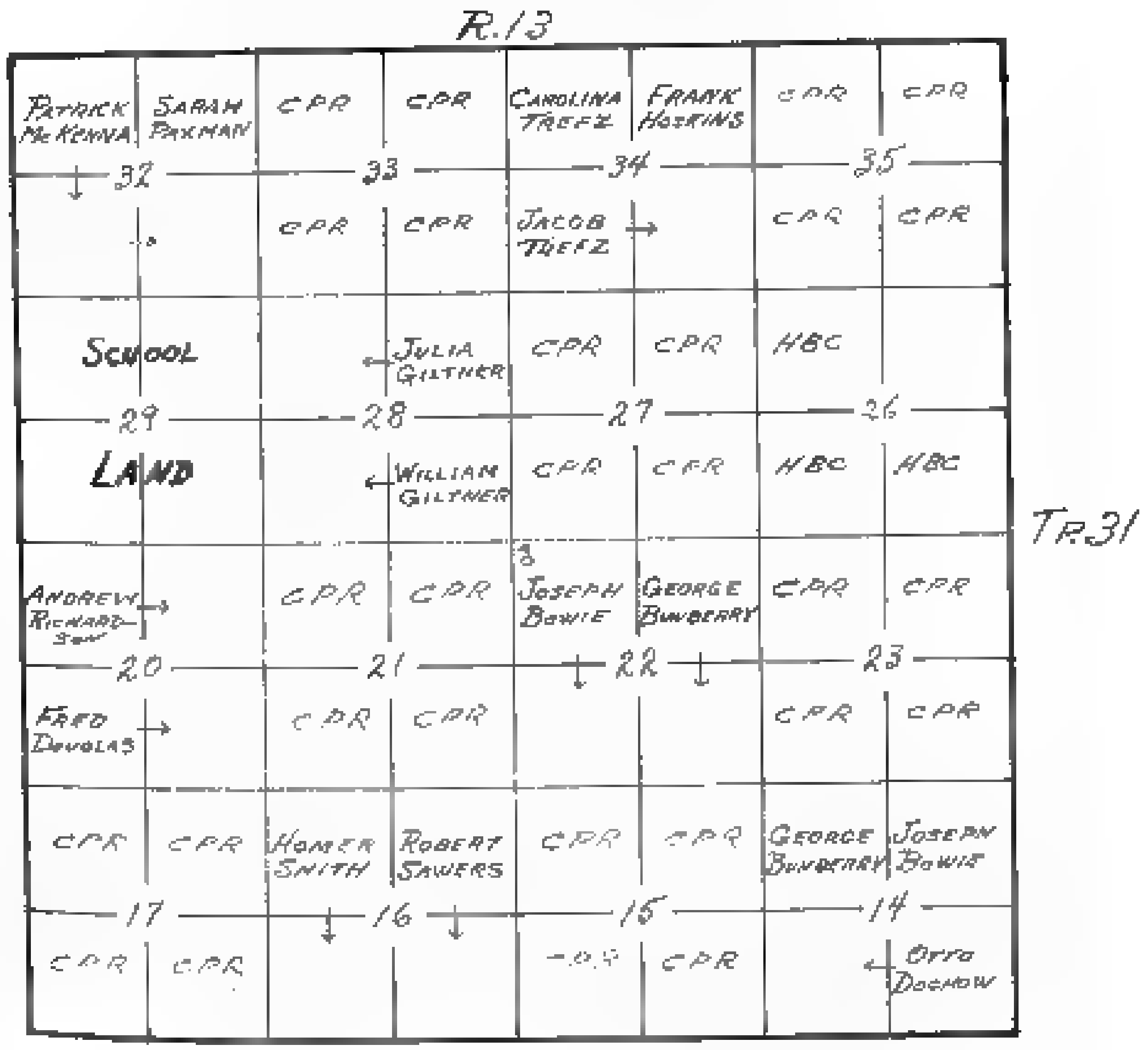
After graduating, Willfried travelled to West Germany to meet his relatives, took on a factory job and remained ten months. While he was away, we bought for him Alfred Pahl's farm. In 1974 he married Thyra Riddle of Hanna, and has since resided on his farm northeast of Hanna. We are working and farming together as one family.

Jurgen wished also to be a farmer, so he quit school, and for him we bought, in 1974, the Dan Kautz farm. In 1976 he married Bonnie Jess, and they live on their farm.

Karl Heinz graduated from high school in 1975 and started working for the C.N.R., as well as farming with the family. In 1976 he decided to become a plumber, and now lives in Calgary.

For all the years we have seen come and go, we have no complaints, but give all thanks to the Lord for this good land of Canada and the province of Alberta in which we have prospered. To me and my family there is no equal to it in the world.

CENTREPOINT No. 2588



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS
CENTREPOINT 31-13-4

Section 14
NE 14
Joe Bowie
R. A. Evans

NW 14
George Bunbury
Glen Ives
Ivan Michael
Mike Litke
John Diachuck
Henry Hoover
R. A. Evans

S ½
Otto Dochow SAV
Robert Bittner
Joe Martin and C.N.R.

Section 15
C.P.R.
E ½ A. L. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

W ½
Wm. Anderson
R. Kautz
Section 16
E ½
Robert Sawyer
H. R. Smith
Joe Martin
W ½
Homer Smith
Fred Fecho

Section 17 C.P.R.
NE 17
Douglas Brothers
Mike Litke
Freda Fecho
SE 17
Mad Gosselin
Mike Litke
Elsie Hien

W ½ 17
A. J. Lauer
W. Hamilton
Edwin Hien

Section 20
N ½
Gibb Richardson
Bob Fraser
Herb Pfahl
Wellington Hamilton

S ½ 20
Fred Douglas
Mrs. Brasheart
Edwin Hien

Section 21
C.P.R.
NE 21
Charlie Giltner
Leon Knapp
Fred Fecho

NW 21
George Thrish
H. R. Smith
Fred Fecho

S ½ 21
Homer Smith
Fred Fecho

Section 22
E ½ 22 SAV
George Bunbury
Wm. Anderson
Frank Moulding

W ½ 22 SAV
Joe Bowie
Joe Moulding
Frank Moulding

Section 23
C.P.R.
NE 22
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans
NW 23
A. Buckwalters
John Littau
Wm. Anderson
Bob Wishart
R. A. Evans

S ½ 23
A. Buckwalters
R. A. Evans

Section 26
H. B. Co.
Neville Thomas
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section 27
C.P.R.
N ½ 27
Jack Litke
Elmer Pfahl
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 27
W. H. Giltner
Otto Stern
Frank Moulding

Section 28
N ½ 28
Julia Giltner
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

S ½ 28
Wm. Giltner
Otto Stern
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section 29
School Land
Hanna Farms
Fred Elm
Andy & Tony Mosher
Elmer Pfahl & Doug Motz

Section 32
NE 32
Sarah Pauman
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz
NW 32
Pat McKenna
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

S ½ 32
Pat McKenna SAV
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

Section 33
C.P.R.
J. C. Buckwalters
Neville Thomas
Fred Fecho

Section 34
NE 34
Frank Hosking
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

NW 34
Caroline Trefz
Neville Thomas
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

S ½ 34
Jacob Trefz
Dan Trefz
Wayne Faupel

Section 35
C.P.R.

N ½ 35
Homey McCullough
Frank Hoskins
Dan Trefz
Don Mattis

S ½ 35
Dan Mattis
Don Mattis

CENTREPOINT
By Margaret Hage

Centrepoint School No. 2568 was built in 1912 on the northwest corner of Section 22. The first teacher was Miss Douglas, who lived with her brothers who had homesteaded two miles west and south of the school. The first pupils were Joe, Ruth, Charlie and Harry Giltner; Elizabeth, James, George, Lydia and Esther Trefz; Dan, Martha, Albert and Fred Mattis; and Ben and Mary Come. Teachers, who usually boarded at Giltner's, Moulding's, Anderson's or Thomas' were Hilda Meadows, Miss McKinley, Sarah Hourihand, Margaret Sangster, Lavina Raymond (Mrs. Honey), Catherine Strong, Miss Martin, Mr. Evans, Freda Sterling, Vera McCarthy, Norman Lambly, Fred Barber, Virginia Thomas (Mrs. P. Collins). School

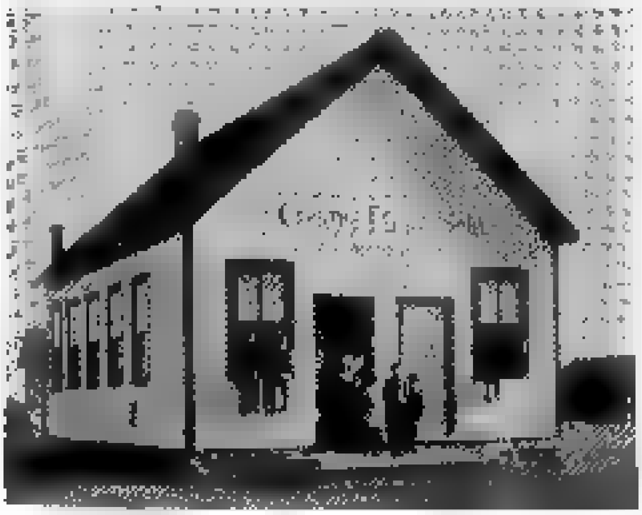
trustees were Neville Thomas, William Giltner, Mrs. William Anderson, Joseph Moulding and Homer Smith.

Back Row: Evelyn Giltner, Viva Giltner, Virginia Thomas. Middle Row: Bob Anderson, Lionel Thomas, Jack Giltner, Raymond Thomas, Frank Moulding. Front Row: Ronald Thomas, John Anderson, Delbert Giltner.

Many good times were had at Centrepoint, in and out of school. Boys and girls, which were always few, played games together, carried our lunches in syrup or lard pails and often exchanged with others. One time Henry Mattis brought the can of Roger's syrup instead of his lunch, so the rest of us shared ours with him. The teachers usually shared our lunch hours and our games and put up with a lot of our nonsense.

Dances were held occasionally at the school. Just a few girls, (we were popular then) and plenty of men and boys, particularly bachelors who would come quite a distance if we had a lady teacher. Musicians played violins, mouth organs, and fiddles and guitars. Sometimes someone played the school organ. Among those I remember were "Wild Bill" Wilkinson, George Gwin, George Unsworth, and Benny Weller.

Christmas concerts were always a real event as the teachers had a way of drumming up a lot of good entertainment. Mrs. W. Anderson filled in as Santa Claus many times. She usually gave the bachelors and teachers a bad time.



Centrepoint School

During the summer months we usually had church services at the school, which were well attended by all denominations. They seemed to give the people new hope and courage during the poor years. Ministers I recall were Rev. Scallon, Rev. Hammit, Rev. Finkbeiner, and Rev. Westaway.

Our school entered in the school fairs which were held in Hanna. The girls baked and sewed articles and the boys took vegetables and handicrafts. Penmanship and stories were entered in the school work section.

The C.N.R. came through our district in 1912 and we had a station, Alness, one and a half miles south of us, and Bonar station was south and west about four miles. These stations had houses for the station agent and the section men. The elevators, two at each station, also had living accommodation for their men and their families.

The passenger trains, one east and one west, went through at 1:30 A.M. and 3:30 A.M. We would go to the station before the train was due and flag it down to stop and pick us up, which wasn't too often, mainly when teachers were travelling back and forth to their homes. After Alness elevators were closed, and later Bonar, we hauled our grain by team and loaded it on boxcars which were left at the station for that purpose.

Back Row: Margaret Anderson, Virginia Thomas, Martha Quast, Emmanuel Trefz, Josie Trefz, Delbert Giltner. Front Row: Mary Quast, Patricia Thomas, Jean Anderson, John Anderson, Lionel Thomas.

One young man from Dundee was showing our teacher around, so when she was to go home for holidays in the winter time, he came to take her to Bonar to catch the train at 3:30. I guess he was short on time and made too quick a turn around the slough at Bonar and upset sleigh, teacher wearing a fur coat, and all into the slough which had a thin layer of ice on it. Consequently she had to be returned to our place, dried out and warmed up. He also had to have a change of clothes so he could drive home and return the next night to get her safely away. What a razzing they got!

Several prairie fires started because C.N.R. workers were burning weeds along the track right-of-way. It took only a bit of wind to carry the sparks to the very dry grass and stubble of the thirties. One bad fire went nearly to Spondin before it could be stopped . . . through sloughs where the grass on top was dry, into grain fields, and only by very hard work were the firefighters able to save buildings. Everyone dropped their work, men took teams and plows, barrels of water and sacks to fight the blaze. My mother phoned to Hanna to the R.C.M.P. and to Joe Winkler, who rounded up men and brought them out to help, along with food supplies which the women made into lunches. This, and making gallons of coffee, kept the women busy too. Often firefighting had to go on for hours and into the night.

Telephone lines came through our district around 1920. The telephone crew camped in tents in our yard so that they could get fresh water, milk, eggs and butter. They were there most of the summer. Occasionally my brother and I would be invited to eat in the big cook tent. The telephone lines went along the road allowances, beside the roads which were built and maintained by the men of the district using fresnos and scrapers drawn by teams.

The young people of the district learned to skate on sloughs, Giltner's and Moulding's dams, and Trefz' creek. We also had sleigh riding and tobogganing on the hill on Thomas' farm. After one of these parties, no one at school wanted to sit down when the teacher said, "Seats!"

I remember a few bad blizzards when Dad wouldn't let us go to school, and everyone was phoned to stay at home. One blizzard about 1927 or 1928 lasted all day and most of the night, filling every crack in the old shacks and even in the

better ones, so that when the thaw came, all the ceiling paper came loose, and tubs just couldn't catch all the water.

We had mail delivered twice a week from Hanna, by horses and later by car. We had mailboxes on the mailman's route, which went as far as Spondin. In the winters he often brought groceries or medicine to people who couldn't get to town. Everyone looked forward to getting the Hanna Herald, the Free Press, the Family Herald and the Country Guide.

We had a big slough which extended through our farm for over a mile, and when hunting season opened in September, we could expect hunters from three or four o'clock in the morning. Mother kept the coffee and breakfast on for hours, as well as a supply of dry socks. In the evening it was supper and more dry socks. Visitors were always welcome, no matter who they were or why they came.

Although it is several years since I left the Centrepoint district and there are very few people left there I did learn many valuable lessons and have wonderful memories of neighbors and the good times we had.

The schoolhouse was removed from the district about the year 1949.

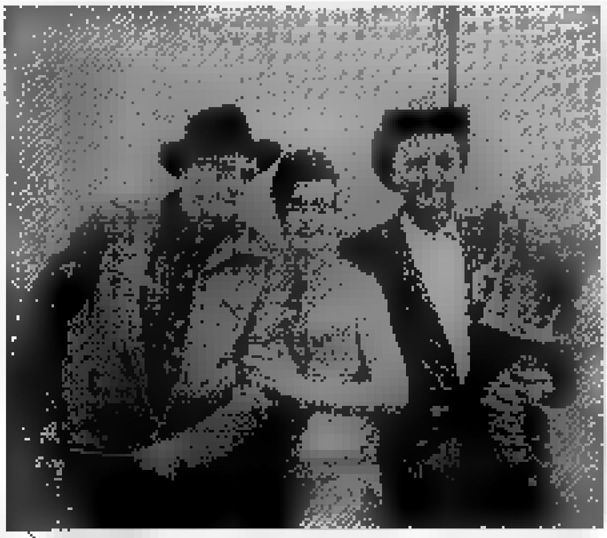
GEORGE BUNBURY, By M. Hage — George Bunbury was born September 10th, 1868 in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1906. His parents in Ireland paid a monthly wage to a rancher, Bill Channel (near the Bow River) to teach George how to become a rancher.

During the winter of 1906 he made extra money skinning dead cattle and other animals, and selling the hides.

George homesteaded on northwest of 14-31-13 in 1909. He freighted lumber from Castor to Hanna by team.

On April 2nd, 1913 he married Greta Lyness at Hanna and they had two children, Lawrence and Kathy. In 1917 they moved to the Paintearth district, where their son Robert was born in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bunbury

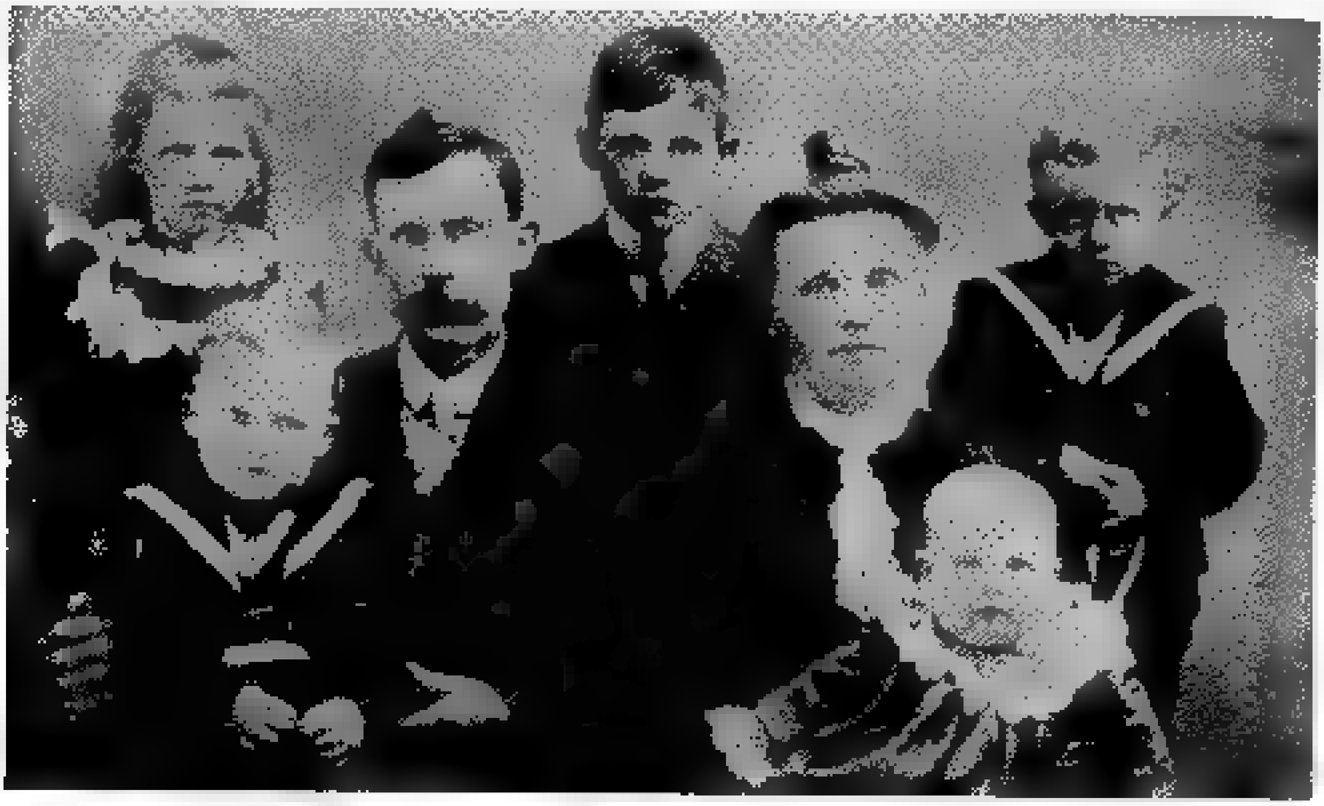


Four Generations. George Bunbury, Lynda Storch (granddaughter), Bob Bunbury (son), Allen Storch (great grandson).

BILL GILTNER, By Harry Giltner — William Henry (Bill) Giltner came to Alberta from Missouri in 1902. He shipped his effects to Lacombe and took up a homestead about fifty miles east of there. He proved up on his homestead in 1906 and farmed there until 1909, when he had a chance to purchase two South African scrip near where Hanna is now, section 28-31-13.

In the summer of 1910 he and Jonas Schaus went down and built a sod house and barn and put up some hay. That fall he moved the family down. I don't

remember what month it was but we moved on sleighs. We had a small caboose built on the frame of a hay rack. What a trip it must have been for my mother, as there were six kids then, Joe, Ruth, Charlie, Harry, Roy and Viva. Joe and Ruth had been born in the U.S.A. and the rest of us on the homestead near Stettler. Joe was eleven years old, so was some help, but the rest of us were just underfoot all the time.



Ruth, Mr. Giltner, Joe, Mrs. Giltner, Harry, Charlie, Roy.

My Dad had brought four head of horses with him from the States, and he had bought two more horses and a team of mules, so this made the trip faster than if we had had oxen, but it still took three days. He left what cattle he had with a neighbor to winter, but must have taken a couple of milk cows.

There was no one living for miles around. I don't think my mother saw another woman [illegible] winter, just snow to look at for miles. It's a wonder she didn't go out of her mind. It was some time that winter that George Bunbary settled on the NW 2-31-13, so we had one neighbor, but he was a bachelor as most of them were that settled there first.

My Dad had done some breaking so put in some crop in 1911. It looked pretty good, but around the first of August there came the worst hail storm I ever saw, stones as big as hen's eggs and a terrific wind. We all ran for the sod house as the wind couldn't hurt that. The wind picked up my mother's wash tub and started it rolling across the prairie. We watched it as far as we could see but never did find it afterwards. The crop and tub were a total loss.

Several people moved in the next year or so, Trefz, Gib Richarsons and Joe Bowie. Bowie was a bachelor. He was there only a short while when he went to visit his sister in California, took sick and died there.

In the fall of 1911 the family moved to Castor so the kids could go [illegible] school. Dad and the hired man, Willis Evans, stayed on the farm and looked after the place for the winter. Evelyn was born in Castor. When we moved back the next spring I remember the almost steady stream of homesteaders who were moving out to that location and farther south.

A school district was organized about this time and Centre Point school was built in 1912, the same year that the railway came through and the town of Hanna

was started. They used to hold dances at Centre Point and there would be about twenty-five men and four women, so the women never sat out a dance. For square dances, they would tie a handkerchief around a man's arm and he would take the part of a woman. They kept going till daylight as the dances were the only social gatherings there were. Some of those bachelors rode a horse twenty miles to get there.

My Dad was the first to get a gang plow around there, and he used to do breaking for others. He built a new house in 1913 and a new barn in 1916. Both 1915 and 1916 were good years and prices were good. At this time my Dad had about one hundred head of cattle and forty head of horses. The next three years were not so good but grain and cattle were a good price so most people did all right. There was a good crop in 1920 and those were about the best times in that country.

Dad had bought a steam threshing outfit in 1916 so he did most of the threshing around there for several years. He also did a lot of breaking for others.

Our home was the gathering place on Sunday and we always had a crowd there. There would usually be twenty-five or more for dinner. We would play ball or horseshoes or run in a bunch of range horses to see who could ride the best or get thrown the highest. No one was ever hurt very badly but there were a lot of bruises the next day.

In 1921 the crop was almost a total failure. Farmers didn't get their seed back and prices dropped on both cattle and wheat and that was the end of the good times for that country. The next year was also dry though better than 1921. In 1923 there was lots of rain at the right time and we threshed for forty-four days that fall and only lost three or four days because of rain. In 1924 most of the crops weren't worth cutting. There was a fair yield in 1926 but we had frost and the grain was a poor grade, so there wasn't any money made that year. Although 1927 was good, frost and a wet fall took most of the profit out of 1928. The next years were worse. Worst of all was 1933.

It never rained all summer and most of the wells went dry. At one time we were driving cattle eight miles every day for water, and the water was so thick with mud you could almost cut it with a knife. Then one well that had gone dry started producing again for some unknown reason, for we had no rain. We had no more water troubles, but there was very little grass and no feed for the winter.

We left our home that fall and moved to Erskine, not far from where Dad had homesteaded in the first place. We leased the Ewing Ranch twelve miles south of Erskine. Prices were poor but at least we had feed and water for the cattle.

Mrs. Giltner died suddenly in January, 1935 and Mr. Giltner died of a stroke in 1937. None of us stayed farming long after that.

Joe had a blacksmith shop in Nevis that he operated until he retired in 1967.

Jack and Delbert (Sam) and Roy (Cap) all joined the army when war broke out, also Viva's husband Olaf Volker. Jack was sent to Italy. Sam and Olaf saw service in France. Roy was kept in Canada in the Provost Corps. They were all lucky enough to get back alive.

After the war they all took up mechanics. Sam lived in Alix and worked in the gas plant at Content. He was killed in a car accident in 1976. Jack is shop foreman for Battle River Coal at Forestburg. Roy took up welding, worked for Bartman's in Hanna and then for Battle River Coal until he retired and moved to Nevis. He died suddenly in 1972.

Viva lives at Nevis and Evelyn at Kelowna, B.C. Charlie went to Ontario in 1926 and is still there. He was a butcher until his retirement.

I (Harry) went up on the Alaska highway for a while, then worked on highway

construction. In 1949 I went to work for the County of Stettler and was grade foreman for twenty years. I am retired now and live in Stettler.

GIB RICHARDSON FAMILY, By Clarence Richardson — My parents settled in the Centre Point district in 1910, but because there was a shortage of water there, he bought the Leithhead ranch, five miles north of Endiang, from Mr. Arne Larson in 1914. Dad moved his stock to the new ranch that summer, and mother and my brother Gordon and I spent the summer there. My sister Florence was born in September, and as mother was afraid that the log house on the ranch would be too cold for the baby, she took us children back to the Centre Point place for the winter.

In the spring of 1915, Gordon, who was five, and I who was seven, attended Centre Point school for two weeks. Then we moved to the Endiang area.

My clearest memory of the Centre Point farm concerns the trip we made back there. I rode bareback all the way, driving two milk cows, and had a good blister when we arrived.

My parents retired to Calgary in 1936. Mother died December 12, 1961, and dad on December 13, 1966.

THE GUY [illegible] GIBBS STORY, By M. Hage — Guy V. Gibbs was born near Woodland, California on March the fourth, 1892. He received his early grammar and high school at Woodland. He later went to the University of Southern California to study law. He completed his course and opened his own law office [illegible] the age of twenty-one, being the youngest attorney in California.

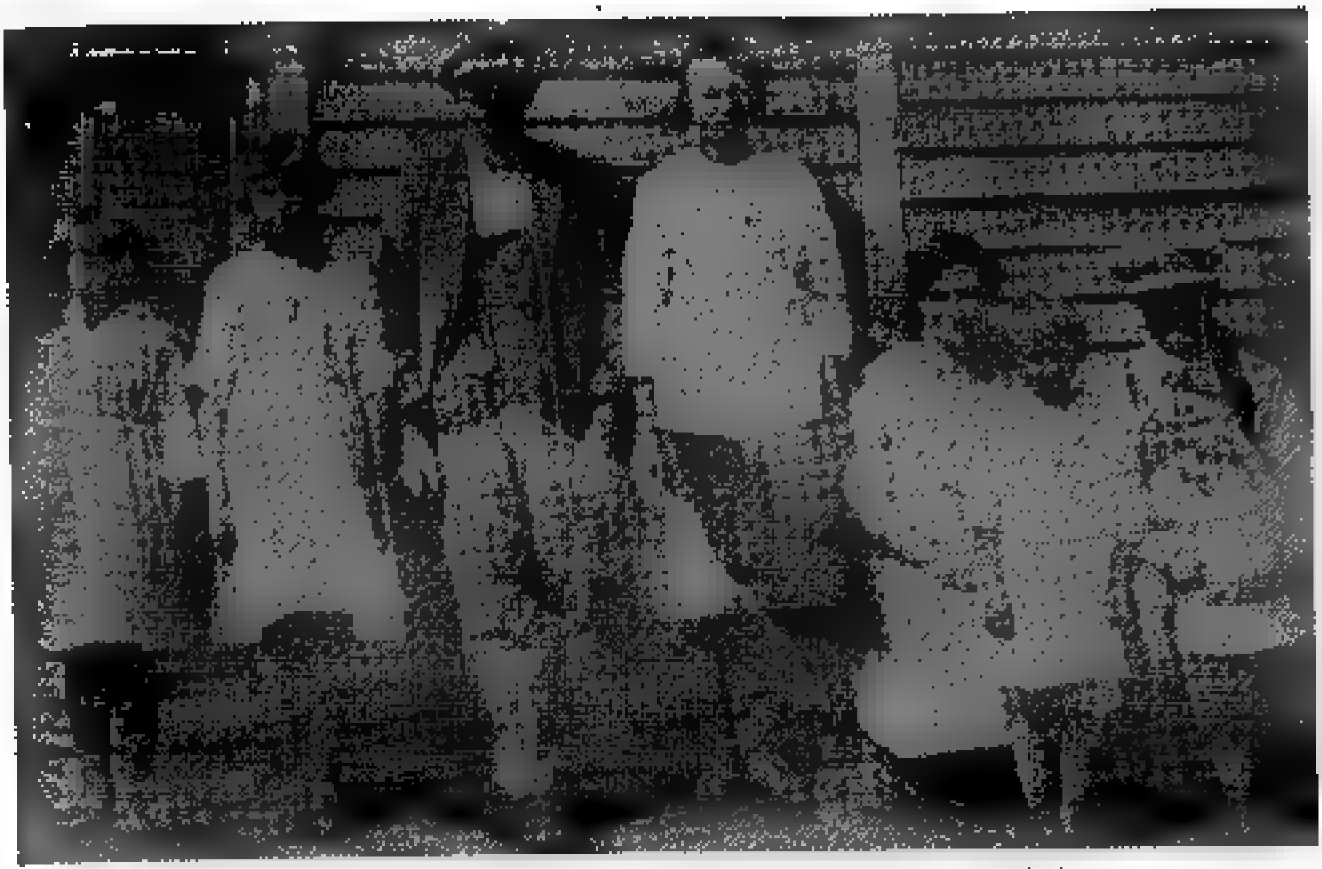
In 1913 he was married to Estella Harris. In 1915 they went to Alaska where he worked for the United States Government on new railway work. In 1917 he moved to Hanna area and took up farming on the Richardson homestead which was the north half 20-31-13. In January of 1919 he died of the flu and his widow, his son Guy Gibbs Jr. who was born in 1914, and his baby girl went back to their old home in Woodland.

LIVING IN CANADA, By Hilda Adam Thomas — My folks, William and Katharina Adam, my brother Dan and I, Hilda, moved to Alberta from North Dakota.

We lived in a large house which was later used as a barn. Somehow, somewhere, Dad bought a house and moved it to our place which was close to the Mattis farm. We had a horse and a cow. Dan and I started school, and had to walk four miles each way. I was eight years old when I started.

From there we moved to Grandpa and Grandma Adam's farm. In the meantime Alvina was born, then Leona and Mabel. We remember Charlie Litke, Fred Litke and their families, and we remember that the highway went right through Giltner's farm. We all went to Centre Point School. Then another school was built north of our farm and we had to go there, but I don't remember the name of it. Hanna was the closest town and that was ten miles from our place. Dad used to send Dan and me to Hanna for repairs for the machinery whenever we needed them.

Dad had a pair of jackasses, the onery ones. We called them Jack and Jill and when we hitched them on the stoneboat they would take off like [illegible] bat out of hell, but not the way you wanted them to, only the way they wanted to go. Dan and I tried to drive them to school one day. Halfway there they made up their minds to turn around and go home. We had to walk the rest of the way to school and all the way home.



Leona, Alvin, Dan, Hilda, Mabel and John Adam, Karolina and Bill.

We helped stook the wheat or oats when it was cut. Dan, Dad and I cut hay, and hauled it home for the cattle and horses. That was fun.

Just about everyone, including us, had the flu. Grandma Adam died of it. Grandpa Adam was driving the horse and buggy to town and the horse was scared by a bird and started to run. The buggy tipped over, and Grandpa was taken to the hospital. Dad said he had a broken collar bone, but pneumonia set in and he died.

In 1919 John was born. Mother was ill for a long time. Soon after that our house burned down. Mom and Dad were visiting Fred Litke, so Dan and I tried to carry a few belongings out and the rest of the girls hid in the grainfields. No one knows how the fire started. We moved into Grandma Adam's house.

Two baby girls were born and died. We moved to Saskatchewan where we lived for a year. Another girl was born and lived for a day and a half. In 1926 another girl was born.

Dad died in 1958 and mother in 1961.

The Trefz Family: Josie, Emmanuel, Esther, Ruth, Dan, Lillian, Lydia, James, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mr. and Mrs. J. Trefz.

RECOLLECTIONS, By Dan Trefz — I was barely a year old when my father, J. J. Trefz, filed on his homestead on 34-31-13, almost ninety miles southeast of the nearest town, Stettler. How or why they picked that particular section is beyond me; perhaps they drew the numbers out of a hat at the Land Titles Office in Calgary.

They drove out from Stettler by wagon late in October, then walked to a spot nearly in the middle of the section near a tributary of Berry Creek. Noticing a spot where the grass was considerably

greener. Dad thrust in a spade and found that the ground was moist. He dug deeper and struck water [illegible] three feet; to this day that well has been a good source [illegible] water for the farmsite which was built around it.

Dad and mother had filed on a homestead each and [illegible] pre-emption each. Because homestead regulations required at least six months' residence on the land every year, my parents decided to pitch the tent and later build the house right on the line dividing the quarters. I can never remember one parent telling the other to go live 'in your half of the house'.

There were twelve of us in the family, seven girls and five boys. Carrie married Frank Hoskins; both are deceased, their son Francis is in Chicago.

Elizabeth married a minister who later went into the bakery business. He developed the Butter Gem Roll which lured the whole Tretz family off the farm, for the duration of the Hungry Thirties at least, and into the baking business. Jim had a very successful baking business in Washington, D.C. Lydia, [illegible] nurse, and Joe, a medical doctor, reside in New York State, Esther in Tennesse, Ruth and brother Mannie in California. All are more or less retired, as I am here at Creston, B.C. But our thoughts often revert back to Centre Point days.

And they were memorable days to be sure. While we did not attend local dances or social functions as a rule, we did enjoy picnics and sleighing parties. Centre Point School was usually well attended, especially when the school could boast of a particularly attractive teacher. Then all the eligible bachelors such as Joe and Charles Giltner, Reg Moulding, Albert and Fred Mattis, Emil and Leonard Gosselin, would make themselves available for further learning. There is also the memory of strap-swinging, yardstick waving Miss McNeil; and of Viva Giltner making faces at me to invoke me to laughter that usually resulted in the teacher expressing herself on the palms of my hands.

Teachers usually boarded with the Mouldings or Andersons, but Miss McNeil stayed with us, for as long as she could stand it. We drove the two miles to school in [illegible] democrat, and as I had a hard time avoiding the badger holes along the road, I sometimes upset the occupants of the rear seat. That, of course, spelled my finish as the driver.

I've been told that times were pretty hard in the early days. A neighbor, Homer McCullough, kept quite a few horses. I recall his barn being pretty well chewed up, especially the mangers. In fact, Homer had to drive nails into the studdings to keep them from being chewed clear through!

One night when my father was hauling a load of lumber from Stettler, he hoped to make it home after dark but his horses were tired. There were only trails across the prairies and few landmarks to tell you where you were, certainly none after dark. Dad felt he must be near home, but his horses refused to go any further. So he unhitched the team, tethered them out for the night, rolled into his blankets under the wagon and went to sleep. As light broke over the horizon early in the morning he realized he was within shouting distance of his tent, and home.

On another occasion he took Jim with him to walk ahead of the horses with a sheaf of oats, and lure the team on.

Frequently whole caravans of neighbors travelled together to do their shopping in Stettler. On one such caravan a Mr. Lawrence composed a poem describing the trip. I have heard the poem read and would give [illegible] considerable sum for a copy of [illegible]. It mentions the names of all the people involved.

During the flu epidemic just after World War I, we had all been sick except sister Beth. Through the seige she had nursed us all, and some of the neighbors as well. One day when we were just about to be up on our feet again, she called, "Come see this!"

We scrambled to the window just in time to see Frank Hoskins, our brother-in-law, come around the corner riding the stoneboat and clutching the water barrel. The stoneboat was tied to the tail of his milk cow! The cow knew exactly where to come for she knew where our oat bin was.

As the outfit circled the fence corner the stoneboat struck the gate post and came to a full stop, while the cow, minus her tail, kept going straight for the chop bin.

Frank and Carrie had also been down with the flu and had turned their horses out to pasture. Now that they had recovered somewhat, and the water barrel was empty, they had pressed the cow into service.

And that's what pioneers were made of!

William Anderson, Bob, John, Jean, Mrs. Anderson, Margaret.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, By Margaret Anderson Hage — William Anderson was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1880, and went to Vermont, U.S.A. when he was twenty-five. There he met and married my mother, Jessie Mitchell, who had been born in Brockville, Ontario, and had moved to Vermont with her parents. Their son George was born in 1910.

William came west in 1910, worked for the railway company in British Columbia for nearly a year, and then returned to Vermont [illegible] bring my mother and my brother George to the homestead at Lone Butte. My brother Robert and I were born there in the little tarpaper shack with a neighbor woman in attendance.

As there was no school there, my father moved in 1918 to the Centre Point district, to the former George Bunbury place. He later moved the buildings from the south-west quarter of the farm to the north-west quarter, one-half mile from the school.

W. Anderson farm house - 1932. Bob Anderson, Ted Hasse.

My brother John was born in 1919 at the home of Mrs. Thompson with Dr. Nixon attending. My sister Jean was born in 1922 at home with Dr. Baxendale and Mrs. Giltner attending. My brother George passed away at the age of eleven years, from cancer.

The rest of us attended school at Centre Point as far as grade nine. Bob later went to Technical School in Calgary. He married Rosella Kennedy in 1939 and was employed by the C.N.R. until his death in 1962. He had two sons, Joe and Jim. His widow nursed for several years in Hanna and is now retired there.

My brother John attended business school in Calgary, served in the army and the air force during the Second World War, and now works as a bookkeeper at Domtar in Calgary. He married Ruby Mortimer and they have one daughter, Jo-Ann.

My sister Jean also attended business school and during the war worked in

an office as part of the clerical staff for the armed forces. She married Bob Ellingson and they and their three children, Donna, Robert and Kathy, live in Calgary.

I attended high school in Hanna and [illegible] 1931 I went to work at the Hanna hospital. Except for a few years when my children were small, I have been there ever since. I have four children by my first marriage, William Simpson in Hanna, George in Leduc, Roberta in Vulcan and Margaret at Camrose.

My mother once said that she would not go homesteading again for a thousand dollars, but that she wouldn't take a thousand for her experiences, either. One time when Dad was away during the slim years, she shot what she thought was a duck. She cooked it practically all day without much success. When Dad came home he took one look at it and had to tell her it was a mud hen. She said her recreation was riding horseback and shooting ducks or gophers; at least it broke the monotony. She always seemed to be able to make the best of things, helping out with chores and driving a team on the binder at harvest time.

In 1930 my uncle, Robert Anderson, who lived with us for several years, rented the John Buckwalter land and we moved to that place as there were new buildings. My father bought the north-west quarter of section 15 and my mother bought the south-west quarter of 24, the former Lyness place. They farmed this land until 1939, when they sold to Mr. Lambert from Munson, and moved to Calgary. They had an acreage there for about fifteen years and then moved into the city.

My mother passed away in 1957, my father in 1971.

There were many happy years spent in the Centre Point district. Neighbors like Giltners, Mouldings, Trefz and Mattis were so helpful in time of sickness and lasting friendships were formed. Mrs. Giltner, Mrs. Moulding and mother often took the team and buggy to town for a day's outing, a little shopping, and [illegible] treat at Harry Grummit's bakery and ice cream parlor.

THE STRINGERS, By Cecil Stringer — My family arrived in the Centre Point district in the late fall of 1920, and rented the J. J. Trefz farm for three years. My folks had come to Didsbury from Kansas, looking for [illegible] homestead, but as they were [illegible] taken up in that area, they moved to Hanna to rent an already-established farm.

My Dad, assisted by his brother Oliver Stringer who had homesteaded in the Bullpound district south of Hanna, trucked out belongings from Didsbury to Centre Point with two teams and wagons, while my mother and her family of three arrived by car, owned and driven by Mr. Trefz.

As I was only four when I arrived at Centre Point and had just turned eight when I left, I can give an account of only those things which affected my own small world. I was always interested [illegible] horses. After I started school I drove the teacher who boarded [illegible] our place to school each day in a single buggy drawn by Topsy, an old thoroughbred mare who was always skinny but never lazy.

Another horse was Flash, a blue roan which was a wonderful kids' pony. Flash was also a very able cutting and working horse but she loved to pretend to shy at the least provocation. Consequently my brother Wayne rode her with spurs, to make her tend to business. I remember Dad donning spurs and leading Flash out of the barn to mount her. I said to him, "You can't ride her with spurs."

"Why not?" he wanted to know.

"She'll buck you off," I said. I was only six at the time and perhaps he didn't believe me. At any rate, she did buck him off, so he removed the spurs, remounted and rode away. He often laughed about that afterward.

Mr. Trefz owned a threshing machine and during the time that we operated the farm, he and his son James would come out every year to thresh the crop.

He also owned a mechanical stook loader, and I remember that one fall my mother ran the stook loader pulled by four horses. I drove the bundle racks to the loader which filled them up, then took them to the machine where Dad and my brother Wayne pitched the bundles into the machine while I went back for another load. That fall's threshing was very much [illegible] family affair, for my sister did the cooking.

I remember the Thomas family who lived a half-mile from us. The year I started school their house burned down and they stayed with us for several weeks. While Dad was helping Mr. Thomas dig a new well, they found a petrified fish, twenty feet below the surface of the ground.

Other neighbors were the Mouldings, the Giltners, the Andersons and the Ives. One young couple I remember was Frank Hoskins and his wife Caroline who was one of the older Trefz girls. To help make ends meet, Frank bought the odd beef from local farmers, butchered it and sold the meat to his customers. As we had no way of storing fresh meat in those days, farmers could butcher their own beef only after the weather was cold enough to freeze it.

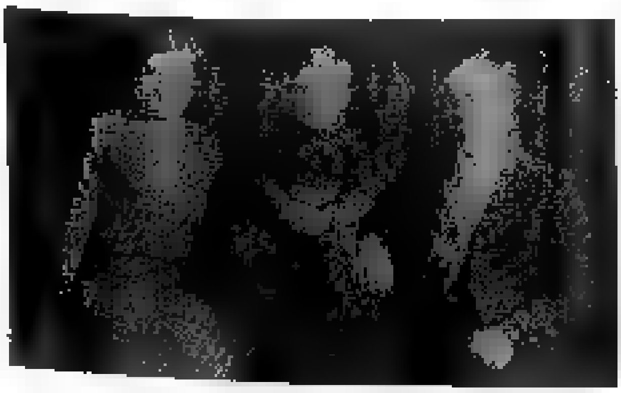
Frank had no saddle or saddle horse, so he brought his live purchase home by riding a work horse, complete with harness, and tying the cow or steer to the harness. It could not get away and he would proceed to haze the critter home.

Just as children today want to experiment with trucks and tractors, so did we with horses. Before I had started school I had the urge to drive a team, so one day when Dad was not at home I chased [illegible] team into the barn, put them in their stall and proceeded to harness them. It took a long time as I had to push the harness onto their backs and then get on the manger and the side of the stall to pull it into place. When I eventually got them harnessed, bridled and hooked to [illegible] stoneboat, I was the proudest kid in the country.

[illegible] the spring of 1924 Mr. Trefz decided to come back to his farm, so before spring break-up my Dad moved us to the O. P. Stringer farm south of Hanna. My Uncle [illegible] was leaving the homestead to make his home in San Francisco where he ran a streetcar till he retired.

On the day we moved by team and wagon I had a high fever and everyone thought that I had the flu. Several days later they began to suspect something more serious, so my uncle rode to Hanna to get the doctor. As the snow was very deep and the spring thaw had started, it took a relay of three teams to get the doctor to our home twelve miles from Hanna. When he arrived he diagnosed my illness as diphtheria, and told my folks [illegible] would have been too late to save my life if he had been one hour later in arriving.

This is an example of the trials that pioneers had to put up with, even in the twenties, and it must have been much worse when the homesteaders first arrived.


Louise, Jackie and Jack Litke.

JACK LITKE, By Louise Litke — Jack was born in Emerson, Manitoba, in 1901. He moved with his father and mother, four sisters and seven brothers to the Solon district, where he received all his schooling. He then went to Hanna to work for the C.N.R., first in the shops and then as a brakeman.

He married Louise Engel in 1925. Their son Jack was born in 1926. In 1928 they moved to the Gosselin place and lived there for thirteen years. Jack continued working for the C.N.R. until he retired in 1963. He passed away in 1973.

Jack and Louise had four children. Jack, [illegible] Barrhead, has a Men's Wear Store. Kathy lives in Edmonton. Norman operates a barber shop in Stettler and Stanley lives in Calgary.

Louise still lives in Hanna, very active in church and pioneer affairs. Jack also worked with community organizations; after his retirement he worked with the Museum committee and at the Pioneer Hall. He was a well-liked and respected person and did much for his community, sportswise and socially.

THE QUAST FAMILY, By Helen Quast Dyke — My Dad, Christian Quast, was born in Bessarabia in 1881. My mother Magdaline was born in Roumania in 1886. They were united in marriage in Roumania in 1904. To this union were born eleven children.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Quast.

Back Row: Mary, Dorothy, Martha. Middle Row: Ida, Mrs. Quast, Helen. Front Row: Diana.

My parents came to Canada in 1910. With them were two of my Dad's cousins, C. Quast and J. Quast, with their wives and families.

My parents had two sons who were born in the old country, my brother Jack born in 1906 and a brother Ferdinand, an infant who became ill, died aboard ship and was buried at sea. This was my parents' first tragedy and sorrow before arriving in Canada.

They came directly to Calgary by train and lived there until 1916; my Dad worked for Burns' as a meat cutter and also did carpenter work. In 1916 they moved to Saskatchewan where they lived until 1926, then moved to Hanna. They lived in town until April, 1928, when they moved to a farm twelve miles east of Hanna, to try their luck at farming.

Times were hard and the land was poor. Because crops were often hailed out or dried out, my Dad did carpenter work to try to put food on the table for his, by now, large family. He helped build the first Hanna Hospital and the Church of Christ, as well as several homes, some of them still in the town. Dad and my brother Jack built East Point School. Dad also built caskets and church pews.

Our home was a two-room tarpaper shack and we can all well remember when it rained outside it rained inside too. In the winter the drinking water froze solid in the pail. In the summer time we girls would move beds out to a granary and sleep there until it was needed for grain.

Mother used to roast wheat in the oven until it was brown, roll it with the rolling pin and use it for a substitute for coffee, which we couldn't afford to buy. According to neighbors and friends, Mom was known for the excellent bread and coffee cakes she used to bake, and of course we children thought she was the best cook in the world. Mom used to make noodles for the neighbors as well as for her own family. Although she never learned to read or write, she could turn out the best darn cake and cookies anyone ever tasted.

Mom used to make dresses for us girls out of flour sacks, and we used to argue about who was going to get the next new dress.

I can remember walking three miles to Centre Point School, and for lunch having thick slices of bread spread with lard that Mother had rendered down. If we were real lucky we would have syrup spread on the bread. It would soak in and get all hard and dried out.

My older brothers and sisters attended school at East Point; it was closed down in later years and then we went to Centre Point. One of my first teachers there, and always one of my favorites, was Virginia Thomas.

Our closest neighbors were the William Andersons and many a time in an emergency we called upon them for help. Mrs. Anderson used to give our family preserves for the winter, and butter and milk; I can remember Mother saying years later that if it hadn't been for the Andersons, she wouldn't have been able to keep going. Mrs. Anderson used to play the part of Santa Claus at our Christmas concerts, and what a disappointment to us younger girls when we found out that Santa wasn't a real person.

In 1936 my parents moved to the Grassy Slope district. Our home was much better but times were still hard for my parents, although my older brothers and sisters were away from home now and making their own livings. We were then into what a lot of old timers call the dirty thirties. Our crops were either dried out or hailed out and Dad had the misfortune of breaking his leg twice, so Mom had to do the best she could.

Our parents never owned a car, but our good neighbors were always there to help if we needed them. Dad used to plow a fire guard for the railway, and get old ties for firewood. In the winter, if he was lucky enough to get a coyote for its hide, he would take it to the store at Richdale and bring back flour, sugar, coffee, and at times even a box of apples.

In 1943 our parents sold their farming equipment and moved back into the town of Hanna, where Dad again did carpenter work. In 1945 Mother became ill and Dad retired and stayed at home to look after her. They lived in Hanna until the fall of 1962 when they moved to Edmonton to live with their daughter Dorothy. Mother passed away there in November, 1963, and Dad died in January, 1966, in the Camrose Nursing Home.

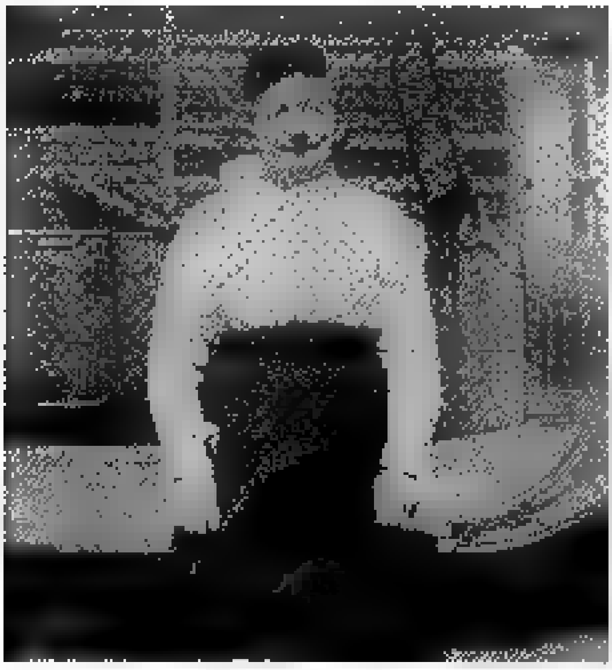
They were predeceased by a son Ferdinand and a daughter Matilda as infants, a son Emanuel at the age of eleven, and a son Jack, at the age of fifty-one. Jack left four daughters.

Surviving members of the family are William, a bachelor who lives in Vancouver; Martha, who married Ronald Beach, makes her home in Calgary; Mary married Dmiter Dayton, was widowed in May, 1976 and lives at Gunn, Alberta; Dorothy married Robert Dylke. They live on their farm at Mundare, Alberta. Ida married Ervin Heyd, they live at Medicine Hat. Helen married Clarence

Dylke and lives in Hanna; Dianna married Albert Sibley. They live in Whitehorse, Y.T.

We girls keep in touch with each other and have many a laugh about things that happened over the years, shed a few tears at the hard times and sorrows we have all lived through, and then think how lucky we have really been over the years.

MOULDINGS OF CENTRE POINT, By Frank Moulding — Dad and Mother, Joe and Minnie Moulding, were born in Manchester, England in 1872 and 1873 respectively. They and Reg, just a baby, immigrated in 1903 to Richmond, Ontario. From here they went west to a homestead at Radisson, Saskatchewan where Dad spent the winter of 1906-07 in a tie camp. It was here that brother Leonard was born in 1909. In 1910 the folks, Reg and Leonard came to a homestead in the Parr district. Rancher Gowan, whose land adjoined the folks, sold out in 1911. The family moved to the ranch site and ran the stopping house. I was born at the ranch in 1912.


Mrs. Minnie Moulding.

Back Row: Joseph, Minnie and Reg Moulding. Front Row: Leonard and Frank.

In the summer of 1914 Dad purchased the land of the Joseph Bowie estate, and we made the move to the Centre Point district in the spring of 1915. Joe Bowie had homesteaded the west half of 22-31-13 as South African Scrip in 1909. He had also purchased a homestead, the northeast of 14-31-13. Joe Bowie died at Redding, California in 1913.

When we came to this area the Centre Point School, which had been built in 1912, was in operation. Guy Gibbs was the first teacher. Reg and Leonard went to the school which was located on our land on the northwest corner of the northwest quarter, just a short distance from home. Both had attended Parr School before coming here. When I became of age I also attended Centre Point. We three boys completed our education at this little white school. We boarded several teachers, one I remember best was Lavina Raymond who married Sid Honey, a neighboring bachelor, about 1923. In 1923 we acquired a Concert Grand piano which my mother could play. We entertained our neighbors with house parties after we got the piano. Lavina Raymond could also play the piano. The school was used for dancing, playing cards, fall fairs and church services. The highlight of the year was the Christmas concert. We used to put mice, butterflies and frogs in the teacher's desk. For our troubles we had to stay in and write a five-hundred word essay on how not to pester the teacher. Due to the economic conditions people moved away, lowering the school's attendance, necessitating the closure of the school in 1938. Virginia Thomas was the last teacher. She had only the Christ Quast, Mike Litke families and Marie Diachuck as students; far from the forty students who attended in the early twenties. The school was torn down by Sullivan Lake School Division and was used to build the School Division Office in Hanna.

In 1916 we lost most of our possessions in a barn fire caused by a smudge getting out of control. Our things were being stored there while an addition was being built on the house. This was a serious loss for we had to replace our clothing and furniture and build another barn. All the while we had to break new land. Dad and Reg broke it with horses. Later on we got the Giltners to break with their Case steamer. All together we got one hundred acres under cultivation. The stock grazed on the open sections around the country. We cut our hay off these same sections. The best hay land was . . . "section 37."

Dylke Brothers, Giltners, Andy Portfors and Fred Whaley to name a few were the ones who threshed our crops. We hauled our grain in a double box wagon with horses to Alness and later Bonar and Hanna. Also loaded over the platform at Alness. Home Grain owned the elevators at Alness and Bonar. Bonar, a sixty thousand bushel elevator, was built in 1914 with D. S. Greer as manager. Alness, smaller at forty-five thousand bushels was built about 1916 with C. S. Phillips as one of the managers. I learned to play crib from him. Alness was dismantled in 1925. Bonar eventually became part of the Searle Grain Company and still later, part of the Federal elevator system. Alberta Wheat Pool acquired Federal's assets and demolished the Bonar elevator in 1972. Some salvage materials were used in the new Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. Ian Grosset was the last elevator agent at Bonar.

As I remember, 1923 was a good year with thirty-five bushel crops quite common. Our crop suffered hundred percent hail damage in 1926. Both 1928 and 1932 were banner years but the prices were ridiculously low.

In 1921 Reg, who had steam papers, ran the steamer for Scotty Glover of Garden Plain. He fired Giltner's steamer when they were breaking land in 1923. One winter Reg fired the boilers at the round house in Hanna. Then in 1929 he went to work for Sandy Foote who managed the pool elevator in Hanna. Sandy had the North Star Oil Agency and Reg's job was to deliver fuel to the customers with a Ford truck. Otto Lindstrom, who had the contract of supplying power to Hanna, engaged Reg to operate the plant. In 1932 he met Kay Alstott when he was grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific at Watts. She was hauling grain by truck from the threshing machine for her father. They were married in 1933. During the grasshopper years he bought grain at Dorothy. He worked for the Alberta Pacific at different locations until the beginning of World War Two when he hired on with Standard Gravel of Calgary as a paver. In 1969 he retired from Standard Gravel and is still residing in Calgary. Reg and Kay have a family of two, a son Jack and a daughter Marjorie. There are several grandchildren.

Leonard, after completing his education at Centre Point, worked for several people in the district as a hired man. In 1929 he operated a dump wagon for the contractors who were building the railway line from Scapa to Hemaruka. After two years construction working in the States, he came back to go farming at Erskine until 1936. He and his wife went to Edmonton where he was employed as a guard at Belmont Correctional Institute, retiring in 1973 to live at Rimbey. The Leonard Mouldings have a son Jerry and a daughter Mary.

After leaving school I stayed home and worked on the place with Dad. I spent

the fall of 1930 on the Watts flats driving four horses on a fresno putting in a grade. That same fall I drove eight head on a plough, cutting a drainage ditch from the Number 9 highway north-east to Watts so the water would drain into what is now known as Fox Lake. The fall of 1931 I worked off taxes putting in a slough-fill north of the Greeks on the township line. This was known as relief work. I remember the plagues of grasshoppers, army worms, the dust storms and the Russian Thistles. One year we put up Russian Thistles mixed with straw for feed. During the hungry thirties I went threshing five different falls around Coronation, Veteran, Bulwark, Fleet and Ponoka for winter's grub stake. The folks cared for the farm while I was gone. Mother died in 1938 leaving Dad and me alone. I continued farming with my Dad until he passed away in 1947. Both are buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

In January 1947, Milt Rickett brought seventy head of cattle here, which Bob and I fed from the old straw piles sitting around. In one of these stacks we hollowed out the good straw leaving a shell. When I jumped on the shell the whole shebang caved in and Bob came a-running, wondering where I had gone. After the straw piles were used up we fed from my barge stacks which had been left out because of the early winter.

I helped Dad Trefz build a few barges during the winter months during the late forties. I used a barge of Dan Trefz' patent for five years. I pulled this with a 22-36 International. I purchased my first new tractor, an Oliver 88, in 1952, continuing to use it for years. I even bought a threshing machine which was used only a short time, then got a combine as it was hard to get help. I have been with cattle all my life and some years they were the only income that I had to carry on with.

In 1929 I purchased my first car, an old Model T. Bob Anderson, Ralph Cleary and myself plus others travelled over rough roads and prairie trails to dances and ball games at Richdale, Stanmore, Clear Lake, Grande Ridge and other places. Through the years I have owned at least six cars and four trucks. The one I would like to have today for an antique is the 1927 Model T with the wire wheels.

I spent several years as a telephone repair lineman on the North East Mutual. I never knew when I would have to go out, and the weather was often not in my favor. I had no regrets about A.G.T. installing the underground system.

I was married in 1949 to Florence Greenwood, and have one daughter Caroline Hume of Calgary, and a son Phil at home.

HANNA FARMS LTD.

By Clarence Elm

Ed Elm on Tractor, Hanna Farms - 1921.

In February, 1918, a group of Hanna businessmen formed a farming company. The first regular meeting was held February 28, 1918; officers and

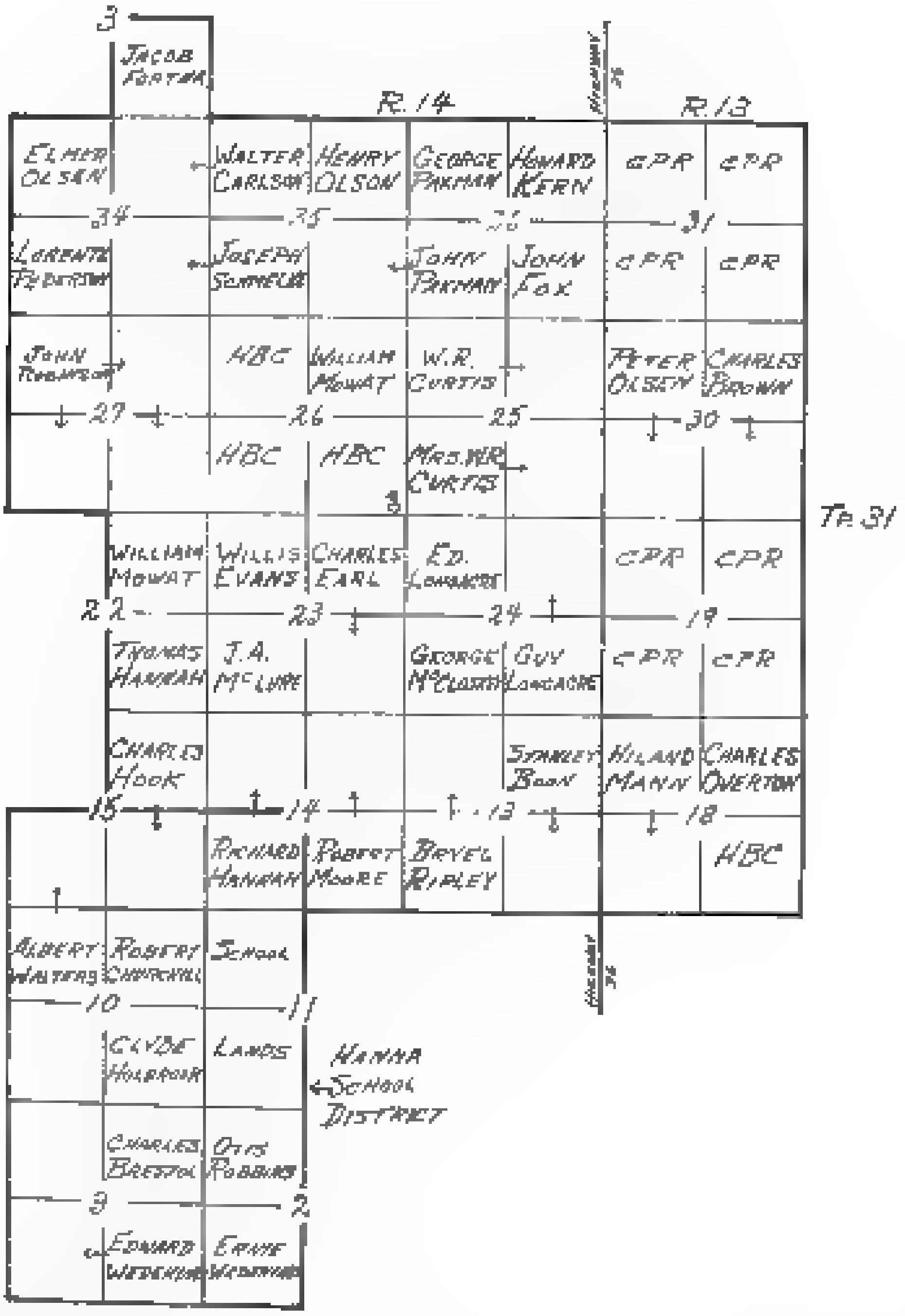
directors were C. A. Coughlin, president; G. W. Flemming, vice-president; J. C. Trenaman, secretary-treasurer; J. G. Odell, Arthur Burrows; The company secured the services of Fred Elm as farm operator.

The company purchased eight hundred acres of land, including section 29-31-13. It also bought machinery, and an 'All Work' tractor. These tractors were sold by Arthur Burrows. The company capital was $20,000.00, and the plans included expanding in the fall with the purchase of more land.

Fred Elm broke the first hundred acres in 1918 with the All Work tractor. The last part of the breaking was done with a Fordson tractor, which was obtained through the government. Fred said that it was a dry year! He operated Hanna Farms until 1922.

Andy Mosier was operator in 1923, when five hundred acres were sown. The following year William Sinclair was operator, and in 1925 the company ceased operations.

MEADOWLANDS No. 4057



RESIDENTS AND PRESENT DAY OWNERS OR RENTERS

NW-34-31-14
Art Campion

SW-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

SE-34-31-14
Pauline Paxman

NW-35-31-14
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman
Bob Paxman

SW-35-31-14
Jim Parker
Rudolph Kiest
Fred Werner
Fred Engel
Gordon Robertson

NE-35-31-14
Hilda Paxman

SE-35-31-14
Cliff Paxman
Hilda Paxman

NW-36-31-14
Isobel Paxman
Levi Kennedy
Bill Paxman
Pauline Paxman

SW-36-31-14
Hilda Paxman

NE-36-31-14
Andy Duff

SE-36-31-14
Levi Kennedy
Melvin Pfahl

N½ & SE-31-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

SW-31-31-13
H. Macropol
Rudolph Doering
Ed Elm

Ernie Pfahl
Otto Stern

W½-30-31-13
Walter Nettleton
Elmer Pfahl
Doug Motz

E½-30-31-13
Melvin Pfahl

NW-25-31-14
Bill Curtis

NE-25-31-14
Hilda Paxman

S½-25-31-14
Percy Flood
Annie Costyk
Hilda Paxman
NW-26-31-14
Jim Parker
Les Martin

NE-26-31-14
Jobe Martin

S½-26-31-14
Cliff Kern
Hank Hildenbrand
(acreage)

Section-27-31-14
Albert Kern

NE-22-31-14
Jobe Martin

SE-22-31-14
Jim Parker
Mr. Oldham
Art Gwin
Mike Litke
Ed Zarbuck
John Diachuck
Cliff Kern
Andy Duff

NW-23-31-14
Howard Kern
Albert Kern

SW-23-31-14
Theodore Pederson
Joe Berry
George Scott
Fred McGowen
Henry O'Neil
Dick Hannah
John Hannah
Lorne Hannah

NE-23-31-14
Josephine Curtis
Bill Curtis

SE-23-31-14
Stan James

NW-24-31-14
Fred Baes
Jim Parker
Bill Curtis

SW-24-31-14
E. Simpson
Ted Sams
Stan James

E½-24-31-14
Ted Kinder
Joshua Flood
Harvey Flood
Chris Pfahl
Herb Pfahl

W½ & NE-19-31-13
Herb Pfahl

SE-19-31-13
Freda Fecho

W½-18-31-13
Bill & Gibb Thompson
Lorne Hannah
Jack Litke
Elsie Hein

NE-18-31-13
Mr. Thompson
Wellington Hamilton
Mike Litke
[redacted] Hein

Doug Hein

SE-18-31-13
Reinhold Kautz
W½-13-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-13-31-14
Herb Pfahl

W½-14-31-14
Orpha Wright

E½-14-31-14
John Engel
Bill James
Orpha Wright

E½-15-31-14
Jake Kessel
Doc Sim
N. E. Steeves
Fred Miller

NE-10-31-14
Thomas Bond
Fred McGowen
Ferg James
Stan James

SE-10-31-14
Stan James

SW-10-31-14
Lee Price

W½-11-31-14
Stan James

NW-2-31-14
Fred McGowen
Fred Werner
Stan James

SW-2-31-14
Stan James

NW-3-31-14
Lee Price

NE-3-31-14
Airport
S½-3-31-14
Fred & Wayne Schmitz

MEADOWLAND S SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4057

By Bill Curtis

Probably because this neighborhood seemed to be populated by many bachelor homesteaders, the Meadowland s School didn't organize until the spring of 1922, when a summer term was started in the homestead shack of Chas. Earl, which was located on the north side of the N.W. 23-31-14. A few weeks earlier a meeting of interested residents of the immediate area had been held at the home of W. R. Curtis, and the preliminary planning started. The Jim Parkers, William Mowat, Walter Carlson and John Paxman were probably those who attended; and after several names were suggested, they finally agreed on the name "Meadowlands", which was suggested by Mrs. Curtis, as it was the name her

mother, Mrs. Mary Earl, had given to the hayfields on the farm when she visited from Ontario in 1919.

A neighborhood work-bee lined the homestead shack with beaverboard, added a small porch, and built two essential "Little Houses" from the small barn that was on the place. The first scholars: Harry and Winnie Parker and Billie Curtis, were already nine or ten years of age, but this fact did not seem to hold them back for in a couple of years they were up to grade five standing.

The first teacher, Mrs. Jack Telford boarded at William Mowat's and the second summer term a Mrs. Ruddy skillfully and speedily coached the small class in the three "R's". During the second term, Marion Parker and Harold and Ethel Fortna joined the little class, which by 1926 finally outgrew the twelve by sixteen room.

Meadowlands First Schoolhouse

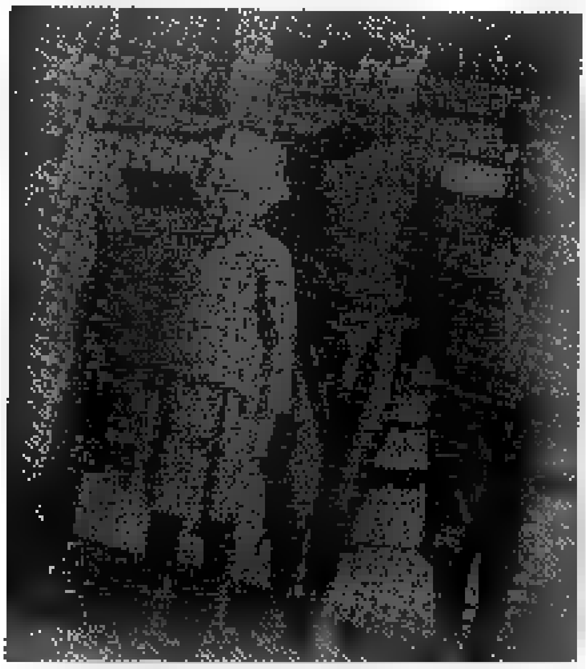
It was then that [redacted] Elm and his great "pioneer" tractor was hired to move a real white schoolhouse out from Hanna. This building, which had been known as the "Grade Seven Room", and had stood on the northeast corner of the east school grounds at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Third Street East, was hauled to the southeast corner of the S.E. 26-31-14 and placed on a three acre plot, provided by H. V. Kern, who was one of the original school trustees. Eventually, this building was deemed unsafe, structurally, since the north wall seemed to wobble in an alarming manner when the north wind blew, and it was purchased by J. P. Fortna, who moved it to his farmstead. Through the efforts of Vic Swanson and his School Division Repair Crew another cottage-type, imitation brick building made its appearance on the same site, complete with a teacherage and a bigger barn.

After consolidation and school bussing came into effect in the fall of 1961, the Meadowlands community acquired the school building for a very nominal sum of money, and have turned it into a very active community center known as the "Meadowlands Mutual Recreational Club".

The old-time community togetherness seems to be brought back when

dances, card parties, picnics and ball games are organized, and the neighborhood enjoys a few hours of fun and frolic.

From 1922-1928 school was held during the summer months only. In the fall of 1928, regular school terms started in September of each year.



Meadowlands First School Class 1922: Winnie, Marion, Harry Parker and Bill Curtis.

Meadowlands School Class 1936. Back Row, Left to Right: Elsie Pfahl, Linda Pfahl, Bernice Paxman, Albert Fortna, Cliff Fox, Cliff Kern, Phyllis Hannah, Cliff Paxman, Herbert Pfahl. Seated: Jean Curtis.

Meadowlands School Class 1944-45. Back Row, Left [illegible] Right: Leonard Pfahl, Mary Paxman, Elsie Litke, Irene Paxman, Ellis Elm. Second Row: Eva Paxman, Verna Paxman, Carol Paxman. Third Row: Marvin Pfahl, Louise Pahl, Eileen Engel. Front Row: Geraldine Engel, Edna Pahl, Gerald Engel, Eddie Pfahl, Otto Litke.

Following is a list of teachers who taught at Meadowlands from 1922 to 1961:

1922, Mrs. Telford; 1923, Mrs. Ruddy; 1924, William B. Cromarty; 1925, Lorne Trace; 1926 and 1927, Edith Kern; 1928, Mr. Sketchly; 1928-30, Kathleen Allen; 1930-33, Gwen Rose; 1933-36, Irene Lewis; 1936-38, Myrtle MacDonald; 1938-39, Betty Wallace; 1939-42, Violet Stewart; 1942-43, Mrs. Grimes; 1943-44, Mrs. Bardseth; 1944-45, Mrs. W. R. Curtis (Supervisor), October until December, Phyllis Morton, January until June; 1945-46, Mrs. Dave Harvey; 1946-47, Verda Hoffman; 1947-48, Sylvia Robinson, September until December, Mrs. Allison Barton, January until June; 1948-52, Mrs. A. M. Peterson; 1952-53, Alex Proudfoot; 1953-56, Mrs. Betty Lumsden; 1956-58, Catherine Durand; 1958-59, Myrtle Moench; 1959-60, Mrs. Housch; 1960-61, Donald Moench.

TEACHING AT MEADOWLANDS SCHOOL - 1925

By L. M. Trace

I was not an oldtimer in the district but I taught at Meadowlands School in the summer of 1925. School was held in the shack of the original homesteader, Charlie Earl. My class consisted of Billie Curtis, Lloyd Campbell, the three oldest of the Parker family, two Gwin children and one boy from Kern's Dairy farm. There was just enough room to crowd in eight desks. I boarded with Captain and Mrs. Curtis. I played ball with the Garden Plain ball team, playing around Solon, Scapa and Endiang. I am now retired and living in High River.

MY YEAR AT MEADOWLANDS 1938-1939

By Betty Wallace MacKenzie

In the fall of 1938, I came to Meadowlands to teach the children of that district. The school was under the direction of The Sullivan Lake School Division, with the main office situated in the town of Hanna and with Mr. H. K. Fielding as the secretary. My home was in the community of Gem about sixty miles south, and I had taught at St. George, a school not far from Meadowlands, the previous year.

My boarding place was with the Kern family, well known dairy farmers of the district. They made my year with them very welcome and happy, and they all helped in any way possible. Their home was approximately one mile from the school. This distance I usually walked in the company of Agnes Kern who was one [illegible] my grade two students. If the weather turned extra cold or stormy we often were given a ride in the milk wagon by Mr. Kern which was used to deliver the milk and was warm and comfortable. I remember that it was a lovely fall and we really enjoyed walking to school, often taking a short cut through the newly cut stubble.

I had about fourteen or fifteen children as students and grades one to nine inclusive. These children were Carol, Irene, Mary, Cliff and Bill Paxman; Agnes Kern; Herb and Elsie Pfahl; Russel Costyck; Herb, Elsie and Freda Litke; George "Sonny" Kennedy; Rita, Carry and Jim Parker and Art Campion who attended only part of the year.

Rita Parker did the janitor work, keeping the school neat and clean and looking after the fire when the weather turned cold.

This was a real help for me as this had been my duty at the previous school. Salaries were not very high, but were improving over what they had been under the local rural school boards. I think my salary was an all time high of seventy dollars per month and as board and room was only twenty dollars a month was able to save quite a bit as of course clothing, etc. was very little as by today's standards.

Recess time was always fun, ball being the most popular sport. And we often hosted other districts at a ball game and in turn went to play at other schools.

The children and I soon got to know each other and I know I had a very enjoyable year with them. They were [illegible] very helpful and did their best to complete assignments, with discipline at a minimum. Reference material was not plentiful, and duplicating machines were unknown at our school, so it was necessary to put most all exercises on the much used blackboard. The big social of the year was the Christmas Concert. For this every one worked very hard, including the parents of the district. The mothers helped with the costumes and the Christmas bags for each child and we held a box social before the concert to raise money for the extras needed to fill the bags and purchase the tree and the few gifts for the children. After the concert, the men soon cleared away the stage and benches in readiness for the old time dance, which we all enjoyed.

School closed with the usual annual school picnic, which consisted of races and contests for children of all age groups, peanut scrambles, prizes and a picnic lunch to conclude the day and so the end of another school year. In the fall, Miss Violet Stewart took over as the new teacher as I had resigned in favor of marriage to Bill Mackenzie. My memories of teaching at Meadowlands will always be remembered with fondness.

THE MEADOWLANDS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

By Cliff Kern

As early as 1916 the farmers of this area were meeting with the Alberta Government Telephone Company in order to construct a rural telephone system but because of the war this was not accomplished until 1922. The telephone was a great help to farmers, saving them many miles of travelling with a team and wagon to do their business and communicate with their neighbors. Due to the depression and poor crops of the thirties, the farmers of this area were unable to pay their telephone bills. As a result, the Alberta Telephone Company decided to dispose of all rural lines.

On the evening of June 14, 1935 a meeting of all rural subscribers on lines "16" and "6" was called in the old town hall in Hanna to consider purchasing these lines from the Alberta Government. The meeting was called to order by Mr. A. M. Blackburn, a representative of the Alberta Government Telephone Company who gave a very detailed explanation of the reasons the government had for disposing of the rural phone systems in Alberta.

After considerable discussion a vote was taken to find out whether the meeting was in favor of forming a company and purchasing the lines. The vote was favorable and a company was formed under the title, "The Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited." The following officers were duly elected: President - N. E. Steeves; Secretary - Ferg James; Directors - T. A. Campion, H. V. Kern and W. Carlson.

On July 1, 1935, the President and the Secretary met with Mr. Blackburn and an agreement was drawn up for the purchase by the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited of all of line "16" and part of line "6." The purchasing price was $262.50 payable to the Alberta Government in $24.00 cash at time of sale plus two annual installments of $119.25. The cost was to be divided equally between the shareholders. A $3.00 initial payment was collected from each shareholder to cover the first payment.

The first shareholders were: T. A. Campion, J. Fortna, W. Carlson, R. Hannah, J. E. Hamilton, Ferg James, H. V. Kern, W. Mowatt, E. Olson, G. Paxman, W. Riddell and N. E. Steeves.

At a meeting on August 10, 1935, it was decided that the fees be set at seventy-five cents per month per member. As times were hard, the first note which was due on July 1, 1936 could not be met so the secretary asked the Alberta Government for an extension. This was the trend for the next three years as they

could only make part payments on the note when it was due, but in the fall of 1939 the note was finally paid in full.

The two trunk lines running to the north and east of Hanna connecting the Scapa-Dowling and Garden Plain-Spondin areas to central exchange were copper wire instead of the usual galvanized type in order to overcome line resistance. Since these lines passed through or along side the Meadowlands Mutual territory there developed a problem concerning the responsibility of servicing them. The various servicemen who looked after the Meadowlands phones had no desire to be involved. The problem was finally solved by Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company Limited paying for pin space on the trunk lines.

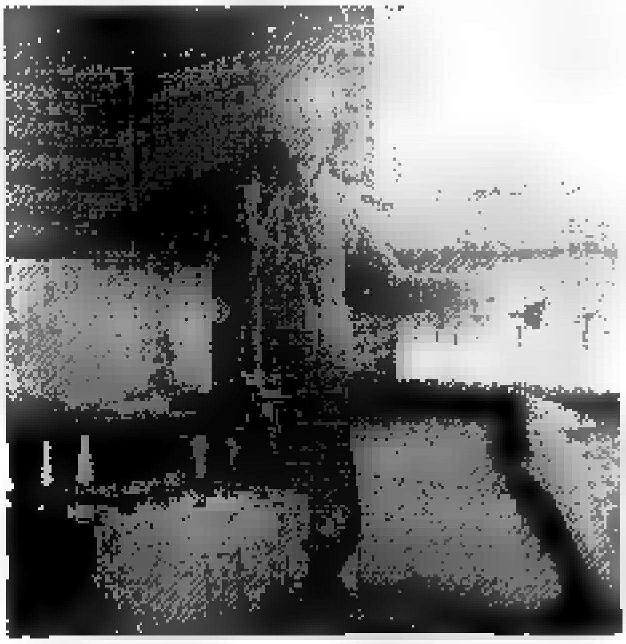
Other subscribers and shareholders on the line were: Mrs. Wirth, Chris Gasper, Otto Mix, Art Campion, Bill Miller, Fred Engel, W. [illegible]. Curtis, Louis Pahl, Brian Gladdish, Andy Duff, John Diachuck, Albert Galarneau, Bill MacKenzie, Dave Temple, Cliff Paxman, Albert Banco, Stan James, Lorne Hannah, Albert Kern, Cliff Kern, Bill Paxman, Dooley Allen, Jobe Martin and Hank Hildenbrand.

When the Alberta Government Telephone Company completed the underground phone system in 1973 the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company was dissolved after being in business for thirty-eight years. At dissolution the share value was $22.50.

The poles and wire lines were all dismantled and stock piled in the schoolyard and usuable material was divided equally among the shareholders. For some time the road allowances seemed bare and unfamiliar when one drove through the neighborhood, but perhaps this was nostalgia rebelling against progress.

THE DAIRYMEN OF HANNA

By Cliff Kern


Howard Kern bottling milk and cream.

When the village of Hanna sprang up in 1912 there was an immediate need for milk. This was a boon for the nearby farmers as most of them had a cow or two. Some of them could see the opportunity for a thriving business. One such man was Charlie Glover who homesteaded four and one-half miles northwest of town. Sometime in 1912, Charlie decided to start a milk route, bringing the milk in every day in cans. These cans had a quart measure in the lid and he would go from door to door measuring out the required amount of milk each person wanted. He first named his dairy the Hanna Dairy but in June 1914 changed it to the City Dairy. He carried on his business until May 1916 when he sold out to the Ferguson Brothers south of Hanna. That summer milk was selling at twelve quarts for a dollar.

The Hanna Creamery took over this business from the Ferguson Brothers but did not stay with it too long and in April of 1918 decided to discontinue selling milk. The town then was without a milkman.

In June of 1918, W. R. Dolbier, who lived on the Con. Lawlor homestead one

mile north of town had milk for sale but it is not known whether he actually started a milk route.

In August, 1918, Joe Berry, who lived on the McLure homestead two miles northeast of Hanna, started a milk route but he delivered milk for only about a year.

In December of 1919, H. C. "Doc" Sim who moved from the Lonebutte area south of Hanna onto the Charlie Hook homestead announced his intention to go into the dairy business on a big scale as Hanna had been hard put for an adequate supply of milk for several years. A modern plant was installed and the cows were milked with milking machines. In November 1921, his dairy barn and milkhouse were totally destroyed by fire but by February of 1922 were completely rebuilt. He delivered milk until 1934 when he sold out to N. E. Steeves, who carried on until he left the district in 1937.

Jim Hamilton, a farmer from north of Hanna, moved into Hanna and started a dairy in the early twenties. He kept a dairy inside the town limits but when a by-law was passed he had to move his cows out to his brother Ernie's place one mile west of town. Ernie Hamilton milked the cows and brought the milk into town where Jim bottled and peddled it. He sold out to Beard Tucker in 1936, who ran it for a time then resold to Johnny Patzer.

Early in 1920 Howard Kern also started in a dairy business. This was the longest running dairy in the town's history. He peddled milk in town from the time of starting until his death in October of 1956. When a by-law was passed in 1947 requiring all milk delivered in the town of Hanna to be pasteurized, he moved a building into town from Chinook and set up the necessary machinery to do the job. Before he got it into operation he sold this part of the business to Leo Benson and Johnny Patzer, but continued selling milk to them. When Benson and Patzer sold out to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, Howard again started peddling milk. This milk was not pasteurized and the town council put pressure on him many times to stop, but he kept on just the same.

Several dairies have been started with more or less success but all have sooner or later withdrawn from the field. Harvey Howatt who was living on the O. E. Payne homestead north of town bought out the dairy business of J. Hamilton in April of 1922 but only stayed with it for about one year. In April of 1922, A. J. Campbell entered into the dairy business. He also purchased the milk route of S. [illegible]. Holbrook in May of 1922.

In September of 1922, A. F. Gwin moved from the Golden Hill district to the Oldham place northeast of Hanna and bought the dairy herd and business of A. J. Campbell. He peddled milk until 1925 when he moved out of the district.

Ferg James moved onto the Robert Churchill homestead and started a dairy in 1931. He made a real success of this business and was in operation until 1943. He sometimes delivered milk in the evenings instead of mornings as was the custom.

When Kern's Dairy closed down, that marked the end of the era of the dairy farmer who milked the cows, bottled and delivered the milk. For several years many of the farmers of the area sold bulk milk to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool but they eventually closed down and the dairy herds were sold. Today most of the farmers who at one time had milk to sell by the gallons now are buying milk shipped in from various mixed farming districts in other parts of the province. It seems strange that the dairying industry, which must have contributed a lot to the economy of the area, has now completely disappeared.

Milk usually sold for about eight to ten cents a quart, but in 1932 the dairymen of that time started cutting prices and the milkman's war was on. It was the case of

there being too many milkmen and not enough customers. Milk was selling for as low as five cents a quart for nearly a year. This can be better described by the following poem:

THE MILKMAN'S WAR

By Ferg James

The Milkman's war broke out today
They slashed the price, there's hell to pay
They gnashed their teeth and then turned grey
For the milkman's war is on.
Put out your pails and pots and pans
And leave five cents for the old milkman.
He'll fill them all and an extra can;
For the milkman's war is on.
They're putting it out with cars and rigs,
In wagons, trucks and one horse gigs,
And snorting around like Mag and Jiggs,
For the milkman's war is on.
They deliver at morn and at evening too,
In the pale moonlight and the sparkling dew,
When it's pelting rain, or the skies are blue,
For the milkman's war is on.
The beer resorts are on the bum,
Folks are drinking milk instead of rum,
The breweries are going broke, by gum,
For the milkman's war is on.
Those boys are rich, they don't need dough,
But the lacteal fluid still must flow,
It gives them a thrill, and makes them glow,
For the milkman's war is on.
And pulling "teats" is a nifty job,
When old Brindle swings you on the gob
And makes you swallow your old corn cob
When the milkman's war is on.
I wish my bottles were filled with rye
I'd sit in the wagon and drain them dry,
Bid Howard and Doc and Jim, goodbye,
Till the milkman's war is done.

THE JIM PARKER STORY — Jim Parker was born in Milner, North Dakota on November 29, 1884. He was the youngest boy of a family of five boys and one girl. His father, Thomas Parker and mother, the former Mary Ann Strickland, and family, with the exception of the eldest brother, Herb (who was married and living in Montana) moved from Dakota in 1901 to Coal Banks, Alberta. Coal Banks was near where the town of Ardly now stands. Brother Frank, who had been in ill health due to a bout with diphtheria passed away here at the age of nineteen years.

In 1903 the Parker brothers, John, Ed and Jim moved down to Watts and established themselves on what is known now as the Lamb Brothers' farm. They also had another camp at the springs in the Hand Hills which is now the Don Benedict ranch. Here, they kept calves and young cattle until the hard winter of 1906-07 when they lost most of their herd. They also had a bull pasture which is now called the Watts Flats, but they called this the Bullpound. The creek runs just south of the town of Hanna. In 1908 there was a terrible prairie fire in the area which destroyed hay for miles around.

In the spring of 1909 they all took up homesteads in the Copeville area.

In 1911 Jim was married to Carrie Brown Harris and the couple resided on the groom's homestead and pre-emption, the west half of section 9-31-14. The homestead house was near where the C.N.R. tracks and Roundhouse were later built. In 1912 this half section along with the George Burkell quarter was purchased by the Canadian Northern Railway, and incorporated into the present townsite of Hanna.

Children of Jim and Carrie Parker. Boys, Left to Right: Frank, Ben, Harry, Jim Jr., Alvin, Tom. Girls: Winnifred, Kaye, Carrie, Rita.

In December 24, 1912 a son was born to Jim and Carrie — Dr. James Mason in attendance and they called him James Harry Fredrick. He was the second boy born in the Hanna area.

Jim and George Burkell, his brother-in-law, became Implement Dealers — stocking machinery for farming and haying in this community. In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent in Hanna and he and Ed ran a taxi service to Castor. A runabout car at that time cost about $675.00, a touring car $750.00 and a town car $1,000.00. Jim also bought the Tom Hannah farm in 1913. This was the SE 22-31-14 and not far from town. He also took the SW 22-31-14 as a purchased homestead.

A daughter was born to them in July of 1914, Winnifred Frances. In 1916 another daughter, Marion Alberta arrived.

In 1917 Jim's brother Ed and Frances and family went back to Colville, Washington so Jim and Carrie and family decided to go back also, but didn't find things and times as interesting as they thought it would be so both families moved back. Then in 1918 a second son was born to the Jim Parkers but lived only a few days. This boy was christened Ray. We were still on the Hannah farm at this time.

On this place Jim (my Dad) had a well dug and a windmill put up which I can remember we were warned to stay away from. It is recorded in one of Dad's books that he got water at this place in April 1918, at a depth of 129 feet; water in centre of twenty-eight feet of rock and the cost to dig the well was $183.00. In 1918 Dad sold this farm and bought the Schmelkie farm north of Kerns and farther from town. Also sold at that time were the following items as they were entered in Dad's book — piano $200.00; cookstove $50.00; heater $10.00; sideboard $15.00; dresser $15.00; brass bed $30.00; two common beds $10.00; lounge $10.00; hallrack $10.00; extension table $5.00; cupboard $3.00; gramophone $25.00; binder $100.00; drill $100.00; two sets of double harness $50.00; sulky plough $40.00; and five head of horses and one colt $900.00.

In 1919 a son Ben Colin was born on the Schmelkie place. Here, the house was a good one-third of a mile from the well so my folks moved the house nearer to it.

In 1922 Meadowlands School was started in a shack on the Charlie Earl quarter (which later belonged to Mrs. J. Curtis). There were only four pupils to start the school — three from our family, Harry, Marion and myself and Bill Curtis. Mrs. Telford was our teacher and school was only held in the summer months. Earlier, Dad had driven Harry and me to town school for a while but that was a long jaunt with team and wagon. Dad rigged us up a one-horse shay for old Blue and that worked real well until one day as we were getting ready to go home and had our horse hitched and ready to go a car came around the bend and away went old Blue and cart and my little sister. Luckily a man driving down the road saw her coming and managed to stop her. My sister wasn't hurt but badly frightened.

Also in 1921 a son Thomas Maxwell was born. In 1923 a daughter, Rita Juanita was born. That summer we lived on the Day place over by the Ed Parkers to be nearer school. Here we attended the Silver Valley School. It was here that Harry and Hale (cousin) put Faith (Hale's sister) on a calf which bucked her off and broke her wrist. It was also here that Ben and Tom, two and four then, were riding around the house on Louie, our old pet horse when they went under the clothesline and the line caught the saddle horn, scaring the horse and she jumped and Tom fell off on a rock and broke his arm. Ben managed to stay on but when we got him off his chin was all skinned so I guess he was riding pretty low. I also remember we kids caught a badger in a trap and could not pull the trapped animal out of the hole so we decided to get the milk cow, old Sally, as we could catch her and we put a rope around her neck and tied the end to the trap and one of us led the cow and the others stood around the hole — each armed with a big stick and as the badger and trap was pulled out — we all let him have it. Good thing our cow didn't take off with badger, trap and all.

In July 4, 1925 twins were born to mother on the Schmelkie place. They were James Leslie and Carrie Elizabeth. In January of 1926 my sister Marion became ill and passed away due to a ruptured appendix. She was nine years old at the time. Only mother and myself were with her when she died. I was eleven. We had no phone, no ploughed roads. I walked up to Walter Carlson's place early in the morning to phone my dad to let him know. He had been travelling back and forth by saddle horse to work but hadn't been coming home every night.

In 1927 my Dad sold the Schmelkie place to F. A. Mathe of Hanna. Then we moved over to the Longacre place near Harvey Floods (later Chris Pfahls). Times were hard and there were so many dry years we could barely raise any garden but kept milk cows and chickens.

In 1928 we moved into town and lived in one of Mr. William Riddell's houses. Dad brought in a team of horses and planned to haul coal from south of Hanna for the winter — that is until he could get something better. We went to school in Hanna. Miss Howard was teacher for Harry and I and Ben had Miss Winning. Dad hauled two loads of coal, one for a Mr. Talmage who was the Rawleigh man. From him he got a big buffalo coat in payment and which would have been ideal if he had stayed with coal hauling, but he had an application in to work on the railroad and was called to work. We were all very happy about this as Dad could stay home and work near. He took the horses back out to the farm and worked on the C.N.R. until spring when he got laid off.

In the spring of 1929 we moved out of town to the Robinson place north of Hanna and owned by Howard Kern at that time, I think. Dad had a crop to put in and we managed to grow a good garden that year. We stayed here a summer and then moved back to the Longacre place.

In 1931 Dad's brother Ed and family (Hale, Faith and Bob) left their farm at Hanna and moved to the Peace River country. Then Dad and family moved over to the Ed Parker place and tried to farm it. It was nearer to town and handy to work for Dad as he worked every winter on the C.N.R. The biggest drawback on this place was the drastic shortage of water. Here we lost a horse that walked right over a well and fell in. We ended up shooting the horse — Fly was its name and Dad had to get a big chain and pulley from town to get the horse out of the well. The horse didn't drown — there wasn't enough water for that.

It was on this place that Kay Marlene was born in 1933. In the summer of 1935 Dad moved Mom and the youngest ones of the family to Critchley for the summer. Here Alvin Douglas was born. It was here that Tom, fourteen, broke his wrist again while up at Ronny Glass's place riding calves.

In 1936 Winnie was married to Lash Callison of Montney, British Columbia. They had two boys.

In 1937 the plague "sleeping sickness" hit the horses in and around the Hanna District. Dad lost four or five head. Brother Tom tells of an incident when Harry went into the stall and was trying to get this horse to take a drink when she was standing there with her eyes shut and would take only a taste. He finally got disgusted and threw the pail of water over the horse's head. The horse jumped and opened her eyes and from then on improved. She was one of the ones that lived.

In 1937 a son, Frank Dale was born, this making a family of ten children. In 1942 Mom passed away in the Hanna Hospital following an operation at the early age of fifty years and Dad died in 1957. The family at that time were spending the summers either on the Longacre place or on the Hudson's Bay quarter north of Kerns and the winters in town.

In 1941 Ben and Tom went overseas with the Armed Forces and didn't return until 1945. Harry was at home and did most of the farming with the help of brother Jim. After mother's death the family stayed in town. Harry also worked on the railroad and Rita and Carrie worked for Mrs. Chadbourne who had a general store. An aunt of ours stayed with the family quite a lot. She was Jennie Harris, Mom's sister.

In 1945 Harry married Marion Bartz of Big Valley who was a school teacher and taught near Hanna. She and Harry played piano and violin for many of the dances around Hanna for years. They had a family of four boys.

In 1946 Tom married Irene Greenslade from a pioneer family from Rose Lynn south of Hanna, and went to Fort Nelson and worked with R.C.O.C. there in 1949. They had a family of three, two boys and one girl.

In 1946 Ben and Jim went to Fort Nelson where Ben immediately got work with R.C.O.C. there. Ben married Adeline Birkbeck of Greencourt, Alberta who

was working at Fort Nelson at the time the Highway was under construction. They had a family of two girls.

In 1951 Jim married Nancy Lee. They had a family of three - two girls and one boy.

In September 15, 1951 Carrie married Stan Meeres. They had a family of five - two girls and three boys.

In 1952 Kay married Frank Dolan. They had a family of six - four boys and two girls.

In 1956 Alvin married Kathleen Schornhut. They had a family of four - three girls and one boy.

Rita married Logan MacLean in 1950. They had a family of seven - four girls and three boys.

The whole Parker family settled in and around Fort Nelson with the exception of Harry who remained in Hanna.

In 1953 Frank enlisted in the Army and west overseas and was in Egypt for a year. He returned in November of 1957 to civilian life at Fort Nelson where on July 3, 1965 he married Gail Reid who was a teacher there. They had a family of three - two boys and one girl.

Harry passed away August 18, 1970. He had had a hip replacement operation the summer of 1969 but with having had rheumatism since he was the age of nine years, the operation didn't seem to help much and as he got older he became worse. His wife, Marion was just recently married in 1976 to Charlie Whaley of Hanna and Jim was also remarried in 1976 to Betty Birrel of Fort Nelson.

Walter Carlson

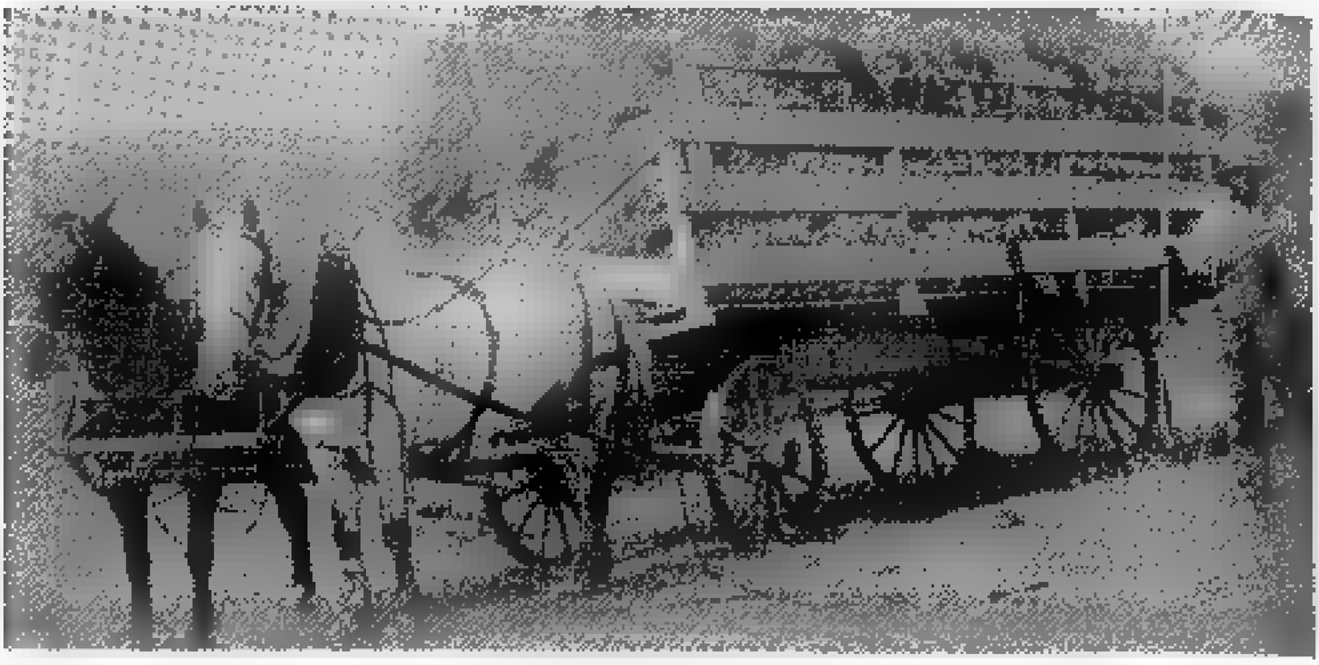
C. W. CARLSON STORY, By Nancy Rutt and Freda Dahl — Charles Walter Carlson was born on January 11, 1878 in Smaland, Tingsryd, Sweden. The exact date of his immigration to Minnesota is not known but it must have been in the early 1900's. He spent several years there before coming to Canada where he homesteaded northeast of Hanna, NW-35-31-14.

We have no knowledge of his experiences in those early years prior to and during the First World War. Our memories of him begin in the 1920's when he had already become "Uncle Walter" to us all and godfather to at least one of us. He and our father, Elmer Olsen became life-long friends. In fact, being a bachelor with no relatives in this country, he really adopted our entire family. Our aunt and uncle, Joe and Charles Stringer, were married at his home and lived with him for a time. This friendship lasted until his death, age eighty-five on April 27, 1963 in Calgary, Alberta.

In the late twenties his nephew Harold came over from Sweden. Again the exact date is not known but he appears in snapshots taken in 1929. He lived with his uncle for several years but seemed unable to adjust to life in Canada and returned home to Sweden, probably in the early thirties.

Uncle Walter farmed all his life with horses and to the best of our knowledge never owned a car. He seldom drove his horses anywhere around the

neighborhood, preferring to walk summer and winter. During the depression years when it was difficult for many parents to provide any sort of special treats for their children, he could always be depended upon to arrive with gifts of oranges, candy and nuts just in time for Christmas.


Walter Carlson haying

In 1949 he sold his farm to Bill and Pauline Paxman, held an auction sale and returned to Sweden. He arrived home on July 15, 1949, intending to spend the rest of his life there with his two sisters. In letters he wrote back to Canada it was obvious that he was homesick for Alberta — Sweden was not his home anymore. In one letter he wrote, "Alberta is a powerful magnet trying to bring me back — with good years, and not so good, with droughts and dust storms and crop failures — Alberta is still very dear to me." After less than a year in Sweden he returned to Canada and bought a few acres in the Ogden district of Calgary. Here he grew a large garden, raised a few chickens and welcomed his old friends and neighbors from Hanna whenever they dropped in for a visit.

George and Isobel Paxman

THE GEORGE PAXMAN STORY, By Ida Paxman Preston — My parents, George and Isabelle Paxman, with their year-old daughter Mabel came west in 1909 from Dundalk, Ontario. My uncle, John Paxman, and grandmother came also and the two brothers filed on adjoining homesteads about seven miles northwest of what later became the town of Hanna.

Dad had shipped a team of horses, household effects, lumber, etc. ahead to Stettler, the nearest town at that time. They travelled by horse-drawn wagon to the homestead and both humans and horses suffered greatly from the mosquitoes. They built a small wooden house which later housed chickens after they were able to afford a larger one. They purchased a cow from Jim and Ed Parker to supply milk for my sister. Being a range cow it didn't take too kindly to being domesticated.

My father broke a good portion of his land with a small plow with a single share — "foot burners" they called them. His first crop was a good one but unfortunately was destroyed by hail in the terrible storm of 1911. It was heartbreaking to watch all his work being destroyed. To make some money he went to work in the coal mine near Garden Plain which incidentally was their Post Office.

When he was bringing food supplies that fall from Stettler, the bags of flour came into contact with a leaky oil can and their bread all that winter was flavored with coal oil.

I was born in the fall of 1910 with my Grandmother Paxman acting as midwife. She died when I was seven.

For my parents, those first years were filled with hard work and loneliness, far from family and old friends.

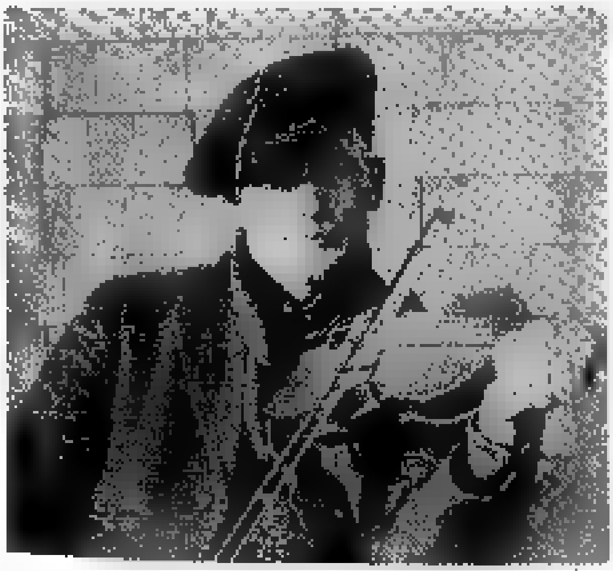
Other families came — the Curtis', Whaleys, Rices, Mark Pope, Walter Carlson, John Fox and many others.

Dances, picnics, and other socials were held at Solon, our first school which also served as a church under the guidance of Reverend Oke. We became a close-knit, friendly, prosperous community.

Dad served as a member of the Dowling Lake Council for several years. Because of failing health he was advised to move to California, where we remained for some five years. We returned to the farm, and following a lengthy illness, Dad died July 2, 1932 at the age of forty-eight.

My Mother, truly a pioneer, passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1974 after having lived almost one hundred years. My sister Mabel, who married Levi Kennedy in 1928, died in the Hanna Hospital in July 1974.

I am the only remaining member of my immediate family. I married Jack Preston in 1934. We farmed in Richdale for seven years, then moved to Calgary. In 1952 we came to Victoria, B.C. where we still reside.



John Paxman playing his fiddle

DR. JOHN STANLEY PAXMAN, By Bernice Paxman Zelmer and Mary Paxman Smith — John Paxman was born in Dundalk, Ontario in 1886. In April 1909 he came west with his widowed Mother, Sarah Paxman, and two sisters Mary and Virginia, also a brother George and family, and homesteaded in what later became the Meadowlands School District, northeast of Hanna on SW 36-31-14. There they built a sod house to live in until they hauled lumber for a house.

Sarah Paxman died in 1918 of the flu and Dad went back east in 1920. He entered the Davenport School of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. In December of 1921 he married Edith Gamey of Grey Country, Ontario. In 1924 he came west again to the homestead with his wife and two small sons, Bill and Cliff.

Dad took up farming which I believe was his first love and did chiropractic only as a sideline for many years. I remember the many people who came on Sundays for treatments. In 1935 he opened an office in Hanna and commuted between his farm and town for seven years.

Mother died in 1939 at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving eight young children. Dad moved into Hanna about 1942 or 1943, where he was an active practitioner until his death in 1961, at the age of seventy-five years.

I don't think the generation of today could ever understand what the pioneers of those days must have gone through. I can remember my Mother's lonesomeness for her family back east. She was going to make a trip back home to see her mother in June of 1939, but she passed away in March of 1939.

In December 1936 our farm home was destroyed by fire and we spent the winter of 1937 in Hanna, and moved back to the farm in April onto the preemption, the SE 35-31-14, one mile north of the Meadowlands School. Dad was severely burned in the house fire saving the children and Mother, none of whom were burnt at all, but Dad suffered many months from those awful burns to his hands, arms and face.

I don't think Dad was ever off duty, because I remember the throngs of people coming on Sundays for treatments even after he opened his office in Hanna. I think it could be said he had a magic in his hands.

The children of John and Edith Paxman were: William Joseph Paxman was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1922 and came west as a child to the Meadowlands district. He married Pauline Camp in 1944 and they moved onto the George Paxman homestead. Later he bought Walter Carlson's place which was one mile west and moved over there. A few years later, needing more land, he bought a half section four miles north which was the [illegible] 27-32-14. Bill and Pauline were always willing to help in the community as well as any neighbor in time of need. Bill spent several years as secretary of the Meadowland's Mutual Telephone Company and drove a school bus for several years. Pauline was secretary of the Meadowlands Recreation Club for a time. They have three children, Bobby, Beverly and Brian. Bill passed away March 22, 1973 at the age of fifty. Pauline is living in Hanna and their oldest son, Bob is operating the farm.

Clifford John Paxman was born in Clarke Township, Ontario in 1925. He came west as an infant to the Meadowlands district. He married Hilda Welch and they lived on the home place. Later Cliff acquired several other quarters of land. They were NW 26-31-14 from Jim Parker, the S 25-31-14 from Mrs. Costyk, the NE 25-31-14 from Bill Curtis, the east half of 1-32-14 from Albert Kern and the NE 36-31-14 from Sayle Brown (the Howard Kern homestead). Clifford helped construct the first Hanna swimming pool, the Lutheran Church and the Co-op Locker Plant. They have four children, Patricia, Stanley, John and Betty. Cliff passed away May 5, 1976, age fifty years.

Bernice Paxman married Albert Zelmer and lives at Endiang; they have two daughters, Linda and Brenda.

Mary Paxman married Leonard Smith of Craigmyle. They live in Hanna and farm at Craigmyle. They have four children, Jane, Judy, Greg and Karen.

Irene Paxman is married to Walter Sarabin and lives in Edmonton. They have one son Timmy.

Carol Paxman is married to Jack Stulberg and they farm at Endiang. They have two boys, Leslie and Larry.

Eva Paxman married Ray Ergang of Fort St. John, B.C. They have six children, Gordon, Cathy, Debbie, Keith, Judy and David.

Verna Paxman married Joe Engleman and they live in Edmonton. They have two children, Diane and Daryl.

We want to specially thank Levi Kennedy for his assistance in compiling this story; also Pauline Paxman (Bill's widow) and Hilda Paxman (Cliff's widow).

THE LIME KILN

Sometime around the fall of 1926 or 1927 John Paxman who had homesteaded on the SW 36-31-14, finally decided he was going to make good use of some of those pesky boulders that had been getting in the way of his farming operations and built a lime kiln. It is very likely such lime burning kilns were used by many of the farmers of eastern Canada, since the walls of many of the large barn walls there were built of stones cemented together with lime mortar, and almost every farm house had a stone fireplace and chimney. These homemade kilns or furnaces were built into a steep sidehill by excavating a vertical well-like shaft with an enlarged room below, allowing easy horizontal access at the bottom. The vertical shaft was lined with slabs and pieces of limestone, and when a roaring fire was built at the bottom, a forced draft was created, causing the flames to rise up through the limestone-lined flue. The action of the heat drove out the carbon-dioxide from the rock leaving a white crumbly powder known as unslaked lime, which could be mixed with water and fine sand to produce lime mortar.

With the help of his hired man, a true son of Erin named Pat Murphy, John built such a kiln on the edge of the field in the center of his homestead, gathering up lime stones from the stone piles and fields, and using the willow brush from the several sloughs which were conveniently close to make the fires. This operation required continuous firing for several days and nights, and proved to be a herculean task, causing Pat Murphy to complain bitterly about "building the fires of hell while still here on earth."

When allowed to cool quite a quantity of unslaked lime was found at the bottom of the flue, but most of the limestones in the upper part of the furnace were not changed much because of underfiring. Probably the hardwoods of the eastern Canadian woods would have produced more heat and more satisfactory results. However, this story vividly illustrates the initiative and ingenuity found among many of the settlers of the west and bespeaks the indomitable spirit of the pioneers.

THE RICHARD HANNAHS, by Elsie Hannah Scott — Richard Hannah, better known as Dick, was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, in March 1874. At the age of ten he moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba. On November 27, 1901 he married Ellen Churchill, who had come to Killarney from Clinton, Ontario. They had four children, Lorne, James, Elsie and Robert.

They came to Alberta in April 1910, and settled on the homestead one mile east of where the town of Hanna now stands, the W½-14-31-14-W4.

We lived in a tent that first summer. Our first and nearest neighbor then was Bob Moore, a bachelor, living in a sod house a mile east. Another bachelor, Charlie Hook, also had a sod house northwest of us, on the farm now occupied by the Fred Millers, and before them by the Kessels and the Sims. Just north of that place was the homestead of Tom Hannah, where the George Hannah family lived for a time until moving into Hanna where he operated a flour mill. Later in the year 1910 the Rob Churchill family came and homesteaded on what is now the James place.

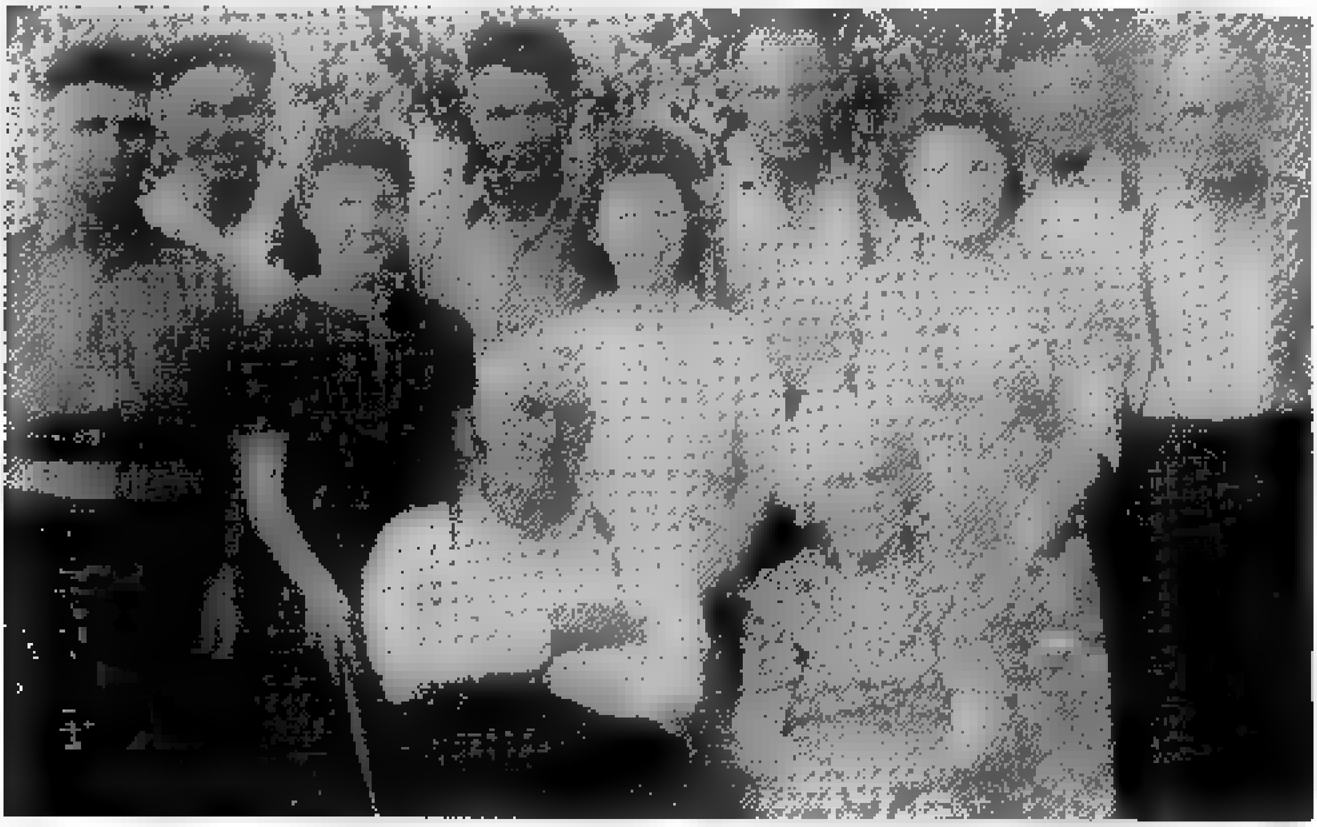
A frame house was built and ready to move into that fall. Poplar two-by-fours used in the building were brought from Manitoba. Some of the people helping to build the house were father's brother George, mother's brother George Churchill, and the Lathams who also helped with the moving from Castor.

Household effects and farm implements had come by train to Castor and then were hauled with horses and wagons to the homestead, about forty miles south. We had six horses, a cow, some chickens, and a dog and a cat. Dad and

Mother had brought some trees, currant bushes, and other plants from Killarney, and we always had a big garden.

My father used a walking plow to break the land, the same plow used by his father in Ontario. It is now in the Hanna Museum. The following year he got a steam engine and a gang plow. Later he had a threshing outfit, and for several years did the threshing for all the farmers in the district.

The rest of the family, Isabelle, John, Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis were born on the homestead. Lorne went to the Red Rose school for a few weeks; later we all went to school in Hanna. In 1930, the family moved from the homestead to a farm one mile north, and Ronald, Ivan and Phyllis went to Meadowlands School. Former residents of this farm were the McLures, Pedersons, Berry's, Scotts and McGowans.



The Hannah Family — 1945. John, Ivan, Robert, Ronald, Lorne, James, Isabelle, Elsie, Phyllis, Mr. Richard Hanna, Mrs. Hannah.

Church services were held in our home from May 1910 until July 1912, with a student Presbyterian minister, Mr. J. T. Warwick in charge. Mother played the organ for the hymns. Many social gatherings were also held in our home in the early days.

The first store and Post Office was Copeville, but many of the supplies were brought from Castor, with stop-overs at the home of the Lewis family in the Garden Plain district.

The C.N. railroad was built in the area in 1912. The camp was across the road from our place, and the crew got water from our well.

My father and brothers hauled coal from Sheerness, starting out at three or four o'clock in the morning and getting home late at night, mostly using a four horse team. They also hauled coal from a mine north of Solon, and from the Morse mine south of Hanna. In the first years they got it from the cut-banks southeast of where Hanna now is.

Mother passed away in December 1950, and Dad in February 1965. Lorne lives on the farm; Ivan, Bob, Isabelle (Mrs. Jack Schmidt), Johnny, and Elsie (Mrs. Joe Scott) live in Hanna. Jim passed away in May 1969 in Big Valley. Ronald lives at Rocky Mountain House, and Phyllis (Mrs. Arnold Anderson) at Donalda.

THOMAS H. HANNAH — Tom Hannah was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on April 8, 1879. He moved with his family to Killarney, Manitoba in 1884 and to Alberta in 1910. He homesteaded on a quarter about two miles northeast of the present location of Hanna. This was the SE 22-31-14. Later he sold it and bought a farm in the Red Rose district. He enlisted in the Army in World War I and went overseas with the 175th battalion.

In 1918 he married Alice Austin in England and returned to live in Hanna for about two years, where their son Harry was born. At this time Tom worked in the flour mill with his brother George.

In 1920 they bought land through the Soldier Settlement Board from Charlie Wylie in the Garden Plain district. Harry began his schooling at Garden Plain. They sold out about 1926 and went to British Columbia where he worked in real estate for a time.

He came back to Alberta around 1928 and farmed on the place south of Hanna until he retired and moved in to town.

Later he moved to the Acadia Lodge, where he resided for seven years. While there he made a gift of a piano to the Lodge which has been much enjoyed by the residents. In 1971 his eye sight failed so much it was difficult for him to look after himself and he went to the Palliser Nursing Home.

He passed away in the Hanna Hospital, February 22, 1973 at the age of ninety-three.

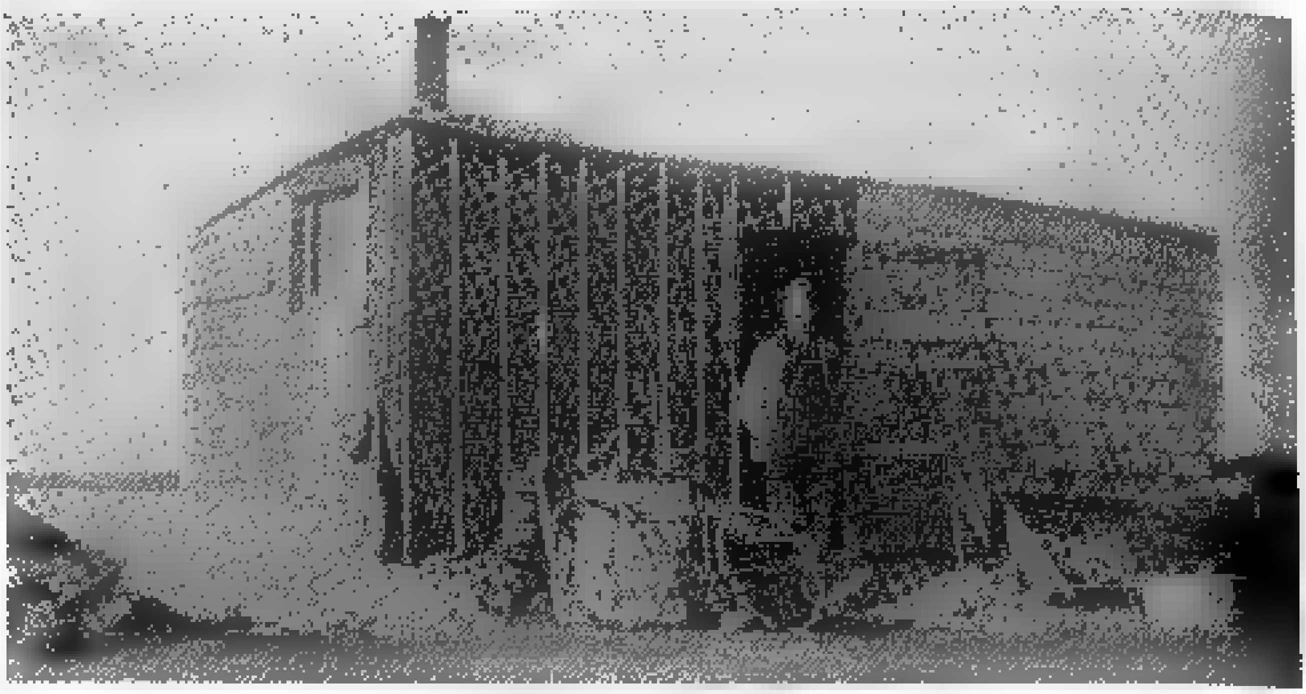
Tom was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 25.

Howard and Emma Kern and son Robert

THE HOWARD KERN STORY, By Cliff Kern — Howard Kern came from the state of Michigan with his family to Gadsby in 1908. In the spring of 1909 he filed on his homestead which was the N.E. 36-31-14 and took the S.E. 36-31-14 as his preemption. He cancelled his preemption in 1911 but proved up on the homestead quarter by 1914. He built a shack on this land but stayed most of the time with his father who had a homestead across the road. A well was dug but the water was unfit to drink because of too much alkali. By this time he had around sixty acres broke. He sold this land to Sayle Brown, taking a Maxwell car as part payment. He then bought from Willis Evans the N.W. 23-31-14 which was three miles northeast of Hanna. Willis had previously homesteaded farther east in range 13 but cancelled it and filed on this place. The buildings were situated in the North East corner and the homestead shack was actually sitting on the next quarter east, which was the Charlie Earl homestead. Dad said he did not like the place where the buildings were so he moved them to their present location.

In 1917 he was married to Emma Burgemeister who was working for Jim Parker at the time. They had five children. Robert, born in 1918, passed away in 1923 at the age of five. Walter was born in 1920, Albert in 1922, Clifford in 1924 and Agnes in 1931, making the family complete. The children all received their education at Meadowlands which was one mile east.

There was not a good supply of water on this place so in 1917 Howard had Al Hutton drill a well. Later on another well was drilled to a depth of one hundred twenty feet and then there was lots of water. They milked cows and sold cream, but eventually got into the dairy business which they carried on for many years, and when times were rough they always had a steady income. There was always lots of work on the dairy farm so as a result there were one or two hired men around at all times. Some of these were Jim Parker, Ed Ryckman, Adam Schmidt, Herman Hansen, Gottlieb Ferworn, Fred Burgemeister, Hubert Handy, Henry Beich as well as many more.



Howard Kern and his homestead shack

In the early days milk had to be delivered seven days a week as there was no fridges to keep it from spoiling. Dad missed very few days taking the milk in, and as a result he and the hired men suffered many frost bites when battling the snow drifts getting the milk into town. He was asked why he went out in terrible blizzards when the temperature was well below zero and he replied, "There are lots of babies and small children that are depending on me coming in with this milk." He used a team and covered milk wagon until the early thirties when he bought a truck to do the job during the summer months. In the winter the snow would be too deep for the truck and he would have to go back to team and sleigh.

One day, while talking over years of dairying with one of his neighbors, he said he hand't intended getting into the dairy business, but some of the people who had gotten meat from him talked him into bringing milk to them. One customer led to another — soon he had a regular milk route. He built a milk house and installed many pieces of equipment to help keep the milk fresh and sweet, as well as to cut down on the work. One of these was a cooler to chill the milk as soon as it came from the cows. This gave it a better taste.

The first bottler he had was quite a big thing where he could fill the quart size bottles on one end and the pints on the other, but he had to cap the bottles by hand. He soon bought another one where the quarts and pints were filled at the same place just by raising or lowering the table. It also had a semi-automatic capper which made the job much easier. A bottle washer was also installed. He bought a steam boiler so he could have all the hot water he wanted to keep the bottles and utensils clean and sanitary, and steam to scald the pails and cans.

Sometimes there would be a surplus of milk so we would separate it and make the cream into butter in a big barrel churn. The butter then would be printed into pounds and sold on the milk route.

A gravity water system and a 32 volt light plant was installed, giving running water and electric lights in the house, barn and milk house. The milk would be stored in a walk-in cooler that was cooled by ice. The ice would be hauled in the

winter time and stored in an icehouse nearby. It was a once-a-week job to bring the 400 pound blocks of ice out of the icehouse, wash them,off and put them in the cooler.

A hipped roof barn, thirty-six by forty was built to house the dairy herd, with the intention of making it another forty feet longer at a later date, however, in the meantime the house burned down and the family lost all of their possessions. By the time a new house was built and furnished times were getting hard and as a result the extension on the barn was never finished.

After the new house was built lots of parties and dances were held there. Some of the people that made music were: Bill Hunter, Reg Wismer, Bill Schuler, Henry Beich, Hank Kroeker and his wife, Johnny (Slippery) Rosin, Mrs. Smart and her father, Henry Ball. Some of the hospital girls and nurses often walked out to our place for the various forms of entertainment. In the summer time a bonfire would be built in some trees that were close to the buildings and we would have a wiener roast and sing songs well into the night. Toboggan and skating parties would be held in the winter time, ending up with wiener roasts and a singsong. Many of the single hired men would court these girls and in some cases they married them. It might be said that my folks were unintentionally running a matrimonial bureau! One year they held the Christmas Concert there because there was more room in the house than in the little school. Mother used to board some of the Meadowlands teachers because the new house had a spare room.

In the hungry thirties many people in town could not pay their milk bills. The ones who were willing to work came out and worked for the milk they received, but I believe many of the bills are still outstanding.

Dad often told the story of the young fellow he saved from starving. It seems this baby was lying in his carriage by the back door of his parents' home, crying. Dad filled his bottle with milk and gave it to him and he immediately stopped his wailing. Now whether his mother planned this or whether it was coincidence, the baby got a free drink of milk every day for some time.

Walter worked on the farm until the war broke out and he joined the Army in 1940. He went overseas and was wounded in action. Upon his discharge in 1945 he returned to the farm. In 1946 he bought a half section of land from the Hudson Bay Company and started farming on his own. After two years he decided to quit the farm and go into the seismic drilling business and soon became a driller. He married Mavis Bye and they travelled to many countries of the world, wherever his job took him. He finally came back and settled down in Kamloops where they are presently living.

Albert stayed on the dairy farm helping his dad. He married Lily Temple in 1943 and they have three children — Gordon, Donald and Linda. Albert still farms the home place and is also employed by Wes James at the U.F.A. Bulk Station. Gordon was married to Yvonne Gehrke in 1968 and they have two boys, Kevin and Keith.

I (Clifford) worked for dad on the farm until 1944 when I joined the Navy. Upon my discharge I returned to the farm. In 1948, I bought Walter's half section and started farming on my own. I married Violet Tetz and we have two children — Wesley and Diane. We moved into town and I spent eight years working for the C.N.R. as well as farming, and upon being laid off in 1958 built a house on the farm where we are presently living. Wes was married to Doreen Bannick in 1975. Diane married Ken Welch in 1970 and has two girls, Misty and Marsha.

Agnes married Leon Mehl, They have one daughter, Donna. Leon operated the Hanna Tire Shop for several years. Agnes, who had taken a secretarial course, worked at several places in Hanna and is now employed at the Town Office.

Dad passed away in 1956 at the age of sixty-eight. Mother was sixty-two when she died in 1963.

CHARLES ORA OVERTON, by Fred Johnston — Ora, as he was affectionately called, was an early pioneer of these parts coming in 1909 to his purchased homestead the NE 18-31-13. He and his family lived on the homestead until such time as the townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912. Ora was among the first business men of Hanna, building the White Foot Livery Stable which opened on August 11, 1912. He was also a horse trader and he supplied the teams for the fire wagon housed on his property. At the first Empire Day celebrations held in 1913 he supplied the horses for the bucking contest. Ora was very effective in taming some of these outlaws and even had some good rope ponies. Along with the livery barn he also had a draying business. All the coal he supplied to his customers came from the Sam Wadsworth mine. He disposed of the draying business in 1914 and the livery barn to Fitzsimmons and Seckman, local auctioneers, in 1915.

Overtons then went back to the farm and did some ranching, but as the Herd Law was in effect by this time, he hired neighbors boys to herd the cattle. Mrs. Overton was treasurer of the newly formed Metropolitan Church in 1913. The boys Fred, Ralph and Clifford attended Hanna's first school. Two of Ora's brothers, Joe, a bachelor, and Al, a married man with a big family came to live in the Solon district.

THE CHURCHILL STORY, by Elvin Churchill — In the year 1910, my Father and I set out from our home in Killarney, Manitoba for Calgary. From there we came by railroad to Castor and by stage coach to Dad's homestead, which was the NE 10-31-14 and is one mile directly east of the present town of Hanna.

We stayed at my Uncle Richard Hannah's who had also come from Killarney earlier in the year. We remained there until my Dad got lumber hauled out from Castor and built a shack on his homestead.

It was getting on in the fall when my Mother and sister Olive sold our belongings in Manitoba and came west. They also came in from Castor on the stage, about an eight hour trip.

There was a great deal of snow that first winter, but we were fairly comfortable in our shack. There were some problems heating the place. A group of the homesteaders went down to the Cut Banks south of us and stripped a coal seam and hauled the stuff home. I think sometimes there was more smoke than heat in it. We got our kindling and wood from the trees and brush north of our place.

I am sure I will never forget our first Christmas on the prairies. My Grandpa and Grandma Churchill came from Killarney. They were at Richard Hannah's, Mrs. Hannah being their daughter. We all had Christmas together. There were no turkeys or geese to be found so we had roast beef. It smelt good and looked good but was it ever tough . You had to have good teeth and lots of perseverence to cope with it. I don't think the ranchers would pick a very good animal to butcher, or could be they resented the homesteaders cluttering up their range land.

We had lots of company as the settlers were coming in droves. Everyone was talking about the railroad approaching from the east with a townsite near at hand. During the winter of 1910-11 a survey crew arrived and worked between here and Munson. My Dad got a job as teamster with them for the winter. They lived in tents and my Dad said the only warm place in camp was the horse tent.

The Hanna townsite was bought up in 1912 and the railroad grade and steel was completed into town that fall from the east. Everyone was happy. Soon there would be no more long hauls for supplies from Castor with horses and oxen.

My Grandma Grantham came to visit us from Ontario that fall and she and Mother cooked for a railroad construction outfit who were building grade just to the west of town. Chester Shoults and Frank Gibson from the Hand Hills were the contractors. They had also come from Killarney, Manitoba.

During the summer and fall of 1912, there were shacks and other buildings springing up all over the place. Most people lived in tents or other temporary dwellings until they had a more permanent place built. When you consider that all the lumber and building supplies had to be hauled from Castor by team and wagon, it was quite an undertaking. It took a day and a half to freight in a load.

When Stephen s Bros. Store was almost completed, my Dad hauled in their very first wagon load of groceries from Castor. I was a ten year old and was along with him, sitting up near the tail end of the load or running around the outfit when I got bored riding. I noticed a carton of raisins on top getting a little closer to the edge each bump we hit. I was getting pretty hungry and we had several miles yet to go so I just may have given that carton a little shove with my foot. Anyway it went over board and was damaged when it hit the ground. The result was I had all the raisins I could eat the rest of the way. Dad even ate a few and didn't ask any questions as to why I let the box get so close to the edge.

School opened in Hanna in the fall of 1912. My sister, Olive and I were among the first pupils to attend. We were all there bright and early that opening morning. I forget how many kids there were, but not many. The school was just one room with classes all the way from grade one to eight. Our first teacher was Mr. Deboe. We all liked him very much. He was very strict as far as discipline was concerned but had a real sense of humor. He was later Principal when the four-room brick school was completed in 1914.

Well, let's get back to the days on the homestead in 1910-11. There were lots of families and quite a few bachelors. Some of the single fellows would live and work on the homestead in the spring and summer and spend the winter back home. We heard of a few of the single boys over in the Hand Hills who would mount their saddle horses and spend the winter near and far visiting among the married homesteaders. They called it "riding the old grub line."

Our store was about a mile east of our place and was in operation when we came in 1910. Bill French was the manager. He used to get a weekly newspaper from Chicago and always saved the comic section for the Hannah kids and us and some news sections for our parents. It was a real big deal when that paper arrived.

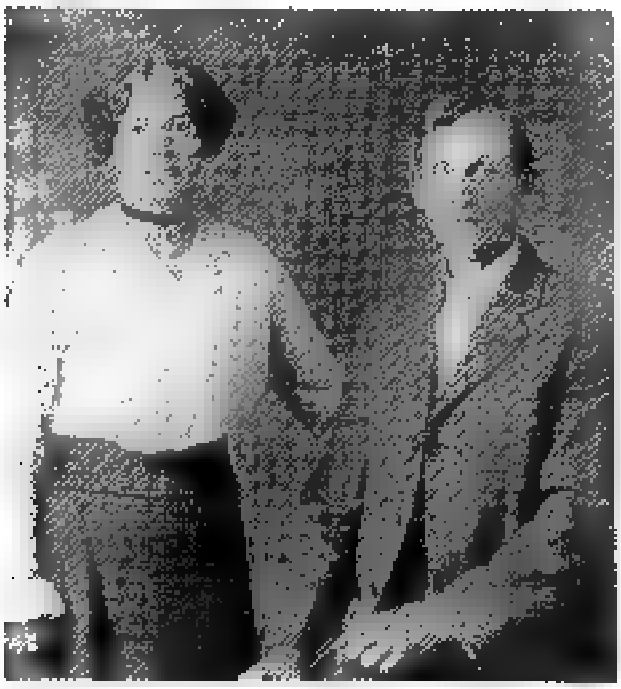
The Hannah boys and I used to roam around the area on foot, mostly barefoot in summer. Our main problem was to keep away from cactus patches, which were numerous. When you stepped on a cactus in your bare feet you were in deep trouble. You just had to sit down and howl while your companions seemed to take great delight in pulling the needles out of the soles of your feet. Another thing we had to contend with was range cattle. We found those old range cows would really get disturbed and put the run on anyone who got too close to them on foot. Anyway we had a fine time exploring the country around our parents' homes and visiting neighbors.

We moved into Hanna in 1918. My Dad rented the Commercial Livery Barn from the owner, Mr. Baltas. My Father passed away in the fall of 1920 from a sudden illness. My Mother remarried in 1922 to John Parker and lived in Hanna until 1965, when she passed on at the age of eighty years. Mr. Parker stayed in Hanna and was one of the first residents of the Senior Citizens' home. He passed away in 1967.

My sister, Olive married Scott Johnson. They made their home in Winnipeg. She died in 1939 at an early age. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

I married Rena Elizabeth Davey in 1943. We had two boys, Robert and Wesley. Robert lost his life in a truck accident in 1966. He was only twenty-two years of age. Wesley lives in Edmonton. He married Sandra Darlene Krenz in 1970. They have one daughter, Carley.

When you look back to the early days on the homestead and in Hanna, it seems a long way off, but if you just take the time to sit down and think, many incidents and events come to mind. It helps to have a chat with some of the other old timers. One will always come up with something the other had forgotten. Those pioneer days were sometimes pretty rough but the majority of the people were young and had the vitality and drive to cope very well with the problems that arose.


John and Beatrice Fox

THE JOHN FOX STORY, By Lily Fox — John Fox was born at Madoc, Ontario, on August 28, 1891. He came west as a young man and stayed with his brother James, who had homesteaded earlier northwest of Hanna, by the lake which now bears his name. In 1912, John homesteaded the S.E. 36-31-14.

John married Beatrice Carr from Bury, Quebec. On January 4, 1917, he set out in a raging blizzard with a horse and cutter, to bring the doctor from Hanna to deliver his first son. There were times he didn't think he would make it.

In 1924, he started working for the C.N.R. in Hanna, and spent many years driving back and forth when the roads were passable. When the weather was bad he would stay in town. Finally he moved his family to town where they lived in a box car near the railway tracks. Later he bought a little white shack, which still stands across from Jimmie's Service Station. He lived there until he retired from the railroad after thirty-five years' service.

John loved dancing as well as all kinds of sports. He would play his mouth organ, or call an old time square dance. Even after his retirement, he was still very active and full of ambition. One year he decided to go camping, packed his tent and supplies, and spent the summer months on the shores of Buffalo Lake.

In the fall of 1961, he pulled up stakes and went to Calgary to stay with one of his sons. He took a job with the village of Montgomery, which is now part of the city of Calgary. In 1965, he was injured in a car accident and could not return to work. He passed away on June 17, 1967. Mrs. Fox died in January, 1974, at the age of eighty-seven.

John and Beatrice had four sons. Harold married Lily Bowers of Hanna. They have two sons, and live in Calgary.

Edwin married an English girl when he was overseas during World War II. They and their six children live in London, Ontario.

Clifford also served overseas. After his discharge he married Vivian Marks of Sheerness. They have six children and reside in Calgary.

Clarence married a girl from Ontario, where they and their five children live.

John Fox lived in Alberta for fifty-six years, making his contribution in his own quiet way, as so many of the pioneers did.

THE GEORGE McCLOSKEY QUARTER, by Bill Curtis — George McCloskey and his wife Julia-Anne pioneered in this area where he homesteaded the SW 24-31-14 and built a two roomed house on the hill above the cut bank coulee, about 1910. However, on May 8, 1914 Mr. McCloskey suddenly passed away. On July 14, 1915 his widow, Julia-Anne McClosky and a Joseph Vincent O'Neil as personal representatives of the deceased received the Certificate of Title to this land.

In August of 1918, Mr. Archibald Bertran Simpson and his family moved onto this farm. Mr. Simpson had a badly crippled arm as the result of an unfortunate accident with the blower belt of a grain separator. The oldest son Archie farmed the McCloskey place and the Stan Boon half section with a Big Oil Pull Tractor, breaking land with a five bottom plow. He also graded some of the roads in the district. A younger son "Vic" was a very adept horseback rider, and would often dress up in a silk clown suit and put on quite a trick riding show.

A few years later after the Simpsons left, Ted Sams lived on this place. His main power source was a bunch of long eared mules who always seemed to move along quite well when headed for home but had a great aversion to going in the opposite direction. Bill Curtis, Jr. remembers distinctly how Ted got him to ride the stub tongue of a Massey binder and persuade the four mule team with a willow stick to make one more round on a strip of wheat so he could finish the field.

After Ted Sams left, Robert M. Moore acquired title to this land on May 7, 1929.

The McCloskey house was moved north across the creek to the Longacre yard, and the Jim Parker family lived there for a few years.

In 1939 the McCloskey quarter reverted to the Crown and during recent years has been held as a hay lease by Stan James.

Jake Fortna Family. Harold, Mrs. Fortna, Florence, Jake, Albert and Ethel.

THE JACOB (JAKE) FORTNA STORY, By Jake Fortna — I was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on August 20, 1890 where I got my schooling. I did not like going to school so quit at an early age and got a job training and caring for race horses. I also worked in a printing press and obtained my journeyman printing papers. Leaving the eastern states I worked my way west ending up in Seattle and then went by boat to Vancouver. In 1910, I took the train to Calgary and then to Castor.

In Castor I got a job at the livery stable where I drove landseekers south and east looking for homesteads. While on one of these trips we stopped at Jud Doran's stopping house which was north of where Harry Lumsden now lives. Jud told me about a quarter of land that was vacant southwest of there, and after looking at it I thought I would like to file on it for myself. The land in question was the S.E. 3-32-14, but I was unable to get it as there was a reserve on it by Daniel Gifford, who did not return after filing. After trying several times, I was about to give up and was interested in a parcel of land north of Richdale, but when I went to Calgary to file and waited in line for some time, I found out that the first place I was looking for was now open and I obtained my file on my homestead quarter in 1913.

Later I bought the quarter east of me which was the S.W. 2-32-14; [illegible] team of horses and a set of harness for $750.00 from Mrs. Beard whose son, Albert Ditton homesteaded in the Solon district. The next land I bought was the Myles quarter to the west which was the S.W. 3-32-14. Over the years I acquired several other quarters of land as the homesteaders left due [illegible] poor crops and hard times.

The first house which I had on my homestead was a cook car that I had brought down from Castor. Later a house twelve by sixteen was built with the help of Howard Kern and the cook car was traded to Howard for some breaking which he had done for me. One day while plowing Howard saw a storm coming up so he unhitched the horses and quickly put them in the barn and came running to the house where I was. I asked him what he had stopped for and he said, "A hail storm is coming." I didn't know what he was talking about as I had never seen a hail storm in my life, but I was soon to find out. [illegible] was not the worst storm I was ever [illegible] see but it was my first.

The mosquitoes in those days were real bad and the stock would be covered with them so you could hardly tell what color they were.

In 1916, I met and married Mattie Hanson who was a sister of Anker Hanson, a homesteader southwest of Hanna. This was the year of my first good crop, as prior to that I was busy breaking land and getting it ready to sow, and most of the grain I grew was used for seed and feed. Water was not too plentiful in the shallow dug well I had, so in the dry seasons we had to drive the stock some six miles to a creek where they would drink their fill, and I would fill a tank of water to take back with me. By the time the stock would get home they would be thirsty again and ready for another drink. In 1924, I had Frank Rupert drill [illegible] well for me which was two hundred feet deep and after that we had lots of water.

Over the years, to gain additional money, I used my experience in printing to get a job at the Hanna Herald Office, and also I cooked at Stinn's Restaurant for a time.

In 1926, I purchased my first threshing machine which was a Fairbanks that I ran with a 10-20 Titan. Later a Rumley Oil Pull was bought to run the separator as well as to do the farming. In the latter part of the thirties I bought a fairly new Case threshing machine which I still have, and in 1940 bought a new Minneapolis tractor. Over the years I threshed for all of my neighbors although some of the crops were poor and I barely met expenses. Some of the men on my threshing crews were: George and Art Campion; Fred Engel; Levi Kennedy; Louis Pahl; Walter, Albert and Cliff Kern; Bill and Cliff Paxman; Harry, Ben, Tom and Jim Parker; Lorne, Jim, Bob, John, Ronald and Ivan Hannah; Morris Olsen; John Yasman; Ole Price; Bob Sloan; Len Sloan and Albert Banco. In 1946, the combines came [illegible] and the old threshing machine was retired.

In 1917, our son Harold was born. Ethel was born in 1919, Albert in 1924 and Florence in 1932.

Harold married Mae Lamb and lives on their farm north of mine. Their children are: Vivian, Ed, Doug and Marjorie.

Ethel married Vince Bourbonnie and they are living in Calgary. They have five children - Marilyn, Terrance, Karen and twins, Joyce and Joan.

Albert married Minnie Wardle. They lived on the farm with me for [illegible] time, then moved to Lady Lake, Saskatchewan where Albert helped run [illegible] machine business. He did not like it there so moved back to the Hanna area and got a job in the Sheerness coal mine as [illegible] shop mechanic. It was there that he passed away in 1959. They had four children - Delbert, Esther, Peggy and Ruth. Minnie is presently living with her mother at Lady Lake, Saskatchewan.

Florence marrie Albert Banco. They are living on their farm northeast of

Hanna. Their children are Ronnie, Cheryl and Audrey. All of our children got their education at Meadowlands School.

In December of 1924, when Albert was born, I took my wife to the hospital with the team and sleigh and then left Harold and Ethel with their grandmother southwest of Hanna. On the way home a blizzard came up and I had to leave the team and sleigh at Doc Sims' just east of town. The snow banks were not hard enough to walk over and were too deep to walk through so as a result I had to roll over them. While walking home I stopped at Jim Parker's to get warm, and helped Mrs. Parker to milk the cows as Jim couldn't get home on account of the blizzard. I arrived home around midnight after leaving Doc Sims in midmorning. About a week later a wind came up and blew all the snow off the road and I was able to pick up my team and sleigh from Doc Sims and bring my wife and son home from the hospital.

We took a great interest in the community, taking in school picnics, parties and dances. I was floor manager and called square dances at Meadowlands School for many years. For several years I was secretary and later president of the Meadowlands Mutual Telephone Company. I was also committeeman for the trunk line and secretary-treasurer for Meadowlands School. We visited many of the neighbors using a team and buggy but in 1919 I bought a Model T Ford car which we used for transportation in the summer time, but still had to use the team and sleigh in the winter.

My wife was a great help to me through the years, working by my side especially doing the chores, raising a big garden, as well as looking after the children and the house. In the early forties, I bought a bigger house and moved it to the farm, making it easier for her as there was more room for the family.

We thought of moving out many times because of crop failures and one time I drove many miles with the team and wagon looking for a better place, but found nothing I liked better than what I had.

My wife passed away in 1953 at the age of sixty-two. I lived on my homestead quarter from the time of filing in 1913 (except for a short time when I worked at the Hanna Herald Office) until the winter of 1976 when I moved into Hanna. During the summer months since moving to Hanna, I drive out nearly every day to the old place which was home to me for so many years.

I was asked if I would do it all over again and even remembering the many hardships suffered, crop losses due to droughts, hail and grasshoppers, summer dust storms and winter blizzards, I replied, "I believe I would."

HISTORY OF THE SIM FAMILY, by Lillie Schmidt — Mr. and Mrs. H. C. (Doc) Sim moved to the farm one mile northeast of Hanna, the E½ 15-31-14-W4, in the winter of 1918-19. He had bought the farm from a man named Kessel. Their children, Mildred, Lillie, Lawrence and Clarke were born in the Lonebutte District, and Lloyd and Edna were born at Hanna. On January 27, 1927, Mrs. H. C. (Sarah) Sim died very suddenly. Doc Sim ran a dairy farm for years and delivered milk every day in Hanna for twelve cents a quart. He also raised a large number of hogs and hauled buttermilk in large tanks from the Hanna creamery to feed them.

Our neighbor to the east of us was Richard Hannah, north were Burdetts, northeast Howard Kern and to the south, Richard Bond and later Ferg James. Mildred married Gordon Weatherill in 1935 and has two children, Joyce and Ronald. Mildred lives in Rocky Mountain House. Lillie married Emil Schmidt in 1934 and has four children, Robert, Fay, Fern and Connie. She lives in Okotoks. Lawrence who now lives at Tees married Elva Ferguson in 1940. They have four children, Coleen, Harvey, Jean and Joan. Clarke, of Vancouver, married Doris

Carter in 1939 and has two children, Marilyn and David. Lloyd lives in Barrhead. He married Julie Gaumont in 1947 and has one daughter, Shirley. Edna married Claude Halpin in 1941 and has one son, Douglas. She lives in Red Deer. H. C. (Doc) Sim died in 1944.

THE GEORGE GWIN STORY, by George Gwin — A. F. Gwin moved from south of Hanna in the spring of 1921 to what was called the Oldham place — land number S½ 22-31-14-W4. There was besides my mother, me (George), Robert, Pauline, Ernest and Corine the baby. My father bought out A. J. Campbell who was peddling milk in Hanna at that time and with what cows he had, started up the Gwin's Dairy. I went to school in Hanna the rest of that year. I used to peddle milk till the school bell rang, then run like hell to get there in time. Sometimes didn't make it either! Then in 1922 I went to Meadowlands School. There was Bill Curtis, three Parkers, three McGowens, Lloyd Campbell, Harold Fortna and I. In September that year my brother Robert started to school. He was only five years old but his birthday was September 15th so they let him in. He was a funny little guy — always showing off — till one day the teacher went out and she saw him through the window and made him get up in front of the class and do it again. He didn't know he was being punished; he thought he was showing them how to do what he was doing.

One day while going to school at Meadowlands we were playing ball. Some of us were barefooted. We used an old ash pile for home base. I ran from second base to home and slid in just as the bell rang. We all marched in to school. The teacher said, "George, what have you got on your foot?" I said, "I don't know." She looked and darn near fainted — my foot was cut from my toes to my heel from a piece of glass or something. She sent me up to Curtis' place — the closest house to the school. Mrs. Curtis put my foot in a pan of disinfectant and gave me one of Mr. Curtis' felt shoes to go back to school in.

Then another time I was going to show the kids how to pole vault over the fence. I ran and went up but not over as the pole broke in mid-air and I landed on the barb wire fence. Tore my pants and about four inches of hide. The blood was running down my leg so the teacher told me to get home. I was riding a pony. The other kids got me on his back and away I went, but when the sweat and dirt off that horse's back got in that cut it sure did hurt and smart, but lots of things like that happened at the old country schools. Just like one time the McGowens were going home, all three on one old horse going down a hill on the run. The horse stumbled and fell. Flossy went rolling down the hill, George went over the fence and Carry hit a fence post injuring her shoulder, but they all climbed back on and went on home. They lived on the old Stirling place where Lorne Hannah lives now.

Gwins had the dairy till the spring of 1925 when they moved up to the Hamilton place, a half-mile east of the Antelope Hill School six miles north of Hanna. All that is left of that old school is a broken cement foundation. The old school is in the yard at the old Al Wirth farm seven miles north of the town of Hanna.

I worked as a hired man all over this country for many years and I will say this: there were a lot of good people in this area, but once in a while you met up with a miserable outfit.

In 1938, I married Alice Scott and we have two daughters, Jessie Irene and Dorothy Marie St. Denys. We moved back to Hanna in 1941 and have been here ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bond and Margaret

THE THOMAS BOND STORY, By Freddie Bond — Thomas James Barrett Bond was born in London, England 1877. He came to Canada when he was eighteen years of age. He worked for John D. Rockefeller Sr. before coming to Alberta. He also worked cattle south of the Red Deer River with John Ware and other ranchers in that area.

In 1909 he married Alice Osmond from Berry Creek and took up a homestead at Clivale. During the First World War he had a horse ranch at Crawling Valley.

They moved from Clivale, now known as Homestead Coulee, to the farm of W. E. Fitzsimmons in the fall of 1921 and in the spring of 1922 they moved to the Churchill Farm now owned by Stan James. They farmed there until the fall of 1924. During that time Dad hired on at the C.N.R. as carman at the rip track. They had three children. Margaret now at Victoria, Jim at Calgary and Fred residing in Hanna.

Their neighbours at that time were Dick Hannah, Al Sim and McGowan. There were many good times had by his children while on the Churchill farm. They had a swimming hole north of the road and the Penny, Taylor, Martin boys and many others would swim there in the summer months. One time when the C.N.R. built their new dam, the bridge across the road was washed out and the children had to get to school by crossing the water on a raft.

In 1924 the family moved to Ontario for three years and then in 1927 moved back to Hanna. Dad continued to work for the C.N.R. until 1942 when he was retired. They moved to Victoria where Mom passed away in 1953 and Dad in 1969.

THE FLOOD STORY, By Cliff Kern — Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Flood and their three children Percy, Edith and Harvey came from Ontario to the Fort Macleod district in 1910. In 1913 they took out a homestead north of the Red Deer River near Hutton. Crops were poor in that area and after having only one good crop, which was 1915, they decided to move out. They came to the Meadowlands district in 1923 and settled on the east half 24-31-14, this being the Guy Longacre homestead. Joshua was a blacksmith by trade.

Edith, who married Ben Campbell also came north and they lived for a time on the Chris German homestead and later moved over to the Hodds place. Here they kept a weather station and shortly after the New Year in 1924, they recorded fifty degrees below zero. They had two children, Lloyd and Juanita. When their mother died, they went to live with their maternal grandparents. Lloyd went to Meadowlands School for a time. Lloyd and Juanita are presently living near Winterburn, Alberta.

Percy, the oldest son, stayed on the homestead for two years. In 1925 he married Elizabeth Ramsay and they moved onto the Jim Fox homestead in the Silver Valley district.

In 1927, Harvey married Margaret Ramsay and he took over the farm when his folks moved into Hanna. Percy in the meantime had moved to Hussar but came

back to live with Harvey. In 1927 he bought the south half 25-31-14 and moved there. There was a shortage of water on this place so he moved the buildings from the northwest corner of the place to one half mile east of the school where he found an abundant supply of water.

The Floods were a great asset to the community and made many friends. The school teacher boarded at Percy's for several years. Harvey played the violin and his wife "Meg" played the steel guitar. They played for many dances at Meadowlands School.

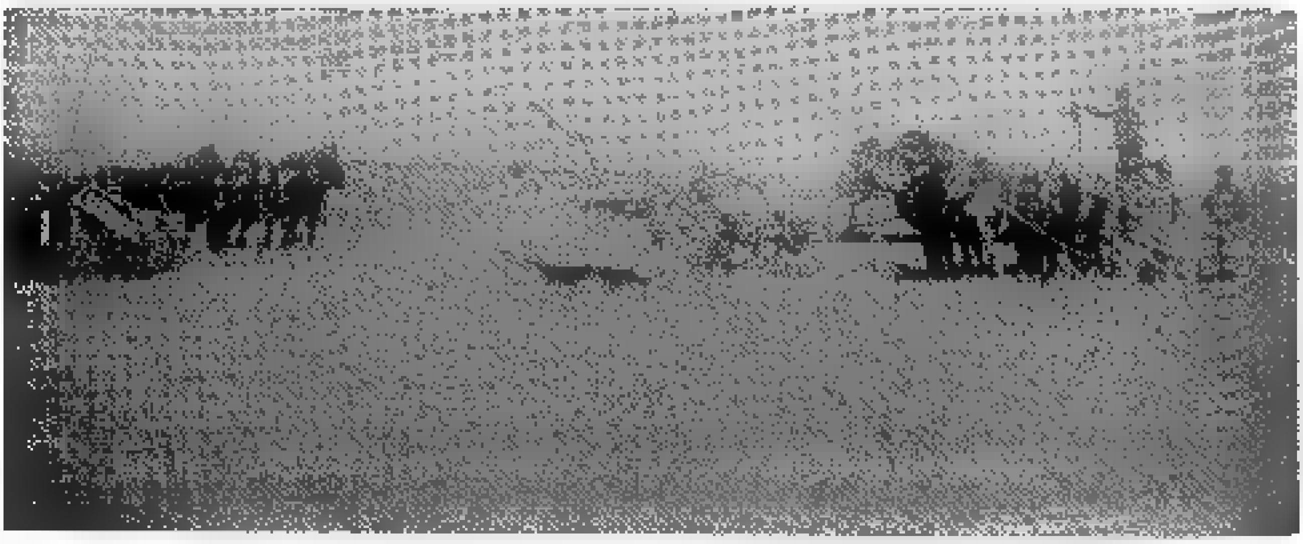
In 1935 the Floods sold their land here and moved north to Winterburn, near Edmonton. There they made a real success of farming.

Harvey and Margaret had one daughter, MaryAnne who was born in 1935 in Winterburn. She married Don Currie and has three children, Anne, Bob and Edith. They are presently living at Westlock, Alberta.

Joshua and his wife eventually moved back to Fort Macleod where they passed away in 1937 within two weeks of each other.

Harvey's wife died in 1964 and Percy's wife in 1970. After the deaths of their wives, Percy once again moved in with Harvey and they still live together. They are retired now and are both enjoying good health. Percy is eighty-eight years of age and Harvey is seventy-five.

MR. RUDOLPH DOERING STORY, by Pauline Doering Leimert — Mr. Rudolph Doering, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Doering, immigrated to Odessa, Washington from Russia, as an infant. In 1908 the Dan Doering family with five children — Rudolph, Ted Ida, Pauline and Hilda came to Mayton, near Olds, Alberta. Emma was born there. Then in 1910 they sold the farm and took up a homestead in the Hand Hills, southwest of Hanna. Sam and Adeline were born in Hanna, thus making eight children in the family.



Bindering on Greek Farm 1926. Rudolph Doering on push binder with Hilda and Pauline behind.

In 1924, Rudolph and his father Dan rented one section of farm land six miles northeast of Hanna which was called "The Old Greek Farm." This land had been under cultivation previously, but was very neglected when they took it over. They summerfallowed almost all the section that summer with the help of one brother and three sisters, using twelve horses and two gang plows.

I recall, we used a lot of plow shares to get the land back in shape, as the pig weeds were as high as the horses' bellies and the land was quite dry. I believe we had a couple of horses to spare but twelve horses were in harness every day for the plowing that summer. How hard they had to work in the heat, and they were long days, sometimes starting as early as seven a.m. to seven or eight p.m. We

bathed many a sore shoulder on the horses. Some horses had to walk through those dry pig weeds which scratched and cut their feet. After work, the horses were put into a night pasture in the northwest corner of the section. There was a large slough in it and hoards of mosquitoes plagued the horses and in a very short time all horses appeared to be the same color. Great was the invention of the tractor.

The following year was well rewarded by a bumper crop. We cut the crop using one of the first push binders with six horses, and a smaller binder with four horses. Ida and Pauline spent many long and hard laborious hours in the heat getting the bundles into stooks.

Mr. Whaley, Sr. and sons helped with the threshing. The grain had to be hauled away to Bonar as quickly as possible because of a shortage of granaries. The grain was hauled away in four wagons, two hitched together, the trailing wagon with a stub tongue, and four horses on each. These wagons were driven by Pauline and Hilda. The following years also brought fairly good crops.

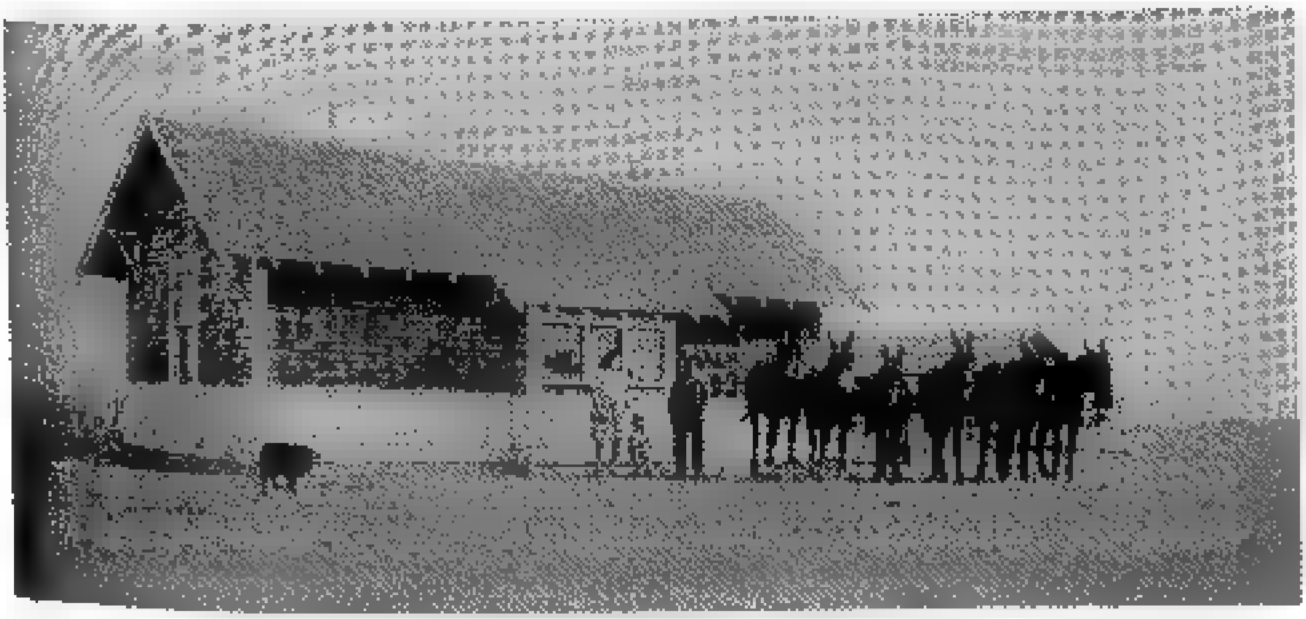
Mr. Rudolph Doering married Augustina Gaister on February 8, 1925, at Sweet Home, Oregon. When they were moving with their possessions to their farm north of Hanna, he gave his bride a real Canadian welcome, with all its beauty of blustery winter weather and snow drifts, by upsetting their bob-sleigh and all their possessions.

During their stay at this farm two girls were born to this union, Alma (Mrs. Henry Karg) and Ella (Mrs. Victor Karg).

In June of 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Banco and three children Walter, Lila and Pauline arrived from Bessarabia, Romania. They stayed with and helped Mr. and Mrs. Doering over the summer and fall harvesting. When the Doerings moved to the Parr district, Mr. and Mrs. Banco continued farming north of Hanna. Their fourth child was born in Hanna.

After three years, Mr. and Mrs. Doering moved back to south of Hanna where they lived the rest of their lives. Mrs. Doering passed away in 1938. Mr. Doering lived until 1976.

THE TED SAMS STORY, By Ted Sams — I was born in Athens County, Ohio in 1903 and came to Canada in 1910 with my parents who settled on a homestead ten miles southwest of where Hanna now stands. I took most of my schooling in the Alpha School. Before the railroad came to Hanna Dad and I hauled freight from Castor to Hanna with oxen.



Ted and Mary Sams with son Harry

On December 26, 1926, I married Mary Karg and we started farming on the Joe Wade place which was fourteen miles straight south of Hanna. In 1928, we moved to a farm one mile south of Meadowlands School which was S.W. 24-31-14 and also farmed the E ½ 13-31-14. I used mules to farm with as I liked them better than horses. I only stayed on this place one year because the one hundred twenty acres of wheat that I had seeded were completely hailed out. We then moved to the Rose Lynn district for [illegible] while, then up to Meanook where we took up a homestead and stayed for twenty-eight years. When we retired we went [illegible] Rochester where we still reside.

Some of the neighbours Mary and I remember were the Flood brothers, Bill Curtis, Bob Moore and the Howard Kerns — where we always went for ice cream.

Our children and birthdates are as follows: Harry born May 13, 1928; Bill born November 10, 1929; Julia born May 13, 1933; Lawrence born January 9, 1936 and Pat born May 4, 1941.

Mike Litke Family. Standing, Left to Right: Herb, Freda, Otto, Elsie, Alfred. Seated: Mike and Mary.

THE MICHAEL LITKE STORY, By Freda Litke Fecho and Herb Litke — Mr. Michael Litke came to the Hanna District in 1927 from [illegible] German settlement in Bessarabia, Romania with his wife Mary and two small sons, Alfred age five and Herbert age two and one-half years. He settled one mile north of Hanna on the Oldham place which was the [illegible]. ½ 22-31-14-W4. In 1928 a daughter Freda was born. The family then moved about twenty-five miles south of Hanna to the Cudmore place, but moved out the same summer because of crop failure. Dad also decided there were too many snakes there to suit him. The next move was seven miles straight east of Hanna to the SW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here in 1930 another daughter Elsie was born. There were miles and miles of open prairie with cattle and horses running at large. We owned between three and four hundred sheep. One winter during a severe snow storm we lost quite a number of our sheep.

In 1933 because of drinking water shortage the family moved one mile north across the tracks to the NW¼ 14-31-13-W4. Here the youngest son Otto was born. The school that the children attended was Centre Point which was about three miles away. Our teacher was Virginia Thomas.

Because of various unfavourable conditions we moved back one mile south again. The children then attended Royalton School on Number Nine Highway. The teachers here were Virginia Thomas and Frank Jacob.

In 1936, Mike bought the Hamilton farm four miles east and one mile north of Hanna, the NE 18-31-13-W4. Finally things began to prosper. Now the children attended Meadowlands School. The teachers here were Miss Betty Wallace, Violet Stewart, Phyllis Morton, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Peterson and Miss Verda Hoffman.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Litke moved to Hanna. Alfred married Alma Weich and they have two children. Alfred lives in Calgary. Herbert married Ruby Peterson; they have three children and reside in Hanna. Freda married Fred Fecho; they have one child and live in Hanna. Elsie married Edwin Hein; they have three children and reside in Calgary. Otto married Ruby Engel; they have two children and reside in Vernon, B.C.

Mrs. Mary Litke died on November 29, 1963. In 1967, Mike married Rebekka Revienous and the same year retired to Calgary, where he remained till his death on January 5, 1973.

Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl

THE CHRISTLIEB (CHRIS) PFAHL STORY, By Herbert Pfahl — Christlieb and Rebecca Pfahl with their family of five children, Erna, Elmer, Linda, Elsie and Herbert immigrated from Bessarabia, Romania to Hanna in July of 1929, via ship and C.N.R. In Canada five more children were born — Leonard, Edmund, Marvin and his twin sister, Marlene who died in 1937, and Marilyn.

From 1929 to 1933 the Pfahl family rented the Emmanuel Burgemeister place south of Hanna. They then moved to the Frank Olson farm until April 1935 when they moved northeast of Hanna and bought the E½ 24-31-14 in Meadowlands School district.

Crops were poor in those days so as a result they had to milk cows to eke out a living. In 1938 they had a fairly good crop and things started to look a little better. In the early forties he purchased a new tractor and threshing machine in order to thresh his own crop as well as many of the neighbours'.

Erna married Otto Stern and are living on their farm northeast of Hanna. Elmer married Erna Geissler and they raised a family of five. Some of these children attended Meadowlands School and later went to Hanna. Elmer purchased the Shorty Nettleton place and later the Pat McKenna farm and farmed for many years. He sold out in 1975 and moved to Penticton, British Columbia. Linda married Robert Regner. They have two children and are presently living in Hanna. Elsie married Bruce Mitchell; they and their three children are living in Edmonton. I (Herbert) married Mable Roth in 1949 and started farming in the Garden Plain District, later buying my dad's farm where we still live. We have two children, Karen and Bryan who are attending school in Hanna. Leonard married Shirley Wilson. They are living in Prince George. Edmund married Kay Sawler; they and their four children are living in Ottawa, Ontario. Edmund joined the Air Force in 1951. Marvin married Elsie Jane Peterson and they live in Vernon, British Columbia. They have a family of five. Marilyn married Ron Henderson and they have one child. Ron was killed in a plane crash in 1976. Marilyn is living in Edmonton.

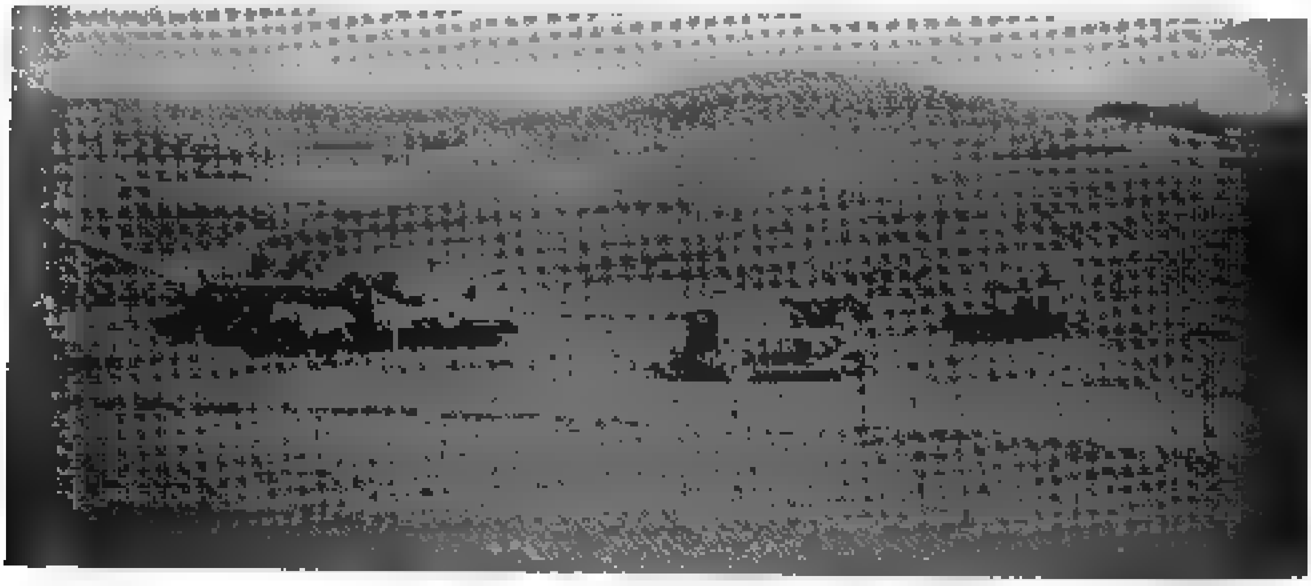
The first five children started school at Golden Hill and finished their education at Meadowlands.

Chris and Rebecca moved to Hanna in 1949 but continued to farm until 1953 when they moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Chris passed away at the age of seventy-two years on December 29, 1964. On February 21, 1969 Rebecca passed away at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE LOUIE PAHL STORY, by Amanda Pahl — Louie Pahl came to the Scapa district with his parents in the fall of 1927. In 1935 he moved to a farm three miles north of the Meadowlands School where his brother Fred had been living.

He was occupied in mixed farming and raised good crops in the rolling land he had. He started out with three quarters of land but later acquired another section one mile north. For several years he farmed the land owned by Mrs. Orpha Wright nearer to Hanna. At one time he owned a threshing outfit along with his brother-in-law, Otto Mix.

Louie Pahl Family. Standing: Edwin and Rosie. Seated, Left [illegible] Right: Louise, Jim, Louie, Amanda, Arnold, Edna.



Louie Pahl and Otto Mix threshing — 1945

In 1937 he married Amanda Emma Schneider and had six children. They all attended Meadowlands School. We were really in the Solon district but because of better roads we had our place changed into the Meadowlands district.

Our children are: Louise born February 5, 1938. She married Allen Storms in 1959 and they had four children. In 1965 Allen passed away and Louise remarried Bill Pendrake and they have one son. They live at Pickardville, Alberta.

Edwin was born January 23, 1940. He married Donna Marks in 1966. They have two children. His family live at Duncan, British Columbia; Edwin is in the Navy.

Edna was born December 18, 1940. She married Herbert Selwart in 1962. They have two children and they live at Dugald, Manitoba.

Rosemarie was born October 26, 1944. She married Ross Wolfe in 1964. They have three children and live in Hanna.

James was born February 4, 1948. James married Doreen Miculous in 1971. They have two children and his family reside at Fort Macleod.

Arnold Gerry was born in June 28, 1949. He married Jean Alyss Flewin in 1971. They have two children.

When Arnold came back to the farm, Louie and I moved to a mobile home in the same yard, where I still live. Louie passed away in February 1977.

Fred Engel Family. Standing, Left to Right: Geraldine, Gerald, Gladys. Seated: Jeanette, Fred, Alma, Eileen.

THE FRED ENGEL STORY, By Fred Engel — I was born and raised in the Fraserton District, July 16, 1911. I farmed with my dad and worked for many of the neighbors. In 1934, we moved to the A. Sims farm in the Red Rose district. On November 22, 1936, I married Alma Kautz and we moved to the Joe Schmelke homestead in the Meadowlands district. SW 35-31-14 and SE 34-31-14 that I had rented eariler in the fall.

My first crop in 1937 was a total failure as were most crops in the area. My neighbor to the north, Walter Carlson had some crop that was mostly pigweed and he had cut it with the poverty box. I helped him separate the weeds from the wheat. We did this by having a rack on each side of the window and putting the weeds on one rack and the wheat on the other one. We got about three or four rack loads of weeds for each rack load of wheat. For my pay Walter gave me all of the weeds, which was all I had to feed my milk cows. We sold milk to Howard Kern for five cents a quart. This was all the money we had to live on. In 1938, our crop went close to forty bushels ■ the acre but it was all lodged and I had to cut it one way. In the early forties I bought this half section and in the late forties I bought the Clarke quarter section from Stirling which was the NW 22-31-14. Over the years I rented several other places some of them being the Diachuck place, Ernie Pfahl's and Walter Carlson's.

In 1936 and 1937 coal at Pahl's Mine was worth $1.50 a ton but we had no money so as ■ result I took my four horses over to the mine and helped strip the coal. For one day's work he allowed me two tons of coal. I was getting $3.00 a day for myself and four horses plus I had to supply my own feed. As we stripped the dirt off the coal we backfilled the hole left from the previous year's diggings. The hole was about ten feet deep and was full of water. We had to crowd our horses as close as we could so the dirt would fall over the edge when the fresno was dumped. One trip I drove too close and the bank gave way and my whole outfit ended up in the waterhole! I had to jump in and unhook and separate the horses and Bee Howery, who had an outfit of horses there as well, pulled them out by their necks with a logging chain. When hauling our coal home there would be a line up of wagons and trucks. We always had to help the men ahead of us load their coal so we would have to shovel many tons before it would be our turn. One day when we got to the mine gate we saw two trucks coming. We galloped our teams to the mine so we would get ahead of the trucks and we would not have to help them load and they would have to help us for a change!

Our first child, Eileen was born in 1937. In 1956, she married Roland Dux. They had two girls, Debra and Wendy. Eileen and Roland were separated and in 1971 she married Steve Kucher, who had two daughters, Robin and Kathy. They live in Calgary.

Gerald and Geraldine were twins and were born June 22, 1940. Geraldine married Larry Jameson from Byemoor. They have three children, Connie, Glenda and Brian. They live in Innisfail.

Gerald married Armelia Ham from Calgary on February 8, 1964. They have three children, Kevin, Kelly and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Gladys married Walter Fedoruk on July 9, 1966. They have three children, Denise, Barbara and Michael. They live on their farm at Hairy Hill.

Jeanette, the youngest daughter graduated as an Operating Room Technician from the Alberta Vocational Centre in Calgary on July 18, 1972. She was formerly a Certified Nursing Aide in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary for four years, and is now working in the Medicine Hat Hospital. Our children received all of their education at Meadowlands School, except Jeanette, who had to finish her education in Hanna.

All of the community activities were centered around the school. We always had dances, parties, Christmas Concerts, ball games and picnics. The first year we were in the Meadowlands district I can remember going to the Christmas Concert with the team and buggy as there was no snow on the ground at the time and the weather was fairly mild.

We enjoyed living in the Meadowlands district and had wonderful neighbors. There was always a community spirit with everyone helping each other in times of need. We lived there for thirty-six years, selling out in 1972. Gordon Robertson bought the home quarter, Bill Paxman one quarter and Jerry Martin bought the other one. After leaving the farm we moved into the new home we built in Hanna on Eighth Avenue. For three years after moving into town I did some carpenter work but am now retired.

Fred Miller Family. Back Row. Left to Right: Dorothy, Jeanie, Jack Ross (Dorothy's father), Ross, Bruce, Fred. Front Row: Joan, Garry, Billy, Ronnie, Jimmy.

THE FRED MILLER STORY, By Fred Miller — I was born November 18, 1903 at McKluskey, North Dakota. My parents and all of their family moved to Canada in November 1909, settling in Stettler, Alberta for the winter. In April 1910 my father filed on his homestead four miles west of the present town of Hanna. My brother Abe, myself and my sister, Anne drove our stock on foot from Stettler to our homestead, following our father who had our furniture and lumber to build our house. My mother also drove a team and buggy with the little ones who were too young to walk. My youngest brother George was only two weeks old.

We had many good times and dances at St. George School. I stayed

home helping farm and with chores till my folks moved to Hanna in 1924 when I took over the farm.

I was married to Dorothy Ross on August 9, 1930. When we went to Calgary to get married we had a beautiful crop of wheat standing. It hailed while we were away, which was only four days, but it damaged our crop about forty per cent and before our crop was ripe enough to cut we had five different hail storms go through it. When we threshed our crop we got about fifteen per cent of the crop that was there the first week in August, and the price of wheat was from thirty-one cents to nineteen cents per bushel.

On August 28, 1931 our first child a son was born, Ross Alexander. We continued farming on my father's farm and on December 11, 1932 our second son Bruce was born. In the fall of 1933 we moved to Hanna and ran the Feed Mill for Fred McAurthur and hauled the relief feed for my father-in-law, Jack Ross who was the Pool Elevator Agent in Hanna at that time. On March 23, 1934 our first daughter Jean was born and we stayed in Hanna hauling coal and draying for people around town.

On August 12, 1935 our second daughter Joan was born. In the spring of 1935 we moved to the Dan Smith farm south of Hanna in the Lonebutte district. We were going to buy this place but our children would have had to go six miles to school so we just stayed there one year. We had a fairly good crop that year. In the spring of 1936 we moved to the John Parker farm south of Hanna. We stayed here till the spring of 1939 when we bought the east half of 15-31-14 where we are still living. Our son Ronnie was born while we were on the Parker place, on July 18, 1937, a bouncing baby boy. We milked cows and sold milk to the local dairy men Ferg James and Howard Kern. On March 3, 1941, our fourth little son, William Henry was born; on May 15, 1943 our fifth son, James Harvey, and on August 13, 1944 our sixth son, Garry Wallace. These are the three little sons we lost on November 30, 1946. And our oldest daughter Jeannie died September 19, 1947. Though it is over thirty years ago since we lost our four darlings the ache is still in all or our hearts.

On September 6, 1948 our seventh little son was born, Gordon who was a great comfort to us all.

On April 11, 1950 our third little daughter was born, Shirley who we were so proud to have.

On June 8, 1951 our youngest daughter Margery was born. We were so grateful that God was so good to us after our great loss.

Our oldest son Ross was married to Gwyne Morris of Tees, Alberta on October 4, 1953. They have had four children, two sons and two daughters, but they lost their youngest little son when he was just a tiny baby. In May of this year, 1977 my wife and I will be great-grandparents to Ross and Gwyne's second daughter Cathy who is married to Gordon Sim of Tees. They now reside in Bashaw, Alberta.

Our second son Bruce was married to June Hale of Bassano, Alberta on August 27, 1965. They have one son and are farming and ranching in the Scapa, Alberta district.

Our second daughter Joan was married to Dan Boettcher of the Lonebutte district and they have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Our third son Ronnie was married to Linda Pugh of Dorothy, Alberta on December 5, 1964. They have four children, one son and three daughters. They farm and ranch south of Chinook. The children go to school in Cereal, Alberta.

Our seventh son, Gordon was married to Kathy Anderson in May of 1969.

They live in Calgary where Gordon and Alfred Frick own and operate the Twilight Construction.

Our third daughter, Shirley married Gordon Robertson August 23, 1969. They farm and ranch in the Meadowlands district north and east of Hanna and have two children, a daughter and a son.

Our fourth daughter, Margery married Stan Moench on January 2, 1971. They have two children, both sons. Stan is a carpenter and is employed at present time with Knoblauch Construction.

We still reside on our farm and are interested in farming and ranching as always.

Jobe Martin Family, Left to Right: Jerry, Gail, Jobe, Freda and Les.

THE JOBE MARTIN STORY, by Jobe Martin — My parents, Fred and Maria Martin, came to Canada in May 1927 from Liepzig, Bessarabia. I was four years old and my sister Alma was two years old when we arrived. Alma is Mrs. Jack Bassler of Keremeos, British Columbia. My parents settled in the Parr School District where we lived for seven years. Alfred, my brother, was born here in 1928. He was killed in an automobile accident on September 12, 1963. In 1934, we moved to the Lone Butte School District where we lived for seven years. My youngest sister, Elsie, was born here. She is now Mrs. Barry Johnson of Coquitlam, British Columbia. Then in 1941 my parents moved to the Peter Bauman farm in the Olive School District.

On October 19, 1943, I married Freda Karg. My folks moved to Vancouver, British Columbia while my wife and I stayed on the place. Our oldest son, Leslie, was born here on October 24, 1944. He is now a brakeman on the C.N.R., helps me farm, and farms his own land in this community. Leslie married Elizabeth Watts of Toronto, Ontario. They live in Hanna and have two children.

In the spring of 1946, I bought the old Milton Rickett farm, four miles north of Richdale. Times were hard and the weather was dry. Gale, our only daughter, was born here August 17, 1947. Gale is now a computer operator for a trucking firm in Calgary. Gale is still enjoying single bliss.

During the winter of 1947-1948 the snow was so deep that I only got out to haul feed. Once every week or two I went to Richdale on the saddle horse for the mail and groceries. My wife didn't leave the farm for five months because the snow was so deep and the temperature so cold.

In the spring of that year, 1948, on a very foggy morning, a small plane crashed near our farm. The plane hit the deep snow which cushioned the crash and saved the pilot's life. The plane was carrying baby chicks and they were scattered all over the snow. These chicks were being delivered to the neighbourhood because it was impossible to go to town to pick them up. The horses couldn't travel any distance through that deep snow. They just played themselves out and couldn't go on. The plane wreckage was picked up by a large truck that spring after the snow was gone.

We became tired of all the snow and cold so in September 1948 we headed for Vancouver, British Columbia. I went to work inside a large warehouse for eight hours a day, five days a week, carrying a lunch bucket, while my heart was out in Alberta with all that fresh air, sunshine, and those deep snow banks. Our youngest son, Jerry, was born in Vancouver on September 22, 1950. He now works for Ducks Unlimited, helps me raise cattle, and farms on his own in this community. Jerry married Linda Fury from Lethbridge, Alberta and they live in Hanna.

On April 4, 1951, I took my family and headed back to the sunshine and snow banks of Hanna. When I crossed those Rockies and breathed that fresh Alberta air again I knew I was back where I belonged. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mowatt, oldtimers of the Meadowlands School District, had their farm for sale. After looking at those beautiful trees and hills we couldn't resist buying their farm and we have now spent twenty-six years in this wonderful community. I have enjoyed life to the fullest here with my family and my two hobbies — raising cattle and curling in the winter to keep in good shape.

Ernie and Elaine Pfahl with daughters Joan, 2 years and Janice, 6 months.

THE ERNIE PFAHL STORY, By Elaine Nunweiler — Ernie Pfahl was born in June, 1930 at Hanna and was the son of Alix Pfahl who lived in the Hand Hills. He received his education at Hand Hills Lake School.

He bought the Edward Elm farm northeast of Hanna and on June 8, 1952 he was married to Elaine Pogson of Hanna. We tore down a big two storey house on this place and built a new one. In the meantime we lived in a granary.

We had two daughters, Joan born May 27, 1955 and Janice born on April 9, 1957. Ernie passed away on August 27, 1959 and I moved into Hanna. The farm was then rented out to Ernie's father who farmed it for quite a number of years.

In 1964 I married Norman Nunweiler and we moved to his farm at Laporte, Saskatchewan. We sold the farm at Hanna in 1975 to Melvin Pfahl and Otto Stern.

THE ORPHA WRIGHT STORY, by Orpha Wright — We came to the Meadowlands district in the spring of 1959 from Patricia, Alberta where my husband (Dean) had died on June 6, 1958 leaving me a widow with six small children.

I bought the Bill James place just east of Hanna which was the original Bob Moore homestead. This place wasn't that fancy but it was close to school and had electricity on it and a good well. When we arrived in this area, my family were too small to help operate the farm so I rented the cultivated land out to Lorne Robbs for about five years and then to Louie Pahl for the next ten. There was quite a bit of pasture land on this place, so when my oldest son Herschel became old enough to help me we kept more cattle. It was quite a struggle putting the feed up in the summer months and looking after the cattle in the winter time. My youngest son Forrest is now looking after the farm.

Although we were in the Meadowlands district my children attended the Hanna schools because of the distance and road conditions. There they all received a full education.

My oldest daughter Gladys was born June 14, 1947. She married Archie

Kittler of Hanna and they have three nice daughters Shauna, Kristy and Angela.

Her twin brother Herschel married Vicki Olsen and they have one son Dean Bradley. They are located at Rainbow Lake in northern Alberta.

Hope was born May 4, 1948. She is still single and works in Edmonton.

Joy was born June 7, 1949. She [illegible] married to John Garret and they live in Hanna.

Forrest was born April 1952 and is married to Karen Annas. They have one son Stuart Dean and live in Hanna.

Adeline my youngest daughter was born September 1950. She [illegible] in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where she is finishing her education.

Four years ago when our house caught fire and was destroyed, the Meadowlands and surrounding communities were a pillar of support to get [illegible] back on our feet. Many thanks to you all.

THE HANK HILDENBRAND STORY, by Shirley Hildenbrand — Henry "Hank" Hildenbrand was born in 1919 at Horsham, Saskatchewan, where he farmed until joining the Army during the Second World War.

Upon his discharge, he came to Hanna in 1946, where he was employed by K and B Motors for a number of years. In 1950 he married the former Shirley Carrier, a native of Hanna.

In 1956 they moved to the Watts district, where they lived on the Tommy Scott farm for twelve years. While there Jo Ann was born [illegible] 1959 and Shelley in 1961.

During this time they purchased land from Clifford Kern [illegible] the Meadowlands district; in 1969 they moved onto the property. In 1973 Hank took over the Operation of Shell Canada Limited Bulk Plant in Hanna.

THE DOUG MOTZ STORY, by Doug Motz — I was born April 4, 1955 [illegible] the Hanna General Hospital. I lived in the Spondin area from that time up until June of 1975. There I helped my Dad on his farm and learned many tricks of the trade. I attended Spondin School from grades one through nine. And I really appreciated those years in that country school. The first year that I attended, there were grades one to twelve, then each succeeding year, the grades declined down to grade nine. The year after I finished grade nine all the grades were bussed to Hanna, [illegible] the school was closed down. From then on it was more competition as far as studies were concerned, but those were also well spent years. In my last year of high school, I had the privilege of driving the kids to Hanna, instead of being driven! But that was a terrible winter for us bus drivers because of all the snow — I'll never forget it.

Then after I graduated from high school, I was able to attend Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat for a year. There I learned more about the Bible, and there I also met my good wife. Joan was born and raised on a chicken farm at Carstairs. Later she and her family moved to Three Hills where she finished her high school years at Prairie High, and later spent three years at H.C.C. and graduated with her diploma and E.T.T.A. (teaching certificate).

We were married in June of 1975 in Three Hills. We bought Elmer Pfahl's place in the spring of 1975. I have been farming this place now for two years as well as driving school bus on the Meadowland route. On December 23, 1976 we had a little son born to us, named Arlen Douglas.

THE GORDON ROBERTSON FAMILY — Gordon was born and raised in the Hanna and Endiang communities. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm (Huck) Robertson farmed north of Endiang. In November 1953 Gordon's Dad passed

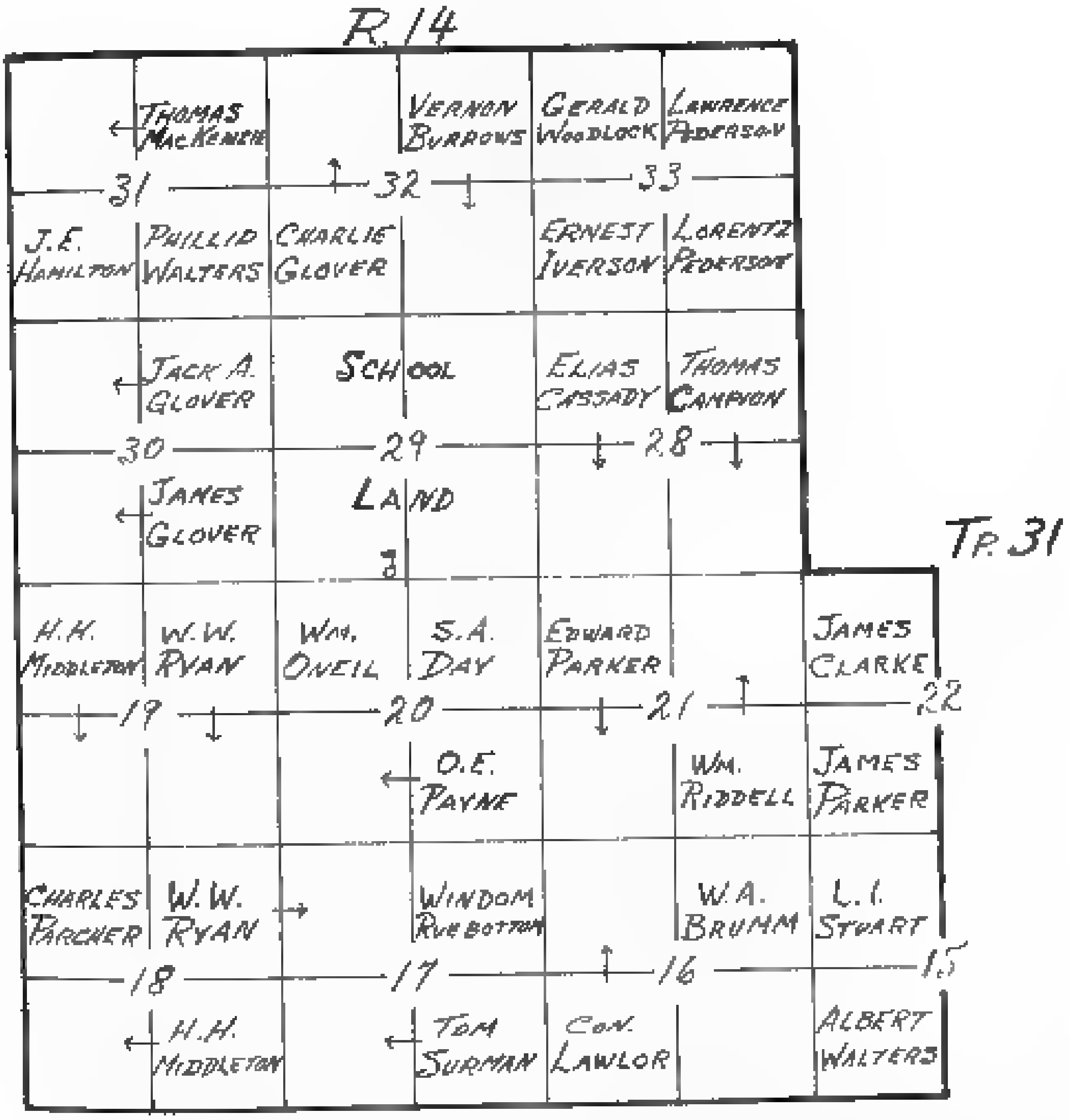
away and in 1956 his Mother remarried Mr. Walter Stulberg. His mother and step-father reside in Calgary.

Through the years of growing up Gordon's family moved from Endiang to Hanna. While in Hanna Gordon had a hand at quite a few jobs, but he always went back to butchering at Central Meat.

Gordon was married August 23, 1969 to Shirley Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller. Shirley was born and raised in Hanna. Her parents live on a farm one mile east of town.

After we were married we both worked in town for a couple of years. In November 1973 we purchased the Fred Engel farm where we have set up a feedlot operation. We have two children, Lori Ann, who was born June 1, 1971 and Donald Edward who was born February 20, 1973.

SILVER VALLEY No. 2886



OWNERS AND RENTERS, TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 14

N½-31-31-14
William MacKenzie
Al Hutton

S.W. 31-31-14
John Price
Art Gwinn
Al Hutton

S.E. 31-31-14
Stan Grant

Bill MacKenzie
Al Hutton &
Bill MacKenzie

N.E. 30-31-14
Jim Glover
Elmer Glover
William MacKenzie

N.W. 30-31-14
Elmer Glover
Al Hutton

S.E. 30-31-14
John Price
William MacKenzie

S.W. 30-31-14
John Price
Al Hutton

N.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 19-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

S.W. 19-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
Al Hutton

N.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Ost
Gottlieb Schmidt

S.E. 32-31-14
June Paulson
Christ Ost
Gottlieb Schmidt
William MacKenzie

E½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
William MacKenzie
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

W½-29-31-14
Jim Cassidy
Jack Glover
Hutton & MacKenzie
William MacKenzie

N.W. 20-31-14
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 20-31-14
Mr. Horner
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.E. 20-31-14
Alec Coburn
Harvey Howatt
Muriel Cranston
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

S.W. 20-31-14
Harvey Howatt
Ernie Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

W½-17-31-14
Mike Kennedy
Jim Hamilton
Courtney Buchanan
John Yasman
Al Hutton

N.E. 17-31-14
Alec Bordula
Mike Litke
R. Pfahl
Al Hutton

S.W. 17-31-14
Bert Mott
Bob Sloan
John Nixon
Alberta Housing

W½-28-31-14
Will Glover
Martin Bye
Fred Cook
R. Steinbrecker
Leo Kirby
Larry Kirby

E½-28-31-14
Arthur Campion

W½-21-31-14
Jim Parker
Al Deslists
Albert Galarneau
Russ Mayberry

E½-21-31-14
Frank Huff
MacBeans
Roundollar
Dan Banco
Albert Galarneau
Art Campion

W½-16-31-14
Alex Bordula
Mike Litke
Reinhold Pfahl
Alberta Housing

N.E. 16-31-14
Fred Miller
Bill MacKenzie

S.E. 16-31-14
Golf Course

Sec. 15-31-14
Doc Sims
N. Steeves
Fred Miller

N.W. 33-31-14
Coughlin
Morris Olsen
Art Campion

N.E. 33-31-14
Jake Forma

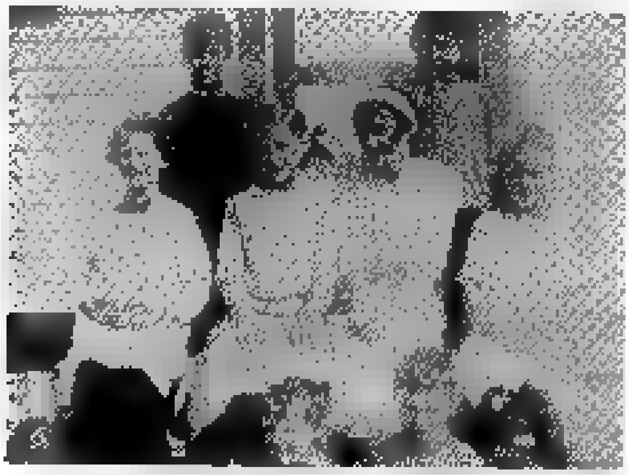
S.E. 33-31-14
Elmer Olsen
Esty Holmes
Dave Temple
Dooley Allen
Art Campion

N.W. 22-31-14
Bill Sterling
Art Pincombe
Fred Engel
Jerry Martin

S.W. 22-31-14
Oldham
John Diachuck
Cliff Kern
Fred Engel
Andy Duff

SILVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2886

By B. MacKenzie



Silver Valley School - 1914. Back Row, Left to Right: Bert Johnson, Ken MacKenzie. Middle Row: Zelma Samson, Margaret MacKenzie, Lorene Glover, Virginia Johnson. Front Row: Charlie Glover and Bill MacKenzie.

Silver Valley school district was established on January 25, 1913. It included sections 17-21, 28-33, the west halves of 22, 27, and 34, the north half of 16 and the northwest quarter of 15, all in township 31-14; and the east halves of 13, 24, 25 and 36 in township 31-15. The Senior trustee was Chas. Glover of Hanna, the treasurer, E. G. Cassady.

The site of the school, in the southeast corner of S.W. 29-31-14, was selected by the school trustees, and approved on February 14, 1913. In June of that year, approval was given to borrow the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for

purchasing the school site, erecting the building, furnishing it and digging a well. The latter was never accomplished, as water was never found.

In 1936 Silver Valley School was included in the Sullivan Lake school division. It ceased to operate in 1938, and the building was moved to Watts to serve as a high school there. Sale of the site was approved on November 27, 1968.

Silver Valley School. Left to Right: Ken MacKenzie, Charlie Glover, Bill MacKenzie, Bill McEwan, Alma Fox, Dorothy Paulson, Emartine Glover, Freddie Paulson, Beatrice Glover, Teacher Miss Dack, Mildred Paulson, Olive McEwan, and Margaret MacKenzie.

No record of teachers prior to 1930 can be found, but some of them were Maria McKay (1914), Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922), Pearl Finkbeiner, Miss Maclean, Miss Dack, Hudson Hoover, Mrs. Prothrowe, and Maud Henderson. Teachers from 1930 to 1937 were Mrs. [illegible]. Portfors, Faye Tillotson, Amanda Walll, Minnie Wiese, Muriel Cranston; during this time attendance varied from a high of twenty-five pupils to a low of eight.

Children who attended Silver Valley School were from the Glover, Samson, MacKenzie, Ost, Bye, Price, Fox, Johnson and Paulson families.

Silver Valley School served its purpose well during the time it was in operation. The building is gone, and there is nothing to remind the passer-by of the many times it served the community well; but an old timer might imagine, if he pauses a while by the old school site, that he can hear the ringing of the bell, the shouts of the children, and the lessons which the teachers so painstakingly prepared.

THE ED PARKER STORY, By Faith Parker Fell — The Parker Brothers, John, Ed and Jim came originally from North Dakota in 1901. For a few years, while Alberta was yet a district of the North West Territories, they had lived at Coalbanks (near where the town of Artley now stands) helping their father, Thomas Parker get established on a homestead there with their mother, Mary Ann, sister Lucy and niece, Mabel Smithman, and brother Frank who died.

Mrs. [illegible] Parker, nee Frances Harris - 1911

Ed Parker and second wife Eva in Calgary after wedding - 1952.

From 1903 the boys had ranched in the Hand Hills and Watts area and being among the first settlers there, they had their choice of location for their buildings while the cattle grazed the prairie wool and the lush meadow hay at will.

In 1909 their lives changed: the ranchlands were surveyed and opened for

homesteads which meant an end to ranging cattle. Their sister Lucy, who had been keeping house for them, married George Burkell and they settled on a homestead which was northeast 9-31-14, where the town site of Hanna now stands. The Parker boys took homesteads too — Jim's was the west half 9-31-14; John's three miles south and Ed's was one and one half miles north. Their parents moved into a sod shanty near their daughter.

Just south of town, along the Bull Pound Creek, Claude Harris of Salmon Arm, British Columbia filed on a quarter of land and soon his young brother, Fred and sister, Carrie came to live with him. Carrie went to Castor and nursed in the hospital with her sisters, Jennie and Frances.

The Harris family were to play an important role in the lives of the Parkers within the next few years, for in 1911 Jim married Carrie Harris, the next year Ed married Frances Harris and Claude Harris married Elsie Smithman, a niece of the Parker boys. The address on the marriage certificate was "Copeville" so named after G. [illegible]. Cope who had a post office in the vicinity.

Of interest here is the account recorded in the memoirs of Reverend [illegible]. W. Holdom, a young Anglican clergyman of Castor. He tells that in December of 1911 he arranged to ride horseback south forty miles to perform a marriage ceremony. A blizzard caught him midway and all he could do was to give the horse its head and hope for the best. The horse floundered its way against the blinding, cutting snow and wind for hours. The preacher was so cold and numb that he was only hanging on with difficulty when the horse carried him into the yard of a house. It was his intended destination! The bride and groom were still waiting and the ceremony, though delayed, united Jim Parker and Carrie Harris in Holy Matrimony.

In 1913 Jim became the first Ford agent and he and Ed ran a taxi service to Castor. Previous to this the trips had been with horses which necessitated an overnight stay at the sod house of "Lewis' Stopping Place" at Garden Plains. Frances told of one such trip when arriving there late at night from Castor en route to Copeville, Mrs. Lewis had to build a fire in the range before she could prepare any food for the weary travellers. No paper could be found with which to kindle the coal until Mrs. Lewis realized she could get some by tearing the paper label off the box of Cow Brand baking soda. With that she soon had the fire going and supper cooking.

Before the rails came to Hanna the lumber for houses was hauled from Castor, so it was very precious and the shacks were either built of sod with lumber roofs, or as small as possible. Many young wives mentioned how forlorn the wind sounded at night as it whipped around the corners and flapped the tar paper under the eaves.

A story is told about Ed Parker and Claude Harris going early one morning to get wagon loads of coal from the Black Diamond mine eleven miles south of town. At noon the men ceased their digging long enough to eat lunch but Claude, on opening his ten pound Roger's Syrup pail, found it filled with ginger snaps! He'd picked up the wrong pail.

Ed Parker had two quarters of land with the house situated near the line between the two (one and one-half miles north of town) where he farmed and raised cattle. Water was always a big problem and at the edge of every slough there was a shallow well which went almost dry in the summer months. The "house well" provided enough water for their home use and for whoever was living at the time in "the Payne house" across the road. This memorable house was hexagon shaped. It was said the builder declared he constructed it thus so the Devil couldn't catch him in the corners!

At the north end of Ed's farm was the hay slough around the edge of which lay rocks in circles where Indian tepees had been erected, and on the hill was a sunken rectangular depression which was suspected of being an Indian grave. All over the pasture lay whitened buffalo bones and horns — relics of the Indian era years before.

Between 1915 and 1919 Ed and Frances had three children: Hale, Faith and Bob who were all born at home with Dr. Mason and nurse Kate German in attendance. Later the children attended Silver Valley School which was a mile northwest of their home. During a wind storm one day the roof of the barn blew off and was carried outside the page wire fence of the school yard. The walls of the school were weaving back and forth so the teacher moved the children away from the windows in case they crashed.

Among the teachers at Silver Valley during the twenties were Mrs. Jimmy Craig (1922) who with her husband lived in the Horner house which was the original Day homestead (one-quarter mile north of Ed's house), Mrs. Fred Portfors, Pearl Finkbeiner and one who got fired for wearing men's riding breeches to school. (The poor girl had to walk a mile to school through snow drifts.)

Among the pupils during this period were: Freddie Paulson; (the original Dennis the Menace), Beatrice, Emerteen, Elmer and Harold Glover and their cousin, Walter; Gussy, Rosie, Ted and Rad Price; Austin and Mavis Bye. There were also the three little Derr children whose father, uncle and grandfather were all killed at the same time by lightning as they stood in the door of a barn watching the storm. For a while the Burkell children, Howard, Erma and Ted attended as well as the eldest of Jim Parker's children, Harry, Winnifred and Marian.

The little country school room was in those days the essence of economy — a back bench crowded with lard pails which had wire-bale handles which served so conveniently for children to carry lunches and drinking water to school; a big coal stove encircled by a tin jacket to prevent burns, oiled board floors, slates on the primary desks, the brass hand bell on the teacher's desk, meagre blackboard space for eight grades and the bare necessities for teaching the "three R's". One "must" was a MacLean's Writing Book for each child and many a time little fingers got smacked for using finger muscles for moving the straight pen instead of arm movement.

There was no playground equipment as such so the children played "Steal Sticks", "Tug-of-War", etc. A favorite game was "Ante-I-Over" during which, for the big kids, the ball was thrown over the little white schoolhouse but for the little ones it was over the shanty-type barn or over one of the two outdoor toilets near the back of the schoolyard.

The boys, up to the age of ten or so (depending on size) wore "knicker" pants which buttoned below the knee over long underwear and long wool socks, felt shoes and rubbers and the usual jackets and toques; but for little girls in the early twenties the outfits were much more complicated — long fleecelined underwear because chilling was deemed to cause consumption; long black or brown wool stockings held up with a garter belt; felt boots which were still buttoned in 1922; fleecelined bloomers, obtainable at Eaton's mail order in dark grey, navy or plum color; and a petticoat and a wool dress to well below the knee. Pinafore aprons were worn over the dress so they could be washed, but usually there was only the one school dress, worn all winter. With long coat, toque, mitts and a scarf it was a wonder a child could move, let alone run to play games.

Among the souvenirs of my childhood is a bronze medallion dated 1927 which was presented to each school child in Canada, commemorating Canada's Diamond Jubilee (sixty years since Confederation). On this occasion the teacher and the class walked about two miles north to the home of Charlie Glover to listen via battery radio (likely the only one in the district) to a speech by a representative of the reigning monarch, King George V. How awesome was that "wireless set" that from the air waves could capture a voice so far away!

Leisure times were usually spent in self-made entertainment, for although Shaker's Theatre in town showed black and white, silent films, there was no spare money to squander on tickets. As a means of advertising this new form of entertainment, complimentary tickets were sent to families and it was one of the highlights of the late twenties when our family went in to see "Sweethearts on Parade".

In the early twenties, highlights of an ordinary week would be when we drove by horse and buggy into town on Saturday night. Stores were always open to eleven o'clock. We would visit other farmers and buy the week's supply of groceries with a pound of bologna as a special treat, for sandwiches when we got home. Sunday afternoon was usually spent with a gathering of relatives or friends; in summer a picnic, and in winter, weather permitting, cards, and music with violin, piano or mouth-organ.

One memorable event in the winter of 1927 was the wedding of Beulah Kruger whose parents lived on the Payne Place, to Walter Lewis of Garden Plains. When the bridal party were ready to leave after the celebration, they, along with Mrs. Lewis Sr. and Walter's sister, climbed into a bob sleigh and cuddled down under the robes. Well wishers gathered around showering rice on the newly-weds and shouting last minute advice. The team jumped and started to run, whipped around the corner on to the road and over went the sleigh box spilling gifts, blankets and gasping occupants into the snowbanks! Everyone pitched in and soon had everything loaded again and they went quietly on their way, but strangely, it was only a couple of years later that Walter lost his life as a result of a run-away accident.

Toward the end of the twenties, automobiles became the accepted mode of transportation and Sunday outings extended to surrounding towns and to Clear Lake where on the beach, some brave girls introduced the "shocking" newest fashion — brightly flowered, wide-legged Beach Pyjamas! Daring drivers in the latest model cars travelled at the breakneck speed of forty miles an hour. The cars enabled the ball teams of the various districts to play together with a cheering squad of neighbors. On one such occasion when the game was being held in Ed's pasture, a summer storm broke and everyone rushed to the buildings for shelter. The hailstones, like small snowballs, pelted so hard that some went right through the canvas top of a touring car; shattered windows and hopes as crops and gardens were battered into the mud.

Ed took time from his farming operations to serve on the school board and on the town council for several years during the twenties.

During the latter half of that decade the rainfall lessened, resulting in light yields of grain, very little water in the wells and skimpy grass for the cattle, so most of Ed's cattle had to be sold. The boys earned pin money by collecting bounty which was paid for gopher tails, crows' eggs and crows' feet. Hale, in 1931, won a provincial prize for the most crows' feet and eggs collected — a twenty-two Browning rifle and a cheque for fifty dollars.

These events leading to the depression years are best described by the following verse:

When the drought came, disbelieving farmers watched,
And more each day —
Saw their prairie like a maiden stricken,
Wasting fast away —
Then the wind came, howling, lashing,
Like a fiend the Devil sent, —
Like a giant black with fury, it ripped and roared
On Destruction bent.
It lifted soil from bare fields parching,
Filled the air with dirt and sand,
Beat her, lashed her, with no mercy,
Languid, helpless, hopeless land!

In 1931 when the Government of Alberta offered the residents of the stricken area free railway transportation for family and effects to any point in Alberta, Ed bade a sad farewell to his beloved prairie and moved his family to the opening Peace River country.

Twenty years later, several years after Frances passed away, he returned to Hanna, married Mrs. Eva Meehan and lived there until his death in 1954.

Hale Parker is now a barber living with his wife, Alvina in Fort St. John, B.C. Their only child, Mrs. John Desemone and family live in Dawson Creek.

Faith and her husband, Percy Fell live in Abbotsford, B.C. One of their children is married to Jim Parker (no relation).

Bob Parker and wife, Gwen, live on a farm in the little town of Montney, B.C. near where Ed established his family in 1931. Ed's homestead there is held by Bob in trust for his son and daughter. The old building site amid the trees is reserved for community use and is known as "Parker's Park".

THE SAMSON FAMILY, By Zelma Samson Milne — Ernest Gregory (Bob) Samson came to Canada from San Jose, California, in the spring of 1909, because times were hard and jobs were scarce there. He was a blacksmith by trade, and his first job was working for a Mr. Flett, I think his name was, at Gleichen. That smithy is now in Heritage Park in Calgary. He was put to shoeing horses [illegible] day long but could not stand that as a horse had fallen on him during his apprenticeship years and injured his back. In later years he built a small blacksmith shop on the farm and sharpened his own plow shares, shod his horses and mended his machinery. He also did quite a bit for the neighbors.

While in Gleichen he learned of the chance to get a homestead for a ten-dollar registration fee, so went to Calgary and filed on a quarter section four miles due north of where the town of Hanna now stands. He did the necessary improvements and so later was able to pre-empt another quarter section adjacent to the homestead, and later on bought another quarter across the road from the pre-emption. My father also leased some land from the Hudson Bay Company, and used it for pasture. It was quite hilly and not much use for crop.

When mother and I came, we travelled from Castor to Thompsons by stage, I think. Thompsons lived three or four miles from our place and had a stopping house. My father was working for Fatty Thompson at the time. The next day he borrowed a horse and buggy and took us to the car-roofed, two-room shack he had managed to build and furnish during his first year.

The first plowing to prove up on the homestead was done by the Thompson

outfit. The huge steam engine pulled a plow that turned sixteen furrows at one time. The next year more ground was ploweld by Mark Pope and his oxen.

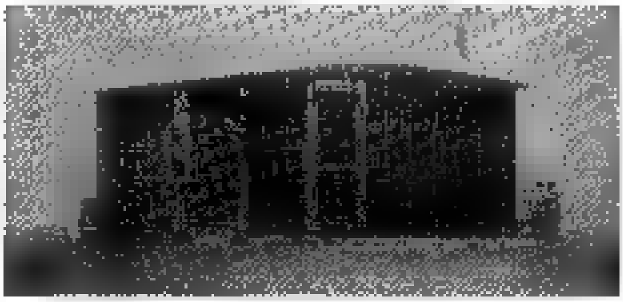
The first animal we had was Dolly, a buckskin cayuse that we could ride or drive on the buggy. She was soon followed by Daisy, a Jersey-Ayrshire cross cow, a real treasure as a milk producer. Water came from a well about one hundred yards from the house. It was good tasting water, but hard.

We had no horses or wagons at first so had to depend on others for supplies. Mark Pope lived east of us several miles. He had oxen at the time and would go to Castor for supplies. It took most of a week to make the trip. One time the heel flies took after the oxen and they ran into a slough to escape them. The wagon got stuck in the mud and I think he was most of the day getting it out. He had to wait [illegible] evening to unhitch the team and pull the wagon out backwards. He switched to a team of white horses as soon as he could.

Once the railroad went through, Hanna sprang up like a mushroom. That ended the long trek to Castor for supplies. We were now five miles by road away from the stores.

Zelma Samson and dolls - 1910

Mrs. Bob Samson (Edna) and old Buck.



The Samson's Shack — July 1910

Charlie Glover had a dairy that furnished milk to the town people. One woman complained that the milk was too thin. He replied, "I can't help it [illegible] the cows wade in the sloughs."

Our first neighbors seemed to be mostly bachelors. Mike Sullivan lived close, north and west of us. He had a long-legged ox that he used to hitch to a buggy and it would trot to town as fast as a horse. There was Lyle Gifford east of us. He was an English gentleman and knew nothing about farming so didn't last very long. East of us there was Walter Carlson and later Jake Fortna. Families came later, Knudsons, Glovers, Burrows, and MacKenzies.

The first fall my mother and father went to take care of a place near Castor. People by the name of Clymie went back to England to visit for a couple of months. Mrs. Clymie had frozen several large pans of milk for us and we hauled them home stacked one on top of the other in the sleigh. Dad put them in a large wooden box with a lid on the north side of the house and they kept there just fine. Dad went out every night and cut a wedge of milk like a huge piece of pie and brought it into the house to melt in a bowl for breakfast the next day. Breakfast was

rolled oats and milk as long as the milk lasted, then we ate it with butter spread on it. We got the butter from Thompsons.

The potatoes were stored on the foot of my bed, which was hung from the ceiling over my parent's bed. During a cold spell they froze, even though they were covered with extra sacks. In the morning the blankets would be white with frost where we had breathed on them.

Samson's Shack, Mrs. Samson, "Buck" and Zelma.

The first year or two were pretty grim. Food was very limited. Rolled oats, beans, bacon, and bread which my mother baked were the main fare. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat at times. There was the odd can of tomatoes and some dried fruit to liven the fare a bit. Later my dad cut a trapdoor in the kitchen-living room floor and dug a small cellar beneath it. A ladder-like stair was fashioned so that we could get down to the space below where we stored vegetables and pans of milk. No more frozen potatoes after that!

These hardships did not bother me too much, but they must have been terrible for my parents, who were used to city living where they had hot and cold water taps and indoor plumbing. The luxury of a bath tub must have seemed like a dream, rather than a reality they had forfeited to become Alberta pioneers.

There was very little in the way of entertainment for the first year or two. Mark Pope played the banjo by ear and could sometimes be persuaded to play. Neighbors came occasionally. We played cribbage and dominoes in the evenings during the long winter months. Later there were dances in the school houses. Those who could play and had fiddles, accordions or mouth organs brought them to the dances and provided the music. I had to go along with my parents as they wouldn't leave me home alone, so I learned to dance, and by the age of thirteen was a good dancer.

I can remember going to a dance at Solon School with my parents. It must have been in the late fall, but there was very little snow so we went with Dolly and the buggy. After midnight the weather changed and a blizzard came up. Everyone stayed till daylight so they could see to get home. There were quite deep drifts in the low places. My parents put me in the bottom of the buggy and covered me with a blanket. The blizzard had subsided but the temperature had dropped to ten degrees below zero. I was out of the wind but my feet were so cold that I couldn't feel them, and when Dad put me down on them I fell over.

My Dad got a summer job working for the railroad at Fleet, blacksmithing, I think. Later he worked at the Hanna Trading Company store long enough to get money to buy some horses and machinery. Mother did the farming, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens, and raising a garden. She sold the butter, eggs, and some vegetables to the store where Dad worked as well as to some of the town restaurants.

Between what Father earned and borrowed he finally got enough equipment to start farming in earnest. He had very good crops of Marquis wheat, for a couple of years, anyway. He got two dollars a bushel one year during the war, and I think he was able to pay off most of his mortgage. Eventually we had thirty head [illegible] cattle, seven or eight horses, up to thirty pigs and possibly a hundred chickens.

Mother got some duck eggs one year and put them under [illegible] hen. She brought up seven ducklings. There was a slough near the barn and they lived there. I can remember the mother hen frantically running up and down the edge of the water, trying to call them back from danger. She soon gave up and let them fend for themselves.

Dad had well-bred Clydesdale horses, three of which took prizes [illegible] the Hanna Fair every year, especially 'King' and 'Queen'. Prince was a long-legged Percheron, the only horse that could begin to keep up to King. The six work horses ranged in weight from 1800 to 2000 pounds. They were huge.

I acquired Buck to use as a saddle horse to get the cows and ride to school, and to drive on the buggy whenever Dolly was busy having [illegible] colt. My Dad sometimes rode him to work at the store on Monday morning. Then the milkman would lead him back as far as the fork in the road. He would tie the reins to the horn and start him on the road and he would come on alone. He often carried groceries on his back. One time he brought medicine for Daisy when she had a touch of milk fever after having a calf. He would not let anyone touch him until he got to the home barn. He would also wait for me all day at school without being tied.

I can remember going to one picnic when I was ten years old. I came down with the measles that day and was very ill by the time I got home. I gave them to the other children there. They must have hated me about then! My cousins from California had brought them to me.

Coal was mined at Garden Plain. We were fortunate to have wood on our own farm. There were a number of willow and poplar trees on the edges of several sloughs. There was always enough deadwood to make kindling and some large pieces to use for cooking in the hot weather.

After several years, Dad built another room onto our shack. It served as [illegible] livingroom and bedroom for me. There was a small heater in it that burned coal as well as wood. It could be banked to hold fire [illegible] night so the house was more adequately heated and we had a comfortable place to sit in the evenings. It was nice to sit by the stove and read on long winter evenings.

Minnie Burrows kept house for her father and brother Vernon. She was the first school teacher as well. She had classes for the neighbors' children one summer. I think there were five of us, Lorne and Charlie Glover, Kenneth and Margaret MacKenzie, and myself. She married a Mr. Portfors and that ended our first school. The next year I rode Dolly to Solon School, until the mosquitoes got so bad I could not control her. Then Mother took me each morning and came after me each afternoon, but that didn't last long as mother spent most of the day on the road and Dolly got pretty worn out doing twenty miles a day.

Then I was out of school until the Silver Valley School started. My mother spent a good deal of her time in those years teaching me the three R's. She used some books I had received at Solon School, as well as some that my school-teacher-Aunt Ada sent out from California. Another school started [illegible] the district north of us. I went there for about six weeks; I think I was in grade five. The teacher

seemed pretty inadequate and pupils were scarce, so it folded up after a few months.

When I left Silver Valley School in the fall of 1917, I was in grade seven. I spent six months in that grade in California and then went to Hanna School. After four years at Hanna, I graduated from High School there, then went to Camrose Normal School for eight months, graduating from there as a second-class teacher. I taught at Crow Hill and later at Silver Valley. Silver Valley School always closed in the winter as the children came so far.

My father decided he didn't really care for farming, as compensations were few, money-wise, for the effort expended. In the fall of 1917 he sold the farm to some people by the name of Lane. He got a house and lot in town on the deal. We went back to California for the winter, where I went to school and Dad worked at whatever he could find to do.

He came back to Hanna at Easter time in 1918 and settled in the house which was just behind the school. It was still there the last time I was in Hanna. The dry years came and my father got the farm back. He was unable to pay the taxes that had accumulated so turned it back to the government. Jake Fortna bought it later.

I married Jack Milne in 1924 and moved to Trail, B.C. Our first child, Yvonne, was born there. We moved to Princeton in 1926, and had three more children there, but lost a daughter Margaret, aged ten years. Gregory was born in 1935 and Esther in 1940.

My brother Stanley, who was born in Calgary in 1920 and adopted by my parents, lives in Vancouver. He has one son, Paul.

We had two celebrations to mark our golden wedding anniversary in 1974. One was in Penticton in August when all our family were able to be present; the other, on the actual date, was given by our church and our friends at Princeton.

My father died in 1949, my mother in 1959.

THE VERNON BURROWS STORY, By Vernon Burrows — I came from London, Ontario on June 2, 1910 with W. Lumsden. When we reached Calgary there were two inches of snow on the ground. We went to the end of the railway at Castor where we both got jobs. Later we filed on homesteads. Mine was four miles north of the west side of Hanna. Bill Lumsden homesteaded about twelve miles north-east of Hanna and is still living on his place in the Solon district.

I was working for a lumber company in Castor, and later they sent me to run a lumberyard in Drumheller, so I didn't go on to my homestead till 1912. I got a team of horses and a wagon and hauled everything forty-five miles from Castor . . . lumber, machinery and fencing materials. I built a house fourteen by eighteen and built a sod barn to hold eight head of horses. In 1913 my dad and family came out and settled about fourteen miles north of Hanna.

In 1915-16 I had a crop of wheat that yielded forty-five bushels of number one wheat to the acre. I proved up on the homestead and the pre-emption, put a mortgage for eight hundred dollars on the homestead, and drilled a well. We went down one hundred and sixty feet, and put a windmill on the well. I built a two-storey addition to the house, sixteen by twenty-six.

In 1918 I sold the farm and moved to Clive, where I bought a half-section and later lost it. I moved to Stettler and got a job with the Crown Lumber Company. I ran lumber yards in East Coulee, Tofield and Consort. Then I bought a hardware store at Clyde, north of Edmonton, but was only there for four years when I sold out and bought another one at Innisfail, where I still live.

I am eighty-eight years old and retired now. My son Clifford is running the store.

Vern Burrows and his horse and dog.

Vern Burrows and binder.

Vern Burrow's home on the homestead.

I married Maude Walters in 1913 and my son Clifford was born when we lived on the homestead. My daughter, Eva, was born at Clive. They are both living at Innisfail.

THE MacKENZIE STORY, By William and Betty MacKenzie — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Christine MacKenzie came from Scotland in 1906 and after a year spent in the States, they moved to Calgary where my Dad worked at his trade as a stone mason. My brother Ken and my sister Margaret were born in Scotland. I was born in Calgary in 1908. In 1910 my parents took up a homestead on Section 31-31-14. This was the southeast end of Dowling Lake.

My Dad bought four horses and a wagon in Calgary and we shipped by train to Castor. Then we trailed to our homestead. As there were no buildings we had to live in a tent until a sod shack was built. My Mother used to tell about the terrible times we had with the mosquitoes, everyone said it was a record year for them, and smudges were kept going night and day using bull chips for burning. This was the only means of protection we had from these biting insects.

We were fortunate to have good neighbors living near us. The Glovers lived to the south, Dan Ross and Jack Robertson to the north, Al Huttons and MacKewans to the west of us and the Samsons to the east. Our closest neighbors were the Glovers. There were four families of them — Will's, Jim's, Charlie's and Jack's. They all lived close to each other and to us. Mrs. Jack Glover (Nellie) and my Mother were the very best of friends. They visited back and forth, and helped each other in so many ways. She was one of the kindest women that I ever knew. She often had treats of lemonade and cookies for us when we trudged wearily home from school. She always seemed to have time to spend with us and, of course, we all loved to go to "Nellie's"! Life was never quite the same when the Glovers as well as some of the other neighbors left the district in search of a better place to live in the early part of the thirties.

When we first arrived at the homestead there were no fences so as a result cattle roamed at large and sometimes hundreds of these herds would come milling around our place. Some belonged to the Parkers and some to the McCuishs and until the land was all surveyed and opened for the homesteaders these cattle were allowed to stray afar.

There was no school until 1912 when Silver Valley was opened so our early education was taught to us by Minnie Burrows. She lived about one mile and a half east of us and taught us half days in her home. By 1912, we had a house built, and my father also built a stone barn and chicken house in 1916. He also built most of the chimneys of the district and helped build the foundation for the old Hanna High School.

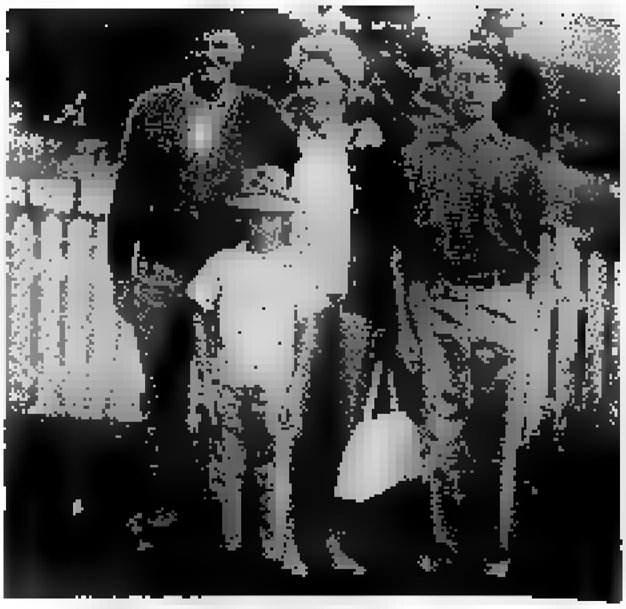
Tom MacKenzie (Bill's Father)

Left to Right: Mrs. Tom MacKenzie, her daughter Margaret and Bob and Don, her grandchildren.

About the worst things that I can remember were the long cold winters and the blizzards that raged for three or four days. One of the coldest winters that I can remember was in 1924. Winter set in early that year. The temperature dropped to as low as fifty degrees below and it stayed well below all winter. My father had the misfortune of freezing his hands very badly and was not able to do any of the chores, so I had to take over the hauling of the feed and the other farm chores. We were very short of feed and had to haul it across Dowling Lake from Stan Kuzes and from Doyles. I had to leave early in the morning, before daybreak, and did not reach home until after dark. The wind blew fiercely and each day the trail had to be broken. It was a long tedious haul. Levi Kennedy who lived where "Smitty" now lives was also hauling feed from north of Watts, so sometimes we met on the lake and had a visit. My lunch of course was usually frozen so was not very edible. Somehow we made it through the winter and spring arrived. By this time the hardships of the winter were soon forgotten and my Dad's hands were nearly better.

Towards spring in 1924 big timbers were hauled in as the railroad was starting to go in that summer. Ten big four-horse outfits did the hauling. In 1925 they started building the grade for the railroad. It was quite a sight to see so many animals; there were about two hundred horses and one hundred mules. The main camp was quite close to our buildings. Most of the work was done with elevator graders and dump wagons. To make some much-needed extra money most of the neighbors including myself worked on the dump wagons. We made four dollars a day which seemed like a lot of money in those days. We used three horses and worked ten hours a day but it was an exciting time for us. I recall vividly the chaos that followed when the first train roared down the track. Horses and cattle stampeded in every direction!

The Wm. MacKenzie Family from left to right: Billy, Bill, Betty, Nell (and Jim on his knee), and Donna.



Bill MacKenzie, Betty MacKenzie, Angus MacFadyen, and Jimmy MacKenzie, at Jasper - 1962.

Even though we had tough times, I have fond memories of our childhood. Sleigh riding in the winter, horseback riding in the summer, and as our neighbors were close we often met to play games of all kinds. We skated on the sloughs when the ice was right, skied down our big hills on home made skis. When we grew older there were always school dances, surprise parties, and get togethers of all kinds. Sometimes Charlie Glover and I would ride ten or twelve miles to go to a dance. Even after I owned my first car in 1928, sometimes I left it at home and rode as money for gas was scarce.

In the thirties most of our neighbors left to try to make a living elsewhere. It was very dry so grass was scarce and the crops dried up and blew away. The government gave them free freight so many of our neighbors loaded their few belongings in boxcars and went north to the Peace River. Some of them went by wagons, loading their stock and other belongings and headed north.

As there was no further need for a school, the Silver Valley School was moved to Watts in 1936 to serve as a high school.

My brother Ken left home at the early age of fourteen and hired on to help freight some cattle to Seattle. Then he became a sailor, travelling all over the world for many years. He finally settled in Glasgow where he met and married Alice. He worked as a journalist for a Glasgow paper and also wrote a couple of books. They had a family of three girls, Alice, Chrissie and Margaret. Ken died as a result of an accident in 1940. His widow still lives in Glasgow and his three daughters are married. Chrissie and Margaret live in Scotland and Alice lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

My sister Margaret trained to be a nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. She nursed for a while in Hanna, and was Matron of the Hospital which used to be at Craigmyle. She married Stan Crowe in 1937 and they have a family of two sons, Bob and Don. They are both married. Bob lives in Brisbane, Australia, where he has his own manufacturing business and Don teaches school at Kelowna, British Columbia.

Included in our family was Angus MacFadyen who lived with us for a number of years after his parents died. He is now retired from the C.N.R. and lives at Jasper, Alberta.

My Dad passed away in 1927 leaving Mother and me to run the farm. By this time the dry weather was starting so we had some tough times. Dealing in horses kept the wolf from the door as crops were scarce and the price of cattle was very

poor. Mother was a very hard worker and her hands were never idle. She must have knit a thousand pairs of socks during her lifetime as well as mitts, sweaters, etc. She would quite often get the cows in for milking, knitting while she walked along. She was a devoted community worker, helping out in confinements and sickness. She fed many a hobo and as we lived close to the railroad track our place was a natural stopping place for them. Mother moved from the farm in 1939 to live with Margaret and Stan in British Columbia. Later on she moved to a suite of her own in Hanna and she passed away at the age of ninety years in 1959.

In 1939, I married Betty Wallace who came from Gem, Alberta and had been teaching school at Meadowlands. We have four children, Donna, who graduated as a nurse in 1962 and married Brian Willows of Vernon. They have two children Jerry and Rhonda. Neil our oldest son lives in Calgary and is in the oil business. Neil married the former Doralis Bérubé. They have one child Ryan. Bill, our second son, lives at home and runs the ranch. Jim, our youngest son, is at present attending technical school in Calgary.

We live on an acreage close to town, having moved here thirty years ago. I still maintain my interest in the cattle business and enjoy going to the thriving local auction market. We will likely spend the rest of our lives here as I can't think of any place I would rather be.

From left to right, Standing: unknown, Jack Glover, Tom MacKenzie. Seated: Nellie Glover, unknown, Margaret MacKenzie, Beatrice Glover, Emertine Glover, Mrs. Tom MacKenzie.

THE JACK GLOVER STORY, By Elmer Glover — My mother and father, Jack and Nellie Glover, came from London, Ontario in 1910 and settled on a homestead four miles northwest of the present town of Hanna. The northeast 30-31-14 was the homestead quarter and the northwest of 30-31-14 was the pre-emption. They brought three horses with them and lumber was hauled from Castor to build the house. A sod barn was also built.

We all tramped one mile to Silver Valley School and our main entertainment was surprise parties, playing ball and dancing. Some of our neighbors were Tom McKenzie, my uncle Charlie, Paulsons, Parkers and many more.

The winters at that time were real bad. I remember one blizzard when the snow piled up against the door of the house and we had to crawl out of the bedroom window and it took Dad and I until noon to dig our way to the barn. One time my sisters were visiting Dorothy and Mildred Paulson who lived east of our place about a mile when a blizzard came up. I was sent to walk them home, but I got lost. All of the neighbors searched for me and found me the next morning walking in circles on Dowling Lake which was northwest of our place.

When my father passed away in 1930 I farmed the place for two years until my brother Harold was old enough to take over. Then I went to work in the Morse Mine which was twelve miles south of Hanna. Harold farmed for another two years with very little return for his work and in 1934 they decided to move out and Irma was their destination. The first year that I farmed I had sown one hundred and forty acres of wheat. In the fall I threshed a three decked wagon box of grain amounting to approximately seventy bushels. The next year was a little better; I got two hundred and forty bushels.

I remember when Pete and Bob Kennedy had the meat market, they would come out and buy cattle. They gave us eight dollars for a yearling steer and twelve dollars for a two-year-old. Water was scarce on our place so we would have to drive our cattle down to Bill McKenzie's to water them, a distance of one and a half miles.

My father was forty-six years of age when he passed away in 1930. Mother passed away in 1945 at the age of fifty-six. As I look back I remember my father as being a very witty man. He always had a ready answer. My mother was a very kind and considerate woman and had many friends in the neighborhood, both old and young.

There were seven children in our family:

Beatrice was the oldest and was born in 1910. She married W. J. Morse and they now live at Granum, Alberta.

Emerteen was born in 1912 and passed away in 1967.

I was born in 1914. I married Myrtle Haner and we live in Drumheller.

Irene arrived in 1916 and passed away in 1919.

Harold was born in 1918 and is married to the former Lillian Haner and now lives at Wainwright, Alberta.

Jack was born in 1920 and passed away in 1974.

Russel the youngest in our family was born in 1922 and now lives in Drumheller. He is married to the former Vera Kolinchuck.

Charles Glover Jr. Family, left to right: Charlie Glover Jr., Anetta, Martha, Clarence and Pat.

THE CHARLES GLOVER STORY, By Charlie Glover — Charles Edward Glover was born December the twenty-eighth, 1880 in London, Ontario. On October the thirtieth, 1901, he married Evelin Irene Abel who was born July the twenty-first, 1881 in London, Ontario.

Charles Glover and family moved to the Hanna district and took up a homestead in 1910, on the west half of 32-31-14, about five miles from Hanna. Charles Glover had a dairy in the east and so decided to start a dairy in the Hanna district. He was the first milkman to do this and delivered milk to the residents of Hanna for a number of years.

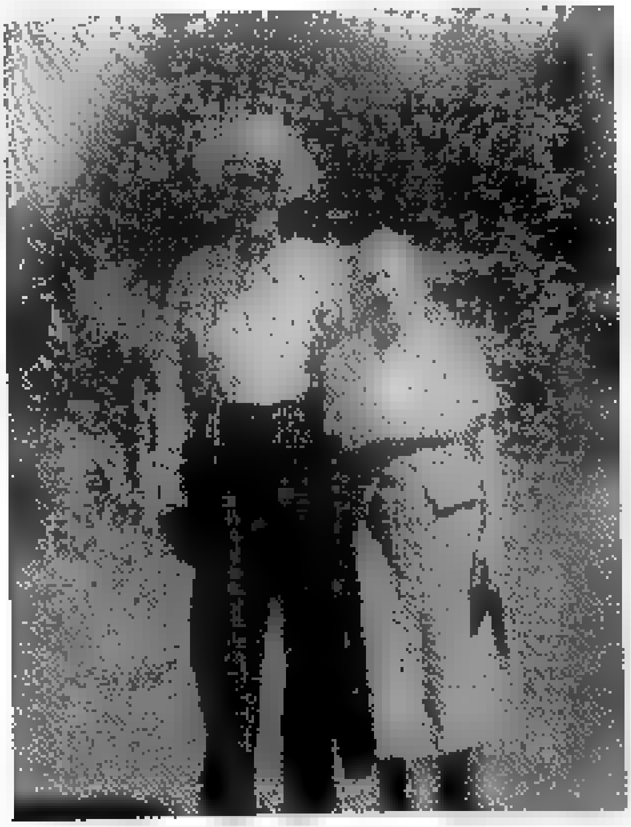
As hard times came and the drought of the thirties began Charles Glover and family moved to the Irma district, hoping to find a better farming area. Here he farmed quite successfully until 1945 when they retired and moved to New Westminster, B.C. Here he passed away in 1953 and his wife Eveline passed away in 1966.

Charles and Eveline Glover had a family of four children. One of their sons, Roy, passed away in London, before they moved west.

Charlie, their oldest son, grew up in the Hanna district and attended the Silver Valley School. He loved to break horses and spent a lot of his young manhood trying to tame wild broncs. On December the twenty-third, 1927 Charlie married Martha Burgemeister. They lived on the Fox place and here their son Clarence was born in 1929. They also moved to Irma where he trucked for a living. Two daughters, Annetta and Pat were born to them while they lived at Irma. In 1947

they too moved to New Westminster and at present are contemplating a move back to Hanna to be near their daughter, and their other relatives.

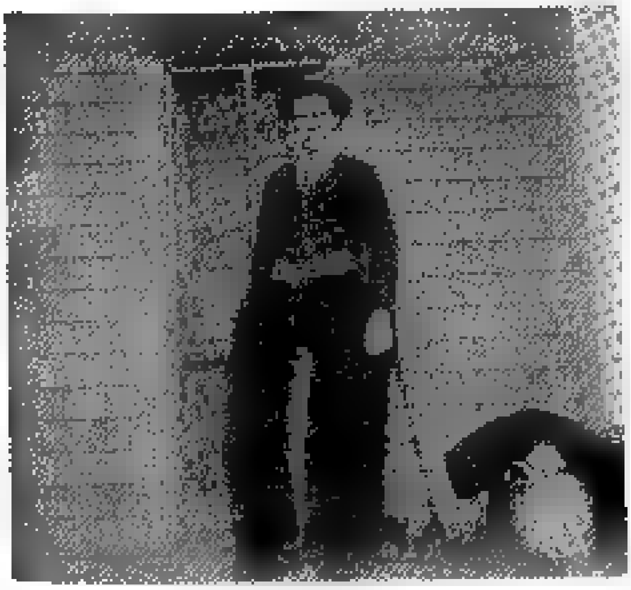
Lorene, Charles and Eveline's daughter, married Harold Mansfield but died at an early age in 1929, leaving a daughter Evelyn whom her grandparents raised.


Charles and Eva Glover

Charlie Glover and "Brownie"

Walter, the youngest son also grew up in the Hanna area and moved with his parents to Irma. Here he was engaged in farming. He married Meta Cooper and they had four children. He moved his family to New Westminster in 1955 and still resides there.

Annetta, Charlie and Martha's oldest daughter, moved to Hanna in 1961, with her daughter Debra. Here she married Lorne Robbs. They have one daughter Paddy. Annetta still resides in Hanna and is looking forward to having her parents join her in Hanna in the near future.


Morris Olsen

THE E. T. OLSEN FAMILY, By Freda Olsen Dahl — My father, Elmer Theodore Olsen, was born September 15, 1878, in Donne, Norway. Like many other young men of that area, he went to work on the fishing boats in his early teens. Looking, I suppose, for an easier way of life, he and his younger brother Conrad decided to emigrate.

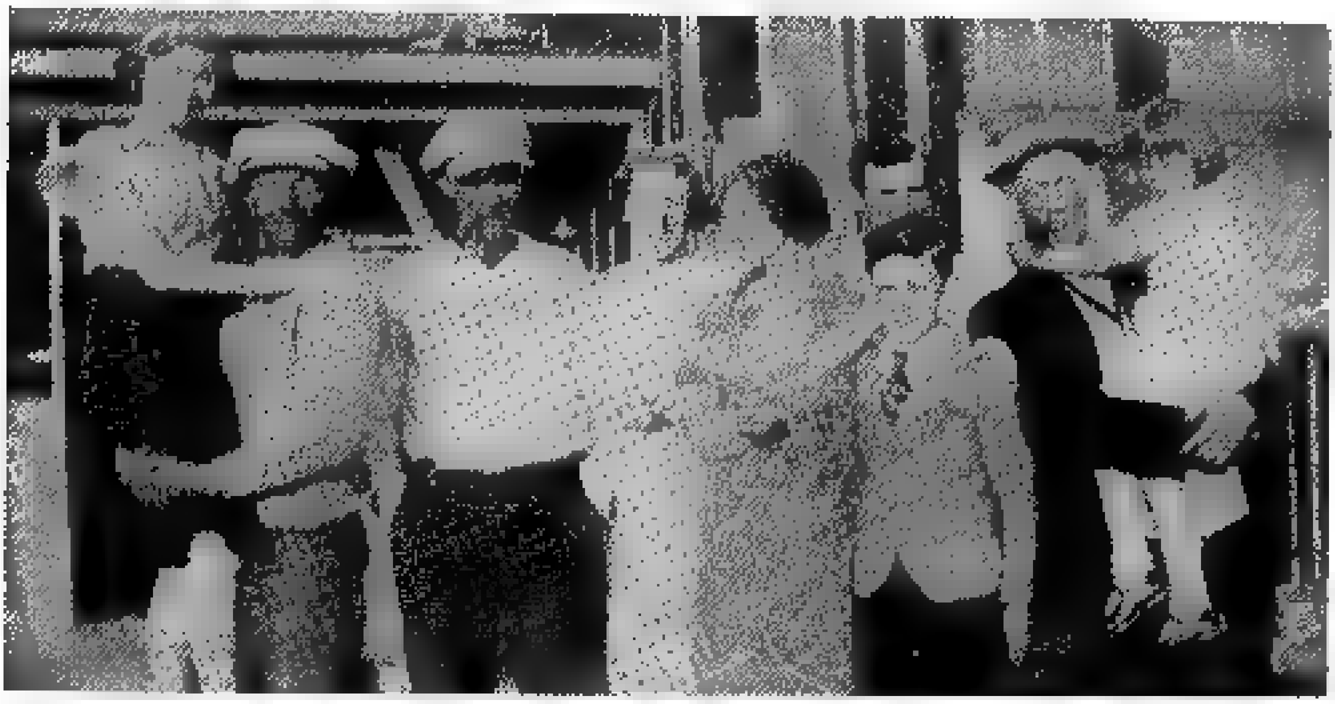
A few years earlier, their sister Bergetta and her husband, Theodore Pederson, had come to the United States. Elmer and Conrad joined their sister in Wisconsin, and married sisters named Jensen. On December 25, 1906, my oldest brother was born. His mother died in 1908, and he was cared for by our aunt, Bergetta Pederson.

In 1910 Dad came to Canada and homesteaded four miles north of Hanna on the NW 34-31-14. The Pederson family came at the same time, bringing three-year-old Morris with them. To bring in some much-needed cash while proving up on his homestead, Dad often worked for others. One of his first jobs was breaking horses on the Benedict Ranch in the Hand Hills. He also drove the mail coach from the Copeville post office to Castor.

In February, 1916, Dad enlisted in the army and went overseas with the 31st Battalion, C.E.F. He served in France, taking part in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and was awarded the Military Medal at Passchendaele. He was discharged in May, 1919.

While in England during the war he met our mother, Nellie Wilkins. Mum came out to Canada in the fall of 1920 and they were married on her arrival on October 5. Within the next few years several of her brothers and sisters came to Canada, all of them spending enough time in the Hanna area to be remembered by the early settlers.

One sister, Ada Wilkins, was one of the first nurses in Hanna; she later moved to the United States and married. Another sister Jo and her husband Charles Stringer spent some time here, eventually settling in Calgary. A third sister Effie Ford lived and worked here. She had two children, Tim and Kay. After Effie died, Kay came to live with us, and Tim went with two of mother's brothers, Arthur and Eric Wilkins, when they moved to Barons and Taber.



Kay Ford, Walter Carson, Elmer Olsen, Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Mowatt, Morris Olsen (in back), Desmond Olsen, Mr. Mowatt and Freda Olsen.

Dad acquired Soldier Settlement land across the road from his homestead, and that is where we made our home. This land is now owned by Art Campion; the Brian Gladdish family has lived on the place for several years now.

In 1921 my sister Nancy was born, in 1924 my brother Desmond, and myself in 1929. We all attended Hanna school, getting there in various ways. At first Nancy, Kay and Des rode horseback, but by the time I started school we drove a buggy pulled by the Old Grey Mare. If that old horse ever had another name, I never heard it. She was completely dependable and simply could not be hurried. No one really drove her; we just hitched her up, climbed in the buggy, and she did the rest. In the winter Dad would take us to school with a team and sleigh. Some winters when the snow got too deep Mum and us kids would move into town for two or three months, leaving Dad to batch it on the farm.

One very special friend of the family was our Swedish bachelor neighbor, Walter Carlson, who owned the land now farmed by Bob and Diane Paxman. He spent so much time with us, walking across the fields to visit, that he became 'Uncle Walter' to us kids. No special occasion was complete without his presence.

Dad had a blacksmith forge where he shod horses and sharpened plow shares for himself and the neighbors. I was a real tagalong and spent many hours in that hot, dirty shop turning the blower to keep the forge hot for him.

Dad also had a talent for witching water wells. He would hold a forked willow stick in front of him and walk until the stick dipped down. Many of the wells found in this way are still producing today. In 1958 when he was eighty years old Dad witched a well for Jim and me; we found lots of good water at 165 feet.

Both Mum and Dad loved music. Mum played the piano and organ and Dad loved to dance. One of my earliest memories is of dancing with him at Meadowlands. I was probably four or five years old. Agnes Kern and I would dance together at these gatherings until we were tired out and put to sleep on a pile of coats on the teacher's desk.

During the depression years Mum sold cream, eggs and butter to customers in town. Mum had been a governess in Germany before the war and she must have been totally unprepared for the life of a pioneer wife. But like many others she learned to make do, make over and do without. Once Dad took a crate of eggs to town, hoping to exchange them for a few groceries. When he couldn't find anyone willing to do this, he traded the whole crate to a family in exchange for a little mongrel pup. For obvious reasons the little dog was given the name of 'Swap', and was part of the family for years.

In 1940 we left the farm and moved to Hanna where Dad worked first for Chris German and later for the Town. He was very fond of young people and found many ways to be around them. For two or three winters he ran the old outdoor skating rink and for several years took tickets at the Legion Saturday night dances. Many young people who didn't have the price of admission were able to sneak in for a dance or two while Dad looked the other way.

In 1949 Mum and Dad retired to Calgary where he passed away on November 22, 1961, at the age of eighty-three. Mom continued to live there until her death in September, 1968, also at the age of eighty-three.

I am the only one of the family still living here in Hanna. Morris suffered greatly from asthma and moved to Victoria for the different climate. He and his wife Norah are now retired in Castlegar, B.C.

Nancy joined the Air Force during the war, later attended U.B.C. and married Byron Rutt. They farm at Coaldale, and have four children.

Des married an American girl and has three children.

I married Jim Dahl in 1949 and we farm five miles west of Hanna. We have three children.

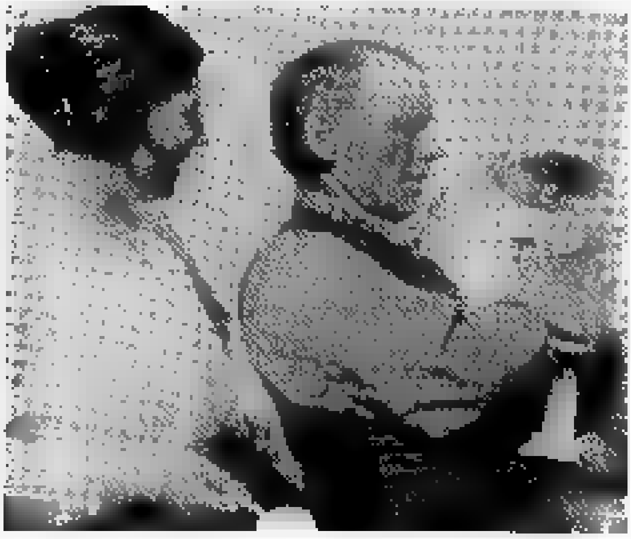
Kay married Dan Ruhl and lives at Surrey, B.C. They have three children.

THOMAS CAMPION FAMILY, By Art Campion — Thomas Alexander Campion was born in Ireland in 1872. He came to Canada in 1904, settling first in Manitoba, then following the gold rush to Nome, Alaska, the land of the midnight sun. In 1911 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead, the N.E. 28-31-14, where Rosenau had previously lived as a squatter. In 1912 he worked on the C.N.R. grade east of Hanna.

He also was the Rawleigh man, and covered a route as far north as Scapa, as far west as Rowley where he stopped at McKee's, then went to Martin's at Delia,

Schultz's in the Hand Hills, and back home. He made his rounds with a horse and a covered buggy.

In 1916 he married Eva Louise Graves, who was from Ontario. The ceremony took place in Calgary, and the young couple honeymooned in San Francisco. On their return they built a home, and in 1924 Frank Ruppert drilled a well for them, a two-inch hole, 180 feet deep.


Eva Campion, Tom Campion and George

Thomas and Eva Campion had two sons, George born in 1922 and Arthur (Art) in 1924. Mrs. Campion passed away in 1926. For a time Mr. Campion tried to batch and look after the boys; he finally hired a housekeeper, Lenora Cox. They were married in 1935; Thomas joked that it was cheaper to marry her than to pay her wages.

T. A. Campion raised good quality Shorthorn cattle, upgrading his herd by the use of registered bulls. He farmed with horses until 1939, when he bought a 18-32 cross-mounted Case from Joe Robbs.

The boys started school at Silver Valley. Once, when walking through the Kirby place, they were chased by Kirby's rams and had to hide in some trees until the animals gave up the chase. Art and George played hookey quite frequently and once walked across Dowling Lake when it was dry. They were surprised to see the store, elevator and stock yards of the village of Dowling, which they did not know existed. Bill MacKenzie noticed the truants but luckily for them did not report them to either their teacher or their father.

The George Campion Family. Standing left to right: George Campion, Patrick, Barb, Laura. Sitting: Valerie, Gerald and Carol.

The Art Campion Family. Back Row: Vera and Art Campion. Front Row: Ken, Keith, Norman, and Roy.

They often carried a rifle with them on the trips to and from school, shooting rabbits and gophers. They sold the gophers to William Riddel who used them to

feed the foxes which he raised. The boys helped their father deliver eggs and cream to customers in Hanna twice weekly. They remember calling at houses which bore quarantine signs, and going in to make change and to get warm.

In 1939 both boys left home. George worked at Byemoor and made five dollars a month and his employer received five dollars a month for hiring him. This was a government plan to help combat unemployment. Although not old enough to join the army, George lied about his age and served throughout the war. When he was demobilized in 1945 he worked for the C.N.R. at Hanna, Edson and Calgary. He married Laura Grauman in 1948. For a time they operated the Dry Cleaning plant in Hanna. He now lives in Prince Rupert where George is with the C.N.R.

George and Laura have five children: Patrick, Carol and Barbara who live in Calgary, Valerie in Lethbridge, and Gerald in Hanna.

Thomas Campion died in 1945 at the age of seventy-three. Art Campion bought the farm, which included a half section of deeded land and one and a quarter sections of lease, for $2500.

Art and Vera Granthum were married in 1947. For eight years they lived in the original farm home, spending the winters in Hanna. He worked for the C.N.R. until 1957; started a propane delivery service in 1958; and sold it in 1967. He bought the Madge ranch at Richdale and stocks it with as many as a thousand head of cattle. He had previously bought the Riddel place from Albert Galarneau, and this is where he and Vera make their home.

Art and Vera have four boys: Roy of Hanna; Norman, teaching at Three Hills; Keith, who lives on his grandfather's place; and Ken, Keith's twin, who lives at home.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN STORY, By Willie Hoffman — I will start with my grandfather, who as far as I know came from Germany to Illinois as a small boy. My father, Ferdinand Hoffman, was born in Illinois. Later the family went to Nebraska where they saw some bad times with dry weather and grasshoppers. There my father married Mable Cramer and in time four children were born, my sisters Ethel and Hazel, my brother Fred and myself.

In 1901, my brother Fred and I came to a homestead fifteen miles east of Lacombe. We came in a boxcar with three horses, some chickens, cows and machinery. Until we had a house built we stayed with my Grandmother Cramer, whose family had come to Alberta in 1900. My mother and two sisters came from Nebraska in 1902, and in September of that year my brother Robert was born.

I stayed home until 1912, the year that I homesteaded near Hanna. We travelled there with team and wagon, and it took three days for the trip, which I made a good many times after that.

I will tell you what the house looked like . . . two granaries placed side by side. The post office was called Copeville which was about three miles south-east of where Hanna is now. I hauled lumber from Castor and also helped dig the basement for the Imperial Hotel. I remember a school two and a half miles north-west of Hanna, and I remember just one dance; it was west of Dowling Lake.

Farming was hard as the soil was mostly gumbo and the weather usually dry.

I would like to tell you about the well I dug. I dug a pretty big hole about seven feet deep. Then I took an auger and in the south-east corner of the hole I went down about fourteen feet. I hit sand, gravel and water, which came up about four feet. Then I dug a smaller hole, deeper than the one I made with the auger, and hit hard blue clay. I had to go nearly eight more feet, but I got lots of good water.

Our neighbors were Glovers, Skimmerhorns, Philip Walters and a big Irish

fellow . . . I forget his name. Philip Walters and my sister Ethel were married on Christmas Day, 1913. Six or seven years later he took typhoid fever and died.

I never had much luck farming and in 1941 I joined the Armed Forces. I was in the Tenth Field Engineers for five and one-half years. After my discharge I took up carpentry and made a success of it; now I have a nice home in Calgary.

OMA E. PAYNE, By Bill Curtis — O. E. Payne came to the Hanna district several years before the townsite was surveyed or the railway constructed. With his devoted wife Margaret he settled on a half section of land just north of the present site of the town, and for several years he engaged in farming. He received the proved-up title to his homestead, the SE 20-31-14, in October, 1914. His pre-emption, the south-west quarter of the same section, was registered on December 5, 1916.

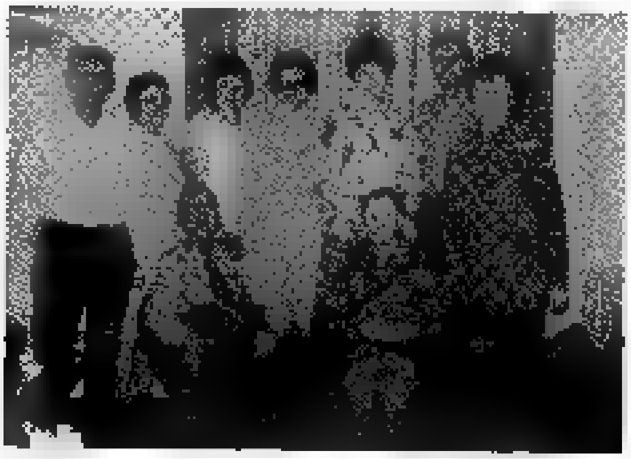
He was a man of great intellect, a fluent speaker, and a capable writer. He contributed much of his time and energy to religious work, and several books and articles from his pen were published.

About 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Payne moved in to Hanna, where they resided for about two years, during which time he was on the staff of the Hanna Herald. Later they went to the United States, and in 1923 travelled to South Africa as missionaries. In 1925 Mr. Payne became ill from strain and overwork in his chosen field, and passed on to his just rest.

The title to the land near Hanna passed to his widow.

The Payne house, situated across the road from the [illegible] Parker place, was a curious structure, built with six sides, and so appeared to be roughly round. In the early twenties Harvey Howet lived there and operated a dairy business. Wally Olmstead worked for him. Later the house had other tenants: Alex Coulbourne who worked on the C.N.R., and Miss Muriel Cranston, who taught at Silver Valley School.

A man named Kruger lived on the farm during the 'dirty thirties', and among other activities he carried on a one-man livestock dealer and butcher business from the back of a dilapidated truck. Eventually the farm was acquired by Courtney 'Buck' Buchanan, who operated the Model Dairy for a number of years. The land is now part of the Hutton ranch.



The Christian Ost Family. Standing: Christian (Jr.), Hilda, Emma, Marian, Bertha, Oscar, Ida. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Ost.

OUR STORY, By Christian Ost Sr. — My wife and I and five of our children came to Hanna from Romania in the fall of 1927. We chose Hanna as our destination because many of our friends and relatives had settled in the area previously. We were met at the station by Pastor Bietsch and some of our Old Country friends, who provided us with shelter and found me a job. We had very little money when we arrived, but by the spring of 1928 my brother-in-law, Gust Rosenau, and I managed to buy a half-section ten miles south of Hanna.

The house was small. The Rosenaus and their five children lived in half the house; my wife and I and our family had the other two rooms. It was very crowded, and in 1929 I had the opportunity to rent the Burrows place about four miles north of Hanna on the snake trail, so I sold my share of the land to my brother-in-law, and moved.

I had no machinery to work my land so I took jobs with the neighbors so that I could use theirs. I did custom work with four head of horses and a binder that were rented to me for thirty cents an acre. I built six miles of fence for J. Gartner for fourteen dollars, and by milking cows and selling cream and eggs, we were able to get by. During the seven years we lived on this farm we were blessed with two more children.

During the depression we experienced many hardships, drought, dust storms, a shortage of water. I built and sold sleds and cutters, and although I couldn't speak much English, I had to learn the language. We never owned a car or truck in those years, but travelled with horses.

We used to drive to Hanna to church, but when we didn't have a minister there we would take turns at conducting services [illegible] different homes. Our children attended Silver Valley School.

In 1936 we rented the John Steeves place, five miles west of the Burrows farm, and the children went to St. George School. But again drought was a problem; the land was poor and the water supply much worse than on the previous place. In 1941 we rented the Raessler farm south of Watts, and lived there till 1946 when we moved to Calgary. I worked at various construction jobs until I retired in 1966. We celebrated our golden wedding in January, 1970.

We had seven children. All are married now.

Christian married Alvina Moench and live in Calgary. Only three of their ten children are still single.

Hilda and Williard Diegel had four children.

Emma and Melvin Albrecht lost three children as infants, and have two adopted children.

Maria and Sam Diegel live at Gadsby. They have three boys.

Bertha, Mrs. Walter Radke, lives in Hanna. She has two sons.

Oscar and his wife Pat live in Calgary. They had three daughters.

Ida and Ernest Schnell and their two children are in Calgary.

My wife and I are thankful that we are able to enjoy our health and our home, after all the hardships we experienced after deciding to make Canada our home.

MR. AND MRS. FRED COOK, By Louise Cook — Fred Cook, son of Fred and Minna Cook, was born in Borg, Germany. As a child, he came with his parents to the Craigmyle district in 1910.

I was born in the Chain Lakes district, the daughter of the late Charley and Theresa Johnson. My parents had come to the district in 1916. I lived most of my life in the district north of Hanna, and received all my education at Chain Lakes school.

Fred and I were married in 1939. During the first year of our marriage we lived on the Joe Northey farm about a mile west of Chain Lakes school. In 1940 our daughter Joan was born and the following year we moved to the farm of my uncle, Casper Bartsch, three miles south of Scapa.

In 1942 we moved to Hanna, where Fred was employed with the C.N.R. During those war years farmers were in demand, and when Fred was laid off the railroad, we leased the Mathe farm, three miles east of Solon school. We farmed there for one year and then leased the Leo Kirby farm, three miles north of Hanna on the road familiarly known as the Snake Trail.

We farmed there for five years. We lived in the house which had been the

Fletcher Lumber building, and which had been moved out from Hanna. It was a high building with a store front and had Fletcher Lumber in large letters across the top. It had been used to store grain, and there were mice everywhere; but in spite of the mice and the smell of grain the building was warm and made a good home.

I recall the winter of 1948 when the snow was as high as the trees. The drifts looked like pyramids and the tips of the trees were just looking out of the top of the drifts. On the fourth of April it was twenty below. Our baby chicks had arrived at the Hanna station. We had to bring them home in the bobsleigh; we put two cream cans of hot water in the sleigh and covered them with a feather tick; it made a warm tent under which we placed the three-day-old chicks. The snow was so deep that it took over an hour to go the three miles, but we got the chicks home, safe and warm. We had to refuel the brooder stove every three hours, day and night. Every morning during the cold spell, we put a small shot of Rawleigh's Red Liniment in the drinking water, and in spite of the cold those were the healthiest and friskiest chicks we ever had.

Fred Cook and daughter Joan in 1945. The house is the Fletcher Lumber Building. It was three miles north of Hanna on the Snake Trail. [illegible] was a land mark for many years. [illegible] about 1975 the buildings were all demolished and the land mark was gone. Fred, Louise and daughter Joan made their home there from 1943 until 1948.

As there was no school nearer than Hanna, we regretfully left the farm and purchased a home in Hanna in 1948. Fred worked for the C.N.R. for fifteen years, until the railroad converted to diesel power and he was laid off. He then was employed as caretaker at the Hanna Elementary school for ten years. Now we are enjoying retirement, and make our home in the house we originally purchased.

Our daughter Joan married Jack Marlow. They have one son, David, and live on the farm in the Garden Plain district.

MR. and MRS. A. L. DESILETS, By Joan Scott and Rita Galarneau — In the spring of 1948 Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desilets bought the west half 21-31-14 formerly owned by Mr. Ed Parker; and moved to this location approximately two miles north of the town of Hanna.

Al Desilets was born in Quebec in 1886. He came west in 1909 and homesteaded twelve miles west of Sunnynook and twenty-eight miles south of Hanna. His bride-to-be from Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. came west by train and they were married in Hanna, February twenty-second, 1914. They lived on the homestead for

thirty-four years, experiencing some good years as well as the depression years and complete crop failures of 1930 and 1931. In 1931 many neighbors moved away, leaving a sparsely populated area. Al Desilets chose to stay; it took great faith to remain behind. Though their friends left, their local schools closed and their business community diminished, their pioneer spirit did not let them down, and they still enjoyed a good life. The deserted homesteads were leased to the remaining farmers, and the entire district turned to ranching more than farming.

Mrs. and Mr. Al Desilets - 1958

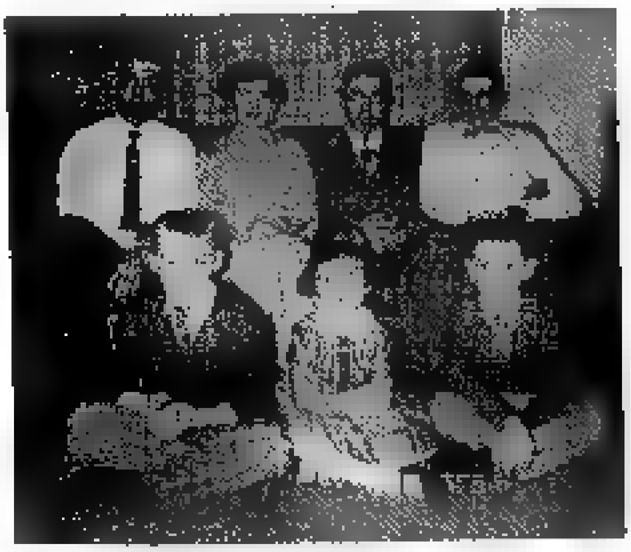
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desilets raised three children, all born on the homestead.

Arthur (Art) born November twenty-fourth, 1914 married Alice Flynn of Hanna. They reside in Calgary.

Joan, born December thirty-first, 1916, married Tommy Scott and resides in Hanna.

Rita, born October sixth, 1919, married Albert Galarneau and lives one mile south of Hanna.

Al Desilets sold his holdings south of Hanna and he and his wife moved to a smaller farm north of Hanna where he was engaged in mixed farming for a few more years. They retired to the town of Hanna in 1950 and then to Calgary in 1954. In January 1962 Mrs. Desilets passed away. In 1965 Al moved back to Hanna and lived with his daughters, Joan and Rita, until his death in September 1968 at the age of eighty-two years.



The Albert Galarneau Family - 1958. From left to right: Jack, Rita, Albert, Ray. Front Row: Terry, Mary Lou, David.

THE ALBERT GALARNEAUS, By Rita Galarneau — Albert and I and our family moved to the Hanna area in the fall of 1948 when we bought the east half of 21-31-14, about one mile north of Hanna, from Mrs. Huff.

Albert was born in Bassano on January 22, 1913, of pioneer parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doan Galarneau, who had come from Idaho to the Bassano and later the Finnegan areas. His early years were spent in those districts, and as a young man he took part in the horse and cattle roundups on the open range between the Red Deer and Bow Rivers. He followed the rodeo circuits for years, competing in Canada and in the United States, and won many championships, including the North American calf roping which he held for several years.

I am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Desilets of Sunnynook, and Albert and I were married in the spring of 1937. In 1941 we bought the holdings of Y. F. Dove, nine miles west of Sunnynook, now the Stampede Ranch. As there was no school there, we moved our family to the Huff place in 1948, and our children attended school in Hanna. In 1950 we bought the west half of 21-31-14 from A. L. Desilets, which was formerly owned by Ed Parker. We lived here until 1956, when we sold

our interests in Alberta. The east half of section 21 was sold to Art and Vera Campion, the west half to Dean and Russ Mayberry.

We ranched extensively in Saskatchewan for the next ten years, then returned to Hanna. Albert and our sons Ray and Terry formed the Galarneau Land and Cattle Company, and acquired farm and ranch interests north of Craigmyle where they operated until the fall of 1973, when they sold to the Brower Cattle Company.

Retirement wasn't for Albert. He and our son Ray still operate the company, raising purebred Welsh Black cattle, a British breed they imported from Wales, and live one mile south of Hanna, on land purchased from Walter Ganong in 1975. Albert has always had a pioneer spirit and even in his autumn years would still welcome a new adventure. As the old saying goes, you can take the boy from the country, but you can't take the country from the boy. As long as Albert is well, I'm sure he'll always own a few cows and ride a good horse.

Albert and I have five children. John (Jack) married Rapheala Bachmeier; they have two children, Sandy and Gary. They live in Hanna where he operates Hanna Auto Specialists.

Thomas Raymond, (Ray) works with his dad and lives at home.

Terrance Donald (Terry) married Brenda Clark of Empress and had two sons, Gene and Derek. Terry lost his life in a tragic farm accident on October 5, 1973.

David is employed with the P.F.R.A. in Saskatchewan.

Mary Lou teaches school and resides in Calgary.

RUSS AND DEAN MAYBERRY — Russ purchased the half section known as the Desilets place from Albert Galarneau in June, 1956. On September 22 of that year, he and Dean Courts were married and moved into the old shack that was on the place. There they lived without power, water, or any of the other conveniences now known to farm living, until they got the power in in 1965. In 1961 they built a barn to house the horses, and in 1965 commenced work on a new house. On December 26, 1965, they moved into the new building, which was not finished inside, but had just the studs for partitions, and gradually finished the work on the inside themselves.

When they got married they began raising purebred and partbred Arabian horses, starting with Fahfaha, the stallion that Dean had purchased from the Cross U Bar Ranch in Wyoming in 1954, and Husla Wedan, the mare that Russ purchased from the same ranch in March, 1956. Today they have twelve Arabian horses, with all but three related to their two foundation horses. All the years have been spent attending as many horse shows under as many judges as time allowed, and the many trophies and ribbons in the house speak for the quality horses raised on the Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch.

In 1968 Russ started a Charter Bus business and has driven groups to the northern United States, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, as well as to many, many points in Alberta. In 1973, Dean became a spare driver, and drives when Russ is unable to do so.

The Bar D. R. Arabian Ranch has had many welcome visitors to see the horses and the old Desilets place, which was previously owned by the Parker family. It is a nice place to live, with small groves of trees, some hills, and the Scapa road right at our doorstep; and we are just two miles from the town of Hanna.

The Walter Radke Family. Left to right: son Ryan, Walter and Bertha, Geraldine (daughter-in-law), and granddaughter Danielle. Missing: son Reg.

BERTHA RADKE, By Bertha Ost Radke — I was born in April, 1927 in Romania. I came to Canada with my parents Mr. and Mrs. Christian Ost Sr. in September, 1927. The first school I attended was Silver Valley. I started when I was seven years old. I couldn't speak English very well; I remember my sister Emma very patiently teaching me. We walked to school, as for me it seemed very far, and Emma felt sorry for me and used to let me sit on a rock or something to rest awhile. No doubt I made us late for school once in awhile.

My dad had a mare called Minnie, and she had a colt. I was so excited about the event, and of course I had to tell all the children at school about this, and they all laughed. Along came the teacher and asked what was so funny, so I told her "Minnie had a colt this morning," and she laughed too. I finally realized what I had said as the teacher's name was Minnie also.

I also remember we had syrup pails for lunch buckets, and on the way home, we'd drown gophers and tear off the tails and put them in our buckets. Can you imagine! Well, in those days they were worth money, one cent a piece.

In 1936 my folks moved to the Steeves farm and my second school was St. George. The first day there, we were greeted by all the boys; when they realized that we were girls they hurled rocks at us, some welcome, eh! We had boys' black pants on. We walked to school, unless weather conditions were bad, then Dad or my brother Chris would drive us with team and bob sleigh, and pick up Ruth Steeves on the way, as we had to go through their place for a short cut. My sister Marian and I were janitors for a while. When there were any school functions in Hanna, we would walk to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Huttons and go in with them; they were very good neighbours.

In 1941, my parents moved south in the Hand Hills district, where I finished my education.

In 1946 I married Waldemar Radke. We bought a farm in the Hand Hills district, and lived there until we sold to our youngest son, Ryan, and moved to Hanna in October, 1976. We have two sons: Reginald, married Patricia Gladwin of Bentley, and are now living in Edmonton, and Ryan married Geraldine Harvey of Scapa; they have a daughter Danielle.

WILLIAM RIDDLE STORY, By Jeannie Ritchey (Granddaughter) — William Riddle, his wife and daughter came to the district in the spring of 1912, and homesteaded one mile north of where Hanna now stands. This was on the S.E. ¼ of 21-31-14. They came from Okotoks where he and his son Jim were employed as carpenters with the C.P.R.

They came in by way of Castor and hauled their lumber by team and sleigh. This they used to build their first house. Mr. Riddell built a second house in 1915 which was considered one of the better homes of that era. This home was later moved to Hanna and served as a home for numerous families, and was finally demolished in 1977.

William Riddell worked as janitor at the old brick school in Hanna for many

years. He was well known for his interest in flowers and trees and for his wonderful gardens. Some of the spruce trees that he planted so many years ago still live today on his old homestead, now occupied by Art Campion. Mr. Riddell raised Shorthorn cattle which won him numerous ribbons at the Fairs in Hanna.

Mr. Wm. Riddell (left) and Mr. Peter Riddell (right). Taken in the fifties.

[illegible]. Wm. Riddell's home built on the farm - 1915. Moved to Hanna later.

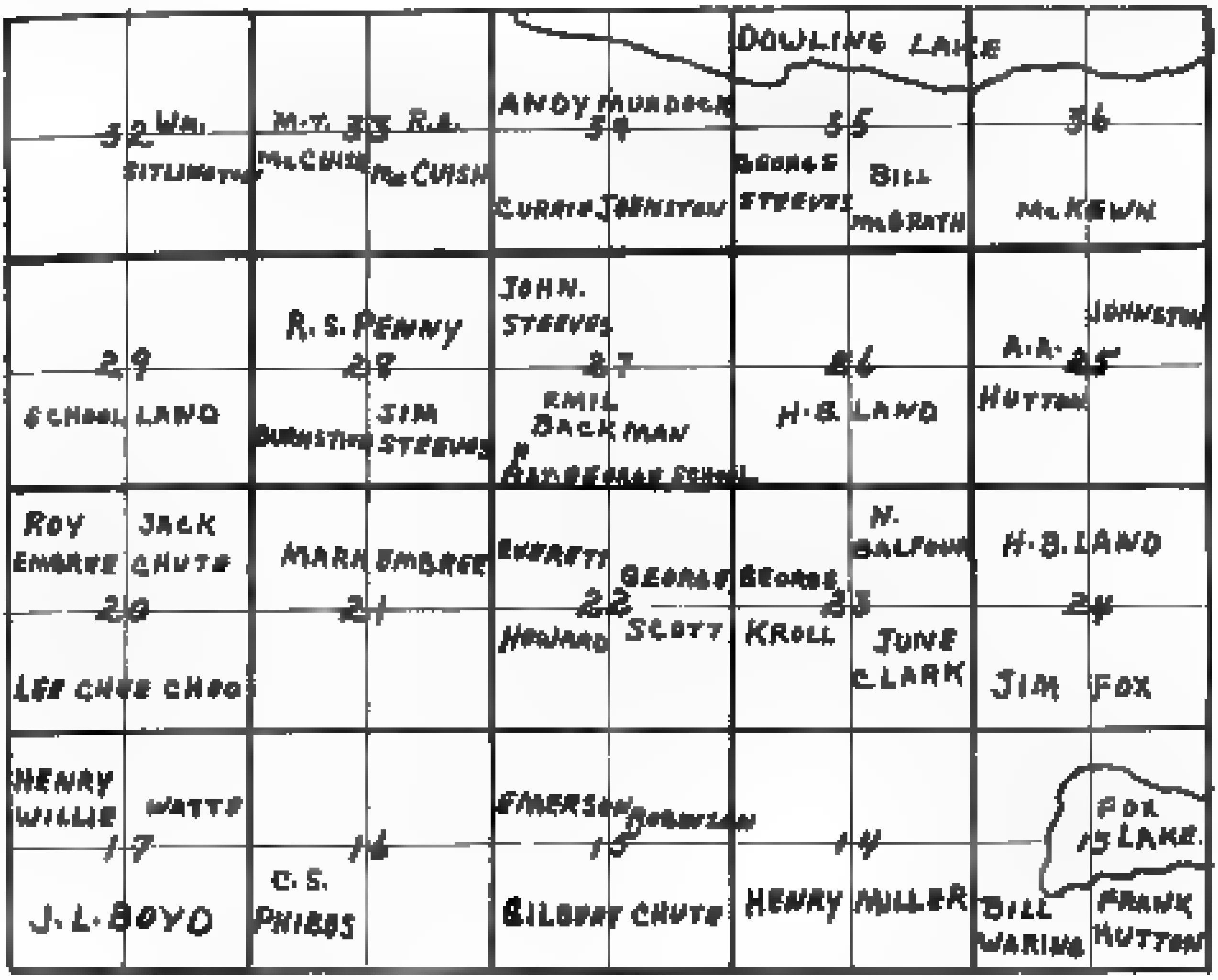
Mr. Wm. Riddell, his wife and granddaughter. Their first home and garden in 1912. 1 mile north of where Hanna now stands.

Mr. Riddell donated part of his land to Hanna for the cemetery.

His two sons, Jim and Willie, lost their lives serving in World War I.

Mr. Riddell's first wife passed away and he remarried. William Riddell and his two wives rest side by side in the Hanna Cemetery.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3226
TOWNSHIP 31, RANGE 15, WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN



OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIP 31 RANGE 15

Sec.-32-31-15
Wm. Sittlington
Jacob Fleck
George Fleck
Leslie Hutton

N½-34-31-15
Andy Murdock
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

E½-35-31-15
Bill McGrath
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-28-31-15
R. S. Penny
A. A. Hutton
A. E. Hutton

S½-27-31-15
Emil Backman
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

N½-24-31-15
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S.E.-23-31-15
June Clark
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

W½-22-31-15
Everett Howard
Lamb Brothers

N½-20-31-15
Roy Embree
Jack Chute
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

W½-33-31-15
Murt McCuish
Stan McCreight
S. McCandless
A. E. Hutton

S½-34-31-15
Currie Johnston
Truman Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-36-31-15
McKewan
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

S½-28-31-15
Burnstien
Jim Steeves
Harry Steeves
A. E. Hutton

Sec.26-31-15
H. B. Land
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
T. R. Scott
Scott Farms

S½-24-31-15
Jim Fox
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

W½-23-31-15
George Kroll
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

N½-21-31-15
Mark Embree
John Fleck
Jack Phibbs

S½-20-31-15
Lo Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

E½-33-31-15
Rufus McCuish
Lewis Grantham

W½-35-31-15
George Steeves
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

S-29-31-15
School Land
Roy Chee Choo
Tom Chee Choo

Karl Hoffman
Barry Hutton

N½-27-31-15
John Steeves
Lewis Steeves
Scott Farms

Sec.-25-31-15
A. A. Hutton
Bar 62 Ranch

N.E.-23-31-15
[illegible]. Balfour
T. R. Scott
T. A. Scott
Scott Farms

E½-22-31-15
George Scott

Joseph Lamb
Lamb Brothers

S½-21-31-15
Clifford Phibbs
Jack Phibbs

W½-16-31-15
Clifford Phibbs
Jack Phibbs

N½-17-31-15
Henry Willie
Dennis Neiner
Larry Neiner

E½-16-31-15
Thomas Edwards
George Edwards

W½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
Fred Miller
Emerson Robinson

E½-13-31-15
Frank Hutton
Dr. Baxendale
Lamb Brothers

S½-17-31-15
J. L. Boyd
Martin Dahl
Gus Annas

W½-15-31-15
Gilbert Chute
Carl Johnston

Wes Robinson

E½-14-31-15
Henry Miller
George Miller
A. E. Hutton
Emerson Robinson

W½-13-31-15
Bill Waring
Martin Dahl
L. Maetche
C. Franklin

E½-15-31-15
Emerson Robinson
Robinson Brothers

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. GEORGE S.D. No. 3226

By Albert Hutton

Florence Bennett (first teacher at St. George School) sitting on first well dug on the Robinson homestead.

When many oldtimers arrived with their families in the early teens, there was not any means of education for their children and no place for meetings of local interest, so G. Scott, H. Steeves, R. Penny, H. Miller and E. Robinson, to name a few, got their heads together. After several meetings, they formed a school district, known as St. George, eight miles northwest of Hanna, to be located S.W. 27-31-15. On August 14, 1915 the new school was opened. The first teacher was the lovely Florence Bennett, who boarded at the Robinson's. As winters then were colder and snowy, travel was by horseback, sleigh or walking.

Some of the students that attended the first years were: Joe and Alice Scott; Joe, Lily, Phoebe and Fay Robinson; Abraham, Annie, Fred, Emma, Mae, Johnnie and George Miller; Herbert Penny; Tom, Roy, Lily, Eva and Irene Chee Choo; Delpha, Elva, Lorne and Marian Steeves; also Pearl Chute.

Times were trying with the teacher's maximum pay being sixty dollars a month. Often teachers were behind in receiving their wages, but school carried on with grades one to eleven being taught in one room by one teacher. This school remained open until 1943, when it was forced to close its doors, as families in the district were getting fewer and smaller. In 1945, St. George was moved to Watts, and used as a central public school. Verda Litke was the first teacher. In 1958 high school students were taken to Hanna. Then in 1969, this school was closed again, due to centralization of schools

in the Sullivan Lake School Division. With improved roads, all the children were transported to Hanna schools by bus. St. George School was then moved to Youngstown, to help them out, as a fire had destroyed their school.

St. George Class, 1935. Back Row, Left to Right: Alberta Boyd, Joyce McCuish, Joan McCuish, Jean McCuish, Tommy Scott, Lewis Steeves, Freda Steeves. Middle Row: Lloyd Hutton, John Steeves, Catherin Scott, Rose Fleck, Margaret Fleck, Lloyd Fleck, Roy Hutton, Alfred Scott, Arnold Nitschke. Front Row: George Edwards, Ken Fleck, Marg Edwards, Betty McCuish, Peggy McDonald, Ron Edwards, Larry Boyd.

During the years of existence in this community, St. George was a great centre for church services, concerts, box socials, ball games and dances. Music was usually supplied by Roy Embree and his band. This centre drew people from near and far, for entertainment of their choice. In the earlier years, there was a small charge of ten cents a man, to cover the cost of coffee and sugar. Ladies supplied sandwiches and cake and got in free.

Names of some of the teachers were: Florence Bennett, Mr. Marr, Nellie O'Connor, Miss Mclean, Mr. Hope, Mr. Walsh, Miss McDevitt, Mrs. Phibbs, Kathleen McDonald, Mrs. Murphy, Dorothy Foster, Ila Wood, Dorothy Wood, Ilene O'Brien, Miss Forsyth, Betty Wallace, Joan Scott, Mildred Harvey, Emily Beamish and Frances Glacier.

THOMAS EDWARDS, by George Edwards — Thomas Edwards was born in Norwick, England, in 1882 and worked in London in a dry goods store, then came to Canada in 1910. He came to Brandon, Manitoba, and spent about a year there with his brother, then moved west.

He looked at some land in the Hardisty and Holden area but the price of land was too high. He bought a quarter section, six miles south-east of Hanna. Later he went up to the foothills near Bragg Creek (west of Calgary) spending a year there, then returned to his land near Hanna.

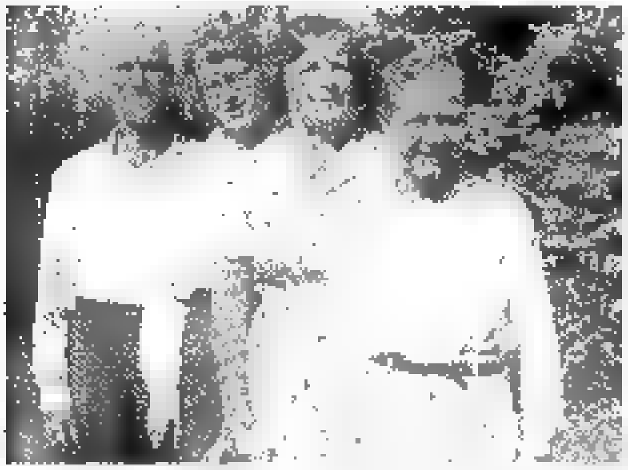
His home was built of lumber hauled in from Castor and was a one room shack. He had a good well, with lots of water. The well was only twelve feet deep with about two feet of water, and it could not be pumped dry.

He travelled to Castor for their food supplies, machinery, lumber and repairs. It was a two day journey one way.

In 1923 Thomas married Hannah Birkett, who had come from northern England to see her ailing sister at Nobleford, also sisters at Gadsby and Hanna. They then moved to a farm five miles west of Hanna, which is still in the family today.

The eldest son Ronnie, is married and serving in the R.C.A.F. The second

son George, is on the farm, and also works for Rangeland School Bus Servicing at Hanna. The daughter Margery is married, with three children and living in Edmonton.



Mark Embree Family

MARK EMBREE, By Brother Roy — Mark Embree was born in 1893, in the state of Washington. He came to Castor with the family in 1907. In 1910 he filed on a homestead, the north half 21-31-15, near Watts. He farmed here until 1933, then sold this farm to Jack Phibbs, and moved to Summerland, B.C. He had a fruit farm and also did custom spraying. He got married in 1937, and had two children, Ronnie and Marilyn. He passed away in January, 1957.

JACOB FLECK, by George Fleck — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Fleck came to Canada from Russia in 1910 to a farm in the Fox Valley area of Saskatchewan. In 1926, I with my parents and nine brothers and sisters, loaded machinery and household effects in wagons and herded and drove livestock a distance of two hundred miles, to settle on a farm south of Veteran, Alberta. In 1932 we moved to the Watts area, where my father rented the Sittlington farm, located three miles north of Watts. My sister, Olga was attending Normal School at the time, and returned to Watts to take her first teaching position at the Chain Lakes school. Her salary for that year was five hundred dollars. Olga, now Mrs. Fred Stretton of Edmonton, is still with the education department. My sisters Carrie, Margaret and Rose and a brother Lloyd all attended elementary school at St. George school. Carrie, Mrs. Albert Engelhardt, lives in Merritt, B.C.; Margaret Hamilton is widowed and living in Virginia, U.S.A.; Rose Monahan, also widowed, lives in Vernon, B.C.; Lloyd served with the Canadian Navy in World War II, and is now a realtor in Toronto. My brothers Ken and Norman, born after leaving Saskatchewan, spent some of their younger years growing up on the farm at Watts. My brother John, his wife Ida, and five children, lived for a time on what was known as the Mark Embree place, before moving to Calgary to take a position in the Ogden Shops during the war. My sisters Lydia-Jean and Emily are working in Calgary. Another sister Elizabeth remained in Saskatchewan. My parents retired from farming in 1952. Mother died in Edmonton in 1954, and father in Calgary in 1965.

GEORGE AND MAY FLECK, by George Fleck — In 1938, my parents returned to their farm at Veteran. I stayed on the farm at Watts. I married the former May Long of Veteran, Alberta in December of 1939, and in January 1940 May and I took up residence on the Sittlington farm. We rented for a year or two before entering into a purchase agreement with one dollar down payment. Full purchase price of section 32-31-15 was ten thousand dollars — a high price at that time. In 1951, I bought three quarters from Anna Steeves, the southwest quarter of section 9-32-15; the quarter referred to as the Hartt place. Across the road was the east half of section [illegible] and commonly known as the Spencer Burns farm. Purchase price for the three quarters was nine thousand dollars, with one thousand dollars down payment and the balance at crop share with a four percent interest rate. In 1955, I acquired approximately seven hundred acres of grassland around Dowling Lake. In 1968 I sold these lands to Leslie and Barry Hutton.

Going back over some of the events of those twenty-nine years in the Watts district, I recall the evening the Watts and St. George community surprised May and me after our marriage, with a good old fashioned Chivaree. Being unable to accommodate everyone, we all went to the St. George schoolhouse, where someone stoked up the old furnace that stood in the corner of the classroom; moved the desks along the wall, and to music volunteered by anyone who could play an instrument, enjoyed a couple of hours of dancing. The grand finale — plenty of sandwiches, homemade cakes and cookies and coffee provided by the ladies.

We had a lot of snow that winter of 1940. Jack McDonald trapped weasels. He checked his traplines every day, riding horseback. No matter what the weather, he would arrive at our place every morning about the time I was getting the fire going in the old coal and wood cookstove. Most of the time ice had formed on the water pail, and on occasion the water in the reservoir would have ice on it. The house on the Sittlington farm had burned prior to 1930, so a couple of granaries were pulled together, and with some wallpaper and paint on the inside, was home to us until 1957, when we built a new home, almost on the same spot where the previous house had burned.

I remember a blizzard we had in the late forties, the snow had blown into the attic of our old house. We were not aware of the situation until we were eating breakfast the following morning, when we heard a loud crack, and we had three feet of snow on the kitchen floor, as well as the plasterboard from the ceiling, narrowly missing our infant daughter, Beverly, as she sat in the high chair.

We hauled all our household water with a barrel and stoneboat, mostly from the Rufus McCuish farm, a mile to the east until in 1948, when we had a well drilled and got a good supply of water at one hundred and ten feet. Lots of water could be found at the sixty foot level, but it was of such a high concentration of alkali and nitrates, it was completely unfit for human consumption. The water would eat holes in the galvanized pipes in about five years.

We have two daughters, Beverly and Diane. Beverly was born in the Hanna Hospital April 17, 1944, two months premature and weighing three pounds, thirteen ounces. Dr. Argue was the attending physician. An improvised incubator was made, by using electric light bulbs in a lined crib in the hospital nursery where she remained for some six weeks. Beverly attended school in Watts and Hanna, going on to the University of Calgary for teacher training. She taught elementary grades in Youngstown, Craigmyle and Delia. In 1964, Beverly married Art Bergman of Craigmyle, where Art was grain buyer for the National Grain Company. In 1973 they purchased the Bob Geissinger farm, located just east of Craigmyle. They have three children, Laurie, Corey and Donna May.

Diane was born in Hanna hospital, August 31, 1952, weighing two pounds, fifteen ounces. By this time, through the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Hanna Hospital an oxygen-equipped incubator had been placed in the nursery just a month or two before. Without this lifesaving equipment, it is unlikely that Diane could have been kept alive. She remained in the incubator and on oxygen for some three weeks before getting to three pounds. Shortly before Christmas she was able to come home. Diane attended elementary school in Watts and Hanna, high school in Hanna and in North Surrey, B.C., going on to teacher training in Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. Her first teaching position was in Quesnel, B.C. where she met and married Hubert Ducette. They have one son Jamie. Incidently, the incubator I spoke of earlier, is now in the Hanna Museum.

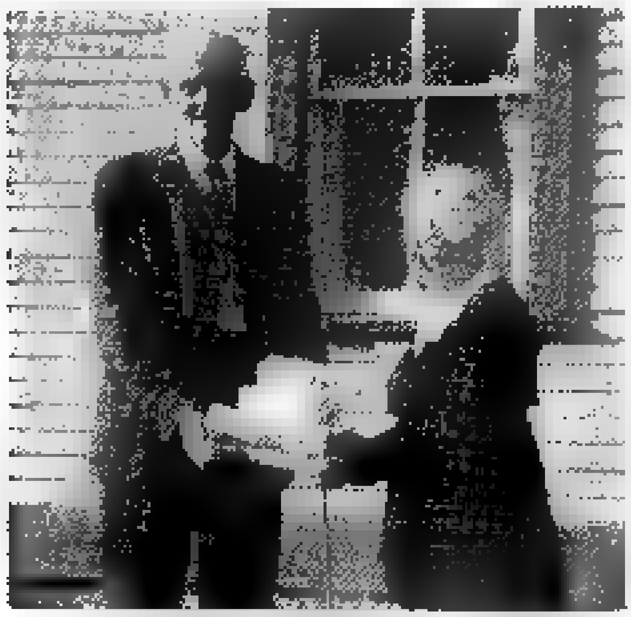
On August 31, 1945 a bad hailstorm wiped out our entire crop, which was

standing, except for one round with the combine prior to the storm. I had about forty bushels of wheat for that year; not even seed. By doing custom combining in the Endiang and Halkirk area that fall, I was able to make enough money to put a crop in for another year. That year turned out to be a good one. Because the crop was standing when the hailstorm hit, the kernels were shelled to the ground. The following spring I double disced the stubble, and that fall I harvested a thirty-five bushel to the acre volunteer crop of wheat.

Stories are told of the co-operation and community spirit that encompasses life in rural areas, and the Watts and Hanna areas were no exception. The spring of 1953 brought an epidemic of Bang's Disease, resulting in a major calf crop loss. As a result of handling these infected animals, I contracted the human form of the disease, "Undulant Fever," and was hospitalized for a considerable time. That fall my neighbors, aware of my situation, assembled forces, and took over my entire harvesting operations. Bruce Hutchinson and Ken Gullekson, (K and [illegible] Motors) and Leon Mehl were on the job of getting my combine in good working order. Leon operated the combine. Karl Hoffman, Albert Hutton, Jack Sutherland, Martin Dahl, Ted Quaschnick and Henry Karg brought swathers, combines, trucks and the grain was soon in the bins.

Following disposition of the farm to Leslie and Barry Hutton, and an auction sale in the spring of 1968, May and I, along with our daughter Diane, left the area to make our home in Surrey, B.C. No life story is complete without the proverbial "Believe it or Not" type of experience, and here is mine; In 1967 I lost my eyeglasses while feeding cattle in the corral of the farm, as I had a habit of carrying them in my shirt pocket. I was never able to find them. A year or two after Leslie had purchased the home place, he accidently came across the glasses, still in the corral, and completely intact. It is anyone's guess how many cattle could have trodden on them.

One may ask what it was that motivated May and I to pull up stakes and leave a lifetime of pleasant memories and good associations. We often ask ourselves this same question, always answer, we aren't sure why. Some retirement experts claim that adjustments are less traumatic in a completely new environment, although lack of farm help and declining stamina probably was the main reason for giving up farming. We have enjoyed and are still enjoying our retirement here in Surrey, B.C. and the winters are a little milder.


Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fox

MR. AND MRS. JIM FOX, By Alma Fox Van Horne — Mother and Dad were married at Madoc, Ontario in 1899. In 1909 they travelled west, and settled south of Halkirk in the Lanes Lake district for two years. They spent the first year in a tent. In 1911 they took a homestead on 24-31-15, near Hanna. Dad was employed by the C.N.R. at Hanna and worked for various machine companies. They recalled the winter being very cold that year. After four years with the railway, dad decided to devote his time to farming, and continued here until 1934, when they returned to Halkirk, due to lack of water supply on this homestead. He did his farming with mules.

Mother and dad took great pride in their garden. They were also ardent radio fans, and enjoyed the hockey games on broadcast. Mother worked diligently for the Red Cross during World War I. In dad's earlier years, he was keenly interested in big game hunting.

My parents, had one daughter Alma, Mrs. Frank Van Horne, now living in Calgary.

ALBERT A. HUTTON — I was born on November 10, 1893, on a farm six miles east of the town of Rich Hill in Bates County Missouri, U.S.A. I lived there with my family until I was eight years old and during the years 1900 and 1901 I attended Happy Hill School. In the spring of 1902 my parents sold their farm and moved to Canada, landing in Olds, Alberta in April with six children, Elva, Harley, Frank, Charlie, Pearl and myself. Father shipped two carloads of settlers' effects, including ten cows, four horses, machinery and household effects, which arrived a short time later along with my two half-brothers Will and Ira. Shortly after we arrived in Alberta, mother developed pneumonia and she passed away just one month later. When we first arrived we lived on a rented farm, but later that same summer Father bought a farm six miles east of Olds.

In November 1902, father took the family back to Missouri, leaving the farm and cattle with my older half-brother Will, on shares. In the spring of 1906 we moved back to Alberta and took over the farm and cattle, and that was our home until father passed away in September 1911.

The A. A. Hutton Family, 1932. Roy, Margery, Lloyd, Al, Albert.

On May 10, 1910 I filed on my homestead and pre-emption the west half of section 25-31-15. During that year I hauled freight from Olds to Trochu with four horses and a wagon, as there wasn't a railroad through Trochu. In the spring of 1911 I moved onto my homestead along with my brother Frank who homesteaded the south-east quarter of 13-31-15. We built a shack twelve by fourteen feet to live in. We did some breaking and fencing on the homesteads and returned to Olds in August to take care of the crop and put up feed for the winter on our father's farm.

In May, 1912, Frank and I left Olds again to make our home and fortune on our homesteads. At that time our closest town was Castor to the north, which was the end of the railroad. To the west the towns of Morrin, Munson and Drumheller were springing up as the railroad was coming through. Shortly after we arrived on the homesteads, contractors started to set up camps along where the C.N.R. line is now. During that summer the railroad grade was built and late that fall they were laying the steel and the Town of Hanna started to spring up on an area which until then had been the Parker Brothers Ranch. During that summer of 1912 I worked on the C.N.R. grade, part of the time for Harry Shoults and part of the time for Welman Brothers. I earned thirty cents per hour for myself and a team of horses. The next spring (1913) I hired on with Harry Shoults to go to Saskatchewan, where they were widening the grade on the C.P.R. to double track the road from Swift Current to Moose Jaw. Another pioneer of the district, Jake Engle, worked with us on that job. We earned so little that on rainy days we had to pay for our board and horse feed. From May first until August first I cleared a hundred dollars for myself and four horses.

Later in the fall of 1913 I hired on with Nixon and Brooker of Craigmyle, [illegible] haul bundles to their new threshing machine. It was there that I met Margery (Dottie) Nixon. She was cooking on the cook-car for her brother. By the time threshing was over we were going steady. Two years later we were married and for over sixty years we have lived happily together, and at the time of writing we are both enjoying good health.

By the fall of 1910 all the vacant land east of the Red Deer River [illegible] the Saskatchewan border had been taken up by homesteaders. The ranchers who had come in previous years before the country was surveyed, some as early as 1900, were forced to sell their cattle as the homesteaders had forced them off their grazing and hay land. Most of them filed on the land where they had been living and made their homes there. The Parker Brothers, Jim and Ed, homesteaded section 9-31-15, where they had operated their ranch for several years. They sold their land in the spring of 1912 to the Town Site people and the town of Hanna sprung up. What had previously been a cattle ranch became a prosperous and thriving business centre and a very important C.N.R. Divisional point.

In the spring of 1914 I bought a water well boring machine which bored a hole twenty-four inches in diameter and was powered by two horses. In the next two years I dug quite a number of wells in the Hanna and surrounding districts. In 1916 I quit the well drilling and settled down to farming, growing grain and raising horses and cattle.

During the following years we had several crop failures due to drought and things were tough. It was [illegible] good thing we always had a few cattle and horses to sell which kept us living. We didn't get ahead very fast but we always expected to do better next year. I guess that's how we got the name "Next Year Country." However, during the period from 1916 to 1940 we lived on the farm and raised our family of three boys, Albert, Roy and Lloyd. They received their elementary schooling at St. George School, two miles west of our farm, and their High School in Watts and Hanna. Albert got married in 1940 and took over the farming operations and the rest of the family moved into Hanna. I then went into the Farm Machinery and Car business. Roy enlisted in the Air Force and was sent overseas, while Lloyd went to University. In 1945 both returned home and joined me in the business and from then on the business went under the name of A. A. Hutton & Sons. When I retired from the business the boys operated under the same name.

In the fall of 1947 along with a few others I became active in an oil well drilling company, Canada West Drilling. We bought three rigs from the firm of Snider and Head who had drilled the first gas well in the Hanna district, just south of the C.N.R. Dam. Our company operated mostly in Leduc, Devon and Red Water, and during the next three years we drilled some hundred wells. In 1951 the Company was sold to Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.

A couple of years later four friends and myself organized a company known

as Modern Packaging Company and began making polyethelene and cellophane bags. The company grew and prospered and three and one half years later we sold our business to some people from Winnipeg, who still operate the same place and under the same name, in south-east Calgary.

As time went on Dottie and I started looking for a warmer climate to spend the winter months. After holidaying in different places we decided Arizona was very much to our liking. We became acquainted with some people from Alberta who lived in Arizona so after a short time we were able to rent a trailer and move into the same trailer park as many other Alberta couples. We have spent the past sixteen winters there in our own trailer home and have gathered a host of friends, and it is really like a second home to us now.

In 1971 I disposed of my interest in both farm and business to my sons and decided to take life a little easier.

In conclusion I might say, while we have had our ups and downs during our active years, Dottie and I still enjoy good health and feel that this "Next Year's Country" has been good to us.

ALBERT E. HUTTON JR., by Albert Hutton — I was raised on a farm southwest quarter 25-31-15, northwest of Hanna. I attended public school at St. George, then rode five miles daily to Hanna, in all types of weather, to get my high school education, and also helped at home with the chores. My parents usually boarded the school teacher, and with hired help, along with neighbouring boys and girls my own age, and a lot of relatives around, we just never seemed to have any dull moments.

In 1940 my parents moved to Hanna, to attend to the machine business they had acquired, so I stayed on the farm. In December of that year, I married Doris Dahl, and worked at that farm for seven years. When time came for our oldest son to attend school, we found it very trying to get him the eight miles to and from school. In the fall of 1947, we bought five quarters of land, (the McCuish farm 33-31-15), then owned by the Stuart McCandless family, who retired to Chilliwack. By this time buses conveyed our children the three miles to the Watts school.

Our sons got their public and high school education in Watts and Hanna, then each took a year at the Olds School of Agriculture.

The spring of 1948 was very late. There had been a lot of snow, which had been blown into huge drifts, blocking all roads and railways; some were impossible to get through with snow plows. Then when spring finally arrived, we had floods, roads under water, washouts and erosion. The field work had been delayed and machine line was limited, so we found that year very trying.

Wolf Creek flows through our pasture into Dowling Lake. In 1970, Ducks Unlimited built a dam on this creek.

I have worked on executives of the F.U.A., Watts Mutual Telephone Company, Local school boards and the Special Areas.

Our oldest son Leslie married Linda Fadden and have two children, Cheryl and Harley, both attending Hanna Public school. We bought the George Fleck farm 32-31-15, where they live, just across the road from us. He also has grassland at Sheerness. Barry our youngest son married Diane Nelson, and have two boys, Gordon at school and Kieth at home. They live one mile north on the east half of 8-32-15. With the high cost of machinery and reliable help at a premium, we appreciate the convenience of working together. Along with the farming we each run a cow-calf herd of grade hereford stock. Barry and I have a few purebred Limousin cattle, while Leslie decided to branch out to Salers.

CARL JOHNSTON, by Nettie Quaschnick — Carl was the only son of the late J. B. Johnston. Carl bought land east of Hanna from Roy German in 1926, and later sold it to Dan Martin. He then purchased the Gilbert Chute homestead in 1928.

He lived with his parents part of the time and farmed this land along with his father's. On his dad's passing in 1940 he took his mother home with him, where she remained until her passing, in the spring of 1964. He then sold this land to Wesley Robinson and retired to Hanna. He was interested in sports, and was an ardent curler. He passed away suddenly in February, 1969.

CURRY JOHNSTON, by H.D. Johnston — Curry Johnston was raised in Welford, New Brunswick. Curry was a Boer War Veteran. In 1906, he filed on a homestead in the area north of Watts; south half 34-31-15.

Curry and family moved from the homestead to Calgary several times, then moved to Sardis, B.C. Eventually they settled on a farm in Aldergrove, B.C.

Curry and wife Ethel (Steeves) had a family of eleven children, nine boys and two girls, three boys are deceased.

Curry passed away in August, 1955.

GEORGE KROLL — George Kroll came out from Germany and filed on a homestead in the St. George school district; west half 23-31-15. George batched until his marriage to Mrs. Kellerman in 1935. They retired to Hanna in 1939 and Tommy Scott purchased the property.

The Lamb Family. Margaret, Joe, Mrs. Lamb, Johnnie, Sadie.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH LAMB, By Margaret Lamb — Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lamb and family came from the Hexham district of Northumberland, England in July 1919. They kept both cattle and sheep in their farming operations there. We came to our father's sister and family; the Emerson Robinson family, and stayed with them for several weeks. We bought our first half section of land from George Scott, east half 31-15. A few years later we bought the west half of the same section, which had been Solider Settlement land, owned by Everett Howard. In 1928 another quarter was bought, on the south side of what is now the No. 9 Highway, and was formerly owned by Len Waring. Another quarter of land was purchased, which is a half mile east of this piece of land. Also a quarter section was rented from Ken Morton of Calgary, and farmed for a number of years. It was recently sold, so reduced the cultivated acreage to work.

Joe and John started to raise Purebred Hereford stock, after buying several registered heifers to get a start. They have been members of the Canadian Hereford Association and the Calgary District Club, and a few years ago were presented with Memberships and pins in the Quarter Century Hereford Club of Alberta.

After coming to this district, John and Margaret attended St. George School, which was situated at the north side of our home section. For several weeks of that first winter, John was the only pupil who braved the extra cold weather and snow, so he and the teacher, Mr. Marr, kept the school fires burning, and no doubt got through a considerable amount of school work. Mr. Marr, wife and family lived in what is now a very dilapidated old house on the side of the road, a mile north of

Watts. Three of their children went to school while their father taught there.

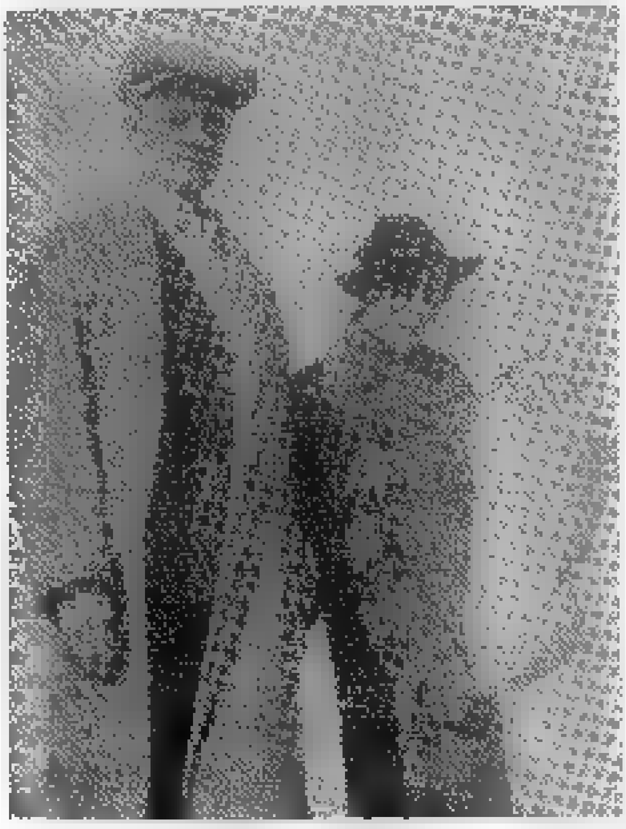
At that time and for several years afterwards there were railway section families at Watts. I recall a girl named Anne Juciplnk; and Charolette Creighton, daughter of the Home Elevator agent, attended our school. I mentioned these as they lived in our community for a limited time. Margaret attended St. George School until June 1926, Miss Foster being her last teacher.

The family have been active members of the First United Church in Hanna, following the purchase of our first car in 1926.

Our father passed away suddenly on March tenth, 1937, and mother also passed away suddenly on July twenty-fourth, 1957.

The family, Sarah (Sadie), Joseph, John and Margaret still reside on the original farmstead and carry on the usual farming operations.

We have never returned to England for a holiday, but have had the pleasure of a visit from three of our former neighbours, who were impressed with the vast distances which we can see in this country.


Edgar and Emily Lloyd and baby Deborah

EDGAR AND EMILY LLOYD, By Emily Lloyd — Edgar W. Lloyd and Emily (nee Adolf) purchased a house from Tom Scott Sr. in the St. George School district, where they resided until they moved to Hanna in 1945. In 1942 Deborah came to her new home in the country; mother and daughter were generously brought home from the hospital by Mr. Scott in his pig truck.

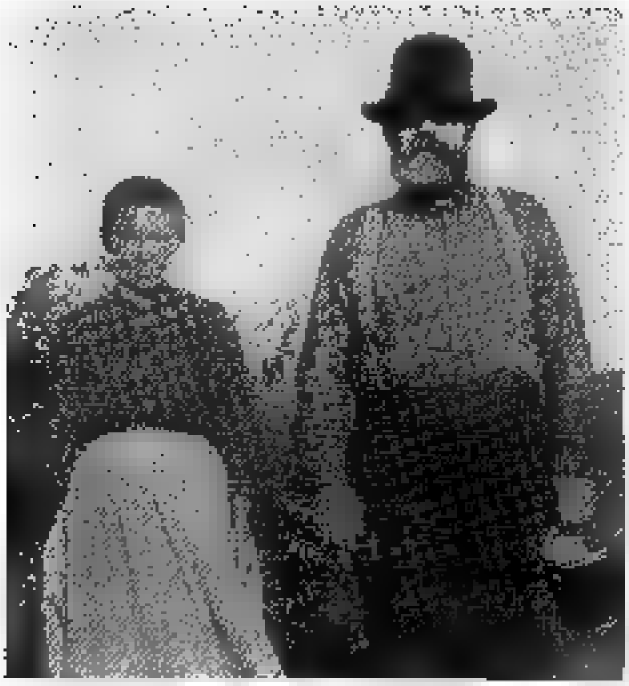
Edgar's work was with the C.N.R. in Hanna and found winters trying when the snow took over, but we loved our little country place, and the peace and quiet. Edgar met his death on the C.N.R. in 1948.

Albert Huttons lived to the east, Tom Scotts to the west and John and Lewis Steeves to the north. They were wonderful neighbours, and never any dull moments.

Hector our son, arrived soon after we moved the house into Hanna, and grew up to be a wise and ambitious young man. His interest always brought him back to Hanna, where finally cupid captured, and Sherry Steeves became his bride. They still reside near Hanna and have a wee newcomer, Casey. Deborah married Ron McKane, now residing at Vancouver with McKanes three: Katherine, Jennifer and Robert.

Emily, daughter of Henry Adolf, was born in a sod shack north of Hanna, near Gooseberry Lake School. Edgar's parents immigrated from Shrewsbury, England, when he was five years old and prospered in the city of Calgary. I still make my home in Calgary.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY MILLER, By Annie Dahl — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller came from Bessarabia, to North Dakota. Seven children were born there. The older children attended school there, but many nights had to be spent at the



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller

school, on account of blizzardy stormy weather. The teacher boarded with us. Mother usually put in extra lunch, in case we had to stay at the school until dad could come and get us, probably the next day.

In the fall of 1909, Dad and family came to Calgary from North Dakota, then later moved to Stettler. We spent the winter there. My youngest brother was born there.

Dad filed on a homestead, five miles west of Hanna 9-31-15. Horses, machinery, cattle, etc., had to be purchased. In the spring of 1910, we moved to the homestead. My oldest brother and dad built a small house, which we lived in for a few years, then a larger house was built. Dad had to haul supplies from Stettler and Castor, which took days for a return trip. In later years there was a small store to the southeast of us, called Copeville where we purchased our groceries. Then in 1912 Hanna came on the map.

Our farmstead was located near the C.N.R. railroad, which was very interesting. There was also a train wreck close by the house. Of course there were tragedies also, when horses, cattle or pigs would get on the track and get hit by the train.

We kids walked three miles to Earltown School, where Mrs. Leech was our first teacher. Later St. George School was built, which was some closer. For entertainment we had box socials, picnics, ball games and Christmas concerts, and church services at the school.

Dad and mother moved to Calgary in 1926, and dad passed away in 1932 at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at the age of seventy-three in 1942, one daughter in 1973 at the age of eighty-four, and one son, age seventy-one in 1974.

There were eight children born to this marriage: Philip, address unknown; Annie (Mrs. Dahl), Hanna; Abe, deceased; Fred, Hanna; Emma (Peggy) (Mrs. Milton Lieberman), Chicago, Ill.; Mae (Mrs. Adam Schniedmiller), Calgary; Johnnie, Vancouver, B.C.; George of Calgary.

RUFUS McCUISH FAMILY, by Jean McCuish Blank — Rufus Aubrey McCuish was born in 1874 in Kentville, Nova Scotia. He homesteaded in the area northwest of Hanna in 1906. The closest shopping centre at that time was Stettler.

Miss Mabel Hawkins was born in London, England in 1884. She and her friend Miss Bee Henley (who later married Jim Boyd) came to Canada in 1913 and worked in Calgary. Miss Hawkins, visiting her brother Henry Hawkins and his wife who farmed north of Craigmyle, met her future husband. Rufus McCuish was a brother of Mrs. Mae Hawkins. They were married in 1914 and went to live on his farm, east half 33-31-15. Six children were born:

Aubrey Hawkins McCuish — Attended [illegible]. George School. He farmed, and worked around Hanna, Cochrane and Golden before moving to Vancouver in 1955 where he lived and worked until his death in 1970. He also spent some time in the army.

Jean Renee Blank — Attended St. George School, also school started in

Watts in 1937. Worked in Calgary in 1941 and took a machinist's course in 1942 and moved to Hamilton, Ontario that same year to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, Jean joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp. and after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario, she was stationed in London, Ontario for the duration of the war. Jean was discharged from the army in September, 1946 and took a stenographic course in Calgary. Married John Arthur Blank in December, 1949. Jean retired from work in 1960 and in 1970 her husband took an early retirement and they moved to B.C. to live at Anglemont on Shuswap Lake.

Joan Audrey Sherriff — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Worked in Calgary and in 1942 took a machinist's course and went to Hamilton in August to work at the Westinghouse Plant. In December, 1942, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Joan was stationed in London after basic training at Kitchener, Ontario and a drafting course in Toronto, Ontario. Discharged from the army in May, 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951 as an architect after four years. She was then employed by the Department of Northern Affairs and Public Works in Ottawa. Married Norman Sherriff in September, 1958. Their son Eric was born on November 21, 1959. They moved to Red Deer in 1962 where they still reside.

Malcom Angus McCuish — Attended St. George School. Farmed until he joined the army in the spring of 1942 — sent overseas in September, 1942. Discharged in January, 1946. Worked around Golden until 1955 when he moved to Vancouver where he still resides.

Joyce Muriel McCuish — Attended St. George School and Watts High School. Joyce joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1943, basic training at Vermilion, Alberta, stationed at Suffield, Vancouver and Calgary, before being posted to Ottawa. She was discharged in Calgary September 1946. Graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951, as an architect. Employed by Departments of National Defence, Justice and Transport in Ottawa since 1952 where she still resides.

(Betty) Mabel Elizabeth McCuish — Attended St. George and Watts High School. Joined the army in 1945, took her basic training at Kitchener, Ontario, stationed in Ottawa and London, Ontario. She was discharged in May, 1946. Betty resided in Calgary until 1951 when she moved to Vancouver.

Rufus McCuish died in September, 1925. Mabel McCuish remarried in December, 1926 to John S. McDonald. Two more children were born:

(Peggy) Margaret Josphine McMillan — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Worked in Hanna until 1947 when she moved to Calgary. She moved to Vancouver with the company she worked for in 1949. Peggy married John M. McMillan in June, 1951. They have three children — Doug, seventeen, Don sixteen and Shari fourteen.

Lois Hildreth Giles — Attended St. George and Watts High Schools. Moved to Calgary in 1948 and lived there until she moved to Vancouver in 1951. She moved to Salmon Arm in 1962 and resided there until 1968 when she moved to Cranbrook where she still resides. She has three children; a son Gerry and two daughters, Kelly and Debbie.

Mabel McDonald moved to Vancouver in 1952 where she resided until her death in 1959.

Dad's brother, Murdock McCuish lived a quarter of a mile northwest on a farm adjoining our land. He died in 1933 and in 1937 the farm was rented and the family moved to Eckville, Alberta. The farm was later sold to Stuart and Bertha McCandless. Evan and Alma McCandless lived north of us. Roland and Lavinia Penny, son Herbert and daughter Mildred, lived to the southwest; they moved to

B.C. in 1937 and resided at Armstrong. Truman Steeves lived to the southeast of our farm. Our pasture land ran down to Dowling Lake and Wolf Creek flowed through the pasture to the lake. Other close neighbours were John Steeves family; Spencer Burns and family; also the Harry Steeves and Jacob Fleck families.

St. George School was a mile and a half from our home; which we attended by walking, buggy, democrat, horseback, Bennett buggy, sleigh or car.

Everyone went to Hanna Saturday night, if possible, to see the movie, shop and visit with neighbours and friends. Most of the clothing was purchased through the Eaton's Mail Order Catalogue.

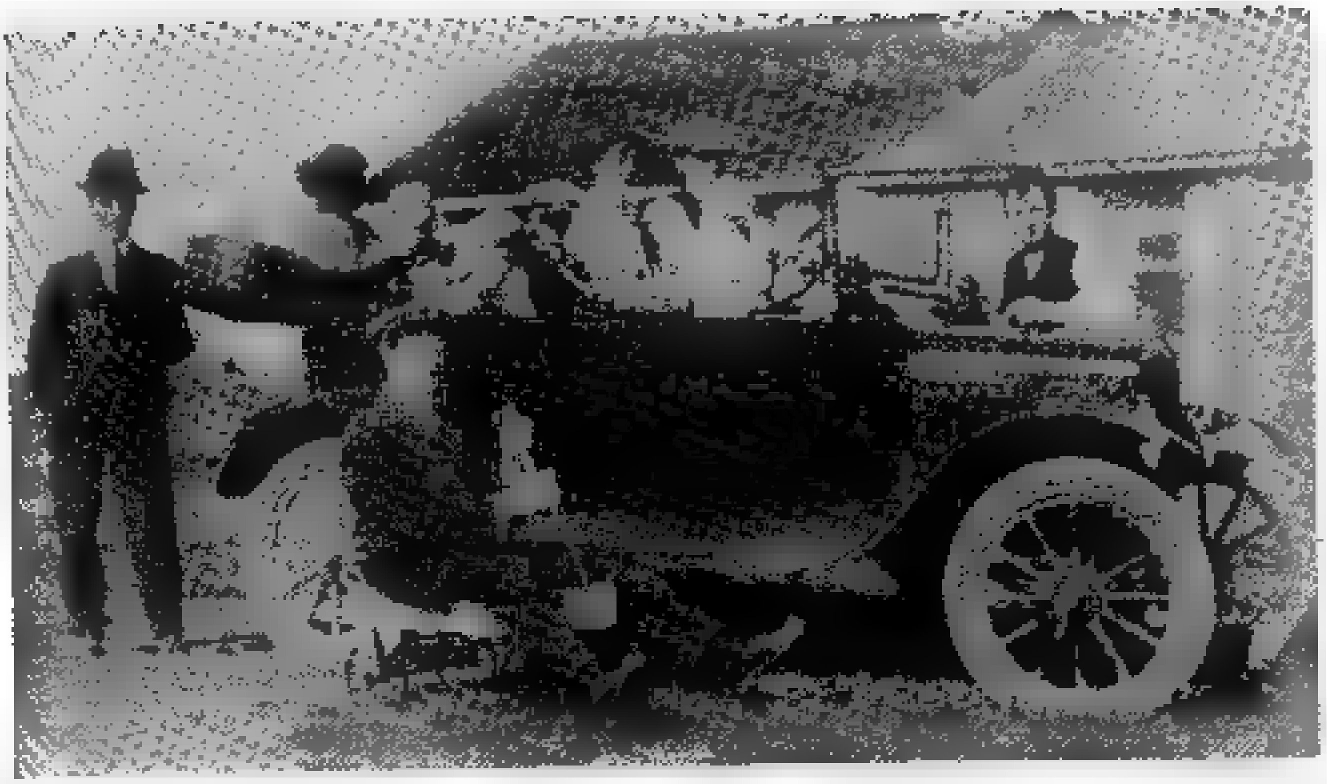
We used to attend the Hand Hills Stampede and other gatherings held in Hanna and district. A picnic was held every year at Clear Lake about seven miles northwest. Everyone took their lunches or dinners and spent the day there. Baseball games and other activities were there to be participated in or just watched. Dances were held often at St. George School. Christmas concerts were a yearly affair followed by lunch and a dance. Most children were put to sleep in a corner while their parents enjoyed themselves until the early hours when it came time to depart for home (in the early days) by sleigh. With this form of transportation you could be sure you'd get there. Many families had bells fastened to the harness and on a still cold night, they could be heard for miles. They were company on many a sleigh ride.

The first cars used in the winter were a real hazard — you never knew whether you'd get to your destination or not. If they didn't freeze up, they usually got stuck in the snow.

THE M. J. McCUISH and W. E. McCREIGHT FAMILIES — By Stan McCreight — Murdoch Joseph (Murt) McCuish was born in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. He and his brother Rufus A. (Ruf) McCuish settled about a mile and a half southwest of Dowling Lake in 1905 when they moved in with a herd of cattle from Crossfield. This was later known as the St. George School District. They ranched in partnership for quite a number of years and were known as McCuish Brothers. They, as well as many other ranchers in Alberta at that time, lost very heavily in the winter of 1906-07 when many of their cattle starved or froze to death from the severe weather. The many bones lying in the coulee for years after were a grim reminder of that hard winter. When this district was thrown open to homesteaders, Ruf took up the east half 33-31-15, which was the place where their ranch headquarters was located. Murt homesteaded the west half of the same section.

They gradually cut down on their cattle herd as they started farming, and continued to operate as a partnership until the end of 1913. This year McCuish Brothers shipped the first car of wheat through the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. from this district on September 14, 1913. It was the Marquis variety and graded number one.

Mr. and Mrs. William Edmund McCreight and their two children came to Alberta in 1910 to take up a homestead. While Wm. McCreight and his wife's brother, Andy Murdoch, looked for land, Mrs. McCreight and two small children, Winnifred and Stanley took a trip to Ireland to visit her father. Wm. McCreight and Andy Murdoch located land on the north side of Dowling Lake. Wm. McCreight took up the south half 23-32-15, and Andy Murdoch took up the north half of that section. Andy farmed for a few years and then sold out to Joseph McBurney in 1916. Andy Murdoch will be remembered by many of the oldtimers as he built many houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He passed away in Ireland in 1974 where his widow still resides.



Back Seat: Murt McCuish, Mrs. Henry Hawkins and son Albert, Nora McCuish and Stan McCreight. Front Seat: Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCuish, son Bill. Standing: Henry Hawkins. Wagon: Andy Murdock.

Wm. McCreight's farming career was short lived when tragedy struck and he was drowned in the well that first summer. Mrs. Minnie McCreight and two children, accompanied by her father, returned from Ireland after her husband's death and carried on with the homestead duties. Her father remained with her on the farm for some months before returning to Ireland. About this time her sister-in-law, Martha McCreight, from Ireland, arrived and stayed with her for a year.

During these years the settlers got their mail at Dowling Lake Post Office which was located about ten miles to the northwest. Castor, which was about forty miles north, was their main shopping centre until Hanna became established.

Mrs. Minnie McCreight and Andy McCuish were married and lived in the district for many years, where their two children Nora and William were born. Mrs. McCuish's eldest daughter, Winnifred McCreight, passed away in 1916.

A school district was formed and St. George School was built in 1915. The school house was used for all kinds of gatherings, such as elections, school meetings, church, parties and dances as well as the very popular Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by adults as well as the children. By 1917 a grocery store and post office were opened up at Watts by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newton. The business was operated from the annex of the Home Grain Co. for several months while the store was being built. Newtons later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Lund in 1923.

Murt McCuish bought his first tractor in 1916 which he used mortly for breaking. The following year he came out with a new Ford car which was quite an advance over riding behind a team of horses. As time went on he acquired more land, and by 1925 had his own threshing machine. Later he went to the more modern method of harvesting when he changed over to the combine.

Murt McCuish farmed in the district until his death in 1933. After this, Mrs. McCuish carried on with the farm until the fall of 1937 when she and the family left the district and moved to Eckville. Mrs. McCuish and her daughter Nora drove the car while Bill McCuish and Stan McCreight took the livestock, machinery and household effects by train.

Nora married Jim Hartley and they had one son James. They lived in the

Eckville district for many years before moving to Calgary where Jim died in 1968. Nora and her son James still reside in Calgary.

Mrs. Minnie McCuish lived at Eckville until her passing in 1967.

Stan McCreight married Betty DeLong and they had two children, Joan and Bob. I sold this farm in 1972 and with my wife and family moved to Calgary where we now reside.

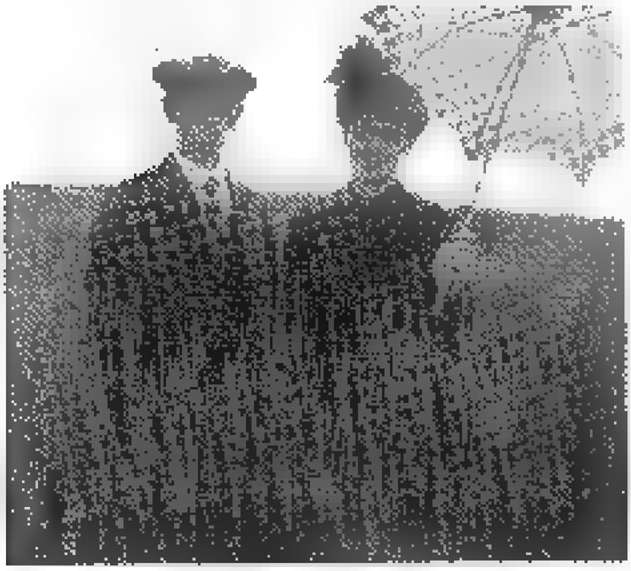
Bill McCuish also sold his farm in 1972 and moved to Calgary and lives with his sister, Mrs. Nora Hartley.

ROLAND S. PENNY FAMILY — Roland Penny was a veteran of the Boer War. Mr. Penny homesteaded the north half 28-31-15. About 1934, the family moved to Armstrong, B.C. Their daughter Mildred Hallowatty still resides at Armstrong. Their son Herbert lives at the west coast.

Mrs. Penny passed away in 1938, and her husband, Roland passed away in 1976, at the age of ninety-eight.

EMERSON ROBINSON FAMILY, By Joe Robinson — My father, Emerson Robinson was born in County Durham, England, in 1863. He came to Iowa, U.S.A., early in the 1880's. My mother, the former Hannah Lamb, was born [illegible] Northumberland, England, and came to Iowa with her parents as a child. My parents were married in Kalo, Iowa, in 1892. They had six children, Lydia, Margaret, Joseph, Thomas, Phoebe and Faye.

The whole family came to Stettler, Alberta, [illegible] March 1911. Dad filed on southeast 15-31-15 in March 1911, but the family remained on the Stettler farm until the spring of 1913, when they moved to the homestead here. Joe Robinson still lives on the farm here.



1916 — Father and Mother, Emerson and Hannah Robinson, standing in wheat crop at homestead.

Joe Robinson Family. Wesley, Shirley, Dad, Sylvia, and Emerson.

In the interim between 1911 and 1913, Mr. Robinson travelled back and forth from Stettler by horse and wagon to make improvements on the homestead. We brought two cows and two teams of horses from Stettler. At that time we dug [illegible] shallow well which kept us well supplied with drinking water, and the cattle watered at the creek. As time went by my father, and later, my brother and I acquired more land, and in all the years that we have been here, we have had only one complete crop failure. The C.N.R. rail tracks were laid through our land [illegible] 1912.

The first wheat I remember my father selling in 1911 was sold, some for forty-

eight cents a bushel and some for sixty-eight cents a bushel. In 1916 we couldn't get the wheat threshed until the spring of 1917, when Mr. Nyehelm did the job with his big outfit. Wheat in the fall of 1916 was ninety-eight cents a bushel, and in the spring of 1917 when we threshed, we were getting two dollars and forty-six cents on the market, until a Government Board set the price at two dollars and twenty cents at the elevator. Around this time good cows were selling at forty dollars and sixty dollars per head. A team of horses was selling around three hundred and twenty-five dollars to four hundred and fifty dollars. In 1915 the Stubbs Brothers' outfit threshed our grain.

St. George School was built in 1915. Prior to this, the children went to Earltown school. Mrs. Leech was then the teacher at Earltown, and the first teacher at St. George school was Florence Bennett, who boarded with my parents.

Our nearest neighbours when we homesteaded were — on the east, Henry Miller and his family, on the north was George Scott and family; to the south, Andy McKay, and to the west the Gilbert Chute family. There were also the Al, Charlie and Frank Hutton Brothers and Bill Waring to the east. We used to get mail at Magee's Store which was two miles to the southwest.

My sister, Lydia, married Harry Beaistow in 1914, and they lived in Coronation. They had one child, Patricia, who now lives on Vancouver Island. Sister Margaret married Reg Vose in 1915, and lived in Winnipeg until her death. They had one son, Reg, who served twenty-seven years in the navy, and now resides in Vancouver. My brother Tom and I farmed in partnership until his death in 1959. My sister, Phoebe, married Harold Lund. They farmed and operated a store in Dowling, until they moved to Hanna where they operated various businesses. They had two children, Frank and Betty. Phoebe still lives in Hanna, as does my nephew, Frank.

Sister Faye married Ed Bell in 1932, and they lived for a long period in the Handhills, until they retired to Hanna, where Ed still lives.

I married Catherine Fitzgerald in 1927. She taught many schools in the district. Catherine passed away in 1948, leaving me with four children, Sylvia, Emerson, Wesley and Shirley. Sylvia became Mrs. Claude Hunter. They had one daughter, Linda who is married to Larry Nelson, now residing at Michichi. Claude Hunter passed away and Sylvia is now Mrs. Bert Marshall. They have two girls, Janet and Brenda. Emerson and his wife Martha of Hanna, have four girls; Ginny, Catherine, Connie and Tammie Lynn. Emerson is an engineer on the C.N.R., and with his father farms about three sections of land. Wesley and Ruby with their two children, Blake and Sherrie live on a farm one mile west of me. Shirley and her husband Brian Olson, have a daughter, Patricia. They live at Carstairs. Shirley is a registered nurse in Calgary, and Brian also holds down a good job with the Calgary airport.

WESLEY ROBINSON, By Wesley and Ruby Robinson — I got my education at St. George, Earltown and Watt schools, and for a few years, with the shortage of teachers, I had correspondence lessons, with mother's assistance.

In 1957, I worked for the P.F.R.A. in Hanna. That same spring I married Ruby Bossert of Endiang, and continued living in Hanna, and worked at various jobs, at the C.N.R. Shops, A. A. Hutton and Sons garage. Then in January 1958, I started to work for K and B Motors, and am still employed with them.

In 1962, I bought a quarter of land from Irene O'Rourke. Then in 1964, I bought the Carl Johnston farm, west half 15-31-15. and moved from Hanna to the

farm. In 1972, I purchased another half section of land from Sam Branum, formerly the Andy McKay homestead.

We have two children, Blake and Sherrie, who both attend school in Hanna.

The Scotts. Mother's eightieth birthday, 1964. Back Row: Joe, Mrs. Margaret Scott, Stanley. Centre Row: Ellen, Hannah, Mabel, Alice. Front Row: Archie, Ernest.

GEORGE SCOTT STORY, By Joe Scott and Alice Gwin — In 1910 we came from Stettler with my grandfather, Joseph Lamb and stayed at his place, until we moved to the homestead east half 22-31-15, in what was later called the Watts and St. George school districts.

I sat on the door step and watched them build the railroad past our house.

Mother baked bread for five bachelors for awhile; Clifford Phibbs, J.K. Sutherland, Andy McKay and the Burdett brothers.

Alice stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leech to attend Earltown School until St. George was built.

We had a good crop in 1911, so dad went to Castor to get a binder, and before he got back, a hail storm had flattened the crop. By the way, that binder cut my thumb off at the last joint, leaving a half inch of skin on the back. I had a stiff thumb for twenty years, until a spill with a saddle horse, broke the joint loose.

A few years later, a prairie fire early in the spring burnt every blade of grass we had. The railroad grade was new, and stopped the fire from spreading any further south.

We dug a well and got good water at about eight feet, but in the fall the garter snakes denned up in it, and they came every fall as long as we lived there.

Two of my sisters were born here. Mabel, Mrs. Bruce Taylor of Mirror, and Hannah, the late Mrs. Jerry Taylor. Hannah passed away in Calgary at the age of fifty, on January first, 1965. My brother Ernest, lives at Merritt, B.C. Mother is ninety-two years of age and lives in Kamloops, B.C. with her youngest son Archie. She still enjoys fishing and coming to Hanna to visit.

After we left the homestead in 1917, my brother Stanley was born in Hanna and now ranches on Rose Hill, inside the Kamloops city limits.

My sister Ellen, Mrs. Dan Verigin, was born after we moved to Kamloops, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C. I am retired, and still reside in Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Scott in 1917.

THOMAS R. SCOTT, By Catherine Scott Johnson — Dad was born in 1896 in Norfolk, Nebraska, the son of Elizabeth and Harrison Scott. When he was nine the family consisting of ten children moved to the Innisfail area, where another daughter was born. Dad grew up and went to school in the Huxley area and eventually bought land there and married Katherine "Kit" Steeves.

Mother wanted to be nearer her family; her brothers Truman, Harry and John were farming in the Watts district as were her parents George and Adelaide

Steeves. So Mother and Dad undertook to move all of their worldly goods across country to the Trum Steeves farm. They brought along all their livestock and Dad said the hens even kept laying and supplied them with eggs for the trip.

In the family home in Hanna [illegible] glass china cupboard is still in use that made that trip in a lumber wagon, packed with prairie wool.

While living on the Trum Steeves place my brothers, Thomas Allan ("Tommy" to differentiate from "Tom", my father) and James (Jimmy) were born.

In 1923 Dad had a severe loss by fire. The grain elevator at Watts had been plugged but some cars came in, so Dad brought his six best horses into the barn in readiness for hauling the next day. That night somehow the barn caught fire. He lost his six horses, some milk cows, [illegible] loft full of feed, equipment and even a rack of feed which was in the yard.

About 1924 my parents bought Mother's parents' farm (The George Steeves farm) and Alfred and I were born there.

Our brother Jimmy, aged six, died in 1926 of pneumonia. In 1928 during the flu epidemic we were all hospitalized and we lost our mother and our newborn baby sister.

Dad was left with us three children, aged two, four and nine, to raise alone, so our aunt, Betty Scott (Greig) came to help us out and she told Dad in the fall that if he could get her a school to teach she'd stay with us for awhile, so Dad did — and the school was Silver Valley. Dad bought his first Model A so Aunt Betty could get to her school.

In the following years, Dad, Tommy and Alfred batched a lot of the time, helped by hired girls and our aunts — Betty Greig and Lucille Steeves. I asked Tommy about amusing anecdotes about their batching years and he said nothing was funny about batching.

In 1935 Dad went to B.C. and brought back a former Hanna girl, Ethel Stirling, as his wife. They arrived in November after a snow storm and had to go the last mile home by horse and sleigh. Mother wondered what she was doing back in this cold country.

She must often have wondered what possessed her to come back to the Hanna district in the following years as she helped to raise us three children, and contended with the hardships of those times. Drought, grasshoppers, dust storms and depression. A town girl set down in a house with no electricity or running water, and a coal stove.

Our neighbours got together and had a chivaree for Mother and Dad. Mother remembers being awakened by what she took to be coyotes but was in reality the neighbours making a great commotion outside the house. We quickly got up and took down all the clothes drying on lines in the kitchen, so we could [illegible] people in.

Tommy, Alfred and I all went to St. George School and Alfred and I later went to Watts school. Alfred was janitor one year at St. George (for which he was paid a princely sum). Alfred's idea was that he look after the fires and I do the cleaning, and I still can't remember how he conned me into that.

In 1939 we moved to the Kroll place and in 1943 Tommy married Joan Desilets; my brothers took over the farm and Mom, Dad and I moved east of Hanna to the place where Bill and Betty MacKenzie now live.

Alfred didn't stay on the farm too long as he found he was allergic to the dust so he started in the logging business around Cochrane.

In 1946 my parents bought a hundred acres from Mr. Lindstrom, that area west of third street west in Hanna, they had [illegible] house built on the property and Mother still lives there. In that area there are now two schools, the civic centre and a number of homes.

Our parents have always been actively supportive of the Church of Christ in Hanna. Dad was an elder and treasurer fpr fifteen years and Mother taught Sunday school for many years, was in the choir and president of the W.M.S. and is still as active as she can manage.

Dad farmed two hundred and twenty-five acres west of town and continued to run a feedlot, buying and selling cattle, until his health broke down in 1966 and he had to give up the farm.

In 1975 Mother and Dad celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary, with a small party at the Palliser Nursing Home and all our immediate family attended, also Betty and Jock Greig of Calgary; some of the grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Father passed away in the Hanna Hospital December the twenty-sixth, 1975.

Tommy and Joan have three children, all grown up and married. Tommy and his son Allan still farm in the Watts district. Alfred is in the lumber business in Revelstoke, married Francis Pepper of Cochrane and they have eight children and three grandchildren. Catherine (that's me) married Stan Johnson of Edmonton; we have three children, one married.

THOMAS ALLAN SCOTT, By Tommy Scott — I was born on the farm, attended St. George School, and have lived in the Watts and Hanna districts all my life.

I remember the lean years of the "thirties." In 1936, I helped my uncle, Jock Greig, move and trek cattle from the Gage place west of Clear Lake to his new location just south of Calgary. Thanks to the grasshoppers, we had no crop the fall of 1937, so I went harvesting northwest of Airdrie.

I started farming operations on my own in 1939 when I rented the George Kroll place. That year, in partnership with my Dad we purchased our first tractor, a fifteen-thirty International on steel.

In 1943, I married Joan Desilets, a school teacher who had taught Dowling Lake School for three years. Dad moved to a place on the eastern outskirts of Hanna and Joan and I lived on the Kroll place. Those were the war years when sugar, gas and tires were rationed. A son, Allan was born in 1945.

My brother, Alfred lived with us and we farmed together until the fall of 1945. That year a hailstorm completely harvested our crop and Alfred left the farm and began lumbering operations at Cochrane.

In 1949, I started a new home on the western outskirts of Hanna. Joan and I and our son, Allan took up residence in Hanna in February, 1950.

Still in partnership with Alfred, we opened a lumber yard, known as "Scott Lumber" on four lots west of our house.

Alfred operated lumber camps at Cochrane and points in B.C. and the yard primarily was an outlet for some of his material, but later we expanded to handle other building materials. With hired help on the farm, we managed the lumber yard and the farming operations.

A son, Randy was born in 1952 and a daughter, Judy in 1953.

In 1955, I sold Scott Lumber to the Revelstoke Lumber Co. and the yard was moved to the corner of second Avenue and Third Street West. I agreed to stay on as manager for one year, and ended up by doing so for thirteen years. During those years, I was involved with many of the building projects in Hanna, as well as being a trustee on the Hanna School Board for twelve years.

In 1968, I quit the lumber business and concentrated on expanding the farming and ranching in partnership with my son, Allan, who purchased the adjoining holdings of Lewis Steeves. The lands we now farm once belonged to

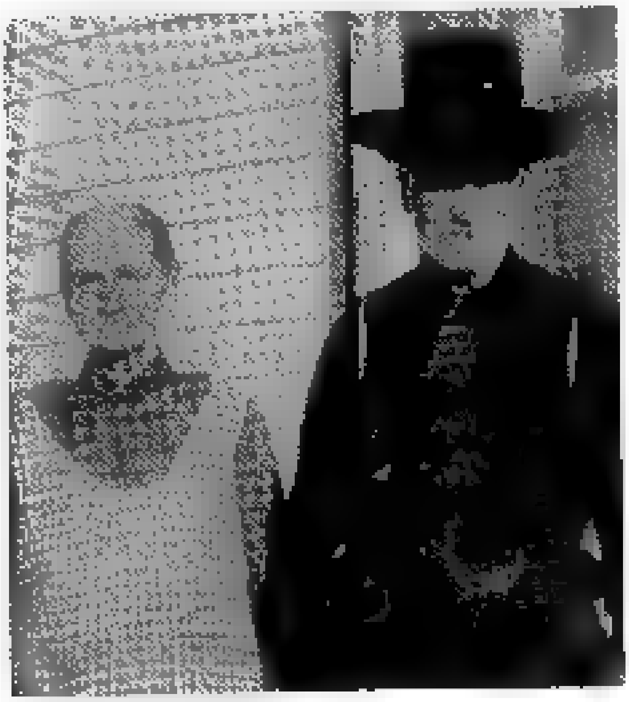
several oldtimers and are still referred to as such — the Kroll place, the Fox place, the Steeves place, etc.

Joan and I still live in Hanna and our children are all married.

Allan married Diana Charlton of Hanna and they have a daughter, Shannon. After attending S.A.I.T. for two years and obtaining his automotive license, Allan worked as a mechanic in Hanna for three years before going farming. They now reside on their farm in the Watts district.

Randy married Ann Wallace of Hanna. After graduating from University at Calgary, he worked as a geologist at Elsa, Yukon for two and a half years before returning to the family farm.

Judy married Bruce Pennock of Hanna. They live in Calgary where Bruce is employed with A.G.T. and Judy is a Judicial Clerk at the Court House.


George and Adelaide Steeves

MR. and MRS. GEORGE STEEVES, By granddaughter Delpha Howatt — George and Adelaide Steeves, with three of their daughters came from Washington to Olds, Alberta, in 1908. They lived with us for a year. Grandpa came to this district to file a homestead on south-west quarter 35-31-15. Dad and his brother John came to help build a house. Father helped them bring their cattle across country.

Ethel, the eldest daughter married Currie Johnston in 1911. They lived on south-west quarter 4-32-15. His brother Dave lived with them. They moved to British Columbia in 1918. They raised a family of twelve children. Aunt Ethel still lives in Vancouver.

Sarah married Fred Borel in 1914, and lived north of Craigmyle, until they retired to Calgary in 1945. They had one girl, Louise, who married Archie Blair.

Katherine, better known as Kit, married Tom Scott in 1917.

Grandma and Grandpa lived here until 1920, when they moved north to Blackfoot for several years, then came back to the former place, and lived here until his death; Grandma went to Calgary to live with Sarah and Fred, where she stayed until her passing in March 1950, at the age of ninety-six.

Grandpa had a keen interest in his horses. Grandma was always there; quiet, cooking, scolding grandpa or reading her Bible, which was the only thing that she ever read. She always seemed real old to me, but she really wasn't. She would walk over to our place many times, a distance of two miles.

HARRY and ALBERTA STEEVES, By Delpha Steeves Howatt — Harry Steeves came to Olds, Alberta in 1900 from North Dakota, where he had worked as a well driller for many years. He took a homestead eleven miles east of Olds. He married Alberta Abel, commonly known as Berty in December 1902. Five of us children were born there, Delpha, Elva, Lorna, Marian and Elroy was three months when we came to the St. George district. I remember the trip across country very well. It was November 1913. Dad had a large democrat with the organ, dad, mother and the two babies rode in it. He pulled the buggy behind and we three

girls rode in it. It took two and a half days to make the trip. We forded the river at Munson. I'll always remember how frightened we were. We were afraid that our old dog (Bounce) would drown.

However, on November the sixth we arrived at Granddad's in the dark. We lived with them until dad, mom and his brothers built a house on Uncle John's place where we lived until the spring of 1916. By this time father had purchased south-half 28-31-15, and built a house and barn on it. The winter of 1916, dad was working on the house and mother had gone to the States for a visit and myself, then eleven and Elva, nine, stayed home with dad. Well, we did the cooking and took it over every day on the stone boat, with our old crippled horse, Pearl. I'm sure that there must have been some queer meals. We had a gray enamel coffee pot that held a gallon, and we always had that. We cooked meat and spuds and sometimes beans. Grandma baked our bread, so that helped. It would not have been so bad, but we had well drillers as well; so there were three extra men to feed. I wonder what kids would do nowadays. We were not in school, as it had just opened in August and always closed in the winter months.

Those were lonely days for two girls, who were expected to be grown up. There were no close neighbours, except our grandparents.

In the spring of 1914, my father was in town, the snow was all gone except a few patches. Mother saw a very large smoke in the west, she had never seen a prairie fire, and was alone with us children. Soon grandfather, Uncle Jim and Emil Backman came running to help. They tried to stop it before it got to our buildings, but were not successful. Mother sent Elva and Lorna, who were quite small, across the plowed field to grandma's. She took the two little ones and me out to a plowed field and I sat and held my baby brother and cuddled Marian for the whole afternoon. I remember it was Mert McCuish, who came to bring us home after the fire was past. My father's new barn and feed went, also ten brood sows and the new pens. The cow was found a couple of days later. Granddad had to blindfold the horses to get them out of the barn. I never saw a distant smoke after that, without being terrified.

When we arrived there was not a school for us to go to. However on August 14, 1915, our new school was opened. There were four of us girls that started the same day. Half the time I carried Marian piggy back, as she was only five and I was eleven. We really had fun there. Very few of the children had scribblers at first, so Mrs. Bennett went out to the scrap pile, where the workmen had left pieces of building paper, and we all used that to write on. Finally it got settled down to normal. Then chicken-pox broke out in school. For me this was torture, as I hated to miss school. When it got cold we drove old Pearl horse on a stone boat.

Those were hard years in some ways. My dad hauled coal from Sam Wadsworth mine, and it was a long cold trip in the winter.

After my father had moved his parents out from Olds, he saw the need for a threshing machine in the area, so he shipped his big steam outfit to Castor by rail, and drove it over land the rest of the way. To my knowledge it was the first outfit in the district, and he ran it until the fall of 1921, when he sold it to Emil Backman.

As teenage girls there was very little entertainment for us. We went to a few dances, some surprise parties in the winter, but there was nothing much else to do in those days. I went out to work at the age of fifteen.

In 1921, I married Harvey Howatt. We had six children, three boys and three girls. Harvey passed away in August 1976. I now live in Lloydminster.

Elva married Ray Grantham and raised three girls and two boys. She passed away in May 1967.

Lorna married Bill Bolton. They had five boys and two girls. She still lives at St. Thomas, Ontario.

Marian married Elmer Gray. They had two boys and two girls. Elmer passed away in June 1972. Marian lives at Smithers, B.C., near two of her children.

Elroy married Maggie Nixon. They had a boy and [illegible] girl. He lives at Victoria, B.C.

Alice married Lorne Slack. They had two girls and three boys. Lorne died in 1952. She resides at Quesnel.

Hazel married Johnnie Kessler, they had six boys and six girls. Johnnie passed away several years ago. She is living at the present with Alice.

Ila, the baby, who was born after I was married, has a family of four boys and four girls. She lives at Kamloops, B.C.

Father and mother lived on the old place until 1934, when they moved to Bluffton. They were there until 1945, when they moved to Edmonton. In the spring of 1947, they moved to Summerland, B.C. Father passed away there in May 1948, at the age of seventy-three. Mother passed away at Bonnyville, where I lived at that time, in November, 1967, at the age of eighty-four.

JOHN STEEVES, By Freda Steeves Vernell — John Steeves came from Chamberlain, South Dakota in 1900 to Medical Lake, Washington, then in 1909 to the Olds area and to Hanna-Watts area. In 1910, he filed on a homestead, the north half of 27-31-15.

He married Lucille Elizabeth Scott in 1916. The Scott family had come from Nebraska in 1905 [illegible] Knee Hill Valley, where dad and mother met through Ken Steeves. After their marriage they moved back to the homestead. Dad ran a Candy Store in Innisfail in 1920.

They had four children; Lewis, Freda, Johnnie and Ruth. Mother passed away in 1936.

In 1946 dad sold his holdings to his son Lewis and retired to Aldergrove, B.C.

Lewis Steeves, 1955. Grand Champion Bull at Lacombe Bull Sale.

LEWIS STEEVES, By Lewis Steeves — Lewis Steeves, son of John and Lucille Steeves was born in 1917 on my father's homestead. Dr. Mason was the doctor in attendance. I got my education at St. George school.

In 1940, I bought the George Steeves (grandfather) homestead. In 1944-45 I ran the Hamilton Dairy; milking twenty-five cows by hand and later I bought a milking machine. I sold this milk in cans to John Patzer in Hanna, who bottled and delivered the milk.

In 1946, when my dad retired to Aldergrove B.C., I purchased his homestead and continued farming.

In 1953, I acquired my first registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, which later became one of the top herds in Western Canada. It was then known as "Sherry Farms" — named after my daughter. Foundation stock were sold in all the prairie provinces and many parts of the U.S.A. I continued farming until 1968, when I sold

the farm to cousin Tommy Scott and son. I retired to Hanna, but found life very boring.

Then in 1970, I purchased a farm at Ponoka, Alberta, where I re-established some granddaughters from my old Sherry herd, which again have become well known for foundation breeding stock.

We had four children: Marcia, Sherry, Richard and Valerie. Marcia married Bob Tychy of Edmonton and has three children; Sherry married Hector Lloyd and has a son. They reside in the Hanna area. Richard passed away in 1976 and Valerie is at home.

THE WARING STORY, By Wilma Waring Cheney — William and Mary Jane Waring were both born in England; they came to Canada around 1887, and settled in Victoria, B.C. William worked as a Steam Engineer at the Tuxedo Coffee and Spice Mill. They had six children, William, (my dad), Florence, Mable, Leonard, Harry and Bob, as far as I know they were all born in Victoria.

When at work, my grandfather met a man by the name of Jack Mograge. It seems as though Jack had bought land in Hanna that he had never seen. He moved his family there, and discovered that some of the land was a lake, Fox Lake. He built a sod house. Mr. Mograge was very lonely, so he wrote to his friend William in Victoria, and told him about sunny Alberta, and how great things were there. In 1910 the Waring family left Victoria on the C.P.R. whick took them to Castor; they went the rest of the way by wagon. Six miles west of Hanna (now owned by T. G. Franklin) is where their homestead was.

My uncle Harry says, "The first summer we were there, all we had to use for fire was prairie peat, as there was no wood for miles around. In the winter we dug our own coal at a place called the Cutbanks. It took a full day to go, dig it out, and return. The first restaurant, a tent on the west side, but I can't recall the name of it. Copeville was the Post Office at that time, two miles east of Hanna. Things I remember vividly were the mosquitoes and the rain, it rained and rained, I thought it would never stop."

In 1916 Mrs. Waring and family bade their husband and father good-bye, he left for the battle-field; was a sergeant in France and Germany until the First World War ended. He then returned to Hanna.

The coming of the railroad made the walk to and from Hanna shorter as they went via the tracks. Dad helped the cook on the construction gang, when the railroad was being built; it went right in front of their farm.

William Jr. had his homestead closer to Watts. One of his friends was Roy Embree, in 1921 while he was staying with Dad he became ill, and dad nursed his friend through some very sick hours.

The Salvation Army came to Hanna; in 1924 dad married Lieutenant Victoria Ede. They left the farm and moved to Summerland, B.C. When grandpa died on May 22, 1926 as a result of a kick in the stomach he received from a horse, my parents returned to Hanna.

I was born on February 27, 1928. Two weeks later my dad was grief-stricken as they laid my mother to rest in the Hanna Cemetery. Hard as it was, life had to go on, his mother helped him with the baby. Later on he married Jean Mairs from Winnipeg.

The younger members of the Waring family grew up and left for homes of their own. In 1929 my grandmother and her youngest son went back to Victoria.

Dad was living in Hanna by this time, where my half-sisters Ora and June were born. June died when she was eighteen months old. I remember how often we moved when we were growing up. Dad went wherever he could get work during

the depression years. He drove garbage and water wagons, he lathed and shingled many buildings.

My parents moved away from Hanna for the last time in 1951 to make their home in Calgary. I became a Salvation Army Officer in 1947, serving in Canada and India for fifteen years in all. I came back to Canada in 1960. I married Ralph W. Cheney, of Drumheller in 1962. We have two boys. Ora married James Pickering, and has one son.

Dad passed away in 1968 and mother in 1975. My uncles Len and Harry are the only two left of the Hanna homesteaders. They live in Victoria, B.C.

DAVID SCHMIDT, By Helen Schmidt — David Schmidt was born April 19, 1909 at Butte, North Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Simon and Marie Schmidt, in 1910. They homesteaded north of Watts on the west side of Dowling Lake.

David went to school at Dowling Lake whenever possible. One of his teachers was E. K. Neff. Others who attended at the same time were Levi and Philip Kennedy, Mac Fuller, Philip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartt, Antonia Hoffman, Pauline, Martin and Bertha Siezle.

After working out at different jobs such as running threshing machines for Doyles and Siezles and trucking for many years, he came back and bought one half section of land from Stuart McCandless, and started farming for himself in 1944. In 1947 he married Helen Welch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Welch.

We have four children; they all attended Watts school until it closed, then they were bussed into Hanna.

In 1960 we bought his father's farm; moved our house over there, and built up a farm yard. We got the power put in, which was very nice. Now there are rural gas lines that show things have come a long way since coal stoves and oil lamps, and carrying water from the pumps and wells.

We have four children: Lawrence married Paulette Campbell. They live in Calgary where he works under the name of Larry's Contracting. They have two children, Michael and Kari-Ann.

Leslie married Wendy Alspach; they are living in Hanna. Marvin married Mary Warminski. They live in a trailer home on the farm with us. Marvin is a mechanic for E. O. Parry and also farms. Gerald is still going to school taking his grade eleven. He does wood work and loves to take old cars apart and rebuild them.

HOFFMAN FAMILY, By Karl Hoffman — Julius Hoffman (Dad) was born October 9, 1867, in German-occupied Poland. In 1889 he was married to Eva Augusta Weiss who was born November 15, 1872 in Warsaw, Poland. To them were born four sons and four daughters.

That area of Europe was then dominated by Prussian militarism and ruthless warfare. Not wanting to live under this military pressure, and having heard of the free country of Canada where Julius had a brother in Edmonton studying Theology, they decided to move.

In the fall of 1907 with seven children, Ottilia, Sammuel, Rosella, Karl, Sigmund, Augusta and Antonia, they embarked on the ship Bresslau and after two weeks of ocean travel arrived in Baltimore, Maine, then went on to Edmonton by train. In the spring they rented land south-west of Edmonton.

Here we lived until 1909 when Dad went to Stettler to find a homestead where there was less bush, as clearing land of trees was hard work in those days. After filing on the south half of 17-32-15, we trailed three horses, a colt and several cows

to the homestead where there was not a building or fence in sight. We set up a tent, which was home until August, when Dad built the house which was added onto over the years and still stands today, overlooking a steep coulee where we kids spent happy times exploring for Indian Arrowheads and in winter sleigh-riding. Tillie and Sam stayed in Edmonton where they had jobs. I, Karl, eleven years at the time had to help look after things when Dad was away to Stettler or Castor. Once I had to help Mother butcher a pig — I never liked meat after that.

Julius and Augusta Hoffman

Karl Hoffman, 1918

In 1911, Albert Kellgren, a big Swedish carpenter and Dad, also a carpenter by trade, built the Dowling Lake School on two acres in the south-west corner of Hoffman's land. It was handy as the three younger ones, Sig, Gusti and Toni went to school there. Being fourteen years old I was considered of more help on the plow than in school. Some of the kids going to school then were the Kennedy's, Whitaker's, Howard's. While I was plowing near the school, out of sight of home, I would stop the horses, run over to the school, play ball with the kids until the bell rang, then back to my tedious job of plowing. The sod was torn open with a breaker plow and a willow tree nailed on a two by six dragged behind like a harrow to smooth the land. Oats was seeded by hand — harvested and stacked for feed — also wild prairie "wool". There were lots of rocks on the land so in 1912, Dad built a barn with a seven-foot wall of stones, cement and lime which stands as a memorial to a lot of hard work. Hope for the future was realized in 1914 with a good crop that year.

For the young folks in those days entertainment was not "ready made". No fancy arenas or such — we skated for miles on Dowling Lake in the winter; in the summer we made rafts. We thought nothing of riding twenty or thirty miles to visit the Keibel's, Boehlke's and Michael's at Endiang; often were caught in a rain or snow storms but our faithful ponies Dewy, Pete and Frank used good horse-sense and brought us home. My brother Sig and I were always together and spent a lot of time hunting; everything from gophers to coyotes.

When I was married in March 1920 we lived on the Tingle place. After the terrible hailstorm in June 1923, I decided to leave the farm and in 1925 moved my family to Cold Lake northeast of Edmonton. Then in 1930 we came back again, and when Dad passed away I took over the home place and farmed it until 1974. I am now retired in Hanna and my youngest son Fred has the farm. I'm sure each oldtimer could write a book of his own about all the trials and tribulations and of course also the good times as a pioneer.

Julius Hoffman passed away March 12, 1934. In 1941 Augusta married Anton

Stelzl, now deceased. Augusta died May 18, 1952. Both Julius and Augusta are buried in the Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Their children were:

Ottilia (Tillie) born 1891, married Edwin Clark in London, England during World War I. After his death she married Charles Atwater. She had three children. Tillie passed away at Castle Rock, Oregon in 1966.

Adolph was born 1892, died at the age of four of smallpox.

Sammuel born 1893, married Magdalena Rink, both now deceased. They had two children, Arthur and Violet. Arthur [illegible] married and lives in Edmonton. Violet lives in Delia.

Rosella born 1895; married Paup Vollbrecht of Oyen. She died in 1950.

Sigmund — born 1899 — married Marie Michael, lived in Three Hills, then Edson. Both are deceased. They had three children, Betty, Fred and Stanley.

Augusta — born 1901 — married Luther Schuetze. They lived in Manitoba where Luther was a missionary on the north shore of Lake Winnipeg. They had nine children.

Antonia — born 1903, married Roderick Schuetze and had three children. They are now retired at Duncan, B.C.

Karl was born in 1897. He married Emily Ruff and had six children: Antonia, Erna June, Norma, Verda, Raymond and Donald. Emily died in 1932.

Antonia married Ted Quaschnick, they had three sons. Ted passed away several years ago. Antonia and the boys and their families live in the Hanna area; Rod married Vivian Fortna, has a girl and two boys; Wes married Margaret Talmage; Merle married Linda Hutton and has one girl and one boy.

Erna June married Nester Svarich; lives in Calgary. They have one son and one daughter.

Norma married Elmer Thiessen — teaches in Calgary. She has two girls, Shelly and Cindy.

Verda is married to Emil Litke. She teaches in Kelowna, B.C. She has one daughter, Rhonda.

Raymond married Lorraine Mossey and has a daughter, Susan. He teaches in Calgary.

Donald married Doreen Kane and lives at Cessford. They have one daughter, Geralyn, and sons Brent and Mark.

In 1948, Karl married Georgina Harris and had four more children, Richard married Shirley Graden, Fred married Bev Kurtz, Debbie and Corie are at home.

WATTS VILLAGE, By Doris Hutton — Survey of the C.N.R. railway came in 1912. A store and post office were built in 1914, by the Page Newton family. This store was later sold to Nick and Ada Lund in 1923, who operated the business for many years, then sold [illegible] to Jim and Alberta Boyd in 1945. They stayed with the business about twenty-five years, until the mail service was transferred to Hanna.

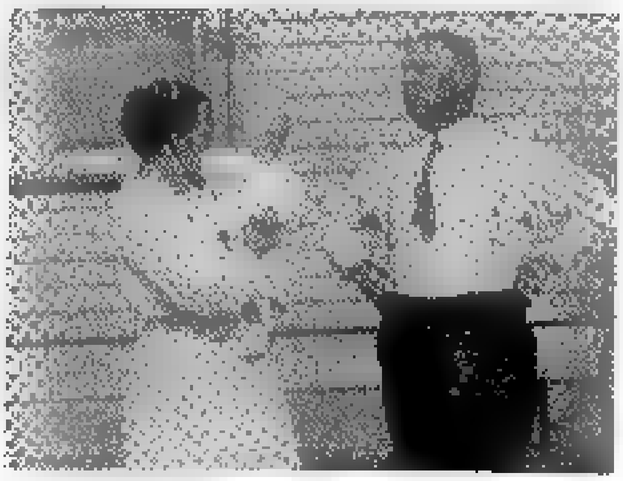
The Home elevator was built in 1914. In later years, it was known as the Pool Elevator. The National Grain Company built an elevator in 1915, the next year the Alberta Pacific was erected. These companies had accommodation in Watts for their agents.

Rienhold Rosenbaum was the first section foreman of Watts in 1916-17. Then a section foreman by name of Steve Gresch and his family of two children, Sophie and Jake had residence here. Sophie married John Jucypink, a section labourer, also of Watts. Jake also worked for the C.N.R.

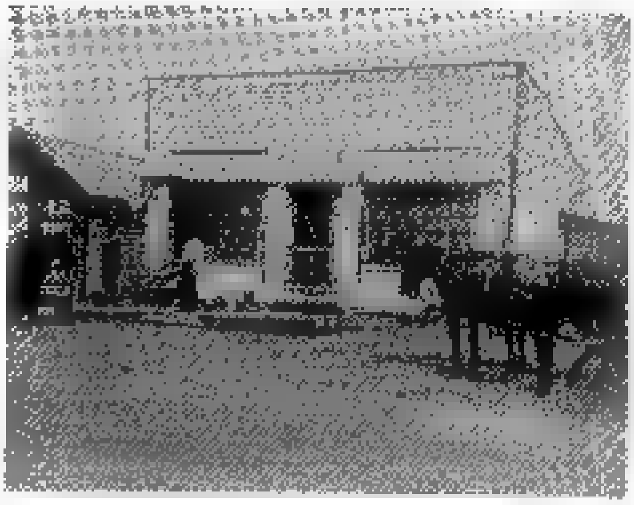
In the years 1926-36, Roy Embree had a garage and service station, where he

did mechanical work, well drilling and was the nucleus of our musical entertainment.

In 1937 with the co-operation of the newly formed Sullivan Lake School Division, a petition of interested parents was taken, and after much planning, a high school was opened in a little house left vacant by a section foreman; known as the "Gresch House".



Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newton, 1918, and Jack Phibbs.



Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store, 1923.

Nick Lund in front of the Watts Store.

Watts High School, 1941. Standing, Left to Right: Ruby Quaschnick, Annie Stuber, Marie Durand, Mildred Dahl, Edna Lund, Viola Dieter, Phyllis Cole, Joyce McCuish, Mary Lund. Seated: Bill Burns, Blanche Coultis (teacher), Roy Phibbs, Larry Boyd.

The first teacher was Mrs. M.D. Cook, who used the National Grain Company house as her teacherage, which she shared with some of the students. Others batched in the Embree house and a little shingled shack, moved in by Oliver Durand for his family. Some pupils walked, rode horseback, or went by sleigh to the centre. Students came from St. George, Earltown, Eaton, Dowling Lake, Chain Lakes, Annasheim and Rocky Hill.

A piano was purchased for the school with money received mainly from raffles, box socials and dances. Mrs. Cook also gave piano lessons for twenty-five cents a lesson, and she donated these proceeds to the piano fund.

Classes increased in the little "Gresch School" during the terms of 1937-40, until lack of space became intolerable. In the fall of 1940, the Silver Valley school, which had been unused for a number of years, was moved to the present location on the hill at Watts. Children were then picked up by school vans.

In 1941, the old Martin Dahl house was moved to the school yard to be used as a teacherage. In 1945 St. George was moved to this yard to be used as a public school; giving grades one to twelve being taught. By 1964 all grades were conveyed by bus to Hanna schools. St. George was moved to Youngstown, after their school burned, and the teacherage was moved elsewhere. Silver Valley building remains as the Watts Community Centre. All that remains of the "Gresch" house is a vivid memory of "Watts High".

To mention some of the teachers: M.D. Cook, Verda Litke, W. Reichenbaugh, Armina Peterson, Kenneth Reeder, Marlene Shouldice, Marjorie Sugden, Beverly Bickle and Miss Ambury.

Due to progress of the country, population of Watts has depleted greatly. The only citizens are Mrs. Boyd, the William Lenfesty family and Tom Chee Choo.

WATTS COMMUNITY IN THE 1930'S

By Tom Payne

Before beginning the writing of this article on the Watts community, I've had to analyze the conditions leading to the formation of an active community. I believe there must be sufficient people, with a large percentage of them adults. Secondly, there must be a common desire to find an outlet for self expression; and thirdly, there must be a nucleus of interested elders to start the organizing. With modern cars, and T.V.'s, I feel the great cycles of community life have come to an end, except in more isolated areas, but fifty years ago recreation and entertainment was a local product.

Clear Lake was a popular centre for summer recreation in the 1920's until the dry years turned the water alkaline. There was good swimming, and many good ball games were played there, by ball players like Lou and Cyril Doyle, Hicks Cole, [illegible] Burrows and Harold and Dan Lund, to name just a few. People came there from miles around.

The end of the Clear Lake era left a void, and as Watts had a lot of young people in the vicinity, a community spirit began to form. Roy Embree had a small dance band for some years, which livened up the winter entertainment in the country schools. Now soft ball games were started, and the nucleus seemed to centre around the elevator men, Sandy Orr, Hank Gorr, Allan Murray and Roland Griffin, all ex-ball players. We played just south of the tracks, on Jim Boyd's land, and every Sunday, weather permitting, saw many cars converge on the area. Usually enough people turned up for two teams plus spectators. We played mainly for fun; didn't enter any tournaments but did play Hanna and Silver Valley.

Remembering the names of people involved in the Watts community in the years of the thirties gives me a feeling of nostalgia, McCandless, McCuish, McCreight, Gorr, Miller, Hutton, Chee Choo, Leech, Johnston, Nixon, McAuliff, Alstott, Embree, Lund, Griffin, Orr, Moulding, Phibbs, Hoffman, Dahl, Scott, Stevenson, Nyhelm, Flett, Payne and many more.

We did try to start a hard ball team one time, and collected seventy-five cents for a bat. Hank Gorr had a ball, and a few gloves were collected here and there. Our first game was with Georgetown school and during the first inning, Carl Johnston broke our one and only bat. That was the end. We couldn't afford another.

The community also became more active during the winters, and some good plays were put on in the local schools. These, with the house parties, made our community second to none.

Hockey became quite popular also, although ice was always a problem, and it

seemed that the only time we had good ice was after a spring thaw. So as a hockey team, we were never a threat to the Maple Leafs. Hand Hills could always beat us, and so could Craigmyle. We just didn't get enough practice.

Alas, young people and families began to move away, and the cycle began to change, so by the end of the thirties only a few were left to carry on.

MR. and MRS. J. L. BOYD, By Mrs. Alberta Boyd — In 1908 Jim helped with the roundup of the buffalo, near Chicago, where he resided at that time. He was included in the group of men that drove the buffalo to Canada. Upon arriving here and looking the country over, he decided that he would like to remain here. In the spring of 1909 he went to the land office in Calgary. While checking the map over, he presumed a railroad would go near this special property south-half 31-17-15, which he chose to file a homestead on. After arriving in this barren country, he had many ups and downs. It took several days to go to Castor, which was the closest trading centre in those years, to bring home supplies. He spent a lot of time breaking horses for the neighbours. He worked on the rail grade near Drumheller. He purchased a well machine and for years drilled many water wells in the country. Jim also took his turn at roundups for stampedes, in his early years.

I came from Oxford, England, with a good friend, Mabel McCuish. I remained in Calgary and did housework for the Bruce Robinson family. After a time, I went to spend my holidays with Mabel. I had written a letter so asked if anyone was going to the post office. Mable said that Jim would likely be going, as he was at the McCuishes breaking horses. Jim asked me to go along for the ride. I was not familiar with horses then; it seemed to me that the horse was going too fast, I was so frightened that I fell off and broke my jaw.

Cupid seemed to hit us both at first sight. Jim being concerned, came to Calgary to see me. We were married at the Robinson home in December 1916. Jim was called to the army, and saw services overseas. He suffered shell shock and was almost gassed. On his return from services, he picked me up, as I was still with the same people, and we came out here to start housekeeping. I became a lover of animals, and had a beautiful horse that I used for my transportation.

We were blessed with two children, who got their education at St. George, Watts and Hanna High Schools. Our daughter, Alberta, furthered her education, and became a Registered Nurse. For the love of her profession, she continued working at Trail Hospital, B.C., after her marriage to Winston Hallman. On her way to work on a frosty, foggy night, she met with a tragic auto accident, that left her husband with six small children; Boyd, Jay, Keith, Judy, Jim and Bruce. Our son, Larry and wife Yvonne have two children, Shawn and Lorna. They are in the Kenmac Automotive and Industrial Parts business at Gibson, B.C.

Jim had a lengthy chore as secretary for Watts Mutual Telephone Co. and St. George School district. He was also a member of Alberta Wheat Pool, Imperial Oil of Canada Ltd., as well as the Hanna Legion.

In 1945 we purchased the Watts store and post office from the Nick Lunds. Jim met the train daily at 1:10 A.M. to collect and dispose of the mail. We operated this business for twenty-five years, and Jim continued his farming. In 1968 we closed out the store, when postal services were centralized to Hanna. We then sold the farm to Gus Annas, and decided to enjoy our later years. We still made Watts our home.

We loved to travel in our own car, we covered many miles through the States and Alaska. We drove out several times a year to visit our son Larry and family, also many friends along the way, until illness overcame Jim in 1971. He passed away in March 1973.

I raised turkeys all my farm life, and many folks enjoyed them on their Christmas menu.

I enjoy good health at age ninety-two. I still reside at Watts, and do my housekeeping and entertaining. I enjoy sports and rarely miss any, on my colored television. I raise a garden in the summer and with my plants and cats in the winter, I keep my time filled.

My nephew, Frank Grover, makes his home with me, when he is off duty from his work with an oil company.

SPENCER BURNS FAMILY, By R. W. (Bob) Burns — Our Dad, Herbert Spencer Burns was born at Greenbank, Ontario and moved west with his parents and seven brothers in 1901. They first settled in the Didsbury area and later our Dad moved with his parents and some of his brothers to the Hanna area, I believe the district was called Maunders.

Our Mother was born in Sheridan, Montana. She and her parents came to Alberta a short time later and in 1917 they moved from the Lone Butte area to a farm on Wolfe Creek about three and a half miles north of Watts. She lived with her parents Newton and Addie Hartt until her marriage to our Father. Mother and Dad took up farming on a quarter section of land about a half mile north of the creek. My brother Bill and myself were born during the time that our parents lived on this farm, and our sister Marianne came along later, during the time that we lived in Watts.

My earliest recollection of this area, probably about 1932, concerned a terrible dust storm that blackened the sky; Dad was away and Mother was visiting her parents just across the road, and my brother Bill and I had to stay in the house by oursleves as Mother couldn't make it home because the storm was so bad. We were two frightened kids by the time Mother did get home.

We lived on the farm until 1935 when Dad got the job as elevator agent for the Alberta Pacific Grain at Watts, and that summer we moved into a rented house there. In 1937 they transferred Dad to Jenner, Alberta and in 1938 we moved back to Watts at which time Dad took over as agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool. At this time he again started to farm our land north of Watts. This particular venture suffered quite a set back when all the horses Dad had bought died from some disease. Dad was then forced into buying a tractor which turned out to be a far better investment than the horses. By 1939 both of my grandparents (the Hartts) had passed away, and we took over their half section of land.

In later years it became the social event of the week to drive into Hanna on a Saturday afternoon or evening. Much visiting was done by the older folks while the young folks thought up ways to make the older folks older, however Joe Winkler, our town police, never bothered with us so I guess we weren't too bad.

We farmed and Dad ran the elevator until 1945 when dad sold out and moved to Carstairs where he took over the Cockshutt agency for a period of one year, and in 1946 we bought a farm at Delia. Dad kept this farm until 1947 when I left home, he then sold out and moved to Didsbury. About 1952 or 1953 Dad and Mother moved to Vulcan where dad was field Supervisor for the County until his death in 1960.

Mother is living in Lethbridge, as well as our sister Marianne and her family. My brother Bill and his family live at the coast, while my wife and I live in Calgary.

THE CHEE CHOO FAMILY, By Tom Chee Choo — My father Lo Chee Choo, and my mother Mary and four children, Tom, Mary L. (Lily), Eva and Roy came from Calgary to Stettler in 1911, where we lived for a while, then we moved to Castor where father operated a restaurant. In 1913 through a friend of his, W. Waring, who homesteaded northwest 9-31-15, he heard of land in this area, so dad homesteaded in the south half 20-31-15 and the family moved here from Castor in September 1913. There were two children born here later, Irene and Albert.

I remember how we children had to carry our drinking water from a spring one mile down the creek, in ten-pound syrup pails, for the first two years. We used slough water for washing, then dad bought a cow which we trained to pull a barrel of water on a stoneboat.

I recall a prairie fire that started in the north near Endiang and swept south [illegible] the railroad grade at Watts. This new grade stopped the fire from spreading any further.

Another incident I recall, was when the Home Elevator was under construction. They hired me to use my saddle horse to pull lumber by ropes up to the scaffold.

We children [illegible] attended St. George School. The rest of the family all left this area. I still live on the home place; Albert lives at Sooke, B.C.; Irene Beauregard resides in Toronto, Ontario; Lily Basasco lives in California; and Eva Locke is in Seattle.

Mother lived with me until her passing in 1964 at the age of sixty-seven.

ROY CHEE CHOO, By Bertha Chee Choo — In 1913, Roy came from Castor with his parents, Lo and Mary Chee Choo, brother Tom and sisters Lily and Eva to the homestead at Watts. He attended St. George School. Roy worked at home on the farm. He also worked at the Hemstock mine, and the Sheerness and Drumheller coal mines.

In 1940, Roy married Mrs. Bertha Erickson. They lived at Watts, where her son Gerald attended school for a while.

In December 1942, Roy enlisted in the army and after basic training was sent to work at the mines at Morinville, as there was a shortage of reliable help. The Government granted leave to those experienced men to work in this mine. In 1945, Roy got his discharge from the army. We lived at Edmonton and Trochu. We were planning to open [illegible] radiator shop in Three Hills, but were called home due to the illness of mother. The next three years we spent on the farm. We raised a bountiful garden and Roy worked with his brother on the farm.

In 1949, we moved into Hanna where Roy operated a Radiator Shop until his sudden passing in June, 1964. I still raise [illegible] large garden in my yard and enjoy doing handicraft.

We have four children: Gerald lives at Alabama U.S.A.; Mrs. Pat Grismer of Blackfalds has three children; Mrs. Joan Elm of Hanna has two boys and Douglas, an ardent hockey player in his school days is now employed in Oilfield work at Swan Hills.

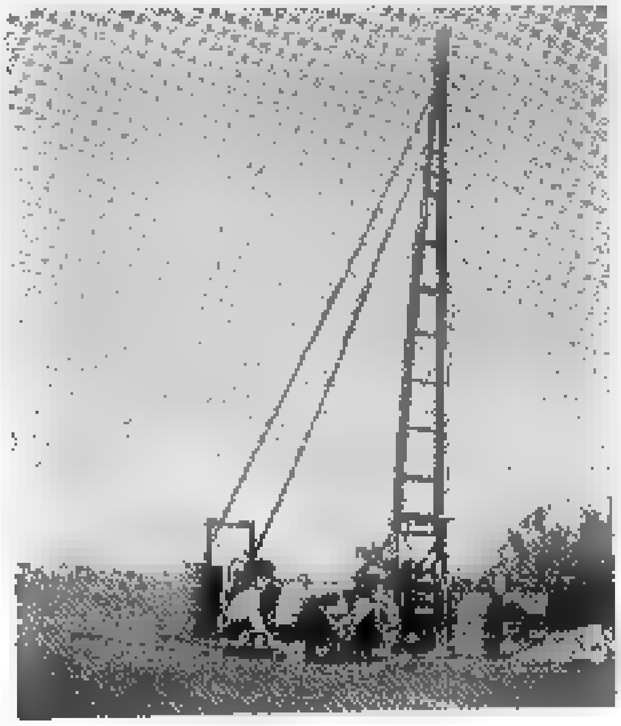
ROY EMBREE, as told by Roy Embree — I was born in the state of Washington in 1895. The family came to Castor in 1907. Then in July 1913, I filed on a homestead, north-west quarter 20-31-15, and batched with brother Mark. I did mechanical and repair work for Louis Payne and Ed Parker. I worked for [illegible]. Halbrook in 1915 on his threshing outfit, until harvesting was finished here, then went to Suffield to complete the year at the same type of work. I operated a threshing machine for George Banner from 1922-24. My experience with threshing machines also took me to Vermilion.

My musical talent started to show at age seven and a half years. I seemed [illegible] have [illegible] unique ability to repair and restore anything, especially violins and guitars.

During a festive season in my bachelor days, I was riding horseback to play for a dance when I developed a sore throat, but my enthusiasm kept me going for three nights. I finally arrived home dreadfully ill. Mark called Dr. Mason, and his diagnosis was smallpox, and ordered quarantine for six weeks. Before the year ended I contracted mumps, measles and pleurisy.

In 1926 I built a house and small garage at Watts, where I did mechanical work for the neighbours. I went to Summerland B.C. to visit my brother and met Jean Duplet. We were married in 1929. We had four children. Doris Bolt lives in Saskatoon and has two girls and one boy. Ruby Tunke of Peace River has two boys and a girl. Yvonne Fawcett resides in Calgary and has three boys. Leslie, a son, died in infancy.

Roy and Jean Embree



Roy Embree's well machine

I purchased a Rock tool machine and later a Rotary for drilling water wells, some of which are still pumping today. We moved into Hanna 1936. I continued with this business, but had gotten pipe fitting tools with the outfit, so I decided to take a swing at plumbing, and sold the well outfit. In 1941 wages for plumbing were fifty-five cents an hour. In 1943, I travelled back and forth to Castor to work with brother Tom, making munitions (airplane parts) for ninety cents an hour. I continued my plumbing business and became interested in giving of my time to repair and restore antiques at the Hanna Museum.

I attended the first stampede at Jack Miller Ranch in 1917, and many others including the Diamond Jubilee of the famous Hand Hills Stampede in 1976. For many years my orchestra played for the stampede dance.

My love for music caused many hardships getting to and from dances. We had to go many miles in all types of weather and road conditions. Transportation was by sleigh, horseback, buggy, walking and in later years by car. I recall leaving home in mid afternoon, early in spring, to play for a dance at Hand Hills Club House, twenty miles from home. Just after midnight a blizzard blew in, and the president ordered no one to leave, and bargained with us to continue playing. We entertained the folks until six in the morning, then shared a bit of lunch that was left from midnight, and tried to rest in corners and on benches. A few hours later, the storm subsided a bit, and we started out on our long cold journey home. The horses had eaten all the hay out of the box, and all that remained to sit on was a few Russian thistles. The horses found it hard to cope with the cold wind at thirty-seven degrees below zero. On our arrival home, we realized that we had been away for twenty-four hours. Our hours of playing in the early days warranted seventy-five cents to one dollar and a half each plus lunch, for an evening's entertainment. In the early thirties my orchestra included Fred Edwards, Tom Payne, George Alstott, Jack Leech and others.

I recall playing for dances and parties at Wiese, Eaton, Annashiem, Garden Plains, Chain Lakes, Hand Hills and Craigmyle to mention a few. As the years passed, we were blessed with a few more dollars for the folks' fun.

In two of the later years we played for two hundred and fifty-five dances, from Delia to Youngstown, Cessford to Garden Plain, including Saturday night dances in Hanna.

I suffered a stroke in June 1975. After a couple of months hospitalization, I was allowed to come home in my wife's care. We still enjoy the dignity of living in our home, and enjoy visits from relatives and friends.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

By Tom Payne, as told by Roy Embree

This little vignette of youth took place about sixty years ago, around 1917-18. The stage was set when Jack Sutherland, a young bachelor farmer, who lived south-east of Watts, bought a spanking new high-topped buggy, a thing of beauty. The first act of the drama began when he went over, one Sunday, to the home of Mrs. Annie Johnston, one mile west, to visit her attractive daughter. James, the son of Mrs. Johnston, persuaded Jack to let him try out his new buggy, and then drove north-east of Watts, to the home of Mark Embree.

Visiting there that day were Joe and Tom Robinson and Roy Embree. Whose mind first dreamed up the devilish scheme doesn't matter now, but all were accessories to the fact. They removed the pole and tied a rope to each side of the front axle. Two boys stood in front, each with one of the ropes, and two stood behind. They were cautious to start with and coasted several times down a small hill east of the house without a mishap. All was well. They looked around for more thrill, and more fields to conquer, and found what they were looking for on a large hill on the main road three-quarters of a mile north of Watts. I believe Jim Johnston and Tom Robinson were the steering committee, while Roy and Joe stood on behind. All started fine, and they began their adventure. As they picked up speed, though, it became increasingly harder to steer, they began to drift over to Tom's side, so Jim said, "Ease up on your rope a bit." Tom eased up, and Jim pulled over to his side too much. Tragedy struck, and they overturned into the ditch. The boys were not hurt, but oh, that beautiful buggy; the top was completely demolished.

A chastened group of boys hauled the buggy back to Mark's, and surveyed the situation. The outcome was that they spent the rest of the day repairing the top, and did such a perfect job that Jack Sutherland never knew it had happened.

Mark Embree had a well near his house, equipped with a windlass to haul up the water. It may have been the same group of young adventurerers who removed the pail, and hung in its place a length of railroad iron, six or eight feet long. The boys took turns striking the iron with a large sledge hammer. It made a lovely gong that could be heard for miles around. Unfortunately the rope finally rebelled, and let the iron fall to the bottom of the well. They found another piece of iron to tie to the rope, but in the process of striking it, accidently dropped the hammer into the well, where they both lie to this day. Mark was not at home that day, and what he remarked when he found out is not on record.

WELL CHARGED

As told by Roy Embree

In 1926 or 27 one of the local lads was Simon Gaetz. Roy recalls he sported a large felt hat with a floppy brim, torn across in one spot. One day he visited Roy at Watts, and Roy gave him some radio wire to mend his hat. He wove the wire around the brim, and also mended the tear. Sometime later he was busy working in the field when a storm came up. This super hat attracted a charge of electricity and gave Simon a terrific jolt. He tore off the hat and threw it to the ground, but I can well imagine Simon had the first Afro hair style in Alberta.

Jack, Laura, Clifford, Roy

LAURA and CLIFFORD PHIBBS, By Jack and Roy Phibbs — Clifford Stacey Phibbs was born of Irish ancestry at Hagersville, Ontario, March twenty-first 1872, a happy event on the first day of spring anywhere. He was raised on a farm and was the youngest of a family of eight. In his youth he apprenticed with a local blacksmith for seven years, becoming a master blacksmith. He immigrated to the United States in 1894 and became an American citizen in the County of Polk, Minnesota, in 1896. For several years he blacksmithed in the woods and in various mines, and also homesteaded and worked westward. In season he followed large steam threshing machines, one of which gave the crew an oyster supper anytime they threshed five thousand bushels in a day.

By 1909 the desire to homestead in Alberta brought him back to Canada. From Stettler he came down into this area, which later became known as the Watts district, where he filed on the northwest quarter 16-31-15. In the spring of 1910 he left Bear Creek, Montana for Calgary and on April the fifth bought four "broncs", a wagon and box, some farm equipment, and a blacksmith outfit and trekked eastward to the homestead site. He maintained that by the end of the first day out of Calgary the "broncs" were well broken. At that time Stettler was the main business centre and from there his building supplies were hauled.

By 1913, his homestead being proved up and pre-emption paid for, he became a British subject again, by way of a Certificate of Readmission to British Nationality, his address being registered as Obelisk. Besides breaking up his land he raised horses and chickens, and had a local blacksmithing business. He often spoke of helping Andy McKay in his shop in Hanna during the slack times and to get there he would walk seven miles in and seven miles home each day.

The railroad survey came through in 1912, and some of the survey work was done in the winter. Harry Shoultz was the contractor and Dad was hired to haul the survey gang around in his bob sleigh.

Having become interested in breeding horses, in the fall of 1915 he went to Edmonton in search of stock. It happened that he stayed at a boarding house where a young school ma'am was staying and so a romance began. It is unclear whether the original purpose of the trip was carried out.

The young lady in question was Miss Laura Evans, who was born in Chicago, U.S.A., on October the ninth 1883, of Scotch and Welsh parents. By the age of ten she and her sister and brother were orphaned and they moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where they were raised by relatives. By 1902 she had acquired her grade eleven diploma and a third class teacher's certificate in Nova Scotia. This started her on a career of teaching and upgrading her own education. By 1909 she had grade twelve and also a first class teacher's license in Nova Scotia. She was also interested in painting and horticulture, both of which she studied in Chicago, and Guelph, Ontario. By 1914 she had succumbed to the call of the West and went to Edmonton where she taught under the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Carpenter, who later became Dr. Carpenter, principal of the Technical School in Calgary.

The year of 1916 must have been quite momentous for Mother and Dad as they were married in Calgary in August and spent their honeymoon in Banff. Incidently Mother often mentioned that Dad carried a few heads of wheat in his pocket which he examined periodically. You guessed it, the morning of August the fourteenth there had been a severe frost.

In the spring of 1917 Mother and Dad were expecting a blessed event so the building of a new house was undertaken with Andy Murdoch as carpenter. In spite of everything it wasn't finished before the stork arrived and John Clifford was born in the homestead shack, which has since gone through the process of being a chicken house, granary and a garage. Dr. Mason arrived in a buggy for the event and Mrs. Henry Wellie, a neighbour lady, was midwife.

At this time, namely late teens and early twenties, Dad and Mother with the vision of raising a family and helping to establish a viable community, built a new barn in 1918, bought a new Chevrolet Baby Grand car in 1919, had a thirty-two volt electric light plant installed in 1920 and the telephone installed in 1921. During this same period of time the northwest quarter 9-31-15 was acquired from W. Waring and the southwest quarter 21-31-15 was acquired from Clarke Renn.

The municipality was so short of money that teachers could not be paid and so some schools were closed. In the winter and spring of 1923 Mother taught the local school, St. George, her wages, whatever they were, to be paid later.

At approximately this time, Dad put in his time as councillor in the Dowling Lake Municipality.

February first 1926, Roy Stacey was born in the General Hospital in Calgary. We had moved to Calgary for three months. Jack went to Bankview Cottage School, just off seventeenth avenue southwest. Dad couldn't sit around all winter so he took a course in farm mechanics at the Institute of Technology and Art. He maintained that he was the oldest student in the school. Mark Embree, a bachelor neighbour, looked after the farm. We all arrived home by train in early April, in the middle of the night. Mark had the bob sleigh to drive us home and it was very cold with a lot of snow. In the excitement Mother's bowl of goldfish was left on the station platform and that was the end of the bowl of fish, for even though Mark went right back they were frozen.

In the early years the families were not nearly as self-sufficient as they are today. Machinery was not plentiful, and help was scarce so each family helped each other with whatever manpower and machinery was available. This was especially true in haying and threshing times when extra hands were necessary. Dad's closest neighbours were Tom Edwards, Horace Payne, Mark Embree and Jack Sutherland. They pooled their resources each year as circumstances dictated.

Another community effort, especially during the thirties, was roadwork. Each farmer would take a four horse team and move dirt with a fresno at some point on his local road where repairs were necessary. Someone would be foreman and supervise the job. In July or August when this work was usually done, it would be hot and dusty and man and beast would enjoy a rest now and then, the length of rest depending largely on the mood of the foreman. One foreman was said to have admonished his crew with this observation, "I don't care how slow you move, but keep moving." The money that was earned from the work was applied towards paying the taxes of the crew members. Sometimes someone would have ice left from last winter's ice harvest, and this would be used to keep the drinking water cool.

By 1937 the depression was about [illegible] its peak and as money was very scarce, a great many schools were closed or didn't have facilities for high school. Through the years Mother and Dad remained staunch promoters of education, especially further education for those rural young people whose one room schools were limited to grades one to nine.

Their two sons Jack and Roy grew up on the farm. We got our public school education at home by correspondence and at St. George. Jack got his high school [illegible] Mount Royal College in Calgary, then went to Provincial Institute of Technology and Art and graduated with a diploma in Industrial Electricity in 1936. Jobs were scarce. Dad had an attack of pleurisy just as spring work was beginning so Jack settled into the routine of the farm. In the spring of 1940 we bought the north half 21-31-15, from Mark Embree and the die was cast for a life on the farm for Jack. The winters seemed longer and tougher then, partly because the municipality and government did not have equipment to keep the roads open. One winter we built a small plough on the tractor and at one time even had to use it on number nine highway to get the neighbours and ourselves to Hanna for supplies.

In December of 1949 Jack married Isabel Forbes, who worked in the Special Areas Office in Hanna. Jack and Isabel built a house in the same yard with Mother and Dad's house.

Isabel and Jack have been involved with the Earltown Local F.U.A., Jack as past president, Isabel catering with the ladies. With the First United Church of Hanna; Jack took a turn as chairman of board of stewards, Isabel, president of U.C.W. In the days of the mutual telephone company Jack was troubleman for the Watts Mutual Telephone Company, he is an advisory committee man with local U.F.A. Co-op Limited; farm supply and bulk fuel, also committee man with the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Jack, believing that clean pure seed is very important in [illegible] farming community, became involved in the formation of the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant in Delia. He is a charter member of the plant and also a charter member of the board of directors representing the Special Areas shareholders. The Plant cleaned in excess of four hundred thousand bushels of grain in 1976.

Jack and Isabel have two sons, Robert John and William Stacey. Bob got his education in Watts and Hanna, then went to Olds and took [illegible] farm mechanics course. This led to various jobs with farm machinery dealerships and eventually a permanent job with the city of Calgary as a mechanic. He married Lorna Groves, who also works for the city. Bill went to Watts, Hanna and Drumheller for his education and farms with his dad and when time permits he has worked with Olmsteads, moving buildings. He has spent some time on the pipeline.

Roy graduated from Watts High School in 1943 and having developed a little of his parent's early desire to see new places, spent the next three years working in Drumheller, Hanna and Calgary during the summer and attending Business College during the winters. After working in [illegible] service station at Olds, [illegible] yen for general stores led Roy to employment in Halkirk. Roy and Marian Laarz were married in 1950 and operated a store, post office and telephone exchange in Endiang. In 1959, they settled in Stettler, to be associated with Gulf Oil for fourteen years and then with Alberta Power project at Battle River. Marian worked with Roy

in the business ventures and later worked with an accountant in Stettler. They have three children; Gerald, Gwen and Doug. Gerald graduated from Stettler High School. He had various jobs to finance a world tour and is now a gas plant operator. Gwen married Terry Stenberg and moved to Olds, where she is a cashier in a drug store. Doug is attending Junior High in Stettler.

Dad used to enjoy taking his twenty-two rifle and his old dog out to the fields to check on the cattle and the crops and to raise cain with the gopher population. Later, when his health wouldn't allow him to walk so far, someone would take him around in the truck or car. These little pleasures came to an end when he passed away in April, 1952.

Mother continued to live alone in her house, corresponding with pen pals the world over, reading, playing cards, watching television, tending her garden and house plants. Her health stayed reasonably good until December, 1964, when she passed away after a short illness.

Our parents gave us a good start by being good citizens; we are trying to carry on in the same tradition.

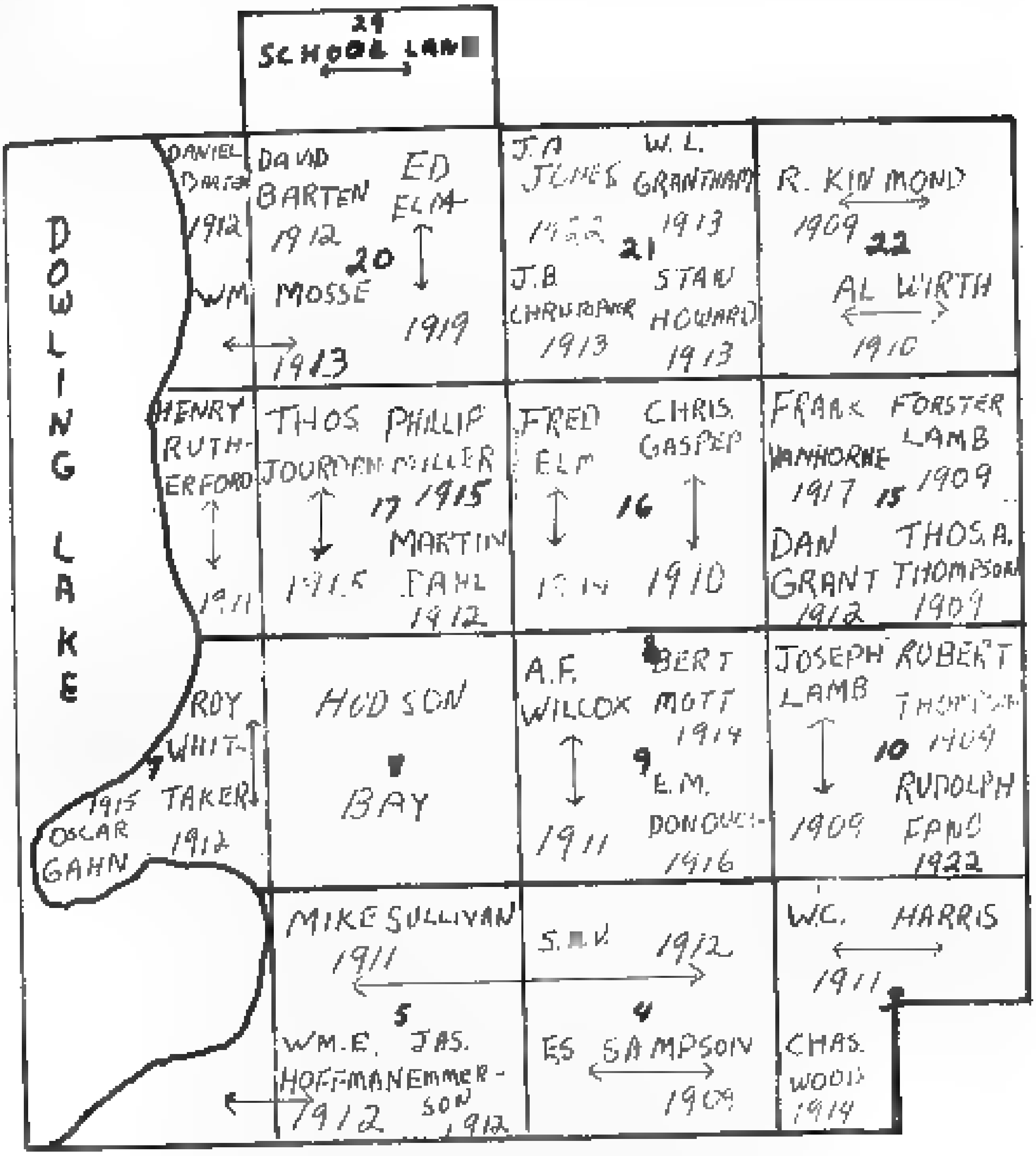
MR. AND MRS. HENRY WILLIE — Henry Willie was a trolley operator in Germany, prior to coming out to the Watts district to file on a homestead; northwest quarter 17-31-15. He was the quiet type, but always enjoyed a game of five-hundred, when friends dropped in.

Mrs. Willie with a kind heart, was always ready to give of her services as a midwife in the arrival of little newcomers, or other illness in the early 1900's.

They had one son, Fred. They retired to Hanna in the early forties.

2nd Avenue, Hanna, Alberta, 1930.

ANTELOPE HILL S. D. No. 3288



ANTELOPE HILL DISTRICT, OWNERS AND RENTERS
TOWNSHIP 32-14-W4

W½ 10
J. Lamb
F. Lamb
L. Sloane
H. Fortna

N.E. 10
R. E. Thompson
C. White
A. Faulkner
H. Oneal
R. Clayhold
R. Fano
H. Fortna

S.E. 10
R. Fano
Fortna

N½ 6
MacKenzie

S.E. 6
Wm. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

N½ 5
M. Sullivan
M. Dahl
J. Gartner
G. Schmidt

S.W. 5
W. E. Hoffman
MacKenzie

S.E. 5
Jas. Emmerson
MacKenzie

N½ 4
Mike Sullivan
G. Schmidt

S.W. 4
E. S. Sampson
G. Schmidt

S.E. 4
E. S. Sampson
F. Lane
F. Kraft
J. Gartner
T. A. Campion

N½ 3
W. C. Harris
Frank Harris
Ronald Fano
J. P. Fortna

S.W. 3
Chas. Wood
T. Myles

J. P. Fortna

N.E. 19
Daniel Barten
Louis Grantham

S.E. 19
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
Louis Grantham

S½ 29
School Land
A. Fecho

N.W. 20
David Barten
H. Seibe
S. Brunner
Louis Grantham

S.W. 20
Wm. Mosse
D. Leicht
F. Schultz
J. Schultz
L. Grantham

N.E. 20
Ed Elm
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S. E. 20
Ed Elm
L. Doyle
A. Fecho

N.W. 21
J. A. Jones
A. Fecho

S.W. 21
J. B. Christopher
A. Mix

N.E. 21
W. L. Grantham
H. Weise
A. Fecho

S.E. 21
Stan Howard
Chris Gasper
O. Mix
A. Mix

N½ 22
[illegible]. Kinmond
G. Crossfield
G. Schmidt

S½ 22
Al Wirth
J. McClusky
A. Mix

E½ 18
H. Rutherford
Pearl and Stan Viste

W½ 17
Thos. Jourdan
Pearl and Stan Viste

N.E. 17
Philip Miller
Ed Elm

Levi Kennedy
G. Schmidt

S.E. 17
Martin Dahl
J. Gartner
G. Schmidt

N.W. [illegible]
Fred Elm
Thos. Ross
C. Gasper
A. Mix

S.W. 16
Fred Elm
Louisa Ross
A. Mix

E½ 16
Chris Gasper
[illegible]. Temple
F. Werner
[illegible]. Mix
A. Mix

N.W. 15
Frank Vanhorne
Al Wirth
A. Mix

N.E. 15
Forster Lamb
[illegible]. Clayhold
Al Wirth
A. Mix

S.W. 15
Dan Grant

J. Hamilton
Ed Wilder
Art Gwin
B. Smart
[illegible]. Vanhorne
Fortna

S.E. 15
T. Thompson
Fortna

S.W. 7
Oscar Gahn
Wm. MacKenzie
P. H. Bay

E½ 7
R. E. Whittaker
D. Renke
MacKenzie

W½ 9
A. F. Wilcox
M. Dahl
[illegible]. Kennedy
F. Schmidt
G. Schmidt Sr.
G. Schmidt

N.E. 9
Bert Mott
G. Schmidt

S.E. 9
E. M. Donough
[illegible]. Schmidt

ANTELOPE HILL SCHOOL

By Mae Fortna

Antelope Hill School

Excerpts from a Hanna Herald of 1914 state, "The Antelope Hill S. D. was organized in the summer of 1914. It was situated in the south-west portion of township 32, range 14. From all reports the school should be built and operating by the spring of 1916." A school site was approved December 31, 1915, to be located thirty-two rods east of the south-west corner of section 16, township 32, range 14, W4. E.G. Sampson and Al Wirth were elected trustees of the Antelope Hill school.

Another excerpt from the Hanna Herald states, "July 20, 1916: At last the Antelope Hill school has been opened. This school has been the bone of contention between opposing factions for the last four years."

There are no records prior to 1920 available to show what attendance the school had, or who the teachers were. It was said that the school was opened for three students.

The teacher for the months of August and September in 1920 was D.M.

Thompson, followed by Mrs. A. Thompson, thought to be the wife of the T. Thompson who lived on the south-east of 15 at that time. There were six pupils for that term.

In those days, the school term ran from mid-July or August until the end of November, and the new term began in March. It seemed that there was a holiday break for the first two weeks in July. The school fair was held in mid-August.

There was occasionally an incident where the Department of Education questioned the teacher about the absenteeism of some of the students. Children were required to attend school from the age of six to fifteen, but it seemed that as they reached the age where they could be useful elsewhere, they did not attend school regularly.

Attendance records show from six to nineteen pupils, quite often about four or five to a family, and seldom more than four or five families representing the area. The peak attendance was reached in the late twenties and early thirties when ten grades were taught to about nineteen pupils. With the depression and drought, several of the larger families left the area in 1934. Attendance gradually dropped off until there were only four pupils left in 1938, at which time it had opened to operate only two weeks, and then closed permanently.

The original site of the school was on a hill overlooking Dowling Lake. It operated at this site for about ten years, and then it was moved down to a valley about half a mile away, on the north-east of section 9. It was about this time that the school term was changed to include winter months in the school year. In the late thirties, another school was brought in to replace the old one, but it was not used for a season before the school closed permanently.

The old school became a granary on the Al Wirth farm, and the new one was moved to Scapa.

Names of school inspectors who visited the school were Dobson, Haverstock, and Thurber.

Teachers were D.M. Thompson, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. E.J. Lane, Miss Violet Holmes, Miss Eva Jagoe, Miss Eva Hart, Miss Marion Chamberlain, William Hendrickson, Miss Agnes King, Miss Norine Maynes, Harold Ruskin, Miss E. Forbes, Miss Ernestine Siewert, and Miss Doris Amber.

JOSEPH LAMB and FORSTER LAMB, By Joe Scott — In 1909 Joseph Lamb came to Canada to take up a homestead. Accompanying him were his son Archie and his daughter Margaret Scott and her two children, Alice and Joe. They were met in Edmonton by Forster, who had already been in Canada for two years. Forster had been living in Edmonton where he had worked for a dairy and later drove a taxi, with horses and carriage. Forster went with them to the farm. They travelled by rail to Stettler, then by ox team to the homestead, in the company of the Lewis family who had settled in the Garden Plain district.

The homestead was the west half of 10-32-14, about five miles north of where Hanna now stands. The first dwelling was a 9' x 12' wooden frame with a tent for a roof. In the following weeks they built a four-roomed house and a barn. The only water was from a nearby slough, and what they hauled from some of the neighbors for cooking and drinking. They managed this way for nearly two years; during this time a well had been drilled down to about eighty feet without getting water, so they gave it up. Finally they found a patch of 'joint grass'. They dug for water near there and got a plentiful supply at only ten feet.

About this time, another daughter and her husband, Dan Grant, homesteaded just north of the Lamb's. They didn't stay there very long, but moved

back to the States, and at the age of ninety-five she still lives in Coventry, Connecticut.

Archie stayed only a short time and left for Lethbridge to ply his trade as a blacksmith; Margaret and her children moved to her husband's homestead in the Watts area. Joseph Lamb and Forster continued to live on the land. Forster had filed on land near there, the NE of 15-32-14 and the NW of 14-32-14, but in 1916 he traded his homestead to W.O. Stevenson of Richdale for a team of horses, and continued to work with his aging father. Joseph Lamb passed away in 1922.

Forster stayed on and worked his father's land. Later his niece, Alice Scott, kept house for him for several years until she married George Gwin. They moved to Cheadle for a short time, then back to Hanna where they still reside.

In the early days, 1911-12, he and his brother-in-law, Dan Grant, hauled lumber and other building supplies from Castor to Hanna. They took in one of the first loads of bricks.

Forster Lamb with a load of coal in 1920's.

Forster was meticulous about his work. On the farm he made a thorough job of picking stones off the cultivated land. He never used a tractor, nor had engines or motors of any kind on the farm. He kept accounts of his sales of butter, eggs, and chickens, and of expenses. He sometimes kept a journal of daily activities. One such entry reads: Hanna Fair, August 14, 1918, two first and one second and a special in grade beef classes, and a first for bachelor's loaf.

Forster was active in community affairs, taking a great interest in fairs, picnics, etc. He was on the Antelope Hill school board for most of the time from when the school was built until it closed in 1938.

In April, 1945, he rented out the farm and moved to Tofield where he made his home with his sister Sarah, Mrs. James Murray, for a number of years, helping with the farm work. When he came back to Hanna he sold the farm to Harold Fortna, and later moved to the Acadia Lodge.

Forster had a busy life in retirement. He enjoyed visiting his friends, attended church services, did a lot of reading, and wrote letters to friends and relatives. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneers, and the Historical Society. He also liked to work at the Museum. He was still interested in the cattle sales and attended them whenever he could. He liked to go to the Curling rink and watch the games.

Forster passed away in the Hanna hospital on May 18, 1972, at the age of eighty-six years.

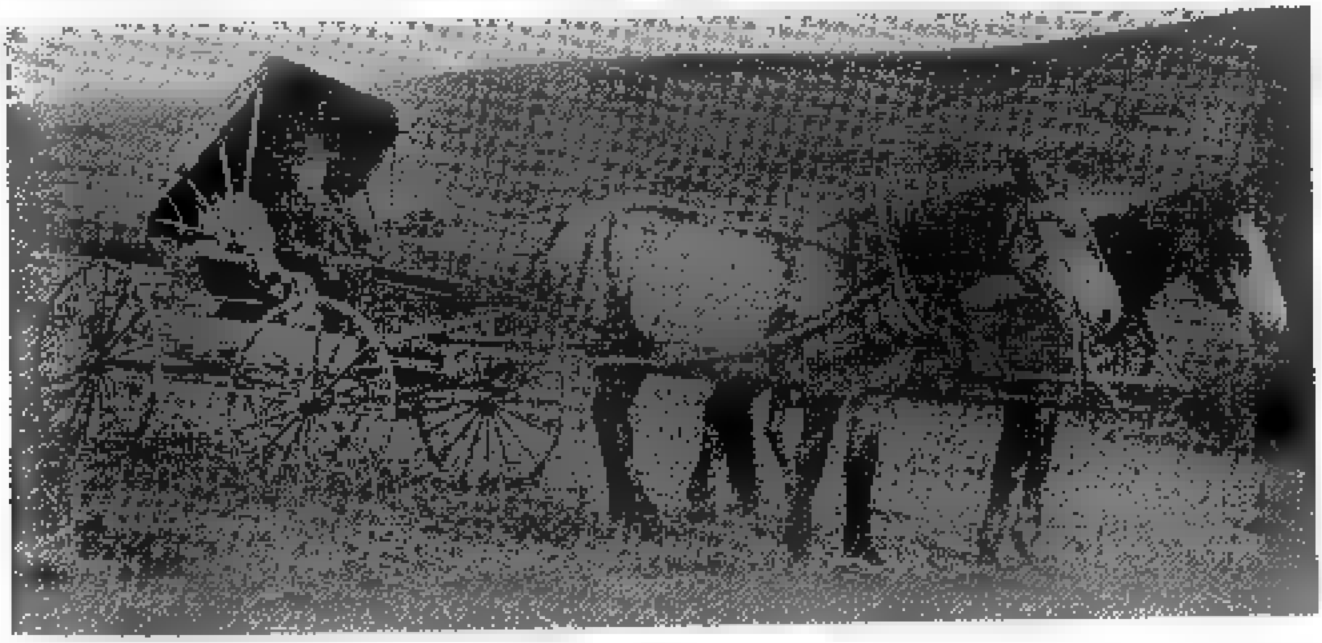
THOMAS A. THOMPSON, By Mae Fortna — Thomas A. Thompson was a big man and is fondly remembered by the name Fatty Thompson. The Thompsons came here in 1909. The father homesteaded the SE 15-32-14; the son, Robert, homesteaded across the road from his dad, on the NE 10-32-14. There was [illegible] fairly large family, Kate, Ruby, Veva, Doris, Robert and Fordy.

Fatty Thompson had a steam outfit and did breaking for some of the neighbors. [illegible] is not known how long the family stayed here, but Fatty Thompson died in the C.N.R. pumphouse fire in Hanna on January 20, 1916. The family remained in the area until about 1920, as the names of both Mrs. A. Thompson and D. W. Thompson appear as teachers in the Antelope Hills school register.

Kate Thompson taught school in Hanna when the first school opened there. Later she married Chris White. They lived on the Bob Thompson homestead for a while and then moved to Red Deer.

There is no information available as to the whereabouts of any of the members of the family at this time.

CHRISTOPHER GASPER, By Dorothy Gasper Ward — Christopher Nicholas Gasper was born in Dancy, Wisconsin, on October 31, 1882. He came to the Hanna-Dowling area in 1909 by riding the rails. In search of a homestead, he carefully read the survey stakes in the area of his chosen home, but after filing his claim, he discovered that he had transposed the numbers, and instead of filing on the flat land to the east which he wanted, he had filed on the rougher, hillier land. The homestead that he acquired in 1910 was the NE 16-32-14. He later acquired the SE of 16 as well. Stan Howard, his neighbor to the north, homesteaded in 1913, but not intending to stay, never put up any buildings, but lived with Chris Gasper while he proved up on his land. He sold [illegible] to Chris in 1916.



Chris Gasper

Chris built his house in 1914. In the early years, there was a syndicate composed of Gasper, Wirth, Weise, and Young, which owned a threshing outfit. Even while Chris lived in Oregon, he always came back [illegible] the fall to run the threshing outfit.

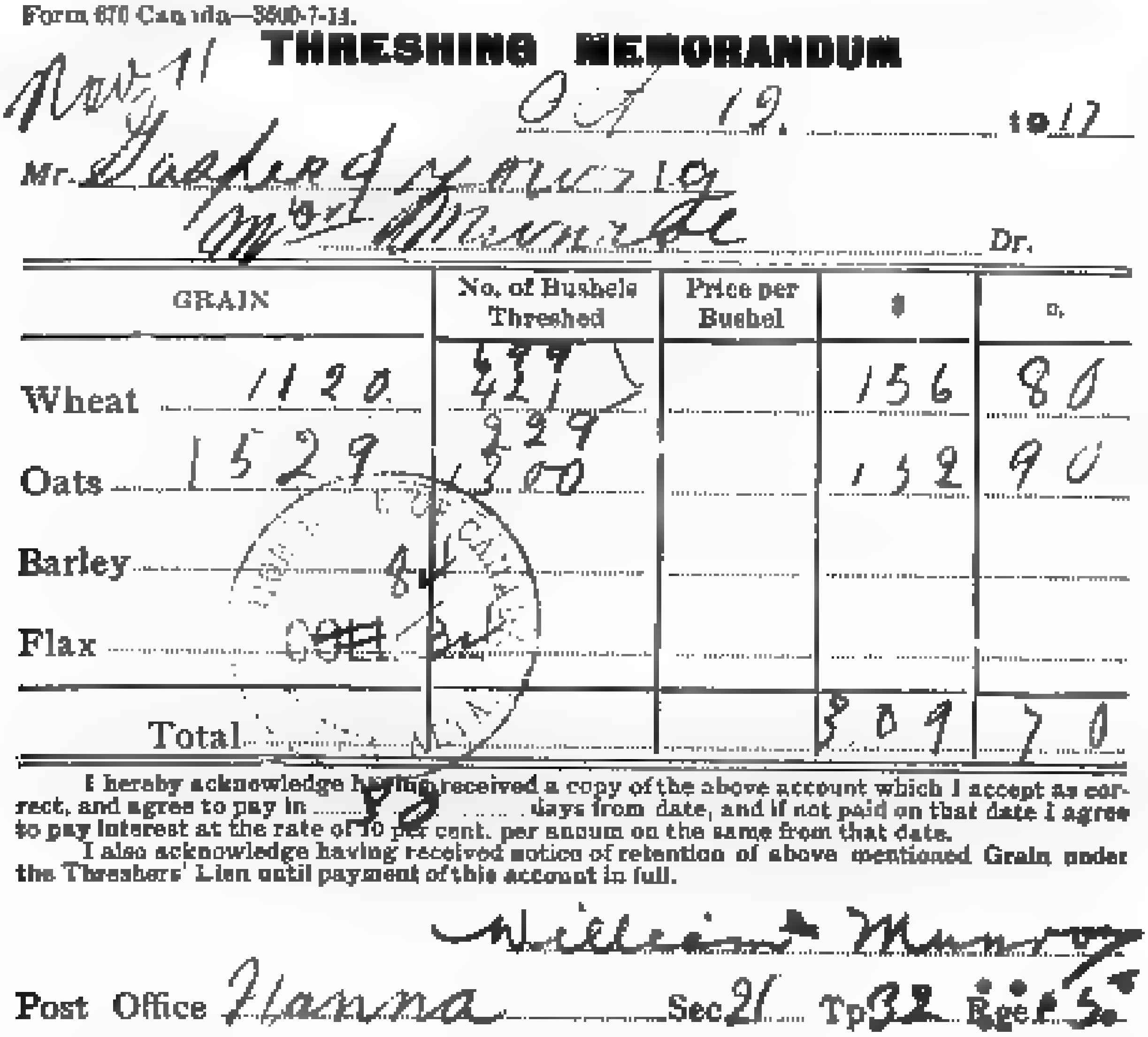
Nellie Gay was born in Kansas in 1897. She and her mother came to Canada in 1900, lived at Tees until 1903, returned to the States where they lived for the next ten years, and came back to the Dowling district in 1913.

Chris Gasper and Nellie Gay were married in Hanna in 1921. A daughter, Daisy, was born a year later. Chris rented the farm to Dave Temple and the family

spent most of their time for the next few years in Oregon. A second daughter, Dorothy, was born while they were there.

The Gaspers returned to the farm in 1932. The girls attended Antelope Hill school, where Miss Beth Forbes was the teacher in 1936, and Miss Ernestine Siewert was the teacher in 1937. Those teachers boarded at the Gasper farm. Our classmates were Albert, Gottlob, Hugo and Freda Schmidt, and Martin Baes' son. In 1938, because Daisy was going into grade ten and high school grades were not available in the country, the family moved to town.

Chris Gasper, Nellie Gasper, and Daisy Gay Wirth, taken with the old International tractor used for harvesting in 1915-16.



Form 670 Canada—3500-7-14.

THRESHING MEMORANDUM

Nov 11

Oct 19. 1917

Mr. [illegible]

[illegible] Dr.

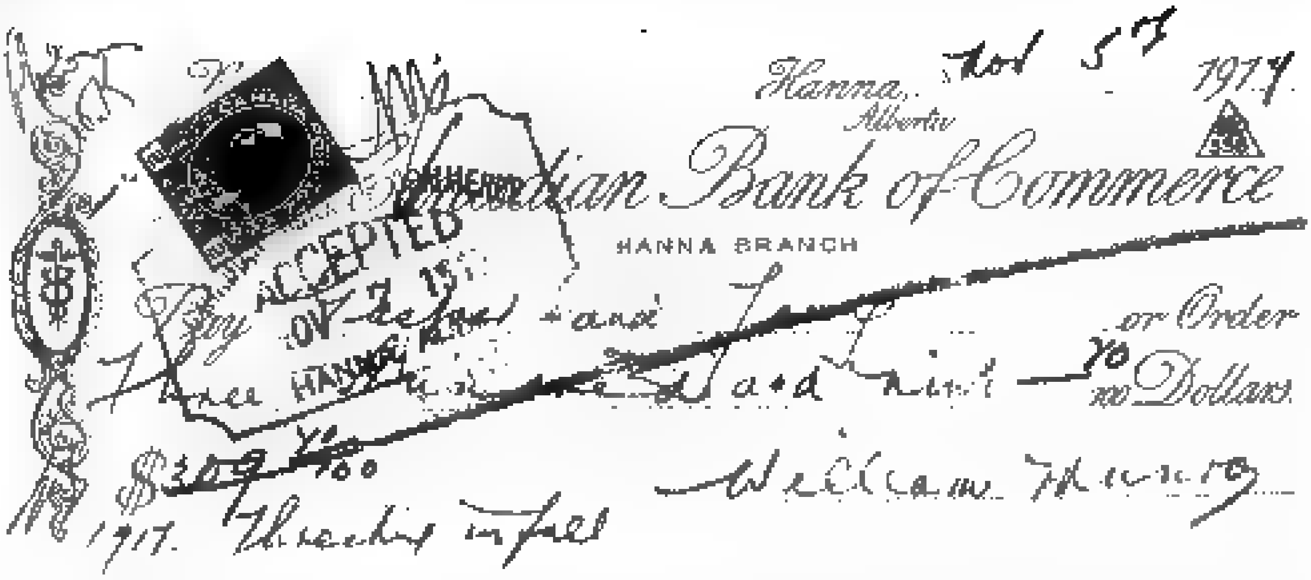
GRAIN	No. of Bushels Threshed	Price per Bushel	$	c.
Wheat 1120	599 421		156	80
Oats 1529	229 1300		132	90
Barley 84				
Flax [illegible] Bu				
Total			309	70

I hereby acknowledge having received a copy of the above account which I accept as correct, and agree to pay in 90 days from date, and if not paid on that date I agree to pay interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the same from that date.

I also acknowledge having received notice of retention of above mentioned Grain under the Threshers' Lien until payment of this account in full.

William Murray

Post Office Hanna Sec 21 Tp 32 Rge 15



Hanna, Nov 5 1917
Alberta

Canadian Bank of Commerce

HANNA BRANCH

ACCEPTED
NOV 7 1917
HANNA

Pay [illegible] or Order

Three hundred and nine 70/100 Dollars

$309 70/100

1917. Threshing in full

William [illegible]

Chris continued to farm for a few more years, then rented the land and moved to town. In 1940 he was hired by the Town of Hanna as town engineer. He supervised the job of installing a waterworks system for the town. Chris was still working as town engineer when the water plant was completed in the fall of 1949. He worked by himself in the operation of the plant in 1950, then Joe Scott became his assistant.

Times were hard on the farm in the thirties and we welcomed the apples and whitefish shipped in from B.C. Piano lessons were paid for with cream and eggs, and we always had a big garden which we canned, pickled and preserved for the winter.

Chris Gasper died in Hanna on November 16, 1957, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery there. Daisy Gasper Cook died in Stettler in 1959 and Nellie Gasper died in Calgary in 1969. Both are buried in the Hanna cemetery.

Dorothy Gasper Ward lives with her family in Calgary.

Daisy and Al Wirth

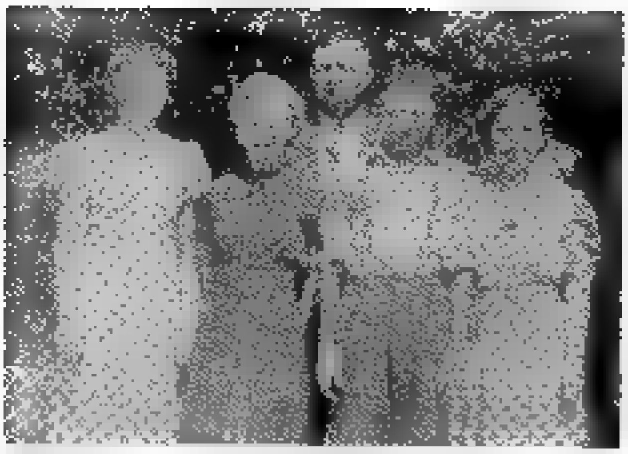
ALBERT LUDWIG WIRTH, By Mae Forinu — Since information on Al Wirth is very limited, I have compiled this story from an obituary which appeared in the Hanna Herald in 1926.

Al Wirth was born in Wisconsin. Later he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he was employed by the Stone Piano Company for several years.

He came to Alberta in 1910, and settled seven miles north of Hanna in the Antelope Hills area. He homesteaded the south half of 22-32-14. He was a close neighbor and friend of the Block family; he arrived in Hanna with them and lived with them for a while. In 1912 he freighted many loads of lumber when the town of Hanna was being built.

About 1920, Al Wirth married Mrs. Daisy Gay. He passed away in the Hanna hospital on April 20, 1926.

MARTIN DAHL, By Annie Miller Dahl — Martin was born at Trondheim, Norway, on June 4, 1892, the youngest of five children. He arrived in Saskatchewan in time for the fall work, unable to speak English. He came to Hanna where



Doris, Mildred, Martin, Jim and Annie Dahl.

he filed on a homestead seven miles north of Hanna and a half-mile east of Dowling Lake.

The town of Hanna had just come on the map, and being eager [illegible] go to work, he helped to build the Seymour Hotel and some of the other buildings that were being erected in Hanna. In the early days he worked at several other jobs as well as on the homestead. At one time he tended bar in the National Hotel.

On March 10, 1920, Martin and I were married. A few days later we had a blizzard which piled snow fifteen feet high. We were living on the Wilcox place at the time, where Schmidts live now.

In the spring of 1920, we built a house on Martin's homestead. That fall we moved into Hanna for the winter, and Martin went to work on the B & B gang. Our oldest daughter, Doris, was born.

In the spring we moved back onto our farm. We also rented the Mac Sullivan place, one mile south of us. Our own land was very rough and such a side hill that it was very difficult to farm it. During harvest time it was very hard for the bundle racks to pick up all of the bundles without upsetting. We later moved down to the Sullivan place but continued to farm our land also. There was only a small shack there so we built two more rooms on it.

Our second daughter, Mildred, was born in 1923, and our son Jim, in 1925. Times were not good but we had good neighbors. At the time Martin took me to the hospital to have my children, our bachelor neighbor, Henry Rutherford, stayed at our place with the children until he got back. Mr. Rutherford was a bachelor, but he taught me how to make bread! He harvested with us and was really a good neighbor.

For entertainment we had surprise card parties. We were surprised many times by our good friends. If it hadn't been for that, life would have been dull and lonesome. When a number of neighbors would come we would turn on the radio and dance to the oldtime tunes of W.W. Grant on CFCN. One time the batteries went dead on the radio, so Martin got out his fiddle and my brother George his mouth harp and we kept on dancing. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

One night a few men came over to play a card game called 'King Pedro'. They were so interested in the game that they pushed the lamp onto the floor. Luckily it didn't break as it was the only one we had.

There was a lot of 'home brew' made in those days. On one occasion, a neighbor having heard that the police were coming out to investigate, decided to bury his two gallon jugs. He slipped them onto the spade handle, but one broke. He looked at his wife and said, "Look, Mamma, what I have done."

She replied, "Now pull the cork on the other one and we won't have any more trouble." He did.

Another homesteader made a bunch of home brew, and thinking it so wasteful to throw the mash away, decided to feed it to his pigs. When he went back to the pigpen a few hours later, he discovered his pigs staggering around, falling down, with all the symptoms of being drunk. There was nothing to be done but leave them alone. The next day they were a very sick, very tired looking bunch of pigs.

We moved to the Waring place west of Hanna in 1926. Later we lived south of

Watts, retiring to Hanna in 1952. We had moved many times, always looking for something a little better. We had depression, low prices of farm produce, and we too tasted cheese, dry cod, beans and apples sent out by the government.

After we moved to Hanna, Martin built our new house that I now live in. He did carpenter work for several more years. He liked dancing and would manage the floor for most of the dances. He also did some square dance calling. He suffered a stroke in 1962, and passed away in 1967 at the age of seventy-five years.

Our family are all near. Doris, Mrs. A.E. Hutton, lives twelve miles from here. Jim farms at Hanna. Mildred, Mrs. Harold Veno, lives at Sunnynook.

DAVID D. LEICHT — David Leicht was born in 1885. He came to Canada in 1910, and settled in the Olds district, where he married Barbara Morlock in 1911. They came to the Hanna district in March, 1913, and lived on a farm south of Hanna; later they moved north to the Schultz place. They were not there for too many years before they moved into town where he worked in a garage. Dave Leicht retired to Wetaskiwin, where he passed away in 1957.

Fred Elm repairing an early magneto in the Hanna Auto Livery Shop. About 1920.

THE ELM STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Frederick Elm was born on January 8, 1887 and his brother Edward on May 15, 1888, in North Dakota, where their parents had settled after coming from Sweden. Fred and Ed worked in tractor factories in Minneapolis, and in 1912 headed north for Canada. They worked their way west through Saskatchewan, operating the large gasoline tractors of that era, which were used to break the land, seed, and haul grain. In 1913 they arrived in Hanna, bringing with them two of these large tractors built by the Pioneer Tractor Company; they were used for many years for farming, road building and house moving.

Fred and Ed were mechanics, and in 1914 purchased the Ford agency from Jim Parker. They set up shop with Mac McGowan in the building now known as Fano's garage, and named their business the Hanna Auto Livery. They hauled people and freight throughout the area with automobiles and trucks. Fred says that the roads and trails were not so good in those days and punctured tires and repairs on the road were standard routine. As mechanics, they plied their trade wherever there was a demand.

Fred filed on a homestead, the SW 16-32-14, and a pre-emption, the NW 16-32-14, in October, 1914. He sold this land to Thomas Ross in 1919. Also in 1914 he joined the Hanna fire department and became involved in the growing community of Hanna. Ferguson James tells in his book of Fred being deputized by the local policeman for a manhunt involving a deserter from the Canadian army. In 1918 Fred broke land for Hanna Farms Ltd., and operated this farm till 1922. In 1918 he married Anna Pederson and had four children, Clarence, Irene, Clara and Ellis.

Fred operated the early projection machines used in the local theatre, and built some of the first radios used in Hanna. He was involved with photography as a hobby in the early 1900s when glass negatives and flash powder were used. He had the reputation of being a first class mechanic, with a vast amount of experience. During the thirties he operated the repair shop for E.A. Laughlin, the local Chevrolet dealer; and in later years for E.E. Holmes, the International dealer. He also operated custom threshing outfits, and built roads in the area.

His son Ellis died in 1945. Clarence and Irene served in the R.C.A.F. during World War II. Clarence lives in Hanna, Irene in Calgary, and Clara in Nanaimo, B.C. Fred is living with Clara and enjoys good health at the age of eighty-nine.

Edward Elm enlisted in the Canadian army in 1915 and served overseas as a Motor Transport Driver. In 1919 he returned to Hanna and the following spring filed on a homestead and pre-emption, the east half of 20-32-14, and a Soldier Settlement quarter, the NW 5-33-14. He farmed this land for many years, as well as working as a mechanic, threshing outfit operator and road builder. In the late twenties he bought the Macrapol farm along the Castor road, and operated it until he sold it in 1952. He also operated the ditching machine when the first water and sewer system was installed in Hanna.

In the early years he and one of his neighbors, Martin Dahl, were reputed to have produced some very good moonshine, some of which is still supposed to be buried in the hills north of Hanna. He also enjoyed big game hunting, and had a special interest in the Royal Canadian Legion.

Edward Elm died in February, 1956, and was buried in the Field of Honor in Hanna.

Annie, Cecille, Phillip, (cousin) Clara, and Bill Brunner.

STEVE BRUNNER JR. and FAMILY, By Cecille Brunner Schultz — My dad, Steven Brunner, came with his family to Alberta in the spring of 1911. In 1924 he married Katie Neurberger of Moson, Hungary. It was a double wedding; the other couple was mother's brother Frank and his bride, Theresa Weiss, also of Moson.

We lived on the Daniel Barton homestead just east of Dowling Lake. My dad farmed 320 acres, the NE 19-32-14 and the NW 20-32-14. There were eight children born while we lived in Alberta. During the thirties, three of my brothers died when they were quite young. In those days transportation was slow, and some of the better medicines we have today were unknown then. Adeline, my youngest sister, was born in B.C.

I remember my sister and I going to the Wiese school for two years, and after that we attended Antelope Hill. My Dad used to drive us to school often, as we had three and a half miles to go to either one.

Prices for farm products were low. Wheat hit a low of nineteen cents a bushel, and cows were less than one cent a pound. Cream brought as little as fifty cents for a five gallon can. The low prices of grain were complicated by low yields due to

the lack of rainfall during the thirties. In 1938 my dad decided he had had enough, and we made preparations to move to B.C. We had a farm sale and after the bills were paid we had two hundred dollars left. We had sold cows, horses, machinery and some household effects.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brunner

We children really felt badly that we had to leave our Collie, Hans, behind, and my brother Bill shed lots of tears when our colt called King was sold.

When we arrived at Sumas, B.C., we had eighty dollars left. My dad got a job working in a saw mill, and at a dairy farm. Later he and mother opened a small bakery at Haney.

All of our family are married and have children. Cecilie, Anne, Clara, Don and Adeline all live at Maple Ridge, B.C. Bill is retired and lives at Delta.

Steve Brunner, who was born in 1899, was accidentally killed when a truck struck his bicycle in a fog on October 23, 1966. Mrs. Brunner is living at Maple Ridge, B.C.

MY STORY, By Levi Kennedy — I came to Stettler from the state of Michigan [illegible] 1908, with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kennedy, and my brother Jack. My father homesteaded on the west side of Dowling Lake. My brothers Philip and Alden were born on the homestead, and we went to Dowling Lake school. In 1923 the family moved east of Dowling Lake to the Wilcox place, just south of Antelope Hill school. My younger brothers attended school there until 1926, when my parents moved into the town of Hanna.

Levi Kennedy, taken at the 1976 Hand Hill Stampede.

I rented land up in the hills and

moved there to the NE 17-32-14, which was formerly farmed by [illegible] Elm, and lived there till 1929.

I married Mabel Paxman in the spring of 1929. After we were married, we went to Kinuso, Alberta, to homestead. We came back to Hanna and to the Meadowlands district in 1932, when we took over the farming of the George Paxman place. George had been sick for a while and passed away that summer. We farmed the place and lived there for ten years. My son George attended school at Meadowlands.

We suffered from drought and grasshoppers along with the rest of the farmers. I hired on the C.N.R. as a machinist in the roundhouse, and we moved to Hanna to live.

I was always fond of cattle, and rodeos. We used to have little rodeos on Sundays when we were kids on the homestead. Living near Clear Lake as a boy, I often took part in any horse riding events that they had at the picnics there. In 1925 I competed in a rodeo at Castor, riding bucking horses and bulls. I attended the very first Hand Hills Stampede in 1917 and have missed very few since then. I have always been pleased to ride in parades and help with the infield events. Rodeos have always been the highlight of the summer for me. When I was younger I competed in events in the Hand Hills too.

After I left the farm, I took up the hobby of wood carving. I have carved replicas of horses, chuckwagons, threshing outfits and steam engines. I have some replicas in the Museum in Hanna.

I enjoyed dancing, and called many a square dance in the old school houses. I am a life member of the Historical Society, and a life member of the Elks' Lodge.

I was laid off the C.N.R. in 1960, due to the increased use of diesel locomotives. At that time we acquired property in Richdale and moved out there. Then I became a cow hand for the K & B Ranch at Richdale.

My wife passed away in July, 1974. I have one son, George, who lives in Richmond, near Vancouver. He and his wife, Fern, have four boys and one girl. I still work for the K & B Ranch and still live in Richdale.

THE RUDOLPH FANO STORY, By Ivan Fano — Rudolph Fano migrated to the Olds district in 1909 with his parents, one brother and one sister, when he was twelve years old. From there they moved on to Hanna by oxen and wagon. The homestead was about nineteen miles south-west of Hanna. The first home the family had was a sod shack, and oxen were used to break the land.

Rudy, as most people knew him, married Clara Schottsneider in 1919. Clara was born in North Dakota and had immigrated with her parents and family to the Dowling Lake district in 1909. Clara recalled the hard times of 1910. The first summer was spent in a tent, and by fall a two-roomed shack was built from lumber hauled from Stettler. Later the tent material was used to make clothes.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano farmed for a brief time south of Hanna, not far from his parents. They then moved to the Sayle Brown place about seven miles north-east of Hanna. Rudolph homesteaded the SE 10-32-14 in 1922, but found it more feasible to live on the rented farm which already had buildings. They lived there for three years. I, the oldest, and my brother Fred and sister Mary were born there.

Grassy Slope area was to be our home for the next three years. The location of the farm was the east half of 22-32-13. I was the only one who went to Grassy Slope school, and then only for about six months.

In 1926 father bought the quarter of land which adjoined his homestead, the NE 10-32-14, so we moved there. This property had a two-roomed shack, a

granary, and ■ huge barn, large enough for eight horses. I well remember moving day in April, 1926. We started in the dark hours of the spring morning. About all I could do to help was look after my brother and two sisters while everyone else was busy. When we were settled in our new place, I had one and ■ half miles to go to school at Antelope Hill.

The original site of the school was up on ■ high hill, but it was later moved a half mile east into a pretty valley. The school was blocked up on large flat rocks, and in the winter it was banked with manure, to keep the cold off the floor. The stove never got the school warm till eleven or twelve o'clock on a cold winter day. Sometimes the ink wells would be frozen all day. It was told by oldtimers that the school was built there when there were only three students able to attend.

About 1930-32 there was a peak attendance of around nineteen pupils. There were not many families, but they were large. There were five in the Gartner family, five ■ the Gwin family, four of us, four from the Temple family, and Maurice Taylor, who stayed with Mrs. Wirth. Maurice rode a nice pony to school, and we boys really envied him.

Rudolph Fano Family taken in 1950.

In those days there was no need of a gymnasium for P.T. There were no school buses, so after doing two hours of chores in the morning, we would walk to school, carrying our drinking water in a syrup pail, and lunch in a three-pound Burns Pure Lard pail. We had no need for P.T. We did play ball in the summer time, and sleigh down the hills in winter. When we got home from school, we had another three hours of chores, pumping water for the stock, milking cows, feeding calves and pigs. Then, if there was any time left, we did our homework around a dim coal oil lamp.

I remember a number of teachers, among them Miss Story, Miss King, Miss Maynes and Mr. Harold Ruskin. At the time Mr. Ruskin was teaching he organized a good ball team. He was an outstanding player himself. We also had a young man on the team who worked on ■ farm. He was Ed Fischer, and was a good pitcher. The teachers really had their hands full trying to cope with so many grades in such crowded conditions, and many of the children were not able to speak English. At one time, grade nine and ten were taught there.

Times were hard when the depression hit. In 1930 we were hailed out, in 1931 it was drought, in 1932 we had a good crop, but wheat was only thirty-five cents a bushel. Some people sold it for half that price. The grasshoppers took almost everything in 1933 and 1934. We had turned to milking about fifteen cows and selling the cream. As I remember, three five-gallon cans of cream would bring in only about $2.25 each. This would be about fifty-five cents per week from each cow.

In 1934, many people moved out of the district. We went to Jarvie, about one hundred miles north of Edmonton. This enterprise did not last more than two years. Our stock could not cope with the environment, and died as the feed and grass there lacked the feed value of this area's.

In 1936 we moved into Hanna. We operated a draying and hauling business, and later expanded it into the auto wrecking and car repair business. My parents operated Fano's Rooms for about ten years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fano had eight children, five sons and three daughters. I married Caroline Rust and have two daughters and one son. I have been employed by the Hanna Co-op and have lived in Hanna for many years.

Fred married Ruth Quast, and is employed by the Federal government in building maintenance. They have two sons.

Mary lives in Vancouver. Dave married Joan Carr and lives in Hanna where he operates Fano's Garage. He has three children.

William married Judy Rose. They and their three daughters live in Edmonton where he is employed with the C.N.R.

Kay and her husband, Ralph Resvick, and two sons live in Calgary. Tilly married Don Johnson. She is now a widow, has two daughters and one son, and lives in Vancouver.

Albert lives in Hanna. He has two daughters and one son.

Rudolph Fano passed away in December, 1959, and his wife Clara on Christmas Day, 1976.

FRED SCHULTZ, By Katie Schultz Parr — My parents came from Russia to Canada in 1912. The two younger children were born in Calgary. We moved to a farm north-east of Delia in 1920. The following spring my mother passed away and we moved north of Hanna to the Rickett place.

Our dad remarried late in the year of 1922, to Mrs. Polly Leicht. At that time my oldest sister was already married, and the other older ones left home. The girls went back to Calgary to work, and Charlie went to work on the railroad in Hanna.

Violet Baxter and Annie Schultz.

In the spring of 1924, we moved to the Leicht place, just east of Dowling Lake. We attended Antelope Hill school, which was two miles from home. Some of the teachers I remember were Violet Holmes, Miss Story and Miss Hart.

I took time from school to work with my step-mother in the cook car during harvest in 1923-24. After threshing was over, I went back to school. An incident still in my memory occurred at that time.

We were to have a Christmas concert that year, and had been practising for it. About a week before Christmas, we had a terrible blizzard. When the storm had cleared off, [illegible] was calm, but very cold. Ann and I decided we must go to school for practising and for exams. Father was in Calgary at the time, so we defied our stepmother and left for school.

The trip was terrible. We pulled each other out of drifts in our struggle to get there. When we arrived, no one was there, and there was no fire. I lit the fire, which was seen by Philip Kennedy, another pupil who lived about a half mile away, so he came to see what was happening. We got warmed up, but had an awful time getting Ann's shoes back on. Her feet were terribly swollen and frost-bitten. Then came the horrible nightmare of going home. When we finally got home, Ann's feet were so bad, [illegible] blistered and so painful she could hardly walk on them for two weeks. Mine were bad too, but I didn't dare complain because I knew what was in store for me when Dad got back.

I left Hanna in 1926. Two sisters have passed away, Mollie Sherman in 1964, and Annie Durnie in 1972. Charlie married Hilda Hanson and they still live in Calgary. Mrs. Millie Daly lives in Vancouver. Mrs. Mary Herman, (second marriage) lives in Calgary, as I do too. Jack continued to farm until 1957, and he now lives in Calgary.

Fred Schultz passed away in 1946, Mrs. Schultz in 1947.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, By Eva Hart Bamber — I commenced teaching at Antelope Hill in the fall of 1925. Miss Eva Jagoe of Calgary was my predecessor, having taught there between her University semesters. She later became a very active high school teacher in the city. At this time the country schools were closed during January and February, and open during the summer months.

I had either six or seven grades with an enrollment of thirteen or fourteen pupils, ranging from grades one to seven. The families represented were mostly new Canadians from Central Europe. However, I remember [illegible] Philip Kennedy and several Schultz children. In later years a Schultz girl, I can't remember her by name, phoned me in Calgary, and if I remember correctly, she was attending Normal School at the time.

I boarded with Mrs. Temple, whom I frequently meet in Hanna. Her little ones were all under school age at that time. There was a childless couple by the name of Wirth, living across the road from the Temple farm. They had a piano, and out of sheer loneliness I went there to play the piano. Apart from school texts there were no books in the school. My family sent me some books which I used to read to the pupils during noon hour and recesses, and of course some for myself.

The school itself warrants little description. [illegible] was the size of two granaries, boasted two windows and the usual school furnishings. Something unique, even at that time, were the double desks. These were condemned as being conducive to cheating and whispering. I believe they were useful in country schools where older and more advanced and capable students helped the younger ones, and this was really desirable in the ungraded school, where sometimes eight or nine grades were represented.

At the time I taught at Antelope Hill, Mr. Lamb was the school board chairman, and Mr. George Haverstock the inspector.

There were a couple of incidents which I recall that you may find amusing. There was one family which came to school in [illegible] horse-drawn vehicle. The children evidently took a short-cut through [illegible] farmer's grain field. The irate farmer made a trip to the school for the purpose of telling me that his gates had been left down, and that it was my responsibility to teach them that gates should be closed.

The other incident occurred when, upon investigating a noise in the boys' outhouse, I discovered two lads talking in loud voices. I warned them that only one was allowed in the outhouse at one time. A small boy piped up, "Please, teacher, there are two holes!"

JACOB GARTNER STORY, By Erma Gartner Keist — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gartner, came to Hanna in November, 1921. Until 1926 they lived south of Hanna, then moved north of Hanna to the Martin Dahl place, SE 17-32-14. My parents were of German descent but came from Roumania.

There were six of us children, Albert, Jack, Annie, Edna, Rudolph and myself. We attended Antelope Hill school. One of my earliest recollections is of my first day at school, and of not being able to speak one word of English.

There are too many memories of those years to put on paper . . . school concerts, summer picnics, and huge gatherings of friends and relatives. No one waited for invitations to visit.

I also remember our first car. It was a Model T. It could only be driven when the sun shone as it had no top.

My mother passed away in January, 1957. My father, who farmed all of his life, died in November, 1975. He had retired just before my mother died, and spent the last years of his life in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wetaskiwin.

Albert and Rudolph are still farming in the Ponoka area. Annie, Edna and Jack live in the town of Ponoka.

My husband and I are retired and live at Spruce Grove.

RONALD FANO, By Martha Fano — Ronald and I were married in 1925. We were living in the Hand Hills when Ronald's dad bought the farm north of Hanna, the north half of 3-32-14 from Frank Harris. We rented our own farm to August Kautz, and moved up there in the fall of 1928 when our son Billie was a small baby, as Ronald's dad insisted it was a better farm. There was only a shack and one outbuilding on the place. The house consisted of a big kitchen, a pantry and a bedroom.

We didn't have much, as we were just starting out. We had two milk cows, a few head of cattle and a few chickens. We sold a little cream. The Harris place had seven wells, but only one with water in it. We had to haul water from Ron's brother's place which was over a mile away.

In 1929 we got hailed out so Ron went to work on the Castor road. The pay was six dollars a day for four horses and a man, nine hours a day. Ron had to leave at four in the morning to get to work some nine miles away. When he got home late in the evening he would have to haul water for the cattle and chickens and household. One evening he came in from hauling water and said that a barrel had fallen on his toes. We phoned Art Gwin who took him in to see the doctor. His foot was all swollen up and he had to go into the hospital for almost a week. Ron's folks came out to help me. On the day that Ron came out of the hospital, I went in. Our daughter Iris was born August 11, 1930.

On August 16, a bad thunder and electrical storm came up. Lightning struck the Engel barn in the Solon district and three men and several horses died. We felt the jolt of that bolt of lightning all the way in to the Hanna hospital. It was terrible!

In 1930 we got very little crop; we got our seed back but little more. Ron took some wheat to the flour mill at Delia to trade it for flour. The trip with team and wagon could not be made in one day so he had to stay overnight.

In the winter we went playing cards with the Gwins, Fortnas, Temples and Forster Lamb. We had good times, poor as we were.

Times really got bad in the dry thirties. The dust storms were terrible and we had to light the coal oil lamp by day. We canned all our meat as we had no other way to preserve it.

Since times were so bad and there was no water on the place, we moved to the Oldham place across from the cemetery, two miles north of Hanna. Pauline was born while we lived there. The crop wasn't too bad that year, but we decided to move back to our place in the Hand Hills. We rented, and later sold, the Harris place to Jake Fortna.

Our youngest daughter, Gladys, was born in 1935.

We are now retired and live in Hanna.

TEACHING AT ANTELOPE HILL, By Norine Maynes Coad — I taught at Antelope Hill for two years beginning September, 1930. The school was situated in an isolated spot surrounded by low hills, about half way between two north and south roads. There was a trail past the school and every two or three weeks a vehicle might pass along the trail. The glass of the windows had been covered with white paint. When I enquired about it the children told me it was there so they would not look out the windows when they should be working. I told them I liked to look out windows. The paint disappeared as if by magic.

The building itself was very poor, plain and unattractive, poorer even than most schools around which were far from elaborate, but that was before we knew anything about today's magnificent, richly equipped structures. A teacher had to be resourceful then to make up for the lack of learning materials. I spent my weekends gathering up books and magazines from friends, and I would have ruined the week for the children if I had turned up Monday morning without a supply of Sunday School papers . . . Onward, Boy's Life, Girl's Life, Junior and Primary, splendid publications.

Harvesting was in full swing when the school opened that fall and the beautiful weather remained late into autumn. I recall having a Hallowe'en party outdoors and it was like a July day.

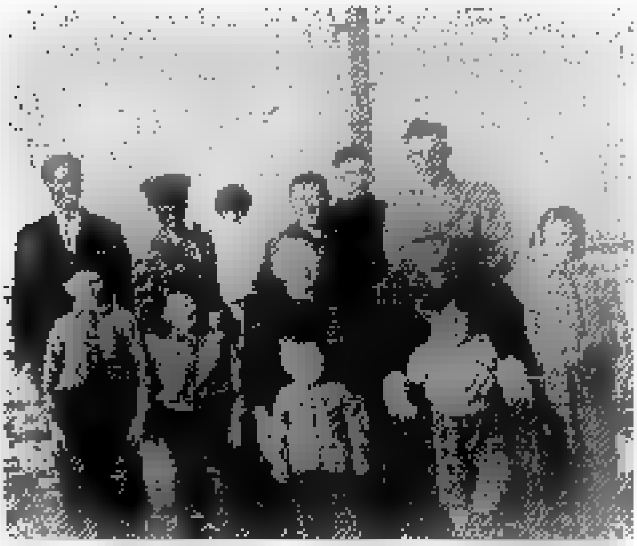
This was my first teaching experience and I probably learned more than the children. I began by making out a time table allotting the correct amount of time to each subject, then wondering how on earth it could possibly be done. During my training I had taught one lesson to one grade from carefully prepared lesson plans, and here sat five grades expecting to be taught simultaneously. Well, somehow it all worked out; we got through each grade and managed time for ball games, classroom decorations, Friday programs, Christmas concert preparations, Valentine making, all very important to children who at that time were pretty well confined to their own district.

The first time I passed around snaps which I had taken of the children, a little girl remained in the school at recess and asked me if she could look at them again. She found the grade one picture and pointed out one child and said, "This looks like me, Miss Maynes."

I assured her that it was and she asked me how I got her on that card. She spent a happy fifteen minutes pointing out each child in the school, and I had to confirm that each picture was indeed that person.

There were seventeen pupils in the school in five grades. There were four Gwins, three Temples, four Fanos, four Gartners, one Taylor and one Schultz. They were enthusiastic and full of energy and very capable in looking after themselves and their horses. I remember how well they got along on the playground; even when I was busy in the school they would organize games, and there never seemed to be any quarreling as often happens in schools. I recall, too, how co-operative the parents in the district were. When any special events were planned at school they helped in any way they could with materials, costumes, and of course lots of food. During the winter we enjoyed social gatherings at many homes in the district and I shall always remember how kind and friendly the women were.

One has to spend a few minutes recalling such a simple quiet period to realize what a changed world it is. The people have all gone now, the school is gone; perhaps there is not even a trace of the place where I sat. An era of western Canadian history ended when all the little white 'Antelope Hills' faded from the scene.



August Schmidt, G. Schmidt Sr. holding Freda, Mrs. Schmidt, Adolph Kiest, Rudolph Kiest; Grandma and Grandpa Kiest, Schmidt children.

THE SCHMIDT FAMILY, By Gottlob Schmidt — Gottlob Schmidt Sr., his wife Pauline, and children Alexander, age nine; Albert, seven; Gotthold, five; Gottlob, three; and Hugo, age one year, arrived in Hanna from Romania in the spring of 1927.

The first home for the Schmidt family was about nine miles north-east of Hanna, on section 23-32-14. They remained on that farm for seven years, and the children attended Solon school. A daughter Freda was born in 1928, and another, Ida, in 1929. Adam was born in 1931. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in 1933.

In 1934, my dad moved his family to a farm located six miles north of town, on the NW 9-32-14. The family then went to school at Antelope Hill. When I think back to those times, I feel my dad did very well to raise us eight motherless children back in those hard times, by himself. We all learned to take care of ourselves at an early age.

In 1938 the school board at Antelope Hill decided to replace the old school with another in better condition. There was much excitement the day the school arrived. We were all eager and curious to get a look at the school, and the men setting it down. The teacher forbade us to go near it. As soon as school was out, we all ran over there anyway. The teacher seeing this, called us back into the school to line up for a strapping. I was the first to get it, and immediately went back outside. Maurice Taylor had just arrived to pick up the teacher and the Gasper girls to give them a ride home. He seemed surprised that school was not out yet and asked why. I began to tell him what was taking place, but the teacher heard me, and stepped outside to call me back in for 'seconds'. Maurice informed her that if she wanted a ride home, she had better hurry up. I guess she thought twice about that, because she did not bother to whip me again, and dismissed the class as soon as she had finished.

In 1942, my dad married Mrs. Dux. She had five children of her own, Elfe, Freda, Anna, Ed and Roland. In 1943 another daughter, Bertha, was born. In the fall of 1945, my dad and stepmother and the younger members of the family moved to a farm at Holden, Alberta.

My oldest brother Alex and I stayed on the farm here. We were in the cattle

business together for several years. In 1958, Alex decided to quit farming and moved to Calgary. I stayed on the farm and am still there today.

Both Albert and Gotthold Schmidt served in the Second World War. They both live in Edmonton. Adam lives at Holden. Freda, Ida and Hugo live in B.C.

Gottlob Schmidt Sr. still lives in Calgary. He is eighty-six years old. Mrs. Schmidt passed away in January, 1977.

OTTO MIX, By Emma Pahl Mix — We came to the Hanna district in 1944. We rented and later bought the Chris Gasper place, the east half of 16-32-14, which is seven miles north of Hanna.

Our neighbors were Jim McClusky, Gottlob and Alex Schmidt, and for a short time, John and Leah Yasman. They moved away and then Harold and Mae Fortna became our neighbors.

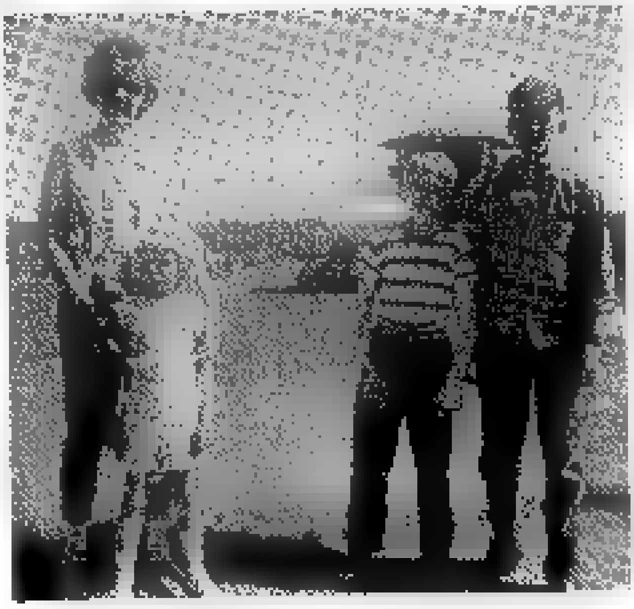
The worst part about living in the hills in those days was the lack of roads. After the first snowstorm, the roads were practically impassable till spring. Alvin and Arlene had to ride four miles each way to go to school at Solon. In 1959 the road was built up and gravelled. In 1961 the school bus began to take the children to school in Hanna.

We didn't have a phone in those years, so felt quite isolated. Our neighbor Jim McCluskey had one, but it seemed that every time we had to use it, we would have to drive down the road a few miles to set up the fallen poles.

We had some good crops, and quite a few poor ones. We had the crop completely snow under one year, and hail out a couple of times. We seemed to have survived the bad and the good times and in 1966 we left the farm to Alvin and moved into Hanna, where we still reside.

HAROLD FORTNA — I was born on the homestead, the eldest child of Jacob and Mattie Fortna. Although the farm was originally included in the Antelope Hill school district, we never went to school there, as it was four miles away. By the time I was old enough to go to school, the boundaries had been changed so that we belonged in the Meadowlands school district.

Harold and Mae Fortna.



The Fortna Children, Vivian, Marjorie, Doug and [illegible].

The classes at Meadowlands were very small when I first started school. Among the pupils attending at that time were Bill Curtis, Harry, Winnifred and Marion Parker, and my sister Ethel. She and I used to walk to the Parker place, a mile from home; then with the Parker children we used to cross the Hudson Bay

land which was unfenced at that time, till we reached the road a mile east, and then continue on to school. We were plagued by mosquitoes on many trips across this native grassland.

As there was not a large attendance at the school, there were occasions when the annual school picnics were held jointly with Antelope Hill school. On one occasion it was held west of the Fortna buildings, and another time it was on the Ronald Fano farm farther north.

After I left school I stayed on the farm, and my younger brother Albert and I farmed with our father.

In 1944, I met Mae Lamb, who had come to Hanna to seek employment. Her home was at Rowley, about forty miles away. We were married in December, 1945, and spent the winter in Drumheller, where I worked in the coal mine. We returned to the farm in the spring. Our daughter Vivian was born while we were on the farm near my folks.

In 1948 we moved on to the Brown place, two miles north of my dad's farm. We lived there for eight years. Transportation and communication were poor in those days, and the heavy snows those next few winters left us quite isolated. At one time we had a barbed wire phone which, when it worked, gave us a sort of communication with my folks. What a boon the snowmobile would have been to us back then!

In 1952, Vivian started school at Solon, with Mabel Hein as her teacher. We drove her to school by car as long as we could, then with the team and cutter. The next year she began to ride the saddle horse, travelling with the Mix children. There was a lot of snow that winter and the children had a lot of trouble getting to school on horses.

Our sons, Ed and Doug, and our daughter Marjorie were born while we lived on the Brown place. In 1957 we moved one half mile west to our present location. The new road was built soon after that, and then it was gravelled. In rapid succession during the next few years came electricity, telephone and the school bus. The children were able to go to school in town for a higher education.

In 1963 there was a bumper crop. After that farming conditions improved. We were able to purchase better machinery, a new house, and make many improvements in our way of living. We are still living on the farm today.

Our family have grown up and gone. Vivian is married to Rod Quaschnick. They live in Hanna with their children Shannon, Jason and Ryan.

Ed has a B.A. from the University of Calgary. He is married to Jean Watson from Airdrie, and they live in Calgary.

Douglas is apprenticing as an electrician. He is married to Carol Hausher from Endiang, and they live in Hanna.

Marjorie is presently living in Red Deer.

THE A.F. GWIN STORY — Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gwin were married July 16, 1916 and came to live in Hanna district the next year. Mr. Gwin had traded property in California for a farm south of Hanna. They lived on that farm until 1922, when they moved to the Oldham place north of Hanna, just east of the cemetery, the south half of 22-31-14. This was a dairy farm; milk was bottled and sold in town. As Mrs. Gwin was a city girl, this was a very difficult adjustment for her. About 1925 they moved four miles further north to the Hamilton place, one half mile east of Antelope Hill school.

There were eight children in the family. They recall that some of their classmates at Antelope Hill were Fanos, Gaspers, Temples, Gartners and Jack Schultz.

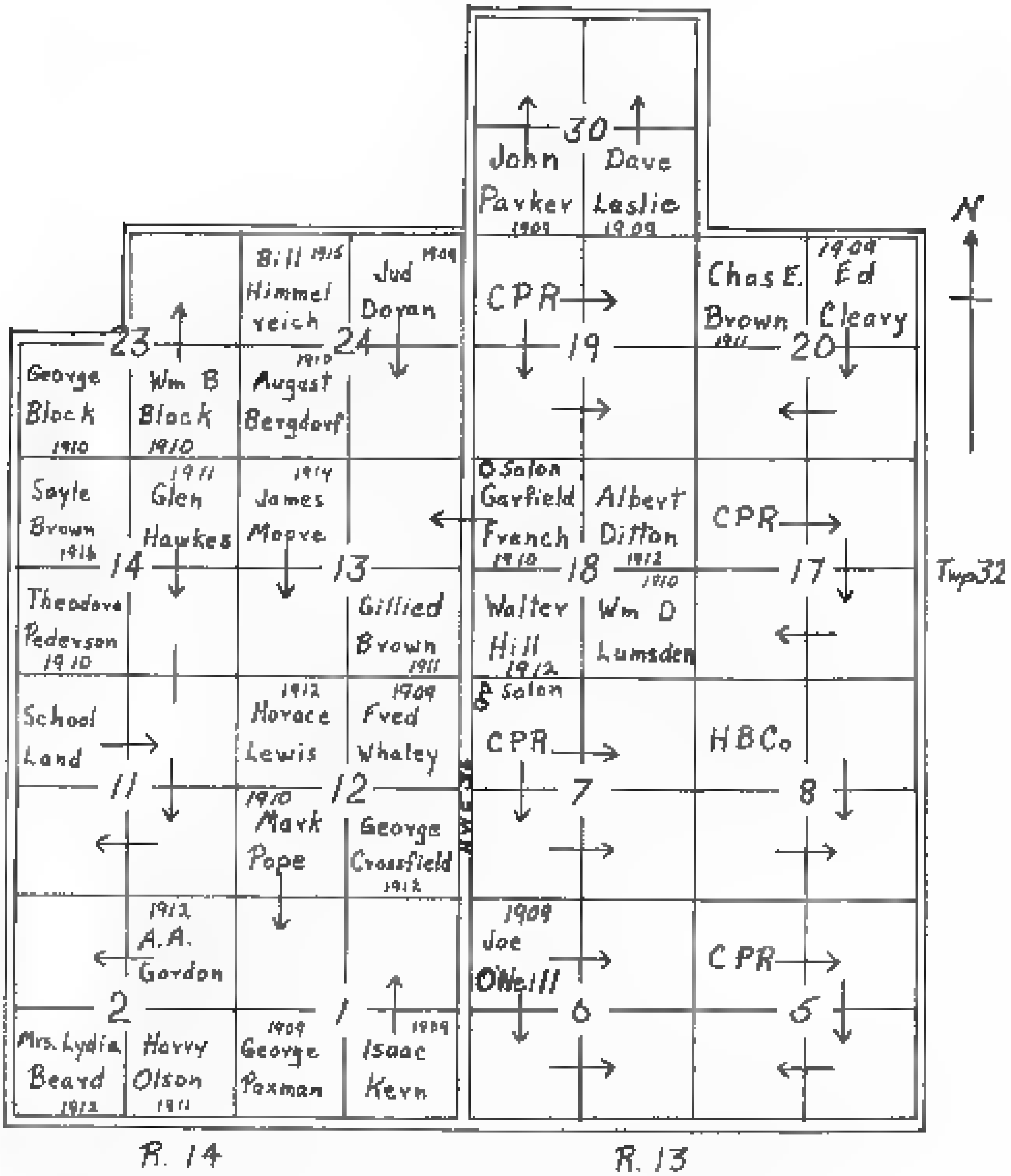
As the drought continued and prices fell, the Gwin family decided, in 1934, to move to Rocky Mountain House. Ernest quit school and helped to provide for the family for a year. Then he and Robert received an invitation to return to California and live with their uncle, Ira Gwin, and continue their education. The next year the rest of the family moved back to southern California, and raised chickens in the Mojave Desert for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Gwin of Beaumont. Married July 16, 1916 in Mattoon, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwin returned to Hanna for a visit at the time of the Hanna Jubilee. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1966. Mrs. Gwin passed away in 1967. Mr. Gwin remarried and returned to Hanna to visit once more in 1972. He passed away in 1973.

Of the eight children, Ernest, Robert, Willard, Eileen, Corrine, Pauline and Iris live in the United States. George lives in Hanna.

SOLON No. 2525



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS
SOLON 2525

TWP. 32 R. 13 W 4.

Section 5
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Sr.
Joe Giltner
Neville Thomas
Fred Facho

Section 6
J. O'Neill (Script)
G. Readwin
Abe Miller
Pete Johnson
Keith Lumsden
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

Section 7
C.P.R.
H. Macropol
W. D. Lumsden
Fred Whaley Sr.

N½ 7 Charlie Whaley

S½ 7 M. and R. Whaley

Section 8
H. B. Co.
W. [illegible]. Lumsden
Fred Kautz
N. Banco
A. Banco

Section 17
C.P.R.
Joe Giltner
John Engel
George Hoover Sr.
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 18

S.E. 18
W. D. Lumsden
Jim McCluskey
Harry Lumsden;
Mrs. Martin
Fred Kautz
Harold Kautz

N.E. 18
Albert Dilton
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 18
Garfield French
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Harry Lumsden

S.W. 18
Walter Hill
Scott Johnson
Ed Loveday
Harry Lumsden

Section 19

W½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Whaley Jr.
George Whaley
Marian Wright
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

E½ 19
C.P.R.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

Section 20

S½ 20 (Script)
Ed Cleary
Ed. Kautz
Harold Kautz
N.E. 20
[illegible] Cleary
Ed Kautz
Jurgen Kautz

N.W. 20
Charlie Brown
Ed Cleary
Ed. Kautz
Harold Kautz

Section 30

E½ 30 (Script)
Dave Leslie
Leicht Sr.
Fred Pahl
Otto Pahl
Reid Wietman
Walter Sneath

W½ 30 (Script)
John Dalton Parker
Marian Wright
Charlie Wyatt
Wilf Lumsden

TWP. 32 R. [illegible] W4.

Section 1
E½ 1
Isaac Kern
Bob Haase
Henry Green
Pete Johnson
Walter Kern
Cliff Paxman
Arnold Pahl

S.W. 1
George Paxman
Wm. Paxman estate
N.W. 1
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 2

N½ 2
A. A. Gordon
John Rice
Fredrick Pahl
Ludwig Pahl

S.E. 2
Harry Olson

Arnold Pahl

S.W. 2
Mrs. Beard
Jake Fortna

Section 11
School Land
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 12

S.E. 12
George Crossfield
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charley Whaley

N.E. 12
Fred Whaley Sr.
Charlie Whaley

N.W. 12
Horace Lewis
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
[illegible]. Banco
Albert Banco

S.W. 12
Mark Pope
J. E. Hamilton
N. Banco
Albert Banco

Section 13

S.E. 13
Gitlied Brown
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 13
Garfield French
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

W½ 13
James Moore
W. D. Lumsden

Section 14

E½ 14
Glen Hawkes
Jas. Weldon
Sayle Brown
Martin Baes
John Yasman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

N.W. 14
Sayle Brown
Martin Baes
John Yasman
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

S.W. 14
Ted Pederson
Fred Berg
Sayle Brown
Martin Baes
Harold Fortna
Ludwig Pahl

Section 23

S.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Faler
W. D. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

N.E. 23
Wm. Block
Simon Faler
W. [illegible]. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

S.W. 23
George Block
Adolph Kiest
Herb Litke
Harold Fortna

Section 24

S.E. 24
Jud Doran
Ed. Loveday
W. D. Lumsden

N. E. 24
Jud Doran
Bob Gordon
[illegible]. Overton
George Hoover Sr.
Elmer Grey
Ken Williams
Betty Lumsden

S.W. 24
August Bergdorf
Joe Hogg
W. D. Lumsden

N. W. 24
Bill Himmelreich
W. [illegible]. Lumsden

SOLON SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2525

The Solon area, presumably named by Messrs. I. and H. Kern after a siding in Michigan, comprises sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the east half and south-west quarter of 23, township 32, range 14; and sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30 in township 32, range 13. It was sparsely settled until 1909 when the government opened the area for Purchased Homesteads. Within a year or two pioneers of various nationalities took up homesteads and soon a variety of abodes were

inhabited. By 1911 the Solon Post Office was in operation. Freight and mail were transported from Castor by horse-drawn vehicles. This route became known as the Castor Trail, and is still visible in much of the pasture land and in the school yard.

Solon School, 1913

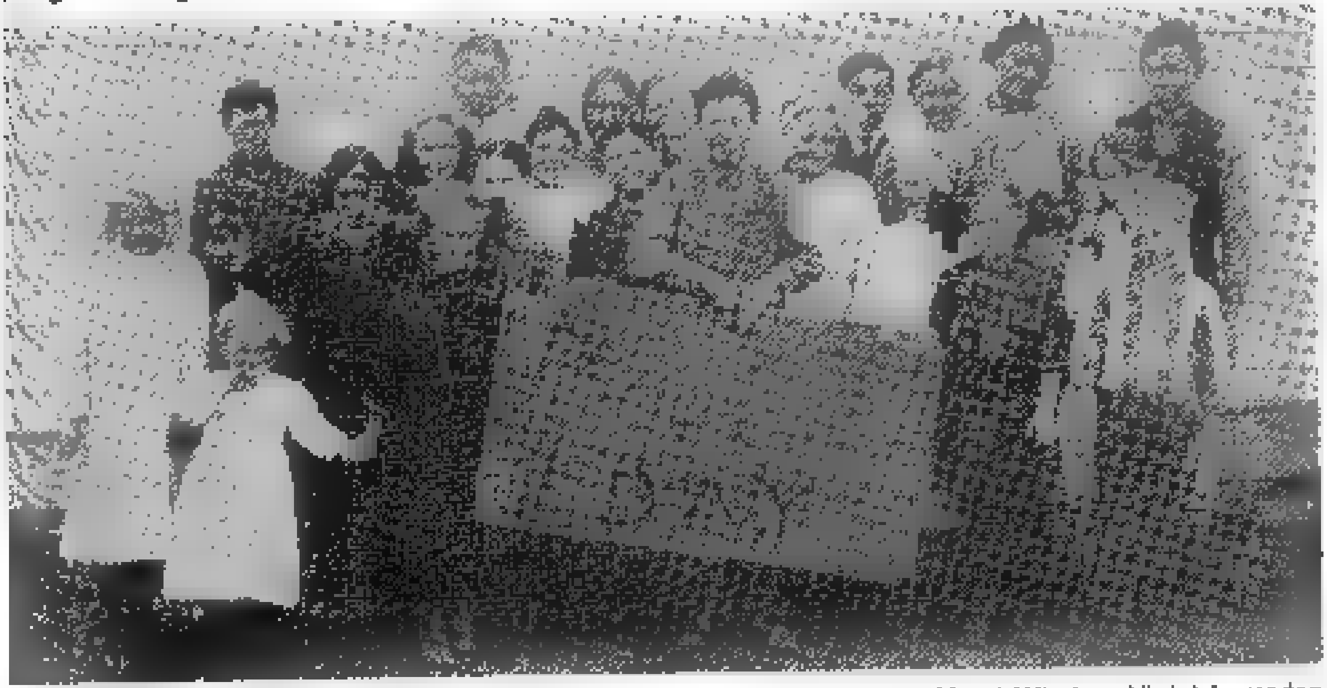
With the influx of homesteaders with families came the demand for a school. Through the perseverance of Mr. Fred Whaley, chairman, and Mr. Joe O'Niel, first secretary of the elected school board, a school was erected by Mr. William Hill. The site chosen was the northwest corner of NW 7-32-13. Lumber and other material for the school was hauled from Castor. The material must have been unloaded off the wagons as they stopped along the road, for until quite recently, the old Castor Trail was quite visible, not twenty feet west of the school door. In time a barn was built and a well dug in the school yard.

Solon, 1913. Back Row, left to right: Charlie Burns, John Gordon, Veva Thompson, Annie Pederson, Maud Whaley, Miss Laycock. Standing on step: Ford Thompson, Clyde Block, Doris Thompson, Mary Pederson, Lou Pederson, George Whaley. Seated: Zelma Samson, Gertrude Block, Mabel Whaley, Nellie Gordon, Mary Whaley.

By 1912 Solon school was in operation with Miss Gileanders as teacher. The first families represented were: Block, Burns, Gordon, Pederson, Samson, Thompson and Whaley. Since Solon was one of the first schools, some of these children had to travel five miles or more as their homes were outside the school district. However, within a few years more schools were built, and Solon was the centre of only the four-mile-square block as surveyed by the provincial government.

Solon school was the centre for socials, dances, U.F.A. meetings, and of course always the Christmas concert. What magic times for young and old alike, as whole families always attended, from the smallest baby to the oldest person!

Adults would decorate the interior of the school, set up the stage and hang glistening white sheets to serve as curtains, before the big occasion. Young people of the community participated in the program. Blanche Wright Bryce recalls, "I think the most exciting time of the school year was preparing for and presenting our annual Christmas concert. A friendly rivalry developed between neighboring schools. It was all so much fun."

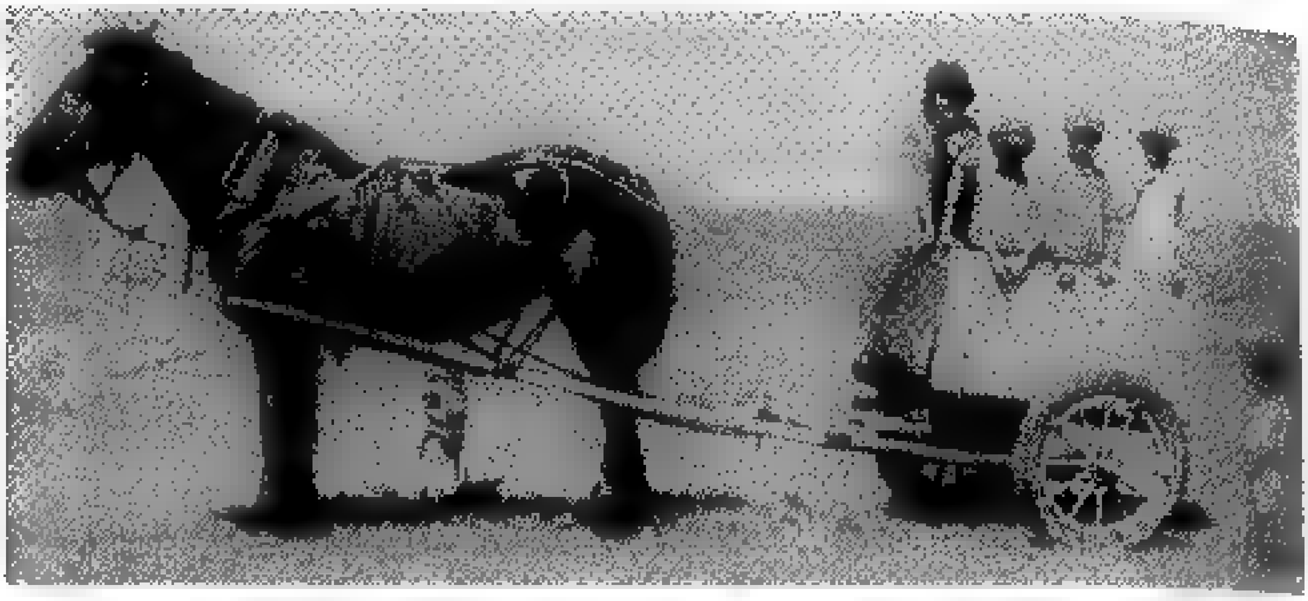


Solon Students on Arbor Day, 1916. Back Row, left to right: Sam Litke, Maud Whaley, Violet Lumsden, Louis Pederson, Jack Litke, Mary Pederson, Velma Overton, George Whaley. Centre Group: Nikla Pederson, Dan Litke, Ruby Overton, Mary Whaley, Gertrude Block, Mary Litke, Charlie Overton, Anna Pederson, Mabel Whaley, Rose Litke. Front Row: Myrtle Whaley, Blanche Wright, Clyde Block (holding sign), Gladys Overton, John Whaley.

Solon, 1924. Back Row, left [illegible] right: John Whaley, Carrie Cleary, Gladys Overton, Blanche Wright. Centre Row: Robert Rehill, Elsie Rehill, Lucene Overton, Myrtle Whaley. Front Row: Loyal Overton, Charlie Whaley, Ada Whaley, Dorothy Rehill.

Of the social functions, the pie socials are well remembered by all the pioneers. The evening would open with a program of songs, recitations, a play or [illegible]

debate by the young people of the community. Pies would be auctioned and a dance would follow. At one such affair, the pies brought $37.00 which was used to buy library books for the school.



School Van, 1937. Marjorie, Wilfred and Keith Lumsden, Jack McLaren and Donnie McLaren.

Solon Students, 1938. Back Row, left [illegible] right: Norma Lumsden, Roy Johnson, Otto Pahl, Arnold Kautz, Marjorie Lumsden. Second Row: Keith Lumsden, Albert Baes, Earnest Johnson, Ruby Kautz. Seated: Wilfred Lumsden, Phyllis Johnson, Edwin Kautz, Julia Johnson, Eunice Johnson, Annie Johnson, Harold Kautz.

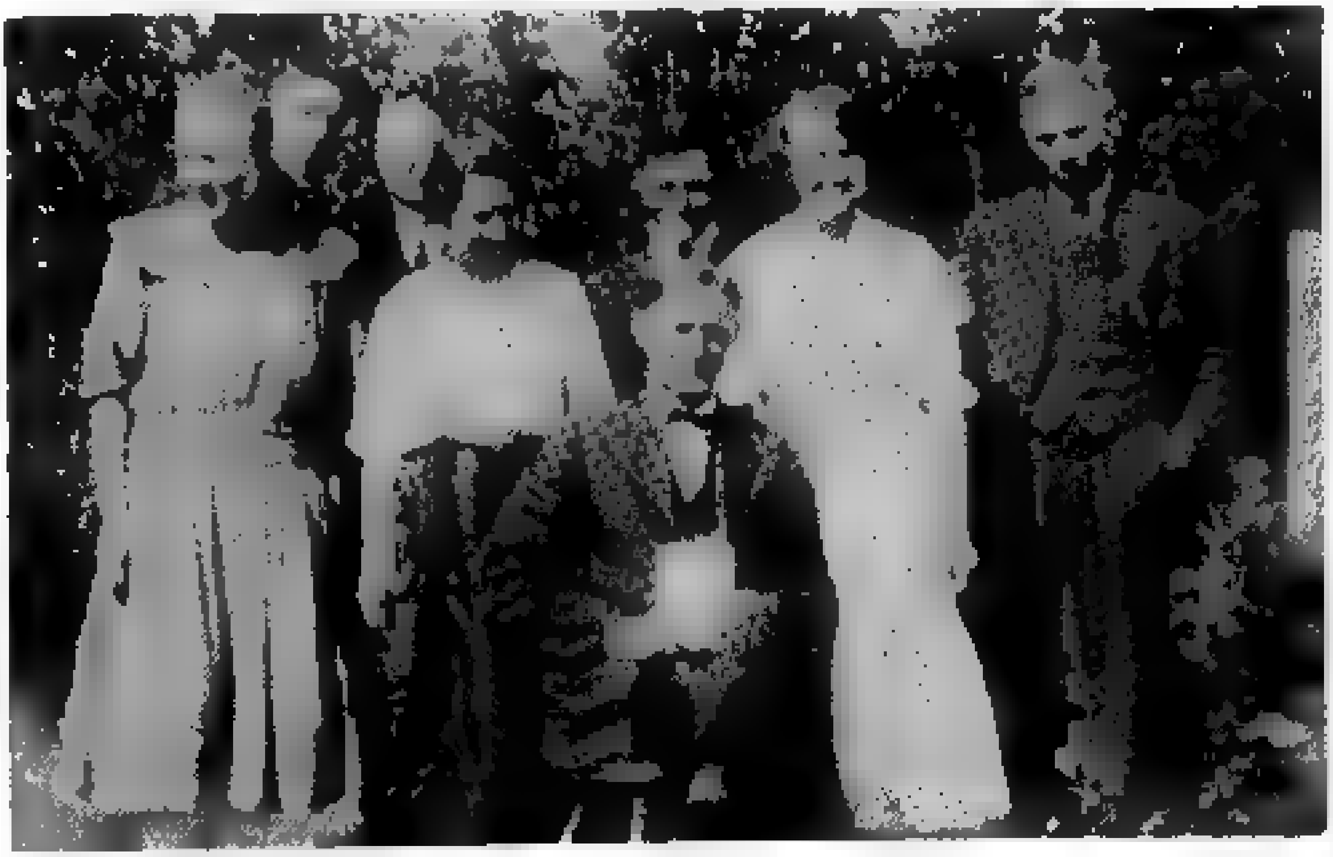
Solon's first teacherage, 1938. Eunice Johnson, Ruby Kautz, Annie Johnson, Julia Johnson, Phyllis Johnson and Frieda Schmidt.

A favorite community gathering during the winter months was house parties. All the families took turns at hosting the parties. There was never an idle Friday night. In the summer months there were baseball and basketball games. A baseball diamond and a basketball court were set up in the north-west corner of 19, just south of the Marian Wright place, where the teams could practise. Both the baseball and basketball teams became quite proficient.

Solon school was also a place of worship. Church and Sunday School were held each Sunday for many, many years with Mr. D. Oke the minister, Mr. [illegible]. Wright the Sunday School superintendent, and Mr. J. Faupel the teacher for the Young People's class. The church and Sunday school held an annual picnic, often including neighboring communities.

Little change was made to the school over the years, but methods of teaching

and living quarters for the teachers did. The first teacherage was built in August, 1938. It was a small, one-room, gable-roofed building approximately eight feet by ten feet. It was later moved to the Red Rose district south of Hanna, to replace their teacherage which had burned down. A second teacherage, comprising two rooms, was built in the spring of 1945. It was remodelled and enlarged in the fall of 1950. After the closing of Solon, this four-roomed teacherage was moved to the southern outskirts of Hanna, and became the home for two bachelors.



Solon Young Peoples' Class, 1923. Mabel Whaley, Wesley Oke, Albert Oke, Annie Oke, Mr. J. Faupel (seated), Harold Oke, Mary Whaley, George Whaley.

Church Group at Solon School, 1924. Families represented: J. Taylor, Oke, M. Wright, Loveday, Block, Lumsden, Overton, Whaley, and Faupel.

Church Group at Solon School, 1949. Mrs. Whaley and Mabel; John Whaley family; Alex Wilson family; Blanche Johnston; Ralph Greenway family; N. Greenway family.

Teachers who helped instill some knowledge in the local youth were Miss Gilleanders, Miss Laycock, Mr. Frederick, Miss J. Lewis, Miss E. West, Miss H. Hamilton, Miss A. Oke, Mr. H. Johnson, Miss Hourihan, Miss E. Summers who later taught as Mrs. Bill Lumsden, Miss C. Fitzgerald, Miss M. Smedstead, Miss L. Summers, Miss E. Ross, Miss I. Bigelow, Miss Duckworth, Miss Nan Herring, Mr. Wm. Ferguson, Miss [illegible]. Seidel who later taught as Mrs. Harry Lumsden, Mrs. M. Williams, Miss A. Ellis, Mrs. M. Hein, Mrs. H. Chidley, Mr. Wm. Smith, Mr. J. Leniuk, and Mrs. P. Jager. These are not necessarily in chronological order. Our apologies for any omissions.

As time went on, settlers moved to other regions. Pupil population dropped. As early as 1938, some schools in neighboring districts closed their doors. Gradually more schools closed as there were not enough pupils to warrant their operation. Once again Solon became the school for children from nearby districts. A 1954 register shows attendance of children from Antelope Hill, Centre Point, Dundee and Grassy Slope districts. With the trend toward centralization, the doors of Solon school were closed in June, 1961, and the thirteen registered students were bussed to Hanna the following September.

The school now stands, not at all forgotten, as it has been renovated to accommodate larger crowds. Most of the material for renovation was trucked from Castor. Power, propane heating and indoor facilities have been installed. It is still the centre of community activities.

THE LAST YEARS OF SOLON

By Mrs. Pearl Jager

During the 1958-59, 59-60, 60-61 school terms it was my pleasure and privilege to teach at Solon.

Since the children were in grades one to nine there was a great difference in ages, but they were an extremely cooperative and nice group, as were the parents.

Those days were not without minor problems, a smoky pot-bellied stove, the

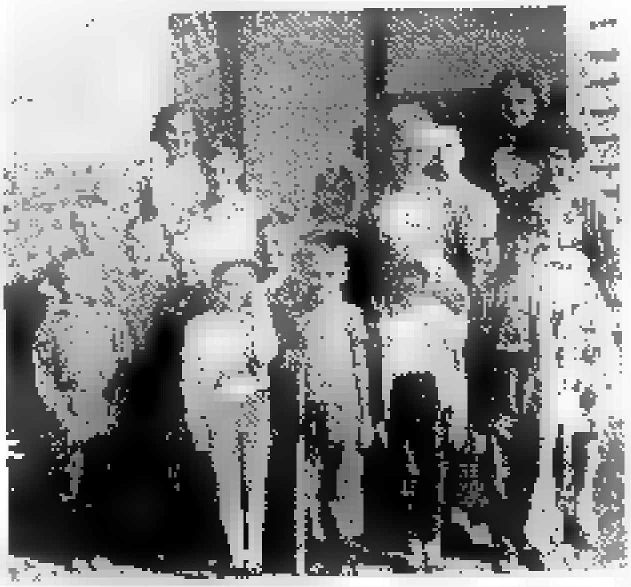
need for shovelling a path to the outdoor bathrooms as well as shovelling out the outdoor bathrooms during the winter months.

I drove from home, and for the most part the eight miles were usually quite passable. I do remember a bad period of snow when Kautz' hill was a one-way 'strip'. I stuck a pole with a red shirt on it near the top, visible from both sides. I held my breath there a few times. But if conditions were too severe, I had been assured of the kind hospitality of the Harry Lumsden home, and this kindness I did accept one night.

Highlights I remember were the fun we had playing softball in which all could participate, the building of snow men, the fun times and sing times. For one Valentine party we toured the Hanna Herald office where each child received a memento from the genial editor. On our agenda also was the creamery, then a skating party at the covered town facility, replete with hot dogs and hot chocolate.

As a group we participated in the Sullivan Lake Art and Drama Festivals. The children did win some laurels. We had a Junior Red Cross group and a 'do' for that. Our Christmas programs were a lot of fun and we always had a packed house.

Solon Concert, 1958. Back Row, left to right: Gerald Whaley, Vivian Fortna, Leslie Lumsden, Arlene Mix, James Whaley. Second Row: Dale Trefz, Rodina Pahl, Edward Fortna, Karen Lumsden, Clayton Whaley. Front Row: Ronnie Banco, Ronda Pahl, Russel Whaley, Marlene Pahl, Douglas Fortna.



Last Class at Solon, 1961. Back Row, left to right: Karen Lumsden, Ronda Pahl, Mrs. Jager, Rodina Pahl. Middle Row: Ed Fortna, Dale Trefz, Vivian Fortna, Arlene Mix. Next Row: Garth Miller (visitor), Ron Banco, Dougy Fortna, Ross Miller (visitor). Front Row: Cheryl Banco, Larry Pahl, Adeline Pahl and Marlene Pahl.

Solon School itself has been lucky. It still remains a landmark and is used as a Community Centre.

And the students? Two of them could have gone into the field of Art, but chose to be happy homemakers. One is a lab technician, two are teachers, one has a degree in the field of Social Work, and one is a banker. All have become worthy citizens of our Alberta. And as Tiny Tim might say, "God bless them, every one."

THE BANCO STORY, By Albert Banco — December 19, 1976. Sunday, blustery and cold, but quite seasonable. I decided it was as good a day as any to talk to my folks about their early day experiences, as today marks their fifty-seventh anniversary.

My parents came to the Hanna district on June 24, 1927, from Bessarabia,

along with their three children, Walter, Lila and Pauline. Dad worked for Rudolph Doering for the summer, and the following winter he worked for Mark Pope.

He bought a half-section of land, the east half of 21-31-14, one mile north of Hanna from W. Riddle, and farmed that from 1928 to 1936. During the rough times of the thirties they could not make a living, and they recalled the dust storms, the grasshoppers, and many other hardships. I was born in November, 1929, while we still lived on the Riddle Place.

When they left that farm, the folks rented a place thirteen miles north-east of Hanna from Mrs. Deere, section 4-32-13, and remained there for two years.

On March 21, 1939, we moved to the Mark Pope farm. (I am still living here now.) The folks rented this farm for five years until they were able to buy it. In 1948 they moved into Hanna and continued to farm from there for six more years.

I stayed on the farm batching for two years. That year Dad built a house in town, and during the next three years built two more houses. They still reside in the last one he built.

On November 14, 1943, Lila was married to Fred Kelm. They had three children, Kenneth, Lynn and Trevor. At present Lila and Fred are residing in Calgary, where Fred is employed with the C.N.R.

Walter was married December 31, 1944 to Ida Jess. They farmed for two years north-east of Hanna, then bought and moved to a farm west of Ponoka. They had four children, Donald, Gordon, Shirley and Caroline. A few years later they sold their farm to Don, who is a teacher, and moved into Ponoka, where they are engaged in the real estate business.

Pauline was married January 7, 1945 to Gus Schielke. She now resides in Vancouver.

I was married May 7, 1950 to Florence Fortna. We have three children, Ron, Cheryl and Audrey. Ron is employed by Plains Western Gas Company in St. Paul, Alberta. Cheryl is on staff at the Treasury Branch in Calgary. Audrey, in her eleventh grade at Hanna High school, is still at home with us.

In 1972 I was unable to continue farming due to a bad back, so now I have the farm land rented out. We run a few yearlings during the summer months. With good luck and good health we hope to be able to remain on the farm.

The N. Banco Family. Walter, Lila, Polly and Albert, with Mother and Dad, taken on the day of Albert's wedding, May 7, 1950.

Albert and Florence Banco on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, May 7, 1975, with their family, Cheryl, Ron and Audrey.

REMINISCING

By Gertrude Block

I am the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Block. We came to Canada in May 1910, from the state of Washington, where I was born. There were four of us children, George, Bessie (who stayed only a short time, then returned to her older sisters in the U.S.A.), Clyde and I.

My father and George had come on ahead of the rest of us to try to get a house started so we could move into it when we arrived. They met a young man by the name of Albert Wirth, who got a homestead near my brother's and lived with us for a while.

Our homestead was thirty-six miles from Castor, the SE 23-32-14. My oldest brother, George, was a few months under the age to file on land but it was arranged that my father could hold it for him until he reached the required age. Both he and my father each got a pre-emption too. This land all joined.

It seemed to be a long journey from Castor out to the homestead by wagon. There was a stopping house along the way where one could get a night's lodging.

Our land was fairly good black loam, rolling, but with some rocks. There were sloughs with willow and poplar trees around them. We had to start from scratch. We were able to get some livestock near Castor, and acquired four oxen, a team of horses, a cow, one hen of many colors, and a dog. Later we got a setting of eggs for our hen.

Our house was a two-storey dwelling made of lumber, with a large room upstairs and another room below. We had a pantry under the stairway and the first floor was used as kitchen, dining room and living room. There was a lounge in it for sleeping. Our house was not ready at first and we had to live in a tent. We had a cellar under the house and a milk house dug into the side of a hill to keep our milk, eggs, and so on, cool.

The first year we had to build the house and a barn, which had a straw roof. Also we dug a water well, plowed a garden, and plowed a fireguard around our land. We built a sod chicken coop. We were able to have a garden and some baby chicks the first year. One day our dog presented us with twelve puppies. What a time I had playing with them!

Since there were no fences our oxen and horses were hobbled and the cow picketed. We used a rope and a stake in the ground so we could tether the cow for grazing.

The first woman my mother saw after six months was Mrs. Bergdorf. They came to live just east of us on the SW 24-32-14. There were several children, most of them older than us two young ones. They lived in a sod house.

There were no schools when we first arrived. Schools were built as they were needed, when more settlers with families came into the country. Schools were used for many things; we gathered there for church and Sunday school, for dances and ball games.

In the winter time it was very cold and it seemed we were chilled through and through by the time we got to school. We would sit near the stove for a while, then take our seats. We put our lunch pails as near the stove as possible as our lunches would be frozen. Even at that there would be an icy centre in our sandwiches. We ate them anyway, and trusted that they would thaw out as they went down.

The first threshing machine, owned by Mr. Jack Young, was operated by horse power, and I mean horse power. There were several teams of horses hooked up to a bar attached to a gear that operated the threshing machine. The horses walked around in a circle to keep the threshing machine operating. They were the power that made it operate. However, over the years there were many changes in the type of power used for threshing, doing away with the demand for horses. Then they were used only to pull the racks of bundles to the separator, and to haul the grain to the bins.

The first few years we had quite a few prairie fires. Men and teams would turn out to fight the fire. We would have barrels of water and gunny sacks to work with.

When we first started school we rode Daisy, a horse from our team. She neck-reined and we did not need a bridle. When we got to school we tied the halter rope around her neck and she would go home alone to work in the field. She could go home easily as there were no fences to stop her. As I look back I think what wonderful animals those horses were!

We all had to work hard but it did not matter so much in the early years when the crops were good. Later on though, when pests and drought seemed to take over, hard times were everywhere. As we left one place some misfortune would plant itself on our doorstep as we tried to start again. I don't think we would have minded the work so much if something didn't always happen to our crop . . . hail, grasshoppers, army worms.

Then there were the tumbleweeds, and those dreadful wind storms when dirt would fly and pile up in places as high as the fence posts. The tumbleweed would come loose and go bounding across the fields, and some would get caught in the fence, and mix in with the dirt and swing on the fence until it would break down. More than once the hayrack on our wagon was picked up by the wind and dumped on the ground.

Before the fences, when men went to Castor for supplies and did not get home before dark, someone would take a lighted lantern up on the hill by our place and hold it up to guide them home.

Mr. Fraser, good friend and neighbor, was digging a well and his neighbors were helping him when he was caught in a cave-in. He was down under the ground and men worked frantically to get him out. We had some moments of fear and his wife was stunned when she heard of the accident. He was finally gotten out, a bit shaken, but he had felt sure the men would not give up until he was safely out.

My brother George and Lillian Lumsden were united in marriage on the first of June, 1916. The wedding took place at her brother Bill's place. In the evening there was a dance at Solon school. They had four children, but my brother died when his oldest child was eight years old.

As time went on we came north to Bluffton and started once more on new land. Late in the spring my father died as the result of an accident caused by a runaway team of horses. My mother and I stayed on the place until we got rid of the belongings, then Mother went to my sisters in the States, where she died.

My brother Clyde died in 1972, his youngest daughter a year before that, and his wife a year later.

I came to Edmonton and have called it my home for years. Even when I was working elsewhere, I left some of my belongings here and returned time and again. I have worked at various jobs. I taught on Metis colonies. I did office work up north and here in Edmonton. I worked four years in the east. I have kept books in a small hospital and at one time I was made business manager. I was Matron of two Indian schools. Now I am retired and living in Edmonton in a senior citizens' high rise where I have a bachelor suite.

I often think of the old homestead and the folks there, and wish I could see them once more, but I have been told it has changed a great deal.

I am the only one left of our pioneer family and of the early days, and as time goes marching on I, too, must be on my way. So I shall say farewell to all. It has been nice to have known you.

Carrie Cleary, Jr.

Ralph Cleary

EDWARD ALONZA CLEARY STORY from information submitted by Carrie Cleary Heaton — In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cleary and their children Ralph, five years old, and Caroline (Carrie), ten days old, came from Hamilton, Ontario to settle in the West. With them they brought horses, farming equipment and furniture.

Accompanying the Cleary family were Walter and Jack Cleary, the Almas family and the Burkholder family, all from Hamilton.

They travelled by train to Stettler. When they arrived there Mrs. Cleary wanted to give baby Carrie a bath. To get enough water for the bath she had to pay fifty cents, which was quite a sum in those days.

From Stettler they travelled across country to their homestead, the east half and the south-west quarter of 20-32-13. Their home was a sod house. Water for the family was carried from a spring a quarter of a mile away.

Christmas at Cleary's, 1939. Left to right: Fred and Blanche Johnston, Effie and George Crossfield, Carrie and [redacted] Cleary.

The first year the Cleary family experienced a prairie fire. They lost their horses in this fire and then had to use oxen to do the farm work.

After the fire Mrs. Burns, a neighbor, brought some milk to Mrs. Cleary for baby Carrie. After Mrs. Cleary gave the milk to Carrie, Mrs. Burns told her that it was milk from a horse. Milk from a horse or not, it kept little Carrie alive.

After a few years the Cleary family returned to Hamilton to get more horses and cattle to bring west. They also brought chickens with them. When they left Hamilton on Good Friday the weather was lovely and warm, but when they arrived in Hanna it was about fifteen degrees below zero. They nearly froze getting out to the farm. Unfortunately neither the chickens nor the horses survived the year. Mr. Cleary believed the animals didn't survive due to the difference in altitude and temperature.

That same year [illegible] frame house was built on the farm. This house still stands on the old homestead. They drilled for water near the house but it had such a high mineral content that it couldn't be used.

During the early years the Cleary family experienced some hard times. Some crops were lost due to grasshoppers; other crops were lost due to hail. Sometimes they were so poor they didn't have shoes to wear so the men would snare muskrats and tan the hides to make moccasins.

One time Mrs. Cleary took sick. Dr. Mason came to take her to hospital in Hanna. That night there was such a big blizzard that Mr. Cleary, Ralph, Carrie, Mr. Dafoe and his brother Louis, were snowed [illegible] for two weeks. They didn't know whether Mrs. Cleary was alive or not as there were no telephones then.

In summer the children snared gophers and collected crows' eggs for which the government paid a bounty.

Ralph and Carrie attended school at Solon. They usually walked the three miles to school. They helped milk cows and do chores before leaving for school.

It was not all hard work. They had their fun time, too. The Cleary home seemed to be one of the gathering places for parties as Mr. and Mrs. Cleary enjoyed dancing and card games. They attended socials at nearby schools. At these parties the children would recite poems or take part in plays. Then they would be put to sleep on a pile of coats in the cloak-room. The grownups played cards or danced till daylight before starting home.

One incident Carrie remembers well is a pie social at Alps school. Neighbors would travel together in a big sleigh to the party. This particular time Mrs. Cleary had made her favorite vinegar pie with whipped cream to take to the social. When they got to the school they discovered that Carrie had travelled the whole way with her feet in the pie.

In later years when the family went to Hanna for supplies, [illegible] was a highlight for Ralph and Carrie to be permitted to go along. A special treat was a lunch at the Chinese restaurant.

In 1928 the Clearys had a barn built on their homestead. To initiate it, [illegible] barn dance was held. Friends came from great distances to enjoy the merriment.

Their first car was a 1926 Chev coach. They took out the front seat on the passenger's side to make room for the can of cream which they hauled to Hanna. Mrs. Cleary sat in the back seat by herself. A few years later Mr. Cleary bought an International panel truck, formerly an old milk van, for transporation. They used this as a camper when attending the Calgary Stampede.

It was also a convenient vehicle when they went to pick saskatoons at Nevis and at Nose Hills. Mrs. Cleary is well remembered for her home made wine.

Carrie left the Cleary home in her mid-teens to complete her education in Hamilton. Later she married Arthur Hooton and is still residing in Hamilton. She has three children, Donald, James and Catherine.

Ralph stayed to help his father on the farm during the busy season. During the winter months he often worked in the bush, and also, at one time, worked in a Calgary packing plant. He was a member of the Solon baseball team and [illegible] known as a good skater.

Shortly after his mother's death he returned to Ontario. He is married and living at Marr, Ontario.

Mrs. Cleary passed away in 1946, Mr. Cleary in 1952.

ALBERT DITTON — Albert Ditton lived in a very well-built sod house, lined with building paper, on his homestead, northeast of 16-32-13. With him lived his mother, Mrs. Beard, who filed on nearby land, southwest 2-32-14. His sister also lived with him until December 1913 when she married Bill Vowel.

He did breaking for Garfield French and Bill Lumsden.

When World War I broke out he sold his land to Fred Whaley and returned to the United States and joined the American Army.

TRAGEDY ON SECTION 17 — The John Engel Story as told by Louise Litke and Fred Engel — In the spring of 1929 Mr. John Engel, his wife, their sons Sam and Otto, and daughters Emma and Dorothy, moved from their residence in the Hand Hills to the SW 17-32-13, which was known as the International farm. The farmhouse and a large gable-roofed barn were located on a high hill.

On August 19, 1930, a tragic accident occurred causing Mr. John Engel, his son Sam, and his son-in-law Alex Derr, to lose their lives. The men were busy harvesting when they noticed an electrical storm approaching. They hurried home to stable the horses. While they were in the barn a bolt of lightning struck it, instantly killing the three men and their two dogs. Since the barn burned to the ground, all the contents, including five horses, a colt, pigs and chickens, were lost. The men were burned beyond recognition.

Otto Engel, who had remained out in the field, saw what happened and hurried home, but was able to save only three of the eight horses that were in the barn.

John Engel Family. Back Row: Louise, Pauline, Jean. Second Row: Emma, Mrs. Engel, Mr. John Engel, Otto. Sam in the chair.

THE SIMON FALER STORY, By Florence Faler Hannah — My parents, Simon and Elizabeth Faler, and family moved from near Spokane, Washington to the W. B. Block homestead in August, 1917. There was my half-brother, Bill, my brother David, my sister Glenn and myself. My father had traded our place twenty miles from Spokane to Mr. Block for his homestead, the east half of 23-32-14.

My father and Bill brought our belongings to Hanna in a railroad car of settlers' effects . . . I suppose he may have gotten the car cheaper than ordinary shipping. Some time later my mother and the rest of the family came by passenger train, the cheapest way possible with no sleeping berths, but it wasn't so bad. I was fifteen then, Glenn was nine and David six.

We brought in four horses, two cows, some chickens and some machinery. We lived in a small lumber house, just one room downstairs and one up. We divided the upstairs into two rooms for us kids and my father built a slant-roofed lean-to for the folks' bedroom. There was a barn of sorts, but we had to build a chicken house.

There was some cultivated land, and we had some wheat, and oats for feed. Of course we didn't have any the first fall as that crop belonged to someone else. We had quite a lot of hay land, and my father hayed with someone else on the lease land, so after that first year we had plenty of feed. The first year we hauled straw from one of the neighbors at one dollar a load.

Ours was a dug well, and we pulled the water up in a bucket for the stock and the house. The water wasn't too good. I guess it had iron in it as it gave all the white clothes a rusty tinge, and in those days girls wore white middy blouses and white skirts. I was never very proud of mine!

There were many neighbors in the area, some being bachelors. Dad often asked the bachelors over to our place for Christmas dinner. North of us lived the McLarens and their sister Effie. I used to be quite friendly with Effie and we had some good times together. One fall we went cooking on the Bartman and Steen threshing machine, around the Garden Plain district.

My brother Dave and sister Glenn went to Solon School. They rode horseback, double. It was about three miles the way they had to go, and was pretty hard on them in the winter. Later they went to Alps school.

The winters were quite cold with lots of snow and it would blow into huge drifts. One year, Jack Young, one of the bachelor neighbors, brought us kids a big hand sleigh for Christmas and we all had a lot of fun sliding down the hill just back of our house. We had hard times but we had lots of fun too.

When I got to be seventeen or eighteen I was allowed to go to the country dances at Wiese and Centre Point schools. And of course there was the Hand Hills Stampede. It was always exciting. We would go in groups and the girls would take a picnic lunch. Later on we'd have a hot dog, and were they good! They don't taste half as good now.

We used to get our mail and groceries in Hanna. There were no roads where we were so we had to go about fourteen miles to get to the well-travelled road past the Overton place.

In 1922 my parents and family moved to a rented place near Bentley. I helped them get settled there, then came back to Hanna where I had worked for the past three years. My parents and Glenn and David went back to the U.S.A. in the spring of 1928, travelling in an old Model T Ford. My father passed away in 1930, my mother in 1944. Glenn is married and living in California. David died last April at the age of sixty-five. Bill had returned to the States in 1919. He passed away about thirty-five years ago.

I was married to Carl Hannah on January 15, 1923. Carl was hauling mail

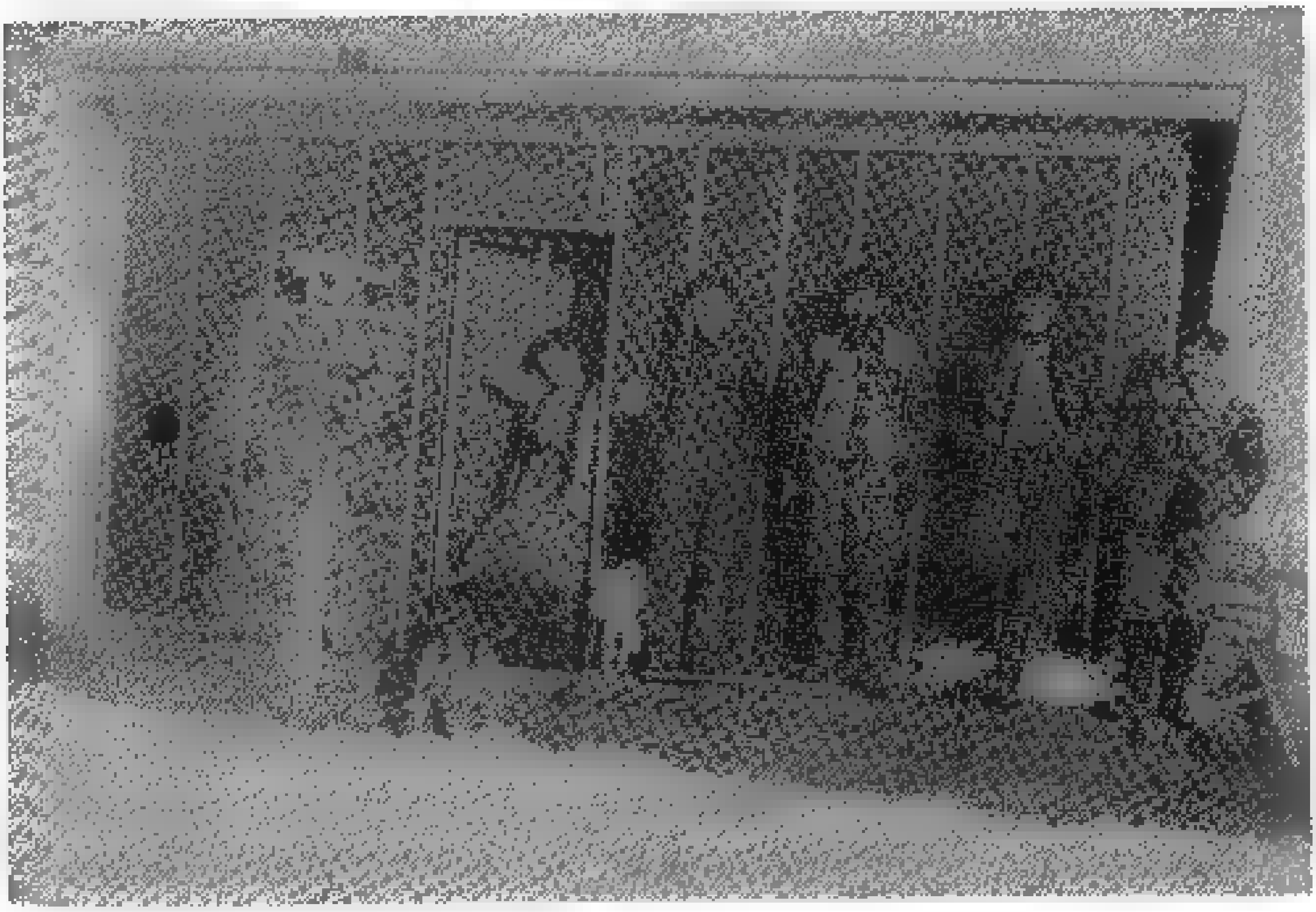
along two rural routes; R.R. No. 1 along the Castor trail is still in operation today. Later we moved to the Peace River country where Carl died in January, 1967.

We had a good life and no regrets. I am now living in a mobile home in Kamloops. I came here in 1970 to be near my three children, two boys and one girl.

GARFIELD FRENCH — In February, 1910, Mr. Garfield French homesteaded on the NW 18-32-13. At the same time he took a pre-emption on the NE 13-32-14. Most of his early farming was done with oxen, though he gradually replaced them with horses.

On November 1, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. French began operating the Solon post office in their home. Mail for the pioneers of the surrounding area was brought to Solon from Castor. On February 2, 1914, Mr. French resigned as postmaster, and Solon post office officially closed on April 18, 1914.

In 1916 Mr. and Mrs. French moved on to their pre-emption and leased the homestead to Mr. Walter Hill. In 1919 Mr. French sold his pre-emption to Mr. Ed Loveday through the Soldier Settlement Board, and soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. French returned to Consecon, Ontario.



Solon Post Office, 1911. Mrs. French, Garfield French, Charlie Brown, Howard Kern, Gillied Brown.

ARTHUR ALLISON GORDON — A. A. Gordon homesteaded the north half of 2-32-14 in 1912. During his stay in the area he was correspondent for Solon news to the Hanna Herald. In 1913 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Solon School. At the same time he was Publicity Director of the Patriotic Society in Hanna, and sometimes had to miss meetings because of conflicting dates.

A prairie fire swept across his farm in September, 1915 destroying his crop and barn.

He was married and had one son. He left this area in 1917 after selling his farm to John Rice.

ROBERT GLENN HAWKES — In 1911 Glenn Hawkes homesteaded on the east half of 14-32-14. He was the first secretary of the Solon U.F.A. when it was organized in 1913. Neighbors remember the cunning manner in which he hunted the antelope which roamed over the prairies. It is said he enjoyed a good wrestling match with Bill Lumsden, who often helped Glenn with his field work. After they stabled the horses in the sod barn the two men would strip to the waist and have a wrestling match which usually ended in a draw. Mrs. Hawkes was their spectator.

In August, 1916, Glenn Hawkes sold his holdings to Sayle Brown and the Jas. Weldon family moved onto the place.

WALTER HILL — Walter Hill homesteaded southwest of 18-32-13 in 1912. He lived in a sod house on his homestead until the early part of 1916 when he leased Garfield French's homestead. Walter needed better living quarters as his sister, Ada, came to live with him. The fall of 1916, Walter had a beautiful crop of wheat and oats but was unsuccessful in harvesting it as in August a severe frost reduced its yield and his wheat graded number six.

He married Jean Lewis who taught at Solon.

After World War One he sold his homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board and took up residence in Hanna where he became a Life Insurance Agent.

SCOTT JOHNSON, By Elvin Churchill — Scott Johnson came to Hanna shortly after the end of the First World War. He acquired the SW 18-32-13 through the Soldier Settlement Board. In 1921 he terminated his contract with the Soldier Settlement Board and moved to Winnipeg.

He married Olive Churchill of Hanna in 1921. They lived in Winnipeg and other points in Manitoba for a number of years. Olive passed away in 1939. They had one daughter, Lorraine.

Scott came back west in the forties, and spent his later years in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. PETER A. JOHNSON, By Mrs. Vivian Holland — Pete Johnson, his wife Vivian, and their children, Roy, Earnest, Anna, Phyllis, Julia and Eunice, a baby of one year, moved into the Hanna North area from Youngstown. They spent the winter on the farm of Ed Elm (SW 31-31-13) while he visited in the U.S.A. The two boys attended school at Meadowlands, and in bad weather were taken to school by Harold Fox, who also took his brothers Clifford and Edward to Meadowlands.

Mrs. Johnson sang 'The Red Cross Nurse' at the Christmas concert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the song very much.

When Mr. Elm returned in the spring, the Johnson family moved to the Kern farm, and rented the east half of 1-32-14 from Howard Kern, on a half-share basis, all machinery and grain supplied. At that time the Johnson family owned three head of cattle, two brood sows, chickens and turkeys.

The boys were transferred to Solon school. During the summer Mr. Johnson did carpenter work for Kerns, so Mrs. Johnson often rode horseback to the Kerns for supplies while Roy baby sat. Mrs. Emma Kern and Mrs. Vivian Johnson became good friends.

In August of 1933, their neighbor across the road, Abraham Miller, wanted to rent out his place, as was. So the Pete Johnson family moved across the road to section 6-32-13. As there was not much hope of a crop that year, on September 4 Mr. Johnson decided to stack grain. Mrs. Johnson helped with the chore and on September [illegible] gave birth to a boy, Waldemar, in the farmhouse with Mrs. Kern and Mrs. Hoover in attendance, as Dr. Cross from Hanna was just not able to make it.

On the sixth day Mrs. Kern went to visit Mrs. Johnson and take her some home-made noodle soup, but Mrs. Johnson was out of bed by then and milking five cows.

In September, 1934, Mrs. Johnson went to Hanna with a team and horses to deliver a five-gallon can of cream. While she was picking up the mail the postmaster, W. C. Stirling, asked her if she would like some sheep as he had eleven ewes on the farm. The farmer who was looking after them was moving.

When Mrs. Johnson got home she asked her husband. Mr. Johnson loaded the hay rack on the wagon, went to the farm and brought the sheep home. As there were no corrals for sheep, they were all gone the next morning.

While Mr. Johnson was hauling coal from a local strip mine, Mrs. Johnson went to look for the sheep. She rode bareback. After about half a day's searching she found them lying down on a hillside about three miles from home, just north of Banco's farm.

To bring the sheep home she had to lead the horse. This she did until she got to Solon school, where she got her son, Earnest, to help her. Soon after this episode another baby, Kenneth, was born in the Hanna hospital with Dr. Argue in attendance.

During the next few years two more children were added to the Johnson family, a girl, Roxie, and a boy, Clarence.

At the beginning of World War II, Roy joined the Air Force as an Aero Engine Mechanic. He was stationed at Rivers, Manitoba, for five years. Earnest joined the army and was transferred to the Medical Corps as an ambulance driver. He was in Debert, N.S. when he met with an accident and was given a medical discharge.

Anna finished high school in Hanna, working as a ward aide at the Hanna hospital during summer holidays. After completing high school she became a Dental Assistant to Dr. Smith.

Phyllis, at the age of eighteen, became cook and general helper for Mrs. Codey, Matron of Cereal hospital. While working there she met and married William Ruppert and took up residence in Youngstown.

Julia took grade ten in Hanna and worked at the Hanna hospital during holidays. Later she went to work in Calgary. Eunice became a waitress in Lee's Cafe in Hanna. She also went to Calgary to work in the Wales Hotel.

In March, 1950, the Johnson family left the farm and moved to Taber. Waldemar started to work for the experimental station and then found employment in Vauxhall. Kenneth worked at a filling station and Roxie and Clarence attended school. Mrs. Johnson worked as a ward aide in the Taber hospital.

In 1954 Mrs. Johnson and Roxie both went to Calgary to take Nursing Aide courses. Clarence lived with his sister at Youngstown, took his grade nine and also worked at a grocery store.

During her training, Mrs. Johnson had one of her hospital postings at Hanna. Mrs. Kern was house mother there at the time and the two had some great visits. Mrs. Johnson was asked to apply for work in the Hanna hospital after her graduation as Aide, but she thought it better to go to Lethbridge.

Roy Johnson passed away in 1966, Earnest in 1970 and Mr. Pete Johnson in 1976.

MR. and MRS. FRED KAUTZ, By Mrs. Harold Kautz — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz and their children Alma, Dan and Arnold emigrated from Leipzig, Romania, to the Hand Hills in May, 1927. They settled on the Oscar Graumann farm where daughter Ruby was born. In 1929 they moved to a farm south of Delia

where Harold and Edwin were born, then in 1932 went to the Golden Hills district. It was while they were there that Bill was born. In 1934 they went to the Red Rose area where Adella was born and their oldest daughter Alma was married.

In the spring of 1937 they moved to section 17 in the Solon district where their youngest child, Fred, was born. This move was made by team and wagon and was a great adventure for the children of the family; they still remember and talk about it. It had been on this farm that lightning struck a barn which was burned to the ground and three men lost their lives. The farmhouse stood on the hill at that time and after the fire the house was moved down the hill to its present site as a safety precaution, as lightning strikes this high point of land quite frequently.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kautz

Grandmother Kautz's 70th birthday. Dan, Harold, Ed, Bill, Fred Jr., Alma, Mrs. Kautz, Adelia, Ruby.

Shortly after moving to the Solon district they purchased their first car, a 1928 Chevrolet. This made the trips to town more comfortable than travelling with a horse and buggy.

In the spring of 1939 a major purchase of new machinery was made . . . a tractor, tiller and seed drill, to make farming easier and more efficient. Needless to say, the boys were happy with these new pieces of equipment. Then in the fall Mr. Kautz purchased a threshing machine, and in addition to threshing their own crops, they would hire out to other farms at harvest time.

In 1949 the Fred Weisse farm was purchased, and Dan and his wife Lena moved to this place on section 16. In 1953 he purchased what was known as the Cleary place, and Eddie and his wife Margaret moved onto this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kautz retired from farming in 1956 and moved to Hanna. Mr. Kautz passed away in 1959 and Mrs. Kautz is still living in Hanna where she maintains her own house and garden.

Alma married Fred Engel of the Red Rose district in 1936. They farmed in the Meadowlands area until retiring to Hanna in 1972. They have five children.

In 1950 Dan married Lena Schaupp of Rielingshaussen, Germany, and farmed until retiring to Hanna in 1975. They have two boys.

Arnold married Elma Faechner in 1946. They farmed in the Golden Hill district until moving to Hanna in 1958. Arnold died in 1967. They had two boys.

Ruby married Alfred Pahl in 1947 and farmed until retiring to Hanna in 1972. They have five daughters.

Harold married Frances Watts of Toronto in 1955. They and their two children are still living and working on the home place.

In 1953 Eddie married Margaret Gulleson, and farmed until 1964 when they

moved to Hanna where Eddie works for the Special Areas. They have four children.

Bill married Margaret Barry in 1970, lives in Hanna and works for the C.N.R. They have two girls.

Adelia married Harry Altwasser in 1960. They live in Calgary with their three children.

Fred married Margaret Grover in 1963. They and their two children are living in Edmonton.

HAROLD KAUTZ — I was born on June 18, 1929 south of Delia, and lived there and in the Red Rose district until moving to the Solon area, section 17-32-13. After completing my schooling [illegible] Solon, I worked at home and in the Edmonton area until 1952 when I joined the R.C.A.M.C. and was stationed at Camp Borden where I met Frances Watts. After service in Korea, I received my discharge in the spring of 1955, and in December of that year I went to Toronto, where Frances and I were married.

We drove back to Hanna after the wedding, and were caught in [illegible] blizzard in the Sunnynook area. One of the tires had gone flat, and when I opened the trunk to get out the spare, the strong wind caught [illegible] plastic bag and blew it out of the trunk. It happened that this bag contained Frances' wedding dress. As it was blowing so badly that we couldn't even see, we didn't bother to look for the dress and considered [illegible] lost; it was a good thing it had already been used! Eventually, with the help of another traveller on the road at the same time, we were able to make our way to the Sheerness coal mine where we found shelter with the mine manager and his wife. The next day we made it into Hanna and the following day arrived at the farm.

The next spring my brother-in-law, Alfred Pahl, and his family, were on their way to Carolside Dam to do some fishing when they spied a plastic bag lying in the ditch. When they investigated they found Frances' wedding dress inside it. It was still in good condition, undamaged by its winter under the snow.

We lived and farmed with my parents until they retired to Hanna in October of 1956, at which time I took over the farm from Dad. Our daughter, Deborah Ann, was born November 18, 1956, and our son Barry Allan on January 1, 1958.

I purchased section 17 from my Dad's estate and still live there. In time I also bought the Cleary place, the west half of 20-32-13; and also the SE 18-32-13. At the present time, Deborah is in third year Sociology at the University of Calgary, and Barry is apprenticing as [illegible] Diesel Mechanic in Edmonton.

Isaac Kern and his team, of one horse and one oxen, 1909.

THE ISAAC KERN STORY, By Cliff Kern — Isaac Kern was born in Ohio on January 27, 1859. In 1888 he married Myrtle Eckert, and to this marriage six children were born, Howard and his twin sister, Florence, who was stillborn, in 1890; Clifford in 1892; Ruth [illegible] 1893; Kenneth in 1895; and Edith in 1902.

Attracted by glowing accounts of the development of the Canadian west, Isaac and his son Clifford left Traverse City, Michigan, in 1907, and entered Canada to investigate the land situation at Stavely, Alberta, but found all the land was taken up. They returned to Traverse

City and in 1908, Isaac and his eldest son, Howard, came back to Alberta, settling at Gadsby.

As he was the proud owner of a team of oxen, Howard was employed in freighting from Stettler to Castor, while Isaac was kept busy building houses in town, as well as one for himself. In the fall of 1908 he sent for the rest of the family and they arrived in Stettler in January, 1909.

Before leaving Traverse City, Clifford had bought enough lumber to build a house sixteen by sixteen, as the household effects they had were not enough to fill the settlers' car which they had purchased. After moving the family, furniture and lumber to Gadsby, Howard hitched his team of oxen to a fringe top surrey which was also brought along in the settlers' car, and proudly displayed it along the streets of town.

Isaac had filed on a homestead, the east half of 1-32-14, seven miles northeast of where the town of Hanna now stands. In the spring of 1909 Isaac, Howard and Clifford freighted the lumber, some household effects and a plow to the homestead, and immediately set to work building a house and plowing the first furrows. On the way down they noticed that they had lost a bundle of shingles. Clifford, who had brought his bicycle along, went back several miles until he located them, and holding the shingles on his shoulder, pedalled back to where his father and Howard were.

Mrs. Kern stayed in Gadsby so the younger children could go to school, later moving to Edmonton where they were to get a higher education. Ruth became a stenographer and Edith a teacher. At one time she taught Meadowlands school. Kenneth was employed as a furniture salesman in Edmonton, later moving to Vancouver where he went into the insurance business, and where he still resides.

Clifford looked around for a homestead but found nothing suitable, so went back to Calgary where he was hired by the C.P.R. and eventually became a station agent. He was transferred to several stations in Alberta and finally was sent to Glenwood where he still lives on the small farm he bought after being retired.

Howard filed on a homestead next to his dad's, the NE 36-31-14. In 1916, Isaac rented his farm to a Mr. Readwin and returned to the States. He worked at various jobs, one being in the shipyards at San Francisco. He came back to Canada several times over the years to check on his farm and to help his son Howard build a house and a barn. He was a good carpenter.

Ruth passed away in 1918, Edith in 1973, Howard in 1958, Isaac in 1929 and Myrtle in 1935.

DAVE LESLIE STORY — Dave Leslie is remembered as one of the last pioneers to use oxen in the Solon area. He was still using them in 1916.

He settled on the east half of 30-32-13 in 1909. Just south of his frame house ran a small creek. This was a good place to stock fish, he decided, so he hired Joe Overton to build a dam. Joe Overton built the dam, approximately seven feet high and one hundred yards long, all by himself. But to no avail; the dam caused flooding of neighbouring farmland and had to be broken up.

During his few years in the district he was poundkeeper. He was also road foreman for municipal roads. At harvest time he operated a Stanley Jones threshing machine. This was a very unique machine.

After selling his farm to Dave Leicht in 1916 he left this community.

HONEYMOON FARM, By Robert Loveday — Edward James Loveday and wife Eleanor arrived in Hanna in 1919 on their honeymoon, to settle on a Soldier Settlement Board farm later to be known as Honeymoon Farm. Edward, son of a

hotel owner in Norwich, England, had arrived in Cochrane in 1896, at the age of nine. After working in a brickyard, he acquired sufficient funds to buy a horse, and during his teen-age years he became a horse breaker. He was later to drive a stagecoach between Alberta and Montana.

In 1914, Edward enlisted in the army as a cavalry man. At the end of the war in 1918, Edward, who had been stationed in France, went back to England to visit the father he had not seen since he was nine years old, only to discover that he had died just two weeks previously. Edward's mother had died in 1913 in Conrad, Montana.

The Loveday Family. Back Row: Joyce, Bernice, Lionel, Robert. First Row: Ted, Mrs. Eleanor Loveday, Cameron, Mr. Edward Loveday, and Ruth.

During this trip he met Eleanor Williamson, daughter of a farmer from Hingham, England, and they were married on August 13, 1918. Eleanor and Edward, aged 23 and 31, respectively, headed for Canada where they would settle on a farm located three miles east and seven miles north of Hanna on Highway 36, the NE 13-32-14.

There was a small house on the land, and a well. During the first years more wells were dug by hand, but to no avail. Eventually a well driller found a plentiful supply of water, although it contained some alkali. The land was broken with a four-horse team and a sulky plow. Rocks were in abundance and were picked by hand and piled near the poplar bluffs. Buffalo beans, crocuses, wild roses, and a wide variety of song birds are well remembered by eldest son Robert.

From 1919 to 1927, Edward and Nellie and their children, Robert, Lionel and Bernice, managed with a straw-roofed barn which leaked when it rained. Edward built a hip-roofed barn in 1927. The neighbors gathered to have a shingling bee, and shingled it in one day, and had a barn dance afterward. Ice cream was provided by Ed and Nellie. When the barn was painted Nellie requested that a large sign, "Honeymoon Farm", be attached to the barn.

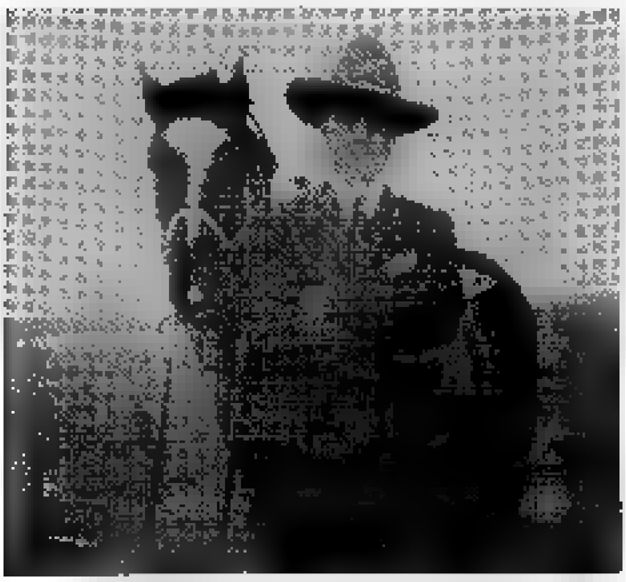
Transportation for the Loveday family was a democrat and a team of horses, which took them back and forth to church, to Solon school, and to deliver cream and eggs to Hanna. As the family grew, demands increased, and Ed started to haul coal from Dafoe's mine to Hanna with a four-horse team. Nellie delivered corn and turkeys to the National Hotel, and purchased groceries with the money.

Ed hauled grain with an eight-horse team strung out, two, three and three. Comments were heard that the Loveday's heavily loaded wagons ruined the roads by making deep ruts.

Nellie read teacups, and many of the neighbors would call in to have their fortunes told. She was a member of the Board of Solon school which her five children, Robert, Lionel, Bernice, Joyce and Ruth attended. The youngest boy, Ted, was not old enough to go. In 1937 the Loveday family moved to Calgary where another son, Cameron was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Loveday had seven children, five of whom survive, twenty grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edward died in 1962. Eleanor, commonly known to people as Nellie, still resides in Calgary.

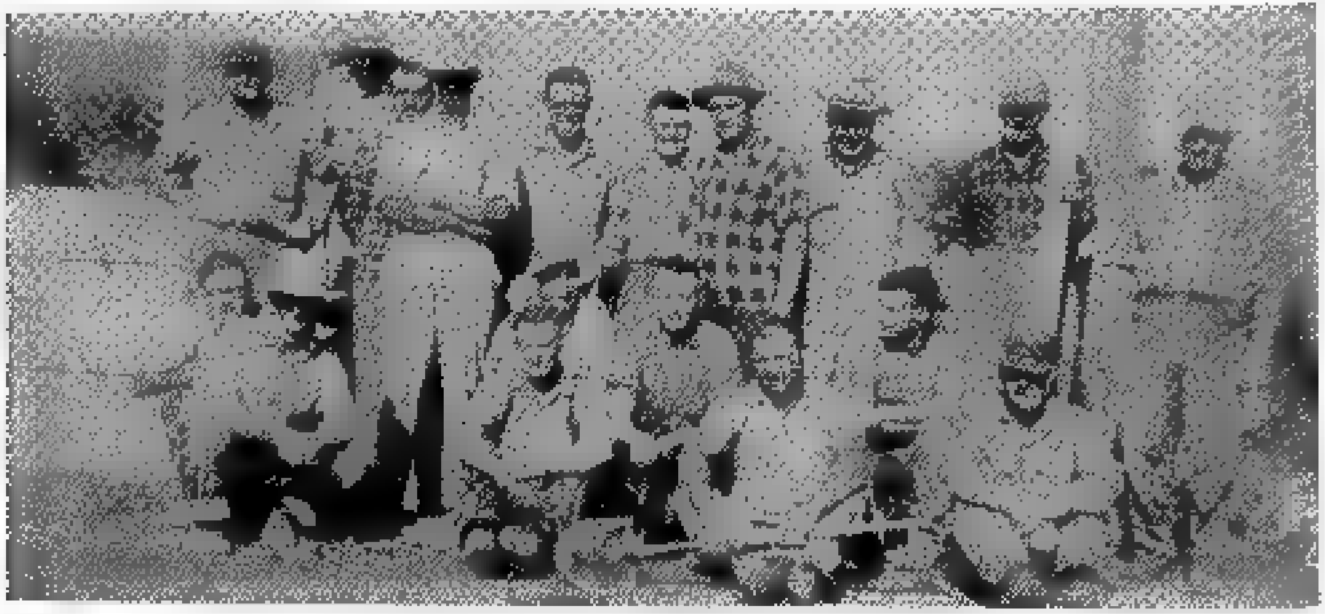


Harry Lumsden, 1919

HARRY JAMES LUMSDEN — Early the morning of March twenty-first, 1916, my mother, two sisters, Lillian and Violet and I arrived in Hanna. We had travelled via C.N.R. from Mount Forest, Ontario.

My brother William (Bill) met the train to take us to his homestead southeast 16-32-13. What a balmy spring day it was! I saw my first gopher as we drove along the Castor Trail in Bill's wagon. Ducks were swimming in abundance on "Mud Lake" as we cut across section seven just east of Solon school. It was quite a pleasant change from the cold blizzardy weather we had left behind just four days previously.

A few days after our arrival my sister Violet and I began attending school at Solon. I attended for two months, as starting in June I herded cattle for O. Overton, the Gosslen brothers, John Parker and for my brother. The herd of over three hundred head roamed over sections seven, eight, nine, five and seventeen; this was all open land.



Cement pouring bee at Harry Lumdsen's, 1960. Back Row, left to right: Harold Kautz, John Whaley, Ed Kautz, Fred Johnston Jr., David Whaley, Gerald Whaley, Alfred Pahl, Bob Rehill, Sam Litke, Dan Kautz. Front Row: Leslie Lumsden, Harry Lumsden, Carl Rehill, Norman Greenway, Wilf Lumsden, Otto Pahl, Laurence Lumsden, Charlie Whaley.

To me this was the last of the great prairie wool as I have never seen grass like that again. It must have been the wettest June ever as I can recall only one day we didn't get some precipitation. Every lake, slough and burn-out was full of water. Naturally mosquitoes thrived. Cattle, my horse, as well as myself were continuously covered with mosquitoes. In the evening smoke smudges had to be made to give the animals some relief. It seemed like a long summer and I often wished I were back in Ontario, perhaps because I was rather young and inexperienced for such responsibility or perhaps I was just homesick. At any rate I was glad when fall came and the owners claimed their cattle.

My first winter (1916-17) in the west I helped my brother on his homestead. For the next several years I worked in the Dowling area. Incidents of particular interest to me were: in 1919 while working for Lee Doyle I looked forward to the evenings when I would practice baseball with Louis Doyle, who was a great ballplayer. In 1918, while working for Harold Mansfield, I had the privilege of going with him and Bill Himmelreich to put up two thousand tons of hay, on contract, at Lloydminster for the Lawson brothers.

In 1920, I left this area for the north. After spending three years in the Peace River country, where I took up a homestead ten miles south of Blue Sky, I returned to the Solon area.

The autumn of 1923 I acquired Garfield French's homestead, northwest of 18-32-13. Since my mother lived with me we were welcomed into the community by a surprise "hen" party. Friends of the Solon and Grassy Slope districts each brought nice young hens when they came for a surprise visit one evening.

In 1926 I purchased the southwest of 18-32-13 from the Soldiers' Settlement Board. As well as farming I did maintenance work on Highway thirty-six for twelve years. This work was done with horses.

We worked hard and experienced many hardships, but I would rather recall the many enjoyable times I had during this period, participating in Christmas concerts at Solon, Maunders and Alps schools; also playing baseball and basketball on the Solon team.

As we lived just a half mile from Solon school Mother boarded the teachers until 1937 when due to her ill health, she went to live with my sister Violet in Calgary. She remained there until her death on April the fifth, 1940, at the age of eighty-one.

In 1939 I bought a two ton truck. I was in the trucking business for ten years; at the same time I farmed. My farming was done using horses until 1941 when I bought a Ford Ferguson tractor, which is still in operation. A better or faster means of farming was required as we now owned and farmed five quarters.

Betty Seidel, from Trochu, Alberta, and I were married in 1940. We have three children, Laurence, a senior engineering technician for Alberta Gas Trunk Line; Leslie, assistant manager in Commercial Loans Department for the Royal Bank, in Vancouver. He married Darlene Brong from Fairview, Alberta. They are presently living in Surrey, B.C.; Karen is married to Gary Babcook from Calgary. She is presently a homemaker and residing at Warburg, Alberta.

At the present time Betty and I are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring so we can try our hand for another year of farming.

WILLIAM DUNCAN LUMSDEN, By Jim Lumsden — W. [illegible]. Lumsden (Bill) was born in Harriston, Ontario, on July seventh, 1888 coming west to Virden, Manitoba, in the fall of 1909. He came with Vernon Burrows to Coronation where he hauled lumber from Castor to Coronation. He homesteaded in the Kirkpatrick Lake area, but he abandoned his claim, due to sandy soil, and filed a

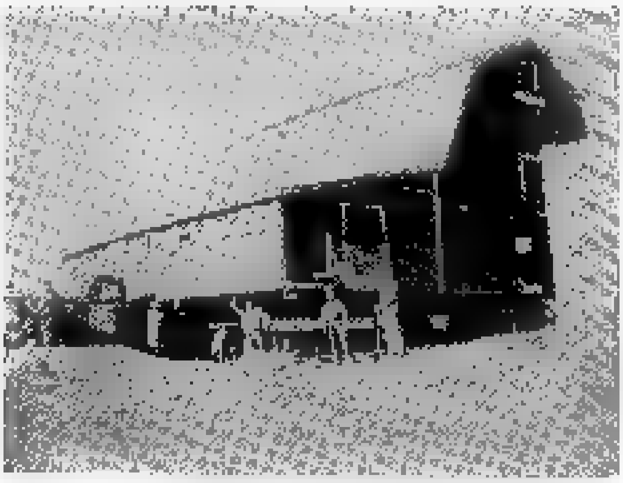
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden, 1923

claim east of Solon; southeast of 18-32-13.

He worked with his oxen in 1912 east of Hanna, when the railroad was built. Bill was very interested in wrestling, and in 1914, he wrestled in the Flemming Hall in Hanna, and won his match. In 1914 he bought his first team from Joe O'Niel for five hundred dollars, and chickens from Corry's. In 1916 his mother, brother Harry, and sisters Violet and Lillian came from Ontario to join him. In 1919 he bought the land (13-32-14) from Bob Moore.

Bill married Evelyn Mary Summers of Calgary in July 1923. In 1924 they bought a pair of foxes for seven hundred and fifty dollars and began to raise foxes He bought all the old horses in the area for fox meat and also fed the foxes eggs, porridge, and milk. They sold their first pelt for three hundred dollars in London, England. In April 1924 a daughter Marjorie was born, now of Calgary; in December 1925 another daughter Norma, now farming in the Rumsey area. Born in June 1928 a son Keith, now of Carcross Yukon; Wilfred born in April 1930, is now living in the Hanna area. A daughter Merle was born in July 1933, now lives in Brisbane, Australia. James, born in 1936, is now living on the home farm in the Hanna area. In 1926 Bill was appointed as one of the delegates from the Weise local U.F.A. to attend the U.F.A. convention in Calgary. At a meeting on January the twenty-eighth, 1926 everyone enjoyed very much his report on the convention. He was appointed president for that year. In 1916 Bill bought his first car; a four door touring Chevrolet.

W. D. Lumsden Family. Keith, Marjorie, Jim, Meryl, Wilfred, Norma, Mr. Bill Lumsden, Mrs. Evelyn Lumsden, grandson Ross Miller.



Moving the barn off "Honeymoon Farm" to Bill Lumsden's farm, 1940.

Bill butchered beef, and sold it to the Liberty Cafe and Star Meat Market in Hanna, in the thirties.

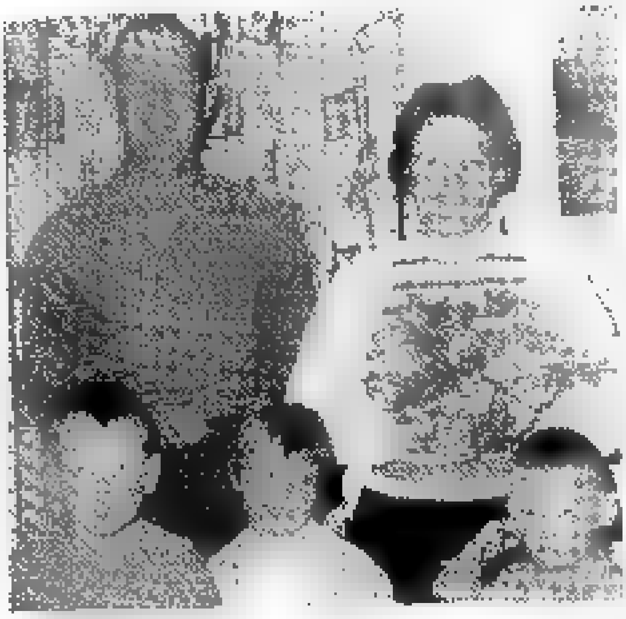
In 1937 he bought the Loveday farm, northeast of 13-32-14 and southeast of 24-32-14. They moved the barn and some other buildings from the Loveday farm in 1940.

He served on a jury in Hanna in 1940. In 1945 they sold all the foxes and raised cattle, chickens, turkeys and a few pigs.

Evelyn taught school at Solon and Bingo. She passed away in Calgary in 1965 at the age of sixty-six.

Bill has spent his last few years with his daughter Marjorie, in the winter months, and likes to take in the wrestling matches on Friday nights. He comes home to the farm and spends the summer with his son Jim and family. He has eighteen grandchildren.

Bill passed away April 13, 1977.


Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lumsden, Steven, Kathy, and Myles, 1966.

JAMES CLIFFORD LUMSDEN — I was born in Hanna on March 6, 1936, and have lived all my life on the home farm, the NW 13-32-14.

In June of 1939 I was with my brother Wilfred and sister Merle hunting crows and magpies. I got tired so they decided to send me home. I got off the trail and got lost, and they had most of the neighbors out looking for me. Waldimar Banco found me about four miles from home, and took me to Ludwig Pahl's place. I remember I really felt big because Ludwig let me ride on the running board of the car when he took me home.

I started school at Solon in 1942, attended Meadowlands in 1950 and 1951. and Hanna in 1951 and 1952. I played ball for Dowling in the fifties.

In March, 1960, I married Shirley Mae Walle of Endiang. In 1960 we had a daughter, Kathleen Marie; a son Steven Barry in 1961; and another son, Myles, in 1962.

I enjoy curling, fishing and snowmobiling with my family.

WILFRED LUMSDEN — I was born in Hanna on April 17, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lumsden. I attended Solon school for nine years, and then took three years of high school in Hanna. In April, 1948, I joined the Navy, and spent one year at the west coast and two years on the east coast.

In the spring of 1951 I returned to help on my father's farm, and purchased the west half of 20-32-13 from Charlie Wyatt in 1953.

That December Ila Mulgrove and I were married, and we have four children. Diana, married to Leon Paquette, lived in Calgary. Dwane is working in Hanna. Barbara, Mrs. Danny Beuch, is at Campbell River, B.C., and Lois is in Hanna.

In 1967 I started working for Ducks Unlimited, and although we are still living on the farm, we have rented the cultivated land to Ken Rehill since 1975.

ABRAHAM MILLER, By Fred Miller — Abraham Miller was born on April 5, 1902 at McKluskey, North Dakota. In November of 1909 he came with his parents to Stettler, where they spent the winter. The following spring the family moved to the homestead which his father had filed on, four miles west of the present town of Hanna.

His father bought section 6-32-13 in the Solon district for him, and Abe moved onto this place in 1924. In 1926 he was married to Jean Engel. They had three sons, Albert, Eddie and Norman.

Jean died when Norman was born. Abe stayed on the farm for about two years after his wife died, then moved to Calgary, where he resided until his passing in 1974 at the age of seventy-one years.

THE JOSEPH VINCENT O'NEILL STORY — In 1909 Joe O'Neill took possession of section 6-32-13, a South African Veterans' Scrip. He was a well-educated man who had come to Solon area from the United States.

Neighbors remember him as the man with no fingers who was most adept at driving ■ six-horse team.

In 1912 he reported harvesting six thousand and sixty-two bushels of oats from one hundred and ten acres.

In December, 1915 he left this area to take up residence in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pahl and two sons, Alfred and Otto, 1930.

THE FRED PAHL FAMILY, By Alfred Pahl — Fred Pahl was born in 1895 in Romania. He served for four years with the Russian army during World War I and was awarded several medals. After the war he was married ■ Christina Kranick. In 1927 the Pahls were dissatisfied with the political situation in their country, and this was a deciding factor for going to Canada, the land of hope in those years.

In May, 1927, Fred and Christina and their two sons, Alfred, age four, and Otto, age two, arrived in Halifax after a three-week ocean voyage from Leipzig. As was the case with most immigrating families, the Pahls brought few material goods with them, basically only what they were able to carry . . . mainly clothing and cooking utensils. They journeyed by train to Hanna, arriving six days later. This area of settlement had been chosen on the basis of information received from Fred's half-sister, Mrs. Jacob Stern, who was already living in the area.

The Pahls moved to a half-section farm thirteen miles north-east of Hanna. There was ■ three-roomed house, but it was unfinished. The ■ x 4 studs were still open on the inside and so they papered the walls with newspaper. Besides finding the house in poor condition, Christine was further disheartened to see it snow in June of that year. It was ■ harsh contrast to the green fields of wheat that they had left behind in Romania. The family could speak no English, and the final blow was the discovery of skunks (unknown in Romania) under the house.

Lack of funds was about the only thing that kept the family from moving on, but as they settled in and more families from Romania settled in the area, things improved. They were able to purchase an old Model T Ford, which still had kerosene lamps for headlights. Church services under the auspices of Rev. Beitch were started in the Garden Plain school, and later, in the thirties, the family joined the Hanna congregation.

Farming in the first years in Canada was on a small scale, basically wheat, and oats for feed for their few cows and horses. In 1930 the Pahls opened a strip coal mine. Neighbors were hired to strip the coal which sold for seventy-five cents a ton; they were paid two tons of coal for an eight-hour work day with a four-horse outfit. Sometimes Mr. Pahl would trade ten tons of coal for a three-year-old steer. Mine workers could be hired for fifteen dollars a month.

Fred served on the school board from 1934 to 1937. Both Alfred and Otto attended Solon school, which meant a three and a half mile walk each day. In later years they rode bicycles.

On one occasion when they were going visiting in their old Model T truck they arrived at their destination and discovered that the boys were missing from the

back of the truck. Going back over the route again, they found Alfred and Otto unharmed. They had been tossed out when the truck hit a hole on the prairie trail.

During the difficult years of the 1930s the whole family had to work extra hard to make ends meet. In 1934-5 Alfred was able to herd cows on the lease land, and while doing this he was free to collect gopher tails. The income from this was often greater than what the family made on milking six cows. By 1939 conditions had improved and Pahls were able to buy their first tractor. This meant that the tractor and scrapers could be used to enlarge the mining operation. In 1941 Fred Pahl purchased a steel-wheeled combine and later bought a self-propelled one. Fred and the boys then did custom combining as well as digging dugouts and making dams.

Fred continued to mine and farm until 1952 when he and his wife retired to Hanna. Mrs. Christina Pahl passed away in September, 1965, and Fred in November, 1967.

Both Alfred and Otto were married in April, 1947, Alfred to Ruby Kautz on April 13 and Otto to Laura Karg on April 20. Although they had separate farms, they continued to operate the mine together until 1952 when the advent of gas stoves and stokers made the business no longer profitable to run.

Alfred and Ruby lived on section 22, range 13, which Alfred had purchased in 1943. In their first years they milked several cows, but by the time the mine closed they were farming and ranching, and continued to do so until they sold the farm in 1972. They moved to a new home in Hanna where Alfred worked for the Alberta government as a hail and crop insurance agent and adjuster. During his farming career, Alfred held positions with the U.F.A. and U.G.G.

Ruby and Alfred had five daughters.

After their marriage, Otto and Laura took up farming on the home place. They moved the original farm home closer to No. 36 Highway, where it still stands. Otto participated in the U.F.A. and continued farming and ranching. The couple had one daughter and one son. They sold their farm in 1969 and the family moved into Hanna where Otto was employed. He died in 1972 and was buried in Hanna Cemetery where his mother and father had been laid to rest.

Otto Pahl Family. Larry, Ronda, Laura and Otto.

OTTO PAHL, By Laura Mahoney — Otto Pahl and I were married in the spring of 1947. My name was Laura Karg and I came from south-west of Hanna. We didn't go on a honeymoon until July as Otto and his brother Alfred had to work in the coal mine. It was very hard work. Otto, Alfred and their dad, Fred Pahl, put in many a long day digging out coal by hand.

The first year we had no car, so in the winter we either walked or took the horse and stoneboat to visit the neighbors. It seems to me that in those days the weather was much colder and there was a lot more snow. Many a morning we had to find our well before we could water the cattle, as it was halfway down a hill and would be blown over.

Between farming, mining and cattle we were very busy. After the mine closed, Otto worked with an electrician for several years, as well as continuing to farm.

In July, 1949, we lost twin girls, but in June of 1951 we had a ten pound baby

girl, Ronda. She is now married to Raymond Tschritter and has two little girls of her own.

In the spring of 1952 we decided to move our buildings closer to the main road, as we were always blocked in in the winter time, and we had no trees for shelter. So we dug a basement on the SW 19-32-13 behind a nice grove of trees which had been planted years ago. Then the neighbors all came and helped us pour the cement. A mover by the name of Mickey McBride moved the buildings across the fields to the new site, and the Special Areas built a road for us. Then we didn't have to fight the snow and the mud over the two miles to the highway.

In September, 1954, our son Larry was born. He became a licensed carpenter, and married Sandy Scott in 1975.

In October of 1954 we snowed in early and did not get all our crop off.

So the years rolled by, the good and the bad, and in June, 1969, we sold our farm, had a sale and moved to Hanna.

Otto passed away in February, 1972, at the age of forty-seven. I married Hubert Mahoney and am still living in Hanna.

FREDERICK PAHL, By Mrs. L. Pahl — Frederick and Emella Pahl immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1927. They settled on the NE 2-32-14, and the three oldest children, Alma, Fred and Frieda, went to Solon school. Mr. Pahl raised some cattle and did some grain farming.

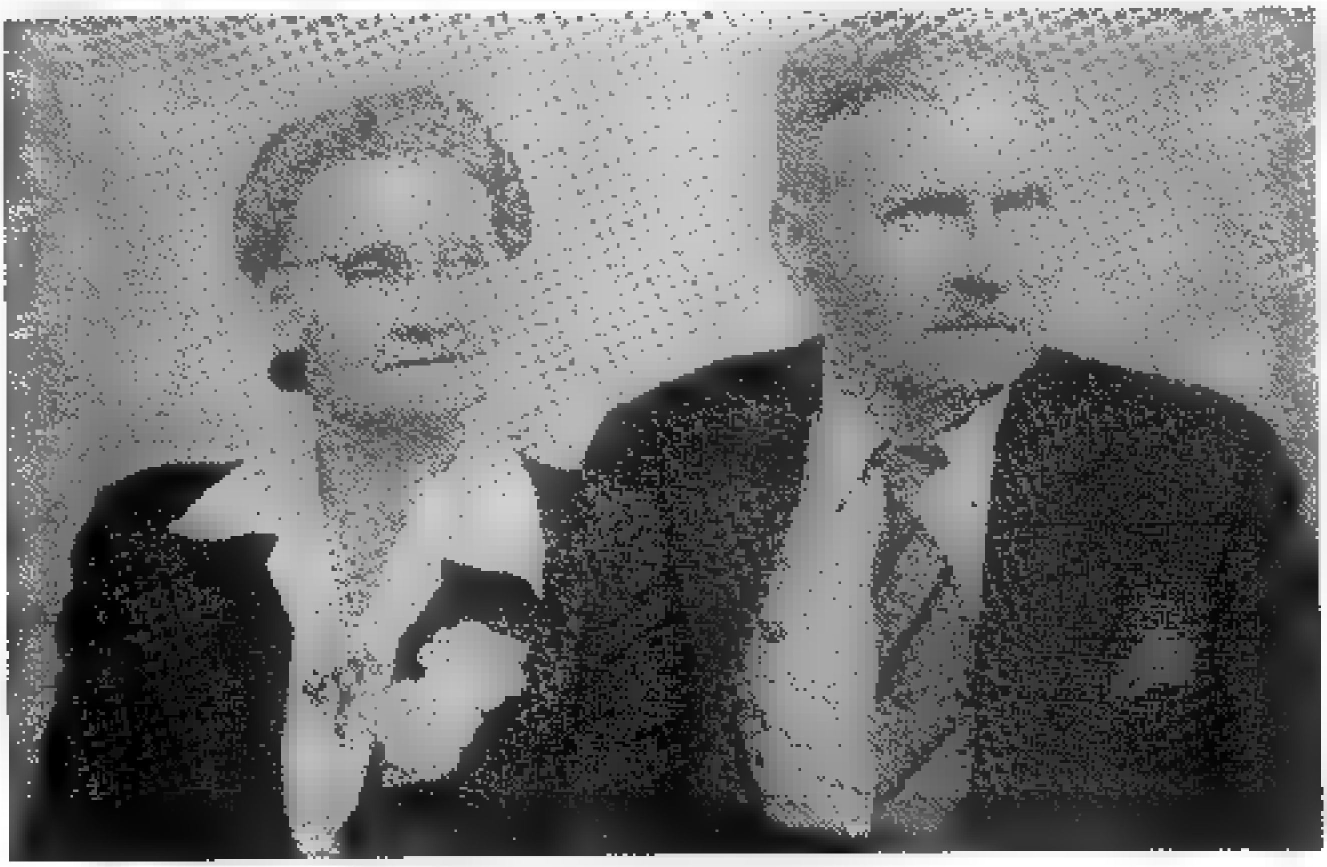
Frederick Pahl Family. Back Row: Art, Alma, Fred Jr., Frieda, Edward. Front Row: Olga, Mrs. Emmella Pahl, Mr. Frederick Pahl, Emma.

In 1934 the family moved to Lavoy, Alberta, and in 1937 to Chilliwack, B.C. Mr. Frederick Pahl passed away in December, 1973.

THE PEDERSON STORY, By Clarence L. Elm — Theodore Pederson left Trondheim, Norway in February 1896, [illegible] join his brother, Iver in North Dakota. One year later they sent for Theodore's fiancee, Bergitte Martinson; their brother, Paul and his wife and two children; and their brother Lawrence. Theodore and Bergitte were married in 1901 at Coopertown, North Dakota, and the family established a farm some distance from Coopertown.

In 1907, Theodore and Bergitte with three children, Anna and Mary and Louis, returned to Norway for eighteen months. While there, another child, Nikola was born. They returned to the United States bringing Theodore's Mother and Father, Lorentz with them. In the same year another child, Dorothy was born.

In 1909 Theodore and Bergitte and family, his parents and brothers, Lawrence and Paul with his family came to Canada. The family travelled by train to Castor. While there, Lorentz cut and laid stone for the Castor School and after exploring the country, arrived at the location where Hanna was later built. During the summer and fall of 1910 they lived in a board-walled tent. While waiting for Theodore and the household goods and livestock, Bergitte worked with a Chinese family who operated a restaurant. A house was completed in November 1910 on the homestead and the tent and site were sold, and this later became the location of the first Bank in Hanna.



Theodore and Bergitte Pederson

Theodore Pederson filed on his homestead April 22, 1910, the southwest of 14-32-14; and in 1914 a pre-emption on northwest of 14-32-14. The pre-emption was acquired by S.A. Brown in 1916.

Lawrence Pederson filed on his homestead and pre-emption on the north half 33-31-14 in June 1909. He later returned to North Dakota to farm.

Lorentz Pederson filed on his homestead in June 1910 on the southeast of 33-31-14 and pre-emption the southwest of 34-31-14.

Lorentz died in 1915 and his wife, two years later. They are buried at Hanna.

Bergitte's brother, Elmer Olsen and his wife arrived and filed in June 1910 on the northwest of 34-31-14.

Bergitte (Bertha) who is still living at Mirror, Alberta, recalls travelling with oxen to Castor for supplies, while Hanna was being built up. The return trip took about a week. The local store was at Garden Plain, and the storekeeper travelled, taking orders, and then delivering to his customers. Coal was dug nearby and Bergitte recalls being given coal by the miner's sons. They delivered the winter's supply of coal to the homestead because Theodore and some of the local men were in Saskatchewan harvesting. The first years were very dry, and Bergitte

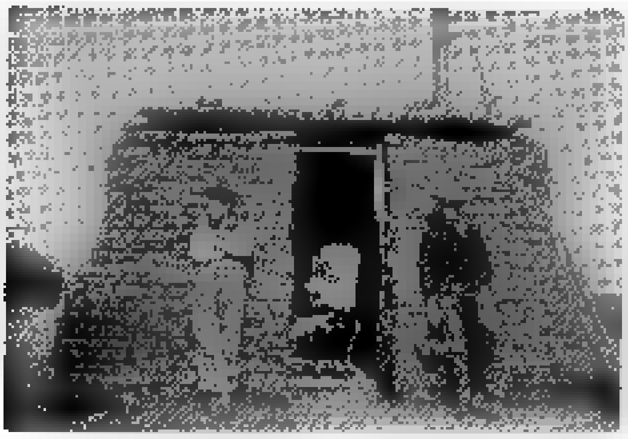
hauled water in barrels and cans on a stone boat to water the garden. She harvested the first crop of flax with [illegible] hand sickle, which she still has! The flax was flailed and cleaned by hand, and yielded one-half bushel. The garden, this same year, yielded forty-eight bushels of potatoes and two bushels of carrots.

Theodore travelled [illegible] Saskatchewan in the dry years to earn extra money harvesting and this left the operation of the homestead to Bergitte and the children. But with cows producing and cream to sell to the neighbors, the family made out. Theodore and Bertha moved south to the Stirling and Berry farm, now known as the Lorne Hannah farm. During 1916 and 1917 Bertha broke cows for Sterling and Berry while Theodore built the dairy barn.

While on the homestead, three of the children, Anna, Mary and Louis attended Solon School. Four more children, Jeanette, Alma, Laura and Helmer were born on the homestead north of Hanna.

Theodore and Bertha sold the homestead in 1918 to S.A. Brown and moved to Camrose and then bought [illegible] farm at Lamerton, north of Mirror. They later moved to Mirror, where Theodore died in 1948 at the age of seventy-four years. Bertha still lives at Mirror and is now ninety-seven years of age.

Theodore and Bertha had ten children, nine of them survived and raised families. Six of their children now are living and there are twenty-six grandchildren, seventy-one great grandchildren and thirty-four great great grandchildren.



Mr. Pope's Sod Shack. Bob Samson, Zelma and Mark Pope.

MARCUS LAFAYETTE POPE, By Blanche Pope Johnston — My brother Mark left home at [illegible] very early age. He was born in 1882 in Catawba County, North Carolina, fourth-born of a large family. He homesteaded in the Dakotas but conditions there weren't to his liking. Hearing reports of this area being opened up for homesteading, he arrived [illegible] Stettler in May of 1910. Purchasing a team of oxen, wagon and necessary settlers' effects he left for his homestead which was the SW 12-32-14. He also pre-empted NW 1-32-14 along with his homestead. He got his supplies and mail at Castor for a short while until Garden Plain store and post office opened. Later on he got his mail at the Solon post office.

He lived in a sod shack for [illegible] few years until he built his house [illegible] 1916.

When the railway grade was being built into Hanna, he sold the oxen, bought a team of horses and worked on this project. He also worked for Bob Sampson and got [illegible] few head of cattle as part of his wages. By using good Angus bulls he was able to upgrade his herd substantially.

In the fall of 1917, leaving the homestead in care of an elderly man, he came back to North Carolina. As I was the youngest of the family I had never seen him before. It was arranged that I would come to Alberta and keep house for him. I was also born in Catawba County. After completing my education I started working in a hosiery mill when I was thriteen years old. The wages were low and the days were long.

We left for Canada shortly after my eighteenth birthday in early March of 1918. We came to Buffalo, New York and then to Toronto. The further west we came the more snow became evident. We arrived in Hanna at [illegible] a.m. on March 16. We certainly were dirty after the long train ride, mostly from ashes sifting into the passenger compartment. After a wash and breakfast at the Seymour Hotel we went uptown. We met the Fortnas at the Stephen's store where it was arranged that they would take us home. Mrs. Fortna drove while I held young Harold. Jake and Mark rode in the back. This was my first sleigh ride.

That summer of 1918 we fenced the school section. It was a very dry year. We had to carry water for many of those post holes. Everyone remarked how straight Mark's fence lines were. This thoroughness in doing a job well was evident throughout his farming year. The crop that year was so short that Mark used his mower to cut what he could. He flailed out about sixty bushels of seed wheat for his efforts.

Mark bought a saddle horse from Jake Fortna with which I could look after the cattle on the school section during the summer months. Many loads of upland hay I helped him to put up. The grass in those days was very tall and anyone walking, especially after a heavy dew was sure to get wet.

Miss Gilleanders, Solon's first teacher who boarded at Gordon's, would take a shortcut to school through Mark's pre-emption. He took his mower and cut the grass so that she would have a good path to walk to school on.

Around 1916, he had planted a shelter belt along the north side and one on the west side of his farmstead. I helped him plant the ones to the south, which he had grown from seed.

Mark purchased a Model T car from Esty Holmes which had originally been owned by Harry Macropol of Hellenic Farms. This was located where Otto Stern now lives. Anyway, to get back to the car, a rod burned out of it on the first trip to Hanna. Mark had forgotten to close one of the oil level petcocks on the crankcase. He brought it home and never used it again and as a matter of fact, he couldn't afford to run it.

The Lewis family of Garden Plain stayed at Mark's while they farmed their pre-emption. When they left after a visit, Mr. Lewis would say, "Get in, Mother", and when she was seated in the buggy he would leap for the seat and the buckskin team were off, bucking and jumping till they got to the road.

Mark and Katherine Mowatt were married in 1926. They resided on the farm until Mark's untimely death in 1931. There were no children. Katherine carried on for a year or two with kind help, then had an auction sale and eventually sold the place. Later, she married Don Elliot and resided in Hanna for a number of years until they retired to Victoria, B.C.

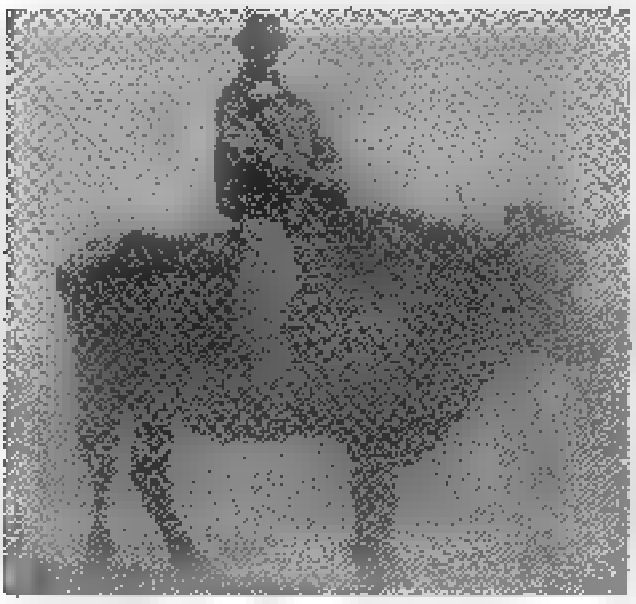
IRENE and GUS READWIN, as related by Mrs. Irene Readwin to Jeanne Cody — In 1915, my husband and I came west on our honeymoon to Stanmore, Alberta. We had been married in Guelph, Ontario on February 15, 1915. Arriving in Stanmore, we stayed with my cousin, George Zinter. Two weeks later my brother Alex Schell arrived with a railroad car of supplies that included two horses, two cows, chickens and groceries.

We moved to the Charlie James place which was on the west side of Berry Creek. Our nearest town was Richdale. The farmstead consisted of several shacks, one of which we lived in. We also farmed the land of Joe Schell, another cousin, on the east side of Berry Creek.

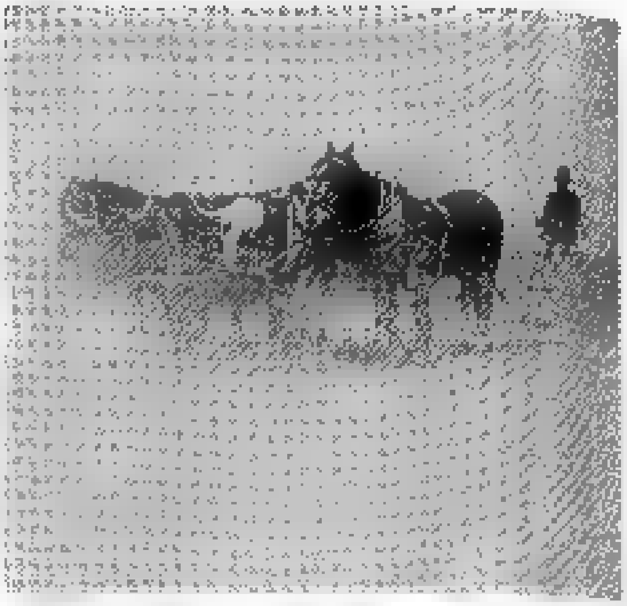
One day five of us were returning from Joe's with a hayrack, and had to cross the Berry Creek which was swollen by rains. The high water floated the hayrack off the wagon gear and the five of us floated down the Berry Creek. Luckily the

hayrack eventually caught in some bushes as we went around a curve and we got to shore safely. Another time I was taking supper by horseback to the men who were haying at Joe's, and my horse decided to sit down part way across the creek. Supper was not as planned that night.

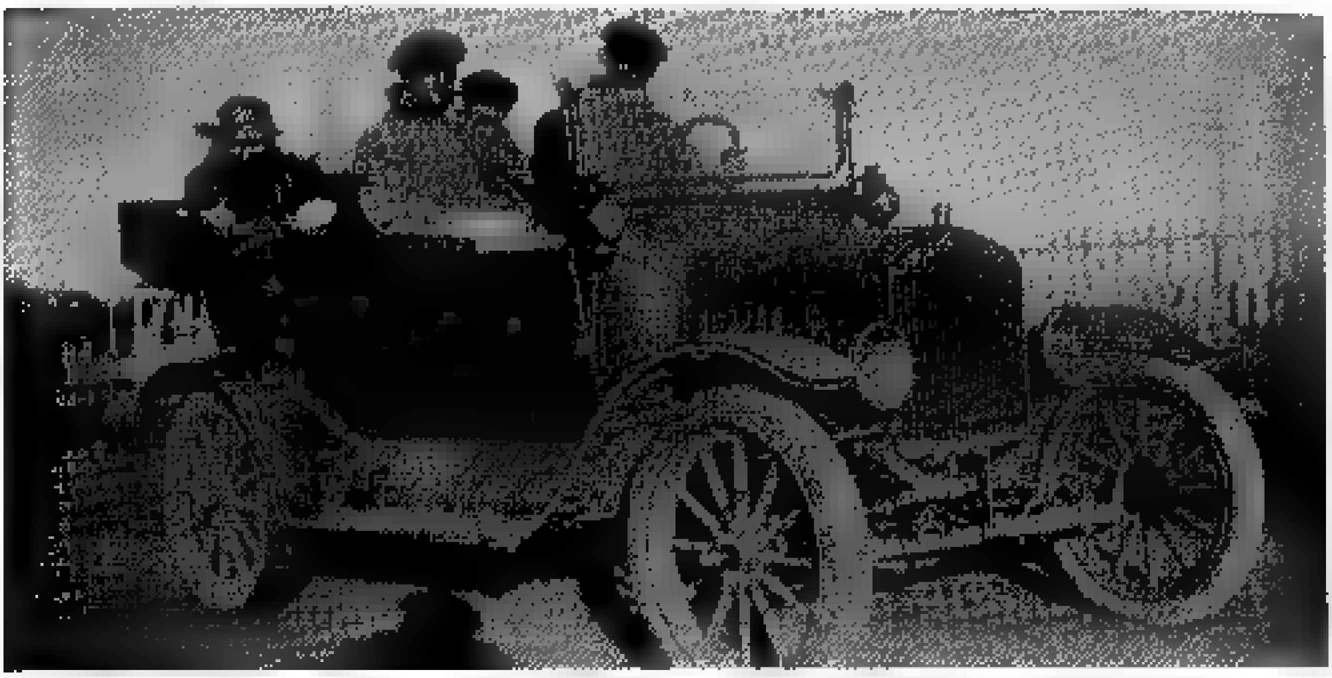
From Richdale we moved to Joe O'Neil's place, 6-32-13, north of Hanna. This farm was on the east side of the road next to a large slough. Our daughter Madge was born there in 1916. Later on we moved to the Kern place, the east half of 1-32-14, which we had also purchased. This farm was on the west side of the road.



Gus Readwin



Gus Readwin and team, two horses and two oxen.



Readwin's first car, 1917. Gus at wheel. Jack Anthony in front. Irene, Madge, and Alex in back seat.

In 1917 we acquired a Model T touring car which I learned to drive. I recall being at Craigmyle at my uncle's place, as his wife was ill and I had gone to help. With the Zinter children in the back I was driving across the prairie to call the men for dinner, when a wheel hit a hole and one of the children bounced out of the back seat. I also recall picking up Mrs. Curtis and little Bill for trips to Hanna in the Ford.

One spring, perhaps in 1918, we made a trip to Little Fish Lake in the Hand Hills with my brother Alex Schell and Mr. and Mrs. John Fox. We gathered five sacks of suckers from the pools in the creek and preserved them by layering the fish with salt in barrels. Gus and I also attended the first Hand Hill Stampede.

One Sunday Gus and I decided to drive by horse to Richdale to see the

Kramers. Coming home the mosquitoes were so bad that we lit a smudge pot to smoke them off. The horse's back was solid black with mosquitoes, they were so thick.

In 1918 we purchased a hundred head of cattle from Mr. Slinn of Hanna, and lacking pasture due to the Greek farm syndicate taking up adjacent land, we moved to a lease on the Battle River, some fifteen miles from Castor. Our son Desmond was born there in 1920.

When we were packing for the move to Castor, I put a bottle of formaldehyde in a box amongst the sheets and pillowcases. The hired man unpacked the box, and being fond of a nip, took a long swig from the bottle. He went out the door about the time I was coming in with a couple of pails of warm milk. The man was in agony, and lacking anything else, we poured fresh milk into him until he vomited, and repeated the treatment several times. He got up the next morning with the observation that he was amazed to find that he was still alive.

We moved from Castor to Olds in 1924, and to Calgary in 1949. Madge, who studied designing, worked for the C.P.R. in Calgary. Desmond served in the RCAF during World War II as a radio technician, and after the war became chief engineer with CKXL radio station.

Mr. Readwin passed away in 1956.

Editor's Note: During her years at Olds, Mrs. Readwin became interested in ceramics and pottery. When she moved to Calgary, she was very active with ceramics groups, and her work was widely recognized. In 1958 she judged the arts and crafts entered at the Calgary Stampede. In 1976 the first annual show of the Ceramics Association of Alberta was dedicated to her.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rice

JOHN and SARAH RICE, By Blanche Johnston — John Rice was a volunteer in the Militia that came out west during the Riel Rebellion. John and his wife Sarah were persuaded to leave their native Ontario to move to B.C. when they were both getting along in years. Joe Molton, an Englishman who was supposed to be a partner, also went to B.C. with them. He was much younger than they, and a very smooth talker. However B.C. didn't appeal to them so about 1917 the three of them came to Hanna and bought A.A. Gordon's land. When I arrived in 1918 they were already here. John was a lean and lanky man while Mrs. Rice was short and squatty. Whenever I ran short of flour I would go to Rices' to borrow some. This continued for some time and when it came time to repay them, my brother, Mark, gave them a sack of flour. Mrs. Rice also gave me my first clucking hen and setting of eggs. Shortly after Rices came here Joe Molton bought a Model T, and we bought this car from him in 1926.

Rices, then without a car, bought a new Model T from the local agent. His instructor showed him how to start and stop it. Roads in those days were not good, but even on the prairie trails he drove without care, not heeding safety or speed, and was always getting racked up. After one such ride with him I can tell you we

were glad that trip was over. Mrs. Rice took John's driving as a matter of course, it didn't fizz her one bit. She just kept on talking.

Mrs. Rice's spinster sister, Charlotte Shaw came to live with them about 1927. She was stone deaf, having suffered her affilication by not having proper attention when she had scarlet fever as a child. She was a lip reader and spoke in the manner that totally deaf people do, without tonal change.

About 1928 Rices sold out to Fred Pahl, a brother of the late Ludwig Pahl. They bought a small developed acreage on the north-east outskirts of Hanna from Bert Mott. Frank and Rose Powell live on the place now. They lived here for a few years, all receiving the old age pension. When John had to be taken to an old folks' home the two sisters sold the acreage and rented a suite in town. Mrs. Rice was 84 years old when she passed away in 1939. Miss Shaw, born in 1865, passed away in 1947.

Joe Molton left for Calgary after Rices moved to Hanna and eventually married a widow.

WALTER SHEATH — I was born in Spondin, Alberta, and took my schooling at Gooseberry Lake and Spondin schools, and later moved to Hanna where I was employed at Modern Service and at the Hanna Creamery.

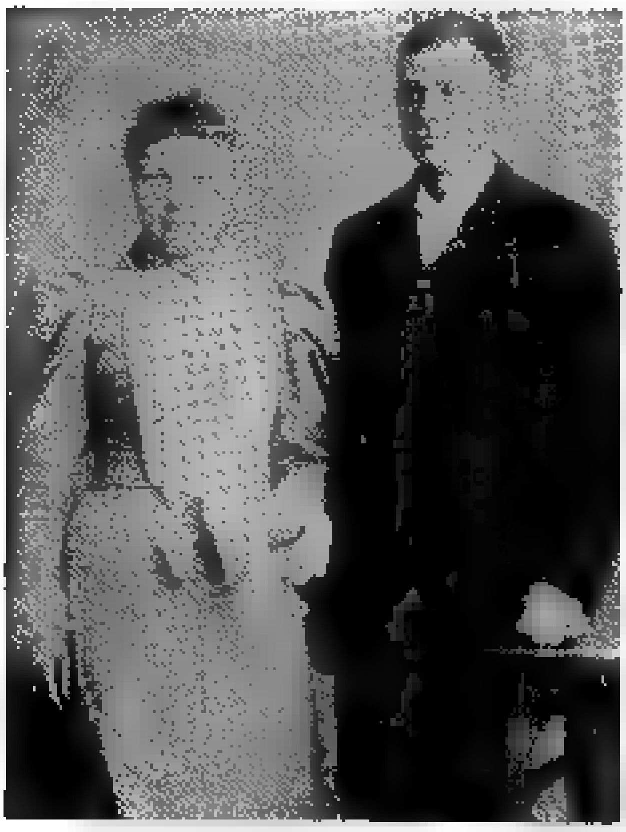
In 1960 I married Vi Kelm of Hanna and the following year we moved back to Spondin, taking over my dad's farm there. We lived in the Spondin area from 1961-1972.

In the fall of 1972, after selling our farm, we came to the Solon district and purchased the Weltman farm, southwest quarter of 19-32-13, formerly owned by the late Otto Pahl. Besides the duty of farm life, I have been driving school bus for Rangeland School Division for twelve years.

We have four children, Susan (1960), Barry (1962), Connie (1963) and Dale (1964), all presently attending school in Hanna. As a family we enjoy snowmobiling in the winter and do a considerable amount of camping in the summer.

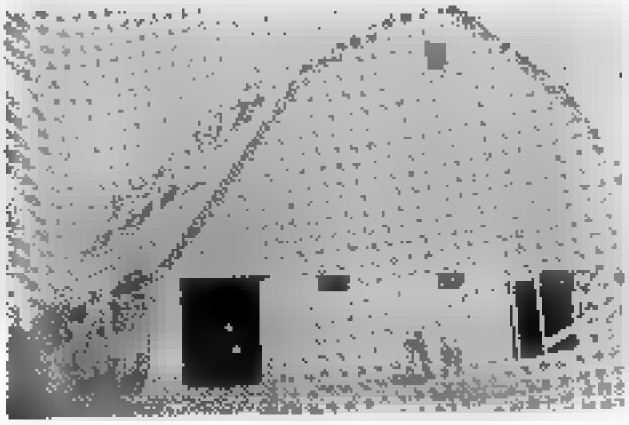
THINGS I REMEMBER ABOUT THE WHALEY FAMILY, By Mary Whaley Henry — When we first came to Solon there was no Solon school, and no Hanna either.

That was May, 1910. My brother John was a baby, scarcely a month old. There were six of us children, Fred, Maud, George, Mary, Mabel and John. We had lived on a homestead in the Clover Bar district, but the earliest memory I have is when we were coming from Castor. Mother and we smaller children were in a wagon which was very crowded. Mr. Gordon took me to sit beside him on a board across the top of the wagon, and Mother was afraid that I would fall off, but Mr. Gordon put his arm around me and held me as he drove the horses. I now feel that Dad and my brother, Fred, were driving the stock.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whaley Sr., 1897.

It seems to me that we stayed at Gordon's place that night. It was two miles north of Dad's land, the NE of 12-32-14. I often went there after I was older as Nellie Gordon was the same age as I was and we were friends for many years.

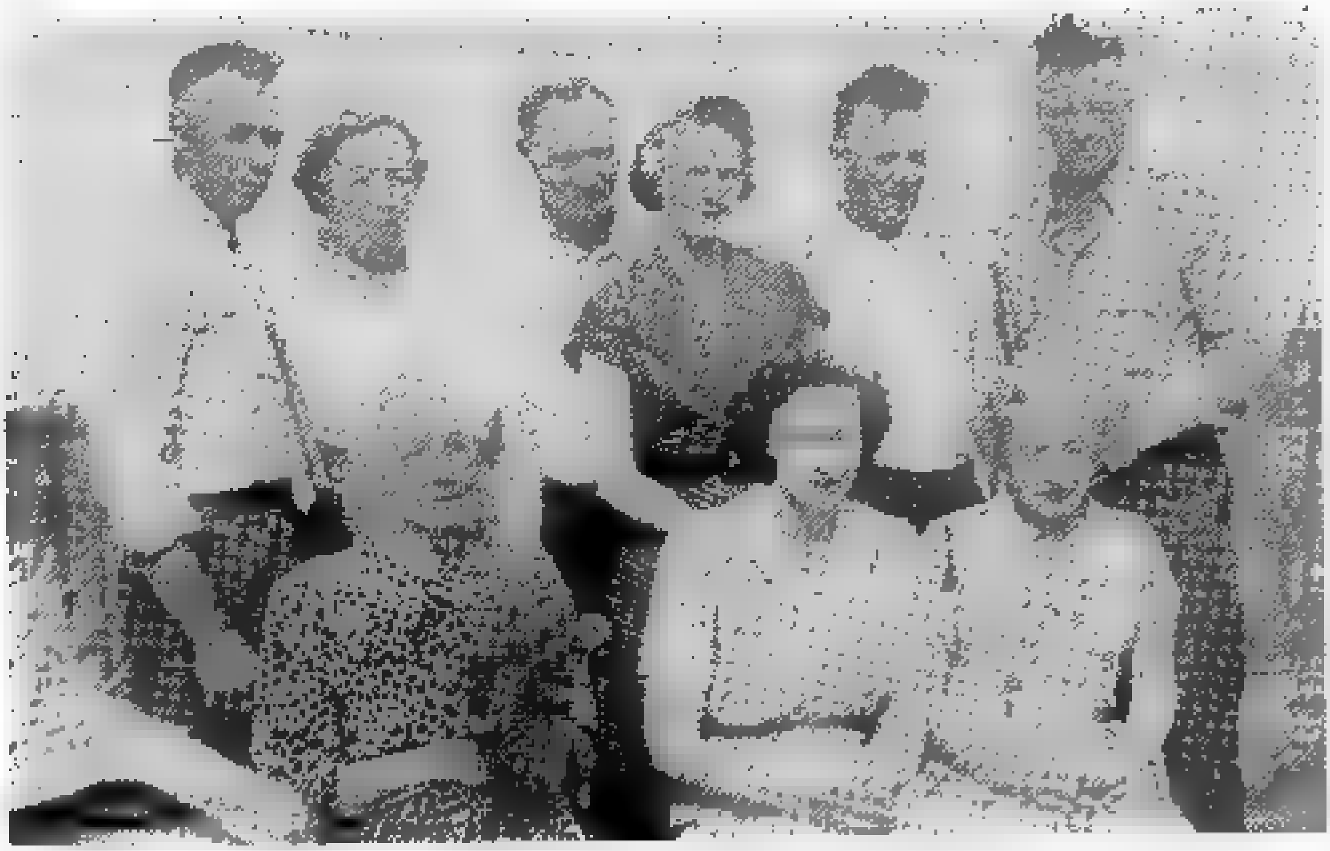


Barn building bee at Whaley's, 1928.

I remember living in a tent by the north slough, and Mother heating oats to put around John to keep him warm. While we still lived in the tent that first summer, some horse thieves came and took three horses. Dad spent a long time hunting them, and finally managed to get the horses back. Dad built the first part of the house that summer.

I don't know when Dad started talking about school, but I do remember him arguing about it with some of the neighborhood bachelors. They were not anxious to start a school as their taxes would go up.

However, two years later we were going to school. The first two teachers were Miss Gileanders and Miss Laycock. I do not remember which teacher came first, but I do remember Miss Laycock best, so I suppose that she was the second. A Mr. Fredericks was third. He lived at Garden Plain and drove eleven miles every morning with a horse and buggy. Some of the first kids to go to Solon school were Viva, Ford and Doris Thompson; Zelma Samson; Annie, Mary and Lou Pederson; John and Nellie Gordon; Fred, George, Maud and Mary Whaley. There may have been a couple of Burns boys too.



Grandma Whaley and eight of her ten children. Fred Jr., Maud, George, Mary, John, Charlie, Mrs. Whaley, Viola and Ada.

Dad was always very good to us. He used to help Mabel and me dress when Mother was busy with the younger children, or getting breakfast. He often held Mabel and me on his knees and sang to us. Mother always raised a big garden so she taught us to do chores, to help weed the garden and look after the smaller children.

It must have been about 1914 when Dad built the second half of the house. He hired Mr. Peterson, a stone mason, to build the walls of the cellar for the west half of the house, Dad and Fred helping, of course. They must have finished it that fall, as I remember when Charlie was born on February 8, 1915, Mabel and I slept on a quilt by the heater in the west room, and Dad waked us, saying that we had a new brother.

Since my birthday was three days later, I always claimed Charlie as my birthday present.

Somewhere about this time, Dad bought the south quarter of 12-32-14 from George Crossfield, and later moved the shack from there home to the yard for the boys' sleeping quarters.

I don't know just when Dad put the engine and pump in the house. The engine was one and a half horsepower, with a line shaft on which were pulleys, so it ran the cream separator, the churn, the washing machine, and the pump, and we were able to have water in the house.

We always milked a lot of cows, and in the earlier years Mother made a lot of butter. Then Dad got a butter mixer. It was about four feet long and maybe three feet wide at one end, and eight inches wide at the other end, with a metal part at the small end. There was a six-sided bar with a metal end which fit into the metal part at the small end of the butter table. It was a bit higher than a chair, and had three legs. By turning the long handle you could squeeze the buttermilk and water from the butter.

Mother also used to spin wool to make clothes. She first started when Fred was small, when Dad worked on the railroad in the mountains. He was out in the cold a great deal, and got sciatica. It was so bad that he was unable to feed himself. The doctor told Mother to put a towel on his back and iron him with a flat iron. Then he told her to make him some real wool underwear.

Dad got better, they moved back to Edmonton in 1900 and Mother got the spinning wheel. From then on, she made all the underwear for Dad and the boys. Later she got a knitting machine, and knitted strips and sewed them together, which was much faster than hand knitting. She also made socks for the whole family. I now have the spinning wheel and Charlie has the knitting machine.

In the winter evenings, Dad would read the newspaper or what story books we had. Mother would spin and we girls would knit, crochet, or mend. That was before the days of radio.

I don't know just what year it was that Mr. Oke and Marian Wright started having Church and Sunday School at Solon. Dad and Mother didn't go very often, but always wanted us to go, and we rarely went without collection.

As time passed by, Myrtle, Ada and Viola were added to our family. In spite of the fact that there were a lot of children to feed, both Dad and Mother were very generous, and I never remember anyone coming to our house and going away hungry. I must have been about fifteen when a couple of men came and asked for a meal. Mother gave them dinner and they offered to pay. Dad wouldn't accept anything; he just told them to feed the next man that came to their door.

Dad was a very public-spirited person, and he was active in the United Farmers' Association, and was also a firm backer of the Wheat Pool.

Sometime after Dad had bought the south quarter, he put the bathtub in. Before that the house was too full of children. Later he bought the Ditton quarter, the NE 18-32-13, also a Case threshing machine and a tractor. In the fall of 1925, while Dad, Fred, and George were out threshing, Mother, Mable and I milked twenty-seven cows. John carried the milk to the house. I took cream to town two or

three times a week with the team and wagon, and brought gas back to wherever they were threshing.

That was the fall I met Howard Henry. He came to work for Dad. We were married in June, 1926. We spent that summer on a rented farm at Mayerthorpe, coming to Grande Prairie in April, 1927. Both of us worked around Grande Prairie that first summer. Then we lived in the Bezanson district until we went homesteading in 1931. We moved to the homestead at Goodwin right after our daughter Edith was born in May, 1931. Our son, Bill, was born in November, 1932. We lived there until 1964, when we moved to an acreage east of Debolt and raised pigs.

Since Howard's health was getting bad, we moved to Grande Prairie in December, 1967, and he passed away in November, 1973. I have lived in Aurora Court, a senior citizens' apartment in Grande Prairie, since July, 1973.

Edith has been a widow for seventeen years. She has three grown sons of whom we are very proud. Edith works on the local paper.

Bill is a chemical engineer. He is married and has two girls and two boys. They live in Lloydminster.

Dad died in July, 1934, and Mother in March, 1960.

JOHN WHALEY'S FAMILY, By Mrs. Murray Whaley — I met Mrs. Fred Whaley for the first time in 1940, when her son John and I started keeping company. The Whaley family had come to the Solon district with their beds and belongings in the spring of 1910, when John was a tiny baby. Those were the years when many homesteaders were moving in, and tar paper shacks and soddies were popping up on nearly every quarter section.

John's parents had a fine herd of milk cows, and his mother made many hundred pounds of butter over the years, selling it, after Hanna was established, to Stephens Brothers' Store. John's father was very mechanical, and they jokingly called their house, in later years, the workman's kitchen. They had a small engine which ran a washing machine and churn. They had lots of clear water and theirs was one of the first houses in the country to have running water, inside and out.

John's father passed away during the summer of 1934.

His mother always had a big garden and kept trying to grow her own fruit trees. Many the dishes of strawberries and cream I've enjoyed from her garden. The family kept a small flock of sheep, and often she would work far into the night, spinning the wool. Then they got a knitting machine and made socks and underwear. I have kept one of John's woollen undershirts just to remind me what was done in those early, hard years.

John and I were married in January, 1941, and spent the first year with Grandma, Mabel and Charlie. We got a house built, and while I was in the hospital with our first baby, David, John moved our belongings across the road, which is now No. 36 Highway, and into the house on the SE 7-32-13.

We got busy, the next summer, and made a sod chicken house. We kept up to three hundred laying hens, and one year I was able to hatch, with hens, around five hundred chicks. We milked cows, and added some pigs, and a garden. The family multiplied, and so did the work.

We had picnics and some of the most wonderful Christmas concerts. I recall when Mrs. Hein taught there was standing room only in the school for the concert.

The cream from our cows pretty well had to keep us, and at 43¢ a pound for butterfat, it took a lot of pounds. Cattle prices, too, were not that good. I still keep a stub, to remind me of those times, when we got $7.50 per hundred for steers.

As the children got into high school, we got a small truck and David and James drove into town.

We moved back to the south country in 1960, as the lake was dry, resulting in no grass for the cattle, and no water for us. In March of 1960, Grandma Whaley passed away, and we still miss her so much.

David went to the University of Calgary for two years and then taught at Cessford school. He went to the north country, took summer school courses and returned to Calgary for his final year leading to his Bachelor of Education. He taught at Grande Prairie for some years; now he, his wife Sheila and son Neil, live at Wainwright.

James took a journalism course at SAIT, and is now working in a print shop. He and his wife Debbie were married in 1976.

Gerald worked for several years as chainman for a survey crew, then took a surveying course at NAIT. He and his wife Sylvia have two boys, Jonathan and Jason.

Clayton, his wife Ellen and daughters MaryEllen and Michelle, live in Grande Prairie where he is a trucker.

Russell worked with a highway road crew for a year, then was with Alberta Government Telephones for three years. When John passed away in 1975, he quit his job to come home, and now works as a cat operator at the Sheerness mine.

Mary is attending Alberta Bible College in Calgary. I do not know what career she will choose, but I'm sure she will make a success of it.

All their pictures are in the rotunda of Hanna High School, and that has made me very proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Marian Wright and Blanche, 1915.

MARIAN WRIGHT FAMILY, By Bea Wright Bryce — Marian and Lona Wright were both born in Illinois in 1881. They had a son, who died at the age of six years, and a daughter, myself, born in Oklahoma. We emigrated from Oklahoma in 1914, entering Canada at Emerson, Manitoba, on August 14. Two of mother's brothers, Albert Overton and his family, and Joseph Overton, emigrated with my father, shipping our combined household effects, livestock and farm machinery by boxcar.

When we arrived at our Canadian home, the house was located on the north quarter of 30-32-13, near a little creek, with a lovely spring well. Later it was moved to the south-west quarter, added to, and remodelled as the years went by, to its present size and appearance.

The Overton family moved into a sod house that year, and stayed for a year or so, but I can't recall its location. E. C. Massey and family, a sister and brother-in-law of mother's, were living on the half-section directly west of us. They bought the farm now known as the Greenway farm, and lived there until their return to Oklahoma. The Overton family then moved to the place vacated by the Masseys, lived there a few years, then moved to the house just south of us, staying there until they went to Oregon. Both of these houses were later torn down.

There were two colorful bachelors living near us. One, Bob, usually visited

each neighbor once a week, and was always available to lend a helping hand. I can't recall the name of the other one, but he owned the coal mine later owned by the Pahl family, I think. He was also a weekly visitor, and had many stories about the country in the early days. I can recall only one that he was fond of telling all newcomers about our wonderful chinooks.

He always started the story by recalling the day he drove the bobsleigh into Hanna. On his way home a chinook arrived, and his horses were soon wading [illegible] soft snow, the front bobs were running in water and slushy snow, the back bobs were in water and his dog was swimming behind.

All the home sites on the prairies in the early days had one thing in common, a fire guard all around the buildings, made by plowing ten or twelve furrows, as there was so much uncultivated land in those years, and prairie fires were always a grave danger. We never had any real close, but saw them in the distance several times.

Marian Wright, daughter Blanche and his team of mules, 1916.

In later years, as more and more land was cultivated and summerfallowed, the dust storm era began. I can remember walking home from school with my skirt over my face to enable me to breathe. After each dust storm the house would have to be cleaned. The window sills, floor and furniture were all covered with a thick layer of fine dust. The curtains and bedding nearly always had to be washed. These were very trying years, as there were very poor crops, little pasture land or garden produce. The farmers had to use different methods of farming to try to stop the loss of the rest of their topsoil, but it took many years.

Following this period, most of the old fire guards were planted to trees, supplied by the provincial government. The thinking was that it would help the soil erosion problem, and [illegible] certainly made the homes more attactive.

Dad did most of his work with horses and two mules which he had brought with him from Oklahoma, until the mid forties when he purchased his old John Deere tractor. Until the thirties he hauled most of his grain to the Bonar elevator, but after that he drove four horses hitched to two grain wagons to Hanna. He bought his Model T Ford in the early twenties. I have many pleasant memories of that car which I learned to drive when I was thirteen years old.

My chores consisted of bringing in the cows from the pasture, and helping mother with the housework, doing as much of the heavier work as time permitted, such as churning, washing clothes, mixing bread and carrying in water. During the harvest season [illegible] was my duty to milk the cows and separate the milk.

I think the days that we had the threshers at our place were very special days to all children; they were to me. It was all very exciting to watch the steam engine

pulling the separator, followed by a cook house, a bunk house, water wagon and all the racks, many driven by neighbors, go through the yard and into the field. Later steam engines were replaced by gas engines, then they and the separator and racks all gave way to the combines.

We had a farily good well beside the house, not too deep, but it supplied the house and livestock until it was spoiled by a company testing for oil. Many wells were spoiled in those years.

I started school at Solon in 1916. I don't remember who my first teacher was, but Annie Oke was a much-loved teacher in our early grades. I attended Alps school for a few years, finished up to grade nine at Solon, and took my high school at Hanna.

Mother and Dad moved into Hanna but continued to farm the land until they sold it in 1950. They moved to Vernon, B.C., where they spent their remaining years.

Mother loved the Okanagan Valley as it reminded her of her home in Illinois, but Dad longed to farm and was never content living in town.

My daughter Jean has so many happy memories of the summer holidays she spent with her grandparents on the farm. She and her family are living at Chilliwack, B.C.

My husband, Jim, and I have retired and live on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

TO COME OR GO

By Myrtle Whaley Metson

"Spring has sprung" said Mortimer Snurd
And I knew it was true by the voice of the bird
And a misty green hanging o'er the hills
Which my heart with homesick longing fills
For the hills of home and the crocus there
Bursting forth with its perfume rare
And to hear again the killdeer's cry
Ringing across the darkening sky.

But should I to that dear land go
There's something I'd miss, I surely know,
The touch of his hand — a voice so dear
The odor of the spruce in the evening air
The flicker's wild cry and the phoebe's call
Sheep bells ringing — I'd miss them all.
Still more, evening prayers together said
And a goodnight kiss ere we go to bed.

Oh life and love and laughter you see
Are bursting forth in this place for me
Though my heart may long to go
Back home to the land I used to know
Yet in this lovely spot I find
Security and peace of mind
And joy that can with none compare
A voice cries out "your home is here."

Written in the spring of 1944

THE OVERTON FAMILY, from information submitted by Velma Overton Harrison and Lucene Overton Papenfus — The Albert Overton family, numbering thirteen including Albert's brother Joe, left Oklahoma for Canada in October, 1914. Mr. Albert Overton accompanied the load of settlers' effects and the livestock, while the rest of the family travelled by passenger train to Hanna.

The first winter the family lived comfortably in a sod house which was warm and cosy but not too water-tight. The following spring they moved to Uncle E.C. Massey's place, SW 6-33-13. While they lived there, four of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie and Gladys attended Alps school. When Mr. Massey sold his place to Mr. R. Greenway, the Overtons took up residence on the NE 24-32-14. Mr. Overton leased this farm from Mr. Bob Gordon, who lived in Hanna.

While residing in the Solon district, Mr. Albert Overton mixed farming and did blacksmith work for himself and friends. His blacksmith shop was a sod shack. Mrs. Overton was a midwife in Hanna. Six of the children, Velma, Ruby, Charlie, Gladys, Lucene and Loyal attended school and Sunday school at Solon.

Overton's Sale, 1927. Back Row, left to right: Mrs. J. M. Taylor, Mrs. [illegible]. Pope, Mrs. A. Overton, Mrs. W. Giltner, Velma Overton. Front Row: Mrs. J. Rehill, unknown, Mrs. G. Paxman, Gladys Overton, Mrs. G. Crossfield and Billy, Mrs. Loveday and Bernice, Mrs. R. Greenway, Dennis and Joan, Mrs. C. Noyce.

Lucene recalls both pleasant and trying times during their stay in the area. There was a neighbor who, with Mr. Hugh McLaren, used to love to play cards with her dad. She recollects, "One time Dad and Dave had gone to Hanna. They were late coming home as they had had a few too many drinks. On the way home Dave had thrown his false teeth at a rabbit and couldn't find them. They went back the next day and were successful in finding them."

Lucene remembers the family going to Garden Plain for the Stampede every year, but always had to go home to do the milking and the chores, never getting to stay for the dance. "For other entertainment we would have pie and box socials at Solon and Alps. At Christmas we always had a large program at school. Times were hard. We never went hungry but we sure didn't have any luxuries; grew all our vegetables and everyone worked."

"Hanna was our post office. We got all our supplies in Hanna. Every fall, after we got the wheat money, we would send an order to T. Eaton's for shoes, underclothes and material. Mother made all our clothes."

Mr. and Mrs. Overton remained in the Solon district until 1927 when they sold out and went to Oregon. Mr. Albert Overton passed away in May, 1930, and his wife, America Overton, ten years later in May, 1940. His brother, Joe, died in 1943.

The eldest girl, Goldie Messenger, lives in Oklahoma. She is eighty-six. Cleta, who did not accompany the family to Canada but followed later, met and married

Joe Zehner. They operated a coal mine in the Dundee district until moving to Oregon in 1919. Cleta passed away in 1972.

Soon after their arrival in Canada, Sylvia was married to Loyal Bates in Hanna in December, 1914. She lived in Oregon until her passing in 1976.

Joe, the oldest boy and his wife Thelma lived at Klamath Falls, Oregon, until his passing in 1959.

Gertrude became an R.N. She took her training in Calgary and nursed for a time in the Hanna hospital. She later married Dr. R. Kines, and at present resides at Forest Grove, Oregon.

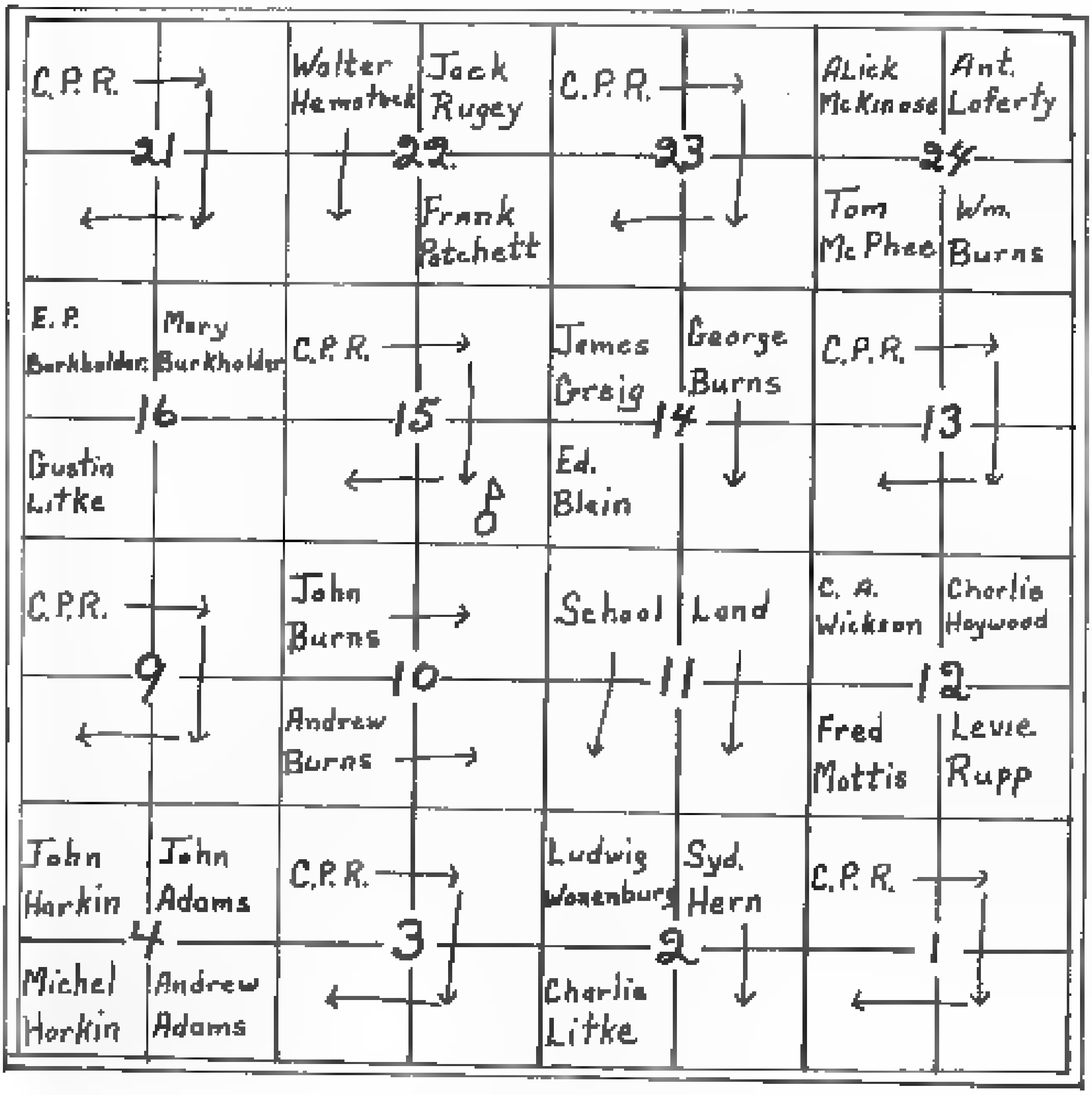
In 1923 Velma was married to Charles Harrison, who was working for the railroad in Hanna. She is now living in Terrace, B.C.

Ruby lives in Sandy, Oregon.

Charlie and his wife, Mabel, lived at Crescent Lake, Oregon, until their passing. Charlie died in January, 1975.

Gladys who at one time was correspondent to the Hanna Herald for the Solon news, and her husband, Ernie, live in Salem, Oregon. Lucene and her husband, Albert, reside in Union, Oregon. Loyal passed away in 1972.

GRASSY SLOPE No. 3993



TWP. 32, R. 1[illegible]

OWNERS AND RENTERS TOWNSHIPS 32 AND 33 RANGE 13

N.W.-1-32-13
Dan Mattis
Belle Mattis
Don Mattis

N.W.-3-32-13
Burkholder
N.H. Thomas

N.E.-4-32-13
Doering
Vossler

S.E.-4-32-13
Adams
Wayne Faupel

S.E.-9-32-13
Ed Blain
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.W.-10-32-13
Jack Noonan
Carl Tetz
George Jess
Ted Jess

E-4-32-13
George Burns
Harvey Waters
George Mattey

N.W.-14-32-13
Walters
Ed Blain

S.W.-14-32-13
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-15-32-13
Bill Knapp
Quast
Jim Bryce
Fred Cook
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.E.-16-32-13
Burkholder
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

S.W.-16-32-13
Gustave Litke
B. Howery
Harold Kautz

N.W.-21-32-13
[illegible]. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-21-32-13
David Oke
Fred Wiese
Dan Kautz
R. Kautz

N.E.-21-32-13
A. Crowe
George Thomas
Jim Kennedy
Dan Mattis
Don Mattis

S.E.-21-32-13
D. Sinclair
J.J. Rehill
R.J. Rehill

N.W.-22-32-13
Ramsay
Walter Hemstock
Fred Pahl
Alfred Pahl
Ted Jess

N.E.-22-32-13
Jack Ruguy
R. Fano
George Thomas
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.E.-22-32-13
Frank Patchett
R. Fano
George Thomas
George Jess
Ted Jess

S.W.-27-32-13
Gingra
A. Crowe
Clyde Block
Elmer Honglste
R. Rehill
C. Rehill
Ken Rehill

S-28-32-13
Jim Burns
J.J. Rehill
Louisa Rehill
R.J. Rehill

S.W.-29-32-13
Glover
Clarence Dafoe
Charlie Brown
[illegible]. Hemstock
Coal Mines

N.E.-32-32-13
R. Hemstock
Shorty Bossert
Gordon Boyd

N.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
Wm. Glover
Keith Williams
Wes Thomas
Bill Greenwood
Otto Pahl
Alfred Pahl
R. Kautz

N.W.-35-32-13
S. Grimes
Sam Doering
Carl Tetz
Ben Welch

S.W.-34-32-13
C.A. Wickson
S. Grimes
Wm. Johnston
George Thomas
Otto Pahl
Leonard Faupel
[illegible]. Kautz

N.W.-36-32-13
Jim Doncaster
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.W.-12-33-13
Jim Wilds

N.W.-12-33-13
J.S. Larder
S.W.-2-33-13
G. Aune
Ervin Cox
Benny Weller
Cliff Doncaster
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.E.-3-33-13
Tom Hoodless

S.E.-4-33-13
W.R. Greenwood
George Callaghan
Ed Weller
Laverne Heidinger

S.E.-4-33-13
Peter Boyd
Elmer Gross
Dan Buckwitz

N.W.-10-33-13
Mike Riis
Jim Cuthbert

N.E.-10-33-13
Wm. Goldsbury
Dave Temple
Henry Mattis
Art Standing

GRASSY SLOPE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill

The Board of Grassy Slope school district, Messrs Blain, Oke, Mattie, Noonan and Rehill, chose a lovely spot to erect their school in 1922. There was a lot of good green prairie wool in those days; and the school was so named because there was a green slope on the north side of a hill, with a creek at the bottom, and a large grove of trees. It soon became a favorite picnicing area, and people would come for miles to the annual school picnics. One summer they even had a bucking horse contest. Hardball games between local teams or against Hanna or Garden Plain were well attended.

Several political meetings were held in the school building, which was also used as a polling booth on election days. The school closed in 1948.

Teachers at Grassy Slope were: Wes Oke, Elsie Turtle, Gwen Rose, Elma Tingle, Miss Fitzgerald, Thelma Fisher, Dorothy Limpert, Irene Rickett, Betty Davies, Alice Bauer, Mary Hickey, Virginia Thomas, Esther Robinson, Mildred Walker, Eleanor Bauer and Dorothy Dawson.

TEACHING IN COUNTRY SCHOOLS, By Gwen Rose Rehill — I made my first appearance [illegible] the Hanna district in the fall of 1926 when I started teaching at the Grassy Slope school, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Blain who lived about two miles from it.

Two incidents while I was there come to mind.

One day when I went up to Mr. George Mattey's to get my cheque signed, Mr. Tom Harley, a garage man from Hanna, had just delivered to Matteys a new Ford coach. He was showing Mr. Mattey how to put the car in the garage when to our surprise the car went right through the end of the garage, heading straight for us at forty miles an hour. Mrs. Mattey ran to get out of the way but was run over by her husband. Luckily there were no bones broken, but she suffered bruises and shock.

Another time a bad storm came up during school hours, so several parents arrived to take the pupils home in sleighs. Along came Mr. Blain on horseback with a rope, to 'lead' me back to my boarding place. Fortunately for me the Rehills took me in their sleigh to their home for the night.

In the fall of 1928 I accepted an offer, with a raise in pay, to teach at Dundee. As the school was not quite completed, the Rehills, where I was to board, offered me their front room as a classroom until the school was completed in October.

Greenwoods moved up from Munson the fall of 1929 and built their house across from the school. Wilbert often lit the fire at the school, and it was nothing to find a mouse either under the bell or in the desk drawer. This was only one of the many pranks that were played on me, [illegible] in good fun.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rehill and son Reg.

Gwen Rose, teacher at Grassy Slope, 1927.

My next stop was Meadowlands school in the fall of 1930, boarding with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Flood. After teaching there a year I was asked to return at [illegible] salary of $850 a year, as times were hard. The next February, 1932, the Board asked me to accept [illegible] salary of $750 [illegible] year for the next five months, due to financial difficulties. This I did.

Mollie McMullen Bury and I were very good friends during those years so in

the fall of 1933 we decided to teach adjoining schools south of Hanna, Mollie at Lone Butte boarding with Youngs while I went to Dalkeith and boarded at Hartts.

Bill Rehill and I were married in August, 1934, and went to live at Redland where Bill was a buyer for the Searle Grain Company. While we were there, Reg and Don were born. Bill was transferred to the Searle Grain Elevator in Morrin in July, 1938, and our daughter Esme was born in December of that year.

Reg and Sue, living in Edmonton, have two boys and one girl. Don and Joan and their three boys live in Cranbrook. Esme and Jim Schow live in Morrin and have two girls and one boy.

Bill and I are now retired and are living in Morrin.

THE JAMES BURNS FAMILY, By Kenneth Burns — James and Margaret Burns and their eight sons came west to Didsbury in 1901. They lived in a government tent in Didsbury for a month while a house was being built on their farm six miles east of town. They lived there for three years and then moved to a block of six homesteads, eight miles farther east on the Lone Pine Creek. The younger boys finished their schooling there, and in 1912 James Burns, his wife and sons Will, Spencer and Charles, came to the Hanna area where another son, George, had started farming in 1910. They settled on SW 28-32-13 and built the house and farm buildings on the farm now owned by Bob Rehill.

Jim Burns and his prize Shorthorn cattle. This is the Burns farm now known as the Rehill home. This was taken in 1918.

Jim Burns was an enthusiastic Shorthorn breeder and in time established a good purebred herd. He sold bulls at the Calgary Spring Sale and in 1915 took the champion ribbon and a silver medal with one of his entries.

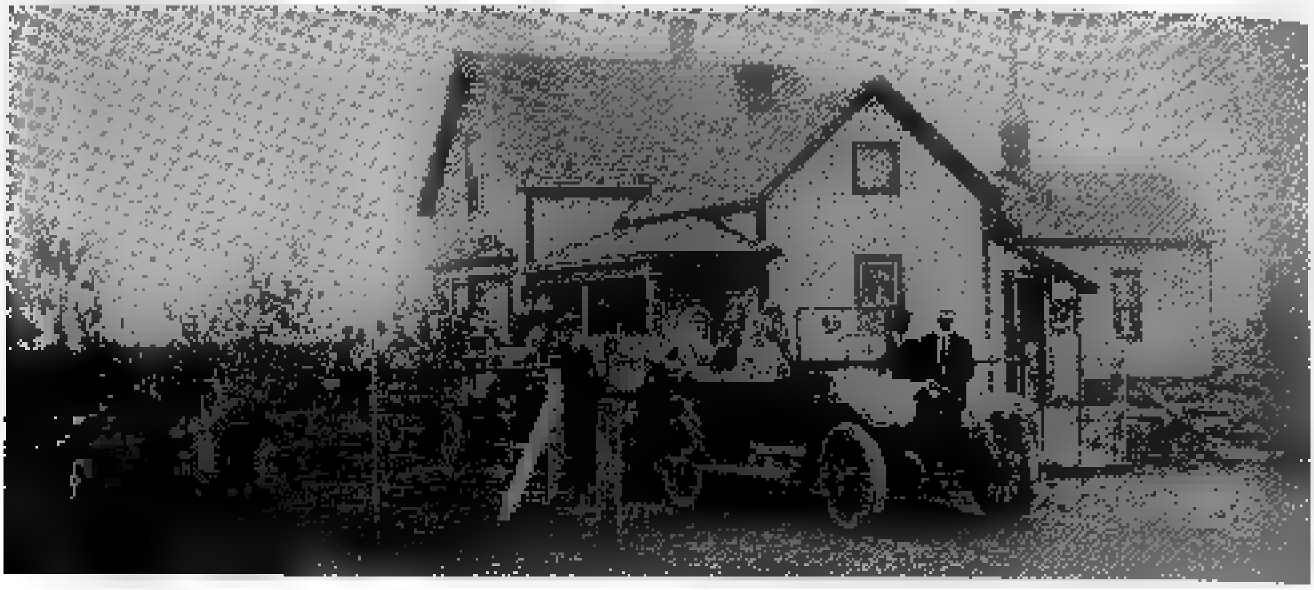
The Burns family took an active interest in community affairs and for some time church services were held in their home, conducted by Mr. David Oke, who had been trained in the Methodist ministry. Mr. Oke and his family were neighbors on the next farm south.

In 1917 James Burns bought a McLaughlin car and at age sixty-five he learned to drive it. He never felt too confident behind the wheel so left most of the driving to the boys.

Their son, Will, completed high school, and after attending Normal School, he taught until he and Spencer joined the armed forces. They were still in Calgary

when the 1918 flu broke out. Will took the flu and died very shortly afterwards.

Following the war, Spencer and Charles worked with their father until he sold out. Spencer married Loraine Hartt [illegible] 1922 and they farmed for many years [illegible] the Watts area. Charles married May Ramsay in 1925, bought land south of Lloydminster and farmed there until Charles died in 1939.



This is a group of people taken after church service, at Jim Burns home, 1917.

James Burns sold his farm in the fall of 1920. He and his wife returned to Didsbury to live. They spent a few winters in Victoria while Grandad was still able to travel. He died in 1926 and his wife in 1930. Their farm was first sold to a man named Clarke and a year later was bought by Bob Rehill's father.

All the sons of James and Margaret Burns are now deceased.

G. Burns first house and barn built in 1912.

GEORGE BURNS AT HANNA 1910-1921, By Kenneth Burns — Our Dad, George Burns, drove through the area north [illegible] Hanna by team and buggy in 1909. The land was being opened up for settlement, and the Calgary-Saskatoon line of the C.N.R. was being built. It looked like [illegible] promising location and he acquired the east half of 14-32-13. I believe this was scrip land, at about three dollars an acre, and he was able to lease another section of school land adjoining it.

In the spring of 1910 Dad and one of his brothers left Didsbury with a carload of settlers' effects and went to Castor, where they unloaded and hauled their belongings to the new home site, about twelve miles north-east of where the town of Hanna was later built.

They built a sod shack and started to break the land. Dad often told us of the problems of working with oxen, and of the flies and mosquitoes. As the days grew hotter he found it necessary to start work at dawn and stop during the heat of the day, hitching up again when it cooled off, and working till dark.

During the summers of 1910-11-12 he was able to get considerable breaking done, as well as building a 16' x 16' cottage and a small barn. In December, 1912, he went to Didsbury where he and Alice Crowe were married. She had come west in 1905 and taught schools in the areas of Fort Macleod, Carstairs, Didsbury and

Lacombe. Following their wedding, Dad and Mother visited their former homes in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and arrived back in Alberta to settle on the farm in early 1913. The older three of our family, myself, Douglas and Marjorie were born at Hanna. Harold was born later at Didsbury.

The period from 1912-1917 was a time of great farm development in the area. Good crops and high grade wheat were common. The timely rains and excellent harvest of 1915 made it a banner year. Dad had a large acreage in wheat and like many others had difficulty in getting elevator space or cars to move the crop to market. In the fall of 1916, after a very wet season, all sorts of devices were used on binders to get them over the wet ground. Dad, and others around, bought four horsepower Cushman engines and mounted them on the rear of their binders to run the mechanism, so that the horses could pull them through the muddy fields. These engines and other wet field aids were never needed again. Starting in 1917, the seasons were very dry for several years.

This is the G. Burns farm taken in 1918. It is now owned by Fred Fecho.

Dad bought his first car in 1917, a McLaughlin six touring model. This provided some relief from the long trips by cutter and buggy, though many times when the snow was deep they had to revert back to horse power. There were many hazards to pioneer motoring. Tire punctures and blowouts, broken springs and mudholes marked many trips. For the most part, however, those early cars got people through and occasionally Dad made hurried trips for the doctor for someone before rural phones came in.

I understand that Dad and John Feupel, among others, made trips to Edmonton in 1917 or 1918 to petition the government for rural phones. The first rural phone lines north of Hanna were built in 1919 or 1920.

Dad had a horse shelter on another quarter, a mile from home. A man named Williams was caught in a storm and turned in there just as the roof blew off. It landed on his buggy. Somehow he managed to get on one of his horses and rode into our place just at dusk. Dad and mother took him in and the next day fixed a makeshift bed in the car and took him to the doctor in Hanna. He was found to have an upper leg fracture and was in hospital for many months.

During 1916-17 Dad bought a carload of fir lumber at $17.00 per thousand and built a large Ontario style barn with a driveway up into the hayloft. Grain storage was also built into the loft and a power windmill was put on the roof to run a grain grinder. As well as grain growing, Dad had a fair sized herd of cattle, and all the farm work was done with horses.

Several of Dad's brothers helped him on the farm, as did Mother's brothers, Francis and Aubrey Crowe. Alex McKinnon from Nova Scotia also worked with Dad for three years until he joined the armed forces and went overseas.

Some of my earliest recollections are of many neighbors gathering at our home and singing round the piano, especially at Christmas time. Our mother was a talented pianist and had a fine collection of old favorite music. Box socials,

concerts and dances were an important part of community social life. Sometime during 1917 or 1918, following a community picnic, there was a big barn dance in the loft of our newly completed barn. I remember there were two Negro singers with banjos entertaining before the dance started. Whole families went to these social events. Those who were too young to stay awake were bundled into coats or blankets and left to sleep while the fun went on.

Dad and his brother John had five quarters of land east of Didsbury, which John farmed alone until 1921, when Dad sold out and we came to Didsbury. Harvey Waters of Morrin bought our farm and a year later it was sold to George Mattle. They lived there many years, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fecho, the present owners.

I recall that all of us were very sorry to leave the Hanna district. We had many good friends there, as well as in the town. Dad often spoke of the very fine group of businessmen in Hanna, in particular Herb McCrea and the Hanna Herald which he founded and edited. The Herald was a real booster for Hanna and district.

My brother Doug and I, with my family, still live on the farm we came to in 1921. Marjorie and Harold are both married and live with their families in Didsbury and Edmonton, respectively. Mother died in 1931, and Dad in 1941.

THE JOHN FAUPEL STORY, By Freda Faupel Petzer — My father came from Ontario in 1910 and filed on his land. He sent a postcard to my mother telling her that when he got to the Land Office at five o'clock in the morning, there were forty-eight men ahead of him. The country was quite wild and dad slept with a revolver under his pillow. I believe Leonard still has it.

The folks moved to Alberta in 1912. Mom stayed at Didsbury and dad came with his 'settlers' effects' to Stettler. He had a team of horses, a cow, a dog, his wagon and machinery and seventy-five dollars in cash.

Luther was born in 1910 in Ontario and I arrived in 1914, right on the homestead. I didn't know until I received my birth certificate that one of my names was 'Alberta'. One of my first recollections was when Leonard was born. Al Sales got Dr. Wade out for the event, and Annie Oke came to help mom for a while. That was in 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. John Faupel and family. Leonard, Freda, Catherine, Luther. Mr. and Mrs. Faupel.

Mom always boarded the teachers and we had a hired man during the summer months. There seemed to be something going on most of the time, what with breaking horses and branding cattle and all the chores. In the fall the farmers hauled coal from Brown's mine, and a good number of them stopped at our place. Mom could always find something to eat for them. I don't believe anyone ever left our home hungry.

Dad had a nice team and a top buggy and we used to go places in style. Luther and I sat behind the dash and when the horses switched their tails we were switched too. We used that same buggy minus the top to go to school. It lasted for all of us and must have gone many thousands of miles.

We got most of our education at Maunders and in later years at Grassy Slope. Luther and Kay went to Hanna also.

These were hard times. Mother baked bread for the bachelors, and made butter and sold it for twelve cents a pound to help buy groceries.

We lived through drought. I remember John Bye saying as the clouds rolled by, "They must be the empties going home."

Grasshoppers also. The government gave us some poison to mix for them. Dad mixed it and spread it around with his bare hands; he lost all his nails and was lucky not to have lost his fingers also.

And army worms. We dug ditches around the garden and filled them with water. Some worms drowned but others crawled on. At one time the house was a green crawling mass. There were worms everywhere, and when they were gone there was no foliage left. The wheat was far enough advanced that they hadn't damaged the heads.

And hail storms too. We had a nasty one in the thirties. Mr. Jess was helping us with his swather and header. It was hot and the storm came up real fast. One team ran away with the rake but we got behind a stack with the rest. The hailstones were big and where they hit they left welts. Albert Ergezinger was working for us and he had a dandy on his head. Needless to say harvest was over.

When we got home Mom was wading through the slush gathering up half-grown chickens in a washtub. We took them into the kitchen and most of them survived, but the kitchen was a mess, to say the least.

And then there were the dust storms. I think they were the worst of all. It would get so dark around four o'clock that the chickens would go to roost and we would have to light the lamps. There was dust and grime everywhere. We had to put the dishes upside down or wash them again before we could eat.

Dad always had cattle and water was a problem. I remember the wells that he dug. One was right near the house and when we went out in the morning we discovered that a horse had wandered by and fallen in. With a good deal of difficulty and lots of help we managed to pull him out alive. I guess we were lucky that it was another dry hole. Later Dad made a dugout.

In those days it took a whole day to go to town, either Hanna or Richdale, and there was a good deal of excitement when Dad came home. He usually managed to buy us a few candies, and they were a special treat.

My sister Catherine (Kay) was born in 1925. She weighed only four pounds and was a real live doll for all of us. Only Leonard's nose was out of joint. He said, "I don't know why we had to have her; we've enough kids around here now." Kay married Dennis James and lives in Edmonton.

Leonard married Martha Tetz. He lives on the home place and is talking of retiring.

Luther married Tilly Kennedy. He was in the Air force, then built and ran the

Jubilee Service Station. He was Mayor of Hanna for a time. He passed on in 1969 and his wife is deceased also.

I married Arthur Patzer and we farmed his home place for ten years. We sold out and bought the Hanna Garage but in 1951 decided to farm again. We bought at Carbon and were there for fifteen years, and then retired to Okotoks. Arthur died in 1973.

Mom and Dad farmed till 1939 and then retired to Hanna. After a full and eventful life they both passed on, Mom on Christmas Day in 1952, and Dad in the fall of 1953.

Road work in 1926. Norman Oke, Mr. Rehill.

THE STORY OF DAVID OKE, By Annie Oke Ramsey — Our parents, David and Nora Oke, farmed in Manitoba until 1913 when they moved to Medicine Hat. Four years later they bought a farm in the Grassy Slope school district, and moved there in the fall of 1917. The family consisted of five boys, Charles, Wesley, Harold, Albert, Norman, and one girl, Annie. The oldest boy, Charles, was serving his country in France during World War I when we moved there.

What a rough, jolting ride it was on the railway from Calgary to Hanna. Our new home was a very humble edifice with none of the modern conveniences, even water for drinking and daily use was hauled some distance. We were careful not to waste water. For fuel, we burned coal, I think lignite, which the farmers hauled from the surface mines not many miles away.

The days of the oxen were over; we used horses for transportation. The first car in the area was owned by James Burns, our near neighbor, who owned the farm later sold to John J. Rehill, now operated by Robert J. Rehill.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Burns was opened for divine worship. Our father, David Oke, worked hard all week, but Sunday to him was the Lord's Day. Mr. and Mrs. Burns shared the same belief, so father preached in their living room to the assembled friends and neighbors.

Later, church and Sunday school services were held in Grassy Slope school. Father also conducted services at Solon school, and I taught school at both Solon and Maunders in 1918 and 1919.

Farming was a precarious existence due to the many years of drought. Many farmers found that raising livestock was more dependable as there was a lot of land that could be leased for grazing.

Near neighbors of ours were Mr. and Mrs. William Ramsay who rented land from Walter Hemstock for a few years. In 1925 I married their son, Henry, and we moved to the United States, residing now in Minneapolis. My brothers, too, are scattered. Charles started farming in Manitoba; Wesley and Albert became school teachers; Harold was agent for International Harvester in Didsbury, and Norman went into the ministry.

Our parents stayed on the farm until 1936. Due to our mother's ill health and father's advancing years, it seemed better for them to retire. Mother passed away in 1943, Father in 1947.

First man not known, Mrs. Mattie and Mr. Mattie.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE MATTIE, By Bob Rehill — George Mattie batched for a number of years on the east half of 14-32-13. Then he hired a housekeeper from Calgary and a year later they were married.

George was very interested in politics, and formed one of the first Social Credit groups in the district. The members met every month, holding their meetings in the different members' houses.

One spring he decided to buy a Ford car. The salesman, Tom Harley, delivered the car and George decided to take it, and Tom, for a drive. When they returned he decided to put the car right in the garage, which was at one side of the lane. When he got in the garage he yelled, "Whoa, whoa!" but the Ford didn't stop and went right out the other end of the building. George turned the car back down the lane, but his wife and Gwen Rose were standing there watching. He couldn't stop the car and his wife couldn't get out of the way fast enough and he ran over her. By this time Tom had managed to take over the controls and stopped it. George was really upset as he thought he had killed his wife, but she wasn't badly hurt, just two broken ribs and shock. They kept the car.

George farmed until 1940 when he sold the farm to Fred Fecho. Mr. and Mrs. Mattie retired to Calgary where they both passed away.

STORY OF GUSTAVE LITKE, By Rose Litke Howery — Gustave Litke was born in Russia, of German parentage in 1855. He and his wife and four children, Fred, Bertha, Charlie and Asa, immigrated to Canada in 1898 and settled at Steinbeck, Manitoba. Shortly thereafter his wife died and in 1900 he married Katherine Serfas. They had two sons, John and Sam. In 1903 they moved to Port Hammond, B.C., and two years later a daughter, Mary, arrived.

In 1906 they moved to Leduc, settling on raw, unbroken land. When the brush was cleared the seed was broadcast by hand, cut with a scythe, and flailed to separate the grain from the straw. Two more children, Rose and Dan, were born at Leduc.

In the spring of 1910 we moved to our homestead north-east of Hanna, the SW 28-32-13. Only our most essential belongings were shipped by rail to Castor . . . stoves, dishes, bedding, mother's spinning wheel and father's tools, several head of cattle, two oxen and one horse. We were met in Castor by a neighbor who loaded everything in his wagon and we set out over the rough prairie trails to our new home.

Dad and brother Asa had come on ahead several weeks before to erect a house. It poured rain all the way from Castor so we were glad to hear the neighbor, Mr. Treft, say, "There's your new home."

Fuel was quite a problem. We gathered all the dead trees from the brush patches. Dried buffalo chips were a great help to keep the fires burning.

Our first barn was made of sod, topped with poles and sod for a roof. It was nice and warm during the winter, but an awful mess in wet weather.

Dad broke the land with oxen and a walking plow. We all pitched in and

helped pick rocks and hauled them away on a stone boat. Dad had harness and lines to drive the oxen. The collars were buckled below the neck.

In 1912 another son, James, was born.

We got our mail at Fertility Post Office at first, and later on at French's. I think it was near the place where Harry Lumsden lives. We hauled our drinking water in a wooden barrel on a stoneboat from Adams, a mile and a half away.

We attended school at Solon. Mr. Frederickson was my first teacher. Pupils attending then were the Whaleys, Burns, Pedersons and Litkes. The school term was usually from March first to December 30. We had over two miles to go and during mosquito season it was agony. We wore large brimmed hats with mosquito netting around them for protection for our face and neck, but for us girls there was no protection for our legs, as no lady wore trousers or slacks in those days.

Everyone travelled across country as there were no roads or fences to guide them. Many times in the winter people would get caught in a blizzard and become lost. Generally they depended on their team to find their way home, as a good trail team would not leave the trail and would generally find the way home or to someone else's buildings. My brother Asa and Dad had a horn made out of a cow horn, that they blew on cold or stormy nights. This could be heard for miles and many times people who knew the sound of the horn would follow it and it would guide them home.

In 1914 our sister, Martha, was born, and in 1916 our sister Hannah. When Hannah was only nine months old my Dad passed away at the age of sixty-two years. In 1923 Mother remarried and moved to Crossfield; later moving to Calgary where she died in 1942. Three of her children are also gone. Sam died unmarried in 1946. John died in 1973, leaving his wife and four children. Martha passed away in 1964. She was married to Art Roberts and left four children.

Mary lives at Grand Forks, B.C. Dan, James and Hannah are all married and living at Forestburg. Rose married Howard Howery and they and three of their four sons live in Hanna.

We often pass the old homestead and recall many memories, some good and some not so good. We remember how plentiful and delicious the wild strawberries were . . . and the mushrooms. No one could cook them like my mother did.

We have made several moves since we were married, but always drift back to Hanna. As far as I am concerned, this is home.

MR. and MRS. ED BLAIN, By Bob Rehill — Mr. and Mrs. Blain homesteaded in the Grassy Slope School district on the SW 14-32-13. He was one of the early settlers.

Mr. Blain served his community as Municipal Councillor and road foreman. When Grassy Slope School was built in 1924 he was secretary of the local school board. He was a member of the rural telephone company and of the Grassy Slope snow plow club. He often acted as Master of Ceremonies for the school Christmas concerts.

Mrs. Blain was an active member of her church and of various ladies' groups. School teachers boarded at the Blain home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blain sold their farm to Alfred Pahl and returned to Barrie, Ontario, where they both passed away.

DAN MATTIS and FAMILY, By Belle Thomas Mattis — Dan was born in Leduc on September 17, 1901. He came to the Hanna area with his parents and three brothers, Albert, Fred and Henry, and sister Martha, and settled in the

Centre Point district where the boys attended school.

Dan had a farm in the Grassy Slope school district. He lived on the NW 1-32-13. On September 25, 1929, Dan and I were married. We had three children. One son, Miles, passed away in February, 1952 at the age of twenty-one. Dolores married Clarence Raugust of the Red Rose district and has four daughters and one son. Don and his wife have two sons and one daughter; they have taken over the farm now.

The children attended Grassy Slope school until it closed, then went to Maunders. In later years a school bus took them to Spondin.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mattis and family. Delores, Belle, Dan, Miles and Don.

In the earlier years Dan had a threshing outfit and threshed the neighbors' crops as well as his own. When it began to get hard to find men and teams and wagons to haul bundles, he bought a combine. The thirties were hard years but we all enjoyed the picnics and concerts that were put on.

Dan passed away in October, 1966. I remained on the farm until the fall of 1975 when I moved to Hanna.

MR. and MRS. JACK NOONAN, By Bob Rehill — Jack Noonan, a World War I veteran, and his wife lived on the north half of 10-32-13 in the Grassy Slope district. They had two daughters, Theresa and Christina.

Mrs. Noonan passed away in the early twenties, and Mr. Noonan hired a housekeeper, Mrs. Magee, a widow with two sons, Walter and George, and a daughter Vera. All the children attended Grassy Slope school.

Grassy Slope School Class, 1924. Walter Magee, Bob Rehill, Elsie Rehill, Dorothy Rehill.

Several years later Mr. Noonan and Mrs. Magee were married. In the early thirties they sold the farm and retired to the west coast. They have both passed away now.

MR. and MRS. KARL TETZ SR., By Martha Tetz Faupel — In April of 1934 I moved with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz, from Three Hills to the Noonan farm in the Grassy Slope district. I was the youngest of a family of seven and in grade eight. A niece of mine was staying with us to go to school and she was in grade one. It was through Reverend Finkbeiner that we heard of this place, and with the help of Mr. George Jess we were able to get a crop in.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Tetz Sr., Martha (Tetz) Faupel.

As we lived close to the school we had most of the teachers boarding with us for the next few years, and this helped put food on the table. The teachers were Irene Rickett, Alice Bauer, Eleanor Bauer, Dorothy Dawson and Mary Hickey.

In 1939 we left the farm and moved into Hanna. Mrs. Tetz passed away in 1961 and Mr. Tetz in 1966.

I married Leonard Faupel in 1941 and we still live on his father's homestead. Our son Wayne lives on the original Trefz homestead and our daughter Lynette is in her last year of school.

GEORGE and CAROLINA JESS, By Ted Jess and Ida Jess Banco — George (Gotthilf) Jess moved to a homestead near Leader, Saskatchewan with his parents when he was eleven years old. Carolina Tetz and her parents moved into the same area at about the same time. This is where they later met and were married in 1920.

In 1926 the young couple and their two children, Ted and Ida, moved to the Three Hills district, and three years later settled in the Maunders district, north-east of Hanna. By this time another daughter, Clara, had joined the family. Ted and Ida attended Maunders school, where Miss McMullen was the teacher. While they lived on the Sayles place at Maunders, their fourth child, Ella, was born.

In 1934 the Jess family moved to the Grassy Slope district and lived on the Walters farm for many years. Ted and Ida attended Centre Point school for three months, driving a horse and cart. Mr. Evans was the teacher. That fall Grassy Slope school was opened, and then they went there.

George and Carolina used to tell of many experiences they had as children growing up in pioneer days . . . living in sod houses, the absence of schools, prairie fires, walking many miles to bring in livestock which had strayed because there were no fences, the shortage of meat, hauling grain with wagons to the nearest elevator seventy-five miles away, and plowing with oxen and wooden plows. And they often spoke of the years when they, like other young couples, were trying to survive the depression.

In 1949 George and Carolina retired to Hanna, where Carolina still lives. George passed away in 1971.

Geo. Jess family. Mr. Jess, Mrs. Jess, Ida, Ted, Ella and Clara.

Ida Jess, Ted Jess, Ella Jess, Clara Jess, 1936.

Ted, the only son, took over the farm in 1949. He married Irene Heller and they have one daughter Bonnie. She is married to George Kautz and lives on a farm near her parents.

Ida Jess married Walter Banco in 1944. They farmed in the Ponoka area for thirty years; in 1974 they sold the farm to their son Don and moved into the town of Ponoka. They have two sons and two daughters.

Clara Jess married Otto Motz and lives in the Spondin area. They have three sons.

Ella Jess married Elmer Menke; they make their home at Vermilion where Elmer is a C.N.R. agent. They have three sons at home.

Memories are precious things,
Back to mind so much they bring,
Days of childhood with Mom and Dad,
One now gone, which makes us sad.

Mom and Dad different stories told
Of days when they too weren't old
Living in sod houses, no school to attend,
Helping to plow, plant, work to no end.

We kids in our turn had many a chore,
Wood to chop, coal to get, scrub the floor;
Chicks to lock in with old mother hen,
Pigs to slop, cows to milk, no machine then.

Walking across fields on a cold winter's day,
Lost at times as snow swept over the way,
To arrive in time at a prairie school
An education to get, one of life's tools.

Later, horse and buggy racing down the road,
Neighbor kids along to make a big load.
Don't tell Dad or a lecture we'd get
But fun it was, makes us smile even yet.

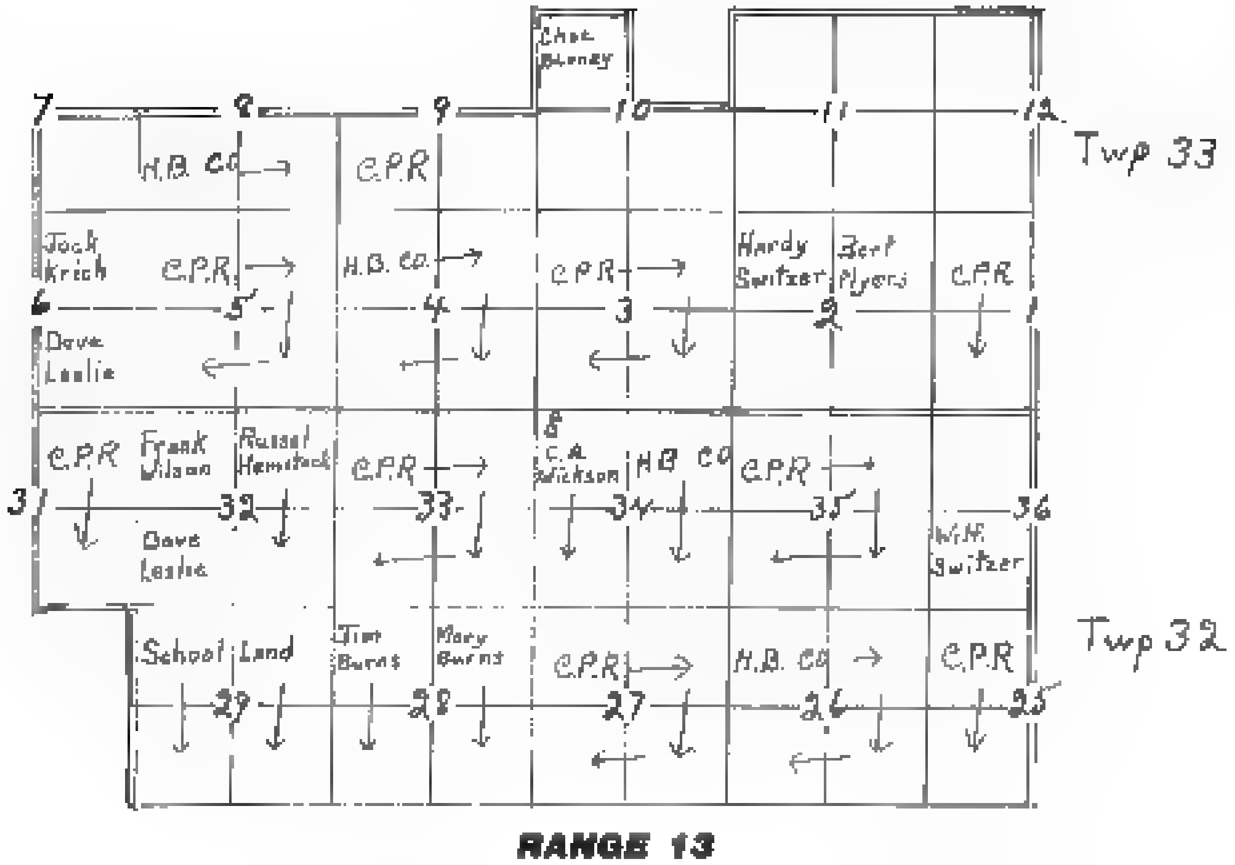
Swimming in dugouts, sliding on ice,
Riding horses to visit friends so nice;
Life then was a much different kind
To what we and our children have in mind.

A header Dad used to reap the grain,
Short crops cut close yield more to gain;
Nice neat stacks all over the place
Waiting for threshers, the weather they'd race.

Now we as adults are scattered far round,
Times again have changed, new ways are found;
But our ancestors' struggles were not in vain,
We appreciate your efforts; it's been our gain.

By Ida Jess Banco

DUNDEE No. 4326



DUNDEE SCHOOL

By Bob Rehill

Dundee School - 1930

Dundee school was built in the summer of 1928. Mr. Williams was the carpenter, and Mr. George Taylor and Mr. Jones did the painting.

School board members were Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Crowe, Mr. Rehill and Mr. Grimes. Mrs. Hemstock chose the name for the school, after a city in Scotland.

The building wasn't completed in time for fall classes to be held there, so Rehill's residence was used as a classroom until the school was ready.

Just west of the school in a pasture across from Greenwood's buildings, there was a ball diamond. Softball games were held there every Sunday and Wednesday evenings during the summer, and once in a while both teams and spectators would finish the day with ice cream and lunch at Greenwood's.

Telephone Company annual meetings and municipal elections were held at the school, as well as the usual concerts and dances.

Teachers at Dundee were: Gwen Rose, Hilda Herman, Mrs. Sidney Grimes, Mr. Vic Trenaman, Berna Leggatt, Kathleen Eckeles, Olga Walli, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mrs. Lillian Bye, and Jack McLaren.

Dundee school operated until the early fifties.

Mr. and Mrs. Russel Hemstock's 50th Anniversary. Back row: Allan and Dianne Hemstock, Leo and Margaret Pearce, Alex and Emily Hemstock. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hemstock seated.

RUSSELL HEMSTOCK, By Annie Hemstock — James Russell Hemstock was born in Ontario in 1891. Russell's father owned and operated a mill, but the constant dust there did not agree with Russell, so he finally left home in 1909. He came west to work for his older brother, Walter, who had taken a homestead north-east of Hanna. When Walter decided to go farther north, Russell bought his land, the north-west quarter of 20-32-13. In 1915 he ordered lumber from Vancouver to build a house, and as the crop was good that year, he exchanged a carload of wheat for the load of lumber.

Eventually, he came home to Chatsworth, Ontario, to find a wife. I had just finished my course at University, and decided that homemaking would be much more rewarding than teaching, especially in a new home on a prairie farm. So we were married on June 13, 1918, and had our trip west by C.P.R. as our honeymoon!

The prairie did look very bare for a while, but Russell soon had a few hundred trees growing around the buildings, gifts of the Provincial government. (It wasn't Social Credit then). We named our farm 'Braeside', which means 'on the hill' in Scottish.

One of the advantages of our new district was the abundance of coal, which the farmers sometimes mined for themselves, paying only a minimal sum to the government. Russell operated one such mine. Obtaining water was sometimes a problem, as much of it was very alkaline, but eventually, most farmers found good wells or built cisterns for rain-water.

Another advantage of the district was that Braeside was on a mail route, with delivery once or twice a week. Saturdays were usually our shopping day at Hanna which was sixteen miles away. As far as church was concerned, we usually had at least one service a month from various denominations at a local school.

Our first child, Alex, was born in 1921 in the old Hanna hospital, which consisted of seven or eight small rooms. Margaret was born in 1926 and Allan in 1932 in the new, very modern hospital.

The school problem came up eventually; the nearest one was four and a half miles away. However, just two and a half miles away, were the Rehill children, and Bob Rehill was old enough to drive. So for that year Alex rode a big black saddle horse, Floss, to Rehill's and drove with them in their democrat to school. I thought I had never seen such a small boy on such a big horse as the morning when I waved good-bye to Alex and his lunchpail. There were lessons at home in the winter, and the next year brought a new school, Dundee.

Those were happy years until we realized that neither Alex nor Allan wanted to farm, and Margaret had fallen in love with an engineer. So we sold the farm and moved to Calgary in 1955. Alex had married and was living in the city by that time.

Russell passed away on December 23, 1970, and since that time I have continued living in our home.

MR. and MRS. JAMES DONCASTER, By Elizabeth Doncaster — James Doncaster was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1887. He came to Canada in 1910 and bought [illegible] quarter-section of land at Cochrane, but stayed there just a few months before returning to live and work in Calgary and area for seven years.

In the spring of 1918 he travelled by team and rack to Hanna where he bought a half-section of land approximately one mile south of Wild's home. He built a lumber and sod shack about twelve by twelve.

He met Elizabeth Wild; they were married in Calgary on July 23, 1919. They returned to Jim's farm, living in the shack while Jim built their two-storey home. Some years later they added [illegible] large kitchen and another bedroom. They had five children: Edna, Leone, Clifford, Evelyn and Shirley.

Jim recalls paying one hundred dollars for one cow in 1919, and in the thirties having to sell six three-year-old steers at fifteen dollars each in order to purchase winter clothes for the children. At another time he paid twelve cents [illegible] bushel to have his wheat threshed, and received only eighteen cents [illegible] bushel when he sold it.

In 1926, when Elizabeth was in the hospital giving birth to [illegible] daughter, Evelyn, there was a prairie fire, and Jim remembers having to leave Edna, Leone and Clifford in the car on the road while he went to help fight the fire. Some years later another fire started in [illegible] stack at Grimes' and was not stopped until it went as far south as Faupel's.

The first school Edna and Leone attended was North Berry Creek, three miles east. When Dundee was built two miles west, the family went there. The Dundee school was famous for great Christmas concerts, and crowds came to pack the school to see them. Cliff Doncaster will be remembered for his humorous monologues, which were enjoyed by all.

Jim and Elizabeth sold their farm in 1951 and had their final sale in 1952. They retired to Calgary where they are still living. Jim, at the age of eighty-nine, is still active, planting his own garden as well as those of Evelyn and Shirley. He had been driving his car until this year when he decided not to renew his licence. Elizabeth [illegible] realizing her life-long dream by every year taking a trip to a different country.

Edna is presently living in Vegreville, Cliff is in Williams Lake, B.C., and Leone, Evelyn and Shirley live in Calgary.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WILD, By Elizabeth Wild Doncaster — James Wild came from England to Canada in 1909, first going to Nova Scotia and then [illegible] Three Hills, where he worked in [illegible] mine. His family joined him in 1911 and the next year they moved to Hanna, travelling by covered wagon and bringing with them three horses and [illegible] dog.

They were delayed for two days in Rumsey due to their horses getting away, but found them back at the ferry on the Red Deer River. On the way to the homestead they spent the night at [illegible] stopping place owned by the Lewis family.

The second day after arriving at the homestead they went to the Netherby store owned by Tom Watson to get groceries; when they returned home they found that many of their possessions had been stolen.

At that time the land was raw prairie and they lived in [illegible] sod shack. The nearest post office was Netherby and the nearest town with a railway was Castor.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Wild moved to Drumheller, where he worked in the mines. In 1917 they returned to the homestead and worked the land for five years. About 1922 they moved back to Drumheller, where they remained until retiring to Calgary.

Mrs. Wild passed away in 1968 at the age of eighty-seven. Mr. Wild died in 1974 [illegible] the age of ninety-five.

J. J. REHILL and FAMILY, By Bob Rehill — My folks came from Wawata, Saskatchewan, to Munson in 1914. In the family there were five boys, Bill, Carl, Clarence, Roy and Bob, three girls, Lena, Annie and Elsie, and on January 21, 1915, Dorothy was born. Lena married Joe Lucas and lived on his farm just north of Drumheller; Annie married Wilbert Greenwood and they lived near Munson.

Dad found the land awfully heavy to work and in 1921 he located in the Garden Plain country on 28-32-13. It looked really good at that time. There were only a few settlers and there was an abundance of prairie wool for grazing and to put up for hay. Dad and the boys drove the sleighs loaded with household effects and some feed, and the cattle. The machinery and the remainder of our belongings were shipped by rail. Mother and the younger children came up by train and stayed overnight at the National Hotel. A Mr. Cobb was manager at the time. We paid $1.50 for the room and I think our breakfast was $1.25.

The next day a close neighbor, Mr. Jack Corry, came in and took us out to our new farm. It had been owned by the Jim Burns family, who sold it to Tingle and Wade, and Dad bought it from them.

Mr. and Mrs. John James Rehill, 1938.

In order to make ends meet, the family had to milk cows. They had fifteen milk cows at that time and everyone had to pitch in and help. In order to keep the cream sweet they built an ice house in the backyard. In the winter time they would cut ice down in the creek and haul it home by sleigh and fill the ice house for the summer. Besides keeping the cream sweet, the ice house furnished ice for all that good old home-made ice cream.

There was no such thing as cream trucks in those days. Twice a week the folks used to churn all the cream into butter. On Saturday they would drive the team and buggy to Hanna and deliver the butter to private homes which were

regular customers. It was a long day as they left before daylight and it was always late when they got home with the week's supply of groceries. But we kids would always be waiting up to get our weekend treat, candy.

We attended Solon school, five miles away. On Sundays Mr. David Oke held church services there, and Marion Wright taught Sunday school.

On May 24, 1924, Dad purchased a new Model T Ford car. That was Queen Victoria's birthday and there was always a celebration and we got a school holiday. Mr. Campbell was the Ford salesman then; he drove the car out and took us to the sports day in Hanna, and that night Dad drove it home. We were so proud of that car. It served us for four years and it really was a treat for the folks to be able to make their deliveries in town with it.

When we moved up here we had a number of good horses, and had an outfit for each one of us to work in the field. We were always in the field by seven o'clock and worked till noon, then from one till six. We always had long evenings and the crops were always seeded in good time.

The crops were cut with binders. One binder usually kept two of us busy stooking. The hours were long and stooking was hard on the back. Neighbors would help each other out with no money involved.

Mr. Dave Harvey owned the first machine to thresh for us. He had a steam outfit, complete with fourteen bundle racks, water wagon, cook car and bunk house. We were really fortunate to have a good well as we pumped water for the steam engine and their teams as well as for our own stock and the house. We had a horse and a half International pump engine which ran all day long.

Then Mr. Fred Elm came in with his one-cylinder Rumley Oil Pull tractor. He used it for two falls until he got a two-cylinder. Most of the bundle racks were supplied by local boys. The outfit was later purchased by Aubrey Crowe who threshed with it until combines came in.

In 1928 Dad purchased his first tractor, a Model D John Deere which was the pride of the farm. The only trouble with it was that it had steel wheels with eight-inch lugs, and when they struck a solid rock it would jolt every bone in your body.

That same spring Dad bought a Dodge Brothers sedan with seats covered with the best of leather. In 1929 brother Bill took it on a trip to Banff. When he had it filled with gas in Calgary, the attendant left the top off the gas tank. Some of the gas spilled out, the car threw sparks when it was climbing some of the mountain roads, and the car caught fire. All the wiring and upholstery was destroyed. Dad had made only the one payment on it, but the dealer had neglected to insure the vehicle, so it was a total loss to us. Later we heard that the company had had it repaired at the Technical School in Calgary for only the cost of materials. After that we had to go back to our old Model T.

In 1929 we purchased a twenty-foot Rumley combine and did straight combining with it. It was a wonderful way to harvest, but we missed having our straw piles for the cattle in the winter time. Then the hungry thirties set in and we were unable to collect some of our custom work fees. Then we couldn't make our payments so had to let the combine go back. Then we had to cut with a binder, and we bought a threshing machine.

Dad passed away September 1, 1946. My brother Carl and I continued to farm the land for my mother.

We used to haul our grain to Bonar elevator five miles east of Hanna. In those days, if wheat weighed sixty-four pounds per bushel, it was number one without any dickering. But in those days wheat was on the open market, so you never knew when you went in with a load what the price was going to be.

For a number of years people loaded wheat into boxcars at Allness siding,

seven miles east of Hanna. They would put in an order for a boxcar, the C.N.R. would spot it on the side track, and the farmer had so long to load it before he had to pay demurrage on it. The farmers shovelled the wheat onto sleighs by hand, then hauled it down to the boxcars and shovelled it off by hand. While they were unloading they would feed the horses their oats. Not only did they have to shovel the grain into the cars, they had to get inside them and shovel the grain back.

There were no such things as grain augers. All we had was shovels and Manitoba half-bushel scoops. The scoop was a good thing as long as the bin was full, but when you got down to the bottom it was a back breaker.

Sometimes when the Bonar elevator was filled up we would haul into Hanna. We often got a better grade there as there were more elevators and there was more competition.

In 1929 the C.N.R. built a line from Scapa to Garden Plain and Spondin. The Pioneer elevator at Garden Plain was built in 1932, with Mr. Wilson as the first grain buyer. A few years later the Alberta Wheat Pool built an elevator; Stan Sanderson was the first agent. The C.N.R. suspended operations on that line in the late fifties, and the grain had to be hauled out of the elevators by trucks. In 1968 the Pioneer elevator was moved to Cereal. The truck and transport that the elevator was loaded on had sixty-eight wheels. It was quite a sight to see them turn corners with that outfit with the elevator loaded on it.

In the thirties the government shipped feed in to the Garden Plain siding. You had to get there early in the morning and wait your turn to load, but often there wasn't enough to go around.

Dad was always interested in sports and would go for miles to watch a ball game. Quite often he umpired the games at our own local diamond. He enjoyed the old time dances, and a good game of Five Hundred in cards. He liked working in the garden and always had enough vegetables for ourselves and for anyone else who needed them.

Carl farmed and lived at home. He passed away July 29, 1976. Bob is married and lives on the home place.

All the family is married. Bill lives at Morrin; Clarence at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Roy at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Elsie married Benny Weller and lives in Oyen; Dorothy married Albert Finkbiner and lives in Drumheller.

Mother is still alive and is in the J. Kramer Auxiliary Hospital in Drumheller. She celebrated her ninetieth birthday on June 30, 1976.

THE GEORGE THOMAS FAMILY, By Belle Thomas Mattis — My father and mother were married in North Dakota in 1906, and my sister Audrey and I were born there. The family left North Dakota in the late summer of 1909, and came by train to Bassano, bringing with them their machinery, livestock and household goods. They travelled by wagon as far as the Red Deer River, and spent that winter with Mr. John Smith.

In the spring of 1910 they, and Carl Johnson, moved to their homesteads about fifteen miles south-east of Hanna. The Olive school was about two and a half miles from our place. My two sisters, Olive and Violet, and three brothers, Leo, Ward and Wesley, were born on the homestead. Leo died when he was three weeks old.

My father and mother farmed there until 1926, then moved to the Grassy Slope district to a farm about two miles north of the school, which Ward, Wesley and Olive attended. Later the folks moved to a farm that my father had bought in the Dundee district, and remained there until they retired to Hanna in 1951.

Audrey, who has now passed away, married Lawrence Miller and had one daughter and five sons.

Violet, Mrs. Dale McDermott, has two sons.

Wes married Anne Simm. They have three daughters and one son.

Olive, who married Tom Wigg, passed away in 1954.

Ward married Joan McVicar from London, England. They have two daughters and one son.

I married Dan Mattis, whose story is also in this book.

Dad died in the fall of 1968 at the age of eighty-six; Mother followed him three years later at the age of eighty-four.

THE WILLIAM GLOVER FAMILY, By Frances Glover Ripley and Kathleen Glover Hilyer — Our grandfather, William Glover Sr., arrived from Scotland in 1907 and settled on a homestead in the Buchan School District. In his first years there he hauled freight between Stettler and Castor with a team of oxen, and also hauled freight from Castor to the present townsite of Hanna in 1912.

He started raising purebred Hereford cattle, and one of his greatest moments of glory came in 1915 when one of his bulls took first prize at the Calgary Bull Sale. In the winter of 1922-23 a terrible blizzard swept over the prairies; he lost many of his cattle; many of them were found standing in sloughs, frozen solid. Grandfather was a tough old Scotsman and was able to survive this hardship as well as many others, and lived until September, 1944. He is buried in the cemetery at Netherby School.

Grandfather's eldest son, William Glover Jr., who was our father, also came to Canada in 1907. He worked in the Calgary area for a short while, then moved to Vancouver and joined the Police Force. In May, 1914, he married our mother, Margaret McGhee, who had come to Vancouver from Ireland in 1909. A year later our oldest sister Mary, better known as May, was born. She was retarded and was to be a great care to my parents all her life.

Mr. and Mrs. William Glover and family. May, Frances, Bill and Kay.

The mule took them where he wanted to go, not where they wanted to go. [illegible] and Kathleen Glover, and Katie the mule.

When war broke out our father enlisted in the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles and moved his wife and baby to Victoria before going overseas in October of 1915. Our brother, William John, was born in 1916.

After the war was over my father got a piece of Soldier Settlement land in the Garden Plain area. Kathleen was born in Calgary in 1920 as our parents were on their way to their new home, one mile east and one mile south of Buchan School. It was very poor land, really just a rock pile, and it was very hard to make a living on it.

Frances, the last of the children, was born in 1922. She was born in the old farmhouse with only our dad there to assist. A few weeks later she was baptized [illegible] Garden Plain hall where [illegible] Catholic priest from Castor used to hold services. Joey Higgins was baptized at the same time.

Our old farmhouse was a two-roomed shack to begin with, but two more rooms were added later. [illegible] was very cold [illegible] the winter when the snow would blow in the large cracks around the windows and doors.

Saturday night was bath night and [illegible] roaring fire was built and lots of water heated in boilers and kettles. The bath tub was the round laundry tub and it was placed very close to the stove. If you were small enough to sit down in the tub you had one knee in each ear, but things got very tricky when you stood up to dry yourself. [illegible] you bent over too far you ended up with the word McClary firmly branded on your buttocks . . . a very good identification mark to be sure.

The first one into the tub got the clean water and after that each one just got another kettle of hot water to warm things up. Our dad was always the last one in and by this time the water was quite murky, but no one spoke much about pollution in those days.

The Depression hit in 1929, the year that we moved to the Dundee area. We had very few good crops but by growing a large garden and raising chickens and turkeys and milking cows we managed to survive. It seemed that every fall we had to go on relief to get winter clothing and other necessities, and then the following summer our dad would have to do roadwork to pay back any relief we had received.

Our first teacher at Dundee was Gwen Rose who later became Mrs. Bill Rehill. Next was Mrs. Grimes who was teaching there at the time of her death and whose funeral was the first one I ever attended. It was a very sad day for all of us as we loved her very much.

Discipline was not always easy to maintain in a one-roomed school, for while a teacher was busy with one class, the others would sometimes raise a bit of hellery. I (Frances) sat in front of a boy named Jimmie Temple. One day he speared a fly on his pen nib, dipped it in his inkwell, and put it down the back of my neck. I let out a blood-curdling scream which brought the teacher on the run. There sat Jimmie looking very angelic, his halo in place, while I got two straps on each hand for disturbing the school. Afterward I said to Jimmie, "God will get you for this," and sure enough, God has removed all his hair!

Our Phys [illegible] program at school consisted of doing a few bend and stretch exercises while standing beside our desks every morning. There was one softball and one bat for anywhere from twelve to twenty-four pupils, so most of the time we played Scrub. For a change we would go to Greenwood's farm and get a bucket of water, (there was no well at the school), and off to the fields we would go to drown out gophers.

There was no such thing as Family Life education taught at Dundee or any other school in those days, so most of us grew up thinking the coyotes brought the babies. One day a girl who was a bit older and much wiser than the rest of us decided to tell some of us where we came from. I must say she went into great detail about the birds and the bees, but when she was finished I said, "I don't care what you say, I came from Buchan School!"

We remember with great nostalgia our yearly Christmas concerts. We would begin practising early and when the time came to perform we felt like movie stars. I remember one Christmas in particular when we were very hard up and didn't have a turkey. Our usual roast beef was cooking in the oven when Bob Rehill came along to invite us to their home for dinner. He sat down and had roast beef with us and then we all went to Rehill's for a lovely dinner and an enjoyable evening of cards. Such wonderful people and so eager to share what they had!

Our summer meat was usually chicken; only occasionally when we were in town we would buy whatever meat we could eat in one day, for there was no place to keep it. When the weather turned cold in the fall, my father would butcher a steer, which he cut up and stored in a shed outside. It would usually stay frozen until it was used up, but if a Chinook would blow in and the meat start to thaw, there would be a great rush for sealers and wash boilers to get it canned before it spoiled.

When World War II broke out in 1939, our father was anxious to get back in uniform so he went to Calgary and enlisted in the Veterans' Guard. He was on duty as guard at prisoner-of-war camps till 1945, then he made two trips to England taking prisoners back to Europe. He had a commission by now and was supposed to be saluted, so was very surprised when on his second trip home from England, someone came up behind him and slapped him on the back. He turned around to see Jim Temple, whose first words were, "I'm darned if I'm going to salute you, Bill Glover!", and they both had a good laugh.

Father had held a farm sale when he re-enlisted, and after his discharge from the army, he worked as a fireman for the RCAF until his death in 1955, at the age of seventy-two years.

Our mother and eldest sister May lived in Calgary until mother's death on her seventy-fifth birthday in 1961. At that time May went to the Deerhome in Red Deer where she passed away in February, 1964.

Kathleen, Mrs. Hilyer, lives in Burnaby, B.C.; Frances, Mrs. Art Ripley, resides in Edmonton. Our brother Bill, who was also in the army during the war, passed away in Hamilton, Ontario in 1959 at the age of forty-three years.

Only we two sisters are left of the family of six. As we look back at the hard times we seem to think more of the fun we had than of the things we were deprived of. Being poor wasn't so bad because most people were in the same boat. If we had to do it all over again we wouldn't change a thing, except maybe the seating arrangement at Dundee School.

Sidney and Hilda Grimes

THE GRIMES FAMILY, By Mrs. Hilda Franklin — Sydney Lawrence Grimes was born in Birmingham, England in 1891. After the death of his mother, he moved to Olds, Alberta to live with his brother Bert who operated a dairy farm there. When World War I broke out, he enlisted and served in France. After the war he returned to Alberta and married Nellie Brown.

Under the Veterans' Plan, the couple settled in the Dundee school district on a farm, the NW 35-32-13. Nellie continued her teaching career for many years in this area.

A son, Donald Leonard Grimes, was born in 1921. Ten years later his mother died, and in 1933 Sydney and Hilda Herman were married. Hilda continued to teach at the Dundee school. Their first child, baby Walter, passed away in 1938, and another son, Dennis Sydney Grimes, was born in 1939.

Donald joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 as Flight Sergeant Observer. A photo of him taken standing beside a 'Fairy Battle' aircraft was snapped by a Paramount Pictures cameraman during the filming of "Captains of the Clouds." This photo

appeared on the cover of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan publication, and was used in magazine advertisements for the Victory Bond drives. Donald was killed in aerial action in 1942 and was buried in Lincoln, England on November 11, 1942, with full military honors.

Sydney Grimes passed away in 1943. Hilda and Dennis moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1949. Hilda taught school for fifteen years and attended night and summer schools to obtain her B.Sc. in Education. Dennis became an accountant. After the death of her second husband, Hilda moved to Beaverton.

As I reminisce, many fond memories pass through my mind. First of all I want to express again my gratitude to our many kind neighbors who so willingly helped us when Sydney became too ill to carry on.

Next, I remember how well we managed without all the modern conveniences. We were content with burning coal for heat, riding in a Model T Ford, canning our foods, baking the bread, plowing with a six-horse team, pumping water for livestock by hand, walking to school and patching overalls. I did feel that we had many pleasures and joys that were shared by our neighbors, the softball games, Christmas programs, parties, picnics and the superb home-cooked dinners. I remember our old fashioned telephone, washing machine and treadle sewing machine.

Among many humorous incidents, one stands out in my memory. On Hallowe'en night, which was a few days after Sydney and I were married, we were wakened by a grunting pig slipping on the waxed floor as it ran from room to room, with Sydney chasing it and calling out appropriate expressions while I laughed too much to help. Weeks had passed before we found out that two young men had put the pig through an open window as a prank. Anyway, the owner of the pig just left it with us as a wedding present. That lonely pig often came to rattle at our door for attention, and one day there was that tapping noise again and Syd said, "There's that pig again!"

Can you believe that it was not the pig, but that dignified, serious bachelor, Tom Hoodless? We explained, but he didn't show any response, so we didn't dare laugh until he left. At this point, I must add that Sydney and Donald were gifted with laughs that rang through the house. The high school principal once said that he never chided Don for laughing in class; it was appreciated because it lifted people into a more cheerful mood. So let us, too, keep laughing!

In conclusion, Sydney Grimes, who eked out a living on an arid farm, who served many years as secretary-treasurer of Dundee school board and the rural telephone company, who sang solos, who suffered sorrows in the losses of Nellie and Donald and who experienced disability for three years, remained a true optimist. If only he could have seen what a wonderful son and grandsons he has given to this world!

MY STORY, By Bob Rehill — I was born in Elkhorn, Manitoba on April 19, 1912, and moved with my parents to Munson in 1914. It was there that I started school at White Rose. Miss Windell, my first teacher, boarded at our place and drove us kids to school.

It was there that I got the first and only strapping of my school years. One day the teacher wasn't feeling well, and at noon she laid down behind the stove to rest. I was standing on the outside step, and told the boys outside that the teacher had a belly ache. They all had a big laugh; I didn't know the teacher was standing behind me, but I soon found out, and the other boys didn't laugh so much when she called us [illegible] in. And we all went without recess for two days.

In 1921 we moved to the Hanna area and we attended Solon school. Rose Litke, who also attended Solon, stayed at our place and drove us to school for the first year. Then we got an old pony and a buggy and drove ourselves. We had to leave early in the morning; in the winters it was still quite dark when we left home, for it was a long trip and the old pony was slow. Sometimes we were darn cold when we got there, and had to sit around the stove to get warm. Some mornings the teacher would give us exercises to warm us up, for those old schools took a long time to heat up.

Bob Rehill family. Doreen, Ken, Jack, Bob.

My first teacher was Miss Evelyn Summers, who later married Bill Lumsden. She was a real good teacher and always kept law and order. She was noted for putting on a good Christmas concert. She generally started four weeks ahead of time, for there was a lot of work to it. We had to memorize our recitations and our parts in plays, and make stage decorations and costumes. We each had a recitation, and the pupils gained a lot of confidence by getting up in front of an audience to perform.

The parents spent the evening before the concerts filling candy bags and popping corn. They strung pop corn for tree decorations, and made popcorn balls to put in the candy bags. The morning of the concert they went to the school, decorated it with streamers, put up a large tree and trimmed it. They moved in extra benches for the audience, but the school was usually so packed that the ones at the back could neither see nor hear the program.

There would be recitations, monologues, dialogues, pantomimes, drills, dancing and singing of carols. When Santa arrived there was lots of excitement. He passed out the presents and the treats, and although there were no expensive gifts in those days, everyone appreciated what they got. Afterwards the parents passed treats, coffee and lunch to the audience.

In 1922 Grassy Slope school was built. Mr. Ed Blain was the secretary and Wesley Oke was our first teacher.

I spent my summer holidays herding cattle on the open land. Norman Oke and I herded our cattle together, and spent a lot of our time snaring gophers for spending money. We also raided all the crows' and magpies' nests. Mr. Wade at the municipal office bought the gopher tails for one cent apiece, and paid one cent apiece for the eggs.

In 1928 another new school district, Dundee, was started north of us. During the summer I helped haul the sand, cement and lumber for it; then that fall I had to go to school there, and that didn't make me very happy.

That same fall I went hauling bundles on a threshing crew for the first time. They gave me a big team and a 9' x 16' rack . . . most of the racks were 8' x 14'. I tried my best to put on a load like the others did. I worked as fast as I could but just couldn't get on a big load and get to the machine in time to hold my turn. Finally the boss told me that I had a much bigger rack, and that it held more bundles than the others. When I started counting how many bundles I had loaded, and how

many the others had on, I didn't feel so bad. I thought I was quite a man when they let me do that job, but boy, was I tired at night!

When I went back to school after harvest, Miss Gwen Rose was my teacher. She taught me two years at Grassy Slope and one year at Dundee, where I took my grade ten and finished my schooling.

I worked on the farm with my father and my brother Bill. We broke a lot of land with our model D John Deere. It involved a lot of work as when the ground was dry the plow shares would get dull. We used to sharpen our own shares and that took a lot of pounding, and the hot forge would sure draw the sweat. When the points would wear off we would take them to town and Mr. Andy McKay would put new points on them.

I did a lot of blacksmith work for the neighbors too. I sharpened plow shares for twenty-five cents each, and that was hard-earned money.

We used to have a lot of house parties for amusement. The girls would all take lunch, and anyone who could play an instrument would supply the music. Benny Weller played guitar, Ward and Wes Thomas played guitars and the violin, and Mr. Thomas helped out too. I played the mouth organ and the violin a bit. We also had card games, '500' parties and whist drives.

The school dances always drew a large crowd. We paid only 35 cents for admission as the music was reasonable; Benny Weller and Walter Jensen used to charge $2.50 each, and they would play from nine in the evening till three or four in the morning. Alex Raessler used to play with them sometimes.

In 1932 I went out to look for harvest work, and found a job at Botha with a family by the name of Bruning. They were real nice people and it was like a second home to me. I worked for them all that fall, and when winter came they told me that if I worked for them, I had to curl with them. So I started curling on the two-sheet rink at Botha. I had some good times there and met some wonderful people.

In 1935 I purchased a threshing outfit of my own on a bushel basis, paying E. A. Laughlin 2 cents a bushel until it was paid for. I paid only $600 for the separator, which doesn't seem much now, but was a lot in those days. I had six bundle teams and a spike pitcher. I did a lot of work with that machine; our run used to be about thirty days in a good year. We used to sleep in a tent and had a gas lantern for light. The days were long. We used to thresh eleven hours a day, and always had lunch in the forenoon and afternoon. When we finished up threshing, I used to put on a free thresherman's dance, for all my men and for the district.

In the winter, about March when the ice was fairly deep, we would have an ice-cutting bee. Four or five neighbors would get together and cut ice in a dam or a slough. First we opened up a hole with a crow bar and pick, large enough to put in the ice saw, which was about five feet long with very large teeth. We cut the blocks about twenty inches square. As soon as the block was cut and floating loose, we would pull it out with the ice tongs and load it on the sleigh boxes. Sometimes when the snow on the roads was deep, the heavy loads would cut down on one side and over would go the load. It was a real chore to re-load.

We all had large holes in the ground, about ten feet square and eight feet deep, for ice pits. We covered the ice with straw for insulation, and usually pulled an old granary over the hole. The ice pit served as our summer refrigerator, keeping the milk and cream cold. The cream cans were kept on the ice and when the cream man came on his route, he would go to the ice house to pick them up. We had ice boxes in the house to take the place of a fridge, and always had lots of cream and ice to make ice cream.

The winter months were long as the snow usually came early and blocked in

our roads in November or December. Then our cars were stored away for the winter, and our main means of transportation was a saddle horse or a team and sleigh. When there was a dance a distance away, we would gather up a sleigh load of neighbors, and sometimes if the roads were heavy we would have to change teams half way. The time travelling was spent in singing songs and telling stories. If we got cold we would get out and run behind; sometimes then the driver would speed up the team, and we would have a hard time to catch up. We had lots of fun in those days.

In the spring of 1949 I decided to make some improvements to our old house, so we tore part of it down and started to enlarge the basement. We were using a Ford tractor with a bucket on the back end, and hauled the dirt out a very steep approach. While I was taking a load of dirt out, the front end raised up in the air. It was a borrowed tractor and I was not used to the controls. I went to put in the clutch but instead I stepped on the left wheel brake; the tractor spun round and rolled over the embankment into the basement, and turned upside down. I was pinned under the tractor which luckily did not catch fire.

My brother got a shovel and dug a trench to free me and I crawled out. Some part of the fender or steering wheel had cut my ear almost off and loosened a large part of my scalp. Mother called our neighbor Mr. Hemstock who rushed me to the hospital. Doctor Argue stitched my ear back together and put a number of stitches in my scalp. I was in the hospital for two weeks and then went home and finished my basement, and built a new part on the house.

On July 7, 1950, I married our neighbor's daughter, Doreen Wright. We had a lovely wedding on a nice sunny day, but that evening, just before the dance started, it began to rain and it just poured. The dance was held in the Garden Plain hall with Roy Embree's orchestra, and I don't know how they ever managed to get the floor clean afterward, as there was mud all over everywhere. We went on our honeymoon in a ton truck with a home made camper on the back, to the Calgary Stampede, Banff, and Jasper, and home by way of Edmonton.

We have two sons, both living at home. Ken helps with the farm work and Jack is employed with the U.F.A. farm supply centre in Hanna.

I hope that everyone enjoys life as much as we do. We hope to live in the district for many years yet, as we have a lot of good neighbors and I wouldn't want to leave here. It's Home, Sweet Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple's 40 Wedding Anniversary. David, Lily, Elsie, Violet and Jimmy. Mr. and Mrs. Temple.

MR. and MRS. DAVE TEMPLE, By Mrs. Temple — In August, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple and two daughters, Elsie and Lily, moved from Fort Francis to Hanna. In the early spring of 1924 we took over the Chris Gasper farm located seven miles north of Hanna. Two more children were added to our family, Violet and Jimmy. A lot of hard labor and long hours was what it took to get a start.

The children attended Antelope Hill school. Elsie and Lily's first teacher was Miss Eva Hart, others were Norine Maynes and Agnes King. All these teachers boarded with us. One teacher, Mr. Ruskin . . . Old Ruskin, they used to call him . . . only stayed part of a term. I can remember how the children would slide down a hill near the school on scoop shovels in the winter time.

One time lightning hit our barn and another time it ripped our phone off the wall. The most frightening incident occurred when lightning started a prairie fire on our place. It was a dry year and we could see the smoke and fire rolling in real fast. Dave plowed fire guards around the feed stacks and the buildings, and we took our most needed belongings and put them in the middle of a plowed field. Neighbors came from far and near to help fight the fire, using wet gunny sacks. After a lot of anxious moments and hours of work, the fire was brought under control and our house was saved. Even the police arrived. We were excited because that was the first time we had seen a policeman.

In 1933 we moved twenty miles north of Hanna to farm the Goldsberry place. These were the days when hard times hit everyone, but we always had enough to eat. The kids would hitch old Foxy to the buggy and haul the cream to Spondin, it would take them all day. They would bring back a few groceries and we gave them each ten cents to spend. The children attended Dundee school.

Mrs. Temple (Katie) was kept busy sewing for the family. Hand-me-downs were altered, and flour sacks came in handy for underclothes. Sometimes Robin Hood was still visible on the garment. The girls wore basketball bloomers for special occasions at picnics.

In winter we would go to dances in the bob sleigh. Foot warmers, rocks heated in the oven, and blankets kept us nice and warm for travelling. When we'd arrive home the house would be chilled and Dave would stoke up the fire and remove the clinkers and add more coal. Often the neighbors would get together for games of Five Hundred; afterward there would be lunch with home made bread and cookies and roasted wheat coffee.

There were long hours of work. Every drop of water had to be carried in and those slop pails were always full. The plow shares would have to be sharpened and the harness for the horses repaired. In the summer the haying was done with mower and rake, and stacked with pitchforks. After harvest a wagon box of grain was hauled to Hanna and groceries brought home; another load of wheat was taken to the mill to be made into flour.

Group of girls on a hike at Dundee trees. Violet Temple, Lily Temple, Freda Faupel, Martha Tetz, Kathleen Glover, Elsie Temple, Kay Faupel, Ella Greenwood, Thelma Greenwood, Margaret Hemstock.

In late winter the ice house was filled. Blocks of ice were chopped out of deep sloughs by hand, loaded on sleighs and hauled to an ice house. Straw was placed over the ice, which kept most of the summer, and was used to keep food cool and to make ice cream.

At harvest time, Dave would cut the grain with the horses on a binder, and Katie would be right there to start the stooking. When the children got old enough, they helped too.

With no fancy frills or extras we spent twelve years on the Goldsberry place. Then it was sold to Henry Mattis and we had to move. We bought the Almer Olsen farm just four miles north of Hanna. By now the four older children were on their own and David Jr., who was born in 1937, was taking his schooling at Meadowlands. The time came

when farming was getting to be too much for Dave and Katie, so they decided to retire and live in Hanna, where they have resided for the past nineteen years. They are still active and enjoying life.

Their children all are married. Elsie Luft and Violet Milligan live at Olds, Lily Kern is in Hanna, Jimmie and David Jr. are in Calgary. There are sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE AUNE, By George Aune — We were married in October, 1920, and in February of the next year we moved from Morrin to our land seventeen miles north-east of Hanna. We came over back roads which were shorter than the main road, and travelled in winter because it was easier by sleigh than by wagon. We brought our furniture, ten or twelve horses, about thirty head of cattle, a few chickens, a pair of geese, one sow and a dog.

It was a long day's drive and we arrived just at dusk. We slept in the grain tank partly filled with hay and covered with a canvas. I was sure we would freeze, but it wasn't long until we had to open the canvas at the top . . . my first experience of pioneering.

There were some buildings on the place, a fairly good small barn, a shed we used as a chicken house, and a shack ten feet by twelve feet. When we put the couch, range, piano, washstand, etc. in there, there wasn't much room. At first, when we opened up the davenport to go to bed, we had to turn the table on its side and set the chairs inside it. Later, my father and brothers came out and helped build another room and shed on the shack. Then it was twelve feet by twenty-four feet, and we had lots of room!

Our hens were Red Leghorns, which weren't inclined to go broody, so when we found a wild duck's nest we took her eggs out and put four hen eggs in. She hatched them all but we found only three chicks. She had taken them nearly a quarter of a mile toward a slough. We raised them in a box and all three lived. The next year we got a 140 egg size incubator.

That first summer Oscar Engen from Morrin moved a half-mile south of us, and George's cousin, Bob Sunde, moved right next us to the west. They stayed only two summers and then left. We stayed one more year and then we went back to Morrin. There was a little better crop that year, but as one neighbor said, we had run out of seed by then. We never got enough hay so sent most of the cattle back to Morrin for the winters.

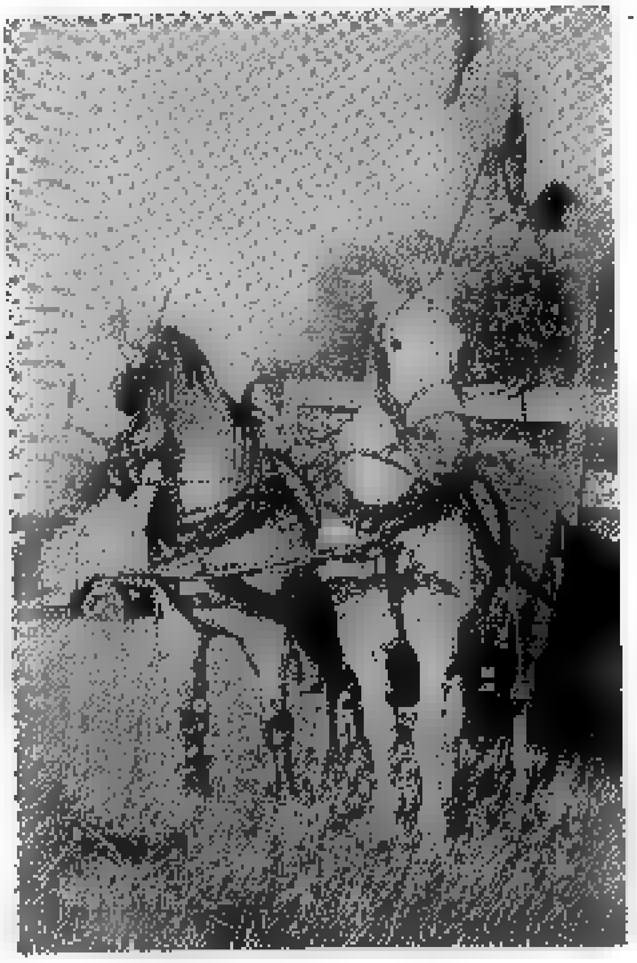
We dug a well about twenty feet deep with pick and shovel, but only got enough water for the house. We planted trees east of the buildings and hauled water to them in barrels, but I don't think any of them lived.

We got our mail at Garden Plain, and some groceries and coal. One summer, two of our neighbors and I dug our own coal, which helped out, as cash was scarce. We held card parties every two weeks and the prizes were usually groceries. Most of us enjoyed the card parties held at nearby schools, and I often played for the dances after lunch. In summer we had picnics and played ball.

We bought three dairy calves from Mr. Whaley, west of us, for seven dollars each. That got us into a lot of hard work for the rest of our days on the farm as we milked cows until about 1965.

In 1924 we got our homestead back, so returned and farmed there till 1933 when we moved to Rocky Mountain House. We lived there till 1967 when we retired to Vernon, B.C. Our son and daughter and their families live quite close to us so we see the grandchildren fairly often.

We often think back to our first years in the Hanna district, and have some very pleasant memories of good times and fine neighbors.



Carl Rehill hauling bundles, 1935.

CARL REHILL, By Bob Rehill — Carl moved to Hanna with his parents in 1921. He worked at home for a few years, then worked throughout the country as a farm labourer. He liked working with horses and took an interest in keeping them well trimmed. He used to enjoy a game of horse shoes after work. In those days we had the evenings to spend at ball games and horse shoes as the horses had to be turned out to rest.

In 1939, he and Tommy Tarrant took a job at Fort William working in the Searle Grain Company terminal. Help was scarce and they needed men to unload box cars. He worked there for two years, then returned to farming. He leased a half section and farmed on his own; and helped at home. He used to drive a bundle team each fall hauling bundles on the threshing rigs. In the early days he used to play hard ball and took an interest in all sports and country dances.

In 1954 he and a fellow by the name of Jim Kennedy had a grain cleaner and travelled through the country cleaning grain. In 1966 he retired and moved into Hanna.

Four Rehill brothers: Carl, Clarence, Bill, Bob.

Later he took the position of caretaker at the Hanna Museum. He took an interest in showing the tourists all the displays, and meeting people from all over. He was a member of the Hanna Pioneer Association and took part in all activities there.

He passed away July 29, 1976.

Building a grade over a slough in 1928. Bob Rehill and Aubrey Crowe.

MRS. CROWE and FAMILY — I was born in Toronto, the only child of William and Sussana Johnston. In 1908 we came to Edmonton, where my father was a motorman for the Edmonton Street Railway system. After an accident which left his right arm and hand crippled, we moved to the Endiang area, where my father had previously filed on and proved up on a quarter section on the edge of Sullivan Lake. My mother was not impressed by the prairie and she never did like farming.

I started to work in the Garden Plain store and post office for Mr. and Mrs. Wickson. I was there in the winter of 1918 when the Spanish Influenza epidemic swept the country. All public gatherings were banned and each person was required to wear a home-made gauze mask. The store was heated by a large pot-bellied stove, and on it we kept a tin of formaldehyde constantly steaming as a disinfectant. There were a few deaths in the neighborhood, mainly men who contracted the flu but who continued to feed stock and care for animals. It was bitter cold that winter.

My parents bought the Wickson homestead and we moved there about 1919. South of us lived Aubrey Crowe. He had come out to visit his sister, Mrs. George Burns who was living in the area at the time. He worked in the district, then bought three quarters of land and was batching there when I met him. We were married at my parents' home at high noon on December 12, 1924, by Rev. Scallon. After the ceremony we left in our Model T Ford for Hanna and from there by train to Calgary for a short honeymoon. During our absence winter really set in with a fierce blizzard and a heavy snowfall. Our Model T stayed in Hanna until the following spring. Bill Rehill met us at Hanna. He had used two teams of horses in relays to travel the thirteen miles, and we went through the same procedure to return home, changing horses at Giltner's, who lived about halfway. I remember the men walked most of the way and I was bundled up in blankets in the bobsleigh. The snow was up to and in some places over the tops of the fence posts. The winters of the early twenties were bitterly cold with very deep snow, but followed by golden harvests and great promises for the future.

Our children were [redacted] born in the Hanna hospital under the care of Drs. Baxendale and Cross. As they grew older the need for a school became pressing. A site was chosen on the north-west corner of the Wickson property, and after many delays Dundee school was built and opened in September of 1929. Mr. Hemstock, Mr. Rehill and my husband Aubrey were the first trustees. Miss Hilda Herman, who later became the second Mrs. Sydney Grimes, was one of the first teachers. Margaret Hemstock, Thelma Greenwood and Gordon Crowe started together in Grade one. I well remember Gordon's first day at school. For some reason known only to small boys, he followed Donald Grimes through the schoolhouse door and out the open window, much to the annoyance of the teacher.

Prairie fires were a matter of deep concern and constant vigilance during the late twenties. East [redacted] our farm the open range stretched for miles to the Saskatchewan border. All farm sites were surrounded by a fire-break, a strip of ploughed land always kept free of vegetation. The prairie wool grew short and thick, and the fierce electric storms of those years often ignited the grass when lightning struck. All able-bodied men fought the prairie fires, and the RCMP provided transportation for men from surrounding towns to get to and from the burning areas. The women made gallons of coffee and mounds of sandwiches. I remember arriving at a fire break in our Model T, after bumping over miles of prairie with an eight-gallon cream can of coffee and a tub of sandwiches, to find my husband and several neighbors standing up to their knees in water in a slough, beating out the fire in the dry grass and rushes on top of the water. That fire burned close to our farm buildings before it was finally brought under control.

The depression of the thirties came, and with it the drought bringing devastating dust storms and plagues of grasshoppers. The sun looked red through the dust-filled air, but we always hoped that next year would be better. Our men worked on the roads to pay the taxes, and we had splendid roads, but they were little travelled. The school house became the centre of our social activities. Baby sitters were unheard of then. We just took our children with us, and they slept peacefully wrapped in blankets and lying on a pile of coats.

Despite the hail, drought and grasshoppers, we always had some harvest in our area. After threshing we would run some of our best wheat through the fanning mill to clean it of wild oats and weeds and chaff, and take it to the flour mill at Hanna to have it ground. The flour was rather dark, and made slightly heavy, but nutritious bread.

We made our bread dough with dry yeast, mixing it in the evening and placing it in a large covered bowl wrapped in blankets or even coats, and put it in the warmest corner of the kitchen to rise. Next morning it would be kneaded and baked. We would be blessed with lovely golden loaves ready to be sliced and eaten with our home made butter.

We did not lack essential food. Potatoes and root vegetables grew if they were well cared for. Meat was not always on the table because it was scarce and difficult to preserve without refrigeration. I remember that during our years at Endiang my mother often made delicious jackrabbit stew. I'm sure we did not have canned fruit or vegetable juice, but canned tomatoes were always on the grocery list and no doubt supplied our vitamin C.

At one time the government paid a bounty for wild horses picked up off the open range. Some of the young men of the neighborhood became picturesque cowboys during the winter months, with chaps, neckerchiefs, Stetson hats and a lassoo draped over the horn of the saddle. Those horses were difficult to capture. Often one of the wild horses would be entered in the bronco riding contest at the Garden Plain or Hand Hills stampede, but more often it was the plain old plow horse that did the most bucking and unseated his rider.

During the depression years it was the custom for several neighbors to go together with horses, wagons and plows to the Badlands south of Castor and strip mine for coal, which was two or three feet below the surface. Any pieces of wood, broken whippletrees and such, were saved and piled for fuel. Most farmers applied for a permit to remove rotten and poor ties when they were replaced by railway crews; these made wonderful fuel.

One bitter winter morning my husband was called to investigate a bachelor's shack. No smoke was seen coming from the chimney, and that was always a cause for anxiety for the neighbors. Aubrey found the man unconscious on the floor, with frozen feet and hands. He had left the coal stove burning while he cleaned his stove pipes, and had been almost asphyxiated by the fumes. With the help of a team of horses Aubrey got the car started, and took the man to the Hanna hospital where he made a good recovery.

After my husband's death and due to the continued dry weather, I moved with

my children and my parents to a farm south of Vermilion. Bob Rehill helped us move and that experience would fill a book. Our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Welch, had moved to that part of Alberta some time before. We spent two winters there; then in 1936 we took a cow and some chickens and moved onto a small acreage west of Edmonton. That acreage is now a crescent of homes only blocks from where we now live.

Shortly after our move to Edmonton my father died, followed in less than two years by my mother. When my children were well established in school, I started to work for the Federal government and retired twenty-three years later.

My son Gordon has lived in the Grande Prairie district with his wife and family for many years. My three daughters are married and live in Edmonton with their families. I live with my eldest daughter Eileen. The other two, Phyllis and Audrey, live nearby. I have nine grandchildren.

I look back with nostalgia to the years on the prairie. Some call them the dirty thirties, but to me the good friends, good neighbors and sharing the joys and sorrows far outweighed the bad times.

THE BEN WELLERS, By Elsie Weller — Benny and I were married on July 20, 1934 and began our married life on the farm formerly owned by Irvine Cox. Our house was only a one-roomed shack but two more rooms were soon added with the help of my father, John Rehill, my brothers and our neighbors.

Our closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]. Grimes. When they moved to Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Doering moved in and were still there when we left the farm.

We were blessed with three children. Vera married Ben Lockhart and lives south of Youngstown; Bob married Yvonne Wilson and lives at Androssan; Ken, who is employed in Calgary, is still footloose and fancy free.

Mr. and Mrs. Benny Weller and family. Standing: Bob Weller, Kenny Weller. Seated: Vera Lockhart, Elsie and Benny.

After six years of farming and battling the drought and hard times of the Dirty Thirties, we left the farm and Benny went buying grain at Spondin, replacing Newell Jackson. We lived at Spondin one year, then spent two years at Torrington and then moved to Acadia Valley. By this time our packing almost did itself.

After two years we were moved again, this time to Oyen. Benny bought grain for five years there, then became a Civil Servant. He worked for the Special Areas, first as Chief Clerk and then as Fieldman, until he retired in 1975.

We built a home in Oyen, where we are living now.

WILBERT and ANNIE GREENWOOD, as told by Mrs. Greenwood to Mrs. Ella Gawn — My mother was born in Norway, my dad in Ontario. They met and married in Manitoba, and had six children. Mother passed away in Saskatchewan in 1907; Dad later remarried and had three more children. My stepmother is still living, and resides in a nursing home in Drumheller. My father, Jack Rehill, a well-known old timer in the Munson and Hanna districts, passed away in 1946.

Wilbert's folks came from Ontario. They were married in Alberta, but later

moved to North Dakota where Wilbert was born in 1889. They came back from the United States by ox team. Wilbert's folks retired to Vancouver and passed away when they were in their late nineties.

Mr. and Mrs. W. [illegible]. Greenwood on their 60 Wedding Anniversary. Taken in November, 1976.

Wilbert homesteaded in the Munson district where I met and married him, in December of 1916. We remained on the homestead until 1928 when we moved to Hanna.

We had some rough years in the thirties but managed to keep going by milking cows and selling butter. Later life became easier when we started to ship cream.

We had a family of five; they all attended Dundee school. Our oldest son lives in Winnipeg, one daughter lives in British Columbia and the other three are here in Alberta.

We retired to Stettler in the fall of 1964, and bought a nice home. Both of us are enjoying quite good health. We celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary in December, 1976, and enjoyed seeing our many good friends at that time.

Wilbert is still symbolic of the Greenwood boys, wearing his cuffs, cowboy hanky, boots and hat every day. He, as were his brothers, was quite a bronc rider in his day.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Finkbiner and oldest son Bill.

ALBERT FINKBINER, By Dorothy Rehill Finkbiner — I am the youngest daughter of Mr. J. Rehill. I was born at Munson on January 21, 1915, and moved with my parents to the farm northeast of Hanna in 1921. I grew up there and took my schooling at Solon, Grassy Slope, and Dundee, and the last year in Mr. F. Harvey's home near Scapa.

On March 6, 1935, I married Al Finkbiner whose father operated an underground coal mine a mile south of Garden Plain hall. We lived there for two years and our eldest son Bill was born there. In the late fall of 1937, owing to the depression, we moved to Val D'Or, Quebec, where Al was employed at hard rock mining in the Siscoe Gold Mines.

That country was all rock, bush and lakes. Mining was the main industry. The first years we lived on a large island; our home was a three-roomed building with wooden walls and a large tent for the roof. There were no windows, and when the wind blew it was really something, as we had a lot of wet snowfall and the canvas froze and banged like thunder. The temperature never reached zero but with the dampness and the winds we found it very cold. Our transportation in the winter was by dog-sled and in summer by boat.

There were a lot of small islands that the Indians lived on and in the summer, after all the ice was gone, they turned all the sleigh dogs loose on one that they

called Dog Island. They fed the dogs by boat. It was a noisy place and there could be no trespassing as those dogs were inclined to be vicious.

The people there had never heard of saskatoons, but blueberries and wild raspberries grew everywhere.

In the early spring of 1940 we decided to try farming at Brockville, Ontario, where our second son Melford was born. We stayed there for the summer but small acreage, milking cows and a two-horse walking plow weren't for us. The electric storms were terrible as there was so much rock and only about six or eight inches of soil covering it, and quite dry.

In the fall of 1940 we moved back to Val D'Or and lived in a suburb called "Little Canada". We made some very good friends there, especially young people from Saskatchewan who had gone east to escape the depression.

Owing to the war, we moved in 1941 to a suburb of Toronto, where Al worked in a munitions factory. The country around Toronto is beautiful, long summers, wet slushy winters and no wind. We did not care for the tree fruits, but really enjoyed their vine crops, as everything was ripened on the vine. We had a 1928 Ford and really made use of it as even the country roads were paved and there was so much to see.

The Ontario people were hard to get to know. As one of our neighbors told us, he guessed the old saying was true, that in the West you were everybody's friend until you proved otherwise, but in the East you were nobody's friend until you proved yourself so.

In the summer of 1943 a call went out for men with mining tickets, and as Al had his the government shipped us back to Drumheller. Our third son Ronald was only fourteen days old and the conductor said he was the youngest passenger he had ever had that travelled so far. It was a long trip as the troops were travelling back and forth and there were no sleepers to be had.

Our fourth son Victor was born in Drumheller in 1946. Al worked in the coal mines until 1949, but the last year he suffered several injuries so decided to call it quits. He took over the taxi business formerly owned by Mr. Griff. At Christmas, 1953, we finally got our daughter, Rose-Marie Holly.

In the spring of 1954 we took over the Twin Hill service station and with taxi, trucking and service station had a busy seven years. In 1961 we sold our other interests but kept the taxi business until April, 1976, when ill health forced Al to retire.

We make our home in Drumheller where our oldest boy Bill and our daughter, both married, live. Mel is in Montreal, Ron in Fox Creek and Vic in Calgary. We have twelve grandchildren, ten of them boys.

I wonder how many couples could match our record? In the first ten years of our married life we lived in twenty-five different homes.

Editor's Note: Albert Finkbiner passed away in the Drumheller hospital on April 22, 1977, at the age of sixty-four.

THE DAFOE STORY, By Clarence Dafoe — When the Dafoe brothers, Harmon, Will, George and Arthur brought their families to Alberta, they filed on land in township 32, range 9. As each family had one son who was over eighteen and could file on land, they took up a large part of the township.

They came in the spring of 1910 and lived in tents that summer, then some went back to Ontario and brought their families and another car of effects in March, 1911. It took many sixty-five mile trips to bring our effects from Castor, then houses and barns must be built and land broke up. That first summer I broke forty acres with a walking plow.

The mosquitoes were terrible that summer. I had built a house and barn on my homestead, but when I built a smudge to keep the mosquitoes away, a gust of wind shot a flame up the side and burned the roof off, so it had to be done over again. However, as the only material we could afford was sod, all it required was labor to put it back in shape again.

When dry weather and low prices came in the twenties, all of the four brothers left that district. My brother Louis and I took over the Solon coal mine from W. Glover in 1924. We had a lot of good horses and we used twelve horses on three fresnos during the summer, to strip two thousand ton of coal to be sold in the fall. The farmers came from as far away as the Saskatchewan border, driving four horses on steel-tired wagons, as none of them had trucks at that time.

We sold coal for $2.50 per ton. A lot of it went to Hanna, and many farmers made a few dollars hauling it in for the townspeople. Several of the local boys worked for us, Ed Clary and Ralph, Harry Lumsden, Fred and George Whaley, Will Rehill, Merla Wright, Charlie Overton, Ed Loveday, Bill Adams, Pat and Mike Agnew and many others. It was very hard work and in 1927 I sold out to Charlie Brown and moved back to the homestead, where I farmed with mediocre success until I retired in October of 1959, and my wife and I moved to Hanna.

They were fixing up the hall for the Oldtimers then, and I was asked to head the building committee; for six years I fulfilled this position to the best of my ability.

In 1965 Ferg James and some other interested oldtimers were having trouble getting the Historical Society Museum started. He and Roy Embree came and asked me to give them a few days work to get the fixtures in the building. I went for a few days, which stretched out till the present time. I took over the building operation for several years, then acted as vice-president. Since Ferg is gone I have filled the post of president.

At present my wife Ellen and I have six children, seventeen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

GORDON BOYD'S STORY — We are newcomers to the Hanna North community, coming in 1968 to reside on the NE 32-32-13. This quarter was homesteaded by Russell Hemstock in 1911; in 1916 he built the house we are living in today. He sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. William Bossert in 1955, and we bought it from them.

I grew up on a farm north of Lomond. When I was five, and my sister Verna three, we decided to climb the forty-five foot windmill. Up went Verna with me behind. About half-way up I decided that the ground was a long way down, and stayed there watching Verna climb onto the little platform at the top.

When Mom came out to see where we had got to, Verna called, "Hi Mommy, look at us!" Mother said her heart just stood still. She didn't know how she was going to get us down safely. When we did get safely to the ground, did we catch it! Mom hurt my dignity and lowered my pride.

I rode for fifteen years in the fall round-ups at the Majorville Community Pasture. I've seen cattle go home almost every way but fly . . . trucks of all shapes and ages, gooseneck trailers, cattleliners. Some chased them on horseback or with bicycles or motorbikes. A few did it the modern way, chasing them with a half-ton or car, and nine times out of ten the husband would be driving and the wife would be on foot with a long club to keep the herd together. Some of those women who had been charging around in a corral of cattle since daylight would make a good cutting horse feel bushed.

I met my future wife at Milo, and we were married there in the spring of 1953.

That fall I contracted polio, and during my stay in hospital in Calgary I met Lloyd Greenslade, knitting wool sweaters, fingers and needles just a-flying. We have two sons, Owen and Robert, and a daughter Pat.

Bob, Pat (Stubbs), Owen Boyd, Patsy (Boyd) Kolinchuck, Rockey Kolinchuck. Dorothy and Gordon Boyd.

The first year or two we were here it didn't really seem like home, but now we have made new friends. I'm always glad to hear the first wild geese on their way north in the spring; it means that another winter has become history.

Keith and Thelma Williams.

KEITH WILLIAMS — I was born on my father's homestead near Elnora in 1917. In 1920 our family moved to Calgary and in 1921 to Hanna where my father opened a vulcanizing shop in the garage now operated by the Hutton boys. In the fall of 1928 we moved to the Alf Larson farm in the Garden Plain district, and remained there till the spring of 1935, when we moved to the Bob Gordon place on the Castor Trail, just two miles north of Solon school.

In the fall of 1939 I rented the quarter of land where the Dundee school was from Mr. Wickson; at the same time I was buying the east half of that section from the Hudson Bay Company for ten dollars an acre, on crop payments. I had a good crop in 1940, but 1941 was a dry year. To make a few dollars I went to Hanna and worked in the C.N.R. shops.

In January 1942, I joined the R.C.A.F. I spent one year in Canada and three years overseas. In the fall of 1946 I returned to my job with the railway.

In July of 1949, Thelma Marjorie Greenwood of the Dundee district and I were married. We raised five children and are still making our home in Hanna.

THE CARL TETZ JR. STORY, By Violet Tetz Kern — Carl Tetz was born in Russia in 1901 and came to Canada with his parents in 1907, settling in the Leader, Sask., area. In 1922 he moved to Maidstone, Sask., where he married Pauline Rhinehart in 1923. They farmed there for several years and raised four children.

Clarence was born in 1925. He married Hazel Cox and they have nine children. They live in Lloydminster.

Violet, who was born in 1928, married Cliff Kern. They have two children, and live on their farm in the Meadowlands district north-east of Hanna.

Clifford was born in 1932. He married Dorothy Foster and has four children. They make their home in Calgary.

Verna, Mrs. Andy Lozeron, was born in 1939. They have one boy and live at Grande Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz, taken on their wedding day, 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tetz and family. Carl, Pauline, Violet, Clarence and Hazel, his wife. Verna in front of Violet and Clifford beside Clarence.

In 1945 Carl Tetz moved his family to the Grimes' place in Dundee school district. Dundee school was not open at that time and Clifford and Verna attended North Berry Creek school for a while. Later on Verna received some of her education at Dundee, the rest in Hanna.

When some of their crops here were lost due to drought or hail, they wished that they were back in Saskatchewan where they had always had a good crop. To supplement their income they milked ten to fifteen cows and sold the cream at Spondin, making the twenty-mile round trip to the creamery twice each week, sometimes with a team and sleigh.

They moved into Hanna in 1954, where Dad worked for Fitzsimmons at the Auction Mart as well as on the farm; and lived in the house situated near the Auction Mart.

Mother passed away in 1957, and Dad spent another two or three years here. Then he went to Burstall, Saskatchewan, and in 1962 he married Bertha Hippie. She died in February, 1977, and once more, Dad is alone.

MR. and MRS. MIKE RIIS, By Bob Rehill — Mr. and Mrs. Riis lived in the Dundee district on the north-west quarter of 10-33-13. They had two boys and two girls who attended Dundee school.

They left the farm in the thirties and moved to Hanna. Mr. and Mrs. Riis have both passed away.

One son, Kenneth, was killed in action in World War II. Their other son, Harold, lives in Edmonton.

Their daughter Gwen became a nurse, married W. Smith and passed away some years later. Their second daughter, Margaret, lives in Hanna.

Group of girls at a party for Gwen Miller. Marion Taylor, Elsie Rehill, Rosanna Corry, Gwen Miller, Olga Bakken, Dorothy Rehill, Winnie Lewis, Laura Jensen, Frances Herring, Patsy Taylor, Margaret Riis, Ella Greenwood.

ELMER HONGISTO, By Bob Rehill — Elmer came into the area as a farm laborer. He worked for Russell Hemstock on the farm and in the mine. Later he rented a farm, the south half of 27-32-13, and farmed and batched there until the early forties. Then he moved west of Hanna to Andy McKay's farm. When his health failed he went to a home in Edmonton, where he passed away.

MR. and MRS. CUTHBERT, By Bob Rehill — Mr. Cuthbert homesteaded on the south-west of 14-33-13. He farmed there for a number of years, then moved over to the north-west of 10-33-13. His wife went back to Ontario where she passed away; he kept on farming for a few years, then retired as a pensioner. He loved to play his violin and used to help entertain at Christmas concerts. He was a baker in his early years and still made his own bread when he was batching. When his health became poor he returned to Ontario where he passed away.

TOM HOODLESS, By Bob Rehill — Tom bought the east half of 2-33-13. It was raw land, so he hired Bill Rehill to break up one hundred acres for him. He built a small shack on the land and had a well drilled on it. One evening he was cleaning his stove pipes and was overcome by the stove gas; he got to the door before he passed out, and he lay there over night. It was a cold night and when help got to him his feet were frozen. A neighbor took him to the hospital. He was very fortunate as he lost only some toes.

That spring Tom wasn't able to work his land, so the neighbors got together and worked the breaking down and harrowed it and then sowed the crop. Those were the days when everyone helped each other. The women brought dinner out to the field and served it picnic style.

Tom was unable to farm the land so he let it go back. He moved up to his brother's place north of Netherby, and he stayed there until he retired.

WILLIAM GOLDSBURY, By Bob Rehill — Mr. Goldsbury homesteaded in the Halkirk district before coming to the Dundee district, in 1915. He farmed through all the hard years. He had crop failures through drought, hail and grasshoppers. He helped a number of the early settlers who lived around him. He used to have a nice herd of cattle, but due to his eyesight failing him, he was forced to quit farming. Mr. Fitzsimmons conducted a farm auction sale for him and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Temple took over his farm.

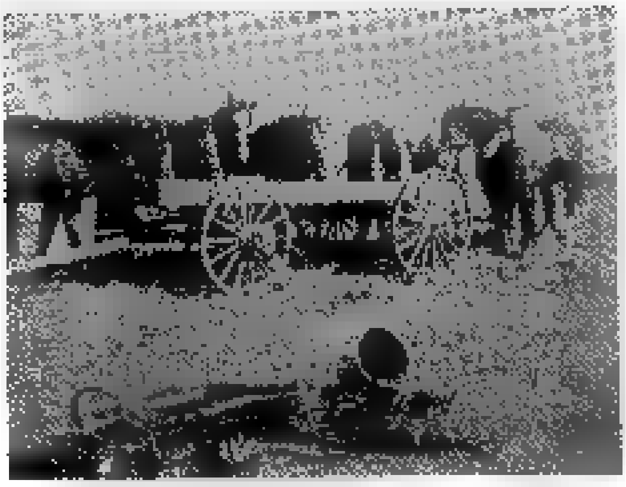
As far as we know he returned to the United States to retire.

DUNDEE RED CROSS

By Mrs. George Standing

During World War II, Mrs. Russell Hemstock organized the Dundee Red Cross. The ladies in the group were Mrs. Russell Hemstock, Mrs. Wilbert Greenwood, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. George Thomas, Mrs. Charlie Noyce, Mrs. Jim Doncaster, Mrs. J.J. Rehill, Mrs. Sid Grimes, Mrs. George Standing, Mrs. Sam Doering and Mrs. Pete Boyd. The meetings were held in their homes.

The ladies were busy knitting and sewing in their homes between meetings. One member, Mrs. D. Temple, learned to knit. After completing a pair of socks she put her name and address in the toe of one of them and received an answer from the pleased recipient. Every hostess supplied the material for one quilt top; the Red Cross supplied the other material and the yarn for knitting. The quilts would be quilted at their meetings. The finished articles were returned to the Red Cross to be sent to the needy. The ladies supplied goodies to be packed into food boxes which were sent to the local boys who were serving in World War Two.



Another day's work, John Diachuck.

JOHN DIACHUCK, By John Diachuck — I came to Hamilton, Ontario in 1912 as a young lad from Austria. My uncle paid my fare. My first job was in the Rolling Mills. Many single men were laid off when World War I broke out, I being one of them. I got a job working on Mr. Burniston's farm at Aldershot, Ontario. I drove a team for him when they were building the highway from Hamilton to Toronto.

Miss Alton, who was teaching at Aldershot at that time, offered to teach me English. She left to teach at Fitch school near Richdale, Alberta. Knowing my desire to work on the land and drive horses, she gave me the address of her cousin, Chib Wickson, NW-34-32-13. I moved west in the spring of 1916, worked for Wickson two months and quit.

My next job was with Fred Riddle of Red Rose district. I earned enough to buy a team of horses. They were outlaws, always trying to run away. With them I went threshing for Dylke brothers. They owned a George White steamer and threshing machine. They had a very long run that fall. We went as far north as the Corrine district. I also threshed with the Giltner outfit of Centre Point district. He had a Case steamer and George White thresher. That winter I hauled grain for Charlie James.

In the spring of 1917 I worked for Charlie Wilson at Wildunn Post Office, south

east of Hanna. After three months at Wilson's I went to work for Russell Hemstock. That was the year Russell married, 1918.

After a few months, I went to work for Charlie Brown, stripping coal in his mine. The work was hard. Charlie had two sons, Amos and Ted, and one daughter, Selma. Ted stayed home, Amos joined the navy. Selma worked for George Burns and later married Cecil Veno. Amos died shortly after he came back.

I rented land at Taplow siding in 1918 but it was a dry year. I had a crop failure. Then, I went to work for Jesse Roberts in 1921. He lived near the correction line. My job was to break the many horses that he was raising at that time for sale. He had a Clyde stallion and cayuse mares. A lot of those horses were four and five years old and tough ones to break. Jesse also raised Shorthorn cattle and a few pigs. The pigs had no pen but rooted under granaries for protection. I gave them enough feed to keep them home. Jesse said I was feeding them too much so I quit feeding them. The pigs were never home after that.

I went back to working for Russell Hemstock in the mine. I got married [illegible] 1926. We farmed near Alness for awhile. Our daughter went to Centre Point school. Her teacher was Virginia Thomas. Some of her classmates were Dorothy, Ida and Helen Quast and the Mike Litke children.

In 1943 I moved to Hanna and worked on the rip track. While working for the railroad, I bought three-quarters of land from Zarbuck one and one-half miles north of Hanna. I retired from the railroad in 1960 and went full time farming. Later, I sold my farm to Andy Duff and retired to Hanna. Our daughter, Marie [illegible] married and lives in Calgary. She is a school teacher.

I have seen good and not so good times. I have met and worked with many people. I hope I have contributed something worthwhile to my adopted country.

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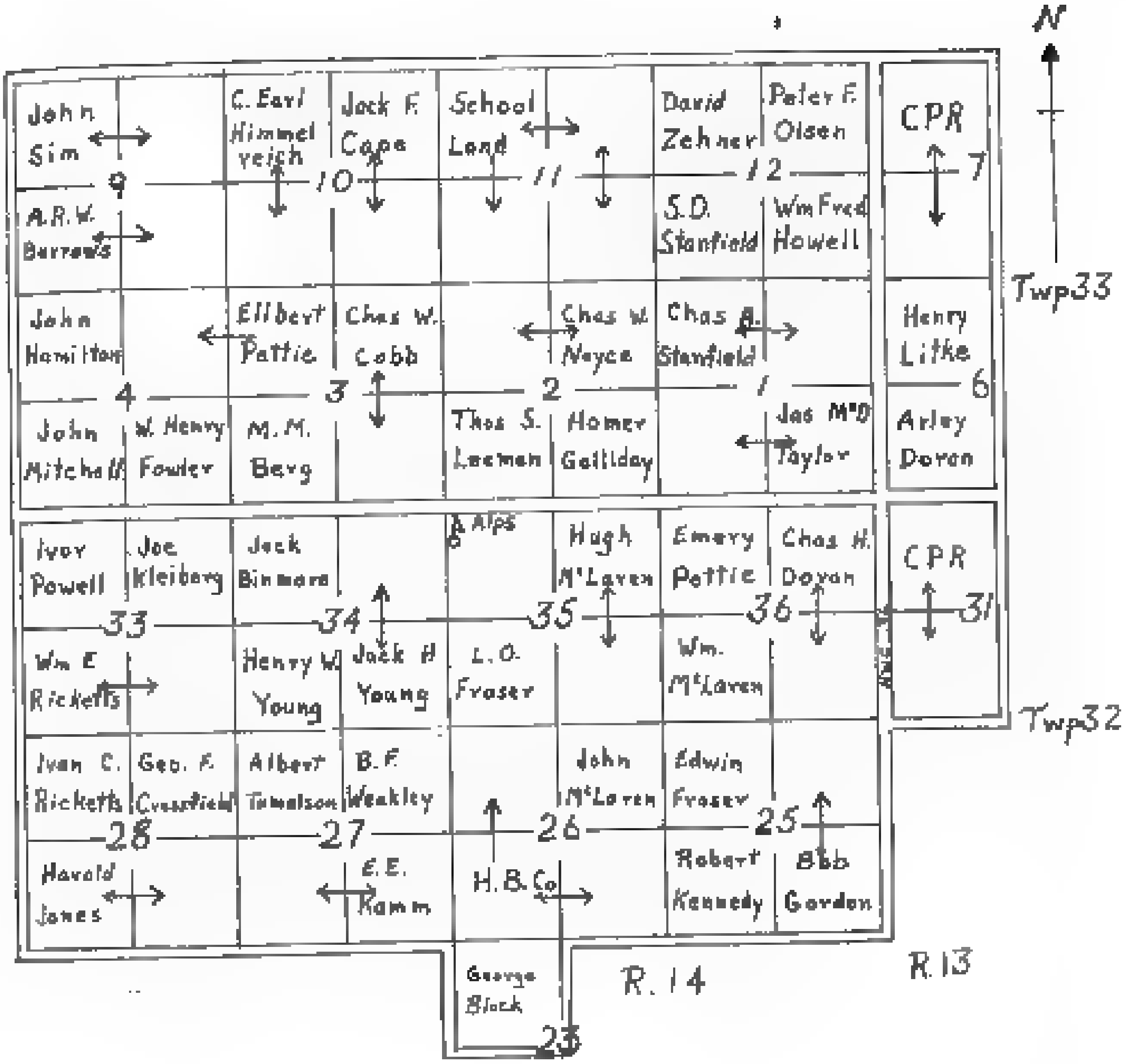


HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — ALPS

Twp. 32-14-4
Section 25
E ½
Robert D. Gordon
Elmer Grey
Ken Williams
Betty Lumsden

NW 25
Edwin Fraser
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 25
Bob Kennedy
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

Section 26
NE 26
John McLaren
Hugh McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SE 26
H. B. Co.
Wm. Lumsden
Jim Lumsden

SW 26
H. B. Co.
George Crossfield
Jim Lumsden

Section 27
NE 27
Ben F. Weakley
Wm. Hiller
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 27
Albert E. Tumelson
Jack Binmore
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

S ½ 27
E. E. Kamm
Bert Jones
Wm. McLaren
Wilf Lumsden
Wm. Paxman

Section [redacted]
NE 28
George Crossfield
Jim McCluskey
Helen Annas

NW 28
Ivan C. Ricketts
John Robertson
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 28
Harold Jones
Bert Jones
Helen and Rudy Annas

Section 33
NE 33
Joe Klieberg
Calton Viste

NW 33
Ivor Powell
J. M. Williams
Calton Viste

S ½ 33
W. E. Ricketts
Fred Shultz
Jim McCluskey
Joe Klieberg
Calton Viste

Section 34
E ½ 34

Jack Young
Calton Viste

NW 34
Jack Binmore
Joe Klieberg
Calton Viste

SW 34
Hank Young
Jack Young
Calton Viste

Section 35
E ½ 35
Hugh McLaren
Emil Sieppert

NW 35
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

SW 35
L. O. Fraser
Wm. McLaren
Emil Sieppert

Section 36
E ½ 36
Charlie Doran
Hugh and Wm. McLaren
Ivan Ricketts
Wm. Hill
David Hasz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

NW 36
Emery Pettie
David Hasz
Fred Johnston
Blanche Johnston

SW 36
Wm. McLaren
Rayford Johnston

NE 23
George Block
Adolph Kiest
Herb Litke
Harold Fortna

NW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

SW 31-32-13-4
C.P.R.

Jim McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

Twp. 33-14-4

Section 1
S ½
James McD Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

N ½ 1
Charlie Stanfield
Meryl Hill
Everett Dorman
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Section 2
N ½ 2
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rudy Annas
Danny Greenslade

SE 2
Ulmer Galliday
Charlie Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Otto Miller

SW 2
Thos. Leeman
Robert Crabb
Charlie Noyce
Otto Miller

Section 3
NE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SE 3
Charlie Cobb
Jim McCluskey
Manley Viste

NW 3
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Walter Viste

SW 3
M. M. Berg
Joe Slepika
Archie Sloan

Section 4
NE 4
Elbert Pettie
Jack Temple
Emil Miller

NW 4
John Hamilton
John Mitchell
Jack Binmore
Otto Miller

SE 4
Wm. F. Fowler
Rudolph Fecho
Arnold Fecho

SW 4
John Mitchell
Jack Binmore
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 9
N ½ 9
John Sim
Bert Sim
Charlie Lohrman
Arnold Fecho

S ½ 9
A. R. W. Burrows
Mrs. Weller
Fred Miller
Otto Miller

Section 10
E ½ 10
Jack Cape
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Wm. McLaren
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

W ½ 10
Earl Himmelriech
Jack Temple
Wm. Gaugler and
Walter Viste

Section 11
School Land

NE 11
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

NW 11
Jack Cape
Henry Temple
Jack Temple
Norman Greenway

S ½ 11
Ben Bunce
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

Section 12
NE 12
Pete Olsen
Dan Wiegle
Fred Medcha
Clyde Block
Norman Greenway

NW 12
Dave Zehner
Pete Olsen
Clyde Block
Robert Crabb
Calton Viste

SE 12
Fred Howell
Charlie Stanfield
George Crossfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

SW 12
Sarah Stanfield
Charlie Noyce
Norman Greenway

Twp 33-13-4
Section 1
SW 1
Arley Doran
E. C. Massey
Ralph Greenway
Norman Greenway

NW 6
Henry Litke
Robert Unsworth Sr.
George Unsworth
Norman Greenway

SW 7
C.P.R.
Jim Taylor
Bennie Taylor
Harold Fortna

ALPS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2688

By Fred Johnston

Early in 1911 the residents of this area petitioned the Department of Education for a school. Jack Young, who had been corresponding with Edmonton, called a general meeting for February 24, 1912. W. F. Howell was elected chairman and Ivan Ricketts, secretary. A resolution, "shall we form a school district?" was put to a recorded vote. Seven were in favor and three opposed. The name, "Highland", was chosen as the name for the school. The election for trustees then followed. Successful candidates were: Ivan Ricketts, secretary-treasurer; E. E. Kamm, chairman and B. F. Weekley as the third trustee.

Alps first teacher, Mary Ellen MacKay, 1913.

Alps School, 1922. Back Row, left to right: Margaret Noyce, Mary Hill, Katie Shultz, Jane Unsworth, Blanche Wright, Millie Shultz. Front Row: Earl and Murl Cobb, Bennie Taylor, Edward Cobb (behind Bennie), Bella Taylor, George Bunce, Jack Shultz, Ellen Unsworth, Annie Shultz (behind Ellen). (Teacher: S. Emma DeWolfe)

Alps School, Winter 1930. Cold outside, cold inside. Far Row: Ellen Unsworth, Bella Taylor, Margaret Noyce, Bennie Taylor. Near Row: Arther Noyce, Norman Greenway, Freda Temple. (Teacher: Vic Trenaman)

Alps School, 1932. Top Row, left to right: Lorne Weller, Bella Taylor, Ellen Unsworth, Margaret Noyce and Arther Noyce. Middle Row: Freddie Johnston, Tillie Hiller, Joan Greenway, Lena Hiller, Ruth Noyce, Billie Temple and Billie Crossfield. Bottom Row: Emil Miller, Freda Temple, Alice Weller, Dennis Greenway and Alma Miller. (Teacher: Lucy McLaren).

Ivan Ricketts as senior trustee had to call a special meeting for the election of a new trustee, due to the death of E. E. Kamm. On June 14, 1912, Charlie Stanfield was elected to fill the vacancy and he became chairman.

Meanwhile the secretary was notified by the Department that a different name had to be submitted as there was already a Highland school district in the province. Three names, including Alps, were sent to Edmonton.

On March 26, 1912 the Deputy Minister J. T. Ross, notified the secretary that the Alps S. D. 2688 was the official name of the new school. The name, Alps, seemed appropriate as the school was to be situated on a hill in rolling country.

At a special ratepayers meeting held on May 1, a $2,000 debenture by-law was voted on, with eight in favor and seven against. Those opposing said that the by-law debenture was too high. The Department also opposed it stating that it would exceed twenty-five cents per acre of assessable land within the district.

Shortly thereafter the district ratepayers passed a $1400. debenture by-law

with everyone in favour. The Bank of Toronto, Waterloo Branch, bought the debenture, through the Merchants Bank of Castor. The loan was to be repaid in ten equal payments at six percent interest. The debt was cleared off in the required ten years.

Alps School, 1939. Back Row, left to right: Hilda Miller, Joan Greenway, Rayford Johnston, Bill Crossfield, Fred Johnston. Middle Row: Otto Miller, Jackie Temple, Vera Noyce, Eileen Johnston, Ella Miller, Jack McLaren. Bottom Row: Emil Miller, Edna Johnston, Donnie McLaren, Ross Temple, Greta Greenway. (Teacher: Charlott Reavley)

Alps School, 1945. Banner won first prize in the VE day Parade. Back Row, left [illegible] right: Eileen Johnston, Allan Hemstock, Emma Miller, Greta Greenway, Emil Miller, Mrs. McLaren (teacher), Otto Miller. Front Row: Don McLaren, Ruby Kiest, Marilyn McLaren, Vera Miller.

The school site was situated in the centre of the district, seven hundred feet south of the north-west corner on the NW-35-32-14. This quarter was part of the estate of T. S. Lehaman who had filed on it. It eventually reverted back to the crown and Bill McLaren purchased it and lived there for many years. Purchase price of the land for the school was ten dollars per acre and through some measuring error 1.62 acres was used instead of the customary two acres.

H. E. Beumer of Castor was the successful bidder for constructing the school. A. L. Worth of Solon hauled all the building materials from Acorn Lumber of Castor. Beumer commenced work on September 3, 1912 and completed the work by the year's end. The school was built on top of a hill with the front door facing west. It was twenty feet wide, thirty feet long and ten feet high. It had a 6' by 6' porch, two windows on the west side, one in the south and six on the north. A 10' by 10' coal shed was attached to the school. Also in the contract were two 4' by 6' outhouses.

Equipment for the school was supplied by Alberta School Supply, Edmonton. These supplies were freighted out from Castor on January 28, 1913. Total audited cost for labour and building supplies was $1,021.35; equipment cost $224.95 for a total of $1,246.30.

Miss Mary E. Mackay from Nova Scotia was the first teacher. She and the trustees opened school on May 5, 1913. Twelve pupils were enrolled that morning: Everett, Vola, Eva and Grace Weakley, Jack and Margaret Howell, Jack and Nellie Gordon, Mildred and Perley Mansfield, Clyde and Gertrude Block. Miss Mackay received a salary of $65.00 per month.

To finance school operations taxes were levied on lands within the district; in 1913 the rate was $4.80 per quarter section. There was also a government grant paid at the rate of so many cents a day for each pupil who attended school.

After World War I, it became difficult to raise the money to keep the school open. People began moving away, leaving those left with [illegible] the burden of financing the school's operations. The laws had to be changed and the Alps school board requisitioned the Dowling Lake Municipality No. 305 for funds to operate. Conditions became worse and in 1936 Sullivan Lake School Division No. 9 was formed. The division then undertook the financing of the school.

In those first ten years the school would be closed during the winter months and then open for the warmer months, with a two week holiday during July. Even in those days a school term consisted of two hundred days.

Some of the families who boarded the teachers were the Noyces, Unsworths, Crossfields, McLarens. Usual boarding fees in the earlier years were from eighteen to twenty dollars a month. A teacherage was moved onto the school grounds in 1938 but was only used for a short time. One year the Alps and Wiese teachers batched together in a vacated house.

The office of secretary-treasurer was held by: Ivan Ricketts, James McD. Taylor, John Sims, C. Himmelreich and F. W. Johnston. Charles Noyce was chairman for many years; Hugh McLaren, Ralph Greenway and Charlie Stanfield also held that position. The school operated for thirty-four years and had twenty-three teachers during that time. The teachers from 1913-1947 inclusive were: Mary E. Mackey, Edith M. Henderson, Lola McLatchie, Nellie Thompson, Lorenzo Fredricks, Nellie Cameron, Edna M. Burrows, Grace Cas Cadden, Emma De Wolfe, Mrs. Edith Williams, Betty Meece, A. W. Poland, M. Skine, L. Coffin, Katherine Van Amburgh, Wm. Burke, Victor Trenaman, Lucy McLaren, Mildred Bender, Wilma Smythe, Elsie Harris, Wm. Ferguson, Charlotte Reavely, Elizabeth Siedel and the last teacher was Lucy B. McLaren.

Emil and Ruby Sieppert purchased the school building from the School Division and moved it down the hill to make a garage out of it.

MR. and MRS. JAMES McDONALD TAYLOR, By Bella Taylor Kerner — My father, James McDonald Taylor, better known as Jim Taylor, came to Canada from Scotland in 1908. He worked as a cook for the crew building the Goose Lake rail line.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Ben and Bella.

My mother, Margaret Anderson, came to Canada from Scotland in September 1909. She met five other Scottish lassies on the ship, all coming to Canada to get married. After three weeks of travelling by ship and railway she arrived in Calgary where she was met by her future husband. There they were married on September 22.

After they were married they went to live at the railway camp where Dad worked. When the weather got cold, Mother went to Calgary where she worked for the winter.

In the spring of 1910 they journeyed to Castor to prepare to go to their homestead which was thirty miles south. They loaded up their supplies and belongings on a lumber wagon to make the journey to the homestead. They rested the horses and had their noon meal at Hockett's stopping-house. Full of hope and adventure they arrived home, a small one-roomed shack which Dad had previously built.

All their supplies had to be brought from Castor which was the closest town. Soon there was a store and post office at Garden Plain. Mother often walked the six miles to the post office.

Dad began breaking the sod with oxen and a walking plow. Later he was able to get a team of horses and a plow. To make the shack homelike, Mother made curtains with material brought from Scotland.

Since money was scarce, Dad went back cooking for the railway construction crew, leaving Mother on the homestead for a time. She had quite a few good neighbors so was not too lonely. One time when she was alone, she needed some tea. She walked to the road and saw a team coming. She gave the driver some money and he brought back a pound of tea. She had never seen him before and never saw him again. In those days everyone was trusted.

After a few years my parents moved the shack from its location on the north side of the small lake to where the farmstead now is. The house was added to as the children were born. Margaret was born in 1911, Ben in 1913 and I was born in 1915.

In 1912 the Alps school was built one and a half miles west of us. My Dad was on the first school board, serving on it for many years.

In 1918, when Margaret had just started school, she was stricken with a ruptured appendix. Dr. Mason and Nurse Rock were called and he operated right on the kitchen table, since there was no hospital in Hanna. Nurse German came to look after Margaret but peritonitis set in and she died. As a result of this tragedy, Dad worked very hard with Dr. Mason to establish a hospital in Hanna.

About 1920 a hospital was opened and Dad was elected to the board. He served on the board for twenty-five years, most of these years as chairman. He also served as president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Hospitals for a number of years. The hospital work was close to Dad's heart and he worked hard on its behalf. In May, 1945 he was honored at a banquet for twenty-five years service. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health, presented him with a scroll from the government of Alberta in appreciation of his service.

Dad carried on his farming operations. He won several awards for grain and also in field crop competitions. He was a supporter of the local U.F.A. and served as president of the Garden Plain local.

Dad passed away November 4, 1945 at the age of sixty-four. Mother stayed on the farm until 1950 when she turned over the farm to Ben and moved to Hanna. Here she resided until her death in 1974 at the age of eighty-nine.

In 1958, Ben sold the farm to Rayford Johnston and moved to Sundre. My husband and I are residing in Hanna.

DORAN BROTHERS, By Fred Johnston — Arlington C., Charles Henry, and Judson Tyree, better known as Arley, Charlie and Jud Doran, and their seventy-eight year old mother Sarah, pioneered this area in 1909. They had all come from the state of Oregon, U.S.A.

Arley homesteaded the SW 6-33-13, Charlie the east half of 36-32-14 and Jud the NE 24-32-14. It is not known if Arley was married, but on February 12, 1914 Charles and Mary Costello were married by Will J. Miller at the home of Jud and his mother. Jack Krick, a bachelor neighbor on NE 6-33-13, and Valetta Wagoner supported the bride and groom.

Charlie worked in a Castor mine during the winter of 1911-12. Jud, the oldest of the three, and his mother kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail all the while they were here. When Hugh and Bill McLaren came in 1913 they lived in the dugout in which Charlie had lived when he came here. Charlie built a shack 12' by 16' and then built a two-storey addition to it in 1915. Hugh, Bill and Effie lived here for a while, renting the farm while proving up on their homestead.

The three brothers sold out sometime during World War I, Arley to the Masseys, Charlie to the Hills of Oregon who had purchased the place to keep their sons from being conscripted in the U.S. army, and Jud to the Al. Overton family. The Dorans went back to the States.

ROBERT D. GORDON, By Fred Johnston — Bob Gordon was born at Moosomin, Saskatchewan in 1871. He was one of the early pioneers of the future Solon district, coming to homestead in 1909. He and Mrs. Gordon, sons Jack and George and daugther Nellie settled on the east half of 25-32-14. Jack, age thirteen, and Nellie, age eight, were among the first pupils of the newly opened Alps school in 1913.

While proving up, Bob became a well known freighter along the Castor Trail. He had the distinction of having hauled one of the first loads of lumber to the new Hanna townsite in 1912, for J. E. Jones the harness maker. About 1914 he was in an accident which left him partially paralyzed. He had to dispose of his livestock and machinery to seek medical attention at Mayo Brothers Clinic. However they could not relieve his suffering, so on his way back home he stopped at Medicine Hat. There he got some relief and eventually recovered.

Having got his health back, Bob enlisted in the army during World War I and saw active duty overseas. After his discharge in 1919 the Gordons went to Hammond, B.C. to live. Bob came back to Hanna in 1920 where he was employed in the C.N.R. shops, retiring from their service in 1936. While working for the C.N.R. Bob added to his holdings by buying the Jud Doran quarter south of him. About 1930 a prairie fire burned the house on the homestead. He then built a new house from the lumber salvaged from the old house on the Doran quarter. The Elmer Grey family rented the land and were the first people in many years to live on the place.

Bob owned a Whippet car, which he drove, true to its name. When threshing on his place one year he took the crew home for dinner. They were mighty thankful that they arrived back at work in one piece. He remained single for many years after his first wife died, but eventually met and married a widow. He was a loyal Legion member of the Hanna Branch. Bob passed away suddenly on September 12, 1943 of a heart attack. He was 72 years old. Burial was in the Field of Honor, Hanna cemetery.

JACK H. YOUNG, By Fred Johnston — Jack Young was born June 6, 1873 [illegible] Clinton, Iowa, U.S.A. He had two brothers, Ed, who stayed on the family farm and Hank. There were two sisters Marie and Gertrude.

Jack and Hank went to Forest, Idaho to work in lumber camps. In late March of 1910, Jack, Hank and a friend left Forest for their homesteads in Alberta. They drove four head of horses on [illegible] mountain wagon, loaded with supplies. On April 1, 1910, they were at the customs office at Kingsgate. [illegible] was a long drive, but they made it, via Bassano to Jack's homestead, E-34-32-14, in early June. They were greeted next morning with the much talked about snow storm of June 1910! Their friend didn't like the reception, so left, walking back to Bassano then returning home.

The first year the two brothers lived in [illegible] dugout. In 1911, both freighted their building supplies from Castor. Groceries and mail were gotten [illegible] Kane's at Garden Plain. Fuel was scarce and buffalo chips were burnt. There were no trees because the prairie fires kept them down. Coal was later gotten at Kane's and still later from Brown's and Pahl's mines.

When Hanna became [illegible] town, they got their supplies there.

When both brothers got their houses built, they went back for their wives. Hank's came, but Jack's wouldn't. Thereafter Jack was very reserved with women.

There was talk of forming a school district, so Jack handled the correspondence with the Department of Education. He was always fond of children and had their welfare at heart.

Jack and L. O. Frazer, broke sod for those settlers who didn't have horses. From all accounts they had plenty to do.

To upgrade the quality of horses in this country, the Hanna Percheron Horse Company was formed. Jack was one of its shareholders. The syndicate brought [illegible] registered stallions and a well known one was "Alpine", [illegible] beautiful grey. The company dissolved in 1920 and Alpine was bought by J. E. Hamilton, one of the syndicate's shareholders. Alpine met an untimely death at an early age. However, he left his mark on the horse population. Jack obtained one of Alpine's colts for his own, and he had many grey horses. This horse eventually became blind. When Jack quit farming, he bought minerals for his horses out of his pension cheque. After he died, his few remaining horses were bought by W. E. Fitzsimmons. All were old and had never had a halter on them!

Jack raised Hereford cattle and won many ribbons with them at the Hanna Fair. When cattle prices dipped in the twenties, he disposed of them.

A threshing syndicate was formed in those early years and Jack became one of its shareholders. When it disbanded he bought a 10-20 Titan and wooden International separator for his own use. However, he found it much better to have Bill McLaren do his threshing when Bill got his machine in 1928.

Jack quit farming in 1943 and broadcast grass seed on his cultivated land. He had obtained his brother's land in 1913 when Hank had moved back to Paxton, Nebraska, where he farmed until he passed away in 1941.

In 1956 Jack had to have an operation. His doctor sent him to Calgary for it. The growth of the city was so impressive he could scarcely believe his eyes! When he had last visited Calgary it was only a small town.

Jack suffered a slight stroke in 1957 and Emil Sleppert took him to the hospital. When his condition improved somewhat, he went to the Camrose Nursing Home, where he passed away, October 22, 1961 at the age of [illegible] years. He is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

J. F. CAPE, By Doris Peters Yacoboski — Jack Cape, a silk buyer for the Hudson's Bay Company, immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1910, going to Calgary where his sister and her family, the Roland Peters, were living. Jack and Roland Peters left Calgary by oxen for their homesteads. The trip was long and arduous, and they nearly lost all their equipment while fording the Red Deer River.

Jack's homestead was the east half of 15-32-14. He lived in a sod shack until he built a house with materials freighted in from Castor. To supplement his income while proving up, he worked during the winter months in either Calgary or Edmonton.

In October of 1918 Jack and Miss Gee of Calgary were married. A big wedding dance was held in the Garden Plain school. In 1922 Capes rented their farm to Henry Temple and went to Lethbridge where Jack resumed employment with the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1925 they were blessed with twins, Vera and Vernon.

Jack passed away in 1967. Mrs. Cape lives with her daughter, Mrs. Vera Mason of Armstrong, B.C. Vernon and family live in Abbotsford, B.C.

Charlie and Mrs. Stanfield

CHARLES ARTHUR STANFIELD, By Fred Johnston — Charlie Stanfield was born April 12, 1874 in Fairmont, Indiana, the oldest of a family of three boys and one girl. He came to the Mount Pleasant district near Lacombe, then the North West Territories, in 1900. His parents Salathiel and Mary Ellen Stanfield, his brother John and family, and his sister Jennie and her husband William Bates, came in 1904 to homestead somewhere near where Stettler is today. Charlie farmed at Mount Pleasant until 1910 when he filed on the north half of 1-33-14 with Garden Plain as his post office address.

He left Stettler for his homestead in 1911 with his horses, farm equipment and supplies. The first few years he lived in a sod shack until a house was built in 1914. His mother Mary Ellen came at that time to keep house for him. She purchased a homestead, the SW 12-33-14, which the original homesteader had let go. The Howell quarter was purchased in 1915 giving him a section of land to operate. The old stopping house on the Howell place was moved to the building site and converted into a barn. His buildings were near a flowing spring. He and others who rented the place had to pack water up the hill for drinking and washing purposes. No easy task, especially in the winter time.

Charlie, being a progressive minded person, was soon involved in the community's activities. He joined the Garden Plain local of the U.F.A. and when the Hall was built in 1914 he was president of the organization. During the time that the Alps school district was being formed and the school built in 1912, Charlie was elected to fill the vacancy on the board of trustees when the first chairman, E. E. Kamm, passed away.

Brother John and family lived with him also for periods of time, and Alvin, the youngest of the family, lived with Charlie and his grandmother when he attended the Alps school in 1917 and 18. Somewhere around 1920 Charlie rented the land to the Meryl Wright family for a few years when he went to work in the mines in B.C.

This is where he met his wife-to-be. He and Mary Ann Anderson from Glasgow, Scotland were married in Wilmer, B.C. in October, 1925. After their marriage they came back to the farm to live. They had a family of three, a boy who died shortly after birth and two daughters, Catherine, born in March 1926, and Margaret, born in June of 1929.

After an auction sale in the spring of 1932 the Stanfields went back to Wilmer to take over the Stoddard farm. The children took grade school at Wilmer and high school at Invermere.

Catherine, widowed and remarried, is Mrs. Higgins and lives in Wycliffe, B.C. She had five children. Margaret, Mrs. Collin, has lived at Westlock since 1948. She has three children.

The Stanfields retired to Cranbrook where Charlie passed away in July 1959, aged 85 years. Mary Ann died in September 1967 in her seventy-ninth year. The Stanfields lived to see all their grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. George Block, Evelyn and Clifford.

GEORGE HARRISON BLOCK — George Block was born in Nebraska in 1893 and came west with his parents to the State of Washington. He and his father left Washington in the spring of 1910 for this area and were among the early pioneers to settle here. Father and son chose section 23-32-14 to file on, but George was not quite old enough to homestead. However, his father was able to hold the land for him until he was eligible. With the preliminaries out of the way they came to the homestead to get settled.

Some three months later, nearing his eighteenth birthday, it was time for George to return to the Land Agency office in Calgary to register his claim. Castor was the nearest railroad so he set out on foot for his destination, a distance of some thirty five miles. He packed his lunch with him for the long trip. Boarding the train for Calgary, he arrived there a day before his eighteenth birthday. When he arrived at the Land Agency office, there was a long line of men waiting ahead of him. They all bedded down for the night right where they were, for to drop out of line meant going to the end of the line and starting all over again. Along in the afternoon of the next day, when George's turn came, he was queried as to his age. He said that he was just 18. After a moment or two of thought the clerk replied, "Better wait another day to be sure." Next day, after another night on the street, he was given access to his homestead. Arriving back in Castor he had to walk home, hitch up the oxen and return for the necessary lumber to build a shack. And so he became another one of the sodbusters.

George participated in the social activities of the community, and being quite sports-minded, was a member of the Solon basketball team. In competition at the Hanna Agricultural Fair in 1916, he won the Canadian Bank of Commerce medal as having shown the best agricultural team in their class.

He and Lillian Lumsden were married on June 1st, 1916 at the home of Lillian's brother Bill. A wedding dance was held in the Solon school. George and Lillian had a family of four children, Clifford, Evelyn, Leonard and Pearl. Clifford and Evelyn began their schooling at the Alps school. Betty Meece was Clifford's first teacher and Albert Poland was Evelyn's.

In the fall of 1926, tragedy struck the Block family and saddened the community when George succumbed to an attack of appendicitis. He was only 33 years old. The community rallied to assist Lillian and her young family by having a bee to harvest their very good crop. Sixteen binders and twenty-five stookers completed the job in a day. The neighbor women came well prepared with food to feed the hungry harvesters.

Lillian later remarried and the family left in 1928 to go north to a better district. She and her husband are retired and live in Wildwood, Alberta.

Harvesting Bee, 1926 at George Blocks.

THE HIMMELREICH BROTHERS, By Fred Johnston — Earl, Harry and Bill Himmelreich moved to this district from Didsbury. They came originally from Iowa, U.S.A.

Earl was married when he arrived. He homesteaded the west half of 10-33-14. He was secretary-treasurer of the Alps S. [illegible]. In the early twenties.

Bill's farm was the N.W. 24-32-14. While in residence here, brother Harry married Nina Wiese.

Earl and Harry played violin and piano for many dances.

Earl and Bill passed away in the States many years ago, leaving no families. Harry and Nina lived at Olds where Harry was a mechanic. They had one daughter, Dolores, Mrs. D. Heinzig. Harry died in 1953 and Nina is now Mrs. Armstrong.

Charlie and Mrs. Noyce, Ruth, Vera and Arthur.

CHARLES and SARAH NOYCE STORY, By Sarah Noyce — I have been asked to tell of my experiences when I first came to Canada from England. It was [illegible] July 1911 and I landed in Halifax then to Calgary by train and then on to Cranbrook, B.C.

On July 18, Charles and I were married in Cranbrook where he was employed by the C.P.R. After living there for a short time we came to Alberta to start homesteading. Not knowing anything about it, it was a hard life for a time.

To arrive at our homestead we took the train to Castor. The line had just been extended that far from Stettler. Castor was thirty-five miles from our new "home". We made this trip with the mailman.

There were [illegible] few people homesteading in the area around us. Our nearest neighbor was a bachelor, Charlie Stanfied, who later married. Other neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greenway, Hugh and Bill McLaren, Jack Young, Charlie Cobb and Ben Bunce.

In our early days on the homestead we lived in a tent, but that was only for a few weeks until we were able to get a shack built.

We farmed with oxen until we were able to buy some horses.

By 1912 Hanna was beginning to resemble a small town. The railway had been built making it much easier to get our supplies and mail. We also had obtained groceries at Kane's store at Garden Plain. Our coal was purchased from several mines [illegible] our vicinity. It was a great help to have our fuel nearby!

Schools were being built all around us. Our own school, named Alps because it was built on a hill, was erected in 1912. Besides educating our children the building was used for community activities, picnics and church services in the summer.

In the winter the young people would gather at our place and have toboggan parties in the hills west of us. Many a Sunday afternoon and moonlight evenings were spent at this sport. A hearty lunch was always welcome afterwards!

We had two sons, Ernest and Arthur, and three daughters, Margaret, Ruth and Vera. Our sons have both passed away. Margaret was married to Peter Boyd and they had a family of three sons and two daughters. Margaret passed away at the age of forty-nine. Ruth is married to Robert Finnerty and they have three sons. Vera married James Schumaker and they now live [illegible] Victoria, B.C. They have three sons and three daughters.

With the help of our family we retired in 1957 to live in Hanna. Charles passed away in 1971 at the age of eighty-eight years. I am now residing at the Senior Citizen s Lodge in Hanna. My room-mate is Mrs. Greenway, a long time neighbor and friend.

Many of the folks here have pioneered so we have much in common to reminisce about.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows

A. R. W. BURROWS, His Third Family, By Edna Burrows Urquhart — Our late father was born at Holstein, Ontario in 1860, married in 1884 to Minnie Lewis of Glanworth, and had four children — Arthur, Mable, Vernon and Minnie. His wife died in 1890. In 1892 he married Janet Watmsley, who died in 1893 leaving a daughter Janet. In 1894 he married Emma Cowan of Holstein, our mother. Their family are Gretta, Lorne, Edna, Edwin and Lydia.

In 1901 Dad lost his right arm in a corn shredder.

Dad went on harvesters' excursions to Rosetown, Saskatchewan, then went on to Hanna by way of Castor. Arthur, Vernon and Minnie were living at Hanna by this time. The railroad had not yet reached Hanna, so Vernon and Dad freighted lumber and supplies from Castor to Hanna.

Dad filed on a homestead that someone had given up. This was SW 9-33-14, twelve miles north of Hanna but fourteen miles by the Dowling Lake trail. Later the farmers put a road through the hills, around the sloughs, to Hanna. There was no gravel yet.

There was no house on this land. Dad bought one in Castor and moved it there. It was quite an undertaking considering the roads. I think he had built a barn, too. Our buildings were on the top of a hill.

In 1915 he sold his store in Ontario, ordered a box car for settler's effects, and two horses. Anything the new owner of the store didn't want we boxed up and sent west. Cotton shirting and dress goods sold for twelve and a half cents a yard, so we filled boxes with sewing materials, wallpaper, dried apples and canned fruit. There was also a fur coat which fit no one in the family, but I finally grew into it and rode in it when I started teaching. Dad had to travel in the box car with the horses. He had bought a large galvanized bath tub, re-inforced on the outside by tongue and groove lumber. He used this for feeding and watering his horses on the trip.

We travelled by train on a settlers' excursion. There was no sleeping accommodation and we had to take our own food. The youngest of the family was train sick so we stopped for a day and night in Chicago, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Saskatoon. We had relatives at each stop. When we reached Hanna, we still had the last twelve miles to go in a lumber wagon, which seemed a long, long trip.

Our house was practically a shell but it had possibilities! We could lie in bed and see the stars. There were two rooms downstairs and a large one up. Our first partitions were sheets hung up on wire. The inside of the walls had to have felt paper pasted on and for teenagers that was quite a job. We were more than thankful for the box of wallpaper. Luckily it didn't rain much as it took a while to get the roof repaired.

We had lots of work cut out for us. We needed a lean-to for a kitchen, bathroom and coal shed. We built a shop for Dad who could repair most things if someone would give him a helping hand.

Dad was handicapped, having but one arm. He had an artificial hand with a glove on, also an iron hand that he could threaten us with! He could handle a fork or hoe, and was really good at cracking nuts at Christmas time. He could also drive horses, but it was difficult for him to have to hitch a team or harness them.

The schools at that time were opened from May to November — it depended on the weather. The whole family was home a lot. We had a good well at the foot of the hill, which was inconvenient, as we had to dip the water and carry it uphill. Much later there was a drilled well at the top, nearer the buildings.

Our Post Office was Greystone, two miles north of us, with mail once a week. To people who were used to having a telephone, mail every day, and all of our school chums within yelling distance, it was a real change. There was no contact with anyone, unless you had a horse to ride, or walked. No wonder we girls had the name of being rather aloof. Those who went to school weren't quite so bad but I had been out of school for three years. We had a lot of dry winds. On washday one could hang out the clothes, and by the time one got the last ones out, the first were ready to go in. One day after we had built a henhouse, we had a windstorm. We looked out and our new henhouse was upside down. Mother wasn't anywhere around and we were afraid she had gone out to save her hens, but there was no sign of her. Finally she came up from the basement. It was such a relief!

Christmas at the home of A. R. W. Burrows in 1915. Left to Right: Art Burrows with daughter Charlotte, Lorne Burrows, Mrs. Art Burrows, Fred Portfors, Gretta Burrows, Edwin Burrows, Minnie Burrows Portfors, Edna Burrows, Mrs. A. R. W. Burrows, Mrs. Vern Burrows, (in front is Mrs. V. Burrows) Lydia Burrows, Vern Burrows, Mrs. Yeaman, Mrs. Burrows mother, Bill Lumsden and Herb Sherritt.

We had had a few mosquitoes in Ontario, but we didn't really know mosquitoes till we came west. The first few years we had to have a smudge for the relief of our stock. You couldn't see your neighbors but you could see the smoke of their smudges. I remember one night we had to smoke out the house before we went to bed. According to one bachelor, the mosquitoes gathered on the screen, and the bigger ones kicked the little ones through!

We had burned wood in Ontario, and knew nothing about coal. We bought our coal east of us (it might have been the Unsworth mine) for three dollars a ton. It came in large slabs but if left outside, it soon broke down.

Every so often there would be a Red Cross dance and Box Social held in the Weise School or Garden Plain Hall. Our father would be auctioneer, and at midnight we would have a short program. One night we had a blizzard and we had

to stay till morning. Winters were cold, but even though we had snow we would have very little sleighing, as the wind piled it up in some places and left the ground bare in others.

We missed our church and Sunday School after we came west. Eventually, summer services were organized at Alps School. Mr. M. Wright was appointed Superintendent. We usually had a good turn-out. Sometimes we would have student ministers who came from eastern U.S.A. Very often they would not know what Canada was like, except that it would be cold, so they came all prepared for snow.

Edith Henderson, B.A. was the Alps teacher. She came from Toronto during the summer to teach school. In 1918 she persuaded me to go back to school. She said she would help me all she could to get my normal entrance. I took grade nine and ten that year, and planned on attending school in Hanna to get my grade eleven. That fall Miss Henderson married Maldwyn Williams and as they were near neighbors I took lessons from her that winter.

At that time Dad became very much interested in forming a farmers Co-op in Hanna. He got a room in Hanna and came home week-ends. By now Lydia was ready to go to high school so Dad rented a small three-roomed house, just a kitchen and two sleeping rooms for him and ourselves. I was taking grade eleven and found it difficult. For one thing, I wasn't used to so many people around when I studied.

As I was the oldest of the class, when our inspector, Mr. Dobson, needed a substitute teacher in the lower grades, he gave me the privilege. When spring came Mr. Dobson asked if I would go to Alps as permit teacher. I got time off at examination time to review the year's work and write my grade eleven exams. I spent the next two summers teaching. Then I went to London, Ontario, to attend Normal School. I received a Second Class Certificate and taught near where my sister Gretta lived.

I was married in 1925 to Henry Urquhart, a farmer in the community. We lived there for twenty years and had four sons. In 1945 we came to Lacombe, rented a farm, went back east and sold out there, and moved to Lacombe. Our oldest son had been honorably discharged from the Airforce and advised to go to Alberta for his health. The next two sons are farmers, one near Lacombe, the other west of Wetaskiwin. Our youngest is an orderly in Veterans Department at Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. All are married and have families. I lost my husband nine years ago.

Gretta Carroll, the oldest of the Burrows third family has two sons, and two daughters. She lost her husband two years ago. Lorne, the eldest son, bought grain for Alberta Pacific Grain. He married Elizabeth Meece who taught at Alps School and boarded at Noyce's. Later they went to Innisfail where they tried the hardware business, but after a fire they went to Edmonton, and later bought a motel in Vancouver. In 1964 they retired and still reside in Vancouver. They had one son, Alvin and a daughter, Marjory. Edwin went into the hardware business, first at High River then at Stettler where he married Trena Shinness. They moved to Lacombe where he owned a large department store. In 1951 he sold out and went to Calgary where he had a china shop. He died in 1964, leaving his wife and a daughter. Lydia married Dan Lund. Their daughter died in 1929 but they have two sons, Gordon and Norman. Dad and Mother sold their farm, moved to Stettler, then to Summerland, B.C., then to Hanna where Dad died in 1932. Mother came to Lacombe and died in December 1953.

THE JOHN SIM FAMILY OF GREYSTONE, By Harry Sim — John Sim, an early homesteader in the Greystone - Garden Plain area, was born in Scotland in 1869. He had trained as a boilermaker and mechanical engineer. In 1894 he married Annie Cuthbert Adam, and after the last of four children; Margaret, Frank, William and Albert was born they decided to emigrate. My father, Albert (Bert) was about six weeks old when they arrived in Canada in 1902.

The family settled in Toronto where it is presumed that John Sim worked at his trade.

About 1910 Annie Sim died and John with his young family decided to come west to Calgary. The following year John Sim filed on the north half of 9-33-14, a homestead and a pre-emption. At this time Margaret was sixteen, Frank fourteen, William twelve and Bert nine.

Shortly after arriving he took an active part in the local government of this area. When the Rural Municipality of Dowling Lake was formed in 1913 John Sim was elected first reeve. One of the many varied jobs he had while reeve was that of overseeing the building of roads and putting in culverts. Inspection and supervising was done from the back of a saddle horse. Later he was appointed secretary of said municipality and moved into Hanna. After his term was up he came back to Greystone where he resided the rest [illegible] his life.

The John Sim Family, 1917. Margaret, Albert (Bert), John and William (Bill).

In July of 1917 John was elected chairman at the organizational meeting of the Co-operative exchange, a farmer-oriented business which was made up of several U.F.A. locals in the district, one of them being the Mansfield local of which John was a member. Bill Monroe and A. R. W. Burrows, also of Mansfield, were directors. John held the president's office for two years. He spent a great deal of time and effort selling shares in the new venture. The Co-operative exchange was the forerunner of the present day Hanna Co-op Association.

He held the position of secretary-treasurer of the Alps school for the years 1917 and 1918. In the early years John Sim acted as a lay preacher, holding services in homesteaders' shacks, in school houses and at the Church of Christ [illegible]

Hanna. Keepsakes included some of these early sermons, as well as the poetry he wrote.

The eldest son Frank joined the Army in 1916 and served overseas during World War One. He was discharged in England and apparently stayed for a while to learn a trade, before returning to Canada. After a short while he decided to immigrate to the States, locating, I believe, in the New Jersey area where his descendants are today. He has one daughter Barbara.

The second son William, the only one of the family who did not have flaming red hair, played the piano with Harry and Earl Himmelreich and other musicians for many dances in the early years. He was also a talented singer. About 1922 he and Chris Gasper went to the States to learn the plumbing trade. He eventually settled in the Portland area where he married and worked at his trade. There were two sons and a daughter in the Bill Sim family, John, Robert and Margaret.

Margaret kept house for the family, and when her father went to Hanna as secretary of the Municipality, she accompanied him and was employed in secretarial work. She and Bill Jones were married in the early twenties. Bill had settled with his folks some ten miles south of Hanna about 1910. He did some cowboying with the Vowels and Frakes and rode bucking horses. He and Margaret went to California where Bill became a preacher. Their descendants live in California. After Margaret left home to go on her own, Bert and his father hired housekeepers. The last one was Mrs. Norah King. She married Fred Blaxhall in 1936.

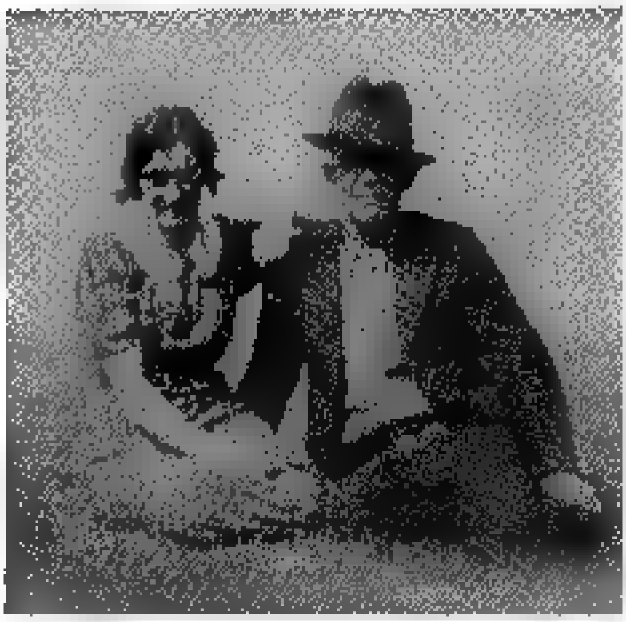
Albert, better known as Bert, after completing his schooling at Wiese and Hanna, remained on the homestead with his father. He played baseball with the Scapa team for many years; the battery of Jack Temple to Bert Sim was well known. He could also take over the first baseman's position as well. At one time Bert coached the Weise Girls' Basketball team. Some of the members of the team were Louise and Violet Baxter, Dolly Slemp and Lydia Burrows. In his younger years Bert rode broncs at the local amateur stampedes. He learned to do blacksmith work and pounded out many a plow share. From 1933 till 1937 he was employed in the Unsworth mine during the winter months. He also owned and operated a 10-20 Titan and Goodison separator for awhile. Bert and his dad usually hired the neighbor boys to work for them when Bert was away from home; Pete Ruppert and Hughie Riddle among others.

In 1937 Bert met and married my mother, Bernice Smart. I was born in 1938. Until 1944 my dad worked for the Special Areas. Then he moved the family to Edmonton, where he worked in construction and became a journeyman carpenter. He worked for the Department of Public Works as a project superintendent. He retired in 1968 and died in 1970. Bernice Sim passed away about 1943. Frank, Margaret and Bill are also deceased.

I, Harry Sim started school in Edmonton in 1945. I graduated from the U. of A. in 1961 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. I met and married a native Edmontonian, Leanne Severdal, who was taking education, in 1960. Our daughter, Leanne was born in 1961 and is presently in grade six at Namao School.

HUGH McLAREN and GEORGE F. CROSSFIELD STORY, By Mrs. Effie Crossfield — In 1909 my brother William McLaren and I came out from Scotland to Brandon, Manitoba, where we had relatives. Bill was about seventeen years old then, and some time later we were joined by brother Hugh. In the fall of 1911 they came farther west and filed on their land. Bill on SW 36-32-14. Hugh filed [illegible] 35-32-14, which the Thomas W. Herman family had abandoned.

In the spring of 1912, they came back and were joined by Robert Ken-



Effie and George Crossfield

nedy who hailed from Aberdeen, Scotland. They took a team of horses and other settlers' effects and travelled as far as Alsask. As rail travel further west was uncertain, they unloaded there, hitched up their horses and hit the trail for Hanna. It took them five or six days and they were running short of grub; their last meal was a rabbit cooked in a bucket on their campfire. This rabbit was shot with their last bullet, but unfortunately it wasn't badly hit, so Bill took after it on foot and managed to outrun it! On reaching Hanna, they stopped at the Dominion Rooming house, owned by McLeod and Black.

Bill and Hugh camped part of that summer in a dugout on the Charlie Doran place. Doran s left for the United States that fall so they rented the farm and moved into the house.

Meanwhile, I was still at Brandon and in 1913 I returned to Scotland. While there, the war broke out. I did not get back to Canada till the fall of 1915. By that time the German "U" boats were all around Britain. Many boats were sunk. The first two nights on board no lights were allowed to show, all portholes were blacked out, but it was fun stumbling around on the decks in the dark. On account of the war a lot of women and children were leaving Britain at that time. We landed at Halifax, where I boarded the train for Alberta. Arriving at Hanna early in the morning, I had breakfast at the "Dominion". Hugh and Bill got in with a tank of wheat by noon. There was a heavy crop that year, the grain wagons were lined up at the elevators waiting to get unloaded. We rode home in the grain tank.

Shortly after I arrived, we had some stack threshing to do, mostly feed oats. I believe it was early in November. Mr. Petties' outfit from Castor did the job. We had a hard winter in 1915. As our house wasn't exactly winterized, I got used to cooking frozen potatoes and breaking ice on the water bucket before starting the morning coffee.

By this time homesteads were being taken up and we had lots of neighbors. We did not mind the cold and travelled long distances to dances and parties and just visiting. Hard time dances were good fun. Some of the costumes were really ingenious. There was lots of snow, a big farm sleigh got us anywhere and with straw and hot rocks in the bottom temperatures didn't matter!

We certainly owed a lot to the teachers in those days. They helped to organize dances and card parties, and their Christmas concerts were eagerly looked forward to.

Brother John McLaren came out in 1916 and farmed NE-26-32-14. He passed away in 1918 during the 'flu epidemic.

In 1916, brother Bill joined the 175 Battalion and went overseas. George Crossfield, a native of Quebec, was with them. George had come west in 1909 and spent some time with the Albert Strong family at Rose Lynn. He homesteaded SE-12-32-14, near Mr. Fred Whaley at Solon.

When Bill and George returned from France in 1918, they took up farming again.

George Crossfield and I were married in 1923. I have one son, William who makes his home in Vulcan. He started school at Solon when we rented the Marion

Wright farm. He finished his schooling at Alps when we were renting the Charlie Stanfield place.

My husband died suddenly of a heart attack in 1942. My son and I farmed two more years, then sold out in the spring of 1944. At present, Hugh and I are guests in Acadia Lodge at Hanna.

Bill and Lucy McLaren, 25th Wedding Anniversary, 1952.

THE MEN FROM INVERNESS, THE McLAREN'S, By Lucy (McLaren) Gordon — In 1913 Bill and Hugh McLaren took homesteads in hills north of Hanna. Having come from the Highlands of Scotland, their choice seemed natural. Soon the Alps School District was organized. The McLarens assisted in the building of "The Little White School House" which, like most country school houses, became the centre of education, church services and social activities. Bill's farming activities were suspended for several years when he joined the armed forces engaged in the First World War. In 1919 he returned to the homestead to continue his farming operations. Soon after his return, he purchased a Model T Ford which was quite a sensation and the source of much pleasure despite the rutty prairie trails. It provided faster transportation to local dances where Bill played the violin, and made it easier for Bill and Johnny Unsworth to take out a popular young lady!

In 1927, Bill married Lucy Summers, a local teacher, who incidentally continued her profession for a number of years at Alps School. Jack, who is teaching in Edmonton; Don, employed with an oil company in Calgary; Marilyn, Clerk of the Court in Courtenay; and Doris, a happy golfing wife in Comox, were products of this union. Uncle Hugh, who now lived a half a mile away, was the children's hero. He made them candy laced with pinex and ginger for colds; fed them crackers and cheese; took them riding on his stone boat; and played checkers and cards on demand.

In 1930 Bill and Hugh entered samples of wheat in the Agricultural Fair. Bill's sample won him the cup for his prize winning samples of both grains. He then entered his sample of wheat in the Calgary exhibition where it placed fifth. This proved one thing everyone in the area knew — that the district could grow the best grain in Alberta — if we got the rain.

The 1930's proved the wisdom of the McLaren's choice of hills. In the years when some potatoes were as big as marbles and the rest little ones, the valleys and sloughs yielded fair grain returns. The straw stacks were generously given to help less fortunate neighbors feed their cattle. Of course the hills were a hazard to transportation during the long winters. The road was completely unusable. The McLaren brothers built a cumbersome plow, pulled by horses, and made a road through the hills to the Castor Trail. This involved making three trails, one on each side to keep the middle one free of drifting snow.

In the thirties there was an exodus of farmers from the area south of Hanna. Bill purchased a hip roof barn for $80.00. Hugh, George Unsworth and Bill took the barn apart board by board. They salvaged all the shingles and pails of nails. The lumber was transported to Bill's farm where the barn was rebuilt. A shingling bee

soon had the shingles back in place. A barn dance, attended by many people from many communities, was held to celebrate the completion of the new building.

The threshing season was always the highlight of the farming year. In the early days, Bill's ability to run an outfit always found him at the helm of the operation. Later he ran his own engine and separator. Getting good men to pitch bundles was a very necessary factor. Members of his crew came back year after year — Big Pete from Manitoba, Tom and Alan from Saskatchewan. Then there was Roy with his team "Whiskey and Soda". These men worked hard from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. — one year for $3.00 a day. They had five meals a day — breakfast, lunch, dinner, lunch and supper. The farmers' wives were responsible for the food and spent many hours cooking to produce hearty, tasty meals and lunches for the men.

The McLarens also played a role in the school activities. Bill was a trustee on the local school board. Lucy taught the three "R's" for several years. She organized a soft ball team which played friendly games with local schools. The pupils participated in the yearly school fairs and won their share of awards. Of course the highlight was the annual Christmas Concert. Every child participated in the program and practised during recesses, noons and the last half-hour of school. The men in the community transformed the school into a local theatre with a stage, curtains and a beautiful Christmas tree.

The school picnic was also another community effort. The McLarens made gallons of ice cream for this event. The men spent hours freezing the appetizing mixture. The writer recalls Hugh McLaren and George Unsworth yearly competing for the honor of consuming the largest portion of ice-cream.

Life in the Alps District was indeed "the good life" — good neighbors — a bountiful supply of good food, and of course a heavy work load to keep one out of mischief. Being one's own boss, one's choice of work was strictly optional, though essential.

Joe Kleiberg

JOE KLEIBERG, By Mrs. C. Viste, H. Annas and F. Johnston — Joe Kleiberg, born in Norway in 1889, came in 1912 to this area where his cousins the Viste brothers, Chris and Hjalmer, had homesteaded earlier. He homesteaded the NW 33-32-14. Life for him was no different than for the other settlers who had come from a foreign country; there was a language barrier. But Joe took this and the other hardships in his stride, so much so that he could afford a trip back to his native Norway in 1925 and one to the States in 1926. In 1928 he added [illegible] his land holdings when he purchased a quarter section from the Binmore's who went to Saskatchewan to live. Later on he doubled his operations by acquiring the W. [illegible]. Ricketts half section. This is where he lived for many years in a spacious house built by the original owners. He farmed with horses for many years until the tractors became more popular, at which time he had his farm work done by others.

"Participaction", a new word, was unknown to Joe but he exemplified the word in his own particular way. A tireless walker with long striding gait, he covered many miles with ease. It is reported that in the homestead days he would walk to Castor and back in one day, a distance of some seventy miles. Joe liked to visit his neighbors of the pioneer days and Bill McLaren could usually depend on a visit from Joe. when he needed a haircut.

About 1955 he retired to Hanna, still keeping close to his neighbors the Binmores, for he purchased their house.

Joe, a bachelor all his life, passed away in 1958 in his seventieth year and is buried in the Hanna cemetery.

JOSEPH ALBERT JONES, By Fred Johnston — When the new townsite of Hanna was surveyed in 1912 one of the first businesses to be established was that of C. E. Jones, Harness Shop. His wife and two sons Harold and Joseph Albert, better known as Bert, came in August of 1912. The boys had been born in the State of Maine. Harold established a homestead on the south half of 28-32-14 in 1913. He joined the Canadian forces in 1918 and after the war went back to the States.

Bert joined the 196th battalion in 1915 and was posted overseas. Severely wounded, he spent considerable time convalescing in hospitals in England. He was in hospitals in Calgary after he returned. As a result of his wounds one leg was shorter than the other necessitating the use of a leg brace the rest of his life. He also received a Soldier's Pension as well. He came back to the farm which Harold had homesteaded and his mother kept house for him. The barn which had been used by the Joneses in Hanna was moved out on sleighs. Bert got a quarter of Soldier Settlement Board land in 1922. He leased the Kamm place from a mortgage company and did a little farming as well. He used to have hay put up on shares, which brought in a little income. In the early thirties Bert and Edith Hornfeldt were married and they had a son Robert.

In 1958 Bert had an auction sale, sold his land, and retired to a small house in Hanna. He passed away at age 72 in 1964. He was survived by his wife and son of Vancouver, and two brothers Harold and John of the States. There were two more brothers and a sister in the Jones family.

Jack and Mrs. Binmore, Helen Annas.

THE BINMORE STORY, By Mrs. C. Viste, H. Annas and F. Johnston — Jack Binmore, born in England, was a career soldier in the Imperial Army who had been in active combat during the Boer War. He had immigrated to Ontario at an early date.

Elizabeth, better known as Lala was also born in England. She had lost her mother at an early age and had been placed in a foster home, in Ontario. After she grew up she was in the employ of those who needed special nursing care in their homes. While doing this type of work she met and married Jack.

In the spring of 1913 Jack came west and filed on his homestead the NW-34-32-14. Lala followed in January of

1914. The first year he worked away from home like most homesteaders. He worked for D.A. Wilson of Lonebutte while Lala stayed at home. About 1928 Binmores sold their land to a neighbor Joe Kleiberg and went to Saskatchewan to work. However that didn't work out so they returned and purchased the Tumelson quarter SW 27-32-14. Here they built a new barn. A shortage of water plagued them while living here and so in 1935 they rented John Mitchell's place when he sold out and went back to Scotland to live. They had to return to the Tumelson quarter when Mitchell sold the land. In 1942, while they were gone, a prairie fire went through and burned their barn down.

The Binmores were a proud couple, making do with whatever was at hand. Mrs. Binmore had a sunny infectious disposition while Jack, a bit sombre, was never-the-less outgoing. He was a clever story teller, especially when relating his experiences in the Boer War. Through ups and downs they enjoyed life. A team and wagon was their sole means of transportation. Having no children and few chores they did considerable visiting.

The Binmores retired to live in Hanna where Jack passed away in 1951. Mrs. Binmore continued to reside in Hanna until failing eye sight forced her to move to the C.N.I.B. in Calgary, where she passed away in 1965 at the age of ninety-four. Both are interred in the Hanna Cemetery.

ELBERT and EMERY PETTIE, By Fred Johnston — Elbert and Emery Pettie came down from the Willow Prairie district, south of Castor, to this area to take up land in 1913. Emery's homestead was NW-36-32-14 and Elbert's the NW-3 and the NE-4-33-14. L. L. Pettie Sr., and another brother, Earl, stayed at Willow Prairie.

The Pettie brothers owned a steamer and threshing outfit and did considerable work with them. They threshed in this district in 1915.

Both left in 1916. Emery went to Whiterock, B.C., where he married. Both are dead now.

THE ROBERT and SARAH UNSWORTH STORY, By Ellen Unsworth Ironside — It was in April 1902 that Robert and Sarah Unsworth, along with their two sons, Bob and John, left Wigan, Lancashire, England to come to Canada. They landed at Mabou, Nova Scotia and Robert secured employment as mine manager at a coal mine there. In 1904 the ocean broke through into the mine and flooded it, so they returned to England.

In September 1905, a third son, George was born and six months later, the Unsworth family again set sail for Canada. This time, they landed at Sidney Mines, Nova Scotia and Robert was employed as pit boss at No. 4 Collieries on Cape Breton Island. Those were happy days with ocean and lakes close for swimming and fishing in the summer and skating and sledding in the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Unsworth Sr. and their family, Robert Jr., John, George and baby, Jane.

Robert had the desire to go further west. In March 1909, he went to

Lethbridge, Alberta while his wife and family remained in Cape Breton. After working in the mines there for six months, he returned to Cape Breton for the birth of their first daughter, Jane, born September 21, 1909.

Their oldest son, Bob was thirteen years old by this time and had secured a job as trapper boy at No. 4 Collieries. His duty was opening and closing doors on the airways. John was in grade four, George at the age of three years had started school, with an Eaton's catalogue tucked underneath his arm so he could cut out pictures!

In the spring of 1910, Robert left Cape Breton again. This time, he took a homestead, NW 34-34-14, and a pre-emption at Garden Plain, Alberta. During the next two years, he built a six-roomed home. The lumber for this was hauled from Stettler by oxen owned by Frank Walker. He also managed Thomas Kane's coal mine which was three miles east of his homestead. Mr. Kane also owned a general store and ran the Garden Plain post office.

In August 1912, Sarah Unsworth and the four children left Cape Breton to come to Garden Plain, Alberta. The journey was long and tiresome. A highlight of their trip out took place when Sarah got off the train to purchase some milk for her children. While she was doing this, the train pulled away without her! An S O S was sent out by the station master. The children were put off at Lacombe. This allowed a worried mother to catch up with them once again. They then resumed their journey to Castor, Alberta. At Castor, Robert met his wife and family and they reunited happily and travelled to their farm at Garden Plain, a distance of twenty-nine miles by horse and wagon. They stopped only once at "Bud" Hockett's "stopping house", to have a meal and feed the horses.

Now, with the family re-united, making a living started in earnest. The furniture that had been shipped by freight had to be hauled home from Castor. This took several trips before normal living was resumed. The farm at this time consisted of one-half section of land, five acres of which was in crop, one horse and one cow. The first harvest was cut by a neighbor's mower. The barley was then put into piles by Robert and his sons. The threshing was done by hand with a wooden instrument called a flail. The first harvest netted one hundred bushels of barley.

The water for the home came from a 34 foot well and was pulled up by a pulley and a bucket on a rope. The water itself ran through an underseam of coal and came up the color of weak tea. This did not affect its use for human consumption but much to Sarah's dismay it turned her sparkling white linens into a sad looking mess!

In 1914 the Garden Plain school was built and it became the centre where joys and sorrows of the pioneers and their families were enacted. To this simple structure pioneer children wended their way — through the cold of winter and the warmth of summer — to gain an education. The teacher was usually young and possessed the amazing ability of teaching grades one to ten with equal skill. On Sundays church was held within its walls to provide food for the soul. To this structure, bareheaded and grief stricken, came the mourners to pay their last respects to loved ones and neighbors. Here at the school, pioneer meetings were held to lend growth to the community as a whole. Here the pioneers relaxed and enjoyed the good fellowship and fun of picnics, card parties and dances, and here the enchantment of the Christmas concerts took place. They were such an integral part of pioneer life, reaching out and warming each soul!

In the fall of 1914 the family moved to Castor for the winter. Robert and son Bob worked in the Hoff coal mine, returning in April 1915 to the farm. That summer, Bob and John ran the farm and their Dad managed the Cattanach coal

mine. During this summer a neighbor, Jim Crombie, who farmed west of us, wanted to dig a well. He was tragically overcome by "black damp" and died in the well. Robert and sons and other neighbors worked all night to recover the body.

As Robert and Sarah Unsworth's children grew up their parents discovered that each one of them loved music. They had brought a piano over from England with them. This piano actually accompanied them across the ocean three times! The family had violins, guitars, accordians, mouth organs and jews harps and each one learned to play them. As they grew older, each of them at different times, supplied music in the community, making life much cheerier. It brought us pleasure and togetherness as a family.

Small things brought great delight to these pioneer children! The arrival of the Grain Growers Guide was wonderful, for inside its pages was a comic called the "Doo Dads". This starred "Flannelfoot", the cop, "Roly Poly", "Dr. Saw Bones", "Sand Piper", and "Sleepy Sam". These comics were practically devoured by each child before the paper either went to rest in the "little house" for further use, or was used to clean the chimneys of the coal oil lamps that lighted the pioneer home. Nothing was wasted!

One cold winter day John and George and their dog, Rover set out for the store, three miles distant, to get some groceries and the mail. On the way home, George decided that it was the dog's duty to help carry the purchases home, so taking a piece of binder twine from his pocket, he proceeded with John's help, to tie a pound of tea on the dog's back. All went well until the dog saw a rabbit and took off after it. No amount of calling could stop him and during the chase the tea fell off the dog's back! There was no way the boys could return home without the tea, so it took some time hunting over the quarter-section before they found it. From then on, the idea was considered a failure and Rover was never again a pack animal!

In 1916, Robert bought the N.W. of 6-33-13, formerly owned by Mr. Litke. This included a mine which he developed. The family moved into a house there and Bob joined the army and went overseas. Prospects were good cropwise that year, so Robert and son John went to Hanna, fourteen miles south and purchased a new McCormick binder. Before they got home with it, a hail storm had taken all the crop. The storm was so severe that it killed young pigs and chickens. The hail went through the west windows of the house, through the open door into the kitchen and broke some east windows also. Sarah, George and Jane were all in the barn milking when the storm hit in all its severity. After it was over, George had to climb out of the hayloft window to shovel the hailstones from the barn door so that his mother and Jane could get out! Needless to say, the binder wasn't used that year.

On October 20 of that year a second daughter, Ellen, was born. Later that same year on Christmas day, a catastrophe occurred when eleven-year-old George was badly hurt in a mine cable accident. Dr. Mason came from Hanna by horse and sleigh to assist him. George spent three months in Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. His only visitor was Johnny Cattanach of Garden Plain, but a nurse Violet Wagner Wayne, kept in touch with his parents as to his progress. A year later, he was well on the way to recovery, proving it by climbing to the top of Brelsford's windmill to locate a horse for his neighbor.

In those days, Mrs. Sexsmith was midwife for the community. She had been called upon to assist with the birth of Ellen and a third daughter, Phyllis, who only lived two years.

The years 1917 - 1918 were mostly uneventful with life assuming an even keel. The big excitement of those years was the purchase of a Gray Dort car. John was the proud owner. When he arrived home with it from Hanna, the weather was

cold so he had to drain the radiator to keep it from freezing. The next morning, the car wouldn't start and a frustrated John discovered that he had drained the gas tank instead of the radiator. This, of course, resulted in a frozen radiator and a dry gas tank!

There was rejoicing one day in 1919 when son Bob arrived home from the war. In 1920 Bob married Frances J. Lewis.

John went to the coal mines in Vancouver in 1922. He moved to Nanaimo and married there in 1926. John and his wife, Ida still make their home in Nanaimo, B.C.

Robert Unsworth's health was declining rapidly and in July 1927, he passed away.

In 1929 Jane married Bert Harding and in 1932 George married Freda Summers. They are presently residing in Hanna. In 1935 Ellen married Herb Taylor. Herb passed away in 1946 and in 1948 Ellen married Will Ironside. They now live in Hanna also.

Sarah Unsworth passed away in April 1958.

Robert and Sarah Unsworth, pioneers of Alberta, are survived by three children, eighteen grandchildren, fifty-two great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Grandma Unsworth Sr. and daughter Ellen (Unsworth) Ironside and son George.

THE ELLEN UNSWORTH STORY, By Ellen Unsworth Ironside — I wasn't born until 1916 so I am not really a pioneer but I lived through the depression and I feel I have a story to tell.

There were three boys and three girls in our family. I was number five. Being twenty-one years younger than my oldest brother Bob, I can't help but feel that there were better things that could have happened that year!

My dad was very musical and my mother could sing, and as a little girl I remember well practising for the Alps concert, my brother George playing a violin accompaniment. I received all my education at the Alps school. I finished Grade ten and that was it — there were no grants or loans available in those days to further education.

Childhood Christmases stand out in my memory. About December first, Dad would send to Eaton's for our winter's supply of jam, raisins, prunes and Christmas candy — lots of it — with a ten pound box of chocolates included! The candy was all kept in the bottom drawer in the living room and it was on our honor that we never opened the bottom drawer. Each evening, from the time the candy arrived, Dad would let us have our choice, then on Christmas Eve all the stockings were hung on chair backs and by Christmas morning Santa had filled every stocking. There were no gifts but I always found a quarter or even fifty cents in mine. Being still little and believing in Santa, I got the money as well as candies and fruit, the others had a lemon or a lump of coal with their goodies. I realize now, the whole excitement was for me. Jane was seven years older so she likely helped to fill the stockings. We always played family games at Christmas. Bob and Frances and

their children came home as well as the bachelors or neighbors who didn't have loved ones near. Mother made mince pies and Christmas pudding. I was an adult and married to Will before I realized that suet was on an animal all year long. I thought you could only get suet at Christmas!

Mother and Dad boarded the school teachers for quite a few years and even after Dad passed in 1927, Mother continued to board the teacher for awhile. Mr. Vic Trenaman stayed with us and owned a bicycle and skiis, so he was well equipped to travel back and forth. He travelled out from his home in Hanna after weekends and the Alps hills were ideal for skiing.

Some of our pleasures were skating, tobogganing and house parties. The only skates I ever had were my brother George's size eight, work boots with skates screwed on to the soles. I never became a professional skater, but I still had fun! Taylor's lake was where we spent most of our time. Our choice tobogganing hill was just west of Charlie Noyce's in the Alps district and many a time I walked the two and a half miles there and back after some real thrilling rides. All types of sleighs were there — one or two real toboggans, homemade hand sleighs — bobsleighs and even a fancy Gondola. Hugh McLaren fashioned the Gondola and you could stand up in that. It would hold from four to six people, someone would give the sleigh a push and we were off! There was no way of steering it so each ride was a thriller. One night, Hugh lost his false teeth in one of the spills and we spent quite some time finding them. Mrs. Noyce often made us cocoa and the most beautiful chocolate cake you could wish for!

On Friday nights in winter some good neighbor would invite twenty or thirty of us to his house for dancing and lunch. Music was supplied by those present — my brother George, Bob Rehill, George Gwin, Walter Jensen, Herb and George Taylor — usually just a violin and perhaps a mouth organ or accordion for accompaniment. Those were good times! Mr. Nelville Thomas was often called upon to play the bagpipes. I think perhaps he was the only person around who had mastered that art.

In the summer, I loved softball and through school and later in district teams I played twice a week, often riding horseback six miles there and back for a practice.

After my dad passed away Mother and I just stayed on at the farm. I was eleven then, and learned to harness horses, plow, drive a hay rake and a hay buck, run a binder and yes, — stook! George came home to take the crop off and at that time he seemed to run from one row to the next. We surely got the work done! Wheat was worth twenty-six cents a bushel then, we always had such a poor crop we would stack ours before threshing. Stack threshing was three cents a bushel and we saved wherever we could.

Mother and I were on "Mother's Allowance" by this time — nine dollars a month for all our groceries. I carried the cream from one cow one-half mile to Greenways to put on ice. They would take it to Hanna for us on the weekend. That money helped buy our clothes. I still remember that my good dress from Eaton's cost one dollar and seventy-nine cents.

We always had a big garden with strawberries and small fruit trees. It was so dry that George dug two shallow wells and we steadily watered the garden. In the fall we gave lots of vegetables away. I sold cabbages from my "School Fair" garden seed and thought how lucky I was!

Around 1930 the grasshoppers arrived in clouds and at that time Norman Greenway and I joined forces in spreading grasshopper poison, me driving the team and Norman spreading the poison with a sort of spoon from the back of the

democrat. Norman and I spent many days fanning brome grass seed. I can still see the sagebrush seed coming through with the brome!

Prairie fires were another horror in my teens. Everything was so dry, a fire could start so easily and the wind always seemed to be blowing. Then too, the dust storms were terrible. Often, when I rode home from school, the dust would fill the sky and Mother would have the light on at four-thirty.

Winter blizzards were terrifying too. We had a wire from the kitchen door to the "little house" and through the winter we really made use of it. There was no end of snow shovelling to keep paths open. I remember two years when the line fence between Ralph Greenways' was drifted over and their bull came roaring down to our barnyard. It was no wonder I had nightmares.

Now I must tell of our neighbors to the north east of us who had lovely Holstein cows. Every afternoon for about a week those cows were in our crop when I got home from school. I asked the farmer to keep them home but he was short of pasture too. Getting really fed up with it one afternoon, I put the six cows into the barn and milked them, turned them out and chased them up the road. We had a really good cream cheque that week and it was the answer, he kept his cows home after that!

By this time I was going to the dances at Garden Plain some six miles away. I would ride horseback to my brother Bob's place, then after the dance would stay with them till morning. Often George, Freda and I would share the same bed, it was warmer that way. The house would be so cold when we got home!

In 1935 I fell in love and married Herb Taylor. On May 12, 1937 our twin boys were born. This was also the day King George VI and Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne so their birthday was easily remembered for some time. We farmed west of Garden Plain for two years, then bought a store at Fenn, Alberta and moved there in 1938. We met the nicest people there and had a happy year. In September 1939, the Second World War broke out, so we sold our store in Fenn and moved to Drumheller and opened a small grocery there, just north of the bridge. Six months later, we moved to Hayter, Alberta and ran a small grocery there but competition proved too much for us so in 1940 we moved back to Grandad Taylor's farm just west of Garden Plain.

In March 1943 our third son was born and for three years we enjoyed farming. The twins started their education at Netherby school and I was happy to be back at Garden Plain. In May 1946, Herb passed away after only ten days in hospital. Later that spring I held an auction sale and moved to a little house at Garden Plain hamlet.

In 1948, I met and married Will Ironside and moved up to his farm northeast of Buchan school. We had only a barb-wire telephone for the sixteen years we lived there and I still maintain that our greatest asset now is the telephone. We were blessed with one daughter which made our family complete. We continued farming till 1964 when we sold the farm to my nephew, Cyril Unsworth and moved to Hanna.

Our twins now live in Castor, Alberta, where they operate a D-7 Caterpillar and grader under the name of Twin Construction. Delbert and Kay have two girls and a boy; Doug and Dianne have three girls. Jim and Ruby are in Calgary where he does heavy trucking. Judy and Larry are presently living in Cranbrook, B.C. where Larry owns a "convenience" store. They have a baby girl.

Will and I are still living in Hanna, both retired and happy to be near our family and to take part in fishing and in the activities of the Pioneer Association.

CHARLES W. COBB STORY, By Leonard Cobb — Charles W. Cobb was married to Ada May Roop in Minnesota in 1910. In 1912 they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, with their small son Edward. While in Edmonton twin boys, Earl and Mirl were born to them.

About two years later, they moved to Hanna, settling in the Alps district. For awhile, Charles Cobb farmed the old Olsen place (N½-12-33-14), later moving to a farm one and a quarter mile north of Alps school.

The children attended Alps school, walking the wagon road that wound through the hills. During this time Charles got the contract to build a fence around the school grounds. He was paid $55.00 for labor and supplying materials as well. The next year (1925) he painted the school for $30.00.

During the time they were in the Hanna area there were five more children born into the family, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin, Elevon and Lester.

In 1926, when Lester was about six weeks old, Charles moved his family to Toppenish, Washington, in the Yakima Valley. He purchased a farm and later went into the trucking business. Another daughter, Mary Lou, was born in 1928.

He continued in the trucking business until illness forced him to retire in 1963. He passed away in 1966 at the age of eighty-two. His wife, Ada, is still living at Toppenish, Washington.

There are seven sons and two daughters all living in the United States. Edward, Earl, Mirl, Lawrence, Leonard, Marvin and Lester, Mrs. Elevon Coleman, and Mrs. Mary Lou Pedro. There are seventeen grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Ralph Greenway

Nellie Greenway

RALPH GREENWAY STORY, By Nellie Greenway — Ralph Greenway was born in 1887 in Birmingham, England, the son of William and Elizabeth Greenway. He was one of seven children and when he was just ten years old his mother passed away. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada to get rich quick! This was the dream of many young men in those days. When Ralph arrived in Montreal he did not have a penny as someone had stolen his wallet on the boat. He did odd jobs for awhile, finally landing in Ontario and there worked for some real nice folks. He stayed with them for quite a time. I cannot remember when he filed for his homestead. It was at Prussia, Saskatchewan, later called Leader.

Ralph and I were sweethearts in England so I came out to Canada to marry him, arriving on May 14, 1914. I came from the little village of Kenilworth in Warwickshire. Naturally I felt sad and lonely leaving my loved ones and friends. I got along real well until I started to cross the ocean. Then I wished I were back on land! The only time I went into the dining room was the last morning, coming up the St. Lawrence river. My cabin friend was very kind to me. She told me not to tip the waiter at our table (he hadn't done much waiting on me!) but he came over later to the customs. He spotted me there having no intention of letting me go without giving him a tip! I finally gave him two shillings and sixpense. Standing around in Montreal I could not understand why so many people kept remarking, "she's a long time coming." To my surprise I found out it was the train! I was thinking of some fine lady. It looked such a huge train after the English ones. I had my ticket changed from the Grand Trunk to the C.P.R. so that I could stay with my friends, not realizing that I would lose my berth. I sat up for two nights and days and felt more dead than alive as one could not even doze, for there were some very noisy passengers. The train finally arrived in Winnipeg at 10:30 p.m. and Ralph and his brother Bill met me there. Bill surprised me by saying, "Well, Nellie, you are getting married tonight!" Feeling as I was, it was more like a dream. We went to a hotel to clean up quickly, no time for even a cup of tea as the wedding was at 11 p.m. It was at the Methodist church with a very nice pastor. I felt more like resting than talking and Ralph's brother did most of the talking! Next morning we boarded the train for Leader, Saskatchewan.

One of Ralph's neighbors met us at the station with his buggy. He took us home to his place for supper, which consisted of fat pork and green tea which I found hard to swallow. I felt very uneasy, as my thoughts were that the folks would think I was one of the fussy kind! However, we got along real well except I did find it hard to talk with them and other neighbors too. It was a German settlement. They were all very kind hearted people but I found it difficult to visit with them because of language problems.

I lost my first baby, but on July 26, 1917, Norman was born at home. There was no hospital at that time. The neighbors were so good to me, sending food every day, real German dishes and we were well looked after. Ralph had built a nice little home but I was not really happy there. The railway had been built through our place, just a quarter of a mile from our house. Many tramps passed through, stopping to ask for food. We had a good crop in 1915 and Ralph decided, for my sake, to move. I felt sorry in a way for he had good land and had worked hard to get it.

In 1917 with ten week old baby Norman, we came to the farm north of Hanna; S½-6-33-13-W4. Ralph purchased the farm from Ernest Massie who had decided to return to the U.S. It was nice to meet our new neighbors, the McLaren boys, their sister Effie (later Mrs. George Crossfield), the Noyces, the Taylors, the Hemstocks and many more nice folks.

It was not always sunshine as many times we did not have much to go on with.

In May 1920, after being in Canada for six years, I returned to England with Norman to visit my mother and other relatives. Times were hard in England right then; I found many changes, food and fuel were rationed and it had affected the people there. I used to walk about a mile to get Mother's ration of coal, pushing it home in Norman's buggy. In November, Ralph and Bill came over to England and spent the winter with us. In March 1921 they returned to Canada but Norman and I stayed on in England as I was expecting my second baby. Dennis was born in Leamington Spa on September 30, 1921 and it was 1924 before I was able to return to Canada with the two boys. My sister-in-law, Hettie came over with me and makes her home in Orillia, Ontario. It was hard to leave my mother and loved ones over there. I never did go back again!

Ralph had rented the farm and worked for the McLaren boys during the time I was in England so it was good to be back home again. Life was often a struggle financially but we never went hungry for a meal!

On June 17, 1925 our first little daughter, Joan, was born. Gretta was born February 7, 1932, another little sister and our family was complete.

The conditions during the 30's were the worst. We were thankful for the relief we had from the government, the apples, cheese and fish (not so much the fish!). We had much to be thankful for. Social gatherings were common, picnics, pie socials, school parties, Christmas concerts, and in the winter, sleigh riding. The children always seemed to have lots of fun.

Ralph worked for many years as road maintenance man with the Department

of Public Works. Many miles of road were covered with four horses and a drag. Later the department provided him with a small grader which he used until his retirement in 1948. Part of his responsibility was to put in wooden culverts and bridges with the aid of a team, plow and slip. It was hard work but it meant a few extra dollars which were sorely needed.

All the children attended Alps school. Gretta, the youngest, went to high school in Hanna. Dennis and Joan attended Prairie Bible Institute. Dennis finished his high school subjects in Vancouver before leaving as a missionary to India.

Norman served from 1942 - 1946 in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a wireless mechanic. While stationed in Montreal he met his wife and was married in 1943. They have six children. Dennis was married to Lillian Zepick in 1959, whom he met in India, serving as a missionary there. They have two sons, Timothy and Kenneth. Joan was married to Sheldon Blenkhorn and had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Sheldina, who was born a few days after her father died suddenly of a heart attack. Later, in 1960 Joan married John Veres and they have five children, Ronald, Stanley, Kenneth, Keith and Cindy. They make their home in Wimborne, Alberta. Gretta married Floyd Mathers of Hanna in 1950 and they have four children, Brenda, Shirley, Douglas and David. They reside at Pollockville, Alberta.

Ralph passed away in 1953 at the age of [illegible]. I moved into Hanna where I lived in my own home until 1969 when I moved into the Senior Citizen's Lodge. I do thank the Lord for the long and full life which He has graciously given to me!

Norman Greenway family, 1964.

NORMAN GREENWAY STORY — I was born in Leader, Saskatchewan, July 26, 1917. When I was ten weeks old, Dad and Mother moved to our present farm, thirteen miles northeast of Hanna.

In May 1920, Mother and I went to England to visit her mother and other relatives, staying there until 1924. Consequently, I began my schooling there; I also acquired an English accent!

On coming back to Alberta, across the prairies by train, I remember being fascinated by the scores of little animals running around. Mother told me they were gophers; I thought she meant "golfers". I couldn't see anyone playing golf!

Dad met the train in Hanna along with Bill McLaren and his Model "T". He drove us home with our suitcases but the trunks and boxes had to be picked up later. Dad drove in with the team and wagon for these and took me with him. It was a real thrill.

Soon after we came back school started for me at the Alps school two miles west of our farm. Dad bought a saddle horse for me to ride but she was too frisky so he traded her for a quieter pony named Tiny. Tiny and I were to share many a mile, travelling to school and going for cows until she succumbed to old age. I remember one morning I was late leaving for school and Tiny was stubbornly trotting along. Kicking her ribs didn't seem to be getting much action so I stopped by a grove of willows to get a switch. While I was doing this, Tiny took off for school without me! Needless to say, I was quite late that morning. School days bring memories of happy experiences and some not so happy. I remember the teasing I got because of my English accent but I soon lost that. Alps school got its name from the surrounding hills and noon hour was our opportunity to adventure among the willow bushes and sloughs close to the school. Winter found us tobogganing; the hill was literally at the door step. All my schooling was taken at Alps and I went through to Grade ten. I look back with fond memories on those days.

It was 1933 when I quit school. Those were hard years for the farmers with drought, grasshoppers and very little income. I had a desire to finish high school but Dad needed my help so I stayed home and worked for the next few years. I worked occasionally for other farmers as well. In 1937 and 1941 I worked for Russel Hemstock on the farm and at his coal mine. We stripped all the dirt off with plow and fresnos. Russel had very good horses for this job. Mining was difficult for men and horses when the pit got so deep. People came from as far away as Hemaruka to haul coal, mostly with teams and wagons. The coal sold for $1.50 a ton with some top coal selling for $1.00.

In 1941 I was conscripted for basic army training for a period of one month. This took place at Red Deer during January and February. We had marching, rifle drill and bayonet practice. I would have made a poor soldier for I detested it!

In April 1942 I joined the Air Force and took training as a radio mechanic in Calgary. We were posted to Lachine, Quebec from there for more drill training. It was beautiful fall weather and I can remember the abundance of delicious apples [illegible] the markets of Lachine! After six weeks of training there we were posted to No. 2 Wireless School on Queen Mary Road in Montreal. It was during my stay in Montreal that I met Myrtle Renshaw who was to become my wife.

After I finished my training in Montreal and graduated as a wireless mechanic, I was posted to Sydney, Nova Scotia in April 1943. In December of that year I was sent to Rockcliffe, Ontario, just outside of Ottawa. In the week's interval between postings, Myrtle and I were married.

We stayed in Ottawa until 1946 when I was discharged. Our first child, Donald, was born in Ottawa in 1945.

Soon after I left the R.C.A.F. we came west and lived with my parents on the farm. In 1947 I rented the farm from Dad and also bought the Unsworth quarter, N.W. 6-33-13, and proceeded to build a small house for my family. We settled down to farming. Myrt was a city girl and didn't know wheat from barley or oats so she had much to learn! We moved into our unfinished house in December of that year. We were anxious to have a home of our own. The crop in 1947 was poor, so with very little money to go on with I decided to go north to Breton to work in the bush. After New Year, I left Myrt and our two-and-a-half year old son on the farm and was away until mid-March. The weather was very good when I left but winter set in with a vengeance in the middle of January and we had one of the worst winters on record! Myrtle had no means of transportation so often walked the half mile to my folks' place for milk, eggs and the mail. Of course, they kept their eye on my family in my absence. When I came back in March the roads were still partially blocked and spring seemed a long way off!

I farmed with horses until 1951, usually driving eight head, four and four. Even though I liked the horses, the chore of harnessing, hitching them together and finally getting out to the field was much too tedious and not efficient. In 1951 I purchased an "L" Case tractor that had been put on rubber. There was quite a bit of whoaing for a few days as I became accustomed to this iron horse! However, it certainly had its advantages and disadvantages too as I found out when I would get stuck in the mud!

In 1952 we moved into my parents' house and they took over our little cottage. By this time we had three boys and another baby on the way. Stephen had been born in 1949, Brian [illegible] 1950 and Elizabeth came along [illegible] 1952. Eric was born in 1953, so we definitely needed a larger house!

In 1953 Dad passed away and Mother moved to Hanna, where she died April 30, 1977. I bought the home place from her and I also had taken over a lease on N½-11-33-14, the former Jack Temple farm.

The Fifties were fairly hard years. We didn't have too much money and relied on a few milk cows and chickens for grocery money. They were happy years, however, as the children were growing up; always busy, yet there was an appreciation for our home and family. A highlight of those years was a trip by car and trailer to Montreal to visit Myrt's parents. This was in 1958, her first trip home after twelve years on the prairies. It was an experience still treasured and remembered by us all!

In the late Forties and early Fifties we attended church services at country schools. This was during the summer months. In 1950 we had Farrell Doan stay with us and hold services at a number of points in the community. In 1951 Graham Clark held services at Dundee school on Sunday afternoons and at the Garden Plain Hall in the evenings. These services were well attended. In 1955 we decided to start going regularly to the Alliance church in Hanna for Sunday School and church. We packed (and I do mean packed), our five kids into our 1950 Ford truck and made it in to Hanna every Sunday morning. The family outgrew the Ford truck but we continued our church attendance down through the years. We have never regretted it.

In 1963 I purchased the N½-1-33-14 and S½-12-33-14 from Charlie Noyce. This enabled me to enlarge my cattle herd which has been our chief source of revenue. As the boys grew older they became a big help in farming, milking cows, running a tractor and other machinery.

The children attended Solon and Netherby schools until the rural schools closed and then they were bussed to Hanna. Most of them completed their high school in Hanna. Don, the eldest, took his grade twelve at Prairie High in Three Hills. Danny, our youngest boy is still attending Hanna High.

Don is now a chartered accountant in Edmonton. He is married and has two little girls. Stephen has purchased the farm from us. Brian is an accountant also and works at Red Deer. Elizabeth works for the Royal Bank in Calgary. Eric is married and he and his wife Donna, live and work in Regina. Danny is still at home.

Looking back at the years on the farm brings nostalgic thoughts. There were hard times but we always had the necessities of life. We were happy, though at times it seemed we were almost too busy to enjoy our family and friends. We've always appreciated our neighbors. It was good to know that they were there when we needed them. I have never considered myself a very efficient farmer but if I had my days to live over again I wouldn't want it to be any different!

THE EVERETT DORMAN STORY, By Mrs. Everett Dorman — Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dorman came to the Hanna district in March 1919 from Pond Creek, Oklahoma. They were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Massie, a former resident. He had previously owned the farm where Ralph Greenway lived.

Everett rented land from Charlie Stanfield N½-1-33-14; S½-12-33-14. He bought cattle, horses and machinery upon his arrival in the district.

They stayed on this farm for four years and then moved back to Oklahoma where they also farmed.

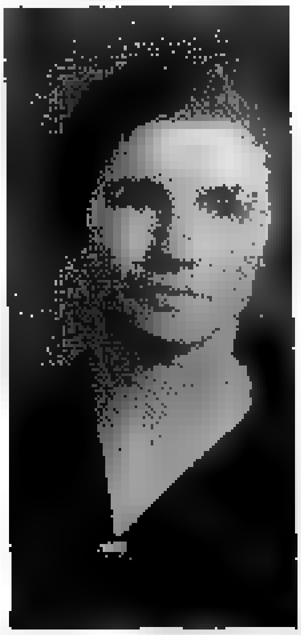
While in the Hanna district a son and daughter were born to them; Forrest Leroy, July 22, 1919 and Pauline Helen, November 21, 1921. Another daughter, Betty Jean, was born in Oklahoma, May 10, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorman bought a half section of wheat land in 1947 and built a

new house. They have rented out the land for fifteen years but still reside on the farm.

THE MURL WRIGHT STORY, By Velera Wright — In February 1920 Murl, myself and our fourteen month old son, Emmet left our home in Vandalia, Illinois to come to Canada.

Mr. Murl Wright


Mrs. Murl Wright

We came to the Garden Plain district of Alberta, settling on a farm owned by Robert Unsworth Sr., N-34-33-13. We were very close to the southern tip of Sullivan Lake. There was a store at Garden Plain, run by C. A. Wickson, where we got our groceries.

We lived there one year and then moved to a farm owned by Ralph Greenway S½-6-33-13. Our daughter Lucille was born there in 1921. While we were living there the first telephone line was put through that part of the country. The men stayed at our house and I cooked for them. We had the first telephone in the neighborhood.

We then moved to the Stanfield farm N.W. 1-33-14 where we stayed until we moved back to Illinois. Our son, Wayne was born in 1923 and in 1925 Cyril was born.

Murl had to haul his grain to Hanna until they built a grain elevator at Scapa. He had four head of horses on a grain wagon. It would take a whole day to go to Hanna and back. Sleighs were used in the winter. Murl had sleigh bells on his horses which he had brought with him from Illinois. I could hear the bells for miles as he was coming home. He was the only one in the neighborhood with bells.

We attended church at Solon school which was about six miles away.

For recreation we attended various picnics and stampedes in the surrounding areas. Murl had a bucking horse that he entered in the stampedes.

In November 1926 we left Alberta and came back to Illinois. In the spring of 1927 we moved to Oklahoma where we stayed until 1947. At this time we came back to Vandalia, Illinois. We had four more children born to us during our time in Oklahoma. These were: Leo, Berniece, Ray and Joe.

Murl died in 1965 and I am living alone in Vandalia. My children are all living. Emmet in Vandalia; Lucille in Dickinson, Texas; Wayne in Wichita, Kansas; Cyril in Enid, Oklahoma; Leo and Berniece in Vandalia; Ray in Columbus, Ohio and Joe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I have nineteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

JACK and AGNES TEMPLE, By Agnes Temple — Jack was born in Kraft, Russia and came to Calgary with his parents in 1912. He had his eighth birthday somewhere out on the Atlantic aboard the "Kaiser - Victoria".

I was born in North Dakota and came to the Fleet district where my father had taken a homestead. Stettler was the end of the steel at that time.

Jack and I were married December 31, 1929. We had our wedding dance in the Scapa Hall early in January. I think it was the first wedding dance in the Scapa Hall. We set up housekeeping on the Bill Wesche (formerly Struder) farm, which Jack had purchased. The house was typical of that era — a two storey building with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs with a narrow stairway at one end. This stairway caused our first problem. The bed springs stuck fast about half way up. In fact they were so stuck that we couldn't get them down either. I think the weather turned very cold and the metal contracted; anyway, after a couple of days we did manage to dislodge them. Then Jack got the big idea of taking them through an upstairs window. We had to pry the frame off the window to get enough space, and pull a hayrack under the window, so we could reach. After a real struggle we did manage to hoist the springs through. The window never did fit properly after that.

This farm did have one advantage. There was a high hill beside the house. Our car had to be cranked and when the weather was a bit cool it was impossible to get it started. We parked the car on the hill so we could coast it down and ninety-nine times out of a hundred it started.

The Great Depression and the drought hit about this time. As I look back on those years I can't agree entirely that they were totally "Ten Lost Years". The caring and sharing established friendships which have lasted over half a century. Children who grew up in that decade acquired an unique sense of values, stability and tolerance. Of course the lack of money did create problems. The promise of twenty-five dollars per month by the Aberhart party caught the imagination of many. Each spring our hopes would soar, but those dust storms swept across the land, and very little rain fell. The price of farm produce dropped to unbelievable lows and wages followed the same trend. Jobs were impossible to get.

We tried various ways to economize. The men stripped coal for winter fuel. We milked cows to get that weekly cream cheque of one to two dollars per five gallon can. We made our bread and butter and even soap; canned beef, poultry and vegetables. I often wonder how we ever escaped food-poisoning as we had only that old boiler method of canning. Saskatoons were a popular fruit and dozens of quarts were in the cellars for winter use.

One year the people who were more fortunate than those of us in the dust bowl sent in vegetables and apples to help out. Remember the beans and cheese and fish? We were truly grateful for all. But the fish was a real challenge to every housewife. Many were the suggestions that were passed around as to how best to attack it.

We didn't run our car much for a few years, but used a Bennett Buggy for transportation. Cars were always running out of gas or else the tires were going flat.

Dances and baseball games were the two popular forms of entertainment. Baseball was the summer sport and everyone attended the games and rooted for the home team. The dances were usually held on Friday night because Saturday night was the time to go to town as the stores stayed open that night.

When I think of the twenty-five or fifty cents which the men paid for admission to the dances, it is hard to believe. Of course the ladies brought lunch. The orchestras played for a very small sum, perhaps not as loud as the orchestras of today, but we did enjoy the music. The first dance, supper waltz and Home Sweet Home were special dances and there was always a floor manager. At suppertime the local artists were prevailed upon to perform with song, readings or a step dance. I'd like to mention Art Wigley who always had many humorous songs at his command. The most popular was "The Little Shirt My Mother Made For Me". I recall an amusing incident at a wedding dance, when a performer sang "Bury Me Out on the Lone Prairie". Then there was the orchestra who played "Old Faithful - We've Roamed the Range Together" — for the Ladies' Choice. Bless the many

who gave so freely of their talents to bring a bit of sunshine and laughter into our lives.

Our family was growing. Jack David is the oldest, Ross [illegible] the second, then the twins, Kathleen and Marlene; Margaret and Lois complete the family.

Twins were surely popular in our part of the country. At a Christmas Concert at Garden Plain School in the early forties there were seven and a half sets of twins: Edna and Evelyn Smyth, Jerry and Judy Smyth. (The Charlie Smyth family lived on the Peter's place across the road from us). Joyce and Jean Cattanach, Robert and Rosanna Weins, Douglas and Delbert Taylor, Margaret and Marjorie Graham, Kathleen and Marlene Temple, and Margaret Malm. Her twin, Arvid, was in the Services.

When Jack's folks moved to Hanna in 1936, we moved to the home farm. Jackie and Ross attended Alps School.

It was about this time that we got our first radio. We really enjoyed the news and the other programs. The soap serial, Ma Perkins, and the Lux Radio Theatre were our favourites. [illegible] was a calamity when the batteries ran down.

In 1939 I started teaching at Garden Plain School. The Second World War had started and a shortage of teachers had developed. My salary was about seventy dollars per month. I stayed until 1949; by that time salaries had doubled.

Better times returned in the forties. The drought seemed to [illegible] a thing of the past. Farmers were becoming mechanized and horse-power was behind us.

By this time our boys were in high school and were riding about eight miles to Scapa. When the girls reached grade ten we sent Ross, Marlene and Kathleen [illegible] Hanna High School. They stayed at the Dorm. It was quite a chore to get them there as the roads were very poor, so we decided to move nearer a high school.

In 1949 we moved to the Botha district where we still reside on the farm. The children are married. Jackie is at High Prairie, Ross in Stettler. Kathleen, Mrs. Cecil Sorenson, resides in Red Deer. Marlene, Mrs. E. Johnson, lives in Seattle. Margaret, Mrs. Lyle Garvin, lives in Calgary, and Lois, Mrs. Allan Norman, resides in Sherwood Park. We have sixteen grandchildren, eight boys and eight girls.

BENTON E. BUNCE, By Fred Johnston — Ben Bunce homesteaded the north half of 24-33-14 in 1910. He and his wife, the former Lila Hiltse, had come from Saskatchewan. He was a carpenter by trade and soon had a small but comfortable house built on the place. They must have lived in a sod shack for a time as the remains of one can be seen. Ben contracted to build the Garden Plain school and had it finished for the first pupils in July of 1914. He sold the place to Old Man Strode and son Willis from the U.S.A. They came during the First World War.

Georgina, sister of Mrs. Bunce, came to visit and soon married Nelson Wright. A brother, Sandy, also worked in the area.

The Bunces had a family of two sons, George born in 1915 and Wilfred born in 1920. About 1921 the Bunces purchased the south half of 11-32-14, school land in the Alps district, and erected another small house as well as other buildings. George and Wilf went the one mile to the school until the end of 1926 when the Bunce family sold to Crabbs. They went to live in the United States.

It is believed that the Bunces have passed on but the whereabouts of George and Wilf are unknown. George visited the area a few years ago.

ROBERT S. CRABB, By Fred Johnston — Robert and Nellie Turner Crab were married in Hamilton, Ontario and moved west to Port Coquitlam, B.C. where Robert was a contractor in the logging industry. Dorothy Elizabeth was born in 1910. In 1918 they shipped out to Hanna, buying the John Watson farm, the site of the Fertility Post Office and store. They did not continue these services for the district. Crabb, as everyone called him, bought a new Case gas tractor and threshing machine soon after he arrived, but soon lost them as he was unable to keep up the payments. He was not a sociable person and brooded a lot. Mrs. Crabb was the very opposite, well-liked by everyone who knew her. She had been ■ Registered Nurse.

About 1927 Crabbs left the Watson place and bought Ben Bunce's half section in the Alps district. In the early thirties he leased from the municipality the unfenced quarter north of the school for pasture. No matter what time of day on our way to and from school, should you find him and Dorothy fencing he would say, "Why, good morning."

Dorothy went to the Netherby school, then boarded out in Hanna where she finished high school. She was an avid reader as anyone could tell by the reading material and books on hand. Dorothy wrote poetry also and was a very intelligent person. She enjoyed the outdoors a lot and loved the animals and so did most of the chores. During the dry thirties she watered cattle at a spring about a mile east of the house. She rode horseback 2½ miles nearly every mail day for the mail, sometimes delivering the neighbors' as well.

Mrs. Crabb died at home in the late forties and was taken back to Ontario for burial. Crabb and Dorothy continued to farm for a few more years. During these years Dorothy went to Ontario to live with relatives but would not stay. Her heart was on the farm. She had very poor eyesight and went to Calgary to the C.N.I.B. where she worked for a little while. Then she had an operation to remove the cataracts from her eyes and during her time of recuperation stayed with her friends, the Forbes ■ Hanna. Then she resided in Ponoka for some years. During this time she kept in touch with some of the neighbor ladies who kept her posted on the doings around the Alps and Netherby district. She wrote lovely letters back and they were always ■ pleasure to read. She worked in Red Deer also for ■ period of time. Illness struck her and she died in an Edmonton hospital during the mid-sixties at about fifty-five years of age.

Without Dorothy to assist him Mr. Crabb found it impossible to carry on so during the mid-fifties he left the farm and went to Calgary to live. He also had very poor eyesight and was hit by a car, suffering a broken leg in the mishap. Probably on his doctor's advice he moved into a nursing home at this time. He came in contact with Christian workers who brought him to faith in Christ and his whole outlook on life was changed. He became friendly and kindly towards old neighbors and those around him. Mr Crabb passed away in the early sixties and as far as we remember he was in his eighties. He was buried in Calgary.

The R. S. Crabb farm is now owned by Calton Viste.

Mr. and Mrs. Hasz

DAVID and LYDIA HASZ STORY, By Irene Hasz Bauer and Herbert Hasz — Our Dad, David Hasz was born in Roumania in 1882 and came to America when he was five or six. Mother was born in North Dakota, in 1886. They were married in North Dakota on December 20, 1906. Between 1908 and 1917, seven children were born to them: Irene, Herbert, Elgen, Solomon, George, and Elsie and Edna, the twins. Little Solomon passed away before his first birthday.

We came to Canada, January 1918, arriving in Calgary. Dad had two uncles in Alberta and his uncle in Calgary advised him to try for a farm in the Hanna district. We had brought all our household furniture by train, also five horses and a colt.

The Herrington farm in the Dowling district was where we first settled, northwest of Dowling Lake. We attended Chain Lakes school. In 1919, after one year there, Dad bought 640 acres five miles north and three east of Hanna. We went to Solon school then and some of our neighbors were the Paxman, Whaley and Adams families. We went to church and Sunday School at Solon as well.

In 1922, we moved again to the W. W. Hill place farther north on highway 36, the present Fred Johnston farm. Five of us children attended Alps school. Irene had quit school by this time and worked out to help support the family. Our neighbors were the R. Greenway s and Jim Taylor s.

We got all our supplies from Hanna and had our mail delivered by a mail carrier.

During the years we were living there we enjoyed the stampedes, picnics and dances at Garden Plain Hall.

After Herbert quit school he worked for Sid Herring near Netherby school.

The Hasz's: Herb, Irene, Ike, Edna, George and Elsie.

In March 1927 we left the Hill farm and moved to Fleet where we had a larger farm with more rangeland and were able to increase our cattle. The boys were getting to the farming age. Herbert moved to a farm at Federal.

Dad passed away July 9, 1943 and Mother on January 16, 1945. They are survived by five children, twenty-five grandchildren and thirty-three great grandchildren.

Irene married Jacob Bauer in 1931 and they now live at Penticton, B.C., Herbert married Rose Pippis in 1934 and they reside in Coronation. Elsie married Emmanuel Schaber in 1935 and they have retired to Lacombe. Edna married Dave Schockenmaier in 1936 and she is widowed and lives at Sidney, B.C. George and his wife, the former Lois Baker, were residing in California where George passed away in 1967. Eigen, or Ike, as he was called, married Joan Thompson in Nakomis, Saskatchewan in 1951 and they still reside there.

ELSIE HASZ SCHABER STORY, Compiled by Myrtle Greenway — "Hello, I'm Elsie. I'm bigger than Edna." Thus Elsie greeted Miss Meece, her grade one teacher at Alps school. The Hasz children had many adventures relating to their

journeys to and from school. Herb, being the oldest at school, drove the bobsleigh and loved to take the corners sharp, so it was common occurrence to be dumped in the snow.

Ralph Greenway, a close neighbor enjoyed sauerkraut and pork, so when Mom Hasz served it he was often invited down for this German treat. The children took great delight in teaching him the German words and the expression, "sauerkraut und schpek macht die deutsch bite fet". Loosely translated this means, "sauerkraut and pork makes the German people fat!"

On another occasion, Mr. Greenway had a horse that was badly wire cut. He thought the only humane thing to do was to shoot the horse so asked Dad to do the job. Dad said that he could heal the horse so Mr. Greenway gave him the animal. Not only did "Tony" recover but served the Hasz's for many years, especially taking the children to school.

Ike was visiting with neighbors one Good Friday while the rest of the family went to church. He and some of the boys were amusing themselves by shooting gophers. One of the boys handed the gun to Ike and it accidently discharged and shot his horse, Bess. She dropped dead immediately and Ike was shocked and upset. She had been a family pet, especially to the twins, Elsie and Edna. The girls wandered the fields, crying and looking for Bess' body, yet dreading to find it and facing up to the horror that she was actually quite dead.

One time, the twins were riding the horse when they were supposed to be doing chores. Edna accidentally fell off and had her eye hurt quite badly. They couldn't tell Mother how it had happened, so cooked up a story about Elsie pushing Edna from the hayloft. Elsie had a good licking and Edna had her eye cared for. The following day, Edna's eye was still very sore and she was lying listlessly around, so Mother was quite irate with Elsie and said she would give her another whipping. Elsie confessed then that they had been riding Bess and so Mother became cross with Edna as well and threatened to punish her for lying. Elsie begged her not to as she and her twin were so close to one another, when one suffered, the other did too.

Elsie's parents were Christian parents and took the children to church and Sunday School. She remembers attending services at the German United church in Hanna and is thankful for this heritage.

Mom Hasz baked great quantities of doughnuts and cookies. Elsie has preserved the recipe for ammonia cookies, which were left to rise overnight and were baked first thing in the morning. What a pleasant aroma to wake up to; freshly baked cookies. The recipe calls for ten cents worth of ammonia so it is difficult to make them today with our inflationary food costs.

Mom sewing long hours for the family, was a common sight. She didn't need a pattern to turn out attractive garments.

Dad loved to hunt coyotes and often would take Mom along on these outings. He had two or three hounds and often returned with several coyotes. He was a great horseshoe fan and was always ready for a game if he could find someone to play with.

Our days on the farm were happy ones. We didn't have much money but took pleasure in the simple, everyday things which, after all are the most meaningful.

WILLIAM HILLER and FAMILY, By Fred Johnston — The Hillers were among the many families who immigrated to these parts from the eastern countries of Europe in 1927. They settled on a farm in the Bull Pound area south of Hanna. Due to the drought conditions there they came to the Weakley place,

across the fence and south of Jack Young, in the spring of 1930. To this day it is still called the Hiller place.

Emil the oldest, Alma, Lena and Tillie went the one mile to the school. With only a small amount of land to farm and the persistence of the drought, they trekked to Fawcett, Alberta in the spring of 1934. There were seven girls and three boys in the family and they are living in various parts of Alberta and B.C.

Blanche and Fred Johnston and their family. Eileen Corry, Fred and Rayford.

FRED W. JOHNSTON SR., By Fred Johnston Jr. — On a chilly afternoon in October of 1919, Fred Johnston came out to the farm with Jack Corry on a load of lumber. He had been here earlier with W. C. Sterling, land locator of Hanna, who had shown him around. Dad bought the north half of 24-33-14 from "Old Man Strode," through the Soldier Settlement Board. Six horses, one cow and the machinery were included in the purchase price. This land had been Ben Bunce's homestead.

Dad had served overseas in World War I, with the railway troops. After returning, he and George Forster were guarding military supplies on Vancouver's wharves. Many attempts to be demobilized ended in failure. They were discharged, however, when they professed a keen desire to go farming.

The winter of 1919-1920 was a severe one. Farmers and their livestock suffered many hardships that winter. As the winter wore on the unthreshed crops and the old straw stacks were commanding premium prices. To make matters even worse, cattle prices fell to disastrous lows. Proceeds when the animals were sold didn't pay for their feed.

Spring eventually came and Dad was ready to make his fortune farming. With a lot of free advice, encouragement, and desire on his part, it's not surprising that he got fouled up at the start, but not for long! He had to make four passes at the gate before he got his six horse outfit through it. During his batching days, Sandy and Mrs. Donaldson were very good friends of his. They lived a mile across section 19 and many a meal Dad had with them. Of course he was only one of many bachelors who enjoyed this Scottish couple's hospitality. When Dad and Mom got married in February of 1924, he didn't have the excuse to go there as often as he had before. However, their friendship continued until the Donaldsons passed away.

Mom, who was Blanche Pope, had come from North Carolina in 1918 to keep house for her brother, Mark.

During the early twenties there were very few threshing machines in the country. Dad became a shareholder of a threshing syndicate called Garden Plain Threshers.

After harvest and during the winter months he, along with many other farmers of this area, would haul his grain to Hanna or to Bonar. With the thermometer registering well below zero on many occasions, it was a long cold trip. Well bundled in a fur cap and fur coat, he walked many of those miles behind the

sleigh. Those trips were greatly shortened when first Scapa and then Garden Plain acquired elevators.

After he had bought the place he had been warned that there was no water to speak of there. The well drilled by Frank Ruppert yielded about a barrel a day. The slough usually provided enough water for livestock during the summer. However, in the winter, what few cattle we had would have to be driven to a well one mile west. Dad then built a well drilling machine. A hole big enough to take a two inch pipe was punched down, all the while flushing the mud out with high pressure water. If you were successful in reaching water, a two inch pipe was pounded down the hole and served the same function as a well casing. Then the well could be developed. During dad's many attempts at drilling for water as many as four seams of coal would be encountered on the way down. Some coal seams would be as much as seven feet thick. In the interim, dad put down a good well at Garden Plain school and another for Billy Wagner.

This same Billy Wagner was helping when dad drilled the last hole on this place. The water used in the sump disappeared down the hole, a sure sign of water. Billy considered himself a good dowser, so taking his forked twig in hand proceeded to find the stream. Both he and dad were elated that a good stream had been found as the twig kept turning. Billy walked around in his stocking feet and the wand was performing miracles. However, when it was developed, the well had no more water in it than the others. In the meantime, water was being hauled by tank at regular intervals from Jensen's. If dad was to continue farming he had to get a place with water on it. In the spring of 1930 he rented from Hills the farm that we live on today, the NE-36-32-14.

About 1926, the folks bought a DeForest Crosley radio. It kept someone on the road getting the wet battery charged! The squeaks and squeals emitted didn't deter them from enjoying it. People boasted about the programs heard from clear-channel on distant stations, especially when weather conditions were right. A close neighbor also owned a radio with which he was constantly experimenting, by adding special gadgets. You knew exactly when his set was turned on because of the interference. Dad always claimed that this amateur had a transmitter instead of a receiver.

While living at the "North Place", Fred Jr., Rayford and Eileen were born. Our sister Edna was born in 1932, but passed away in 1944.

After our move we could keep a few milk cows. Mom also raised a lot of Leghorn chickens and turkeys. The first few years as many as three incubators were used to hatch the eggs. When the roosters were big enough they were butchered and sold as fryers. A lot of eggs were sold to keep things going.

Just before Christmas the turkeys were butchered. As many other people also raised turkeys they would go from place to place killing and plucking them. Dad became very efficient at "sticking" turkeys so that feathers would be easy to pull. Before he acquired the knack of sticking, an experience at Donaldson's convinced him that he was probably as good as those who were trying to do the job. Mrs. Donaldson was scared out of her wits when a supposedly dead bird got up and started walking around inside the house!

The dead birds would be hauled into Hanna, usually by sleigh but sometimes by car if the roads were open. On one of these trips with the model "T", the radiator froze. To help thaw it out, Dad covered the radiator with his fur coat. When the steam hit the coat it shrunk it so badly, dad was unable to wear it again!

The first car we owned was this same Model T. Dad in his travels had acquired considerable knowledge of gas engines, which proved valuable through the years. Model T s were temperamental at the best of times but ours never let

him down. In the winter he would jack up one back wheel, pour hot water through the block and give the crank a few spins. Always it would go. Mom learned to drive this car and it always brought her home. She has been driving ever since. Of all the cars Dad owned, his favorite was the Model A.

Dad farmed with horses until 1939 when he acquired an old cross mounted Case, 15-27 model, which was his initiation to power farming. That old tractor taxed his mechanical knowledge to the limit. However, he prevailed, and with spare parts he got from Whaleys he used it until he got a better one.

After the threshing syndicate folded several different men threshed his crops. Among them were Bill McLaren, Roy Bartman and Fred Whaley.

There were only two crops in this country, the one in 1923 and next year's. The crop of 1927 was hailed out and Dad had no insurance. Many hail insurance companies went broke that year. He was hailed out a few times after that but was better able to stand the loss.

In 1932 Dad spent most of the summer building a barge. He hired a young lad from Vancouver who had come with Stuart McRae, to operate the barge. Just before the lad left to go back to school, he announced he was going to harness a horse. Thinking he was taking a long time to do the job, dad went to see how he was getting along. He had put the collar on upside down and insisted that was the way it should go.

There was a couple of years when folks around here, including dad, stacked their short crops to cut down on expenses. Dad bought a Case threshing machine in 1940. It was used for many years to thresh ours as well as the neighbors' crops.

Shortly after arriving in this country, dad joined the old U.F.A. From then on he was actively involved in many projects for the betterment of the community. Eventually he became Secretary-treasurer of the Garden Plain Local and served in that capacity for more years than anyone else. Through the sustained efforts of the farmers' movement, the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed, of which he was an original contract signer. In the interim he found time to serve twenty-five years as a director of the Hanna Co-op store and the Hanna Municipal Hospital. He also served as a trustee for both Garden Plain and Alps school districts. When Sullivan Lake Rural Electrical Association was formed in 1952, dad became its first Secretary-Treasurer.

Feeling that it was time to quit and because of failing eyesight, he retired from active participation in most of these organizations, but still showed a keen interest in them. As he was now unable to drive, Mom had to take the wheel, but even at that, Saturday was still his day in town. After doing what business had to be done, he would head for the "corner" to meet the boys.

Dad was born in Moneymore, County Down, Ireland in 1884. America was the land of opportunities, to which he immigrated at the age of fifteen. With stops at Philadelphia and Seattle he came to Vancouver, B.C., in 1911. He had many jobs, but the two he spoke about mainly were helping on the grade for the Grand Trunk Railway, forerunner of the C.N.R., and working at the many jobs involved with the forest industry of that province.

After celebrating fifty-one years of married life, he passed away in February, 1975 in his ninety-first year and is interred at the Netherby cemetery.

Mom, with a growing family to care for, didn't get too involved in community affairs. As the family got bigger she and dad would take us to picnics, to dances, to card parties and to Hugh McLarens.

Having been able to drive for many years, she thinks nothing of going to Drummheller, Brooks and Lacombe. For the past few years Mom has been a

member of the Dundee Women's Institute. She looks forward to the monthly meetings and activities which the organization promotes in the community.

Rayford, Mavis, Shelley and Lee Johnston.

RAYFORD JOHNSTON — I was born March 9, 1926 at the Hanna Municipal Hospital. I lived in the Garden Plain district for four years until our family moved south to the Alps district in the spring of 1930. The day we moved it rained cats and dogs.

My schooling began in March 1932 a few days after my sixth birthday. I took [illegible] of my schooling at Alps school. There were some good and bad days at school. I had a look at the strap, stood in corners and sat under desks. Some of the things I was in on were burning grass in the toilet holes or in gopher holes, and taking a neighbor girl's cap and putting it under a rock a mile and a half down the road from the school. One afternoon the teacher decided on a nature walk. Half of the kids got ahead of the teacher and I was one of them. Seeing a dust storm approaching, the teacher and those pupils with her turned back. When the storm hit we took shelter in an old shack. We got back to the school at 4:30 and the teacher was waiting for us. For punishment we had to "stay in" for one week's recesses.

We had a terrible road to go to school on. I think it was the worst road in Alberta. It was very hilly and the snow would be belly deep on the horse. My brother and I rode double in the saddle for nearly two years. When my sister started school we went with a two-wheeled cart pulled by the same horse named Brownie. This horse took all four of our family to school from 1931 until the day the last of us quit in 1945.

The hours before and after school were no picnic either. There were always lots of chores but the one I dreaded most was churning. I was also assigned the job of getting in the horses in the morning, giving them a feed of oats and harnessing them while the rest of the family milked the cows, fed the calves and made breakfast.

In the depression years our summer holidays were spent herding turkeys to clean the grasshoppers out of the potato patch, and trapping gophers for their tails. The money we got for their tails we used to buy our fall school supplies. Also we had to weed the trees, which to me seemed acres.

As I got older, I did a lot of stooking for my Dad and the neighbors. When I was fourteen years of age I was given a bundle team to help thresh with Dad's outfit.

I went out working a few times after I quit school. I worked for Bill McLaren off and on for two years. I also worked for Marion Wright, Jim McClusky, Jack Corry and Arley Chidley. I did everything from washing my own underwear to cleaning eggs.

In the spring of 1948 my brother Freddie and I rented Harry Bartman's place. In 1952 Freddie bought land of his own and I rented Harry's place by myself. Next, I purchased a quarter of land from Bill McLaren which was close to my Dad's place. That quarter was Bill's original homestead.

In November 1955 I married Mavis Durand from east of Spondin. We moved my folk's first house from the north place, renovated it and lived in their yard.

We purchased the James McDonald Taylor place from Ben Taylor, built a house and moved there in the spring of 1961.

We have two children, a girl Shelley and a boy Lee, who attend school in Hanna.

After living here fifty-one years I guess I am getting to be an old timer myself. Life has been good to me and I've enjoyed it.

GROWING UP ON THE FARM, By Fred Johnston — My earliest recollections are of moving from the North Place to where we now live. It was a cold spring day [illegible] 1930. Mom, Rayford, Eileen and I came in the Model T. Dad, Fred Blaxhall and Billy Wagner brought wagons loaded with furniture, chickens and whatever else could be loaded. We brought our cats in the car, but they all went back. We rented and continued to do so until we bought in 1945. There were two good wells and a spring on the new place, something which were totally unavailable on the old one.

As I was approaching school age the folks purchased a saddle horse, Brownie from Lovedays. The very first time I rode him he "wiped me out" going under the clothesline; nor was it to be the last time, for he had a habit of shying unexpectedly and unseated whatever kid or kids were on his back. By the time Rayford, Eileen and Edna were going to school, Brownie was being driven in a two-wheeled cart that Dad had made out of the old car. Yet he continued his bad habit of shying, more so when he met a car. However he was still going strong when the last of us were through school. We travelled to school in the winter time in a cutter. Some winters the roads were nearly impassable and the school was as cold inside as out. The janitor was usually the teacher. They did the best they could under the circumstances but it seemed it was a losing battle. Except for chilblains, frost bitten noses and fingers, we survived and were healthier for it.

In the spring we used to find Tiger Lilies growing in a number of places, but I haven't seen one for years. Our school sitting on top of a big hill afforded us the opportunity of tobogganing and sledding during the noon hour. Occasionally we could do some skating on nearby sloughs. The usual summer sports such as softball were played by everyone; getting together any semblance of a team forced us to use the best to the poorest players, as our school hadn't too many pupils at any time. One year, we got a football. We must have punished ourselves or it too roughly, for the bladder burst and that was the end of that.

I stayed home to help Dad on the farm after I quit school. I never got to drive horses very much but did a lot of work with the old Case tractor. During the war years the opportunity of driving a bundle team was forced upon me. One incident I recall happened in the fall of 1946, when our outfit threshed for Stewart McRae. We were hoping to finish the fall run that day, and although the skies clouded over, luckily no rain fell. We did finish by seven that evening and when the lights of the machines were turned off we were literally in the dark. The faint coal oil lamp in Stewart's window showed the general direction of the buildings. What a calamity! Rigs were running into the fences, ripping wire off, but eventually we got out of the field to meet more trouble. A rig or two fell into the creek with the teamsters getting wet feet. We did get to the barn eventually and put our teams away. On the way to the house Hughie Riddle fell in an old dugout in the side of the bank. When we got to the house, Mamie Cattanach who was cooking, as Stewart was not married yet, wondered what all the commotion was about.

In the summer of 1947 Rayford and I purchased a new one-ton Ford truck. Some of the neighbors hired us to haul their wheat to the elevators, coal from Pahl's mine and hogs to Hanna on shipping day.

About 1950 Rayford and I took over as telephone repair linemen for the Trunk

Line along the Castor Trail as well as the Garden Plain Mutual (Line 10). There were five and later six lines on portions of thirteen miles to look after, as well as thirteen on line ten. Repairs such as untangling and splicing wires, setting up poles, and telephone box maintenance were part of our job. Trouble with the line frequently happened after a violent wind storm. Electrical storms were most troublesome, especially so after the combination magneto-dial phones were installed. We were forever inserting new carbons in the 98A arrestors or hanging new lead-ins, as the lightning would burn the wires. We always used an ohm meter to test the lines, but occasionally the meter would throw us off completely. When this occurred we had to make a guess as [illegible] the cause of the trouble. Sometimes we spent hours on just a little thing. There were no regrets when the underground system was ploughed in.

Eileen married in 1948 and Rayford in 1955. This left me home with the folks. About this time I started to play for dances with Herb Wimmer, Bud Hanson and Jack McLaren. When Jack left [illegible] teach in Edmonton, we had several musicians at different times playing with us. Gradually I got interested in the activities of various organizations which Dad belonged to. I have since taken over some of his directorships and added a few of my own. These along with my farming operations keep me occupied.

Mom and I live in a new house which I built in 1973. It [illegible] more spacious and comfortable than the old one which started out as Charlie Doran's homestead shack in 1909, with the bigger addition put on in 1913. Through all the years it has been home for several families but especially so the Johnstons. After sixty years it deserves to be turned out to pasture.

FRED MILLER STORY, By Emma Miller Mason — Our parents, Fred and Salome, with five children came from Bessarabia, Roumania in 1927 to the Lone Butte district. In 1936 we moved to the Scapa district. By that time our family had increased to six girls and three boys. In 1937 the last of our family, [illegible] girl, was born.

We attended Alps school, with Mrs. Lucy McLaren being one of our first teachers. We remember going to school in the winter in a closed cutter, pulled by a team of horses, and in the spring and fall walking two and a half miles, or riding a horse, especially Katy, our Shetland pony.

Recess and noon hours were very memorable as we did numerous fun things such as tobogganing down the east side of the school hill, skating and playing hockey on [illegible] nearby slough, playing fox and goose, prisoner's base, and when the snow went we played scrub until the end of June. Two highlights of the school year consisted of the Christmas concert — putting on [illegible] program of plays, singing, Santa Claus and exchanging of gifts — and at the end of the term we always looked forward to a picnic with Netherby and Garden Plain schools.

Our last year of school at Alps there were only seven pupils — Donnie McLaren, Emma Miller, Alan Hemstock, Greta Greenway, Emil Miller, Vera Miller and Marilyn McLaren. We felt very sad when the school closed down, and in 1948 we had to go to Weise School, which was four miles from our place.

The purchase of something new was usually an exciting and happy event [illegible] the family. One such occasion was when we acquired our first tractor, a new 1944 rubber-tired John Deere. We all had to have [illegible] turn riding on it, but after a few runs down the road, it refused to go. Not knowing very much about this marvelous invention we tried pushing it and choking [illegible]. After much excitement, we discovered it was out of gas.

Harvesting was always a big undertaking. After cutting with horse binders and stooking were all done, along came the threshing crew consisting of [illegible] tractor

and separator, with an operator, six or eight men with teams of horses and bundle racks. Preparing meals for them was like feeding an army. They were always very hungry as they worked very hard picking bundles and shovelling grain. The men were put up for the night, sleeping in the hay loft of the barn.

Fred Miller Family Reunion, July 1961. Back Row, left to right: Otto, Cecile, Ella, Alma, Walter, Emma, Emil and Vera. Seated: Lily, Dad, Mom, Hilda.

Lily married Dan Faechner. They live at Craigmyle and have four children and five grandchildren.

Cecile married Jack Cunningham and lives in Belleville, Ontario. They have two children.

Alma married George Anderson. They live in Aldergrove, B.C. and have two children.

Walter married Carol Johnston. They had four children. Walter passed away in 1961.

Hilda is married to Alex McMullen. They live in Edmonton. They have five children and one grandchild.

Ella married George Miholluk. They live in Vancouver and have one daughter.

Otto lives on the home farm at Scapa.

Emil married Rema Lovell. They live in Jasper and have three children.

Emma married Albert Mason. They live in Delia and have three children.

Vera married Jim King. They live in Camrose and have two girls.

Mom and Dad retired and moved to Hanna in 1958. Dad passed away in March, 1963 at the age of 69. Mom passed away in July, 1972 at the age of 77.

ADOLPH KIEST FAMILY — Compiled by Fred Johnston — Adolph, his older brother Rudolph and their parents left Roumania in 1928 for Canada. They came to Alberta and farmed the George Block place. Adolph's sister, Mrs. G. Schmidt, her husband and family arrived here in 1927.

Adolph married Erma Gartner, a neighbour girl, in 1936 and they took over the Block farm when Adolph's parents moved to Hanna.

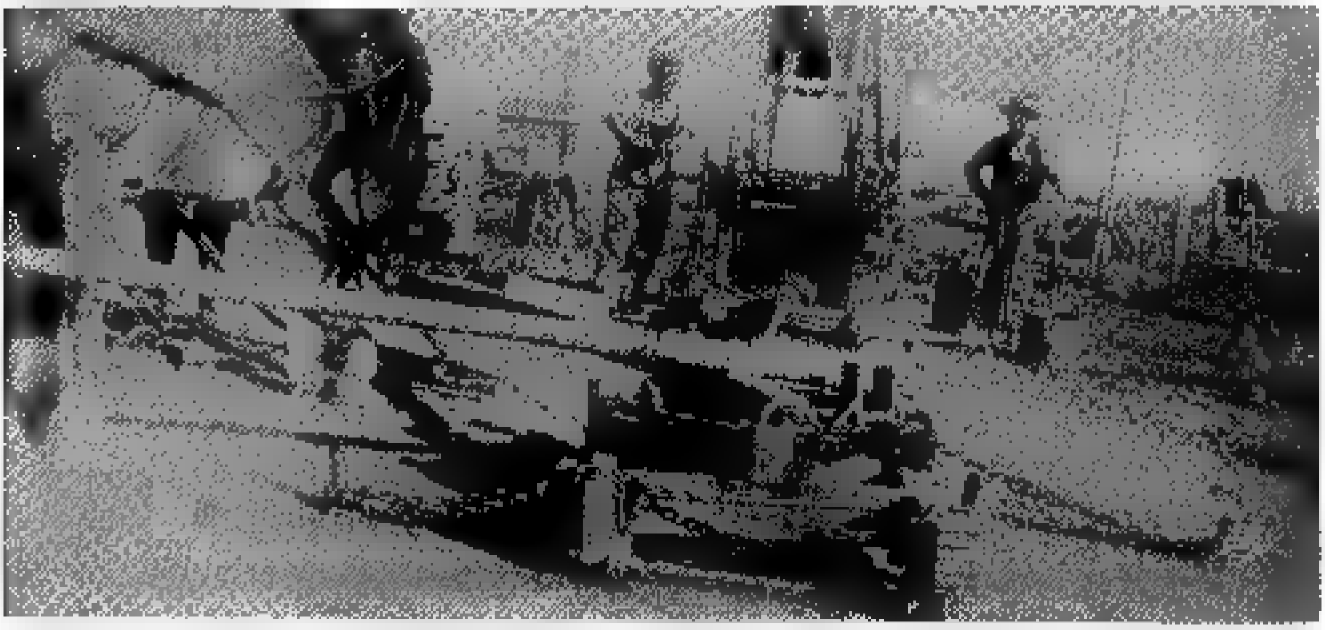
In 1945 the Kiest family moved to Wetaskiwin where Erma's parents had

resided since 1939. There were five children in the family at this time. Ruby, the eldest, had started school at Alps with Mrs. McLaren as teacher. The other children were Richard, Gary, Rodney and Kathy.

About 1951 the Kiest's moved to [illegible] farm at Sangudo where the youngest, Linda, was born. They retired from farming in 1961 and moved to Edmonton, residing there until 1967. Then they moved to Vancouver but rain and strikes forced the Kiest's back to sunny Alberta in 1976.

The children are all grown and married. There are numerous grandchildren. Ruby died in 1972. The Keists now reside in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

JOE SLEPECKA, By Fred Johnston — A tall muscular man by the name of Joe Slepecka came into this area [illegible] the time the Hanna to Warden railway line was being built. He worked on the many fills and grades, using his own outfit of horses. An Estonian by birth, he had originally homesteaded in the Sunnynook area [illegible] 1911. Joe fully understood the hardships and privations of trying to eke out a living on his homestead. While living at Sunnynook he bought a well-boring machine and bored many wells. He brought it to this area, drilling a few wells, staying where he was working as long as he could. In one neighbor's well he struck a rock which couldn't be removed. This meant [illegible] trip to Drumheller for some dynamite. Joe had it placed as far back in the truck as he could get it, always fearful that it might go off accidentally. Back again at the well-site he was lowered into the well which was a mere twenty-two inches in diameter. With very little room to maneuver, and considering that Joe was no small man, he got the job done. Sometimes he was unsuccessful and had to start over again. He also worked out for others [illegible] the neighborhood.



Joe Slepeka's horse driven well drilling machine. Joe is standing on the right.

About 1956 he bought the Berg homestead, the SW 3-33-14, from [illegible] Mortgage company and erected a small shack. It burnt down on him so he had to build another. He bought the Alps teacherage and had it moved onto the place [illegible] well. He left some of his horses at Sunnynook until he bought the Berg place. To show the respect that the horses had for him, he trailed most of them in without the benefit of halter or rope.

His pride and joy was his irrigated garden, especially his potatoes. They were always planted when the moon was right. He dug a root cellar in the side of a hill in which he placed [illegible] his vegetables. Joe was laughingly known as the "Potato King".

Joe was a withdrawn, lonely man, one who never forgot, and a habitual snuff user. He walked many miles and it was not unusual to see him roaming the country at night. Many times he left at 4 a.m. and would be in Hanna before anyone had gone to work. He usually caught a ride home, bringing such supplies as he needed, and a big roll of discarded newspapers which he tried to read. It was known that he could not write. He listened to his radio a lot. In the spring of 1963 he sold his horses and retired to a small house in Hanna. In 1967, after a short illness, he passed away in the Hanna Hospital and was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

EMIL and RUBY SIEPPERT — We were married in June 1952. Lonnie was born on October 14, 1956. We farmed the David Rust land eighteen miles south of Hanna in the Parr district until the fall of 1956 when it was sold to the Hutterite Colony. We bought the McLaren land in the spring of 1957.

The McLaren house had been moved to Hanna so we bought the Alps school which was near by. We moved into the school in June 1957. We had an early snow in September that year; it blocked our road for awhile. We finished redoing the basement of the house and moved into it on October 14, 1957. The following summer we had difficulty keeping the rain from getting into the basement because the shell of the house was not yet set up. In 1960 we moved Alps school into our yard and it is now being used as a garage.

Lonnie's first year of school was at Netherby. He completed his education in Hanna and graduated in 1974.

JIM and VERA SCHUMAKER — Vera Noyce and Jim Schumaker were married in Calgary in November of 1948. Vera grew up on her parents' farm and had taken her schooling at Alps, Dundee and Hanna. She was employed in Calgary where she met Jim, who was also employed there. Jim grew up on his parents' farm at Didsbury, and had served in the Navy during World War II. In the spring of 1957, they and their four children loaded up an old International truck and came to take over the farm of Vera's parents, the C. W. Noyce place. They were the first people to have a television set in this area, having brought theirs out from Calgary.

Jim and Vera raised grain, cattle and pigs. They also had a flock of geese. The geese swam on the big slough south of the house. When feeding time came Jim would call and the geese would take to their wings. After a half mile flight they would come circling to an awkward landing right in front of you. It was then that you had to step back or suffer the consequences.

Randy, who had attended school in Calgary, had to walk a mile to catch the bus to go to the new two-roomed Netherby school. It was then that a high grade road was built to accommodate the bus. Catherine, Daryl, and Rhonda went when they became of age. While Schumakers lived here two more children, Allan and Linda were born.

While they were on the farm, the first snow storm of the season would always block their road. Jim said that he was going to a place where he didn't have to shovel snow anymore, just watch it run down the ditch. In the spring of 1963 Jim and Vera had an auction sale. The land was divided three ways and was sold to Rudy Annas, Otto Miller and Norman Greenway. They went to Victoria, B.C. where Jim had been stationed during the war.

Randy and Catherine are married. Daryl and Rhonda are on their own. Allan and Linda are at home.

SMART STORY, By Glen Smart — The Smart family moved to the Hanna area from Oyen in 1933. As our father had been killed in a well accident in 1930, our mother's father, Mr. Harley Ball, came to live with us and moved with us to Hanna. The family consisted of Mother, Mrs. Bernice Smart, and her children, Helen, Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy and Melvin. Our first home was the Stirling place, two miles north of Hanna. Some of the children attended school at Silver Valley.

We used to have get-togethers at the Howard Kern's dairy farm along with the Parkers, Curtis and the Hanna hospital girls; lots of music and fun. After a time we moved to the Gwin place about six miles north of Hanna, and attended school at Antelope Hill. We moved from the Gwin place to the Henry Brown farm where we attended school at Garden Plain.

Our Mother met Albert Sim in 1937 and they were married in 1938. We moved from the Brown place to the John Sim place which was to be our home for some time. We were soon blessed with a baby brother Harry Sim, born in 1938, bringing the number of children in our family to seven. We went to Scapa school from the Sim place. In 1939 Stanley Sim was born, but he passed away at the age of three months. He was buried in the Netherby Cemetery. We were fortunate to have a lot of good neighbors: Temples, Brunners, Wiens, Gauglers, Millers and Fechoes, the list could go on and on. Our family used to play for local dances held at schools and halls in the Scapa and Hanna area. Helen went to Calgary to work, met Steve Varro and soon became Mrs. Varro. They make their home in Calgary. Glenn, Donald, Howard, Daisy, Melvin and Harry all worked around home for neighboring farmers. When Glenn was nineteen he joined the armed forces in Calgary and completed his basic training at Camrose and his advanced training in Halifax. After a brief visit home to Hanna on a farm leave he went overseas completing training in Aldershot, England. He was with the troops who disembarked in France on June 6, 1944. He was wounded at Nymegen, Holland on November 27, 1944, spent several months in hospital in Antwerp, Belgium, and rejoined his outfit just as they were moving into Germany. When the war was over, he was stationed in Utrecht, Holland where he met a Dutch girl who soon became his wife. He returned to Canada and was discharged March 19, 1946. Donald married Muriel Stubbs (Dubbie) in 1946; Howard married Edith McMillan of Stettler in 1947; Daisy married Ken Smith of Ponoka in 1951; in 1947, Melvin married Christine Arth; in 1960, Harry Sim married Leanna Severdal.

Our parents had moved to Edmonton while Glenn was overseas, so on his return to Canada he made his home in Edmonton as well. Glenn and wife went to Hanna in 1946, to farm the Sim farm, and he also worked on the railroad for a while. Our son was born in Hanna Hospital in 1947 and in October of that year we moved back to Edmonton, which has been our home since. Four more sons and daughters were born in Edmonton.

CLYDE BLOCK — In 1910 Clyde Block came as a youngster with his parents the W. B. Blocks, his older brother George, and his sister Gertrude from Washington. He attended Alps and Solon schools.

In 1917 his father traded the homestead for a farm at Spokane, Washington. The Block family lived in the States for a few years, then came back to this area. Clyde, who was married by this time, came as well. He farmed the Hahn place on which the Royalton school was built. He moved to the Aubry Crowe farm in the Dundee district, then about 1934 he farmed the old Pete Olsen place on section 12-33-14. While here they milked cows for a living. They liked to attend the pickup ball games and go to dances, especially the ones at Hugh McLaren's. Clyde was like his brother George, a jovial sort of person.

Their son, Gayle was a small boy at the time, and while Blocks were on the Olsen place they had a daughter. They left here later on for a farm farther north in the Bluffton area. Clyde died in 1972, his wife in 1973. Gayle lives in Calgary and the rest of the family are scattered.

THE FOLLOWING LIVED IN THE DISTRICT, BUT VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM.

BENJAMIN F. WEAKLY — Benjamin Weakley was an early pioneer who came with his wife and family in 1910 to the NE 27-32-14 to homestead. He was one of the first trustees of the newly built Alps school. Their children were among the first pupils of the school. They moved to the States about 1917.

WILLIAM FRED HOWELL, By Helen Jensen Northey — Another of the early pioneers, Fred Howell, accompanied by his family, homesteaded the SE 12-33-14 in 1909. They kept a stopping house along the Castor Trail. The two children, Jack and Margaret were among the first pupils of the Alps school. The family left in 1914 for the States.

LEVERETT O. FRASER, By Fred Johnston — L. O. Fraser and family, originally from Prince Edward Island, homesteaded in 1909 across the road from Jack Young on the SW 35-32-14. L. O. and Jack Young broke the prairie sod for some of the early settlers. In 1914 they left for Calgary where L. O. worked for the city's street car system. In 1922 Frasers went to Kamloops, B.C. where L. O. took charge of Pat Burns' slaughter house. Shortly after arrival he, his daughter Olive and son Leverett were accidently drowned in the Thompson River. Mrs. Fraser, the sole survivor, accompanied the bodies back to Prince Edward Island where she remained to live.

WILLIAM E. RICKETTS — William E. Ricketts homesteaded on the south half of 33-32-14 and his son, Ivan C. Ricketts on the NW 28-32-14. They came as homesteaders in 1910. Besides Ivan there was in the family, Ilene, the youngest daughter, who was of school age, and a married sister who lived with her family in Calgary. W. E. built a big house on his place and by sliding a panel out of the way, a large side room could be made. Many dances and parties were held here in the early days. Ivan called the square dances. Often people would dance till daybreak before going home. Sometimes the Ricketts served breakfast for the weary dancers.

W. E. Ricketts threshing outfit, 1916. Left to Right: S. Williams, Earl and Mrs. Himmelreich, Bill Sim, leaning on cook car, Bryon Massey, Harry Himmelreich; leaning on barrel, Ivan Ricketts, foreground is Gillie Brown, background is L. Hall, W. E. Ricketts, John McLaren and Walter Hill.

Ivan became the first secretary-treasurer of the Alps school. He married Ada, a sister of Walter Hill who lived just north of Solon school. The young couple moved to the Chas. Doran place vacated by the McLarens. Ivan became pound keeper for the municipality while living here. The Ricketts left these parts during the war, presumably for the States.

M. M. BERG — M. M. Berg homesteaded the SW 3-33-14. He and his wife came from somewhere west of the Red Deer River in 1910. They lived in a small shack. They proved up and then went back where they had come from.

GALLIDAY BROTHERS — The Galliday brothers, Homer and Isaac came in 1910. Homer on the SE 2-33-14 and Isaac the SE 13-33-14. Homer proved up, sold out to Charlie Noyce very early. His shack was moved into Noyce's yard where it sat for many years. Isaac also proved up but the land eventually went to the municipality, as it was a very poor quarter, mostly hardpan. It is now part of a grazing lease.

E. E. KAMM, By Fred Johnston — Edward Erick Kamm and family from the States were early settlers of the area coming in 1909 to homestead the south half of 27-32-14. Ed senior was elected first chairman of the Alps school, but died before it was built. His wife, his two boys Fred and Ed Jr. and daughter Edina, left in 1914 for Auburn, Washington.

ALBERT E. TUMELSON, By Fred Johnston — The Tumelson family were late comers to the district, coming from the States to homestead in 1917. They homesteaded B. F. Weakley's pre-emption which he had failed to prove up, the NW 27-32-14. Obie and Clinton attended the Alps school. Tumelsons stayed here long enough to prove up and then returned to Post Falls, Idaho.

PETER F. OLSEN, By Helen Jensen Northey — Pete Olsen was another early pioneer coming in 1909 to a South African Scrip, the East half of 30-31-13. He homesteaded the NE 12-33-14 in 1912, and later purchased the quarter west of him. I remember as a small child, that as Olsen came from the Garden Plain Post Office and store he brought news of the declaration of World War I. He and Pete Jensen were very good friends and kept in touch for years. He moved to Nakusp, B.C. where he farmed and died some years ago.

W. H. FOWLER — W. H. Fowler came in 1910 to the SE 4-33-14. A shoemaker by trade, he did not remain long.

EDWIN FRASER — Edwin Fraser homesteaded the NW 25-32-14 in 1911.

THOMAS LEEMAN — Thomas Leeman homesteaded the SW 2-33-14 in the year 1911. He had filed on the NW 35-32-14, the site of the Alps school but he died before he received patent to this land.

IVOR POWELL — Ivor Powell was a bachelor who came in 1915 to NW 33-32-14. He joined the Canadian Army during World War I and went overseas.

JOHN MITCHELL — John Mitchell lived in SW 4-33-14, a short, moustached Scotchman who was very late in homesteading, coming in 1920. He was a distiller by trade in his native land and while here he had a still and made some very good spirits. He lived in a small shack and was very well read. At the time of his sale about 1935, he had many books and papers. John went back to Scotland to live.

BOB KENNEDY — Bob Kennedy homesteaded on the SW 25-32-14. Known as "Little Bob Kennedy", he came from Brandon, Manitoba in 1913 with Hugh and Bill McLaren. He proved up and went back to Manitoba.

Surprise Party at McLarens, 1916. Back Row, left [illegible] right: Hugh McLaren, Mr. [illegible]. Lewis, Elbert Pettie, Charlie Stanfield, John McLaren, Andy Glover and Bob Kennedy. Middle Row: Francis Lewis, Valletta Wagner, Louise Knutson, Lillian Wagner, Gertie and Velma Overton. Front Row: Effie McLaren, Joe Zehner, Lizzie Cattanach, Alice Lewis.

THEY TELL THE STORY . . .

. . . about the homesteader who used to take a short cut through the neighbor lady's land. She resented this very much, and one day when he drove up [illegible] the gate, she was barring the way. Harsh words were exchanged.

"Get out of the way, you old Irish devil!" he ordered.

She replied, "I'll have you know, you're not talking to your mother."

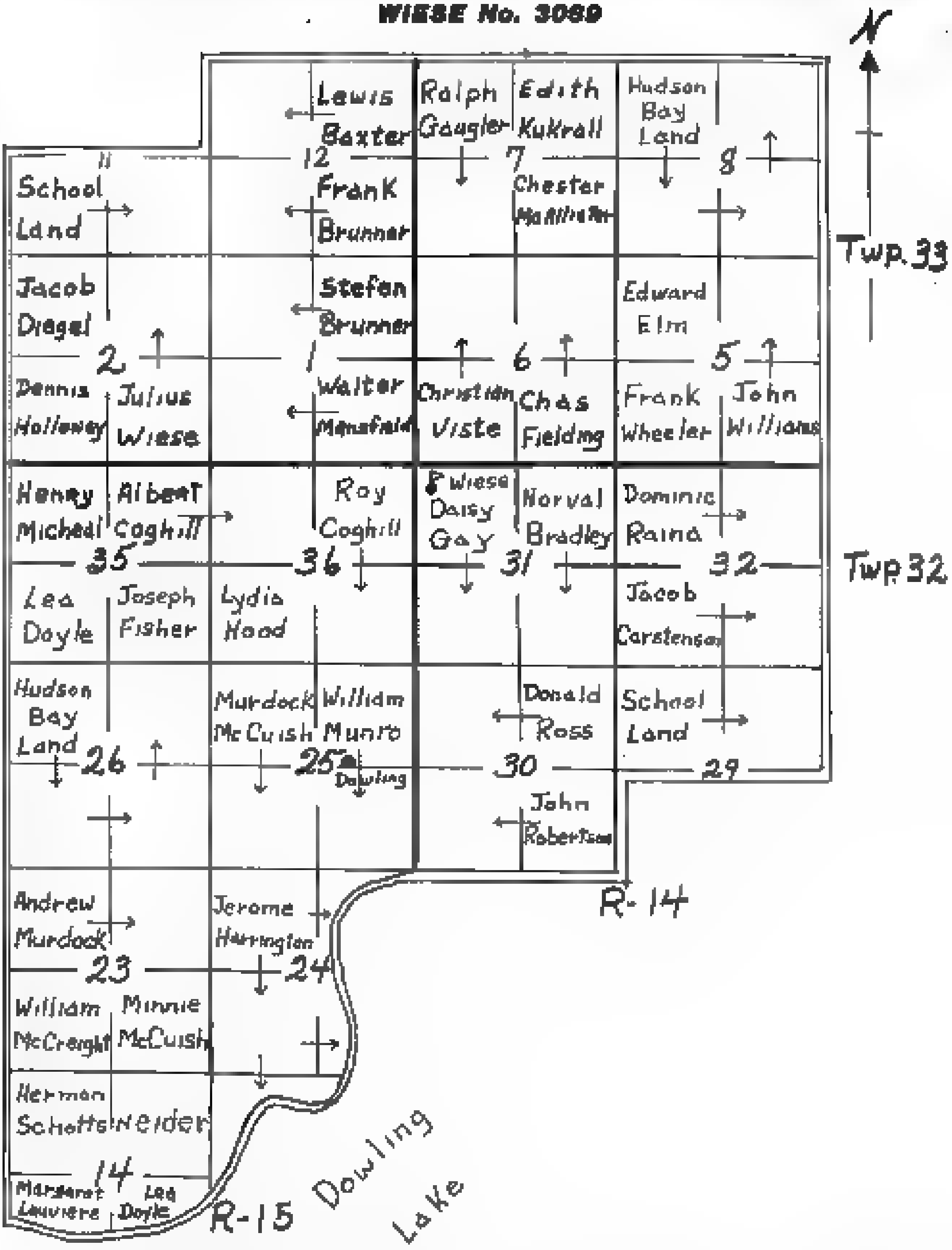
. . . about the Scottish lad who had bought a team, wagon and supplies in Stettler. The owner of the livery stable thought that the lad was taking overly long to harness his team, and enquired what the problem was.

"Is this the way to put the collar on?" the young man asked.

The owner, noting that the collar was on upside down, pushed his hat to the back of his head, thought for a moment, then replied, "Well, some people do."

. . . about the Englishman who rode home from [illegible] dance behind the neighbor boy on his motorcycle. Relating the experience later, he said, "Me ears were a-flapping like a piece of tar paper between two boards."

WIESE No. 3089



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — WIESE

Following list is the homesteaders, owners or renters who resided on the land and present owners and renters. Renters *

TOWNSHIP 33-15-4
S ½ 1-33-15
W. Mansfield
Sieb*
R. Fecho
A. Fecho

N ½ 1-33-15
S. Brunner
R. Brunner

N ½ 12-33-15
L. Baxter
M. Wimmer

SE ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
Mrs. Lange (estate)
R. Weich*

SW ¼ 11-33-15
School Land
R. Diegel
E. Bohlender*
E. Woelk*
W. Diegel

E ½ 2-33-15
J. Wiese
H. Wiese
W. Wiese

NW ¼ 2-33-15
J. Diegel

W. Diegel

SW ¼ 2-33-15
[illegible]. Holloway
W. Wiese

TOWNSHIP 32-15-4
E ½ 36-32-15
R. Coghill
A. Fecho

NW ¼ 36-32-15
A. Coghill
L. Wiens

SW ¼ 36-32-15
L. Hood
A. Brunner
L. Wiens

SE ¼ 35-32-15
J. Fisher
L. Wiens

NE ¼ 35-32-15
A. Coghill
Mrs. Coghill
R. Coghill
L. Wiens

NW ¼ 35-32-15
H. Micheal
T. Micheal
Fecho [illegible] Wiese

SW ¼ 26-32-15
L. Doyle
[illegible]. Doyle

E ½ 26-32-15
Hudson Bay
E. Wiens*
F. Baes
Wm. Albright

W ½ 26-32-15
Hudson Bay
Doyle

N ½ 23-32-15
A. Murdock
J. McBurney
F. Baes*
Wm. Albright

SW ¼ 23-32-15
Wm. McCreight
J. Schultz

SE ¼ 23-32-15
Mrs. McCuish
J. Schultz

N ½ 14-32-15
H. Schottsneider
Wm. Schottsneider
L. Diegel*
J. Schultz

S ½ 14-32-15
L. Doyle
J. Schultz

Sec. 24-32-15
J. Harrington
J. Schultz

NE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
D. Johnston
P. Viste
S. Viste*
C. Viste (acreage)

SE ¼ 25-32-15
Wm. Munro
P. Viste
S. Viste*

W ½ 25-32-15
[illegible]. McCuish
Wm. Albright

TOWNSHIP 32-14-4
N ½ 29-32-14
School Land
[illegible]. Annas

S ½ 30-32-14
J. Robertson
A. Fecho

N ½ 30-32-14
D. Ross
M. Viste
P. Viste
S. Viste*

E ½ 31-32-14
N. Bradley
J. Annas
N. Annas

W ½ 31-32-14
Mrs. Gay
O. Ward
P. & S. Viste*

S ½ 32-32-14
J. Carstensen
H. Viste
H. Annas

N ½ 32-32-14
D. Raina
[illegible]. Haessel
N. Annas

TOWNSHIP 33-14-4
E ½ 5-33-14
J. Williams
E. Woelk*
O. Miller

SW ¼ 5-33-14
F. Wheeler
K. Haessel
E. Haessel
R. Welch*
N. Annas

NW ¼ 5-33-14
E. Elm
W. Viste
SE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
H. Annas

SW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
H. Annas

NW ¼ 6-33-14
C. Viste
P. Viste
S. Viste*

NE ¼ 6-33-14
C. Fielding
N. Annas

W ½ 7-33-14
R. Gaugler
W. Viste

NE ¼ 7-33-14
E. Kukrall
A. Tietze
W. Viste

SE ¼ 7-33-14
C. McAllister
W. Viste

S ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
[illegible]. Brunner

N ½ 8-33-14
Hudson Bay
R. Wiens

THE WIESE SCHOOL DISTRICT

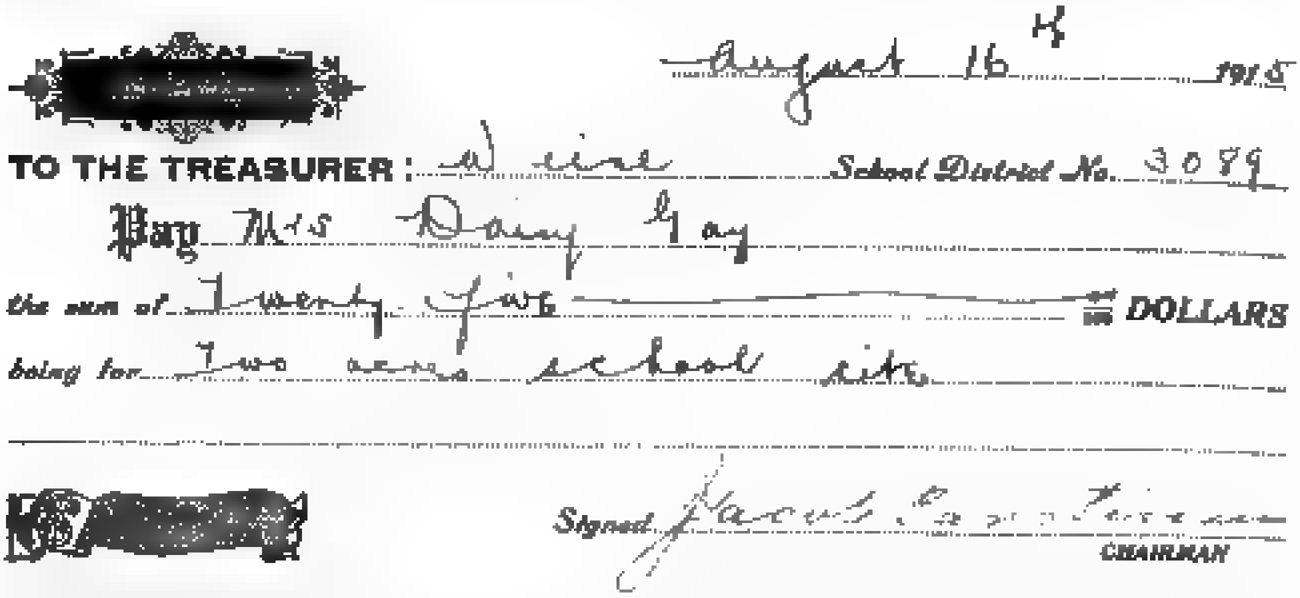
By Freda Viste

The Wiese School as it appears today

The first thing I would like to do is to acknowledge the foresight of the people who preserved the records from the Wiese School. These have been a valuable source of authentic information in the compiling of the district's history. This report in particular could not have been done accurately from memory alone.

Before the school was built, the children in the district attended Alps and Chain Lakes schools. When there were enough homesteaders with families, they decided to build their own school. The first meeting was held at the Mansfield home on December 26, 1913, with John Robertson acting as chairman. There were thirteen votes cast, all in

favor of building a school. Five trustees were nominated, Jacob Carstensen (chairman), William Munro (Sec.-treas), Louis Baxter, Donald Ross and Julius Wiese.



August 16th 1915

TO THE TREASURER : Weise School District No. 3089

Pay Mrs Daisy Gay

the sum of Twenty five 00/100 DOLLARS

being for Two acres school site

Signed Jacob Carstensen
CHAIRMAN

On January 29, 1914, a trustee meeting was held at Chris Viste's. At this time they established the district as "Weise S.D. 3089". The name was chosen the simplest way possible. The family names were all put into a hat, a draw was made, and the slip of paper read Wiese. Somehow when the school was registered and the official seal gotten, it was spelled Weise. This is the way it appears in all the early records and most of the first teachers and students used this spelling.

The site where the school now stands was selected by the trustees, and they had already made arrangements with Mrs. D. Gay to purchase two acres from her. However when the Department of Education became involved, they wanted the school built on a site recommended by the Inspector, Mr. Buchanan. The wheels turned slowly then, as they usually do when there is government involvement. It took almost a year (December 12, 1914) to get the location established, where the board wanted it in the first place, two hundred yards south from the NW corner of 31-32-14.

Students of the Wiese School, taken in 1928 when Miss Tingle was teaching. Back Row: Avis Alpaugh, Violet Baxter, Emma Scholtsneider, Louise Baxter, Tillie Schottsneider. Third Row: Elma Bartch, Florence Robertson, Rudolph Bohlander. Second Row: Jean Robertson, Phyllis Williams, Gwyneth Williams. First Row: (sitting) Mary Raina, Evelyn Mansfield, Lucy Bartch, John Raina.

The school was to be a 22' by 32' structure with a coal shed on the east end. The Callum Bros. got the contract for building and painting the school. The total cost of the building material was $500.00.

At a special trustee meeting on May 26, 1915 they decided to engage Miss Edith Henderson as the first teacher. She was to start teaching on June 2, at a salary of $60.00 per ordinance month. This wasn't an easy undertaking for a young girl from Toronto. As if teaching out on the prairies wasn't enough of a challenge, she married a local rancher, Maldwyn Williams, brought up a family, and continued teaching at intervals at Alps and Wiese schools. At the age of [illegible] years she is still the remarkable person she always was, writing and sending in her own story for this book.

Up until about 1930 the school year wasn't established as [illegible] is today. The trustees decided when the school opened or closed, basing their decisions on when a teacher was available, or the money to pay her. Often a severe winter meant closing until spring.

Following is [illegible] brief account of some of the highlights from 1916 to 1955.

July 28/16 — decided to build a school barn.

January 24/17 — bought piano for school for $50.00

January 15/18 — set aside $25.00 to [illegible] awarded to the children at the end of the term for best attendance, obedience and progress in each grade.

October 19/18 — owing to Spanish Influenza through the Hanna district no public gatherings be allowed in the school, notice to be put on door stating same.

October 23/18 — owing to several cases of Influenza in the district, the school to be closed indefinitely.

In 1919 the following expenses were recorded: teacher (nine months), $900.00; official's salary, $50.00; building expenses, $150.00; caretaking, $70.00; supplies and stationery, $40.00; and fuel, $30.00; total, $1,240.00.

January, 1923 — moved that the school close with the children to attend Alps and Hudson Bay schools.

January, 1924 — paying tuition to attend other schools not satisfactory so Wiese was to re-open on April 1.

In 1928 there was talk of moving the school but they decided against it. The teaching of grade ten was begun on trial basis and was continued for a number of years.

In 1931 the board began to cut expenses where ever they could. The janitor work was done by the older children in rotation, and the teachers even took their turn. This saved caretaking expenses. The Secretary Treasurer's salary dropped to $5.00 per year and the teacher's salary to $500.00 per year.

1940 — a teacherage was moved in.

February 20/40 — (the last meeting recorded in minute book) One motion read — that the school be repaired and put on a basement and the yard fence be repaired. The next motion read — that we do not agree [illegible] the running of a school van to Scapa.

Wiese Students in 1943. Standing, left [illegible] right: Martin and Aloys Brunner, Walter and Calton Viste, Frank Lund, John Nelson and Gus Annas, Phillip Brunner, Alfred Brunner, Freda Gaugler, Marie [illegible]es, Margaret Arndt, Harold Fecho, Charlie Annas. Sitting: Helen Brunner, Joan Baes, Betty Lund, Alva and Carol Viste, Raymond Brunner.

By the time school started in September of 1955 there was a complete turn of events. With ever-decreasing attendance and difficulties in getting good teachers, pressure was really put on the school board by the Sullivan Lake School Division. There was the promise of a better education in the centralized school system. So it was with heavy hearts, the board consented to have the children bussed to Scapa. A new larger school was built there with the idea that this would be the answer to all problems for the large area it served. This was only a dream, for it wasn't long until the Scapa School felt the same pressures as the one-room schools had, and it also succumbed to the wheels of progress. In 1968, with the same promises of a better education, another change was made and the students were all bussed to Hanna.

The doors of the old Wiese School have remained closed so far as education goes. An occasional passerby enters and jots his name and address on the blackboard, which serves as a guestbook. Even though the foundation is crumbling and it is in much need of repair, those who attended the Wiese School still look at it with pride.

Following is a complete list of the teachers who taught there from 1915 to 1955 — Edith Henderson, Miss Buchanan, Nora Gray, Ruth Hayter, Winnifred Jones, Genevieve Pokotilo, Mr. J.H. Johnston, Florence Meadows, Mrs. Williams (nee Henderson), Janet McTaggart, Hilda Carswell, Marie Birch, James Blair, Elma Tingle, Agnes Cameron, Mrs. Agnes Temple (nee Cameron), Margretta Nelson, Audrey Neff, Jean Benedict, Helen Hartt, Georgina Abbis, Elsie Peterson, Wilma Smyth, Annette Harvey, Norma Mellom, Phyllis Morton, Paul Crough, Ernestine Siewert, Isobel Andrews, Florence Robertson (supervisor), Anna Damsgard, Lois Bowles, Don Pound, Jack McLaren, Margery Sugden, and Rod Morisset.

These are the men who served faithfully as trustees on the school board throughout the years: Jacob Carstensen, William Munro, Louis Baxter, Donald Ross, Julius Wiese, Dominic Raina, J.H. Johnston, John Robertson, Ralph Gaugler, Hjalmer Viste, J.M. Williams, Harold Mansfield, Anton Brunner, Harold Lund, Manly Viste, John Auer, Ed Pound and Harry Wiese.

Matters which were of real concern then, seem humorous to us now. Here are a few examples: Jean Benedict wrote the board — "What does the school board do about plasticine? Do they supply it or are the pupils to bring it? What do they do about paste or glue? Do the pupils bring their own, the school board supply it or is the teacher supposed to make the paste with flour?"

A gentleman who was hired to clean the outdoor privies wrote, "When we tipped the boys' toilet so we could clean it out, the stakes that were holding it down were rotted to such an extent that they couldn't be replaced. The buildings were so rickety that they almost 'collasped' when I laid them down on the side. If they are not braced they are liable to 'collaspe' any time."

A dispute with the Department of Education about paying the teacher below minimum wage, resulted in the board writing the Minister of Education, "We will need the assistance of the government to pay the $500.00 that we have agreed to pay the teacher. Under these circumstances it seems to me that you might save a little money on Mr. McEacheon's salary rather than have him writing useless letters as the one of August 9.

"The teacher is satisfied with salary offered, and I believe it time the government began to worry a little over the plight of the people who are forced to live here and struggle to pay your minimum salary. The condition of the farmers in this part of the province should be well enough known by now without wasting time and money writing to all the school secretaries."

From the Inspector's reports: "Water supply; brought by pupils, occasionally." The next year a well had been dug and the report read: "Water supply; Much improved, the well water has a woody taste but it should soon wear off." General Remarks (1920), "The school should be painted outside and kalsomined and brightened up inside. The floor should be painted or oiled. The stable should be painted. The water supply is unsatisfactory. The concrete in the foundation is cracked and should be repaired. Get a flag and flag pole."

A letter of application for a teaching position in 1933, had a recommendation with it from the Principal of Crescent Heights High School, Calgary. He was William E. Aberhart. Another letter of application read, "I am nineteen years of age, have had two years of teaching experience at Spondin School. I ask as salary, $900.00 and high school grant if any high school grades are taught." One teacher trying to collect her wages wrote: "I hope you will not mind me continually asking about it. It really affects my plans so greatly that I hardly know what to do until I am sure. You spoke of the uncertainty of farming. I don't believe it could quite beat this. It's like getting hailed out or expecting an early frost."

Wiese School students, 1932. Back Row: Florence and Jean Robertson, Gwyneth and Phyllis Williams, Elma Bartch. Third Row: Annie and Celia Brunner, Lucy Gaugler. Kneeling on left: Fred Fecho. Kneeling on right: Adam Gillies. Sitting in front: Dick Brunner, Willie Gaugler, Frank Brunner, Allan MacKimmie, Donald Fecho.

TEACHING WIESE, 1932-33, By Audrey Neff Yearick — I first taught school near Chinook where my parents and sister Dorothy, now Mrs. Henry Beach, lived. When they moved to Hanna I looked for a new school near there. As there was a surplus of teachers in 1932 I was very fortunate to be accepted to teach the Wiese School for the 1932-33 term.

It was a very interesting year as I had most of the grades with a large class in Grade 1 and II and also some pupils in High School. The children were all pleasant and well-behaved, and enjoyed outside sports including softball.

One new experience for me in teaching that year was having a large class of beginners with two of them speaking only the German language learned at home. It was a real challenge to help them learn English and later to read. I remember placing lettered cards on the door, desk, windows, etc., to assist in this project. Pictures of objects with printed word often helped. They also learned English from the other children at recess and noon. By the end of the year they could read and passed into Grade II with the others.

The following pupils attended Wiese School that year: Florence and Jean Robertson, Alma Bartch, Gwenyth and Phyllis Williams, Lucy and Willie Gaugler, Frank and Dick Brunner, Fred and Donald Fecho, Annie and Celia Brunner, Adam and Georgina Gillies and Allan McKimmie.

For the Christmas concert I remember we all prepared recitations and plays. We also sang Christmas carols while I played the music on a very old piano, but it served the purpose. The parents and others always enjoyed the efforts of the children at the concert.

I stayed at the friendly home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gaugler, and it was a good place to board. Their two children Lucy and Willie walked to school with me.

a distance of two miles. A daughter, Freda, about four years old, remained at home. When it was very cold with below zero temperatures we got a ride to the school with Mr. Gaugler in a bob sleigh and sometimes a stone boat.

At holiday time and some weekends I could always depend on a car ride with my Dad, Mr. Charles Neff. He travelled throughout the country, working as an agent selling Life Insurance. He usually took me back to the school but sometimes I had a different ride.

Early Monday morning I would catch the Hanna-Warden train going north. After a half hour ride the train crew stopped the train at the railway crossing near the school and I would get off the train. Then I would walk the short distance to the school, arriving there before 9 a.m. That was an exciting trip and I appreciated the kindness of the train crew.

The next year I taught at Handale School, south-east of Hanna. Later I married Lewis Yearick of that district and we moved to the Edmonton area where we operated a general store. We now live in Edmonton.

Editor's Note: Charles Neff, father of Mrs. Yearick, passed away on March [illegible] at the age of 102 years.

SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES TEACHING WIESE SCHOOL, By Jean (Benedict) Payne — The summer of 1933 I was one of the many young teachers seeking employment. It was a time of surplus teachers, but a dearth of money and positions. Wiese School had advertised for a teacher, so my brother Roland took me by car to Dowling, where Harold Lund directed us to see J.M. Williams, secretary-treasurer. En route to his place, we met him on the trail between his house and the road. The dry prairie wool was my carpet as I stood beside my brother's car and made application to be hired as teacher at the Wiese School. Mr. Williams sat calmly on his wagon seat, holding the lines to his team of horses. As he looked down at me from his vantage point, he seemed to have complete control of the situation. Even though he appeared considerate and kind, I could feel my inexperience as a flashing aura about me. I wonder that I didn't trip on a blade of grass and shatter all my chances.

The giant snowman built in April, 1934. Standing, left to right: Donald Fecho, Frank Brunner, Helen Visle, Rudy Annas, Annie and Celia Brunner, Phyllis Williams, Willie Gaugler, Evan Williams, Jean Robertson, Dick Brunner, Lucy Gaugler, Fred Fecho. Sitting: Joe Brunner, Arnold Fecho.

For his assessment of my qualifications I had to wait for a meeting with the rest of the school board. Prompt action must have been taken, for soon thereafter, to my great delight, I received a letter of acceptance.

During my two years at Wiese, I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lund, which was the rear portion of the Dowling store. They had a kitchen, an entry porch, a living room and one bedroom. Mrs. Lund rented the living room to me. She put a curtain across the doorway that led to their kitchen. When the curtain was open the family had a living room, when it was closed I had a private bedroom.

There was a large closet between the bedroom and my room. Mrs. Lund divided this closet in two with a heavy drape. Lunds had access to one half while a

door from the living room gave me access to the other. My wardrobe trunk was set beside my closet and served as a dresser. The davenport was seating area in the daytime, and opened into my bed at night. The bedding conveniently folded in with the mattress.

Boarding in a living room can present problems. One day I hurried home from school, in through the store where I found Mrs. Lund in charge, alone. I passed on through the kitchen and thence to the living room. Once there I decided to quickly change my dress, but as Mrs. Lund was the only one around, and she was in the store, I neglected to draw the curtain across the doorway. I had just taken off my school dress when I heard a young man in the store say, "Is Miss Benedict home?" Horrors! No way could I dash around the piano and draw the curtain over the door before he reached it. Alternative? Into the closet and close the door! There was a click and a sickening realization that the catch to the door was on the outside, with no latch inside. I stood motionless until I heard my visitor come into the living room, pause, then go back out to Mrs. Lund, where he told her that Miss Benedict was not in the living room. She was too busy to come in search. What now? I donned a dress — no problem there. Now I had three ways of escape: I could call Mrs. Lund and expose my stupidity, I could wait till the store closed and she came back to the kitchen, or I could duck under the drape that divided the closet and exit through their private bedroom into the kitchen. I chose the last, and hurried back to the shelter of the living room before my predicament was discovered. Never again would I lock myself in that closet!

Mr. Lund farmed along with operating the store, so six o'clock was not an uncommon rising hour. I enjoyed getting up early and having breakfast with the family. I had a two mile hike to school, so I'd leave about 8 a.m. Sometimes, especially in the spring, I cut across the fields north and east of Dowling. It was a real nature study, starting with the early spring crocuses, to the display of summer and fall plants and flowers.

Plants bring to mind a horticultural experiment we did at school. I had gathered some seeds from Mrs. Lund's dew plant, had taken them to school and planted them in a pot. Carefully we cared for them, and beamed good wishes at them. In about two weeks, up came one tiny plant. The loving care continued. When it was about two inches high we proudly showed it to some parents who had come to the school. Mr. Fecho looked carefully at it, then at me. He uttered one smashing word, "stinkweed". I checked our little plant with the ones in the field, and, sure enough, the structure was identical, only ours wasn't as healthy!

With an enrollment of sixteen, I had time to give individual attention. The families who had children in school were: Williams, Robertson, Annas, Viste, Brunner, Fecho, Gaugler, MacKimmie and Haessel.

I went out to play with the children many noons and recesses. One April we had an overnight snowfall that was just right for packing by noon the next day. We all launched into the construction of a giant snowman. The balls grew so easily and so large that piling one on top of the other was a major task. We rolled such a big ball for the head we could hardly lift it, and we just couldn't reach to get it up on the shoulders. The teacher's chair was brought out, and because I was the tallest it became my job to heave that head up and pack it. There he stood, our snowman, nine feet tall. I recorded the happy group surrounding their creation with my Brownie camera.

A beaming sun and vigorous Chinook wind seemed determined to destroy our snowman, and he slowly became thinner and began to lean. Soon after recess there was a slump and collapse. In four hours we had seen the rise and fall of a noble snowman.

I started a diary of some of the interesting events that happened each day, in a big book. Pictures and a little story of each student were also put in. At the end of the year each child was allowed to put his best composition in the book, in his finest handwriting. Each week they all tried to improve their own creation to give them a choice composition for the book.

Christmas concert time was exciting, with everyone getting involved with the making of props and furniture out of cardboard, apple boxes and brown paper. One year, for an Indian Dance drill we made pant and jacket costumes out of gunny sacks. During the performance, from my position as pianist behind curtains, I heard a burst of unexpected laughter from the audience. Only later did I learn that, as Evan Williams stomped his feet in dance, the belt of his gunny sack pants failed. Disgusted, but still in march time, he kicked off the capricious pants and continued his pow wow. Fortunately he had kept on his dress pants. Those Christmas concert audiences were the greatest. Every child got a big round of applause, making him feel just a little taller.

It was not always easy to get someone to play Santa. One year Harold Lund obliged. He tried to change his voice, but as soon as he set foot inside the door and shouted "Merry Christmas", his four year old son Frank, eagerly shouted back: "Daddy, Daddy". To all the rest of the children he was Santa, and their faces shone happily as he greeted each one and handed out treats.

During the winter we had a social evening every second week. There were amateur programs, contests, debates and pie socials, often followed by games such as whist, five hundred or cootie. Young and old were all involved, and no children were left home with a baby sitter. The evenings ended with lunch and friendly chatter.

Going back to my boarding place and walking to school. I paid $18.00 per month board, and had few other expenses. I made my cotton dresses, knit my sweaters and wore lisle stockings. My shoes came from Simpson's mail order house and were priced at $3.00 to $4.00 a pair. Out of my $50.00 per month salary I was able to put some money in the bank. It seems incredible to me now.

I wouldn't have taken any fashion awards, walking the two miles to school in cold stormy weather. I had a muskrat fur coat that had been my grandmother's, high overshoes, leather outer mitts, wool inner mitts, a wool tam and a warm mohair scarf. Only once when I tried to outrun a sudden sleet storm, instead of protecting my face, did I suffer frost bite, and it was just superficial. Sometimes on stormy days Jack Robertson or Steve Brunner took their children to school with the team and sleigh. I was grateful to be able to ride with them.

I met friendliness in all the community. Mr. and Mrs. Lund must have had many moments of frustration, with a boarder in their living room for ten months of the year. Never during the time I spent there did they let me feel that my presence was causing inconvenience.

The parents invited me to their homes to spend evenings with them and frequently I stayed overnight, walking to school with the children in the morning. Following are some of the memories I have of those visits. Walking home with Lucy and Willie Gaugler, with Willie a step or two ahead of us all the way, no matter how fast Lucy and I walked. The next morning I found all the Gauglers present for breakfast except Willie. His Mother apologized for him, saying he had eaten breakfast early and left for school. He had told her, "That teacher walks too fast." I thought you were setting the pace, Willie?

Visits with the Ernest Haessels, with all the good food, guitar music and happy singing and talking. The privilege of sleeping between two beautiful feather ticks, at the Senior Steve Brunners. An experience in warmth not to be forgotten.

I was asked to take family pictures with my Brownie camera, at one home. After all were dressed in their best and we were about to proceed with the picture taking, one lad refused to budge from a chair behind the table. Upon questioning him the Father discovered his pants wouldn't stay up when he made an attempt to get up. Father knew he had provided the necessary belt for one of the boys and suspenders for the other, but one of them had luxuriated and worn both. Sharing mended matters and the picture taking went ahead.

One spring, after a visit to my home in the Hand Hills, my brother Roland agreed to take me back to Dowling in his car. It was muddy and we got about two miles east in a coulee, where we got stranded and had to walk home. My second brother Don, then said he would take me in the morning (Monday) with his team and buggy.

We left about six o'clock in the morning with Don driving Scoot and Smokey, a lively team. He kept them at a quick trotting pace, but [illegible] still became a race with time. At ten to nine we reached the Dowling corner. The horses were hot and tired, so I got out to walk-run the rest of the way to school and Don went into Dowling to rest his horses. When I reached the school it was after nine o'clock. There were no sounds, no indication of life. With guilty feelings I wondered if the children had all come and gone. I stepped inside the school. To my astonishment they were all in their places doing their rapid calculation. Gwyneth Williams was teacher, she had her calculations done too. Impish grins on every face flashed happily back at me. Sheepishly I tip-toed to the cloak room, left my coat and went to the front of the room. Late I was, but I had a fine memory of beautiful children to cherish for always.

On my last day at Wiese School, we had a community-school picnic. I recall softball games, races, jumping, good fun and heaps of good food. Best of all was the vibrant feelings of good fellowship, a whole community of wholesome friendship. I am glad that Mr. Williams, two years earlier, had found my application acceptable. I am glad to have had the privilege of teaching at Wiese.

THE MALDWYN WILLIAMS FAMILY, By Edith Williams with excerpts by Phyllis (Williams) Jones — John Maldwyn Williams came to the Nanton district from Wales in 1910, to land that his father had bought for him. Here the farmers were plagued by early frosts so he sold this land, and in 1914 went overland by wagon, with [illegible] his possessions to Hanna. He got a half section homestead that someone else had given up, about thirteen miles north of Hanna. He built a car-roofed shack with two very small bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. His sister Agnes had also come from Wales to keep house for him.

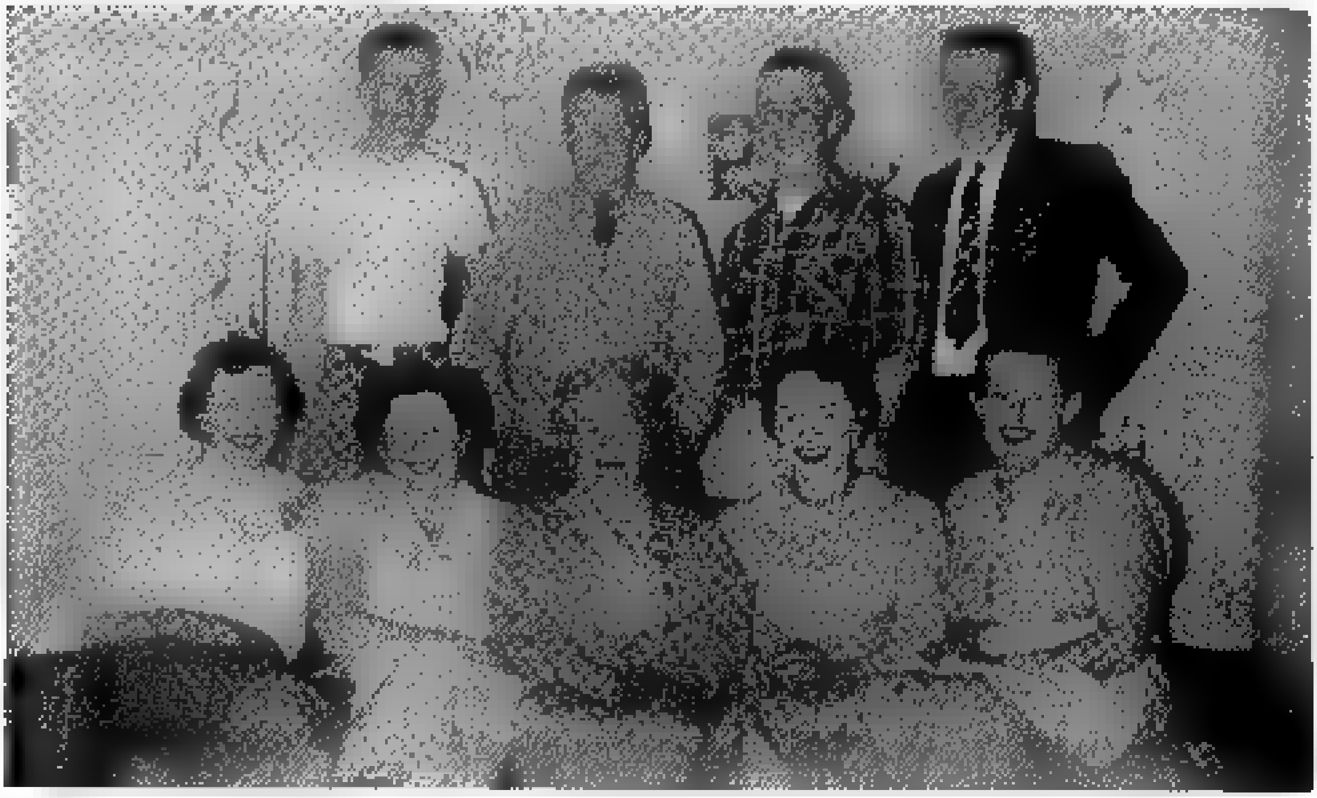
I (Edith Henderson) graduated from Victoria University, Toronto, in 1913, with a B.A. degree. Frank Buchanan, a fellow student, became inspector of schools in the Hanna area. Teaching jobs were scarce, so he offered me a position at the Alps School, and I accepted. I boarded with the Al Bergs who lived a few miles west of the school. My quarters were behind a floor rug tacked up to a rafter in a one-room shack. Years after, I heard from Mrs. Berg who was in Hawaii. Her daughter (a small baby when I was there) was head librarian there.

When Wiese School was built I was offered the job of being the first teacher. William Munro was on the school board there and he had become friendly with Agnes Williams. So, through him, I went to board with Agnes and Maldwyn while teaching at Wiese. My two and a half mile walk to school took me past Raina's, Fielding's and Chris and Hjalmer Viste's land. The people that lived nearest to us had the largest sod house I'd ever seen and the mother lived in the smallest one, but I can't remember their names. (*Editor's Note:* this would be the Ed Wheelers). I taught Wiese for four years, and I taught again at Alps after Maldwyn Williams and I were married. We were married in November of 1918, in the middle of the flu epidemic. There were no public gatherings allowed, so we had no choice but to go right out to the farm with the horse and buggy.

At first we got our supplies from Hanna, over a road that went up and down hills and wound around sloughs. When the railway came through we got our mail and some of our needs in Dowling. We were often short of money, but never short of food. We had pigs and cattle and I canned and cured meat. I had a well-to-do sister in Toronto who helped out with clothes. We both had growing children.

I remember one time we got a soccer team organized at Wiese. There were men in the district who were from the old country and had played soccer before. Among them were John Robertson and his neighbor Don Ross. We played a team that they rounded up in Hanna, and defeated them.

Finally taxes and poor cattle prices drove us out. My son has a bill, that I saved when we shipped six head of yearling steers, good Angus breeding, and got $27.50. The trucker got more than we did. The government was paying three-quarters of a cent a pound for cows.



The Williams family. Back Row: Glen, Mr. Williams, Bob, Evan. Front Row: Edith, Gwyneth, Mrs. Williams, Grace and Phyllis.

William Munro had married Agnes Williams and moved to land near Vulcan. Through him we had the opportunity to rent land there too, so in 1935 the Williams family left the Hanna district. We couldn't sell our cattle so Maldwyn went with them by freight. The family headed out by car, but the roads were blocked by snow and we had to do considerable shovelling before we reached Hanna. The snow continued and by the time we reached Drumheller we had to give up and stay there. We took the train out a couple of days later, and so I landed at the Kircaldy station with six children and no one there to meet me.

Maldwyn's dream of having a farm with a creek running through it was realized when he bought land on the Little Bow River. He farmed here with the help of his boys until he passed away in 1958. We had a son, Glen, born in Vulcan and he is on the farm. Our daughter, Mrs. Gwyneth Poersch, lives in Nanton. Phyllis, Mrs. Ira Jones, is in Kelowna, B.C. Evan and his family farm about three miles south of where Glen is. His eldest son is a doctor of medicine and is interning in

Hamilton. I'm very proud of him. Bob is in Calgary and has a nice home and family. Edith married Hubert Warren and they farm at Champion in the grain belt. Grace trained as a nurse. She married a Calgary lawyer, Don MacLeod. I have been residing in the Peter Dawson Lodge in Vulcan for a number of years.

MORE MEMORIES OF THE DAYS AT WIESE, By Phyllis Jones — Blizzards were a constant fear as we walked over two miles to school. I remember one in particular. Dad was going to Calgary to the Fall Livestock Show, so Manly Viste took him to Hanna to catch the train. Mother went along. The blizzard struck before they got back home so he and mother stayed at Vistes, thankful to get that far. Children were caught at school. Mr. Fecho walked over to the school to be sure no one left unaccompanied. He took Evan and me to his home, where we spent the night. In early morning Manly took Mother home, where Gwyneth was holding fort with the younger children. They had no way of knowing what had happened to Evan and me until Mr. Fecho drove us home later in the day. No wonder Mother's hair turned white at an early age.

Another grim winter was when Dad was hospitalized for several months, including Christmas. During this time Mother depended on kind neighbors to get her to the hospital to visit him. He became critically ill, and Mrs. Binmore was looking after us while Mother was gone to be with Dad. One day I found Mrs. Binmore in the bedroom, praying. She told us to pray for Dad's recovery as she did, every day. Our prayers were answered and I remember the happy day when he returned to the little house on the hill.

Dad was a stockman at heart and earned many cups and ribbons with his prize Aberdeen Angus cattle and Yorkshire swine which he took to the Calgary Show. Gwyneth went with him a few times and entered animals in the children's events.

One of our favorite teachers was Jean Benedict. She was great for planning parties and made the school a real social centre. She also taught Sunday School and after school gave piano lessons.

Gwyneth and I used to enjoy walking the four miles over to Dowling for the mail and shopping at Alpaugh's store. He was a friend of the kids since there was always an extra treat for them shoved in with the groceries.

We see many changes when we go back to visit. It is nice to see the trees that our family helped plant and maintain still surrounding the school yard.

Julius Wiese, H. Viste, Don Ross, C. Viste, in front of Chris Viste's first shack.

DONALD and ANNIE ROSS, compiled from information given by Annie Ross and their neighbors — Donald Ross came, as a young man, to Alberta from his home in Ainess, Scotland. He homesteaded north of Hanna in 1909, and as nearly as can be determined, he was the first one to actually live in the Wiese School district. Like most of the early settlers, he hauled his lumber from Stettler with horses.

In 1916 he married Annie Fulton of Victoria, B.C. They had four children, one son and three daughters.

Don Ross rented his land out for awhile. Then in 1927 he sold his holdings to Manly Viste. The Ross family moved to Victoria. Don passed away July 16, 1968.

Mrs. Ross is still at Victoria and the rest of the family are all residing in B.C.

Mrs. Ross related a little story to the Bill McKenzies, of the confusion there was in the neighborhood one day when some of them got mixed up, as to which day of the week it was. Don left home under the impression that it was Sunday. He was going to get the mail at Dowling and when he got over that way he was surprised to see people working at McCuish's, digging a well. None of them ever worked on Sundays. When he asked them about it, they said it wasn't Sunday. Then he wasn't sure who it was that was mixed up, him or them. So he set out asking different people what day it was, and if anything got more confused. Mrs. Ross doesn't remember how many people he had to ask, but eventually he found out that he was right all along. It was Sunday.

SEVEN YEARS AT DOWLING, By William Munro — In the fall of 1910 I was at my desk in the office of Dunnett & Co. where I was employed as bookkeeper when [illegible] young man named Dan Ross came into the office. His home in Scotland had been at Alness, three miles from my home town of Invergordon, thus meeting thousands of miles from home, we soon became friends. Dan and Jack Robertson had homesteaded at Dowling two years earlier and they made the trip from Calgary to Dowling with a team and wagon. Some fifty odd years later when Mrs. Ross and Dan were riding to Calgary with me after celebrating the 50th anniversary of the town of Hanna, Dan showed me the spot where they had camped overnight in the Drumheller Valley.

I did not realize that Dan's visit [illegible] Dunnett's office would change the whole course of my life, but such was the case. He suggested that I was wasting my time in the office when I could get 320 acres of land from the government for the nominal sum of $20.00. He told me there was a half section open for homesteading just west of his place, and so it was that I filed on my homestead that afternoon.

In the spring of 1911 I travelled by rail to Castor which at that time was the nearest jumping-off place. While there I purchased enough lumber to build [illegible] shack 10 by 14 and somehow got myself and lumber out to my new location. Andy Murdoch, who was a carpenter, just happened to be staying at his sister's farm (Mrs. McCreight) and he was kind enough to take time to help me build, and he did a good job. The shack had a shingle roof, one ply of shiplap on the walls with tar paper on the outside and building paper on the inside, two windows and one door. This was my home summer and winter for seven years.

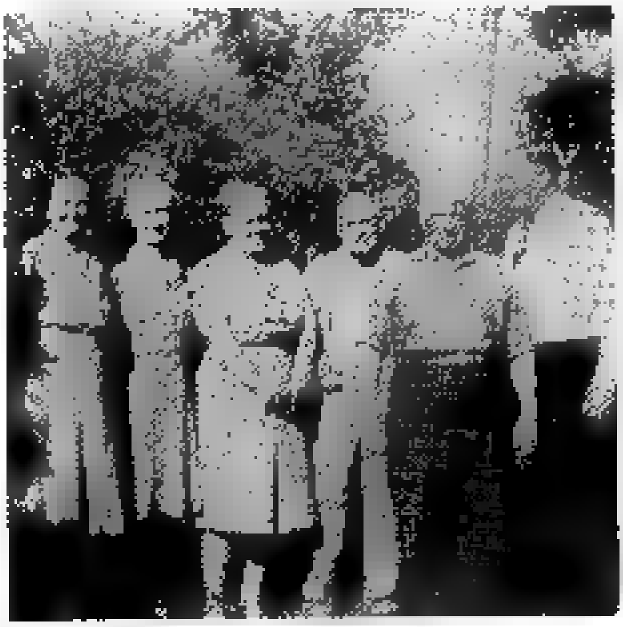
My next concern was farming machinery and horses. These I managed to acquire and I was now [illegible] farmer, although there was still lots for me to learn. My first barn was built of sods and I was proud of the fact that I did it myself.

As time went on, Dan, Jack and I spent many hours together and I am indebted to both of them for advice in solving many of my farm problems. Conditions in those days were somewhat crude, no T.V., no radio, no telephone, no hot or cold running water, no electricity, no cars, in fact you might say no NOTHING. Jack did get a washing machine that worked by turning a handle and got kidded plenty about his MODERN IDEAS. There was plenty of work but there was also some time for play. We had our picnics and ball games, and after the Wiese school was built there were box socials, dances, concerts and Sunday School, and [illegible] were well attended. Everyone had the mat out for visitors and no matter where you went there was always plenty to eat and all were welcome.

Humorous incidents were not quite absent either, like when the heel flies caused Bradley's oxen to head for the nearest slough taking Mr. Bradley and his plough along. Then Fischer trying to get water from the well with a rope on [illegible] wheel. He took hold of the end of the rope and walked backwards until the pail of water came up and hit the wheel. Then he asked me, "Now,how you get the water, Mister?"

In 1918 I got the title to my land and sold to Dave Johnston as I had purchased a farm in the Garden Plain District. About this time I married Miss Agnes Williams and the same year her brother, Maldwyn Williams married Miss Edith Henderson who taught school at Wiese.

Nearly sixty years have gone by but such names as Ross, Robertson, Doyle boys, Harrington, McCreight, Fischer, Wiese, Mansfield, Viste, Gasper, Burroughs, Mrs. Gay and Nellie, Barton and Williams, I still remember well. In 1925 I moved south to the Vulcan district and now live in the city of Calgary, but these happy carefree days spent in the Dowling District will always remain fresh in my memory.


Left to right: Clara Viste, Carrie Robertson, Leone Pound and their husbands Ed Pound, John Robertson, Hjalmer Viste.

ROBERTSON STORY, By Florence (Robertson) Miedinger — John R. Robertson came west to Alberta from Bright, Ontario in 1905. He filed on land, sight unseen, in the land office in Calgary, in what is now known as the Dowling Lake District. He then decided to go to Banff and drove bus tours for Brewsters for two years. Coming back to Calgary he and the land agent drove by horse and buggy to the land site. They stayed with surveyors in a tent on the land that was soon homesteaded by Dan Barton. It got pretty cold that winter so he again went west to Morley and worked on the Stoney Indian Reserve. Finally in 1909 he settled on his homestead where he lived for the next forty years.

Many challenges were met in those first years. The closest Post Office and Store was at Stettler and had to be reached by horseback or a stiff hike. The settlers took turns going and as it was a break in routine it was made a social event, calling at each home along the way. Many nights were spent outdoors with only the stars for a blanket and the wail of the coyotes for a lullaby. "Jack" as he was known to most of the pioneers, told of finding the body of a man on one of these trips. He buried the body in a shallow grave and notified the police in Stettler when he reached there. One of the first women he met was Mrs. McCuish, and he told how all the bachelors used the lamest of excuses to gather there for a home cooked meal. Sourdough pancakes got a bit monotonous.

In 1915 Jack joined the Canadian Army with a Battalion from Calgary and went overseas almost immediately. He spent the next four years overseas, returning in 1919. During that time he was seriously wounded once and received a medal for bravery. Returning to his homestead he found neighbours with grain fields and great improvements on their land and he found he really had to push to catch up. In 1921 he married an Ontario girl, Carrie May Zinn and settled down in earnest. Two foster daughters Florence and Jean came to make their home with them.

In the early twenties the C.N.R. surveyed the track from Hanna to Warden; part of this track ran through Robertson land along the edge of the lake. During these years Mrs. Robertson boarded surveyors and men building the tracks. This section was all built by mule teams. One old grey mule came back after the crews moved on and lived out his years along the side of the railroad north of where the hamlet of Dowling sprang up.

The coming of the small store and Post Office was a great convenience and of course the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator meant no more long trips to Hanna with loads of grain.

When the telephone Company was taken over by the farmers and became a Mutual Company, Jack served as troubleshooter, lineman and secretary. I recall climbing poles with homemade spurs, particularly the one at the south C.N.R. crossing. This pole was high to cross the tracks and was spliced by the workmen, which gave it a real sway, at least enough to give me a real scare! Jean became quite proficient at climbing and reporting trouble. All the equipment was homemade and at times pretty crude. However the line was kept in service most of the time with the help of all the neighbors.

John Robertson was a very interested participant in the raising of livestock and many a time was off to help try to save some sick animal. The closest veterinarian then was a friend of his in Edmonton and he enjoyed helping in any way he could treating the animals.

Carrie Robertson specialized in the growing of poultry and many a table in the town of Hanna was graced with one of her birds at Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years. Coyotes again were the enemy, stealing, killing or crippling any that happened to be left unguarded for a few minutes. They could wipe out a sizeable flock in one raid.

The family returned to Bright, Ontario in 1949. Florence married Elmer Meidinger that year and they live in Calgary, they have one daughter Lynnda. Jean married Willis Parker and they live in Woodstock, Ontario; they have four children. John and Carrie had a large garden in Bright and remained very active in all the social events. John died in 1963 and Carrie in 1970. John Robertson loved the West and remained very loyal to it, and interested in the lives of the early pioneers, until his death.

MRS. DAISY GAY — Mrs. Daisy Gay came to the Tees area in 1900. She returned to the U.S. in 1903, coming back to Alberta in 1910 to file on the west half of 31-32-14, north of Hanna. This was the land that the Wiese School was later built on. Daisy and her daughter Nellie lived on the same quarter. They did most of the farming, with the help of the occasional hired man.

Sometime during the mid-twenties she married Al Wirth and moved to the Wirth homestead in the Antelope Hill District. In 1926 Al Wirth became ill and passed away. After that the half section of land at Wiese was rented out. When Mrs. Wirth passed away, her daughter Nellie Gasper inherited the land. She continued to rent it out, and at her passing it was handed down one more generation to her daughter, Dorothy Ward.

Two rather interesting news items appeared in the "Greystone" news column in 1914 — Feb. 5, Mrs. Daisy Gay left on Monday for Tees where she will reside with her father for the remainder of the winter.

April 30, Miss Nellie Gay returned last Friday on the Castor stage from Tees, where she had been visiting with her grandfather.

THE MANSFIELD FAMILY, By Perley Mansfield — Mr. Walter Mansfield, his wife Una, and his three children, Harold, Mildred and Perley, came to the Wiese District in April, 1912. Mr. Mansfield and Harold arrived first, bringing a wagon and

two horses from Calgary. They stayed with a neighbor, Mr. Chris Viste. Mrs. Mansfield, Mildred and Perley came by train from Stowe, Vermont, U.S.A., to Castor, Alberta in May of 1912, then drove by democrat to the Viste farm. The family stayed there until their house was built. The Mansfield farm was section 1, Township 33, range 15, west of the 4th meridian.

That first winter on the bald snow-drifted prairie was quite a change from the mild climate and golden trees of Stowe, Vermont.

In the spring of 1913, land was ploughed and seeded to wheat. By 1915 the family rejoiced in a bumper wheat harvest.

Perley Mansfield with his niece and mother, Una Mansfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mansfield and daughter Evelyn.

December 9, 1915, Mr. Walter Mansfield was killed in a most unfortunate accident in the Brown coal mine. This coal mine was an open pit mine located 8 miles east of the Mansfield farm and was used by farmers of the district for their winter coal supplies. On December 9, the snow was deep and the ground frozen, so Mr. Mansfield dug under the frozen overhang, and as he was bringing out his last load the overhang collapsed and killed him.

The family carried on with Harold running the farm. Mildred and Perley attended the Alps School, a four mile trip on horseback twice every day, winter and summer. Later Mildred continued her education in Hanna and Perley attended the new Wiese School just 300 yards from their home.

Harold and his wife Laurene Glover took over the farm and Mrs. Una Mansfield, with Mildred and Perley moved to Calgary. Perley and Mildred both completed their education there, with Perley graduating from the Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering. He worked in this field until 1934, when he opened his own business, "Radio Crafts Ltd." This involved selling and servicing radios and electrical appliances. This very successful business was run by Perley until he retired. Mildred worked for the Federal Government. She married Joe Mawhinney. They had a daughter Madeline, who is the wife of Dr. A.G. Storey, and resides in Calgary.

Harold Mansfield moved to the Grande Prairie district about 1935, farming there for many years. The homestead was rented first to Mr. Sieb then later to Rudolf Fecho. He rented for some time and then purchased it.

Now in 1977 [redacted] the original Mansfield family is deceased except Perley, who with his wife Florence resides in Calgary. Harold's daughter Evelyn Brink, who attended both Wiese and Silver Valley Schools is living in Terrace, B.C.

JACOB CARSTENSEN — Jacob Carstensen homesteaded one and a half miles from Wiese school in 1910. Being a brother to Mrs. Julius Wiese, he was involved in their coming to the district the following year. He was a handy man with a hammer and saw, and helped neighbors with some of their building. Although he was a bachelor, he took a keen interest in the formation of the Wiese School district and the building of the school. He was elected Chairman of the Board at the first meeting and held that position until 1917. Shortly after that he sold his holdings to H. Viste and moved to Langley Prairie, B.C.

Left to right: Jake Carstensen, N.E. Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wiese.

THE JULIUS WIESE STORY, By Nina (Wiese) Armstrong — Julius Wiese came from Illinois in 1911 to homestead north of Dowling Lake on SE 2-33-15. The first spring he and his son Harry came up in a box car with most of the family belongings, and two horses. They broke about fifty acres with oxen and also got a house partly built by the time the rest of the family came up in May. Mrs. Lena Wiese, and the three girls, Vena, Lucy and Nina, came to Castor by train, and then to the homestead by wagon. Lena's brother, Jake Carstensen was the one who met them in Castor and drove them down. It was an endurance test for the women, taking from early morning until late at night, with hordes of mosquitoes everywhere. They were very bad the entire summer.

The water was hauled from a dug well with a stone boat and barrels. The cattle were driven to a slough about a mile away for water.

Our Post Office was Garden Plain; that was also the store. We went to Chain Lakes School for awhile, but this was quite a walk. The Wieses, along with some of the other settlers in the area, soon realized the need for a school, and set out to form a school board and build the 'Wiese School'. We went to school there, and the teachers I remember were Miss Pokotilo, Miss Henderson and Florence Meadows, who married Pete Kennedy.

There wasn't much money but we always had a lot of pleasure, visiting with our friends and neighbors. Our home was always open to company and we had lots of good times. Other entertainment was dances, and summer picnics at Garden Plain and later at Clear Lake.

I married Harry Himmelreich in 1925 and moved to Olds. He passed away in 1953. I still live at Olds. I remarried, and am now Nina Armstrong. Vena married William Grantham, and still lives on the farm with her son in the Chain Lakes district. Lucy married Cyril Doyle. They farmed locally for awhile and then moved to Langley Prairie, B.C. She passed away about six years ago. There was also a step-sister who taught school in the Hand Hills. She married William Becker, but they moved to California and spent most of their time in the States. She died at an early age. Harry stayed on the farm with his parents, and when they moved to B.C. he took over.

Lena Wiese passed away February 14, 1946. Julius stayed at his daughter Lucy's place, where he passed away on January 18, 1949.

HARRY and MARGARET WIESE and FAMILY, By Walter Wiese — Harry Wiese served with the first Depot Battalion in Calgary in 1918. He then returned

home to help his Dad on the farm. For a number of years he worked with Chris Gasper and Cyril Doyle, running a threshing outfit. In later years he had his own machine and did custom threshing.

About the time everyone thought Harry was a confirmed bachelor, he married Margaret Crosby. They spent their married life together on the Wiese homestead. A son, Walter, was the first addition to the family, followed by two daughters, Margaret and Joanne. Margaret and her husband, Otto Glubrecht and family live at Fort McMurray. Joanne married Bob Owens. They reside at Olds, with their family.

Harry kept up an active interest in school and community affairs. It came as a shock to everyone when he lost his life in a tragic accident while haying, on July 25, 1958. This left Walter in charge of the farming operation. He stayed on the farm with his mother, and in the mid-sixties they moved to Hanna. After being in and out of hospitals, and several major operations, Mrs. Wiese passed away in 1971. Walter still works the family farm, as well as being an employee of the Special Areas.

NORVEL BRADLEY, as told by Rudy Annas — Mr. N.E. Bradley came from Wisconsin to homestead the east half of 31-32-14 in 1910. He had his own oxen and did his own breaking with them. After farming for a while he decided to go back to Hillsboro, Wis., to operate the hotel he owned there. This was around 1927. He rented his land to the Ruhls. In 1933 John Annas rented his farm and lived on it with his family. Some years later he came back to the farm and built a barn. His eyesight had been failing, and while he was painting the barn white in the bright sun, he went almost completely blind. Mr. Bradley never recovered from this, so he returned to the States by train, leaving his car impounded in Canada. He passed away there in the early forties.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SCHOTTSNEIDER and FAMILY, By Bill Schottsneider — Mr. and Mrs. Schottsneider came to Canada in 1909, from North Dakota, with a family of four daughters and one son. They took up their homestead on the north side of Dowling Lake the same year. Two daughters were born in Canada.

The oldest, Clara, married Rudolph Fano. They lived in Hanna. Rudolph passed away in 1959, and Clara passed away in December 1976, after a lengthy stay in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna.

Mary suffered a crippling illness in her teens and spent the rest of her life confined to a wheelchair. She passed away in 1962.

Rosie married Gottfred Albright, of the Hand Hills, they retired to Drumheller, where he passed away in 1962, and Rosie still resides.

Annie married Henry McDermott and moved to Manning, Alberta. Henry passed away in 1948. Annie lived there until her passing in 1975.

William married Rose Albright and remained on the homestead until 1969. Due to poor health, the farm was sold to a nephew, Jim Schultz, and Bill and Rose retired to Hanna.

Emma married Fred Bees, and they live in Grand Forks, B.C.

Tillie married Ervin Schultz and they too have retired to Hanna.

The family all attended Wiese School. Herman Schottsneider passed away in 1931, and his wife Barbara passed away in 1961.

Living next to the lake had advantages, but it also had disadvantages. During the winter it was a nice smooth shortcut across the lake to Hanna. In 1927, Bill went out with the horses and sleigh to see if the ice was frozen thick enough to

start going across it, as he intended to haul some pigs to town the next day. The horses broke through the ice into about three and a half feet of water. It was a very cold day, and he soon realized there was no hope of getting them out alive, so he walked home, got the gun and shot them. They managed to get the harness off the horses, and got the sleigh out. The loss of a good faithful team of horses was felt for a long time.

Something else the Schottsneiders won't forget is the dry years, when the alkali blew out of the lake bottom in white clouds. It literally covered everything. Since 1945 there has always been enough run-off to keep the water level up to where the alkali doesn't blow very much. In 1945 the deer could walk across the lake anywhere.

HOMESTEAD MEMORIES, By Emma (Schottsneider) Baes — When Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schottsneider came to Canada by train, in 1909, they landed at Stettler. The rest of the trip was made by wagon. They set up a tent by a spring, near Dowling Lake. A neighbor had told them about the spring. They ploughed the land and seeded oats and barley and a garden. Then they started hauling supplies from Stettler to build a house. It was one large room. Mr. Schottsneider also hauled freight for the Hanna Trading Store before the railway was built. He had brought a car load of horses and farm equipment, and also household needs along up from the States. This helped them get started right away with the farming.

The crops were all threshed with a threshing machine. The first one was put through by hand.

The neighbors always helped one another and had good times together.

STEFEN BRUNNER SR. FAMILY, By Clara Frank — Stefen Brunner Sr., my Grandfather, was born in Dorog, Hungary in 1866. He worked in the coal mines till he and his family came to Drake, North Dakota, in the spring of 1910. His oldest son Frank had arrived a year earlier and was working there. His family consisted of my grandma, Anna, and nine children, Clara, Frank, Stephen, Elizabeth, John, Marie, Katie, Tony and Annie.

The Stefen Brunners. Standing, left to right: Frank, Marie, Clara (in circle) Elizabeth, John, Katie, Steve. Seated : Mr. and Mrs. Brunner with Clara's child Clara Ziglinski, Anthony (Tony) on right.

In the summer of 1910 he and Uncle Frank journeyed to Castor. His niece, Louise Kriess, lived about four miles east of where he took out his homestead on the north half of 1-33-15. On September 10, 1910 he filed on his homestead in Calgary, and then went back to North Dakota and spent the winter with his family. Their youngest daughter, Annie, died that winter at the age of six months.

The Brunners in their farm yard, taken in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner are on the wagon, Steve on the binder and other family members in background.

Group of young people at the Brunner home. Left [illegible] right: Paul Trettin, Steve Brunner Jr., Bill Kading, Marie Brunner, Katie Brunner. Tall man in hat unidentified, small girl is Clara Ziglinski.

In early spring the family left for the homestead in Alberta, arriving in early May. They had brought a large tent to live in. The first night they lived in the tent [illegible] snowed. During the summer a sod house was built and they lived in it until their house was built in 1916.

In 1911 their eldest daughter, Clara Brunner, was married to Fred Ziglinski of Lake Thelma. The most tragic event of my life was that my mother (Clara) died when I was born in 1914. I was named after her. My older brother, John, and I were cared for by my grandparents until I was seven years old.

We sometimes had church services in our home on Sundays. The priest would come and say mass and the neighbors would join in. We often had large gatherings on Sundays.

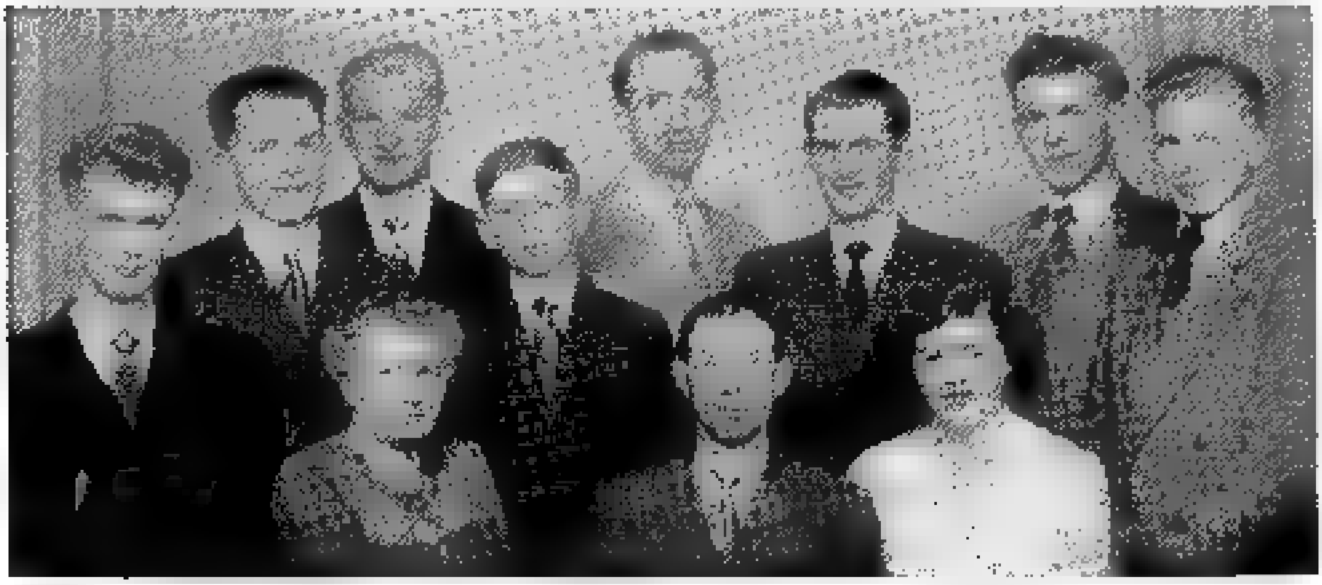
I remember that my grandfather had a lot of horses. We would go to town in a wagon and grandmother would sell butter and eggs. I used to visit with the Baxter children.

My father, Fred Ziglinski, went to Oregon in 1921 and bought a home. My grandparents went to visit him and took my brother and me with them. They stayed a couple of months and then went back to Alberta. John and I stayed in Oregon.

On January 24, 1938 my grandparents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They had many friends and neighbors in for the occasion. My grandfather passed away on December 24, 1946, and my grandmother on January 14, 1951.

The Frank, Steve Jr. and Anton Brunner family stories are included in this book. John Brunner passed away at a fairly early age. Elizabeth married John Semolki of Sublimity, Oregon. She is still living there. Katie and her husband John Hummel farmed at Castor for many years. They sold out in the early fifties and moved to Vancouver. Katie passed away in January 1964. Her husband predeceased her. Marie married John Fehr and they lived in Hanna. She died in 1972, not many years after her husband passed away.

MR. and MRS. FRANK BRUNNER and FAMILY, By Richard Brunner — Frank Brunner, (my Dad) was born in Dorog, Hungary. He spent a number of years working in the coal mines with his father, prior to coming to North America. In 1909, at the age of eighteen he arrived in Quebec. He then travelled to North Dakota and worked for an Uncle, Micheal Brunner. In the summer of 1910 his parents and seven brothers and sisters also came to North Dakota from Hungary. In August my Dad and Granddad headed for Castor. A cousin of Dad's, Mrs. Louise Kries, daughter of Micheal Brunner, was already in the Castor-Garden Plain area. In September 1910 they went to Calgary and filed on homesteads. Dad filed on the south half of 12-33-15. He stayed in Calgary and worked for $35.00 per month, while Granddad went back to his family in North Dakota.

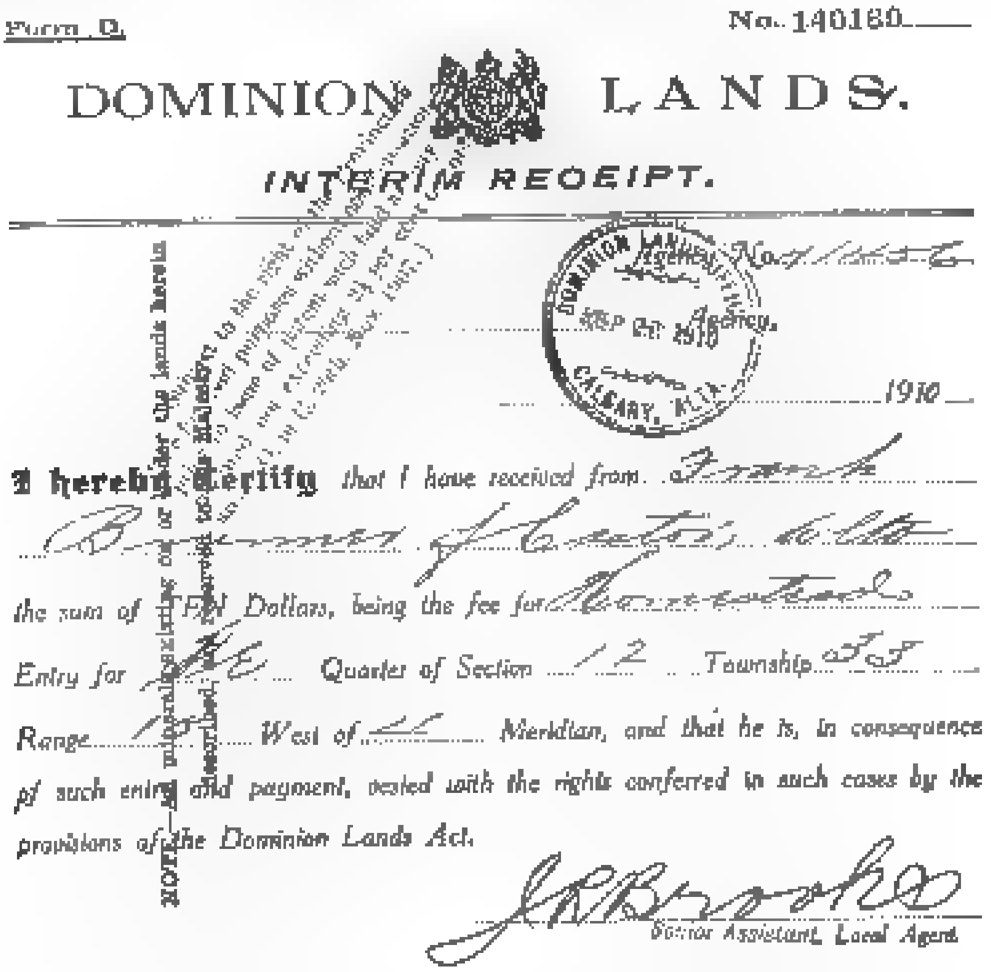


Frank Brunner family: Aloys, Martin, Raymond, Frank Jr., Joseph, Alfred, Richard. Mr. and Mrs. Brunner seated in front with Helen on right.

In the spring of 1911 Dad moved out to his homestead. The rest of the family came to Alberta too. They worked together, breaking the land with three oxen.

One hot day in the summer of 1911, when my grand parents were still living in the tent, one of the oxen walked into the tent to get away from the flies and mosquitoes. In all the excitement he turned around with his back end up against the table and of course the inevitable happened. Three years later they bought

their first horse. Later on in 1914 they took out a $700.00 loan and bought more horses. They cost from two to four hundred dollars per team.



Form D.

No. 140160

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

Agency No. 41536

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE
SEP 30 1910
CALGARY, ALTA.

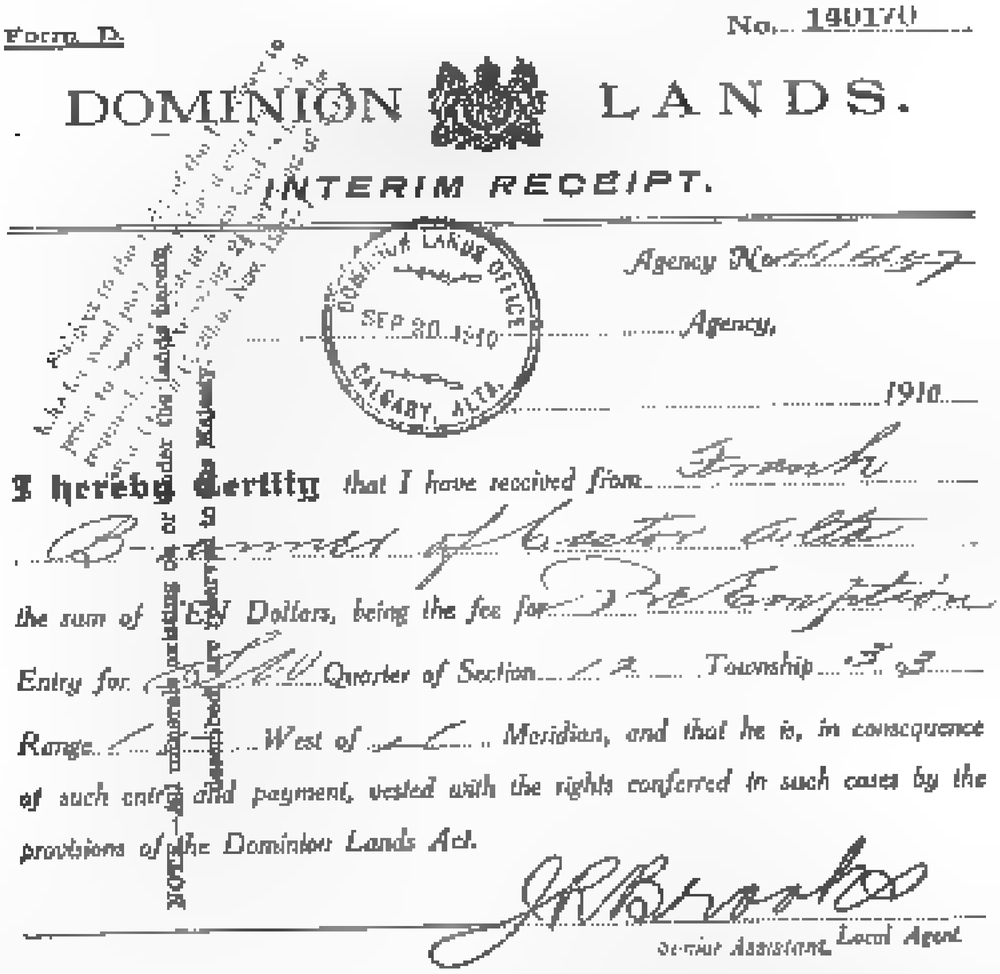
Agency,

1910

I hereby Certify that I have received from Frank Brunner of Hector, Alta the sum of TEN Dollars, being the fee for Homestead Entry for NE Quarter of Section 12 Township 35 Range 15 West of 4 Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

NOTE.—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described reserved to His Majesty

J. R. Brooks
Senior Assistant, Local Agent.



Form D.

No. 140170

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

Agency No. 41537

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE
SEP 30 1910
CALGARY, ALTA.

Agency,

1910

I hereby Certify that I have received from Frank Brunner of Hector Alta the sum of TEN Dollars, being the fee for Pre-Emption Entry for SW Quarter of Section 12 Township 35 Range 15 West of 4 Meridian, and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

NOTE.—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described reserved to His Majesty

J. R. Brooks
Senior Assistant, Local Agent.

Frank Brunner married Therera Weiss of Moson, Hungary in 1924. Their home was a 12' by 14' building which they lived in until the house was built in 1925. They had nine children, eight boys and one girl, so there were lots of mouths to feed during the depression. One evening Dad came home with about two hundred

pounds of relief apples. It was chore time and I was to get the cows, so I grabbed an apple and away I went. I sure enjoyed it, as they were quite scarce around our household at that time. The next apple I ate I noticed had a worm in it, and so did the ones I ate after that, and they all had a tunnel or two to the core. I often wondered how much meat I had eaten with that first apple!

Our early education was at the Wiese School. When my brother Frank and I started, we could only speak the German language, so in grade one we had to learn to speak English, as well as learning to read and write. One summer in the thirties there were a lot of gophers around the school yard, so some of us decided to bring some traps and catch them. They were afraid to come out of their holes during the noon hour or recess because there were all the kids running around. So we'd set our traps and then spend the time we were supposed to be doing school work, wondering if we caught a gopher. Soon a hand would be raised and a request made to "leave the room", so the traps could be checked. So many requests were made to go to the outhouse, that the teacher caught on to the fact that we were up to something. Our gopher trapping came to an end.

Like a lot of large families in those days, the older members of the family had to forego an education to work and help support the family. When I was fifteen years old (1942) I worked on a ranch near Richdale, for ten dollars a month. About the end of April I left the ranch and a friend, Don Smart, and I decided to go to Calgary to give city life a try. We had twenty dollars between the two of us. Bus fare was $8.20, so we had to find a job in a hurry. Don had a sister in Calgary so we had room and board for a couple of weeks. We both got jobs in pop factories. I worked for Coca Cola, at a starting salary of $10.00 per week. We couldn't resist visits to the pool hall and theatres, so we'd end up short of money for meals. Sometimes dinner was a twenty-five cent cake bought at the corner store.

In February, 1945 my brother Frank and I joined the Army. We joined up in Calgary, taking our basic training in Wetaskiwin. After V.E. day, I joined the Pacific Volunteers and took my advanced training at Sarcee and Currie Barracks in Calgary. After that I was sent to Vernon, B.C. After the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, the war ended rather suddenly. A government order came through shortly afterward, stating that anyone still eighteen years old on V.J. day couldn't be kept in the army, so in October 1945 I received my discharge.

The Brunner family is scattered throughout Alberta. All are married and have families of their own. Mrs. Brunner has a total of thirty six grandchildren. Frank and Raymond live in Red Deer, Joseph [illegible] at Elk Point, Martin at Lacombe, Aloys and Lawrence in Calgary, Alfred is at St. Albert. Helen married Jess Standing. They live on a farm near Hanna. Richard, his wife Dorothy and family are on the original homestead. Frank Brunner, Sr. passed away in April, 1971. Mrs. Brunner resides in Hanna in the home that they bought, when they retired from farming in 1958.

ANTHONY BRUNNER FAMILY, By Anthony (Tony Brunner) — I am the youngest of the Stefen Brunner family, pioneers of the Wiese District. I attended Wiese School from 1916 to 1921, reaching grade seven, a fair education in those days. I remember in 1919 we had a picnic at Wiese and we had a stunt plane there. He also took passengers up for rides for five dollars. His landing strip was a level spot in Chris Viste's pasture. There were lots of dances held at the school, and in the summer, ball games.

During my teenage years I spent a lot of time breaking horses, and at rodeo work. Levi and Phillip Kennedy were good friends of mine, and we used to go to rodeos together. Sometimes we rode horseback to such places as Castor, Rose

Lynn and the Hand Hills. We'd break broncs on the way there and back, and ride in the stampede events while there. I won first prize one year at Rose Lynn, in the steer riding. We rode bucking horses at get-togethers at Garden Plain and Clear Lake. Most of my rodeo days were during the twenties.

I got married in 1930, and built a home on a quarter section of land that I got from my Dad. Later I bought more land from Joe Fisher and Coghills. I had to haul water for two years before I got water on the place. In 1935 I drilled my first well.

In 1934 I had a hired man under the relief plan. The government paid him five dollars a month, and I got five dollars a month to keep him. Like a lot of the others around, we made a Bennett Buggy out of our old Model T Ford and used horses on it.

After our family of four sons and two daughters were pretty well grown up, I sold the farm to Leo Wiens and moved to Red Deer where I worked for Travelaire Trailer Co. The family is as follows:

Phil joined the R.C.M.P. when he was twenty. He spent twelve years with them, and one of his experiences was to be aboard the R.C.M.P. ship St. Rocque on its last voyage.

Ella was a hard worker, doing a lot of work at home as well as working in stores. She is married to John Leniuk. They live in Calgary with their two children.

Edward is married and has two children. He spent most of his time on the railroad at Crows Nest Pass, as telegraph operator.

Bernard spent more time than the rest getting an education. He is teaching school in Edmonton, is married and has three children.

Jack worked at different farms mostly in the Red Deer area. His favorite sport was ball, and he played quite a bit. He is in Calgary now, working for X L Yards.

Annie has been with me in Red Deer most of the time. She works for the Travelaire Trailer Company.

ANDREW MURDOCH, By Stan McCreight — Andy Murdoch was born in Northern Ireland and came to Canada in 1900. He volunteered in the Canadian Army, and spent two years in South Africa during the Boer War.

He returned to Canada and worked in Montreal for about a year. He then came west to Alberta and worked in Calgary and also on a survey crew as instrument man when the land was being surveyed.

In 1910 he took up a homestead and pre-emption on the north half of 23-32-15 at the same time that his brother-in-law Wm. McCreight homesteaded the south half of that section. This later became part of the Wiese School District. He farmed for a number of years and sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney in 1916.

After selling his farm, Andy Murdoch made his headquarters with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Murt McCuish of the St. George School District, while he built a number of houses and barns in the surrounding districts. He usually spent the winters in Vancouver or Calgary. After 1920, Andy lived in Calgary for twenty-five years before moving to Victoria. In 1963, he and his wife returned to Ireland where he passed away in 1974. They had no family and his widow resides in Ireland.

"SHE SHOOT GOOT", By Jean I. (Benedict) Payne — Mr. Joe Fisher was a cultured man from Germany. He was a good pianist at one time and had known a much finer life than he found near Dowling during the dry years of the thirties. West of Dowling he had some land, somewhat rocky, but rains failed, crops were short, grasshoppers ate voraciously of what dared to grow. Winds blew viciously, moving crop land to roadside ditches or to other fields. Only the rocks remained.

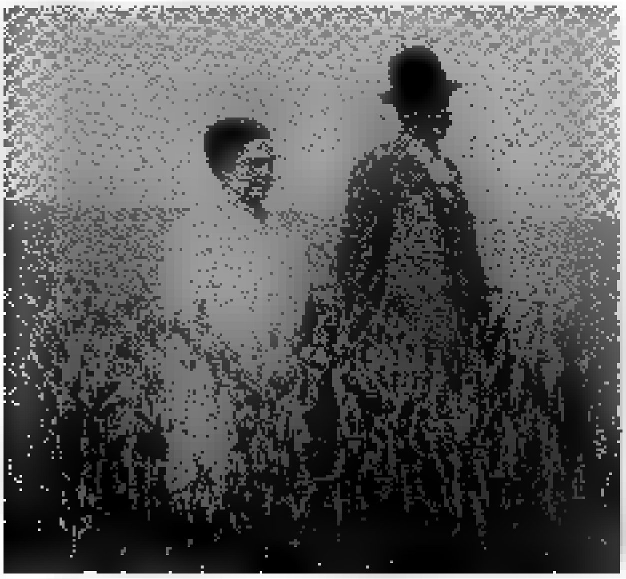
One came to think that possibly the value of the land should be determined by the rocks.

Mr. Fisher was disturbed by all these pressures. Sometimes he felt there were voices speaking to him from the air. Sometimes, he would shoot at these voices.

One day he appeared at the Dowling store. He was carrying his gun, which was unusual. He was fondling it, rubbing his hand along the barrel. That, too, was strange. He walked to the counter and started listing groceries and goods that he needed. Mrs. Lund, alone in the store, was frightened. He had his gun, was he dangerous? She would not refuse him groceries or in any way arouse his anger. Coffee, sugar, cheese, tobacco, matches, Mrs. Lund packed up his groceries for him, wondering all the while if that gun was loaded. Cautiously she moved the groceries toward him. Slowly, he pushed the gun across the counter towards her. He raised his eyes to hers and said: "Voices very bat today, Missus. I haf no money to pay, Missus. I gif you my gun, she shoot goot."

Joe Fisher, as this story indicates, did find the pressures of homesteading on the prairies more than he could cope with. In those days no one suggested psychiatric treatment, instead he bore the brunt of many jokes and was mistreated by some. If treated with understanding he was usually quiet and very polite. He spent a lot of time with Tony Brunner and his family. Tony rented Joe's land and eventually bought it. Joe was taken to an institution and passed away there during the fifties. As far as anyone knew, there were no relatives.

THE LEWIS BAXTER STORY, By Violet Baxter Olson — My parents Lewis Baxter and Martha Good were both born in West Virginia, U.S.A. They were married there in 1900. Two children were born while they lived there, a son Lovel and a daughter Owena. About 1907 they moved to North Dakota for approximately three years, where they had another daughter Louise. From there they went to Clarkston, Washington for a short stay, and then on to Alberta, Canada. A son Eldred was born in Washington in 1911, and he was just a baby when they came [illegible] Castor in February of 1912. That was as far as the railroad came at that time, so the family stayed there temporarily until Dad could get a place ready on the homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. Baxter taken during the twenties, in a wheat field.

Owena, Eldred, Louise, Lovel and Violet Baxter, 1929.

The homestead was the north half of 12-33-15. He built a sod house on the north-east corner and moved his family down from Castor. Our first barn, chicken house and even the much needed "out house" were all made of sod. The sod

houses were white-washed inside and were nice and cool in the summer, yet warm in the winter. I (Violet) was born in that sod house the year after my folks moved into it, with Mrs. Sexsmith in attendance. There weren't any doctors within miles so people depended on mid-wives for assistance. The Sexsmiths were our closest neighbors so it was no problem getting her to come over.

We lived in the sod house for four years. Then a frame house was built near by, but the folks used the other sod buildings for quite some time after we abandoned the house. Brunners lived to the south of us, and of course it was all open range then, with no fences. They had cattle that used to like to come up and rub on the sod buildings, and there was a good chance they could have knocked them down. Lovel was eleven then, and he was supposed to chase them away, as Dad was working in a coal mine at Garden Plain. There was one mean old cow they called "Herschel" that chased everyone. One day the cattle came when Dad was home so he went to chase them away. She took after him and got him down underneath her. The only thing he had was a knife, so he took it and went to work on her belly. She left him alone and never bothered him again.

Our first Post Office was Greystone, about two miles east and a mile north of us. This was operated by Mr. English, in his house. We got our mail there until the Englishes left suddenly during the night, leaving all the household furnishings behind. He never returned to get them and they were still there when we left in 1933. After that we got our mail in Hanna. In the winter the neighbors took turns going to get the mail and necessary supplies. Sometime in the twenties they started a mail route from Hanna, which went east, then came over our way on the return trip. The mailman stopped over at our place to have dinner and feed and rest his horses. It was a long cold trip for him and his horses, with lots of snowdrifts to get through. Carl Hannah and Mr. Evans were two of our mail men.

When the railroad finally came through from Warden to Hanna, the town of Scapa started to build up. Mr. Elis Malm was the first to start a store. His wife was so excited about the railroad coming through, but she didn't get to see it reach Scapa. She passed away just shortly before . J.B. McKenzie moved into Scapa from his farm, and started up a post office. We got our mail from Scapa after that. The mail carriers from there were the Hills, Jesse, Earl, and Chester. Sometimes Mr. Hill would haul the mail too. They used our place for their noon stop-over too. Chester was still mail man when we left.

It was an exciting time when the railroad was being put through. The right of way cut through the middle of our place, and we used to enjoy watching them work. They used mules on the dump carts to build the grades and big steam shovels to cut down the hills. My sister Louise, Mary Brunner and I had the thrill of riding in the engine of the work train one day.

Before the Wiese School was built, Lovel and Owena went to Hudson Bay. As soon as Wiese opened we all went there. In 1921 when Florence Meadows was teaching, all five of us were going to school. My last teacher was Agnes Temple, a good friend of ours both before and after she taught our school. Some years there were so many blizzards and so much cold weather that the school closed for a month or two. Eldred and Louise went to Hudson Bay one year when there weren't enough children to keep Wiese open. I was too small to go that far, so I had to wait until Wiese opened again.

At Christmas time all the schools put on a concert, so there was usually one every night for a week before Christmas. One year Chain Lakes and Wiese joined together so there would be enough pupils to put on a program. It was held in Wiese since it was the biggest of the two schools. It turned out to be a big success. Another year we were going to do the same thing with Antelope Hill. We practised together and were all set for the big night but a bad blizzard came up and it had to be called off. The weather stayed so bad there was no school until the end of January.

A dance held at the school always got us all excited too. We'd pack all our books away in the big cupboard in the corner, and shove all the desks over along the walls. The teachers were very patient with us as we goofed around while we were doing it. After a few halls were built there weren't as many dances held in the schools. Garden Plain Hall was one of the first around. Some of the musicians who played for these dances were the Applegate Bros., Roy Embree, George Unsworth and his sister Jane and Bill Sim. Charles Lohrmann and Herman Slemp were often floor managers, with Herman calling square dances. Bert Sim also called square dances.

Another popular place for dances was in barn lofts, especially when a new barn was built. The grand opening was usually a barn dance. Doyle's used their large barn for numerous dances and I can remember them hauling the piano from the Wiese School up to the loft with the hay slings. Harvey Burt and Herman Slemp had dances in their new barns, and I think Brunners did too. Everyone had a wonderful time at these "barn warmings".

In the summer we had the local picnics at Garden Plain, Clear Lake, Endiang and Scapa. The men always ended the day with a tug of war. Sometimes there was a nail driving contest for the women and the ones I can recall taking part in that were Kate Slemp, Christie Lohrmann, Mrs. Kammerle and Dolly Dahlgren. There were others too of course. Kate Slemp and Mrs. Kammerle were often tied in the women's races. Our family was always competitive in the races and high jumping. Our winnings were spending money for the picnic. Eldred and Billie Storch were nearly always the winners of the three-legged races, as well as the foot races. The day rounded out with a big dance.

We had our fun in the winter time too. There was sleigh riding down hills with homemade toboggans and sleds. We had a dandy hill on our place for that and lots of company to join in the fun, also sloughs to skate on. If there was snow we had to clean the ice off with shovels. One year a bunch of people from Scapa and districts around cleaned off a rink on Sullivan Lake. There was always a big bonfire to keep warm. Another place we used was east of us on English's slough. There was hockey and skating there several winters.

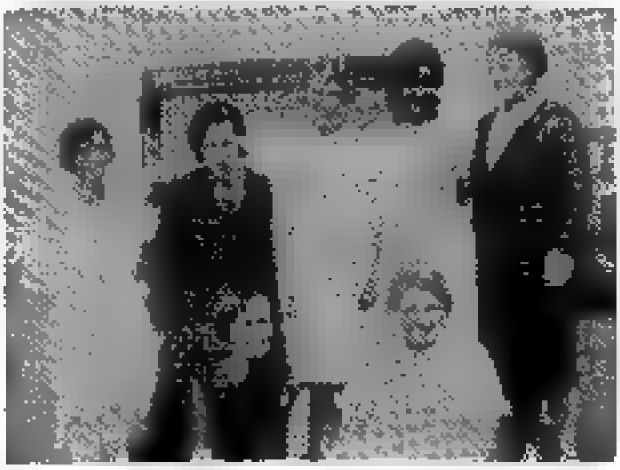
There were years when things were pretty grim, and the going was rough. Everyone seemed to help each other during those times. There was a lot of visiting back and forth, doing things for fun that didn't involve much expense.

I remember when Ralph Gaugler, our bachelor neighbor got married and a bunch were going to chivaree him and his bride. They sneaked up after dark with all kinds of noise making articles and proceeded to make a big racket around the house. There was no response so they went on in and found the house empty. Ralph had out-smarted them and was hiding outside, taking in all the fun. He was a good friend of the family until he and Dad had some disagreement that I never did understand. They never did resolve their differences.

There were some tragic accidents that brought shock and sadness to the community. I remember so well the fatal accident that Dan Ruhl had, not far from our place; Johnny Steinbrecker losing his life when he fell from a load of hay and was run over; Chester Hill spending many months in the hospital, after he'd been accidentally shot in the leg by another hunter. He ended up with an artificial leg, but I always remember him being very cheerful. Dad was working at the coal mine at the time George Unsworth was badly hurt, leaving him crippled for the rest of his life. It didn't stop him from being a sport and joining in the fun.

We left the Wiese district, moving north to Fort Assiniboine in October, 1933. Lovel married Wilma Smyth, a Wiese teacher. He was elevator agent in Scapa and for awhile he had a farm south of Scapa. They are presently in Kelowna, B.C. Owena's husband John Cartwright, died in 1975. She resides in Barrhead and has a son who is still at home. Louise passed away in July 1967. Eldred and his wife Zeitha live in Hinton. My husband Ray and I live at Fort Assiniboine. We have one son at home. Mother passed away in 1942 and Dad in April, 1961.

When Hanna celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, my sisters Owena, Louise and I attended. We had a wonderful time meeting old friends and there seemed no end of them. Ten years later Owena, Ray and I (Louise had passed away) went again for the sixtieth anniversary celebration. We met a lot of friends again, but there were some who had passed on during the ten years. I can't begin to name everybody we saw as I might leave someone out, but it was wonderful meeting them all. Each and everyone of our old friends would be welcome to visit us at any time.


The Ladies Aid Club when they met at the Baxter home in 1931. Left to right: Jane Slemp, Mrs. Malm, Mrs. Fennel, Lizitte Bridges, Mrs. McKenzie. Seated: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Baxter.

THE CHARLES FIELDINGS, By Carolyn (Belding) Crowle — This is the story of the days I spent on the Fielding farm, as I remember them.

My mother and I came to Hanna, Alta., in 1918, when I was six years old. Mother was to take up housekeeping duties for Charlie Fielding, who had a homestead about twelve miles north of Hanna. A Mr. Burrows met us at the train, and took us to the Fielding farm. Upon arriving at the farm, we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wheeler for our first meal. They lived directly across the road from the Fielding farm, in a sod house. Grandma Wheeler lived just a little to the east of her son's place, in her own shack. I spent a lot of my childhood days with the Wheelers, often doing dishes for Grandma Wheeler. Early one morning we saw smoke just over the hill. Her shack had burned down, and we were saddened to find that she had lost her life in the fire. After that the Ed Wheelers left for the U.S.A., and Charlie Fielding bought their farm.

Charlie Fielding, taken during the forties.

Mrs. Fielding and daughter Ada.

I started school in 1919. We lived a mile east of the Wiese school, so I walked most of the time. We were very poor, and I had very few warm clothes. I had to pass the home of Chris Viste, where I used to stop and get warmed up. Manly and

Hjalmer lived there with their brother Chris, and they had [illegible] housekeeper most of the time, so I would get a hot cup of cocoa and a cookie. I was quite a moocher, going from there to the Mansfield farm, where I'd get another handout from Grandma Mansfield. From there I went to school.

In the winter the school was usually cold. The pot belly heater just couldn't put out enough heat. The teacher would let us snuggle up around it [illegible] keep warm, and do our school work. In the summer time we enjoyed ourselves to no end, playing all sorts of games like tag, duck and the rock, or kick the can. Then there were always some boys like Eldred Baxter and Tony Brunner, who snared gophers and chased the girls [illegible] over the school yard.

We had some wonderful Christmas concerts, after the hours and hours of practising. Every one went home happy, with [illegible] big bag of candy and oranges, and so excited after seeing Santa Claus. There were also pie socials and box socials. If the girls had [illegible] favorite beau, they'd mark their box or pie so he would know which one to bid on.

I went to the Alps school for a while, when Wiese was closed because there weren't enough children to make it worth while hiring a teacher. Mrs. Williams was my teacher at the Alps School. I would walk across the Wheeler farm and catch a ride to school with her. She was a wonderful person, I realize now, but at the time I thought she was being awful strict with me. Sometimes I was late getting to her place, and after this happened a few times, she didn't wait for me anymore. So I would 'shank's pony' off to school, stopping to visit Mr. and Mrs. Binmore along the way, and always arriving late for school. Mrs. Williams never took that 'late for school' business lightly.

My Mother married Mr. Fielding in 1923. They had six children, Charlie, Nellie, Jim, Jessie, Ada and Thelma.

Mother grew a very large garden, and we usually had vegetables to spare. I can remember people coming to get produce, the McKenzies, Symingtons, Sexsmiths, and Baxters were some of them. One year we had so many spuds, Dad sold half a sleigh box to Gibb, Brown and Odell Store. He hauled them loose in the sleigh box, with some heated rocks in the bottom to keep them from freezing. When he got to town he went to the elevator to have them weighed. He didn't say anything about the rocks in the bottom, so they got weighed along with the spuds. Those were the heaviest potatoes he ever sold.

Dad built a large pig pen on the Wheeler farm, and raised purebred Yorkshire pigs. Every fall fair day my brother Charlie and I would get out the scrub pail, brush and soap, and scrub the pig we were entering in the fair. The pigs seemed to love having their backs scrubbed.

While on the subject of the fall fair, I will tell about another of my Dad's stunts. He wasn't a very good farmer, he never seemed to get his crop in, or off, on time. Our farm bordered Ralph Gaugler's to the north, and he had a lovely crop of wheat. Dad had been eyeing this for some time, hoping Ralph wouldn't cut [illegible] before fair time. He was in luck, so he sneaked into the field and gathered himself a bundle of wheat, entered it in the fair and won first prize. Ralph had entered a bundle of wheat too, but he didn't win a prize. Dad laughed many times over this, but us kids were really scared everytime we saw Ralph. Then shortly after that a Mountie stopped at the house, and we were sure he was after Dad for stealing the wheat. [illegible] turned out he was out to visit a girl that lived nearby, and wanted to know how [illegible] get there.

I used to ride a pony to Dowling twice [illegible] week for the mail and groceries. A man by the name of Fred Germain worked for Mrs. Wirth. He lived in a small shack across from Chris Viste's. I would stop and ask him if he needed anything from the store. It was always "a can of snuff". After doing this small favor for him a couple of summers, Fred gave me a gold wrist watch for my kindness. I still have the watch, and after forty-nine years, it still runs perfectly.

When the railroad was being built, I used to deliver milk to the work camp every night. My mother gave me half of the money she made from the milk. I bought myself some new clothes for school, the first new clothes I ever had.

After Hjalmer Viste married I called on them frequently. When Helen was born, I would care for her while her mother did some chores and cooked supper. Mrs. Viste always sent something home with me for helping.

The folks sold the land to Chris Viste, but continued to live there for about a year. Then they moved to Hanna. Charlie Fielding passed away in 1953, and Lydia Fielding in June of 1971, at the age of 85.

I married Dick Crowle, a blacksmith, and we lived in Hanna. Of our sixteen children, two died as infants, one at the age of one, and a fourteen year old boy drowned in a dug-out near Sheerness. Some of our family have scattered to different parts of the province, but most of them are still in the Hanna area. Dick passed away in 1967. I enjoy my grandchildren, and all the rest who know me as Grandma Crowle.

Fielding children. Left to right: Jim, Charlie, Jessie, Nellie holding Ada. Taken in 1927.

Charlie and Jim Fielding both served in World War II. In August, 1944, Charlie was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding exploits during fighting in Europe. Charlie is now living at High Level, where he works in a garage. He has four children. Jim is employed as a carpenter. He and his wife Victoria (Crego) reside in Calgary. They have a family of five.

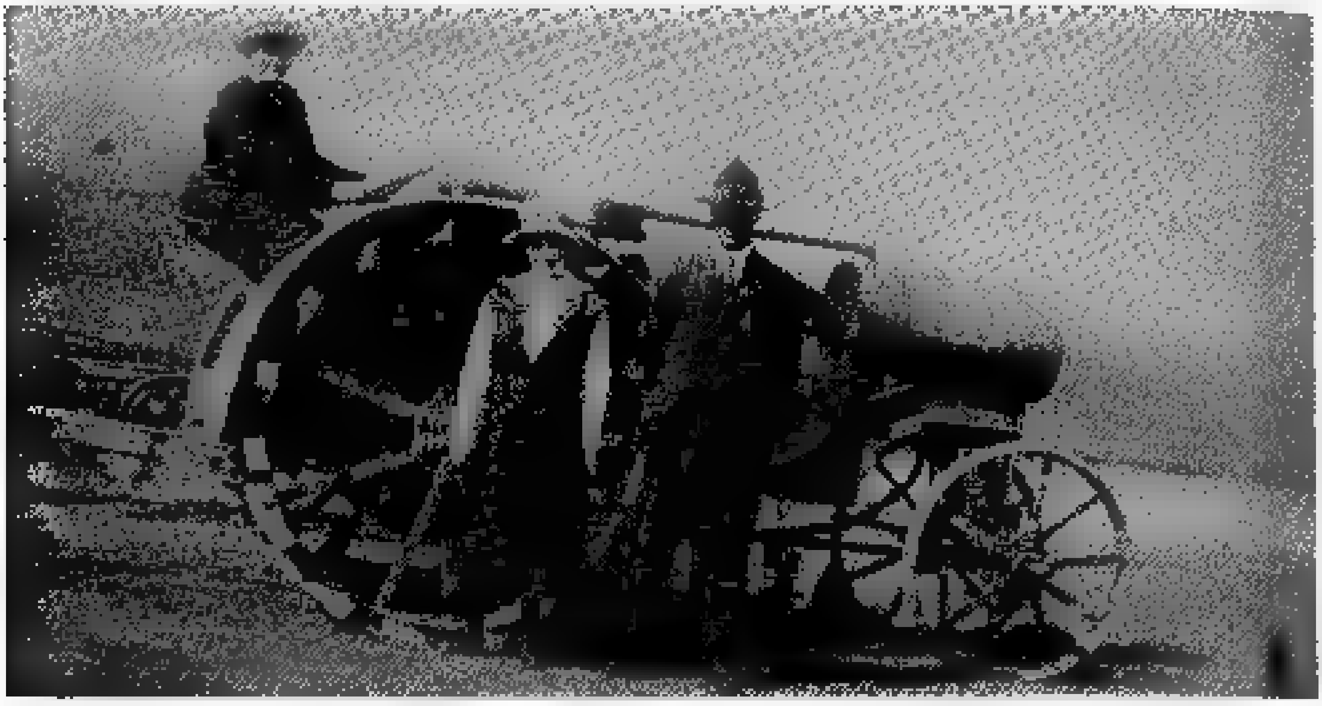
Nellie married Jim Bond, and they are also in Calgary. They have three boys. Jessie, now Mrs. McElroy, lives at Hussar, and has three children. Ada and her husband, Don Benedict, farm in the Hand Hills. Thelma married Lawrence Maetche, and they reside in Calgary. Both Ada and Thelma have five children.

Mrs. Laura Coghill

THE COGHILLS, MRS. LAURA, ALBERT and ROY, By Pearl Viste — My mother, Mrs. Oscar (Caroline) Norby was the oldest of the Sidney Coghill children. She had two sisters and two brothers. The Coghills had come from England to Ontario, then to the Red Deer district in Alberta to farm. In 1905 Mr. Coghill passed away. All the girls were married by this time.

In 1912 Grandma Coghill and the boys Albert and Fredrick Roy went to homestead the east half 36-32-15 and NE 35-32-15, about fourteen miles north of Hanna. They made the one hundred and fifty mile move with horses and wagons.

Uncle Albert enlisted in the army and went overseas in 1916. He never returned. Uncle Roy and Grandma continued to farm. I came from the Burnt Lake district, where my folks lived, in the fall of 1924 to stay with them. I worked for Grandma for $15.00 a month until I was married in 1926. During that time I took a trip to the coast and my sister Mae stayed at the Coghill's for six months.



Daisy Gay seated on tractor, Nellie Gay and Roy Coghill standing beside. Take note of the mother hen and chicks in the right hand corner.

Uncle Roy was married shortly after I was, so Grandma went to live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norby. Roy farmed until his health failed and he passed away in August 1943. All his family live in the Edmonton area. They are Jessie, Laura and Dorothy and a son Ernie. The farm was sold to Tony Brunner.

CHRISTIAN VISTE — Chris Viste came to Alberta from Ada, Minnesota in the fall of 1908, travelling with L. Viste. They found work in the Didsbury district.

In the spring of 1909 Chris borrowed a saddle horse and rode over to the Dowling Lake district to speculate on a homestead. He was interested in a piece of land that bordered Nick Lund's holdings. Nick was discouraging anyone from filing near him, since he liked the open range for his cattle. This turned out to be an advantage for Chris. He was sent further east, where he filed on the west half of 6-33-14. This proved to be the best gumbo land in the whole area, producing the best crop around year after year.

Chris went back and worked at Didsbury until 1910. He bought a team of horses for $50.00 and headed out to the homestead to break some of his land. He got an outfit with a big gas tractor and eight-bottom plow to come in and plow 53 acres for him. While they worked for Chris, he started cooking for them, and cooked most of the summer as they went from place to place breaking land.

The Chris Viste home was well known for its hospitality. Many a newcomer to the district spent his first day or so at his place. After his brothers Manly and Hjalmer came to stay with him, they became extravagant and hired a housekeeper. Some of their housekeepers were reported to be nice looking, and it kept the rest of the bachelors busy, keeping track of who the Viste Brothers had working for them.

Many an all-night session of Norwegian Whist took place there, and many a box of Copenhagen was chewed. Often there was quite a competition to see who could spit in the coal pail or the open heater door the most accurately. Martin Dahl

became well known for his "bull's eye" aim. Chris also opened his home to meetings. A number of the early Wiese School meetings were held at his home and he gave the school his full support.

Chris put a lot of thought into his farming operation. He always seemed to know exactly the right time to plant and the right time to do everything else. Until he passed away one couldn't find a spear of wild oats on his property, because he had walked around his fields and picked it into a bag. A bag was always carried along on the binder or tractor at harvest time to pick any suspicious looking heads.

Chris Viste at the wheel of their first car. Hjalmer is back, right. The other passenger is unidentified.

For years he complained about having the "Blinkin Grippe". Consequently no one paid much attention when about 1950 he started to complain more than usual. Acutally he was seriously ill. It wasn't until shortly before he passed away that he was hospitalized. This was in May of 1957. Few men were held in greater esteem by the neighbors than Chris Viste.

Chris Viste, Sven Kwam, Gerhard Viste, Clara Viste holding Helen and Hjalmer Viste.

THE HJALMER VISTE FAMILY, as told by Clara and Helen — Hjalmer was anxious to get up to Canada to join his brother Chris. In 1910 he turned eighteen, and that was when he took the seven dollars he had to his name, left his home in Minnesota, and headed for Canada. He went as far as the Birch Hills in Saskatchewan where he got work cutting wood in an area that had been burned over.

By the spring of 1911 he had enough money to come to Alberta. He filed on NW 34-32-15, two and a half miles west of Chris' homestead. The land was a complete opposite of his brother's gumbo. The plow turned up rock upon rock and it was a big day's work to get ten acres plowed. At the end of the day his fingers were bleeding from picking rocks.

Hjalmer worked here and there when a job was available, to make a little spending money. Between jobs he stayed with Chris. He used to walk to Craigmyle to work for Brassets, often walking behind the harrows all day after his early morning hike getting there. Another project he worked on was the digging of the

National Hotel basement. When the steel was being laid for the railroad west of Hanna, he got a job on that crew.

Working conditions there were far from good. He was plagued by lice and ever so often he'd have to get a new change of clothes. The old ones were buried in the ground to get rid of the lice, if there was such a thing possible. During the hot summers months, food storage was a real problem. The meat was pulled up to the top of a high pole with a rope and pulley, in hopes that it would be cooler and escape the flies. This wasn't always the case and the condition of the meat was often questionable. Conditions, plus cooks who didn't make the best of what they did have, took care of any weight-watchers problem on the crew.

In 1918 he bought Jake Carstensen's land, the south half of 32-32-14, for $30.00 per acre. Soon another brother Manly joined Chris and Hjalmer. They all worked together, living at Chris's. Sometime during the early twenties they bought their own threshing machine, so they could thresh for themselves. Manly was separator man, Hjalmer hauled the grain and Chris pitched bundles with the extra hired help.

Hjalmer was the first to break away from the ranks of being a bachelor. In 1925 he made a trip back to Minnesota, where he married Clara Bjuland. They lived with Chris for three years when they were first married. A daughter Helen was born in 1927. In 1928 Hjalmer had a car load of lumber shipped into Dowling from B.C. This was the only car load of lumber ever shipped into Dowling. With it they built a house, barn and other buildings on the Carstensen place. As soon as they could, they moved to their own home with their year-old daughter.

The dirty thirties were soon upon them, affecting them as it did all the other farmers, each year getting worse than the last. The one they remember most vividly was 1937. The bumper crop that fall yielded a total of 37 bushels. What was called a "poverty box" was put on the binder to cut the crop. Helen sat in it and pushed the Russian thistles through the end gate. The thistles were what the cows got to eat that winter. Some relief feed was shipped into Dowling by the Government. As a climax for that already eventful year, Helen was stricken with appendicitis and had an operation, followed by complications.

Hjalmer was a man with more patience than enough, around his livestock and barns. Anyone working with him became frustrated by the way he fussed with everything. Clara pitched in, cooking and washing for her own family as well as a multitude of bachelor relatives and friends. Her ties with her family back in Minnesota remained strong, and she always looked forward to visiting them.

In June 1949, Helen married Rudy Annas. They farmed with Helen's parents for a few years. In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Viste retired to Hanna. Rudy and Helen were blessed with the arrival of a son Kenneth in December, 1953. The farm was their home until 1975, when they built a house in Hanna. They have lived there since, but continue to farm and still have cattle. Ken is married and living in Hanna. He is employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Hjalmer passed away October, 1961. Clara resides in a new home, next door to Rudy and Helen.

THE MANLY VISTE FAMILY, By Pearl Viste — John Manly Viste came to Hanna, Alberta, from Minnesota in 1921 to live with his brothers, Chris and Hjalmer on Chris's homestead. He worked with them for several years and then about 1927 he bought Don Ross's farm, the north half of 30-32-14.

I (Pearl Norby) came from the Marianne district, west of Red Deer to stay with my Grandmother, Mrs. Coghill. That is where I met Manly in 1926. We were

married in December of 1928, starting out our married life at the onset of the depression years.

The crop in 1928 was very good, however an early frost lowered the grade, taking the profit away for that year. We struggled along through the dust storms, poor prices and all the other hardships that came during those years.

Our milk cows always provided us with lots of milk, butter and cream, even if they didn't bring in much money when cream sold for only $1.50 for a five gallon can. We stuck with milking cows through the years, sometimes as many as twelve. For a few years it was hard to get up enough feed and most of what we did have was Russian Thistles. We had a Bennet Buggy to go to Hanna for groceries and to do the little bit of visiting we did in the neighborhood. We also used it to go to church at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, a sixteen mile round trip. Manly served on the church council there for a number of years.

Manly Viste family. Carol, Alva, Georgina, Dwight, Calton, Walter. Seated: Stanley, Mrs. Viste, Mr. Viste.

By the end of the thirties, the weather improved and life took a change for the better. Our problem of getting a good water supply didn't change though. It didn't matter where we drilled or dug, or how deep we went, it was always the same thing "quicksand". Manly finally got disgusted with having to haul water for pigs and cattle, so he had a well drilled one half mile west of where we lived. This was a much nicer location along the Hanna-Scapa road. When the well looked fairly promising, we started to build a new house. This was in 1948. Over the next two years we gradually moved to the new house and new location. The one thing we hated to leave behind was the shelterbelt with its row of nice healthy evergreen trees. We had to start all over again, planting and caring for small trees.

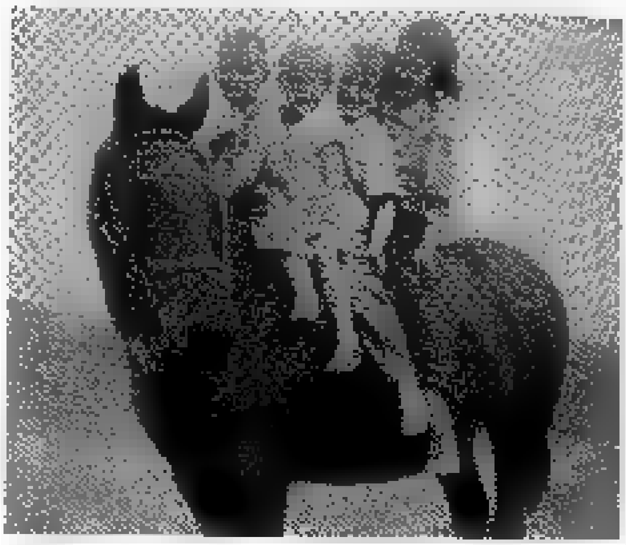
There was a gravel pit on the Ross farm when Manly bought it. A couple more were opened up and they were used extensively down through the years. There used to be wagon load after wagon load of gravel hauled out for basements and foundations. A lot of it went to Hanna for sidewalks and buildings. At one time part of Highway 36 was gravelled out of these pits, and the Special Areas crushed and hauled for their road work.

We farmed with horses until we got a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor. Our family always went with us at haying and harvest times. Everyone old enough to help, stooked and helped with the hay. There were several threshing outfits in the district, the Viste Bros. having their own.

We had a family of four sons and four daughters, (one daughter died in infancy in 1934). All of them attended Wiese School, [illegible] distance of about one mile across country from our first home. When Walter started he walked in the summer and drove a German Shepherd dog on a sled in the winter. The next year when Calton started to school the dog pulled both of them to and from school. After the girls went [illegible] school we got a pony.

There were many good times at the school, the picnics at the end of the term with all the homemade ice cream, and visiting with the neighbors; the concerts at Christmas time with all the children taking part, and Santa arriving to make everyone happy.

Walter Viste enroute to school on a sled pulled by Buster, a German Shepherd. How does this compare with a big yellow school bus?


"Danny Boy", with a full load. Left [illegible] right: Stanley Viste, Margaret Talmage, Dwight and Jean Viste.

Walter married Freda Gaugler and they farmed locally. Calton married Susan Turner. They live across the road from the home place with their three children. Calton is also a farmer. Carol and her husband Lou Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district. They have two daughters, one married and one at home. Alva is married to Dr. John Kaster. They live in Hanna with their four daughters. Georgina (Jean) and husband Garry Burns live in Sherwood Park. Jean is a long time employee of A.G.T. working in the Edmonton office. Gary and Jean have two daughters. Dwight is employed by an oil company in Calgary. He and his wife Dorothy McCullough have one son and one daughter. Stanley, the youngest of the family farms the homeplace. He married Shirley Sauter. They have two girls.

Manly passed away in December, 1966, a few days before his seventieth birthday. I keep busy on the farm, with chores and grandchildren. I have always enjoyed outdoor work and [illegible] [illegible] where I still like to be.

THE RALPH GAUGLER FAMILY, By Lucy (Gaugler) Scott — Ralph Gaugler was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1895. Being the oldest one in a large hard working rural family wasn't an easy life, so at the tender age of fourteen he left home. His search for [illegible] better life took him through most of the U.S. and many parts of Canada, finally ending in Alberta in 1910. His means of transportation was "riding the rods". His youth was to his advantage at times. The odd seasoned bum felt sorry for him and was willing to teach him [illegible] few tricks of the trade, but most of the time it was learning the hard way, with no room for

Ralph Gaugler and Beatrice Moench on their wedding day, Oct. [illegible], 1923.

mistakes. During this time he picked up whatever jobs he could get, for whatever pay he could get. We spent many a long winter evening, sitting in the dull light of the old coal-oil lamp, listening to stories of Dad's interesting experiences. It would take a good T.V. or radio program to compete with his stories for entertainment.

While he was working at different jobs, he was speculating on a homestead waiting to become of age to file. In 1912 he took up the west half of 7-33-14. He still worked while proving up his homestead. In the summer of 1912 and 13 he walked to Bassano to work on the aqueduct, walking back home again towards fall.

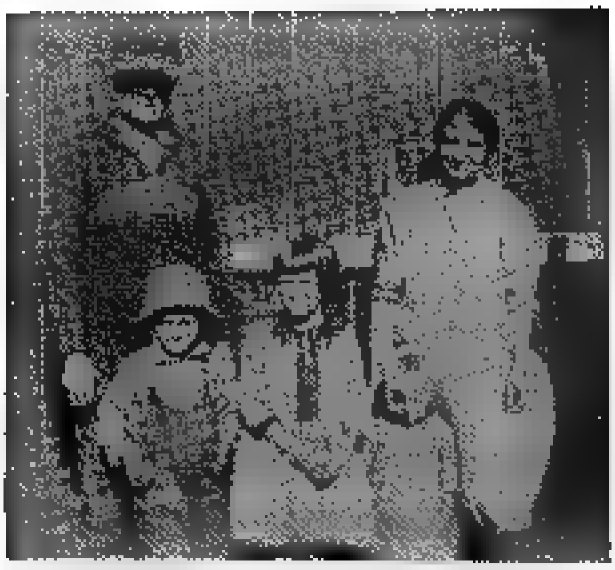
All the while his family in Pennsylvania didn't have a clue as to where he was. He was called into the army in 1916 and through his naming his sister as his beneficiary, they found out he was in Canada. It wasn't until the late twenties that they located him in Alberta. After the war he came back to the homestead, with its hardships and hard work. It was like starting all over again.

The humorous incidents that happened now and then made the adversities just a little easier to bear, like the winter Dad decided to snitch a little milk for himself from Sexsmith's milk cow. He'd sneak over late at night, milk the cow and sneak back home. Things went great for awhile and then for a few nights the cow was dry. One night he went over a little earlier and there was someone else with the same idea he had, milking the cow. Startled, the fellow ran out of the barn, leaving his pail behind. Dad took it along home and after a few days he went for a little walk to the neighbors that he was sure owned the pail, saying he had come to return it. After a few embarrassing explanations from both of them, they came to an agreement to visit Sexsmith's barn on alternate nights. It was several years before they let out what they had done and everyone had a good laugh.

It was lonely being a bachelor, and Dad ended that in 1923, when he married Beatrice Moench, a girl from a pioneer family of the Hand Hills district. The Moench family history can be found in the "Hand Hills Heritage". We kids can remember a few trips to the Hand Hills in the old buggy to visit. Grandma Moench's house had 2½' thick sod walls, plastered on the inside and outside and no matter how hot a day it was, her house was always refreshingly cool.

To start their married life Dad and Mother lived in the two room bachelor shack. When the family started arriving, Mother was very fortunate to have Mrs. Sexsmith living so close by. She was a mid-wife, very devoted to her work and a kind thoughtful lady. I (Lucy) was the first one she delivered in 1924. By the time a son William was born in 1925, my parents had built a new house and had just moved into it. Dad was away from home, so Mother was to put a white flag on a pole in the yard so Mrs. Sexsmith would know when to come over. Either Mrs. Sexsmith didn't notice it right away or Bill got in too much of a hurry — he had made his arrival before she got there. Freda was born in 1929 to complete the family.

While we were growing up, Dad kept working at different jobs to supplement the meagre farm income. One year he ended up around Big Valley on rail-



The Gaugler family. Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler, Bill, Lucy, Freda.

way construction. It was getting on towards harvest time, so he walked home across country. The whole crew was infested with lice, so instead of having a bubble bath when he got home, he asked for the kerosene can, and headed for the barn. There he had a wash with kerosene and his clothes were buried in the field.

Mother had the responsibility of looking after us and the chores, by herself a lot of the time. After the new house was built, the Wiese school teachers often boarded with us. This made extra work for her, but she really enjoyed their company. Dad had a lengthy threshing career, something like fifty years, with one year's absence when he was in the army. He started out helping to run a steam outfit when he was sixteen. After he got a few years of experience he got his own outfit.

This always took him away from home in the fall. Sometimes it was close to Christmas by the time threshing wound up. He set a deadline of September first to have his own threshing done, and then he would head out with tractor, machine and a canvas-covered sleeping car on a wagon. This slept eight men, and as one of them once said "Sleeping in there sure separates the men from the boys." The only means of taking the chill off the bunk wagon was a kerosene lantern.

In the late twenties a man by the name of Frank Larocque came to work for us. He stayed with us for fourteen years and got to be Dad's right arm around the threshing crew. He took it upon himself to keep the crew lined up, and it didn't bother him in the least if they were all mad at him. He constantly chewed plug tobacco. Whenever they saw "Old Frank" chewing and spitting harder than usual, they knew he was mad and someone was about to get it. We kids got a few stingers on the backside once in a while too, and so did some of our little friends. On the other hand he was very good to us and spoiled us. He didn't have any relatives, so we were the ones he remembered at Christmas and Easter. He used to walk to Dowling for tobacco and he always brought us candy, but that wasn't enough, we'd steal them out of his coat pockets.

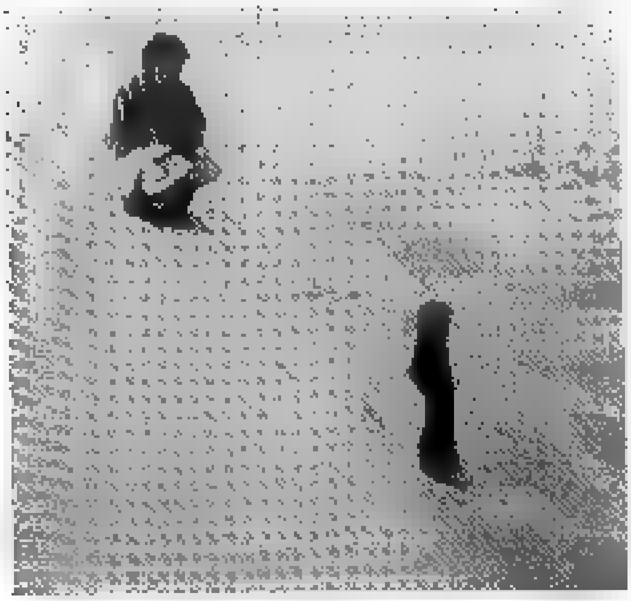
Dad spent a lot of time working in his blacksmith shop, and it was there he met with an accident in 1935. A fragment of steel went through his eye, narrowly missing his brain. As a result he lost his eye. The steel was never removed because of the delicate position it was in. Fortunately with time it moved away from his brain. While he was recuperating he made his first trip back to Pennsylvania to see his family. They didn't have any idea he was coming, so it was overwhelming for all of them to see a long-lost son and brother. A sister was born after he left, so she was 25 years old when he saw her the first time.

We all worked together on the farm for quite a few years. Then I went to Hanna to work. Freda married Walter Viste in 1952, and Bill had his own land by then, (the Cap Bartch farm) so he moved the Ekiss house up from land he owned along Dowling Lake. He fixed it up and went batching in 1953. It must have agreed with him because it wasn't long until he put a sign on his gate "No women allowed". He's still batching there. Freda and Walter lived in Hanna the first winter and then moved to the A.A. Hutton farm, where they worked for two years. By this time the folks had decided it was time to start taking it easy, so they rented the farm to Walter, and they moved to Hanna. Walter eventually bought it. Bill and Walter farmed and worked together throughout the years.

Lucy married Perley Scott in 1953. They make their home in Hanna. Their daughters, Sharon and Sandy are married, living in Calgary and Hanna respectively. Freda and Walter have three children, Douglas working as a machinist in Hanna, Donald, employed by the Special Areas and helping on the farm, and Cathy Lynn in High School.

One of the highlights in Mother and Dad's life, after they retired, was the invitation that they received in 1958 to attend a luncheon in honor of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, in Edmonton. It was sent by Premier Manning, and the festivities took place on the lawns of the Legislative Buildings. They acted nonchalant, but it was obvious they were pretty excited.

Dad devoted a lot of time to community work, serving on the executive of numerous committees and organizations. He was an ambitious man, expecting everyone else to keep their noses on the grind-stone. This applied to his horses and other farm animals too. If they didn't shape up to his liking they received some pretty brutal treatment. His life was too short to do all the things he planned, so when he passed away in 1967 there were lots of unfulfilled dreams. He kept active up until the last month and a half of his life, which he spent in a Calgary hospital.



Mr. and Mrs. Gaugler in their driveway on Easter Day, 1951. Mr. Gaugler is standing upright in a hole dug in the snow. It was May before they could use the driveway.

Mother has been a resident in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna since January, 1977. Prior to this she had never spent a day of her life in a hospital or institution, an indication of the good health she was fortunate enough to have. She always said "Good hard work never hurt anyone", and it was certainly true for her.

THE RAINA FAMILY, By Mary (Raina) Rodgers and Clara (Raina) Flannigan — Our father, Dominic Anthony Raina, was born in Busco, Italy, on November 11, 1889. On completing his education he set sail for South America to seek his fortune growing bananas. This venture was short-lived as he was soon recalled to Italy for the settling of his father's estate. After collecting his modest share of the inheritance he immigrated to Canada in 1913. He settled on a homestead in Alberta on NW 32-32-14, located ten miles north and one mile west of Hanna. For six years father remained a bachelor while working hard to break the sod and establish a thriving farm of wheat, oats, barley and some cattle.

In those early years men greatly outnumbered women on the prairies and many a lonely young swain was doomed to eternal bachelorhood. Father was fortunate to meet his future bride, Elizabeth Hepp of Castor, Alberta, through a mutual friend. Mother was born in Hungary on September 9, 1900, and with her parents, brothers, and sisters immigrated to Canada in 1904. Her pioneer family homesteaded near Castor, Alberta, and did much to tame the wilderness in the settling of the West. Perhaps this accounted for her unfailing optimism and her utter suitability to the role of a homesteader's wife. Our parents were married at Castor, Alberta on November 4, 1919.

Mother's first duty as a 19-year-old bride was to resurrect and restore about 20 pairs of soiled and tattered overalls, and,at least as many pairs of socks, which were salvaged from the attic of the house. During her first weeks on the new homestead she learned more and more about the husband whom she had seen only a few times before her wedding. For instance, through patience and observation she finally unravelled the mystery of his frequent and stealthy trips to the cellar from which he would later emerge with a smug and contented look on his face, and from which an abominable odor always seemed to emanate. Father was addicted to a foul-smelling limburger cheese which he had cached away in great quantites in the lower regions of the house! Out of deference to his young bride he agreed to forego that weakness with its accompanying vile smell.

Our parents had their first six children in Alberta: John (1921); Mary (1922); Ralph (1925); Clara (1926); Louis (1930) and George (1932).

We children retain many cherished memories of our early years on the prairies. From our parents we inherited a great love of nature. Among our most treasured recollections is that of our mother gently rousing us from sleep one night with the words, "I want you to see something beautiful". She carried us to the window, one by one, so that our eyes might be opened to the majesty of vivid northern lights dancing across the skies. A mother who would take the time to share the beauty of nature with her children in the middle of the night after a hard day of milking cows, helping with the haying, baking bread and perhaps doing a laundry on the scrub board with water heated on a coal stove, is indeed of the stuff of which pioneers were made.

Mrs. Raina with Johnny, Mary and Ralph.

Raina's pony and sled. Clara Raina and Friedel Haessel on sled, John and Ralph Raina standing.

Our home stood on a little hill which commanded a gorgeous view of the surrounding countryside and this compensated for the fact that it stood unprotected from the prairie winds. Father found his homestead rather bare and because he usually planted a tree wherever he lived, he now proceeded to obtain a variety of cuttings through the government. Among them were enough poplars, about the diameter of a lead pencil, to border a lengthy laneway running from the public road to the house. While working on that legacy for the future he endured much good-natured teasing from his neighbors who suggested that he set up a saw-mill to cut his lumber. The trees thrived and today they stand majestically on the prairies providing a pleasing sight for miles around.

Father played an active part in community affairs while farming in Alberta. He served terms as Secretary of the School Board, Secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, Municipal Councillor and Game Warden. He also served as local correspondent for the Hanna Herald for a number of years.

Mother recalls one particular incident during father's term as councillor when the matter of road construction between Dowling and Scapa was discussed. Father favored a straight road but met with opposition on the grounds that this was impossible because it would require traversing a water-filled slough. Father was confident that a friend and neighbor, Ralph Gaugler, a most efficient road foreman, could accomplish that feat. His faith in Ralph's ability proved well-founded and a straight road went through.

The West during our formative years was indeed a wondrous place to learn and grow. We attended the Wiese School and many were the Christmas concerts, ball games and meetings of friends and neighbors which took place there. The homestead was a place where crocuses grew in lush abundance and where one could hear milk pails rattling for miles around. It was a place where children could dream of making their first million through the sale of gopher tails and crows' eggs for which the government offered a modest bounty when crops became endangered through those inhabitants of the prairies. It was a place where coyotes howled in the night, where prairie chickens and partridges provided delicious meals, and where ducks swam gracefully on the sloughs. It was a place where countless grasshoppers could be made to spit tobacco, and where threshing crews gathered in the fall with all the excitement that entailed — trips to the grain elevator on a load of freshly-threshed wheat, the thrill of sneaking all the leftover coffee from not-quite-empty cups when the threshers had finished eating, and drinking it behind our mother's back. Those were just some of the things we enjoyed — and survived — in Alberta! There was also the thrill of riding bareback to Dowling where we received our mail and could buy a few groceries. We took a shortcut through Manley Viste's property and were always greeted with a few cheery words from those friendly neighbors.

The Haessels, on our right, were immigrants from Germany. We recall spending a particularly exciting New Year's Eve with those fun-loving friends and experiencing great awe when on the stroke of midnight Ernest strode purposefully out of the door carrying a shotgun in his hands so that he might usher out the Old Year and hurry in the New One by firing two shots into the air!

Our introduction to the elements was dramatic on the prairies — the raging of the blizzards followed by the comfort of the chinooks; the futility of the hailstones showering destruction on the crops followed by the renewed hope inspired by glorious sunsets; and the terror of a prairie fire followed by the peace of its suffocation.

We laugh with a little bit of shame as we remember entering uninvited through the open door of Chris Viste's bachelor home on our way from school one day with some little friends and discovering there a pan of well-risen bread dough ready for shaping into loaves. Into this tempting mass we kneaded raisins, cereal, sugar, salt, spices, and anything we could find in the cupboards as we contemplated with malicious delight the surprise of the owner when he returned from the field to discover the senseless destruction of his culinary efforts. The penalty for that offence was a severe lecture from our parents and no dessert for a week!

The settlers in our community comprised many different ethnic groups and each retained a little touch of home. This was displayed in father's case when he registered his purebred boar under the name of Mussolini. We have never been sure whether this was intended as a compliment or as an insult to that notorious Italian statesman.

Times became very hard in the early thirties when the drought hit our region of Alberta. Eggs were selling at five cents a dozen so many of them were fed back to the hens, who promptly reciprocated by laying still more eggs to be sold at five

cents a dozen. A vicious circle! We ate omelets and custards until they nearly came out of our ears, blissfully unaware that "cholesterol" would one day become a dirty word, and that we were lining our arteries with the forbidden stuff through the consumption of all those eggs.

Finally came the day when my parents decided to throw in the sponge. All our goods were auctioned off as our tears mingled with those of our staunch and loyal friends as we prepared to leave the West. On November 23, 1932, we left Alberta to take up residence [illegible] the province of Quebec, and to unknowingly step from the frying pan into the fire. But that [illegible] yet another story!

A seventh child, Dominic Jr., was born in Quebec. The Raina family endured unbelievable adversity and injustice in the province of Quebec and eventually moved to Ottawa, Ontario, [illegible] April of 1937. There the last three children, James, William and Anne, were born.

Father later bought [illegible] farm near Kemptville, Ontario, thirty-five miles south of Ottawa. John, the eldest of the Raina children, died at the age of 18 years, and William at the age of four years. Father passed away in April, 1952.

The surviving Raina children eventually married and have families of their own. Mary married Ronald Rodgers and lives in Ottawa with her husband and three children. Ralph [illegible] married and resides in Kemptville, Ontario, with his wife and son. He has been successful in business as well as local politics, being mayor of Kemptville for several years. He is owner-operator of a mall comprised of [illegible] clothing store and apartment building. Clara married Harry Flannigan and also lives in Kemptville with her husband and one son. Louis was [illegible] navigator with the R.C.A.F. He recently retired and resides in Red Deer, Alberta, with his wife and four children. George has one daughter. He is a widower and resides in Ottawa where he is in the watch repair business. Dominic Jr. also resides in Ottawa where he has been a salesman for aluminum doors and windows. He and his wife have two children. James lives near Ottawa with his wife and four children. He owns and operates a retail drapery business. Anne married Tim McGahey. They have two children and reside in Ottawa.

Mother also resides in Kemptville in one of Ralph's apartment units. Our wonderful mother, who laughed her way through the good times and the bad, today at 76 years of age is in excellent health. She enjoys her many grandchildren as much as she always enjoyed her own children before them. She returns West every two or three years to visit her son at Red Deer, her relatives at Castor, and her cherished and never-forgotten friends who still remain at Hanna and Scapa. The only thing to mar the perfection of those visits is the absence of the Williams family, dear friends and neighbors of the old days, who left the Hanna district shortly after we did. Many of mother's early hopes and dreams were shared with those dear friends during her first days at Hanna.

JOSEPH and MINNIE McBURNEY, By Stan McCreight — Mr. and Mrs. Joe McBurney originally farmed in Manitoba. They sold out and moved to an acreage on the west coast in the Greater Vancouver area.

They later became acquainted with Andy Murdoch, who owned a farm in the Dowling district. Joe McBurney traded his acreage in B.C. to Andy Murdoch for the north half of 23-32-15-W4 at Dowling. In the spring of 1916, Mr. and Mrs. McBurney moved to their farm in time to put a crop in that year, then built a house and barn and all the granaries and buildings required for [illegible] half-section farm.

The McBurneys had no family and did [illegible] their own work. About two or three years before they retired, the McBurneys were honored by the Hanna and District Board of Trade for a neat and well-kept farm and good farming practices. This was well-deserved as Mr. McBurney was a very progressive farmer and his yields were usually among the highest in the district. Mrs. McBurney,always grew a very good garden and lots of flowers.

Mr. McBurney did all his farming with six head of horses. The team he did his hauling with were a well-matched pair of mares with very keen ears. He called one Nancy and the other one Fancy.

After farming in the Dowling district for twelve years, Mr. and Mrs. McBurney sold their farm to Mrs. Murt McCuish, who owned the other half of the same section. They had an auction sale that spring and moved to Haney, B.C., a small town thirty miles east of Vancouver, where they resided until their passing. Mr. McBurney died in the middle 1930's and Mrs. McBurney about ten years later.

The McBurney farm was sold to Mrs. M. McCuish in 1928, and they farmed it for a number of years. Fred Baes rented it after that until it was sold to Bill Albright in 1947.

RUDOLF and OLGA FECHO and FAMILY, By The Fecho Family — Rudolf Fecho and Olga Weich were married in Antonowka, Poland on May 1, 1923. By the time they immigrated to Canada, on April 22, 1927, they had two sons, Frederick and Donald. They embarked from Danzig, Poland to Southampton, England and thence on the ship Ausonia to Halifax, N.S. Travelling by train, the family arrived in Hanna, where they were met by Olga's brother Carl, for whom Rudolf worked on the farm for three years.

In the early thirties, the Fechos settled on a rented farm, six miles south of Scapa, owned by H. Mansfield. They later purchased this land and it became the Fecho's "Home Place". Two more sons, Arnold and Harold, were added to the family, both born at home. The task of raising four growing boys was difficult in those hard times. Mrs. Fecho sewed all the boys' clothing, and shoes were something that were worn to church only. Rudolf saw to it that his family attended St. Peter's Church at Scapa faithfully, by sleigh in winter and buggy in summer. The original house had a clay floor in the back porch, and the older boys have memories of lying in bed in the upstairs, looking at the stars through the cracks in the roof. Sometimes they awoke to see their breath and even found wisps of snow on the big handmade quilt that covered them. In the summer dust storms darkened the house, and the dust sifted into everything. The house was remodelled by degrees over the years, as money wasn't available to do it all at one time.

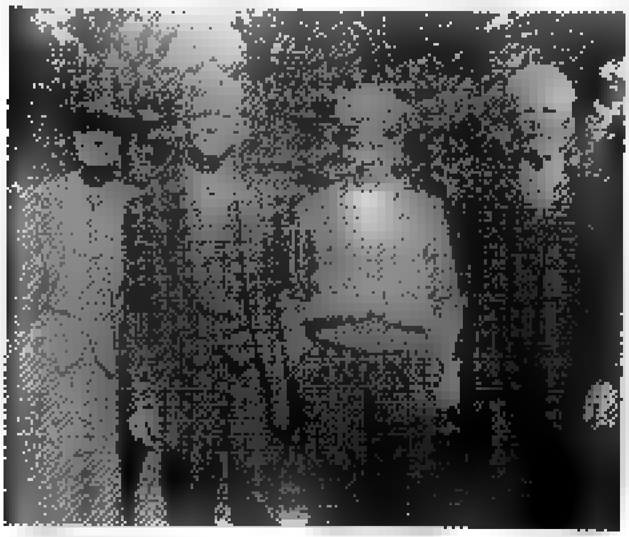
The boys were very fortunate to have the Wiese School just kittycorner from the farm. They all attended this one room school, and often looked after the fires and carried water. At the end of the day the leftover water wasn't left in the pails to freeze!! Instead, it was carried alongside the school to make a giant slide, where the children spent many happy hours at recess and noon hour. They used to line up, from the youngest to the oldest, run and slide and then go back to the end of the line to await their turn again. Only one misfortune resulted from this favorite pastime, when one of the girls broke her wrist. The highlight of the year was the end-of-the-term picnic for the students and their families, with lots of homemade ice cream.

Some other not-to-be-forgotten events were, the summer the family chased the cattle home, ankle deep in hailstones, "barefoot". Mrs. Fecho, staying up all night baking bread and preparing food for a nine or ten man threshing crew. The boys helped pitch bundles along with the crew. Horses were valuable in the thirties, and the mainstay of the farming operation. Horses also provided transportation for the family, with many a trip being made to the General Store and Post

Office at Dowling, situated one and a half miles to the south. Harold Lund ran this store for many years, followed by Auers, Pounds, Talmadges, and Taskers. Sometimes it took three head of cattle to make up the purchase price of a horse. Steers were sold at around $8.00 per head. Not only were cattle prices low, grain was selling one year for about 27 cents per bushel.

The farms in the area were fairly close together, with Brunners and Gauglers to the north, Chris Viste to the east, Wieses to the west, and Manly Viste to the south. Difficulties or ill health forced many homesteaders such as Raines, Williams and Fieldings, to leave the district and move elsewhere. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Fecho retired to Hanna and in early 1953, Mrs. Fecho passed away. Mr. Fecho carried on by himself until 1959 when he married Mrs. Christina Krause. He passed away in the Hanna Hospital in April, 1975.

Their sons remain in the area: Frederick and his wife Freda (Litke) and their daughter reside in Hanna while continuing to farm east of town. Donald and LaWana (Tillack) with their five children live in Hanna where Don trucks. They also have farming interests. Harold and Patricia (Oliver) and their two children reside in Hanna, where Harold is a conductor on the C.N.R. Arnold spent a short period of time working for the C.N.R. but decided to return to the farm after he got married. Arnold and Verlene (Pfahl) have lived on the old "Home Place" since then, modernizing it with a new house in 1964. They have one son, Wayne, who is now married and living in Hanna. He still enjoys helping out on the farm during the busy season.


Left to right: Currie Johnston, John Johnston, Jim (Currie's son), Dave Johnston in 1943.

DAVE JOHNSTON, By Hartley Johnston — Dave came from New Brunswick to homestead southwest of Hanna. Around 1916 he had a mail route from Hanna south, a trip of forty miles by horse and buggy or sleigh. He had suffered the loss of an arm, but this didn't seem to interfere with his acitivities very much.

Dave sold his homestead, and bought land from William Munro in the Dowling district in 1918. He had property in B.C. as well, and moved back and forth a few times. He liked harvest on the prairies and came out a couple of times to harvest with Ralph Gaugler. In 1930 he came back to Dowling and stayed until 1937. His nephew, Hartley Johnston came with him, staying until 1933.

Another nephew, Henry, stayed with him from 1931 to 1937. Henry also came back to Alberta for harvest for several years. He enlisted with the Princess Pats and went overseas in 1939, for a ten year period. He lives in Vancouver now.

Hartley stayed in B.C. where he worked as a motor mechanic and service station operator. He is retired at Peachland, B.C.

J.H. (Harry) Johnston, another of Dave's nephews taught Wiese School in 1920. He moved to California shortly afterward and still resides there.

Dave stayed with his brother Currie and his family at Aldergrove, B.C. until his passing in January, 1956.

THE JOHN ANNAS FAMILY, as told by Pauline and Rudy Annas — John and Pauline Annas and their two sons, Rudy and Nelson, came to Alberta from

Sweden in the spring of 1930. They spent the next three years in the Scapa area, residing on the farm of Pauline's brother, Mr. G. Glubrecht. During this time John worked for Fred Lyxen. In 1933 they moved to the Wiese district where they rented the N.E. Bradley farm. For the first season there, they lived in a granary.

The Annas family suffered considerable hardship in Europe from political upheaval at the time of the revolution. Coming to Canada during the depression kept them struggling to survive. Mrs. Annas had learned the art of weaving baskets and she went to work doing this. In January she walked the fields and gathered willow branches. These were boiled and peeled and then she spent hours weaving them into baskets of all sizes. They were usually left the natural color of the wood with a colored border or two running around them. The large ones were used as laundry baskets or bassinets and many a baby slept in a basket made by Mrs. Annas. The fine twigs were made into whisk brooms. These baskets and brooms were sold in Hanna as well as around the district.

It was always their policy to be practical so when the need arose for a new chicken house they used what nature provided to build it. A mixture of mud, straw and water along with a few rocks was put into forms to make the walls. They built it in 1938, and it still stands, none the worse for wear, serving as a blacksmith shop.

Three more sons and a daughter were added to the family over the years. They were John, Gustav, Charles and Martha.

Mr. and Mrs. Annas farmed in the district until 1953. At this time they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Annas still resides. Mr. Annas passed away in July of 1969. Nelson remained on the family farm with his wife Lois and family. Rudy married Helen Viste; they farmed and presently live in Hanna. John, Gus and Charlie are all married and living in Hanna; all are employed by the C.N.R. Martha married E.J. (Red) Robinson. They reside in Hanna where Red is an engineer with the C.N.R. He also has farming interests in the Watts district and Martha has become well known for her talent as a florist.

THE HAESSELS, KARL, OTTO and ERNEST, as told by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel — Karl was the first one of the Haessels to leave Germany and come to Alberta. He bought the NE 6-33-14 and SW 5-33-14. With the help of Chris Gasper he built a small house and a few other buildings on the latter quarter. That was in 1928.

In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haessel with their two-year-old son Friedel, their brothers Otto and Rudolf came to join Karl in Canada. The closer they got to their destination, the less they liked what they saw out of the train windows. When they saw all the hills between Hanna and Dowling they really thought they had come to "No Man's Land", rather than the land of milk and honey that they had heard about.

It was April 12, at 9:15 a.m. when they stepped off the train in Dowling. Karl looked like a stranger to them in his Canadian made coveralls, something they'd never seen before. On the way to Karl's they passed through the yard of Manly Viste and were invited in for a nice big breakfast, the Haessel's first meal on the prairies. The Viste's hadn't been married very long at the time. Badly needed was an interpreter, since the Haessels spoke German, Manly spoke Norwegian and English, while his wife spoke only English. However they managed, and soon learned they had more Norwegian-speaking neighbors they would have to learn to communicate with. It wasn't long until they could get along reasonably well.

The first summer the four brothers were around the district most of the time. Otto worked in Calgary and McLeod as a baker, a trade he had learned in Germany. Karl and Otto had natural instincts towards hunting and trapping and

became well known for their ability to hunt. That is partly why the north country attracted them.

Karl and Rudolf were the first to go to the Peace River country in the winter of 29-30. Otto went up in the spring, but none of them stayed. Karl came back to Dowling to put his crop in and Otto worked for Chris Viste. Karl had visions of harvesting a bumper crop that year but it turned out a real disappointment. So in the fall of 1930, he packed up and went north again, this time to the Hay River district, where he took up trapping and farming. Here he built up a farming operation which he still maintains. Karl married and had two children, Harvey and Gloria.

Otto worked at different jobs, cooking, baking and carpenter work, for three years. Then he went north again too. He spent some time running a pool hall in Fort Vermilion, but his main interest was trapping. He had a typical trapper's cabin and six sled dogs that he used to check his trap line. In 1942 he came back to Scapa district, where Ernest now lived and helped build a garage. After a few years he started his own carpenter business in Hanna. In 1950 he went to Germany, bringing a bride back with him when he returned. Otto and his wife Hildegard stayed in Hanna for about ten years and then they moved to the west coast where they still reside. They have two adopted daughters.

Ernest stayed in the Wiese district, on the farm that had been Karl's, until 1934. That spring they moved one mile east of Scapa to the Jack Leicht farm. The crop was poor that year and what little there was fed the hungry grasshoppers. In December of the same year, they moved two miles south of Scapa to the original Lohrmann farm. When they moved to the Scapa district they hauled their belongings up through the chain of little lakes that jut down from the south end of Sullivan Lake. At the time there was a well-travelled trail there.

During 1933 the main source of income was from rabbits, shot and skinned during the winter. A hide brought about ten cents. When the Haessel's coal supply got low that winter and they had no money to get coal off the car that came into Dowling, Ernest went out one morning and shot forty-two rabbits before breakfast. He took them to town and sold them to Chris German, getting enough funds to buy a load of coal in Dowling.

That same year Mrs. Haessel had quite a session in the hospital, undergoing major surgery. In order to pay the doctor, Ernest sold hay to the government for relief feed and the doctor in turn collected from the government. At Christmas time the threat of having to stay in the hospital hung heavy over Mrs. Haessel and she was really feeling low. She talked the doctor into releasing her but she still had a big problem, no money and no way home. It was then that Dr. Cross did one of the kindest things that anyone could have done for her. He gave her $1.00. which was more than ample to buy a train ticket to Dowling, and she was able to go home to her family.

One of their fond memories is of Manly Viste coming to their place for a haircut, the day after his first son Walter was born. He was so happy, they could hear him singing in the buggy when he was still a mile away, and ever so often he'd shout, "It's a boy! It's a boy!"

Another incident that they have had a lot of laughs over, happened after they moved to the Scapa district. Sexsmiths, who lived to the south, had raised a young bull that kept wandering across the fence into Haessel's herd. He had lots of crossbreeding in him, but Ernest used a lot of names besides "Exotic" to describe him. He was hardly what they wanted for a herd sire, so when it became evident that he wasn't going to stay home, Ernest thought of an alternative. One Sunday morning he took a rope along when he went out to the cattle. He caught him. and as the saying goes, he went home "a bull no more". This however was not the end of the story. There wasn't anything said for awhile, then one day John Sexsmith asked Ralph Gaugler and John Robertson to come up in the evening and help him castrate a young bull. It was fairly late when they went and not very light any more. They chased him around for a long time, before they finally caught him and found the job already done!

Farming conditions slowly improved after they moved to the Lohrmann farm. They built up a farmstead that is a tribute to their hard work. When Friedel was old enough to do quite a bit of the farm work, Ernest went into livestock trucking and buying as well as general trucking. He gave this up after they enlarged their holdings and went into more cattle.

Friedel married Irene Steinbrecker in 1950 and moved to a farm east of the home farm. They purchased this farm from Bill Burt. Mr. and Mrs. Haessel lived on their farm until 1976, when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Sig Jabs. They retired to the new home they built in Hanna.

THE RUDOLF HAESSEL FAMILY, By Rudolf Haessel — I was born in Niedermohr, Germany in 1901 and immigrated to Canada in 1929, arriving in Hanna on April 12 with my brothers Otto and Ernest and Ernest's family. From Hanna we went to Dowling, where we were met by our brother Karl, who had come over the year before. We went to Karl's home by team and wagon and I was there until I began working for Frank Ruppert. I did field work and helped drill water wells that summer. During harvest I worked for Dominic Raina.

That winter Karl and I went to the Peace River country to take up homesteads. We located land between Pouce Coupe and Spirit River. As the land hadn't been surveyed yet, we squatted. We built a small shack on each quarter and cleared some land. Living in isolation was not for me, so in the spring we returned to Edmonton. I got a job working for a farmer at Fort Saskatchewan until fall. Then I returned to Dowling and worked for Dominic Raina during the winter. In the spring Rainas sold out and went east. I rented the farm, north half of 32-32-14.

The crops during those years were poor and when there was a little bit grew it wasn't worth very much. In 1938 there was a good crop. After harvest that year I returned to Germany where I was married to Hedwig Klahr. We returned to the farm in Alberta in the spring. We had two children, a daughter Annabelle and a son Walter.

In the spring of 1944 I bought the Sandy Donaldson farm, (NW 20-33-13) one mile west of the Netherby school. Since the house there was terribly large and cold we began building a new one in 1945, finishing it the next year. The children attended Netherby School. After completing her education, Annabelle spent a few years in Calgary working in a bank. She returned to Hanna where she was employed at the Royal Bank until her marriage to Herb Wimmer in 1964. They farm in the Scapa district and have two children, Brian and Karen.

Walter finished high school in Hanna, going to University in Calgary and Edmonton. He married Ann McFall in 1964. He then went on to receive his Doctors degree in Economics at the University in Ames, Iowa. They spent three years in Accura, Ghana, where Walter taught at the University. On their return to Canada he taught in London, Ontario for two years. They now make their home in State College, Pennsylvania where Walter is Professor of Economics at the University there. Walter and Ann have two sons, Dale and Roger.

Hedwig passed away on January 2, 1963. I farmed until 1968 when I retired. I rented my farm for several years and then sold it. I have made my home in Hanna since then.

THE FRED BAES STORY, By Emma Baes — Fred Baes was married to Emma Schottsneider in December, 1931. They went to farm in the Dowling Lake School District, then moved to a farm east of Hanna. Later they came back to farm about two miles south-west of Dowling, near the lake. This was a real hardship in more ways than one. They were five miles from school, and the trip to school and back wasn't always a pleasant one for their two daughters, Marie and Joan. The old white horse they rode was as stout of heart as they were, and many a frosty morning horse and riders would have passed for "Frosty the Snowman" by the time they got to school. They also had problems getting a good water supply so they got some Hudson Bay land one-half mile west of Dowling. Here they drilled a well and moved in a house from the Clear Lake district.

They farmed there until 1955, when they sold out because Mr. Baes was afflicted with poor health. By this time the Baes had a set of twins, Leonard and Esther, who were of school age. The older girls were on their own by then. Mr. and Mrs. Baes and the twins moved to Grand Forks, B.C., where they still reside.

Marie married Mike Kindret and lives at West Bank, B.C. with her family. Joan and her husband Mike Sawchuck and three children live in Edmonton. Esther is divorced, has one daughter and works in Winfield as a bookkeeper. Leonard is a carpenter and he and his wife Violet live near his folks.

ERICH WOELK, By Erich Woelk — I had the opportunity to come to this country from Germany in 1930 at the age of nineteen years, through my cousin Fritz Lange who returned to Germany to get married after being in Canada for three years.

My cousin, his wife, and myself were met at the Dowling railway station by Mr. Bohlander from the Dowling district in March of the same year. He was driving a Model T Ford which had been converted into a truck without a top. By the time we had all our luggage and trunks loaded on it there was very little seating space left but we managed somehow.

My first impressions after we started for our final destination were "what a road, what a country". We stayed with the Bohlander family for a week while waiting for Fritz Lange's stove and furniture to come. He had bought it in the Eaton's store in Winnipeg.

A few days later I got a job at the Robert Lange farm, no relative to Fritz. I stayed there for two years. I learned many different ways of doing things that were so different to the way I had done things in the old country. The first job I was assigned to do for Mr. Lange was to milk four cows, something I had never done in my life before. I willingly went out to do the chores. After I had spent two hours in the barn my boss was getting a bit worried about me and came out to check. I was still trying to milk the first cow. After a few more attempts I learned how it was done.

Something I shall never forget are the sand and dust storms in 1930. I could not believe that the clouds could be so dark and not have a drop of rain in them.

In the fall other farmers and I had to drive for miles with horses and wagons or sleds to get our winter supply of coal, to keep ourselves warm during the bitter cold weather. Many times I had to pitch in and do some of the mining myself in order to speed things up so I could start on my homeward journey. Whenever there was a slack time that winter I'd spend it rabbit hunting.

I couldn't speak a word of English when I came to this country, and had a very good opportunity to learn the language that first winter while I was driving Ernest Lange back and forth to the Hudson Bay School every day. But I thought I was too

old to have to go back to school again after having my full education in the old country, so I learned it the hard way.

In 1932 I went to Craigmyle and worked for Mrs. Fred Diegel on the farm. That's where I bought my first car, a 1926 Model T Ford for $35.00. I drove it for two years. On steep hills the clutch slipped in low gear. So I'd turn around and back up the hills.

I worked with Francis Porter, the present mayor of Drumheller, there, and it was from him that I got further education in the English language. In return I loaned him my Model T to use when he got married.

I came back to the Dowling district in the fall of 1935, and rented the Williams farm. I bought a stack of oat bundles, which was supposed to be the feed supply for my horses during spring work. There was an over population of rabbits that winter. When the rabbits had the feed stack looking like a mushroom I decided it was time to declare war on them, so I organized a rabbit shoot with some of the neighbors.

In my spare time I used to attend several house parties and dances. In those days they were quite popular and one didn't think too much of the miles one had to drive with horses and cutter to get to a dance. I used to play cards in the evenings with friends and neighbors too.

That same winter my courting days started. I took advantage of the mail carrier who used a closed-in cutter and two horses to make his mail deliveries in the district. Every two weeks on Friday noon I hopped in his cutter and drove along with him to within a mile of the Glubrecht home, walking the rest of the way, to spend the weekend with the family. I took in the occasional dance with Martha and her brothers and on Monday morning I would get a ride home again with the mail man.

In 1937 Martha and I were married and rented the farm Mr. Bohlander had been previously farming. We stayed there for three years, then moved to the John Kellerman place north-west of Dowling, which we had rented for three years too. Then we lived in the Hand Hills for four years. We bought a farm at Innisfail but we were not too happy there so we sold out and bought a farm at Endiang, and lived there for twenty-six years.

We had four children. Our only daughter passed away in 1950 at the age of eleven.

Our oldest son, Alfred, is married and living in Calgary. Jerry is also living in Calgary and still single. Bruce, and his wife and family are living on the farm at Endiang.

Martha and I have retired to Hanna and are enjoying town life.

THE ALPAUGH STORY, By Margaret Alpaugh Gaetz — Our father, Andrew Alpaugh was born in Fergus, Ontario in 1880. His family moved to Strathcona, Alberta about 1890. Next they moved to a place called Conjuring Creek. Dad said their diet used to be bread and milk for breakfast, milk and bread for dinner and bread and milk for supper. It seems people had to do without a lot of things when they came west.

At the age of fourteen, Dad and a friend left home, walking to Calgary. When they got hungry and there was no place to buy a meal, they remembered someone telling them that a duck rolled in mud and baked over a campfire was good. The feathers would peel off with the mud. The results were not quite what they expected — it seems ducks baked with their innards in are not very tasty.

Some way the boys made a living. At one ranch before Dad learned to ride, he was hired to stay with the rancher's wife, who was expecting a baby any time.

Margaret and Avis Alpaugh on their school pony.

He said he was glad when that job was over. On April 25, 1902 he joined the Fifth Canadian Rifles and went to the South African war.

Upon his return he spent some time with Nick Lund. He also took up a homestead four or five miles south of Clear Lake. During this time he travelled around on horse back and worked with and knew fellows like Dr. Mason (before he became a doctor), Pat Burns, John Ware and many others. In 1912 he and our mother, Pearl Hunter were married and lived on the homstead.

When I was about four and my sister Avis was a baby we moved to Craigmyle, where Dad had a butcher shop and an ice cream parlor. From there we moved to Hanna where Dad had another butcher shop. That's where we were during the flu epidemic of 1918. Dad nearly died, but Mother's heroic efforts at nursing saved him. My memory of this is sketchy but I can recall a boy bringing something from the store and throwing it on the porch. How the furnace was kept going and how we managed in other ways when we were all so sick, I don't know.

Next we moved to Delia and when mother became ill we moved to Peachland, B.C. for her health. In 1924 we moved back to the prairies. A two-month-old baby sister, Joan, was killed in a bad accident we had at Elko. She was buried at Fernie.

Dad built the store in Dowling in 1926. At that time the steel was being laid for the railroad. Big gangs of foreigners were brought in to work on the railroad. A big machine laid the rails. The boss of this job was a big happy fellow; an Italian, called Joe Mezzaroba. My parents liked him and he and Dad became great friends. Mother cooked for the engineers and crews from the work trains. This was a crazy time, as we had them coming at all hours of the day or night.

Looking back, our days around Dowling were great. One remembers old school chums and neighbors with affection. We enjoyed our school days at Wiese, the school picnics and concerts to which everyone came. One I can remember vividly. I was the janitor at the time and what I knew about building fires was little. The concert was held in the afternoon, so the teacher asked me to bank the fire so it would last during the program. I went out to the coal bin and there in the corner was a nice pile of slack coal. This looked like good stuff to bank a fire with, so I put a big scuttle full in the stove and closed all the drafts. Just as the kids were drawing the curtains open . . . "BOOM". You couldn't see across the room. All the lids and doors flew off the heater. When the dust settled, you should have seen the mess. Everyone's faces were dirty as could be. It would have been nice to find somewhere to hide. Anyway, after a clean-up, it was on with the "Show". We had an active Junior Red Cross at the school and I can remember the candy sales we had at dances.

Jim Gaetz and I were married October 23, 1928. We have a son and a daughter, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

My sister Avis married John McColeman in 1934. They are living in Big Valley. Their two girls and one boy are also married with families of their own.

Mother and Dad stayed in Dowling until 1931 when they sold the store to Harold Lund. I wonder if anyone remembers the delicious ice cream mother used

to make to sell in the store? She used to make it to take to Clear Lake to sell in the booth too. It was very popular.

Dad bought a herd of purebred Angus cattle and went farming in the Halkirk district. He had rented land, purchasing one quarter to build on later. However things changed rapidly. In the spring of 1932 Dad was killed taking a bull to market in Gadsby. This was a dreadful shock. He was only 51 years old. He is buried at Gadsby.

Mother remarried twelve years later. She became Mrs. Chas. Lawrence and lived in Edmonton. She passed away in 1951.

Jim and I have moved about extensively. We have both been actively involved with Credit Unions in central Alberta, in both organization and management. We were living in Sylvan Lake but spent the winter at Creston, B.C.

It is sad to look at the place where our store stood. There is not a sign to show we ever lived there. We like to keep in touch with the old friends that are still around. This is the most important of all!

THE WILLIAM ALBRIGHT FAMILY — Bill and Emma Albright were married in 1957. The first two years Bill worked in the coal mines in Drumheller during the winter. In the summer they lived on the old McBurney farm.

In 1958 they bought a farm from Harold Lund, one half mile west of Dowling. They moved to this place, and have made their home there ever since. The old house was replaced with a new one a number of years ago. Bill and his family are well known for the abundance of poultry they always have on the place. They have provided a turkey, duck or goose for many a Christmas dinner.

The Albrights have a son Wilfred who is working in the Co-op Store in Hanna, and a daughter Angela still attending school. Besides their own family, they have had one or two foster children staying with them for the past seven years.

THE JIM FOSTERS, By Vi Foster — Jim and I and our eight-month-old son Ian, moved to Dowling in June, 1950, Jim being agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator there. Our house consisted of two rooms built off the office. While we were there they built on a new kitchen. We were very pleased to have the extra room.

We remember a lot of good times when the young people gathered at our house for cards, and in the winter we went sleigh riding and skiing.

The winter of 1950-51 was very severe with lots of snow. The railway track was covered with fifteen feet of snow. During that winter Ian and I had spent a few days at my folks in Oyen. Jim and Walter Viste met us at the train in Hanna when we returned home. On the way out to Dowling we got stuck in some snow drifts and had to leave the truck. We walked home a good two miles, with Jim and Walter carrying Ian through the deep snow. We were a tired group and happy to see the elevator that night.

Since leaving Dowling we had three daughters. Our youngest, Andrea passed away in 1963 at four years of age. Diane is married and lives in Calgary. Phyllis is completing her fourth year at University majoring in Education. Ian is married and also lives in Calgary. Jim and I reside in Hanna.

THE ED BOHLENDERS — Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bohlender and their son Rudy moved from the Craigmyle district to the farm that had been occupied by Rienhold Diegel, in 1927. Mrs. Bohlender was the former Lena Diegel.

The half section farm had one quarter in the Hudson Bay district and one in Wiese. The house sat on the line fence, with the bedrooms in Hudson Bay and the rest of the house in Wiese. Which district did they belong in? Officially it turned out to be Wiese since that's where the eating and living quarters were. So Rudy went to Wiese School where he was the only boy among thirteen girls for a good part of his school days. He tried Hudson Bay for a week, but he said they didn't want him there so he went back to Wiese and his thirteen girls.

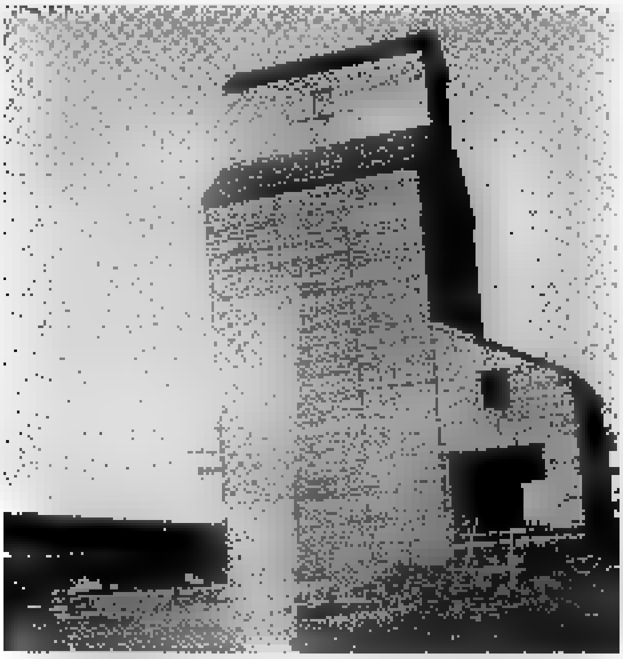
In 1934 the Bohlenders moved west of Rimbey. Mr. Bohlender passed away in 1960 and his wife in 1968. Rudy and his family reside in Rimbey.

EARLY DOWLING HISTORY 1925-1931

By Avis (Alpaugh) McColeman

Andrew Alpaugh, better known as Andy, purchased land and built a store in the new townsite of Dowling in 1925. With the help of friends and relatives the store and living quarters were ready to move into by Thanksgiving. At that time the grade was built for the Hanna Warden railroad, but the rails weren't laid, so that meant hauling supplies for the store from Hanna, over roads that were usually in poor condition.

Dowling store, shortly after it was built by Andy Alpaugh



The Wheat Pool elevator under construction at Dowling in 1926.

The spring of 1926 brought the crews that laid the ties and rails. These were mostly foreigners. After that came many more crews to finish the tracks and build the station, section house, bunk house, stock yards, etc. When the track was finished a mixed train, consisting of freight cars, a passenger coach and baggage car, had a steady run. This carried mail, passengers, freight and express north on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Alpaughs had the post office along with the store and Andy was Postmaster.

The Pool elevator was built in 1926, with Mr. Charles Lewis as first elevator man. That fall a Mr. Gauthier was buying grain and loading cars with a track-side loader for Richardsons Ltd., Calgary. He was there until March, 1926. It was about this time the Alpaughs added a flour

shed to the store and built an ice house, also a barn and chicken house to accommodate their chickens, cow and school pony.

In the fall of 1927 or spring of 1928 there was a train wreck on the curve around the north side of Dowling Lake. Shortly after this Mr. Gillies was stationed at Dowling as section foreman and later brought his wife and six children, Dora, Charlie, Billie, Georgina, Adam and Jeanie to live in Dowling. Ed Foster became elevator agent in 1928.

The highlight of 1928 was when McCuishes brought the first combine to the district to combine their fields west of Dowling. The spring of 1929 was very dry and several prairie fires resulted in the district. One that affected Dowling the most, came from the north on the west side of the track, and threatened to jump the track several times. It burned McCuish's stubble fields and was finally put out between the lake and railroad. The crops were pretty poor that year.

Andy Alpaugh sold the store to Harold Lund in 1931 and on July first it changed hands.

Dowling 1931-1944

By Frank Lund

The great depression had begun. Dowling Lake dried up and the south winds blew white clouds of alkali up over Dowling. Crops were poor, prices were poor. Surrounding farmers brought eggs to the store packed in pails of oats to keep them from breaking. Lunds cleaned them and transferred them to thirty-dozen capacity crates for shipping. They also delivered some of them to restaurants in Hanna where they usually brought a few cents a dozen more, so customers at Dowling could receive a little more to buy necessities at the store. One Christmas a customer had a cow he didn't have room for in his barn, and also he was short of cash, so my Father took the cow in trade for $15.00.

The section crews moved out and even the elevator closed for a time. "Relief feed" was brought in by rail. Government "relief" food such as apples, cheese and dried cod were hauled out from Hanna by my father, Harold Lund, and distributed to those who needed it.

Near the end of the thirties tractors began to replace horses and so the store began to sell and deliver more [illegible] products.

Annual telephone meetings usually took place in the store where apple boxes and nail kegs served as seats.

In April 1944, Lunds sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. John Auer and moved back to their farm.

Editor's Note: As long as the Lunds had the store in Dowling, the students of the Wiese School were treated to a bottle of pop at the annual picnic by Mr. Lund. How we all enjoyed that pop since it was the only soft drink most of us got from picnic to picnic.

Mr. and Mrs. Auer had the store and post office for about a year. They had a school-age daughter, Lorraine. Mr. Auer had a back injury and found the store work too strenuous, so they sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound of Atlee. The Auers went back to Drumheller.

MR. and MRS. ED POUND

By Don Pound

Mr. Ed Pound and his wife Leone Pound purchased the store in Dowling in 1945. They had two sons, Delmar and Donald who were in Brooks and Calgary respectively [illegible] the time of the purchase. Mr. and Mrs. Pound resided in Dowling until 1949, when they sold the store there and purchased the store in Scapa.

Mr. Pound died in 1954. Mrs. Pound sold the Scapa store in 1956 and moved to Brooks. She now resides in Medicine Hat. The eldest son, Delmar, now lives in Winnipeg. The younger son, Donald, taught in the Wiese School for one term, 1948-49. He also taught in the Scapa School from 1951 until 1956. He was married to Marie Lawlor in 1954. In 1956 Marie and Don moved to Medicine Hat, where Don furthered his teaching career. They still reside there.

Main Street, Dowling in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Talmage came from Edmonton to take over the store from Pounds in July of 1949. They owned and operated the store for one and a half years, selling to Jim Tasker in 1951. Rodger and Hilda had a small daughter, Margaret. They moved into Hanna when they left Dowling.

Mr. and Mrs. Tasker were an elderly couple when they bought the store. About this time business in the small towns was generally poor, so the inevitable happened. In 1952 the post office closed, followed by the closure of the store. Regular train service to Dowling ended shortly thereafter. Taskers lived in the living quarters in the back of the store until the summer of 1953, when Jim tore the whole building down. The lumber he salvaged was used to build [illegible] house in Hanna. Jim passed away a number of years ago. Mrs. Tasker is in the Palliser Nursing Home.

The Dowling Red Cross Group, active during World War II. Left to right: Helen Viste, Mrs. Grantham, Florence Robertson, Inez Newman, Jean Robertson, Mrs. M. Viste, Mrs. Robertson, Edna Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Doyle, Mary Lund. Missing from the picture were: Mrs. H. Viste, Mavis Schultz, Mrs. Bert Jones, Mrs. Harold Lund.

Once the store was gone, everything but the elevator and small elevator house was removed or torn down. The elevator stayed in operation until 1975. [illegible] [illegible] just a matter of time until it too disappears from the prairie skyline. Then there will be only memories left of the village of Dowling.

Dowling was never a centre for social activities since there was no school or hall there. The local schools and Clear Lake were centres of entertainment for people in the district. There were several U.F.A. locals formed that were active for awhile and then faded away. The ladies did their thing during World War II by

getting organized into a Red Cross group. They sewed and knitted and sent parcels overseas. In 1960 the women formed a local W.I. organization. They were active for several years within the community, then dissolved for lack of members and support.

There was a Dowling ball team during the fifties and early sixties. They were members of the Chain Lake Baseball League for a number of years and sponsored a ball tournament and sports day each summer from 1957 to 1962. The ball diamond was located south of Dowling, overlooking the lake.

Of a different nature, but still of interest to local residents was the research project on the island in Dowling Lake from 1967-1972. It was carried out by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the University of Alberta and the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division. Basically it was a study of the breeding and nesting habits of the Giant Canada Goose. A thirty foot observation tower with a small room on top was constructed to give full view of all the island. The man entered the tower before daylight and remained there until after dark, taking pictures and notes. On the average year they counted between ninety and one hundred nests, with a hatch of roughly four hundred goslings. They caught as many of these as they could in July and put wide yellow numbered bands on their necks.

Banding geese at Dowling Lake in 1970. Left to right: Bruce McGlone, Bill MacKenzie and Martin Jolitz.

Following is a brief history of the Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator at Dowling. This was kindly submitted to us by the Public Relations Department of the Pool Office in Calgary.

Alberta Wheat Pool's Dowling Elevator is a 37,000 bushel capacity facility built in 1926 by Boss Brothers Construction. A 30,000 bushel balloon annex was erected in 1940 at the site. In September, 1976 the balloon annex was sold and now the elevator is the only structure at Dowling.

Grain deliveries to the Pool's Dowling Elevator from 1932 to 1975 totalled 2,969,905 bushels. The highest grain handling recorded was 120,054 bushels in 1972 to 1973, the lowest handling occurred in 1936 to 1937 when the elevator only received 9,256 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Dowling Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: C. Lewis, Aug 1926 to July 1928; E. Foster, Nov 16/28 to Dec 7/31; G. Wahl, Dec 7/31 to Aug 17/32; T.W. MacKimmie, Aug 17/32 to May 3/35; L.M. Johnson, May 3/35 to Sep 9/35; M. Colbert, Sep 9/35 to Mar 1/37; G.W. Gibson, Mar 1/37 to Jun 19/37; P.L. Newman, Aug 8/38 to Jul 15/43; P. Ellergodt, Aug 3/43 to Jul 3/48; T.W. Pierce, Jul 3/48 to Jun 17/50; J. Foster, Jun 17/50 to Dec 1/51; P.J. Moran, Jan 1/52 to Feb 14/52; C.W. Shipton, Feb 14/52 to Sep 1/55; R.A. Sheets, Sep 1/55 to Jan 14/57; L.R. Gilbert, Jan 14/57 to Aug 24/59; G.D. McCarthy, Aug 24/59 to Sep 1/60; W.R. McGillivray, Sep 1/60 to Nov 24/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; Stapley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66 to Mar 31/75.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July, 1915 there was a plebiscite held to determine whether people wanted prohibition. It was the big issue of that particular time, receiving a lot of publicity. You had a choice to vote "Wet" or "Dry". Following are the results from some of the local pools. "Wet" votes are indicated in ().

Hanna — 102 (47); Centre Point — 10 (3); Watts — [illegible] (4); Maunders — 16 (8); Solon — 14 (3); Alps — 20 (6); Dowling Lake — 6 (2); Greystone — 20 (2).

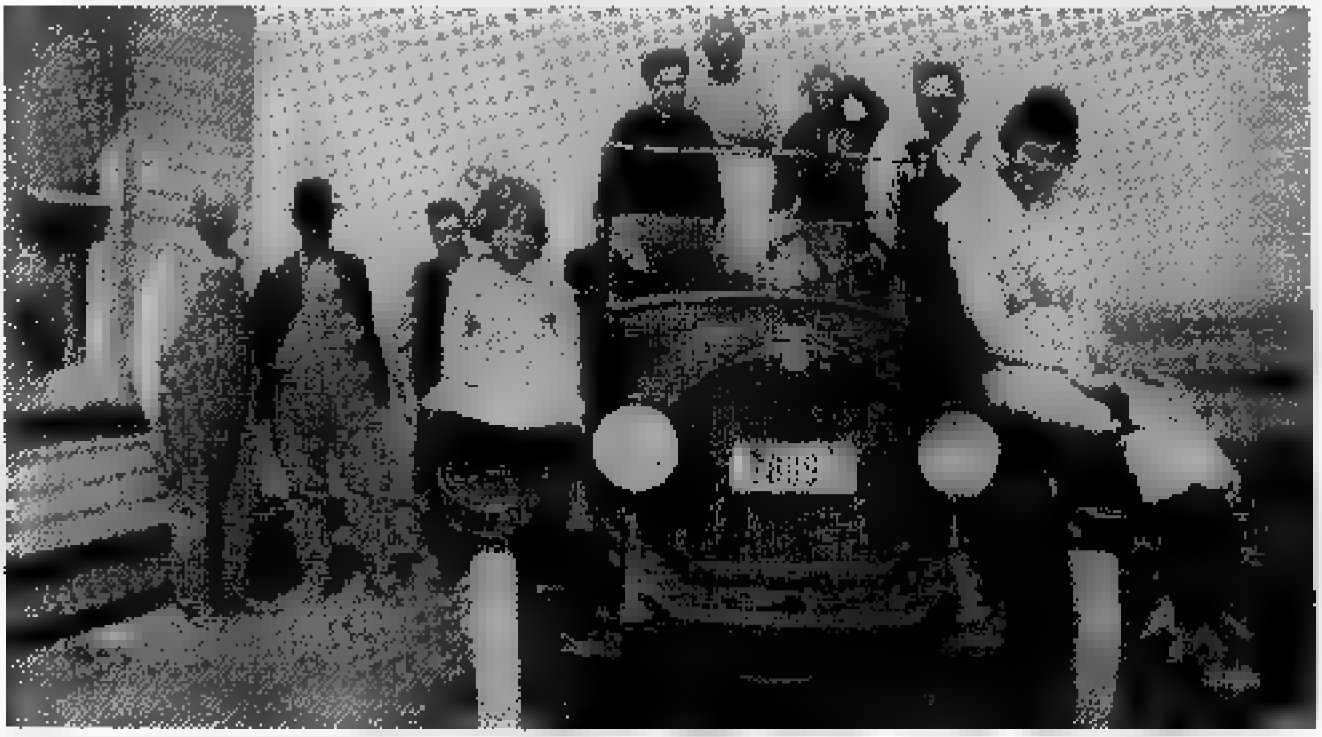
That telephone operators were known as "Hello Girls" ?

These people lived in the district briefly, but we were unable to get much information about them: Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, homesteaders. In February 1915, this item appeared in the Hanna Herald, "Mr. [illegible] Wheeler intends to erect a blacksmith shop on his place this spring and follow his trade."

A Mr. Sieb who rented the Mansfield farm for a few years. He had a daughter Annie.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Welch and their children, Louis, Bertel and Katie. They came from Castor and went to B.C. when they left.

Albert Tietze and a relative or two. What little was heard of him indicated his activities were often questionable, like being convicted in Castor of shooting someone's horse.



Casper Bartch's overland car, taken at Wieses in 1917. Standing beside the house are: Mr. Wiese, Mr. Baxter, Joe Kleiberg. Standing in back seat: Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Wiese, Mrs. Bartch. [illegible] front seat: [illegible] Grantham, Cap Bartch, holding Elma. Harry Wiese standing on the right. Seated on fenders: Violet Baxter, left, Lucy Wiese, right.

The threshing crew of the Gaugler outfit having their afternoon coffee. The two gentlemen nearest the camera are George Hausher and Rudolf Fecho.

The snowplow trying to push its way through the drifts in the cut on the north side of Dowling Lake, after the big blizzard on Feb. 28, 1948. It was ten days after the storm before the train got through.

Men and shovels were the most effective means of clearing the track.

Rabbit Hunt in 1936. Left to right: Eric Woelk, Ernest Haessel, Rudolf Haessel, Fritz Lange, Otto Haessel.

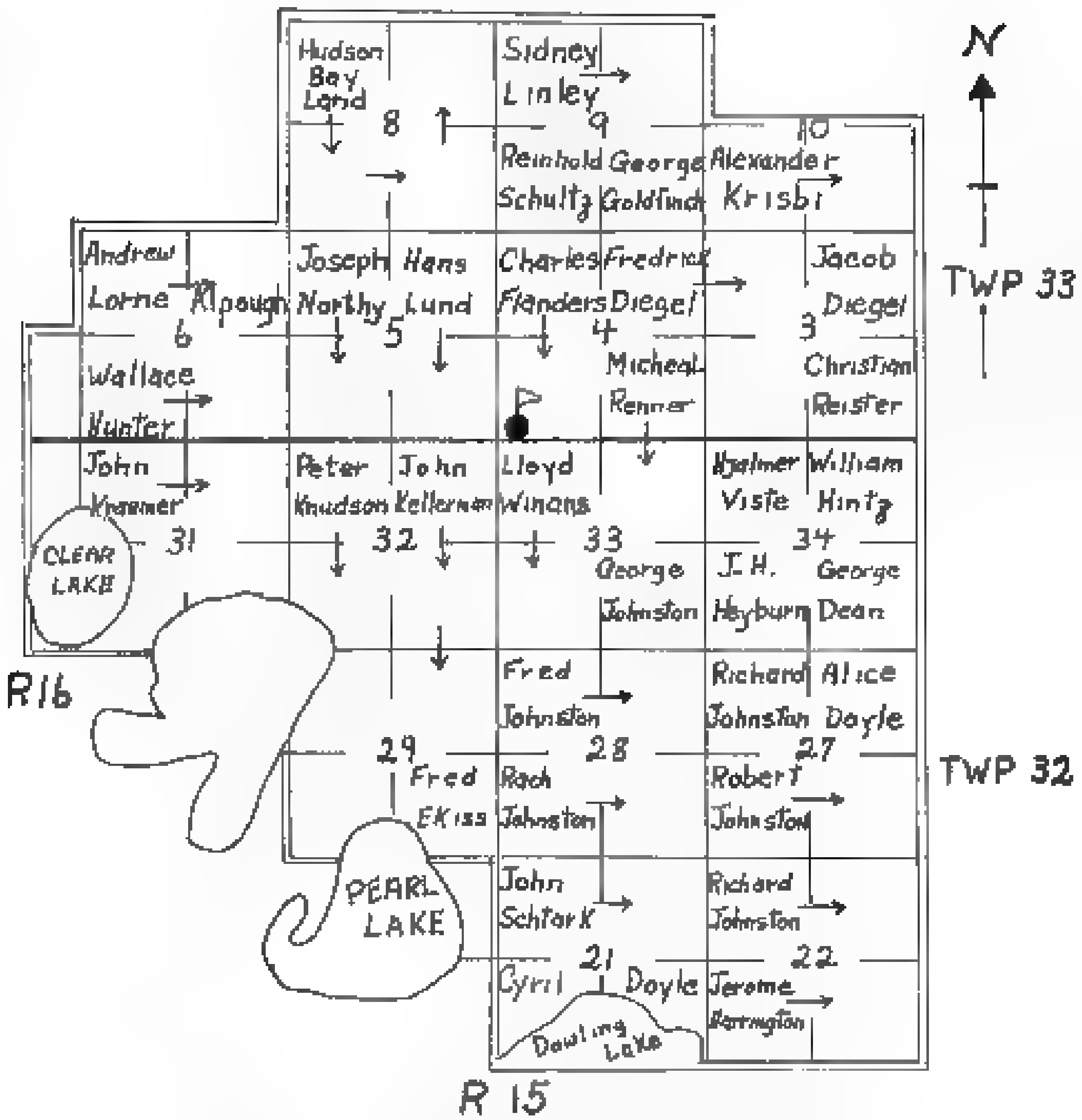
The following are all items taken from Hanna Herald files. Greystone, Feb. 5/1914. N.E. Bradley left last week for Calgary where he secured a position for the winter. H. Viste is in charge of his ranch and cattle for the winter.

Greystone — March 18/1915. J.L. Zehner and R. Gaugler have leased H. Sithke's farm and coal mine and are preparing to have coal on hand at all times. April 9/1914. A.E. English of Greystone purchased four heifers from Hunt Bros. of Endiang last week. May 14/1914. Mr. and Mrs. S. Brunner have returned from Castor after the burial of their daughter who died at Lake Thelma.

Wiese — Aug. 1916. Greystone was well represented at the Hanna Fair last week, and its representatives were successful in carrying home a number of prizes. The Greystone football team assisted by some Garden Plain players, played a match with the Hanna boys. Greystone won over Hanna, three to two. Jan. 11/1923. Chas. Fielding who resides north of Hanna received a shipment of registered Yorkshire pigs, of the bacon type, from a well known breeder at Unity, Sask. Jan. 18/1923. The irrigation surveyors seem to have disappeared from our view for the winter. We are informed that it is found that Sullivan Lake elevation is about 96 feet higher than Buffalo Lake. July 1926. C. Viste and John Klieberg are back from Camrose where they attended a Norwegian Convention.

To make an error can be annoying, but to learn you are so insignificant that no one even noticed it — that's down right humiliating!!

CHAIN LAKES No. 2323



OWNERS AND RENTERS OF TOWNSHIPS 32 and 33, RANGE 15

NW 19-32-15
Henry Cook
Linda Bramfield

NE 19-32-15
James McGuire
Ross McGuire
Linda Bramfield

SE 19-32-15
Herman Steen
Bennie Viste

SW 19-32-15
Herman Steen
Linda Bramfield

NW 20-32-15
A.E. Stephens
Pat Schultz

NE 20-32-15
S.H. Holloway
Pat Schultz

SW 20-32-15
Louis Viste
Pat Schultz

SE 20-32-15
Louis Viste
Irwin Schultz

NW 21-32-15
John Schtark
Wm. Gaugler

NE 21-32-15
John Schtark
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 21-32-15
Louis W. Doyle
Wm. & Betty Doyle

N ½ 22-32-15
Richard Johnson
Fred Ekiss
Wm. Gaugler

S ½ 22-32-15
Jerome Harrington
Wm. & Betty Doyle

SW 30-32-15
Sydney Crandle
Alder Cranton

NE 29-32-15
John A. Kellerman
Wm. Diegel

SE 29-32-15
Fred Ekiss
Dave Schmidt

W ½ 29-32-15
Louis Grantham
Kelly Grantham

N ½ 28-32-15
Fred Johnson

S ½ 28-32-15
Mrs. R. Johnson
S.A. Script
Bob Holloway
Fred Trotter
Pat Schultz

NW 27-32-15
Richard Johnson

Roger & Wilma Doyle

■ 27-32-15
Alice Doyle
Roger & Wilma Doyle

SW 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger & Wilma Doyle

SE 27-32-15
Robert Johnson
Roger Doyle

N ½ 31-32-15
Lake (fraction)
John Kramer
Linda Bramfield

W ½ 32-32-15
Peter Knudson
Albert Miller
Wm. Fecho

E ½ 32-32-15
John Kellerman
W. Diegel

W ½ 33-32-15
L.A. Winan
Fred Trottier
Louis Grantham
F.C.F. Company

NE 33-32-15
Michael Renner
Pat Schultz

SE 33-32-15
George Johnson
W. Diegel

NW 34-32-15
Hjilmar Viste
Pat Schultz

NE 34-32-15
William Hentz
Walter Wiess

SW 34-32-15
J.H. Heyburn
Roger Doyle

SE 34-32-15
George Dean
Roger Doyle

W ½ 4-33-15
Charles Flanders
George Smith
Louis Welch
H. and M. Hall

■ 4-33-15
Fred Diegel
Dan Wiech

SW 4-33-15
Michael Renner
Pat Schultz

NW 3-33-15
Fred Diegel
Lester Diegel

NE 3-33-15
Jacob Diegel
Lester Diegel

SW 3-33-15
Gotlieb Renner
Charlie Renner
Pat Sloan

SE 3-33-15
Christian Reister
Lester Diegel

E ½ 6-33-15
Wallace Hunter
Clyde Coons
Albert Ludlow
Hicks Cole
Wallace Hunter
Bill Fecho

S ½ 10-33-15
Alexander Krisbl
D. and L. Weich

■ 8-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert

SW 8-33-15
George Banner
Stanley Peake
Harold Lund
Dan Weich

N ½ 8-33-15

Litke
Helmut & Ruby

N ½ 6-33-15
Nels Matson
Wallace Hunter
L.A. Winans
Ted Robinson
Martin Johnson
Harold Lund
Dan Weich

N ½ 9-33-15
Sydney Linley
Rudolph Weich
Dan Weich

SW 9-33-15
Rienhold Schultz
Dan Weich

SE 9-33-15
George Goldfinch
Lester Diegel

W ½ 5-33-15
Joe Northey
Tom McLelland
Ben Zeamer
Stanley Peake
Ervin Bossert

E ½ 5-33-15
Hans Lund
Ervin Bossert

THE CHAIN LAKE DISTRICT

The Chain Lakes school district contains high hills which offer a sweeping view of the surrounding country, and which slope down to a shallow valley dotted with small lakes. To the south-east is Dowling Lake, to the north-west is Farrell Lake, and between are numerous small bodies of water divided by narrow strips of land; hence the name, Chain Lakes.

One of the deepest of these smaller lakes was Clear Lake, spring-fed, and without the alkali of the others. It was a popular spot for swimming, and many community picnics were held there. In the early twenties the Clear Lake Community Club was formed; the committee included Hicks Cole, Hans, Harold and Dan Lund, George Banner, Bob Holloway, Lee and Cyril Doyle, with Mrs. George Banner acting as secretary. About 1924 they had two bath houses built on the shore of the lake, so that bathers could change in privacy. In 1927 a hall was built; dances were held there every week during its heydey.

Andy Alpaugh built the first motor boat to run on the lake, a small stern-wheeler powered by a Model T motor. Andy also operated the refreshment booth; but after some of the patrons questioned the quality of his apple cider, he gave up his concession, and Harry Poon took it over.

One summer an all-negro baseball team met the local players, who were no match for them, even after they pulled all their fielders. After the game the visitors, who were very musical, got out their instruments and put on an impromptu concert in the hall. The music was peppy, and some of the young people began to dance. George Banner put a stop to that; for it was a Sunday, and dancing was not considered a suitable activity for the Sabbath day.

Chain Lakes School 1926-27. Back Row, left to right: Mr. McPherson, Harry Johnson, Casper Johnson, Helen Trottier, Henry Trottier, Ted Ekiss. Middle Row: Connie Heptonstall, Mary Trottier, Willie Diegel, Charlie Johnson, Adolph Leippi, Richard Zeamer, Ewing Smith. Front Row: Louise Johnson, Vio[illegible] Johnson, Mary Diegel, Esther Michael, Walter Heptonstall, Gordon Ekiss, Bernard Zeamer.

At one picnic Tom Semson, one of the first people to swim across Clear Lake, won an inner tube as prize for the best swimmer of the day. Unfortunately, he didn't own a car.

To provide shade for the picnickers, the committee arranged to have trees planted. They grew quite well for a year or two, but in the early thirties the lake dried up and the alkali blowing off it smothered both trees and grass. One of the bath houses blew away, the hall was sold and removed, and the pier leading to the diving platform fell into ruins. Although there has been considerable water in Clear Lake in recent years, it has never regained its popularity as a summer resort, but many oldtimers like to remember it as the place where they saw their first boxing match and had their first airplane ride.

Chain Lakes school was built in 1912, on the line between Hans Lund's and Joe Northey's property. It was named Knudson, after a homesteading family, and the first trustees were Mr. Knudson, Mr. Flanders and Mr. [illegible]. Lund. Later, when school district boundaries were changed, the building was moved a mile east and renamed Chain Lakes.

The first teacher at this school was Miss Marian Lowe, who came straight from high school at Red Deer and taught on a special permit. She later became Mrs. Joe Northey. Other teachers, not necessarily in the order in which they taught were Marjorie Newcombe, Laura Deming (a niece of the Winans), Miss Bryden, Mrs. Evan McCandless, Ella Stambaugh, Lydia Lammle, Lenore Knopp, Miss Whittle, Bill McLaughlin, Lorne Clapperton, Bessie Armstrong, Florence Robertson, Francis Glazier (Mrs. [illegible]. McGuire), Francis Harvey (Mrs. C. Johnson), Mrs. Cook, Marion Slater, John Lenuik, Bert Griffin, also Olga Fleck.

Mrs. Hans Lund wrote the following article, published in the Hanna Herald of August 25, 1955:

"In the early days the schoolhouse was the centre of such activities as the customary Christmas parties, dances, card parties, U.F.A. meetings and telephone and political meetings. It was also the centre for religious services; Anglican, Lutheran, United and Roman Catholic services were held there, each given equal rights, tolerance being the motto of the early settlers. An air of easy informality existed at church services, so much so that on one occasion one homesteader lit up his pipe during the afternoon service. The minister made no comment, but some of the women scowled."

After Chain Lakes school was closed, the building was moved to the Louis Welch farm where it was used as a shop.

TEACHING AT CHAIN LAKES, By Marian Northey — In the spring of 1912 I, then Marian Lowe, went out to a school about fourteen miles north of Craigmyle to teach. This was a new school built on two acres; one acre donated by Joe Northey and one acre by Hans Lund. They had gone out there in 1908. This was my first school; I taught grades one, two, three and eight. There were four nationalities represented, a happy experience, and wonderful children. Even in 1912, the eighth graders had to write exams from the Department of Education in Edmonton. School was from June the first to December twentieth. We had church services once a month on Sunday, after the first year. So much for the school.

Chain Lakes School. First Row, left to right: Mrs. Northey (Teacher), Lucy Wiese, Anna Lund, Ruth Cob, Reinhold Diegel, 4 unknown (believed Renners), Paul Knudson. Second Row: Marion Knudson, Alice Knudson, two Renner girls, Gladys Knudson, Ida Banner, Dan Lund.

Mrs. Banner, Mrs. Winans, Mrs. Northey

At the end of my second year, Joe Northey and I were married.

The whole country was planted to wheat. Many had their own flour after the flour mill was opened in Hanna. They would make a trip for that alone. Most of the time our wheat was hauled to Craigmyle. At this time most of the farmers had one half their acreage sowed to wheat and the other half summer fallowed for next year's crop.

Near us was a Chain of Lakes stretching from north to south, but as they were alkaline they were not much use for pleasure. In the fall it was easy to shoot the mallards as they flew from grainfields to the lakes.

Although we were some distance from town we drove all over to dances and entertainments; in the summer and fall in buggies and in the winter in sleighs. Some of the dances were interesting as newly arrived Scotch people were clever dancers.

As I am eighty-four years old I cannot remember many names. We left the ranch in 1920, went to Red Deer and in 1922 came down to the States.

THE KNUDSONS, By Marian Knudson Kalenith and Gladys Knudson Schumacker — Peter Christian Knudson was born in Denmark in 1856. With his wife Mary, and six children, he left Ellendale, North Dakota in 1910 to come to Alberta. We had heard so much about sunny Alberta. We travelled by train, stopping at North Portal to have everything checked before we crossed the line; then went on to Gadsby where we rented a house to spend the winter and to go to school. Art, the oldest son, worked at a hardware store; John, Alice and Marian went to school; Gladys was too young.

The first week in May we left by wagon for the homestead. It was snowing and we got as far as Mr. Shetberg's and spent the night there, continuing our journey in the morning. We lived in two tents while Joe Northey and Hans Lund built our house. The lumber had to be hauled from Gadsby. My father bought four oxen to cultivate the land.

We got our mail at Townsend's, four miles away, but later Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Winans had a sort of sub-post office in their home . . . anyone who was at the main post office brought all the neighbors' mail and left it there . . . and that was within walking distance of our place. How we used to look forward to the big rolls of funny papers which our aunt in the States sent to us!

A school named Knudson was built across the road from our place, so close that we could go home for lunch. Later it was moved about a mile east, and renamed Chain Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Knudson (second wife)

Mother died in 1912, and we had housekeepers until Dad married Euphemia Currie in 1917.

Arthur joined the army in 1914, served overseas for four years and was wounded. After his return he worked in coal mines and settled in Canmore where he was pit boss. He married and had five children; both he and his wife are now deceased.

John joined the American army, served six years, married and had two children. He still lives in Washington.

Paul is in Ponoka.

Marian married Alex Kalenith and lived in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler. They had five children. Marian is now widowed.

Alice was a dressmaker in Calgary for many years. She married Alfred Hart and they have two daughters.

Gladys became a school teacher and taught in ungraded country schools for eight years before marrying Louis Schumacker of Drumheller. They have three children.

Peter Knudson moved to Calgary where he died in 1933.

The Knudson Family. Back Row, left to right: Art, John, Paul. Middle Row: Marian, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Knudson, Alice and Gladys.

HANS C. LUND, By Mary Lund Selski — My Father, Hans C. Lund, was born in Jels, Denmark in 1882. He Immigrated to Red Deer, Alberta in 1901 to the home of his uncle, Hans Lund, who was the father of Nick Lund, a pioneer of the Hanna district. His first winter in Canada he worked in a lumber camp near Red Deer and with the help of his cousins learned the English language — which he learned almost perfectly.

Back Row, left to right: Hawtry Goldfinch, Mrs. George Banner, George Banner, Hans Lund, Sydney Linley, Mrs. Bill Banner, Bill Banner, Ida Banner. Front Row: Leonard Molden, Myrtle Molden in front and Lillian Banner.

Then he took up his trade as a carpenter, which he had learned in the old country. He worked for various contractors and built houses in Red Deer, Pine Lake, Innisfail and Edmonton and area.

In 1908 he homesteaded in what was to become the Chain Lakes District. In 1910 he helped build the Chain Lakes School, but ■ that time it was located between his homestead and that of Joe Northey. In the year 1912 it was moved about a half mile east of his homestead.

Hans returned to Denmark three times, in 1909, 1910 and 1921.

On March the fourteenth, 1922, he married Edna Peake in Swinton, Lancashire, England.

I was born June twenty-sixth, 1923 in the Hanna Hospital and my sister, Edna was born November the eighteenth, 1924. I started school in 1929. Mrs. M.D. Cook was my first teacher.

Hans and Edna Lund were always active in community affairs. They belonged to the Alberta Wheat Pool, the U.F.A. and took part in all endeavours for the Chain Lakes area. My Father was also one of the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club helping with the building of the Hall, bath houses, etc. With the help of George Banner he always ran the water sports at the Clear Lake picnic.

Many of our Christmases were spent at the home of the George Banners and there was always a house full. We certainly had some wonderful times there. We went through some very hard times in the thirties but I never remember being unhappy; we had so many good neighbors and everyone was always willing to help one another.

My Father sold the farm in the early fifties to Ervin Bossert, a fine young man, who has made the old homestead a lovely farm.

My parents bought a home in Hanna and became active in affairs in Hanna. My Father resumed his trade as a carpenter, took up curling and various activities in town.

My Mother was on the Hanna Hospital Board for many years. She also belonged to the Eastern Star, Hospital Auxiliary and took a keen interest in community affairs.

My Father passed away December seventeenth, 1963 and my Mother on February twenty-sixth, 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson

THE CHARLEY and THERESA JOHNSON FAMILY, By Louise Johnson Cook — In 1916, my father, Charley Johnson came from Washburn, North Dakota to the Chain Lakes District, where he bought the farm of Gottlieb Rennet. My mother and six children followed later. When mother arrived she moved into a small sod house where it rained inside as much as outside. She would tell how she kept the light on all night because the bed bugs were so bad. On May the twenty-fifth, 1916, shortly after their arrival, Charles (Chuck) was born in the sod house. A midwife, Mrs. Sexsmith, attended the birth.

My father had a house built that summer by Tom Symington, an early settler in the Scapa district. The lumber for the house was hauled by wagon from Craigmyle, a distance of about eighteen miles. The original house is still much as it was then and was occupied until last year.

In 1918, "I" (Louise) was born and in 1920 Violet was born. This brought the

family to nine. Mrs. Sexsmith attended at the births. We [redacted] attended Chain Lakes School. Six of us received all our education there. Mrs. M.D. Cook taught for eight years. She was a dedicated teacher. Many times during the thirties she would not be paid for months at a time and the salary was very little. She taught every grade from beginners to grade eleven.

The school served many purposes. During the summer months church was held there. A United Church student minister held services and conducted Sunday School. He travelled on horseback and also held services in Endiang, Scapa and Chain Lakes. The Reverend H.E. Scallon, an Anglican Missionary Minister, also held services and Holy Communion when he travelled through the community. He travelled by team in a top buggy. He was very impressive in his black robe and black beard. I remember my mother telling of the Reverend Scallon baptizing Charlie. That was in 1917.

Church picnic at Clear Lake. Back Row, left to right: Bob Holloway, Edith Smith, George Banner, Irene Smith, Mrs. George Smith, Sid Holloway, Mrs. G. Banner. Front Row: Mrs. Charley Johnson, Louise Johnson, Ida Banner.

The school also served as a community centre, where meetings and dances were held. Louis and Harry played for dances in the schools and community halls throughout the district. Louis played the violin and Harry the guitar.

My father served on the school board in the twenties with George Smith and Fred Ekiss. In later years he was on the board with Hans Lund and Louis Doyle.

In February 1941 Martin and Charlie volunteered their services in the Canadian Army. Martin served in Canada. Charlie served on Active Duty with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He served overseas from September 1941 until his return home in November 1945.

Father passed away in 1947 at the age of seventy-one and mother in 1972 at the age of eighty-six.

Mother's great pride was her family. She lived to see twenty-five grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

Louis was married to Bessie Robinson. He is a widower, and lives at Salmon Arm, B.C.

Edna married Elmer Tillotson of Delia, Alberta. They had two sons and three daughters. Edna passed away in 1970.

Martin married Lillian Morris and has two sons. They live in Medicine Hat.

Mabel passed away in 1932.

Harry was married to Eleanor Grantham. They had two sons and three daughters. He passed away in 1969.

Casper was married to Lila Staub who died in 1961. They had three sons. He has re-married and now resides in Mission, B.C.

Charlie (Chuck) married Frances Harvey. They have five sons and one daughter. They make their home in Hanna.

Louise married Fred Cook. They have one daughter and live in Hanna.

Violet was married to Henry Trottier. They had two sons and two daughters. She is now Mrs. Frank Dobrosky and lives in Oyen, Alberta.

Some of the Michael Family. Fred, Clarence, Mr. Michael, Ted, Mrs. Michael, Esther.

THE HENRY MICHAEL FAMILY, By Ruby Hausher — Mrs. Henry Michael was a sister of Mrs. Steinbrecker, and the two ladies worked in a cigar factory in Stettler before coming to this area. They had come to Canada from Colorado in 1912; the Michael family homesteaded in the Wiese district and later moved to the Chain Lakes area.

There were six children in the family; Ted lives in Vancouver. He was married to Elizabeth Morasch and had one daughter, Marie.

Fred married Anne Hagen and had one son. Clarence married and had two daughters and one son.

Molly died in the sixties. She married Mike Kary of Hemaruka and had two girls and one boy.

Marie, who married Sig Heffman, had two sons and a daughter. She was killed in an accident at Three Hills.

Esther, Mrs. Fraser, has two sons. She lives in Edmonton.

The family left this district and moved to Stettler, where Mr. Michael died. Mrs. Michael then went to Donalda where she worked on a farm. She died in 1947.

THE DOYLE FAMILY, By Bill Doyle — No history of the area would be complete without mention of the Doyles — Cyril, Lee and Lou, who were early residents of the Dowling District. My father, Lou, the youngest of a family of six, was born in Tignish, P.E.I. Mrs. Doyle, who had been widowed shortly before Lou was born, moved her young family to Rumford Falls, Maine, where she taught school and raised her family. It was in Maine that Lou learned his basics of baseball, a sport in which he excelled in later years.

In his late teens, Lou immigrated to Canada to join his uncle Jerome Herington, who had come west to raise horses on the north shore of Dowling Lake. He was followed afterward by his brothers, Cyril and Lee.

The First World War interrupted the lives of many of the young men in the district. Lou, while still in his teens, joined the Canadian Forces. He served with distinction, overseas on the Western Front, with the First Battalion — Royal Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He was followed to service by Cyril and Lee.

After the Armistice, the Doyles returned to Dowling district where they took up a homestead, bought Hudson's Bay land and began farming and ranching.

They were joined briefly during the early twenties by their mother and three sisters — Mercedes, Bernadette and Kathleen. The West, however proved too

much for the ladies and they returned to the United States, where they made their home in Boston.

As the district settled into the roaring twenties, the Doyle boys played an important role in community life. Lee took an active part in the Clear Lake Community Association, helping to turn the barren prairie lake into a popular sporting and resort area. Baseball rivalry hit its peak at this time as Craigmyle, Hanna, Drumheller and farther points vied to have the top ball club. What echoes of the cheers can be heard by the old timers! — and the names come back over the years — George Murray, Dodger Lewis, Lou Doyle, Bill McCoy, Homer Butts. How good were they? Well, we'll never know, but Dodger Lewis and Lou Doyle were invited to training camp with the old Brooklyn Dodgers, and more than one old timer can recall Lou's great home-run hitting. To quote one, "Lou tore a hell of a lot of shingles off the old club house at Clear Lake."

But life was more than baseball; there was the business of farming, community and family life. While Lee remained the eligible bachelor, cutting a handsome figure with his hair chaparrels, sporty saddle and fine riding horses, Cyril and Lou chose marriage and family.

As the community became more settled, the Doyles took an active role in the development of the Chain Lakes School District, the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company and the United Farmers of Alberta.

During the late thirties Cyril, who had married the former Lucy Wiess, sold his holdings and moved to Fort Langley, B.C. Lou and Lee remained in the Dowling district until their deaths, proud of their community and their Irish heritage.

Lee Doyle, Edna Lund, George Banner, Mary Lund, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Banner, Ida Grosse

LEE DOYLE — Lee Doyle was born in Prince Edward Island, and came to Alberta to take up a homestead in 1914. He was one of the first trustees of Chain Lakes school, and was always interested in the development of his community. He acted as road foreman when Andy Hanson was councillor, and often drove twelve head of horses on the road grader. He tried to achieve a higher standard of development for the area in which he lived, and gave fully of himself in every way possible to attain these objectives. He was among the group who decided to erect a community hall at Clear Lake, and was convener of the horse races at the picnics there.

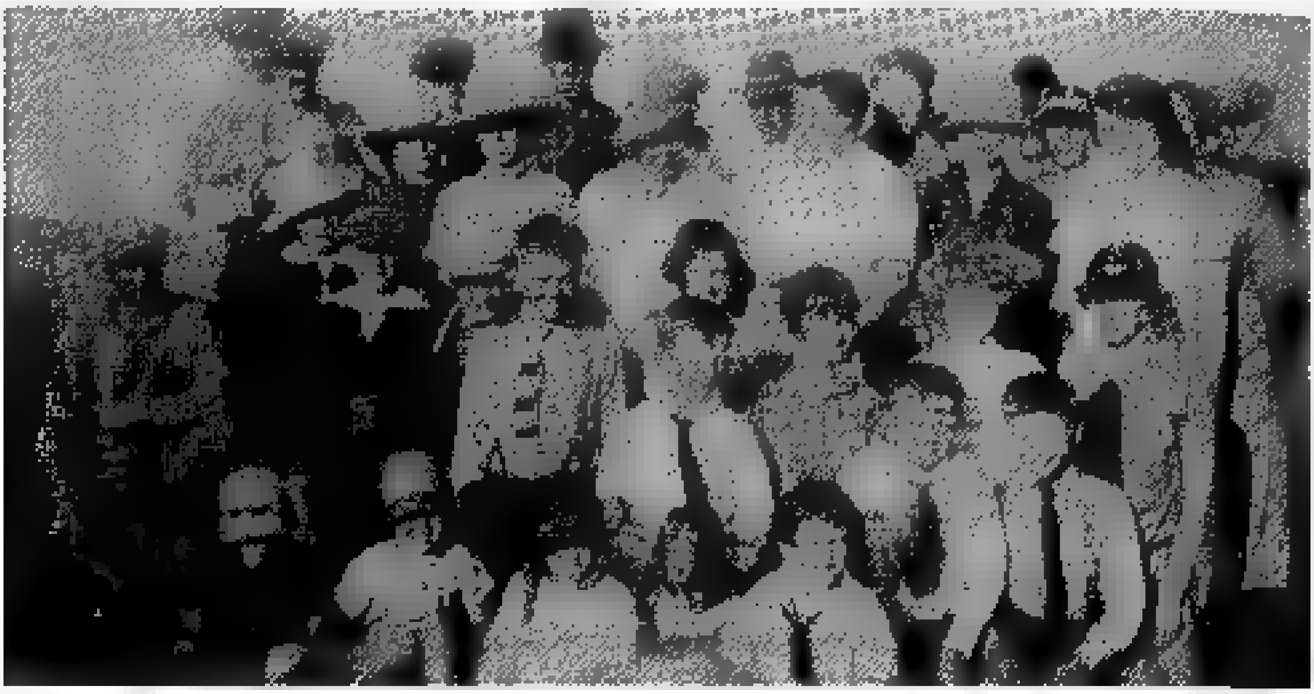
With true pioneer courage he managed to build up his farming operations, even when drought meant that yields were low. He built a shack when he first came to the homestead, later building a larger house. When he and Andy Hanson were digging the basement for the new house, they were hampered by a large rock which was in their way. Mr. Hanson suggested that they put a stick of dynamite on top of it; Lee thought it would do more good underneath. They lit the fuse, and up came the rock, landing on the chicken coop. The chicken house repaired and the basement dug, up went the new house; but Lee always laughed about how he should have listened to Andy Hanson.

Lee's mother, Mrs. Alice Doyle, kept house for him; and as the road to Dowling went right through their yard, many people stopped to visit this friendly and charming lady. When she left, Joe Fischer became almost a fixture at Lee's.

He was supposed to be the cook, and that was when the fun and the frustration started. In farwell, Joe would always say, "I wish you lots of pleasure."

Lee Doyle was missed by young and old alike when he passed away in 1945.

CYRIL DOYLE — Cyril Doyle homesteaded in the Chain Lakes district in 1914 at the same time as his older brother Lee and his younger brother, Lou. He served in the army during World War I and after he returned to the district he married Lucy Wiese.



U.F.A. Picnic at Clear Lake. Cyril Doyle standing at left, George Banner, Lucy Doyle in front of George Banner.

Back Row, left to right: unknown, Nina Wiese, Cyril Doyle, Lucy Doyle, Ida Banner, Mrs. Banner, Miss Cameron. Second Row: Gordon and Norman Lund, Mrs. Ben Zeamer, Mrs. Hans Lund, Mrs. Johnson. Front Row: unknown, Leona Zeamer, Mary Lund, Edna Lund.

The couple managed to achieve a good living by milking cows and raising chickens. Lucy was noted for her hospitality and was a very good cook; a visitor always got a good meal at their table. They both gave freely of themselves to help their neighbors or the community. They were one of the first in the country to have a 1928 Essex car, and were very proud of it.

Cyril was an outstanding pitcher for the Clear Lake Community Ball Club; with Andy Hanson on first base, batters were put out in short order.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were blessed with three children while they lived in Alberta. In 1936 they had a sale and moved to Langley, B.C. where they were in the dairy business for several years. Later they retired there, where Lucy passed away in 1967. Cyril continued to make his home there, and every year travelled to Stony Plain to visit his daughter, Lucille Cox. It was during one of these visits that he passed away very suddenly in February, 1977.

Clarence, their oldest son, resides in B.C. Their second Boy, Leslie, was killed in a truck accident in 1963.

LLOYD A. WINANS, By Austin Ludlow — L.A. Winans came with his wife from California and homesteaded the west half of 33-32-15. They farmed for many years, and had a threshing outfit in partnership with George Banner.

One time during the early years they were coming home with groceries during the winter when they were caught in a blizzard. Unable to travel further, they turned the horses loose, turned the sleigh box upside down, and spent the hours until the storm subsided underneath it. When the storm abated they righted the sleigh box, found the horses close by, hitched them up and continued on their way home.

As a convenience for the neighbors, they operated a sort of sub post office; any neighbor who happened to be [illegible] the post office at Watts brought out the mail for everyone in the area, and left it at the Winans' home. They were the only family to have a telephone after the majority of rural lines were removed during the depression years.

In 1934 the Winans returned to California, where they both passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Diegel, 1954

ARCHIE DIEGEL — I was born June 17, 1930 and grew up on my parents' farm five miles north-west of Dowling and six miles south-west of Scapa. I attended Chain Lakes school for nine years, then worked on my parents' farm. In 1951 they bought a house in Hanna and I batched until 1954 when I married Edna Doering. We lived on the farm for one year, then moved south-west of Hanna, but continued to farm the old place until I rented it to Lester Diegel in 1966. In 1969 I sold the land to Lester and bought land in the Hand Hills.

We have three children, Deborah who is working for AGT in Calgary, Bryne and Myles at home.

I farm, milk cows, raise cattle, chickens and hogs and have been driving a school bus for fifteen years. We are quite happy to be on the farm.

MR. and MRS. JACOB DIEGEL, By Marie Diegel Rosin — Dad was born March 14, 1894. My mother, Eva Schafer, was born May 7, 1894. They were married in South Dakota in 1916.

They had four sons and three daughters. Alvert and Esther are deceased.

Relatives and neighbors, gathering at Jacob and Eva Diegel in 1930's.

25th Wedding Anniversary 1941 Jacob and Eva Diegel

Willard married Hilda Ost. Their children are Lester, Charlotte, Gary and Glenda.

Marie Elizabeth married Anton Stotz. Their children were Shirley and Gerald. She was widowed in 1960 and is now Mrs. Rosin. Samuel married Marion Ost and had three children, Marvin, Stanley and Dwayne.

Irene married Walter Sieppert. Their children are Gloria, Darlene, Dale and Kathy.

Archie married Edna Doering. Their children are Deborah, Bryne and Myles.

Mom died in October, 1955, and Dad in September, 1959.

GEORGE SMITH, By Mrs. Grace Smith Druery — Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in Toronto in 1905, and came to Innisfail, Alberta the same year with a freight car of farm implements, livestock and household furniture. From there they came to the Craigmyle district and freighted their possessions down from Innisfail. While moving, the driver of one wagon fell asleep. The horses ran away and the mirrors of Mrs. Smith's sideboard were broken. After arriving in Craigmyle district, the children attended Orlando School. Later they moved to the Chain Lakes district one mile north of the school. In 1931 they retired and moved to Calgary.

Back Row, left to right: George Banner, Mrs. Smith, George Smith, Ida Banner. Front Row: Ruth Smith, Edith Smith, Irene Smith, Ewing Smith, Lillian Banner.

Mr. Smith who was born in Wales in 1876, passed away in 1958. Mrs. Smith was born in Scotland in 1874 and passed away in 1962. They were survived by four daughters, Grace Drury of Toronto, Edith Rodburne of Calgary, Ruth Witt of Ponoka, Irene Robbins of Calgary; and one son, Ewing of Blind Bay, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Symington, Sarah, Marion, Margaret (baby)

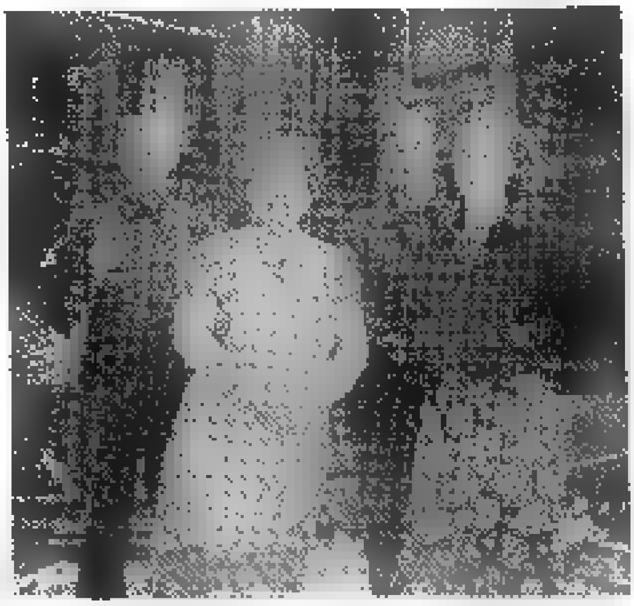
MR. and MRS. SYDNEY LINLEY, from information supplied by Ida Grosse and Mrs. A.B. Henson — Sydney Linley had served with the Imperial Army in campaigns in India, the Sudan and South Africa before he and his wife emigrated from Lancashire, England, to homestead the NW 9-33-15. They built a barn and a fairly large house there. Mrs. Linley, who always wore a little dust cap, was very fond of chickens and always managed to keep them laying during the winter, and the neighbors came to depend on her for their winter egg supply.

Anyone who liked a nice cup of tea or a glass of rhubarb or dandelion wine were welcome whenever they dropped in. Mrs. Linley always kept the wine under the bed while it worked, then stored it in the basement for three years before serving it. Those who tasted it said that it was of the highest quality.

Sydney joined the Canadian army during the first World War, and while he was away she carried on at home, looking after her cows and chickens; Harold Lund and Reinholt Schultz helped her with the field work. She used to sit on an apple box on the stoneboat and drive a single horse about four miles to get the mail -she would be so disappointed when there was no letter from her husband.

When Sydney returned from overseas, they planted a long row of pines, and a shelter belt of other trees, which have grown into a wonderful memorial for them.

In 1937 the Linleys moved to Calgary, and after renting the land to Arnold Arndt for a couple of years, sold it to Rudolph Weich. It is now owned by Dan Weich.



Ben Zeamer, Mrs. Zeamer, Bernard, Leona, 1940.

THE BEN ZEAMER FAMILY, By Richard Zeamer — My parents and I came to Calgary from Missouri in 1916, but only stayed a few months and then went back to the States. In May 1916 my brother Bernhard was born, and later that year we moved to the Craigmyle district where we stayed for five years. My sister Leona was born there in 1922.

In 1923 we moved to the Keen farm; my dad farmed and hauled rocks. In harvest time he would ride a mule down to the Ekiss place and pitch bundles all day; ride back at night to milk the cow, and the next morning would be away again, riding bareback.

In 1924 we moved to the Northey farm about four miles south and that fall my

brother and I started school at Chain Lakes. We got our mail and supplies at Hanna, went to picnics at Clear Lake, and walked with Cappie Johnson to dances at Annasheim.

My parents, brother and sister moved to Parson, B.C. in the fall of 1936. Leone married Walter Larsen and has three children. Bernhard, who works on the C.P.R. in Calgary, is married and has two girls. I live in Hanna.

MR. and MRS. JOHN KELLERMANN, By Ernie Lange — John Kellermann was born in Germany in 1874. Since he was handicapped from birth by not having full use of his right arm and leg, his parents decided that he should become a tailor following his school years. He worked at this in Germany until 1906 when he emigrated to London, England where he spent one year. In 1907 he came to Edmonton where he followed his trade until 1911. In 1911 he moved to Stettler and from there to Dowling Lake where he took a homestead.

John Kellermann

Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann

In 1912 he hauled lumber from Castor with a team of oxen for some of the first buildings in the new town of Hanna.

Miss Agathe Geisler came to Alberta in 1912 to join her sister Mrs. Robert Lange. Later the same year she met and was married to John Kellermann, the wedding taking place in Lange's sod house.

The couple spent one winter in Hanna where Mr. Kellermann opened a small tailor shop. This however proved unsuccessful since there was not enough business in the small community for them to exist. They then settled down on the farm where they lived until Mr. Kellermann's death [illegible] 1934.

Mrs. Kellermann continued to reside on the farm until 1935 when she married George Kroll in the Watts district. They lived on his farm until 1939 when they retired to Hanna where Mrs. Kellermann passed away in 1950.

OTTO GEISLER — Since Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann were not blessed with children they decided to bring Mrs. Kellermann's nephew over from Germany. Otto Geisler arrived in 1926 and worked on the farm with his uncle. This venture was short lived since Otto met and married Miss Elsie Welch one year later. The couple then moved to Hanna where Otto worked for the C.N.R. The marriage, however, soon ended in divorce. Otto spent most of his years in Saskatchewan doing any work that was available, as well as riding freight trains during the years of the depression. Following the death of his father in 1936 his mother paid his fare back to Germany, where he took over his father's store.

HENRY GLUESING — In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann once more tried to add a relative to their family. This time they turned to Mr. Kellermann's nephew and in July 1928 sixteen-year-old Henry Gluesing came to live with them. He worked faithfully with his uncle until 1933 when he decided to go north to trap. This proved to be the end of his farming days with the Kellermanns. When trapping didn't prove to be too successful he turned first to mining and then to oil exploration and eventually worked his way up to the position of Diamond Driller at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

PAULINE ENGEL — Pauline Engel came to Alberta from Europe with her parents in 1928. In 1929 she came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Kellermann. She was a member of the Kellermann home and attended Chain Lakes School until 1931, when she rejoined her family in the Endiang district.

WALLACE HUNTER, By Austin Ludlow — Wallace Hunter homesteaded about 1910 on 6-33-15. He was a hard worker and never set stakes to strike out a land; he figured it all had to be plowed. I remember one of his horses wading across a dry lake in the mud with what was left of his harness. That was before his horses found out they were supposed to stay on the job.

We Ludlows moved in with Uncle Wallace the summer of 1914. He had lots of room. His house was ten feet by fourteen feet. There were just five of us, including the dog. I think that was the summer Dad started working for J.A. Borel and Jim Smith. He travelled a Percheron Stallion imported from France. He rode a horse he called Wee Donald. Once Mother cooked a kettle of figs and set them out on a shelf to cool. Wee Donald ate them.

That winter Dad and Clyde Wooden worked in Kirkeby's coal mine. They drove a big gray horse on a stone boat. Clyde and I would put on the boxing gloves and box. Clyde would be on his knees, as I was only five years old.

In 1915 we moved to our homestead. We spent several years there, good and bad, accumulating experience.

Back Row, left to right: Albert Smith, Hazel Smith, Austin Ludlow, June Smith, Margy Smith. Front Row: Cheryl Smith, Mrs. Ludlow, Susan Smith.

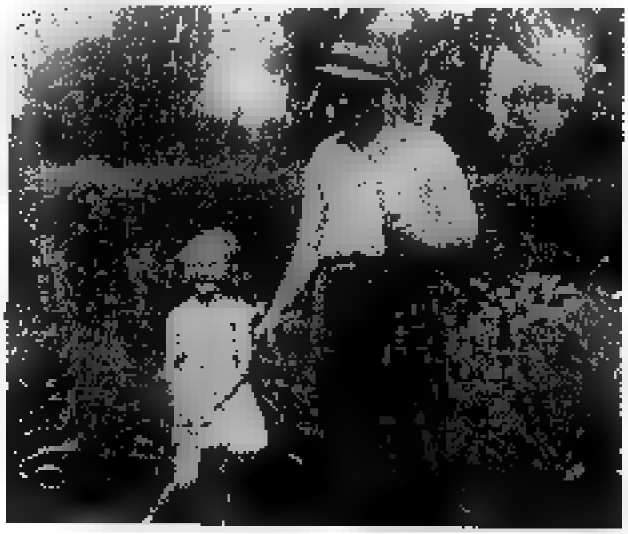
In 1930, Uncle Wallace wanted to go to the bush so we moved back to his place. By that time we had two of my sister's little girls, Hazel and June Coons, living with us. They started their education at Chain Lakes school. Their teacher was Mrs. Cook. She was Chain Lakes' teacher for several years in the thirties, some of the time without wages, just to keep the school going.

Bert Ludlow, his team and dog

In 1937 we moved north of Rimbey. In 1942 we came back to Halkirk for two years, then went to Erskine. The girls still live at Erskine. Hazel is Mrs. Dewey Smith and June is Mrs. Ray Smith. Dad left us in 1951 and Mother passed on in 1970.

I sold my place in Erskine and came back to Craigmyle to complete the circle. Wherever we lived we found good friends and neighbors but it's nice to be back home.

Wallace Hunter came back to his homestead in the early forties. He farmed with horses until 1965, when he rented his land to Lester Diegel. Wallace Hunter died in 1972.


Bob Holloway

ROBERT DENNIS HOLLOWAY, By Ida Grosse — Robert Holloway came out from England in 1912. He homesteaded in the Wiese district and worked out for several years, later selling his homestead. He joined the army in 1918. After the war he bought three quarter sections of land, two miles south of Chain Lakes School. After farming for several years he sold his holdings to Fred Trottier.

A confirmed bachelor, he was secretary of the Clear Lake Community Club for many years, he held a position with the Soldier Settlement Board for a few years, later moving to Montreal, where he and his younger brother operated an animal hospital. He passed away at the age of sixty-nine in Montreal.

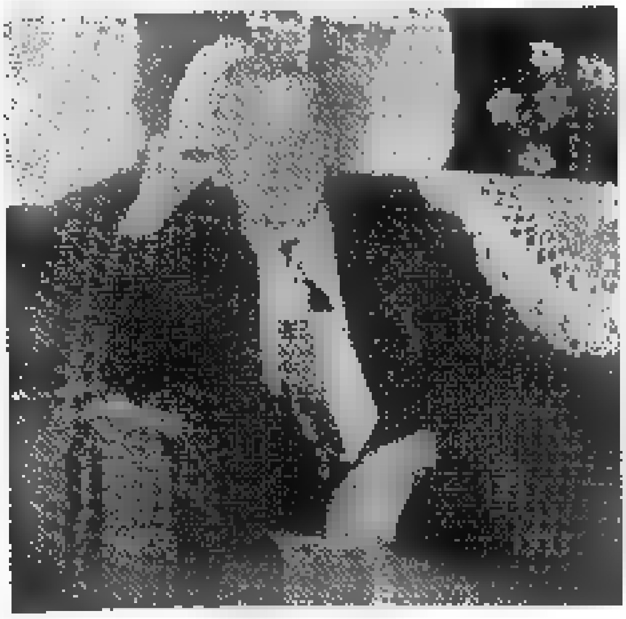
Syd Holloway at Guelph College

SYDNEY HAWTREY HOLLOWAY, By Ida Grosse — Sydney Holloway came out from an orphan's home in England in the year 1922 and made his home with his brother Robert and with Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He learned a bit about farming and worked for Mr. Fred Ekiss and Rufus McCuish, also worked with horses and a scraper building the railway through Dowling.

He went to Olds Agriculture College in 1924-1925; graduating from there he won a scholarship to Columbus, Ohio.

After graduating as a veterinarian he opened up his own business in Montreal with his brother Bob.

At the age of forty-three he decided to become a medical doctor. After leaving the east, he came to Didsbury to practise, later moving to Calgary where he now resides. He is married and has two daughters.



Fred Trottier Christmas 1957

FRED TROTTIER, By Helen Trottier Hogg — Fred Trottier was born in Quebec on December the twelfth, 1885. As a young man he joined the thousands of Eastern Canadians who were going west to open up the country. In the early 1900's he and his wife Jenny resided in Edmonton. They had [illegible] family of three children, [illegible] born in Edmonton; Henry Trottier who now lives in Calgary, Mary Miller also in Calgary and Helen Hogg of Stettler.

In 1912 Fred and his family took up a homestead in the Scapa district. It was here that his wife Jenny passed away in 1924. He then moved to the Dowling Lake district and purchased the Bob Holloway farm where he resided for many years before retiring to Hanna as a resident of the Hanna Senior Citizen Lodge. He passed away January nineteenth, 1970.

Mr. Trottier was a man with a great sense of humor. Anyone who came to his home never left hungry as he became a very good bachelor cook and his home was open to all.

STAN PEAKE, By Mary Lund Selski — Stanley immigrated to Canada from Lancashire, England in 1924, to the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Hans and Edna Lund. He worked for Nick Lund on the farm and also in the store at Watts.

He bought what was the Joe Northey place and farmed until the late fifties, selling the place to Ervin Bossert and retiring in Hanna.

Stan has always been very active in the Masons and Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Royal Canadian Legion and has enjoyed curling for many years.

REINHOLD SCHULTZ, By Mary Lund Selski — Reinhold Schultz came to Canada in 1910 to his uncle, Hans Lund. He stayed with my father and Nick Lund. He took up a homestead. He worked for various people, and also worked for a couple of winters in the C.N.R. shops in Hanna.

In 1915 he became seriously ill with pneumonia but thanks to the nursing of Ada Lund he recovered. In 1919, after the war, he returned to Denmark and married [illegible] girl there. Reiny and Karen had two children, Jens Carl and Inga. He owned a small shop which he operated until 1965. Reiny passed away in 1973 at the age of seventy-seven.

THE TRETTIN FAMILY, By Mrs. Susanne Trettin — In 1910 the Trettin family of Stettin, Germany decided to immigrate to Canada. Grandfather (Paul Sr.) accompanied by Robert Lange came first, filing on homesteads in the Scapa district. Grandfather's homestead quarter was southwest 15-33-15 and his pre-

Paul Trettin Sr.

emption was the quarter north of it. Mr. Lange homesteaded the quarter east of Grandfather's. Having worked in a furniture factory in Germany, Mr. Trettin was able to build his own furniture to furnish his one roomed shack.

By 1912 some of the rest of the family were able to come. Paul Jr. (my husband) who had been delivering milk and cream, and his mother, who ran a store, sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax in 1912. Bill Kading also came along. Somewhere on the trip across the ocean, their ship collided with a lumber ship, making it necessary for the passengers to be transferred to another boat. The combination of seasickness and the second hand aroma of sausage, heavily seasoned with garlic, which a lot of the passengers were so fond of, turned my husband against garlic, so he never liked me to use it in anything.

Emil, Paul's older brother, would have liked to come too, but his trip had to be postponed because the German government required young men of twenty to take army training, and Emil being nineteen at the time, had to remain in Germany. Because of the war he didn't hear from his parents until 1919. Emil was finally able to join his family in 1927. He stayed here a while, then went to Vancouver and Tacoma, where he spent the rest of his life at his trade of tailoring. Emil died in 1975 at the age of eighty-two. He was a nice man, a good uncle and brother to us.

Mrs. P. Trettin Sr. Homestead shack

Back here in the Chain Lakes district Paul was having the usual troubles of young men from foreign countries. He went to school a couple of winters at Hudson Bay and Chain Lakes schools to improve his English a little. One of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook.

Having no land of his own then, he and his father did some railroad work between Hanna and Nanton; they lived partly on rabbits for a change of diet. Once Paul caught a ride with Mr. Lange to Castor, looking for work. He went to Stettler, and being unable to land a job, he walked home, sleeping in strawstacks and dining on bird eggs and slough water. Being very shy and not so good in English, he knocked on one door to ask for a drink and when the lady opened the door he turned and went on his way. He stopped at Alex Kalenith's and rested. Alex was batching then.

Paul bought his own farm northeast 17-33-15 on October fourteenth 1921. He made the deal with William C. Stirling and Cyril N. Tingle. He paid two thousand dollars, some of it on time at seven per cent interest. Both Paul and his dad farmed with horses.

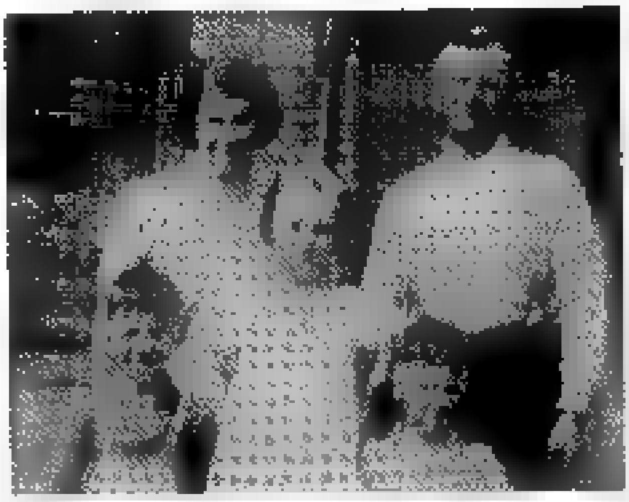
In 1930 Grandma Trettin passed away.

My folks came from Romania to settle in North Dakota in 1903, where I was

born in 1908 at a town called Butte. When the family first arrived, they lived under a wagon box for a month or so, while they were getting their sod shack made. That first winter the snow got very deep, and once a neighbor came to visit on horseback and rode right on the roof of the house. Someone hollered at him from the inside to get off.

We then moved to South Dakota for a while, then to Montana where Guy, the youngest one, was born in 1914. My father's name was Jacob Stotz and the sons and daughters names were Adam, Christ, Henry, Katie, John and Tony (identical twins), Susanna and Marie (identical twins) and Guy. When I started to school we walked a half mile to catch a horse-drawn covered wagon which had seats around the inside of the box. There were about ten passengers and we had six miles to go.

In 1927 we moved to Trochu and farmed for a year, then in 1928 we moved to Craigmyle district to a farm one mile south of Princeton school. My father died in 1931 and mother in 1945 and are both buried in Craigmyle.


Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trettin, Edward, Gertrude, Arnold

On June seventh, 1931 Paul and I were married. My name was Susanne Stotz. The marriage license was got in Craigmyle and we were married at my brother Chris Stotz's place north of town, the Reverend Wentzel officiating. Our attendants were Dave Schmidt and John Stotz, Pauline Suelzle and Marie Stotz.

Paul's father lived with us until his passing in 1940. Our first car was a Model T Ford bought sometime in the thirties, the next one was a Model A. Our three children were born in Hanna; Gertie, Mrs. Alder Cranton, who lives eight miles southwest in the Craigmyle area, was born in 1933. Edward, now in Edmonton was born in 1936, and Arnold, living at home with me, was born in 1938.

Paul made his first trip to visit Emil in 1950; he went by train and stayed a month. In 1960 I went too and we went by bus. In 1965 Edward and his wife took him to the States in their car, and in 1969 Earnest Lange took us for one more visit.

Over the years there were six wells on our land, five were dug by hand. For years we had a straw barn. The walls were wooden forms filled with straw, and the roof was made by laying branches on the walls and covering them with straw. This burned down in 1966, taking with it a couple of granaries, our chickens and lots of small things. The neighbors helped us build a new barn that same fall.

Paul suffered with heart trouble the last few years, and in December, 1969 he died in the Hanna Hospital, after having a heart attack, three days after his seventy-third birthday.

I am the only one of the Stotz family left now. I have lived on this place for forty-five years. In 1974 Arnold and I got a mobile home, so we are more comfortable. In 1975, Uncle Emil died and we drove to Tacoma to the funeral, passing through Montana near where we used to live. I have six grandchildren, all living in different parts of Alberta.

McLELLAN and IRONSIDE STORY, By Isabell McLellan Ironside — My Dad and Mother, Thomas and Mary McLellan left Ontario in 1918 and lived at Lethbridge, Cessford and Hanna before we moved to the Northey farm north of Watts. While there we met Scottie, now known to all as Bill Ironside. We lived there four years, then moved to Alhambra, and then nearer to Rocky Mountain House.

Bill Ironside left Scotland when he was a boy of twelve years, and lived at Watts where he worked for Wallace, Dan and Norman Hunter. They used to thresh for different farmers. After four or five years he went to work at Cluny hauling grain for Hank Willard; one of the men who drove a chuck wagon at the Calgary Stampede. Then he got itchy feet and went to Penticton B.C. for a few years, and then came back to Calgary where I met him again.

We were married in June, 1936. We have lived on this farm south of Rocky Mountain House for over twenty-eight years now. We have four children. Our three boys all live near Rocky Mountain House; they are married with families. Our only girl and her husband and daughter live in Edmonton.

THE McGUIRE FAMILY, By Frances McGuire — James Lenor McGuire homesteaded the northeast of 19-32-15 in July 1911, and claimed adjoining quarter to the south as a pre-emption. While proving up on the land, he often rode horseback from Calgary where his wife and young family resided. In 1914 he joined the Canadian Army and served overseas with the Tenth Battalion, taking part in the battles at Ypres and Vimy Ridge. After the war he returned to the Craigmyle district with his wife Mary, daughter Pat and sons Ross and Lee. They lived temporarily at the Tingle place. Lee died at an early age and is buried at Dowling Lake Cemetery.

Jim hauled lumber by team from Halkirk to build a barn on the homestead. For two years following its completion, community dances were held in this building. The family lived in a granary until the house was completed in 1921.

Jim McGuire played ball for the Clear Lake and Craigmyle teams and served as a trustee for Dowling Lake School. His brother Bruce and sister Zella came from Ontario and remained in the area for some time before going back to the east. Bruce worked in the neighborhood and Zella McGuire was the first teacher at Princeton School. Frances McGuire, Ross's wife, was Princeton's last teacher.

Jim and his family moved to Calgary in 1924. Jim's wife Mary, and the two children Pat and Ross returned to the farm in 1932, remaining for two years. Pat married at this time and had a son, who is now a lawyer in Edmonton.

James McGuire died in the Keith Sanitorium on February twenty-eighth, 1946, after battling tuberculosis for many years. His wife Mary made her home with Pat and her husband. She passed away in Calgary on December the twenty-first, 1956.

Pat and her second husband, Ted Fitch and daughter Patricia Anne moved to the United States in 1957. Pat died in Layfayette, California in July 1968. Her daughter still resides in California.

In 1938 Ross began farming his father's homestead. In 1944 he married Frances Glazier, who had been teaching at Chain Lakes School and prior to that at St. George. Frances continued teaching at Annasheim, Lillico and Princeton before joining the staff of the Craigmyle School.

Ross and Frances had three children; their two sons are married and farming in the Craigmyle area. James and Marlene have one son and Keith and Marj have two daughters. Their daughter Lorraine is married to Douglas Reiter and presently resides in Edmonton.

The homestead was sold to the late John Bramfield.

J. H. HEPBURN, By Austin Ludlow — Mr. Hepburn homesteaded on SW 34-32-15 in 1912. The same year he and Alfred Kirkeby were digging a well. They had gone down about sixteen feet when they stopped for dinner, leaving the pick and shovel in the well. After dinner Alfred lowered Mr. Hepburn into the well to get the

tools. Mr. Hepburn called to Alfred to hurry and pull him up as there was gas down there. Alfred got him nearly to the top when Mr. Hepburn passed out, lost his grip, fell and broke his neck.

WILLIAM FECHO, By May Welch Fecho — William Fecho was born in Poland and came to Canada as a young man. He and I, the former May Welch, were married in 1932 and rented the place known as the Michael farm from F.A. Mathe. We had very little machinery, and didn't get very good crops because of the drought and dust storms, but we always managed to get by.

In 1939 we rented the farm where Millers used to live, and bought our first steel-wheeled tractor. We also got more and better machinery, which made a great improvement in our farming. We raised our own vegetables, and milked a lot of cows to earn enough money for the food and other things we had to buy.

Our children attended Chain Lakes school, driving in the winter time, but having to walk the three miles in the spring, summer and fall because the horses were needed on the farm. The people of the Chain Lakes district were fortunate that their school never had to close because of lack of teachers; if a teacher was not available, a supervisor was hired and correspondence lessons were used.

We had eight children, six boys and two girls. One of our sons was killed by a horse when he was nine years old.

Reinhold, the oldest, married Frieda Nill. They have six children and live at Sherwood Park.

Alfred and his son Mark are living in Hanna.

Lloyd and his wife Rose live in Edmonton.

Lillian married Dan Welch. They have four children, and farm in the Scapa district.

Ben and Maxine, nee Johnson, live in Hanna. They have two children.

Lawrence married Donna Regner. They and their three children live in Hanna.

Marlene married Bart Bye. They have two children and are living in Jasper.

Bill and I are semi-retired, and have been living in Hanna for a number of years.

ERVIN SCHULTZ — I was born in Michigan in 1910, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz. I grew up in the Annasheim district and attended school there; then worked in the Kirkeby and Edwards coal mines, and in mines in Drumheller.

In 1942 I married Tillie Schottsneider. I worked on the section at Scapa, Hanna and Anaconda until 1943 when I bought a farm at Byemoor. In 1948 we bought the store at Leo and my family and I operated it until 1955 when I bought the Charlie Johnson farm in the Chain Lakes district. We farmed there for twenty years, then retired to Hanna.

We had three children. Pat, born in 1947, farms the home place. Jim lives on the Schottsneider farm; he was born in 1945. Our only daughter, Dorothy, was born in 1955. She lives at Entwistle.

THE DAN WELCH FAMILY, By Lillian Fecho Welch — Dan came to the Scapa district as a young boy, and took all his schooling at the Springwater school north of Delia. He and I were married in 1955 and lived in the same yard as Dan's folks for a number of years, doing most of the farming. We bought the farm in 1965 and Dan's parents moved to Calgary. We have four children, Gloria, who lives in Calgary, and Bryan, Rick and Bonnie at home.

Our children take their schooling in Hanna. A bus picks them up at the gate and there are days when they complain about having to ride a bus. I remember

when my brothers and I were going to school, we walked and ran the three miles each way, and sometimes had a race to see who could get home first. My brother Benny was usually in the lead. Occasionally a neighbor who was going that way would stop his horses and give us a ride in his lumber wagon.

So I would like to say to those who are tired of riding a school bus, "Try running; it's good for you."

That's what our folks used to tell us.

JOHN STEPHEN KRAMER — was a homesteader and carpenter. He helped build Knudson's first house.

NELS MATSON — came to Canada from Sweden. He bought the north half of 6-33-15 from Andy Alpaugh, and farmed for a few years.

CHARLES R. FLANDERS — came to the Chain Lakes district in the early years. He was very active in church work and used to teach Sunday school to the children. He had one son, Gene.

SYDNEY FREEMONT CRANDLE — homesteaded and built a nice little house with a sign on the door, 'Crandle Lodge'. It was a place for young people to gather, as he loved boxing and they joined in. After proving up he moved to B.C. The house was sold to Vistes and Crantons bought the land.

MITCHELL RENNER — homesteaded the farm that Charlie Johnson eventually bought. They had a fairly large sod house and their children attended Chain Lakes school.

Sod house of family of Renners. Lutheran Church services were often held here before a church was built.

HERMAN STEEN — homesteaded the south half of 19-32-15. He was a married man with a family. One little girl died of gopher poison and is buried in the corner of their land. Little else is known about them.

JEROME HARRINGTON — filed on a homestead and scrip in 1906. He came from Prince Edward Island and was a brother of Mrs. Alice Doyle. He was a great lover of horses and raised Percherons. He died in Calgary in 1922.

CHRIST SCHMIDT, By Helen Schmidt — Christ Schmidt was born February 7, 1907, at Butte, North Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Simon and Marie Schmidt, in 1910. They took a homestead north of Watts in the Dowling Lake area.

Christ went to Dowling Lake School whenever the school was in operation. E.K. Neff was one of the teachers. Some of the other children attending Dowling Lake at that time were Pauline, Martin and Bertha Siezle; Philip and Ella Howard, Lorraine Hartt and Antonia Hoffman.

In 1930 he married Lilly Graumann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Graumann, early settlers of the Hanna area. They farmed for several years on what was known as the Ekiss place in the Dowling area. They were not making much at farming so they had an auction sale and moved to Hanna in 1950. Christ was employed by the C.N.R. until he retired.

They had six children, Allen of Duchess, Raymond of Ponoka, Freda Knauft of Cereal. Ernie was killed in 1970; Elmer and Norman of Calgary.

Christ passed away in August, 1973. Lilly lives in a nursing home at Ponoka.

Pete Ruppert with friends Willard and Sam Diegel

THE WILLIARD DIEGEL FAMILY, By Hilda Ost Diegel — I was born in Romania in 1921. I came to Hanna in October, 1927 with my parents. When we arrived in Hanna by C.N.R., the Lutheran Church minister, Pastor Bietsch, met us and took us to his home until we found a place to stay. We then went to Grandpa Bosserts' where Albert Baes' farm is now. We stayed with them for a short while, then moved south on the Stubb's place for about a year.

In 1929, dad rented the Burrow place north of Hanna on the snake trail; we lived here till 1936. Here I attended my first school, Silver Valley. The only teachers I can recall are: Faye Tillotson, Amanda Walli and Minnie Wise. I remember the hardships my mother and dad experienced while on this farm; dust storms, drought, water problems; crops were poor, we lost one cow after another; grasshoppers and sawflies. Mother was sick and was hospitalized and I missed a lot of school.

In 1936 we moved west to the Steeves farm. My brother Chris and I went out working wherever we were needed. In 1941 my parents moved south to the Raessler farm. Three of us girls, Maria, Emma and I were confirmed in the German United Church at Hanna in August, 1941. The Lutheran Church also had a class getting confirmed at the same time. Here I met Irene Diegel and her brother Williard. Romance soon began and we were married November 2, 1942.

Williard was born at Dowling on January 15, 1917. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Diegel of Dowling. We were married by Reverend Heur in a sod house on the farm south of Watts where my folks lived. Williard, known as Bill had rented some land north of Dowling called the Bohlander place; here we made our home. I joined the Lutheran Church, St. Peter's, Scapa.

We lived on this farm for about a year, then rented the Kellermann place near Chain Lakes School, where my husband had gone to school. We bought this farm from Ernest Lange in 1958. There was a strong spring on this place when we first

rented the farm. It finally dried up and we had to drill two wells. Two years ago, after being dry for eighteen years, the spring started to run again.

We built a new house on this farm in 1964.

Williard and I were blessed with four children; two sons and two daughters, Lester born in 1944, Scharlotte in 1949, Gerry in 1951 and Glenda in 1953.

Lester married Debborah Robinson of Gadsby in 1969. They have two sons, Kalvin and Wylie, and are residing on the home farm north of Watts.

Scharlotte married Terry Robinson of Gadsby. They have two boys, Mark and Craig. They live on a farm. She is a nursing aide, employed at the Stettler Hospital.

Gerry married Amy Fuson of Hanna. They have a wee son Cory and live at Sheerness where he is employed at the coal mine.

Glenda, Mrs. Art Reuteman, is employed by Hanna Data Tax, and lives in Hanna.

My husband was not only a farmer, also was a great coyote hunter in his younger days, until he lost his trigger finger in a post pounder.

In 1971 I was asked by Pastor Conrad Knoch to organize a choir to sing at the fiftieth anniversary of St. Peter's at Scapa. I managed to get quite a few of the younger generation; some couldn't speak or read German but with a bit of courage and practise we managed very well. I stayed with the singing group for a couple of years, then we decided to ask Mrs. Cyril Unsworth to conduct and lead the choir as she was more capable. I still carried on with the German. At Christmas and Easter we sang at the Hanna Nursing Home and the Senior Citizen Lodge. Everyone enjoyed this singing immensely.

In 1972 we moved to Hanna, where I work at the Palliser Nursing Home. Bill still helps out at the farm.

The Ervin Bossert Family. Patti, Thelma, Todd, Ervin and Kevin

ERVIN BOSSERT, By Ervin Bossert — I was born in Hanna and lived with my folks in the Annasheim district. I attended Annasheim School until I finished grade nine, then helped Dad on the farm. In 1954 I rented a quarter of land from Chris Townsend, which I farmed for three years. In 1956 I bought three quarters, the east half of section 5 and the southeast of section 8-33-15 from Hans Lund. He homesteaded this land in 1909. In 1964 I bought the west half of section 5 from Stanley Peake.

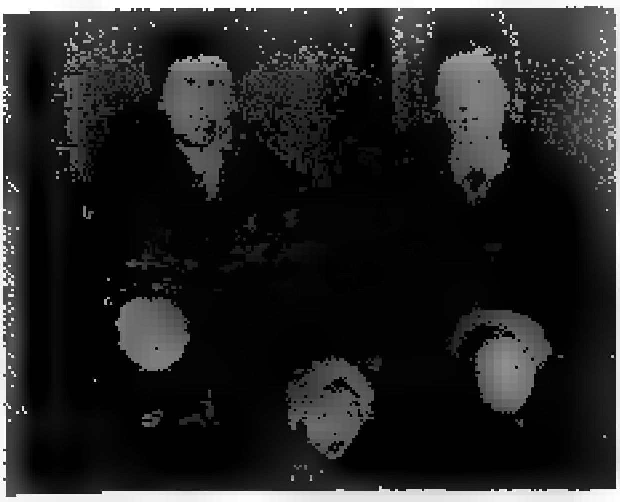
In November of 1964 I married Thelma Clark from Rosebud. We built a new home on the southeast section 5 that summer. In 1968 we bought a section of land from Walter Stulberg.

We have three children: Patti Lynn was born September 13, 1966; Kevin James was born December 22, 1968 and Todd Ryan was born May 10, 1972. The children attend school in Hanna.

THE MILLER FAMILY, By Austin Ludlow — The Miller family came to the Knudson place in 1927. They were a very hard working family. Once in a while Mrs. Miller would send a jar of dilled cucumbers or tomatoes to the school for everyone to share.

The children were Lena, Emma, Robert, Otto, Albert, Edna and Oscar. We knew Emma and Albert best as they would come to our place and help in the garden and field.

The thirties didn't treat the Millers very well, and in 1939 they moved to Calgary.


George Goldfinch and wife, Bill, Betty, Kay

GEORGE GOLDFINCH, By Ida Grosse — George Goldfinch, a brother of Mrs. George Banner, came from England to homestead the SE 9-33-15. He brought his wife and three little children with him, and they lived on the homestead for a year. He went to work in a butcher shop in Hanna, and later worked for the C.N.R. there. He was transferred to Chilliwack, B.C., where he eventually retired. Both Mr. and Mrs. Goldfinch have passed away.

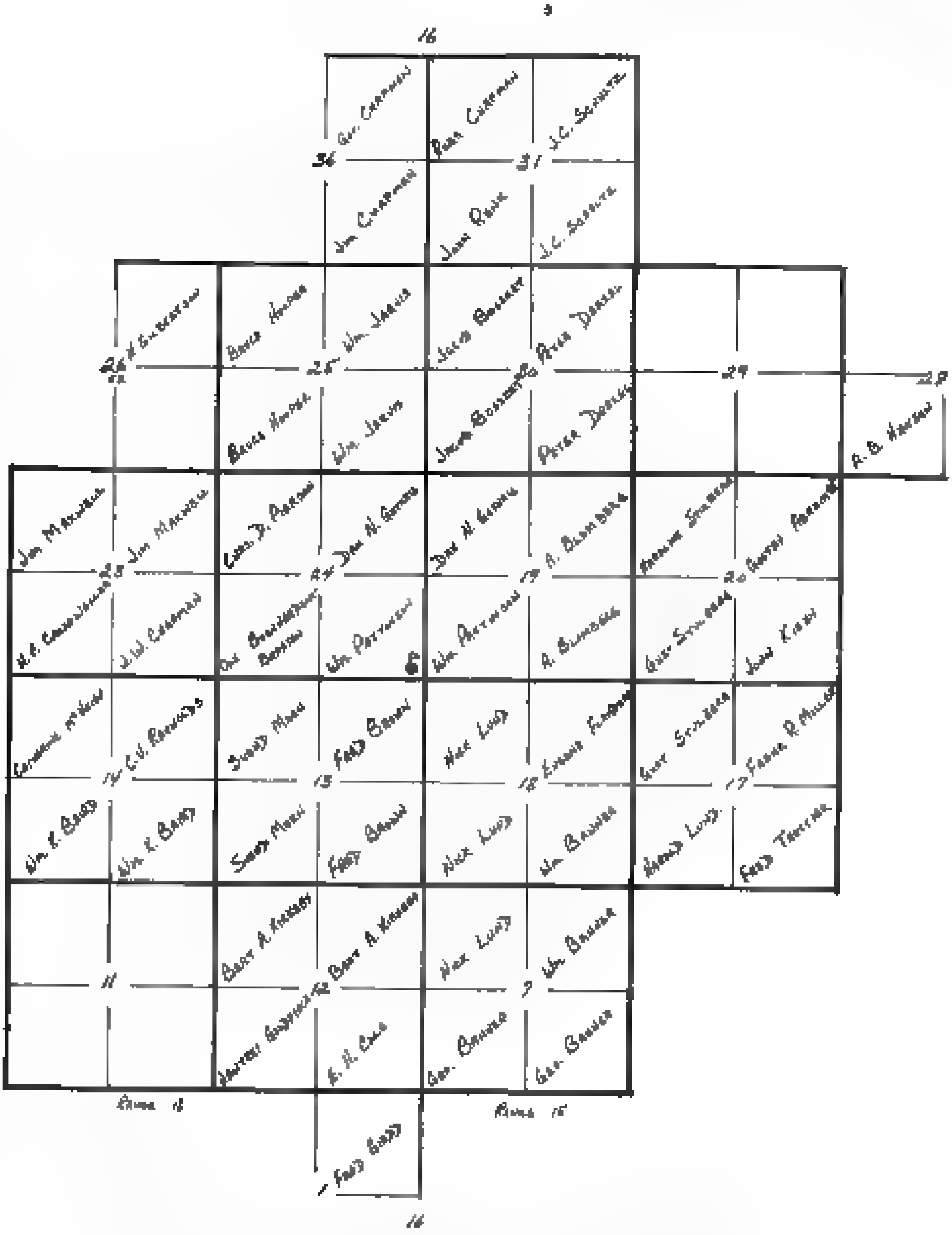
Their children were Betty, who died in 1975, Edward who was accidently killed, Bill of Vancouver, Kay of Chilliwack, Dick of Hope, Arthur at Sardis and Nora of White Rock.

MR. and MRS. PERCY ALLISON, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Mr. and Mrs. Allison lived just north of Dowling Lake, eight miles straight north of Watts. Mr. Allison was a carpenter who built a number of barns in the area, for Lee Doyle, Aubrey McCuish, and Mr. Keirsey. Their home was a two-storey, two-roomed building, with a lean-to for a kitchen.

In 1914 the family moved to Craigmyle so that the daughters, Marie and Laura, would be closer to school. While they lived there Mr. Allison built a brick school in Craigmyle.

In 1919 the Allisons moved to Calgary where they lived for three years before returning to Portland, Oregon. The land was purchased by Mr. E. Schultz.

ANNASHEIM SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3047



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS & OWNERS

SE ¼ 7-33-15
Geo. Banner
Harold Lund
Dan Welch
NW ¼ 7-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson
▨ ¼ 17-33-15

Fred Trottier
Ruhl Bros.
Alfred Litke
Herb Litke
NW ¼ 17-33-15
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert
SE ¼ 18-33-15

Bill Banner
Mac Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert
NW ¼ 18-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson
SW ¼ 7-33-15

Geo. Banner
Hawtry Goldfinch
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson
NE ¼ 7-33-15
▨ Banner
Mac Sobolewski
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SW ¼ 17-33-15
Harold Lund
Alfred Litke
Herb Litke

NE ¼ 17-33-15
Frank R. Miller
Paul Trettin
Arnold Trettin

SW ¼ 18-33-15
Nick Lund
Dan Lund
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 18-33-15
Eugene Flanders
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 19-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
John Bossert
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 19-33-15
Dan Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 20-33-15
John Keehn
Gust Stulberg
Jack Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert
NW ¼ 20-33-15
Karoline Stulberg
August Hein
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SW ¼ 28-33-15
Andrew B. Hanson
Russell Hanson

SE ¼ 29-33-15
(School section)
Svend Moen
Ruhl Bros.
Williard Diegel

NW ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

SW ¼ 19-33-15
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 18-33-15
Andrew Blomberg
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SW ¼ 20-33-15
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

NE ¼ 20-33-15
Gustav Abram
August Hein
Walter Stulberg
Ervin Bossert

SW ¼ 29-33-15
Sven Moen
Fred Lyxzen
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

NE ¼ 29-33-15
Svend Moen
Fred Lyxzen
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

SE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Draxel
Gustav Abram
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

NW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

NW ¼ 31-33-15
Robert Chapman
George Chapman
Robert Chapman
Phyllis M. Johnson

NE ¼ 1-33-16
Fred Gledd
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

E ½ 11-33-16
(School section)
Geo. Moldon
Gus Kelm
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 30-33-15
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

NE ¼ 30-33-15
Peter Draxel
Gustav Abram
Christ Nill
Fred Nill

SW ¼ 31-33-15
John Renk
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

NE ¼ 31-33-15
Julius Schultz
Albert Baes

W ½ 11-33-16
Geo. Moldon
Gus Kelm
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 12-33-16
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 12-33-16
Hawtry Goldfinch
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 12-33-16
Bert A. Kirkeby
Dan Lund
Gust Stulberg
Walter Stulberg
Ken Robertson
Albert Bossert
Herb Bossert

SE ¼ 13-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NW ¼ 13-33-16
Svend Moen
Palmer Moen
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

NE ¼ 13-33-16
J. Fred Brown
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SE ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SW ¼ 14-33-16
William K. Baird
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NW ¼ 14-33-16
Archie McVeigh
Catherine McVeigh
Chas. McVeigh
Jack Kaster
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

NE ¼ 14-33-16
C.V. Reynolds
George Moldon
Gus Kelm
Ted Wanek
Albert Galarneau
Ken Brower

SE ¼ 23-33-16
John W. Chapman
Paul Schultz
George Jones

SW ¼ 23-33-16
Henry F. Crosswellar
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gottfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

NE ¼ 23-33-16
James E. Maxwell
Gotfried Glubrecht
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 24-33-16
Wm. Pattinson
Jack Shelberg
Jonathan Marnock
E.H. Cole
Carl Schultz
Ken Halverson

SW ¼ 24-33-16
Ole Bernhardson-Braaten
Sam Hoffman
Reinholt Boehlke
Jack Schultz
Gottried Glubrecht
Paul Schultz
George Jones

NW ¼ 24-33-16
Chas. D. Pierson
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 24-33-16

Dan N. Guthrie
Wm. Pattinson
Tom Pattinson

SE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund
Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes
SW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper

Alex Kalenith
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NW ¼ 25-33-16
Bruce Hooper
Alex Kalenith
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 25-33-16
Wm. Jarvis
N.H. Lund
Dan Lund

Jacob Bossert
Martin Baes
Albert Baes

SE ¼ 26-33-16
Hudson Bay
Joe Van Sickle
Hans Hansen
Herb Bossert

NE ¼ 26-33-16
Henry Gilbertson
Geo. Chapman
Robert Chapman

Doug Johnson

SE ¼ 36-33-16
James Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

NE ¼ 36-33-16
Geo. W. Chapman
Robert Chapman
Don Johnson

ANNASHEIM SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3047

By Tom Pattinson

Annasheim School 1914, SE ¼ 24-33-16

Minutes of a meeting held September 24, 1913, ran as follows: "Pursuant to and in accordance with notice regularly posted, a meeting was held at the residence of N.H. Lund for the purpose of organizing a school district. B.A. Kirkeby was elected chairman and D.N. Guthrie secretary. Polls were duly opened at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. chairman announced the vote favorable to the formation of a school district and declared polls closed. Chairman called for nominations for the office of trustee. B.A. Kirkeby, D. N. Guthrie and N. H. Lund were accordingly nominated and elected."

By June 10, 1914, the following tenders had been accepted: Empire Lumber Co., Craigmyle, $525. Chas. D. Pierson for hauling lumber, $30. H.C. Lund, for erecting school and chimney and two toilets, $180. Wm. Pattinson, for foundation for school building, $22.

When tenders were called for, two local men, Hans Lund and William Pattinson, had agreed to each submit tenders, with the understanding that the unsuccessful bidder would work for the other at an agreed amount per hour.

There is an interesting tale told about the naming of the school. Anna Lund, daughter of trustee Nick Lund, was home on a visit from Red Deer where she had been attending school. When her Danish Grandfather Lund who was also visiting the family at the time, heard how homesick she had been, he made the sympathetic remark that 'There was no place like Annasheim . . . Anna's home.' The name Annasheim was submitted to the Department of Education with several others, and was selected and approved.

On August 6, 1914, a meeting was held in the completed school house to let the contract for painting and to order school supplies. Miss Edith Trenholm was hired as the first teacher, with school to start in September. Another meeting in December of that year paid the amounts previously mentioned, as well as the following: Stanley Bros. for hardware, $18; H. Lund, hauling furniture, $5; digging vaults (toilet holes) and cleaning grounds, $5; Findlay for fire insurance, $26; lumber for coal shed, $37.65; William Pattinson, for painting the buildings, building the coal house and fastening the desks on strips of board, $48; Ole Bernhardson for hauling 2½ tons coal, $5; Anna Lund for two months janitor work, $10; Edith Trenholm, one month's salary, $70; Wm. Pattinson, two acres of land,

$50; N.H. Lund, secretary-treasurer's salary, $50; Alberta School Supplies for school equipment, $165.70.

Margaret McVeigh Kaster while teaching Annasheim school in 1918.

The second teacher at Annasheim was Madge Paul, followed by Emma Clauson. The next teacher, Mrs. Margaret McVeigh Kaster, recalls, "In 1918 Miss Margaret McVeigh came to teach on the first of May. Miss Grace Guthrie, who was a teacher but not teaching at that time, held the school until Miss McVeigh got out of Normal the last day of April. Miss McVeigh taught May and June. After the summer holidays school opened in September but the RCMP came out from Hanna on October 18 to close the school because of the Spanish flu epidemic that fall. The school was officially closed till after New Year, 1919. While teaching at Annasheim Miss McVeigh batched in the Fred Brown shack owned by Jack Shelberg."

Other teachers at Annasheim were Stewart McLeod, Mr. Crandall, Miss Cameron, Miss Duke, Gladys Knudson, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. Wm. Pattinson, Grace Smith, Jim Nichol, Mrs. Henry Blair, Blanche Crawford, Elizabeth Webber, May Schultz, Kathleen MacDonald, Robert Fitzpatrick, Laura McEwan, Vernal Martin, Byron Moore, Gordon Saunders, Mrs. Willo McLeod, Mrs. Frances McGuire, Margaret Lamb, Mrs. Pollington, Edna Moen, Don Campbell, Estelle Lynch, John Lenuik, Mrs. Berger Aaserud.

Annasheim School about 1943. Albert Baes, Henry Nill, Ida Bossert, Pauline Hein, Freida Baes, Mrs. MacLeod (teacher), Edward Baes, Donnie MacLeod, Herb Nill, Ervin Bossert, Ruby Bossert, Fred Nill, Gordon Schultz, John Baes, Freida Nill, Margaret Schultz, Dennis Schultz, Elmer Nill.

Annasheim School in the mid-twenties. Back Row, left to right: Ervin Schultz, Mable Kirkeby, Caroline Stulberg, Teacher. Centre Row: Effie Kirkeby, John Bossert, Herman Schultz, Stella Kirkeby, Pauline Stulberg. Front Row: Hubert Cole, Myrtle Schultz, Martha Stulberg, Eddie Kirkeby.

In 1938 the Annasheim School District was consolidated into the Drumheller School Division. By the beginning of the 1945-46 school term it was transferred to the Sullivan Lake School Division.

Annasheim had the distinction of being the last one-room country school to [illegible] holding regular classes in any of the nearby school divisions, and in all probability, was one of the last in Central Alberta. It had served as a community centre where dances, concerts, church services and meetings of [illegible] kinds were held, but after forty-eight consecutive years of operation, it closed at the end of June, 1962. Mrs. Joy Aaserud was the last teacher.

Annasheim School Picnic, 1959. Back Row: Betty Bossert, Connie Schultz, Betty Schultz, Joan Schultz, Ruby Litke, Maggie Glubracht, Godfried Glubracht, Berger Aaserud, Mrs. (Joy) Aaserud (teacher), Wayne Aaserud. Centre Row: Gerald Glubrecht, Shirley Bossert, Ken Robertson, Ervin Bossert, Herb Litke, Tom Pattinson. Front Row: Herb Bossert, Melvin Litke, Judy Schultz, Cathy Schultz, Ruth Robertson, Linda Litke, Gordon Robertson, Paul Schultz.

DR. CHARLES McVEIGH, By Margaret McVeigh Kester — My uncle, Dr. Charles McVeigh, homesteaded in the Orlando district. He was a government veterinarian, sent to western Canada in 1905 to enforce the regulations regarding the dipping of cattle for mange. Rounding up the cattle and building dipping vats entailed a great deal of work, and the ranchers were reluctant to obey the law. As a last resort the federal government had Dr. McVeigh commissioned as an officer of the RCMP; the ranchers, recognizing the authority of the police force, agreed to dip their cattle.

Dr. McVeigh was responsible for the health of animals in a large area, the

whole of southern Alberta from the B.C. boundary to the Saskatchewan border, north as far as Stettler. He travelled his territory in a rubber tired buggy pulled by a team of sorrels, often going as far as Regina. For this work the federal government paid him a wage plus mileage and travelling expenses. He held the position until his death in the late twenties, but during the last few years he exchanged his team for a Ford roadster.

His wife, Catherine McVeigh, filed on a homestead in the Annasheim district, which eventually became part of the Galarneau holdings now owned by Ken Brower.

The couple had two sons; Donald, who was killed in a flying accident during World War II, and Norman who served in the RAF and RCAF and who now lives in Vancouver.

Mrs. McVeigh died about 1951.

JOHN SHELBERG — John Shelberg was a Wyoming rancher who came to Canada because the open range in the United States was being taken up by homesteaders. About 1902 he squatted on land west of the lakes, on the present Frank Bates farm, where William Pattinson later built a house and hip-roofed barn for him.

When William Pattinson went overseas, Shelberg bought his homestead, and also the homestead and pre-emption belonging to Fred Brown. He moved into Brown's house, and brought his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Art Clayton, from the United States to live on his former location. Because of limited range land, he farmed and raised Percheron horses.

Jack Shelberg and Lillian Banner, taken in front of the Wm. Banner home.

About 1930, Harold Huson built a new house for Jack Shelberg; part of this building is now incorporated into the Ken Halverson home. The old house was moved to Gadsby on wagons by Mr. Matchett, who was married to Dorothy Clayton.

Jack Shelberg had strong likes and dislikes, but he was a very fair man. After a lengthy illness, he died in 1933, and was buried in Craigmyle cemetery. His daughter sold his land to Carl Schultz.

NICHOLAS H. and ADA LUND FAMILY, By Dan Lund — In 1902 Nicholas Lund and his wife Ada came to Olds from Iowa with their children Harold and Anna. In 1903 I, Dan was born. In 1905 the family went to Kansas for a few months where Harold remained to stay with his grandparents Guthrie to attend school. The rest returned to Alberta and in 1906, they moved to the district later known as Dowling Lake. Nicholas Lund came there in September in a wagon; Mother, my sister and myself went with Andy Alpaugh by democrat and forded the Red Deer River at Tolman Crossing, where the horses had to swim.

We moved into a sod house dug into the side of a hill; this was sixty-five miles south and east of Stettler, which was our closest town. Our closest neighbors were

John Shelburg, seven miles to the north and Rufus McCuish eight miles southeast. It was about a five-day trip to go to town. There were no schools or recreation. The land was not surveyed until 1907-08 and settlers started coming in then.

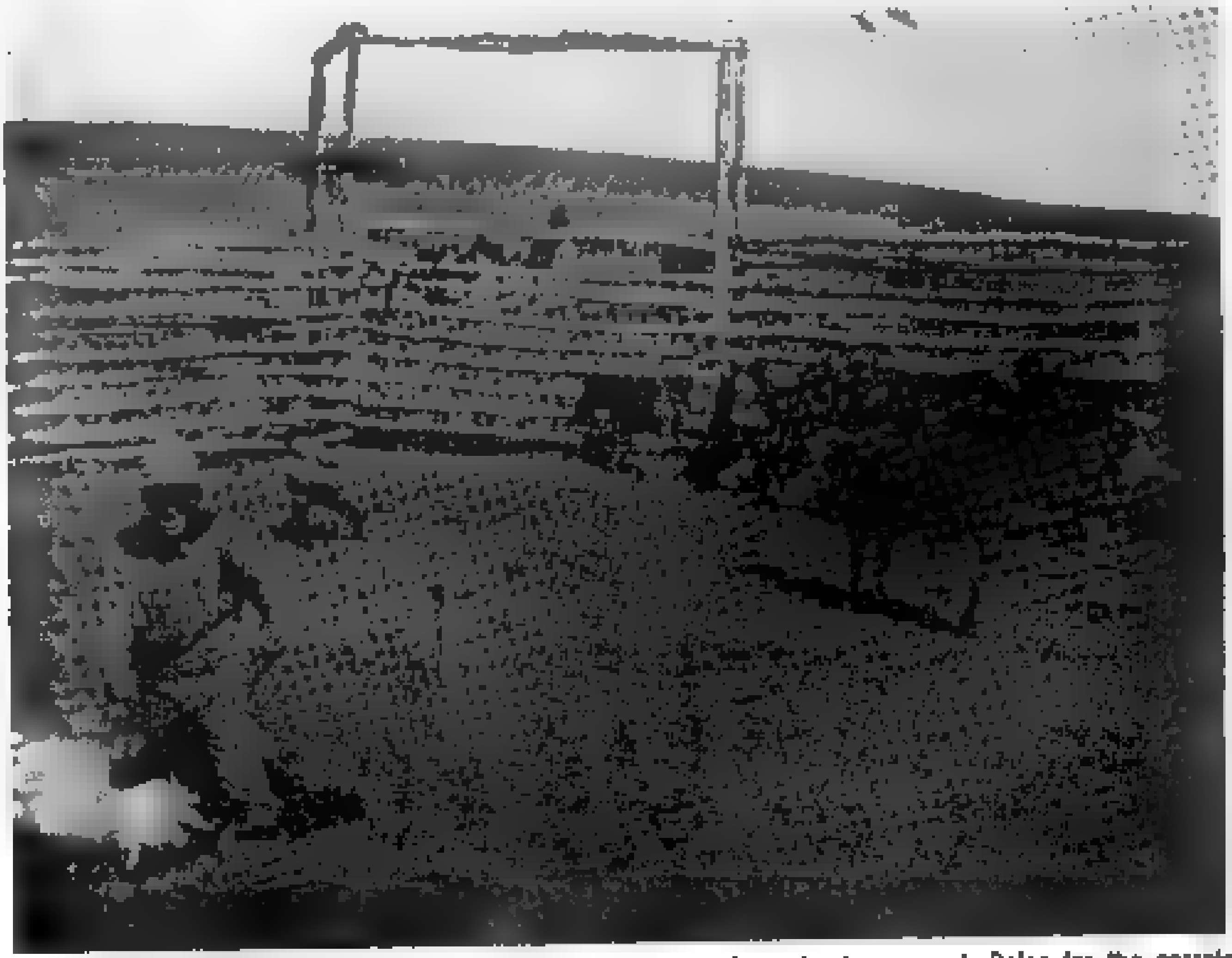
Ada, Mrs. Nick Lund, took and developed these pictures, and sent them back to Kansas to show her people what their ranch was like. This was their house, dug out of a side hill with poles supporting the sods which formed the roof.

This was the feedlot and shed. The Stettler Trail is just visible above the shed.

When settlers began moving in, the Lunds filed on two quarter sections. They had to live for six months of the year on each quarter to "prove up" on them. Mrs. Nicholas Lund — Ada — drove "quarter stakes" for the surveyors. She was an ardent horsewoman, and even though a tiny person, could ride herd on the cattle most successfully.

In the fall of 1907 we went to Red Deer by wagon and democrat and stayed the winter. In the spring of 1908 we brought back cattle, which took us over a week, travelling by covered wagon and using a tent. In 1909 the railway went east

from Stettler, and Halkirk was our closest town, thirty-three miles away. We moved five miles from the old ranch, which belonged to Andy Alpaugh, and built a frame house and barn.



Young Dan Lund with his rope on a calf, and Alex Alpaugh in the foreground. Poles for the corrals were hauled from the Hand Hills.

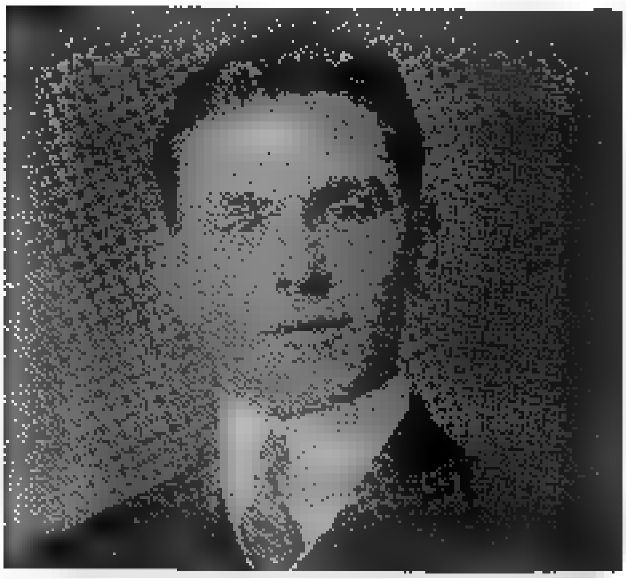
Andy Alpaugh on the fence, Rufus McQuish, Dan Lund and Anna Lund on horses, Nick Lund standing.

Nick Lund family, 1916. (Lady and boy on left unknown) Left to right: Dan Lund (holding dog), Nick Lund, Harold Lund, Ada Lund, Anna Lund.

In 1911 my grandparents (Guthrie) came up from Kansas with my brother Harold and lived one and a half miles north of us. I went to my first school in the fall of 1912, in Endiang where my aunt, Mrs. Grace Pattinson (nee Guthrie) was teaching. Annasheim school was built in 1914. My parents moved to Watts in 1923.

I married Lydia Burrows in 1925 and we stayed on the home place with our two sons, Gordon and Norman, until 1934 when we moved to Nevis, then in 1942 to Lacombe, in 1962 to Penticton, B.C., then to Summerland, B.C. in 1973. Nick Lund died in 1950, Ada Lund in 1966 and Harold in 1967.

Our oldest boy Gordon has Red Deer Motors in Red Deer and Norman is with Atco Homes in Calgary. Each of them has two sons.



Harold Lund

THE HAROLD LUND FAMILY, By Frank Lund — The Nicholas Lund family moved into the Hanna North Country before the land was surveyed, running cattle around the Chain Lakes, where they found that Clear Lake was the only lake from which the cattle would drink. They had previously homesteaded in the Red Deer area.

They had two sons, Harold and Daniel, and a daughter Anna. My father, Harold, the eldest, stayed in Kansas with his grandparents to attend school, and helped with farm chores and field work, as his grandfather was ill a considerable amount of the time. When he came to Canada, he attended Chain Lakes School, for a short time. Dad attended Olds Agricultural College in 1916-17.

In 1924 he was fortunate to obtain a job assessing land, which he did using a saddle horse. He always said they hired him to do the job again in 1936 because he did such a poor job the first time! In 1936 he used a pick-up truck with a canvas over the box, a cot and "canned heat" stove, staying out in the field on week days, returning home on weekends.

Dad had filed on a homestead one mile from that of his parents. On April 7, 1926, he married Phoebe Ann Robinson, from west of Hanna. That first summer, while their new farmstead was being built two miles away, Mother cooked on a small bachelor stove, in a one room shack. A granary pulled up beside it provided accommodation for the carpenters and well drillers. Dad farmed in this area, except for a couple of interruptions, until 1959.

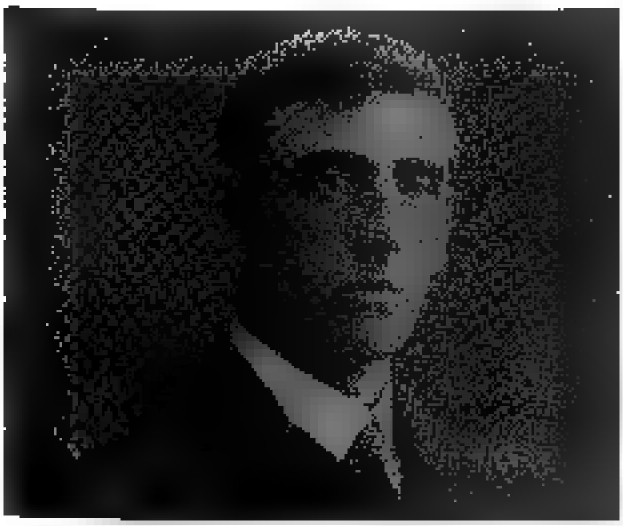
In 1930, a twister came through and took the roof off the barn, and lifted the garage off their Essex car, without leaving a scratch on it, but scattering the broken remains of the building for a half-mile. Before they finished putting a new roof on the barn, the wind blew it off again! The third time they didn't build it as high as before! One day, while Dad was shingling the barn roof, and Mother was at a U.F.W.A. meeting, the neighbor's bull came to visit. He knocked down the ladder, leaving Dad stranded on the barn roof until Mother returned home that evening!

In 1931, a doctor advised Dad to quit farming, so he rented the farm out and bought the store at Dowling, eight miles south-east of home. However, after a few short years, the love of the land got the best of him and he was back farming, bigger than ever, while together he and Mother ran the store and post office.

In the spring of 1944, Dad sold the Dowling store and moved back to the farm, staying only until fall when we all moved to Hanna where he purchased the Ideal Grocery and Dry Goods in January, 1945. He sold it in August 1946, and bought the A.W. Stubbs New and Used Furniture, keeping this business until 1954. Dad and I were involved in Insurance and Real Estate in 1954-55, while Dad also did some farming until his health forced his retirement in 1959. While in Hanna, Dad was involved as Town Councillor, worked long and hard for the covered arena, the curling rink and the artificial ice plant. He was always a sports enthusiast and booster and participated whole heartedly in baseball, boxing, hockey, tennis and curling.

Mother always worked at Dad's side, whether on the farm, or in one of the stores. She was actively involved in the Order of the Eastern Star, and served faithfully in many capacities in First United Church.

Dad passed away in September, 1967 leaving his wife, a son Frank of Hanna and a daughter, Mrs. Betty Howery of Spruce Grove, as well as four grandchildren; Daryll Howery, Alan, Patricia and Jeffrey Lund.


Fred Brown

J. FRED BROWN — Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16, later selling his land to Jack Shelberg. He was a boyhood chum of William Pattinson, and the two men had attended school, apprenticed and come to Canada together. They worked as carpenters on many jobs in southern Alberta, and built the Annasheim school barn.

During World War I they went together to the recruiting depot in Calgary to enlist, but Fred was turned down because he had flat feet, and the two men never met again. When Will returned from overseas in the spring of 1919 Fred was on his way back to England, and their boats passed somewhere on the Atlantic. They kept in touch with each other by letter until Fred died quite suddenly of a heart attack about 1933.

EUGENE FLANDERS — Gene Flanders was the son of Charles Flanders from Illinois who homesteaded in the Chain Lakes school district. He made his home with a number of different families in the district, principally the Nick Lund family. He helped with the farm work and also worked in the coal mine operated by Clyde Wooden on the NW 18-33-15.

He filed on the NE 18-33-15 as a homestead, but when war was declared in 1914 he was one of the first to enlist, and served overseas with the 175th Battalion.

When last heard of, Gene was on the Police Force in Vancouver.

WILLIAM PATTINSON STORY, *By Tom Pattinson* — My father, the oldest boy in a family of nine children, was born June 16, 1882 at Newcastle-on-Tyne in northern England. To help support the family, he left school at the age of twelve to work in a factory about ten miles from his home. Each morning he walked three miles to catch a train which got him to work by seven o'clock; after an hour for lunch he worked till six o'clock in the afternoon. His wages were a penny (two cents) an hour. After four years he had received increases amounting to fifty per cent, and now earned three cents per hour. Somehow he managed to save enough money to buy a bicycle, and was able to ride back and forth from the train.

William Pattinson

Grace Guthrie Pattinson

During his years at the factory he began attending classes at night school, and in 1898 he became "apprentice to F. Reid Ferens and Co. of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, Electrical Engineers, to learn their art and with them after the manner of an apprentice to serve from the 28th day of November, 1898 unto the full end and term of three years from thence . . ."

At that time industrial and domestic uses of electricity were pretty much in the developmental stage; electrical engineering involved planning and blueprinting a project, and estimating the cost of it. The company to which Will, as he was known, was apprenticed, was involved with telegraph communications, installation of lights and motors, and lightning protection for factory chimneys and church steeples. As the telephone was still somewhat of a novelty in England, and there was little private demand for electrical installations, most of the work was done in factories, mines and government institutions.

Will enjoyed his job and the opportunities it gave him to travel and see

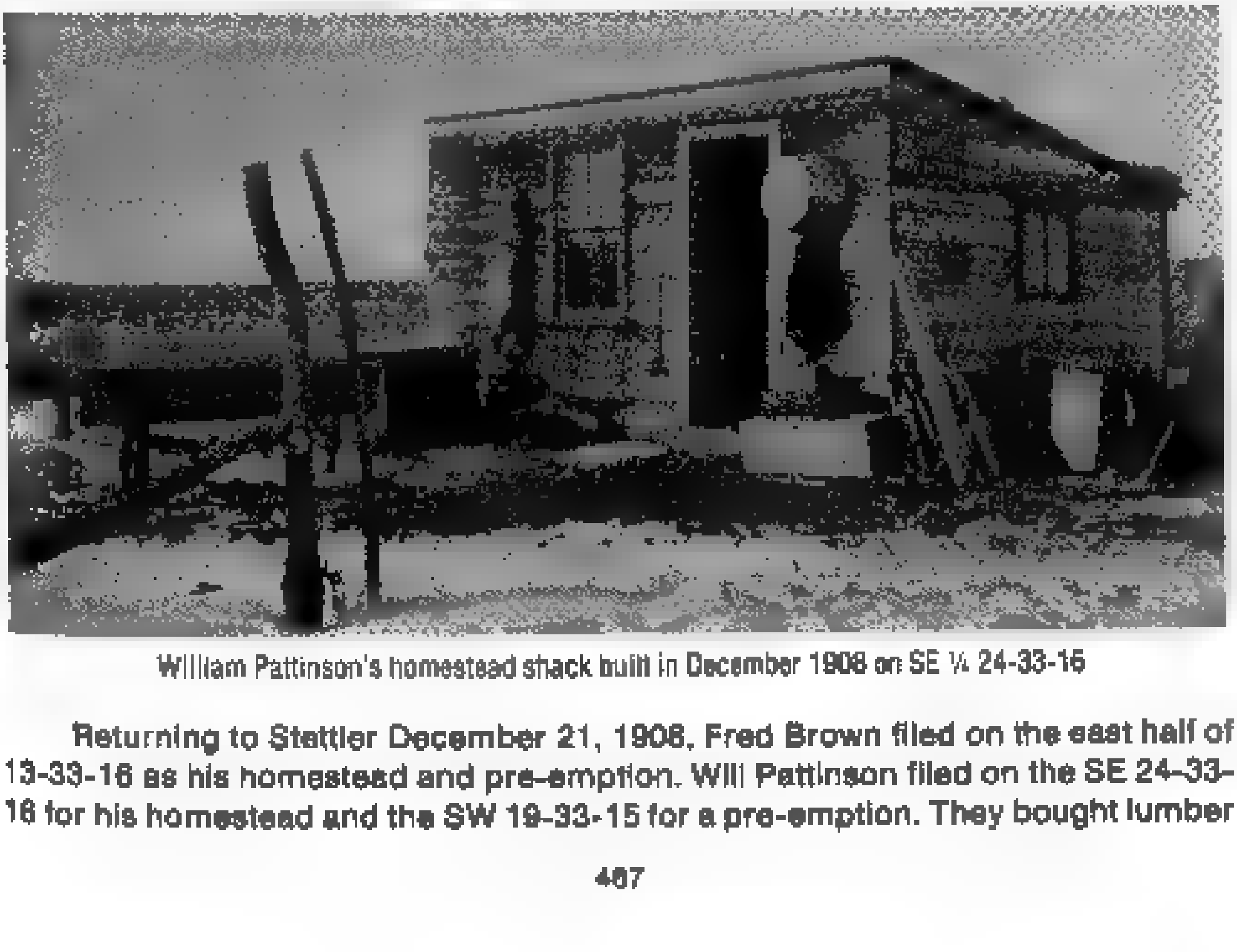
something of the world. He became interested in stamp collecting, and in military history, and in collecting campaign and service medals. He was an active member of the Anglican church, and sang in the choir. He took violin lessons for a short time, although in later life he played mostly by ear.

My father remained with Reid Ferens and Co. for nine years; then he and a boyhood chum, Fred Brown, decided to see the world. They were young, in good health, with no responsibilities, and had a good trade; they planned to work in Canada for a time, then go on to Australia and New Zealand. In the spring of 1907, when Will was twenty-five, they arrived at Cardston. There was little demand for electrical engineers, but an unlimited demand for carpenters, and for the next nine years both men worked part time at this trade.

There were many facets of the great homestead conglomerate. Landseekers came from every imaginable background and with many and varied motives. Homesteading appealed to Will and Fred from a speculative point of view. They could file on a homestead and pre-emption, build a shack, hire the necessary field work done, put in their six months on the claim in the winter when the building trade was slack anyway. At the end of three years they would have proved up and each would own a half-section of land, which no doubt could be sold for a substantial profit. But Fate had a way of interfering to change their plans.

In 1908 Will and Fred travelled from Cardston to Stettler, and on December 10 travelled southeast to look at vacant land which was available for homesteading. They met and made their headquarters with Jack Shelberg.

Shelberg was a typical example of the old time western cattleman, who had been displaced by homesteaders in his native Wyoming, and who had come to Alberta shortly after the turn of the century seeking open range for his cattle. Now the Homestead Act had been passed in Canada, the land had been surveyed and the homesteaders were moving in. The rancher was about to be crowded out again, but this time there was no place to go. 'If you can't beat them, join them' became the strategy of men like Jack Shelberg; he was anxious to help two green Englishmen select homesteads and pre-emptions, land which he expected to buy from them as soon as they proved up and gained title to it.



William Pattinson's homestead shack built in December 1908 on SE ¼ 24-33-16

Returning to Stettler December 21, 1908, Fred Brown filed on the east half of 13-33-16 as his homestead and pre-emption. Will Pattinson filed on the SE 24-33-16 for his homestead and the SW 19-33-15 for a pre-emption. They bought lumber

and supplies, picked up their tool chests which they had left in Stettler, and returned to the homesteads. By the New Year they were living in their respective shacks, one on each side of the coulee which separated the two homestead quarters.

Many humorous stories have been told, and many condescending references made to 'green Englishmen'. Some of them were well deserved, as my father related in later years. There was, for example, the time he set out to ride his mare, Mabel by name, to the Lloyd Winans homestead where he had been invited for Sunday dinner. During the five mile trip, Mabel was sluggish, and even lay down on the trail twice. Will was a bit concerned about her; she had never acted like that before. That evening when he went out to the Winans' barn to saddle Mabel for the return trip, she had a dandy colt beside her. Named Major, the horse later became the property of Syd Linley, who refused to sell him along with the other horses at his sale. He had Major destroyed rather than see him owned by anyone else.

In many cases an attitude of superior tolerance was maintained toward green Englishmen by settlers with a farm or ranch background, but occasionally the newcomers got their own back. Coyotes were numerous those first years, no doubt as a result of the abundant food supply provided by the winter of 1906-07. They roamed the country in sufficient numbers to represent a serious threat to the cattlemen. As a result, Jack Shelberg, with tongue in cheek, offered Will Pattinson ten dollars for every dead coyote he could deliver before calving time next spring. Will got a supply of ammunition for his Model 94 Winchester 25-35 carbine, and obtained permission from Shelberg to drag a critter, dead from natural causes, home to his shack, the inference being that he was short of fresh meat. This carcass, together with offal he was able to acquire from other settlers, and drag home with his saddle horse, provided enough bait to lure coyotes to his shack continually all winter. He could sit in his shack on a bright clear moonlight night and shoot coyotes through the open window.

My father told me how ravenous the coyotes were, and how he had counted twenty or more around the bait at one time, and how ridiculously easy it was to shoot them. I have no idea how many he shot, but Jack Shelberg told me about this incident when I was a boy, and said, "If your dad had held me to my offer that next spring, he would have been the rancher and I would have been looking for a homestead."

Out of these early associations was to develop an attitude of mutual respect and admiration and a friendship between my father and Jack Shelberg that was to last the balance of a lifetime. "Shelberg," as Will always called him, "was one of the finest men I have ever known."

In January, 1916, Will Pattinson sold his homestead to Jack Shelberg according to plan, but kept his pre-emption. It was against his better judgment to burn his bridges behind him, and by now there was beginning to be a possibility that he just might want to live on that land some day. Possibly this point of view was influenced by the fact that he was keeping company with the school-marm daughter of the homesteader on the quarter immediately north of him.

In January, 1916, Will enlisted in the Army in Calgary, and because of his early training, was posted to the Canadian Engineers, Signal Corps. Within a year he was at the Front in France. War for him held no romantic illusions; it was not an adventure, but a patriotic duty and a job that had to be done. It was seldom and then with reluctance that he discussed his active service. His pay book shows that he was qualified as a high lineman, which entitled him to an extra ten cents a day in addition to the regular one dollar a day. Men in the Signal Corps were required to establish and maintain telegraph communication lines. "A man at the top of a

forty foot pole makes a very attractive target for enemy snipers. You don't set any speed records going up those poles but you learn to come down in a hurry."

After a severe attack of pneumonia after the influenza epidemic [illegible] the winter of 1918, Will returned home [illegible] April, 1919. By midsummer of 1920, he had built the house in which we now live on his pre-emption. Lloyd Winans helped him with the rafters, but with this exception the work including the basement, foundation and chimney was done single handed. A man from Vancouver by the name of Whitehead, out on the prairie for his health, did the plastering.

William Pattinson and Grace Guthrie were married August 2, 1920.

Grace Guthrie had begun her teaching career in Kansas [illegible] the age of seventeen. When she came to Canada in 1911, she taught first at the old Endiang school. After a term at Camrose Normal School she taught at Success school in the Leo district and again at Endiang. After her marriage she taught one full term and several shorter periods at Annasheim school, the last being in 1945-46. Throughout the years she kept in contact with her former pupils until many of them predeceased her.

Among my most pleasant recollections are those of the house full of people on a Sunday. After [illegible] fried chicken dinner they would gather around Mother at the organ and my father with his violin, to sing what are still to me the old favorites.

The twenties were good years for Will and Grace Pattinson, in spite of hail storms in 1923, 1925 and 1928. In 1923 the Alberta Government Rural Telephone was installed in the area, and my folks got their first car . . . a brand new Model T Ford! In 1925 the Hanna-Warden branch of the C.N.R. went through, so that they were only nine miles from the railway at Endiang, instead of the fourteen or sixteen they had previously to go to Watts or Craigmyle. In 1928 service was begun on Rural Route 2 out of Endiang, a route which is still in operation.

The severe hailstorms of 1931 seemed to usher in a series of hardships and bad luck. Poor crops, drought, grasshoppers, low prices, dust storms; sick horses, horses with sore shoulders, horses with wire cuts, too often fatal and no money to replace them; dull plough shares, past the point of resharpening; short pastures, no money for posts; short crops, too short to tie, and no money for twine anyway. On and on it went until 1938 when there was [illegible] ray of light and things began to improve. Through those hard years the philosophy seemed to be that things had never yet been so bad that they couldn't be worse.

[illegible] 1946 my father's health began to fail, and it was found that he had diabetes. With the help of insulin and a strict diet he continued on as usual until April 26, 1951, when he died near home 'with his boots on', as he would have fervently wished, just forty-four years from the day he first came to Alberta.

Mother moved into the Senior Citizens' Lodge [illegible] Drumheller in 1960, and two years later moved to Acadia Lodge in Hanna, where she played the piano for church services and sing songs as she had done in so many communities through the years. After a prolonged illness, she died in the Hanna hospital on September 6, 1974, three weeks past her ninetieth birthday.

Will and Grace Pattinson had one son, Tom, who married Kay Stock of Hanna. They have three daughters, Gail of Calgary, Jean of Hanna, and Nancy at home. Tom and Kay live on the home place.

TOM PATTINSON — I was born at Hanna in September, 1926. While Mother was in the hospital, [illegible] girl had been hired to cook for the men. The day after I was born the hired girl fell downstairs and hurt her knee so that she could not walk. My dad ended up cooking for himself, the hired man and the hired girl, and running the binder.

The Tom Pattinson family. Jean, Tom, Gail, Nancy, Kay

I attended Annasheim school, which was across the road from our place, until I finished grade nine. I took grade ten at Endiang, where my teacher was Miss Jean Funk, who became Mrs. Cliff James that term. Some twenty years later our two daughters Gail and Jean also had the privilege of having Mrs. James for their teacher [illegible] Endiang.

In 1945 and 1946 I attended high school at Drumheller, staying at the dormitory and driving home weekends when weather permitted. In the fall of 1949 I hired on with the CNR at Hanna as a locomotive fireman. One month later, on October 30, Kay Stock and I were married at the Anglican Church in Hanna.

Kay is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stock, residents of Hanna since 1919. Kay was born in England in January of 1929 while her mother was on a trip to the Old Country. Kay worked in the Royal Bank in Hanna.

By the spring of 1950 I had been cut from the spare board to the emergency board, and work was scarce, so I went to work on a farm in the Verdant Valley district north-east of Drumheller. It was owned by James Gaschnitz whose father managed the Stubblefield Farm.

Our first daughter, Torie, was born in Drumheller on October 6, 1950, during an early wet snowstorm many people will remember. She died in July, 1957, after a short illness.

In the spring of 1951 we moved to the home place where we still live. Our second daughter, Gail, was born in Hanna in 1953, Jean [illegible] 1958, and Nancy was born in Castor in 1969.

Gail attended Annasheim school until it closed in 1962, then went to Endiang and Byemoor schools. She graduated from the Hanna high school in 1971. After four years with the Calcath Credit Union in Calgary she took [illegible] business course and now works for Alberta Energy Company. In May, 1976, she married Louis Fourie of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, who is an accountant with Joyce Construction of Calgary.

Jean attended school at Endiang, Byemoor and Hanna. During her high

school years she worked part time for Hanna Farm Equipment, and since her graduation in 1976, has been employed there full time.

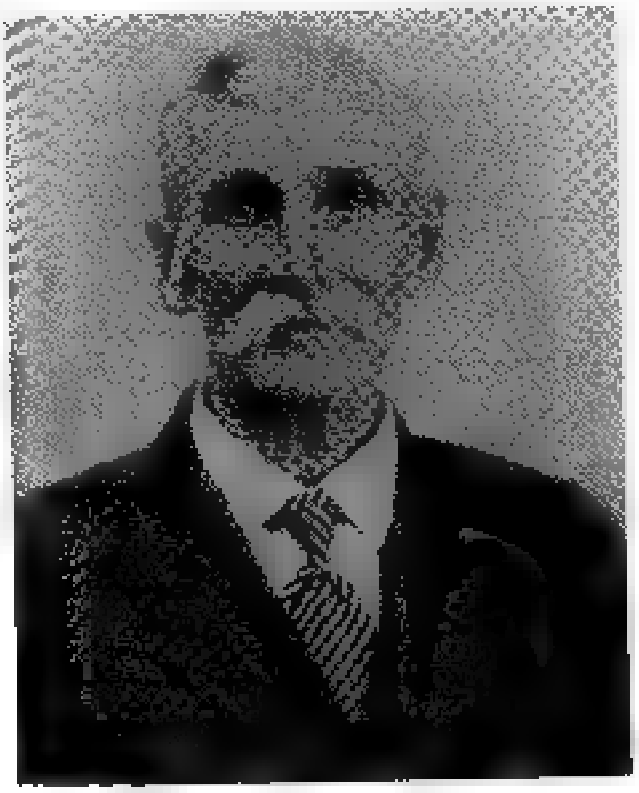
Nancy goes to school in Endiang.

I belonged to D Company of the Calgary Highlanders in Hanna from the time it was formed in 1955 until the fall of 1962. I was also linesman and troubleshooter for Line 3 of the Dowling Mutual Telephone Company from 1960 until the underground line was put in in 1974.

THE DANIEL GUTHRIE FAMILY, By Tom Pattinson — Dan Guthrie was born at Vernon, Wisconsin, on May 30, 1852. On March 3, 1875, he married a distant cousin, Adella N. Guthrie of Leicester, New York, and took up residence on a farm near Le Mars, Iowa, where he had taught school for a short time before his marriage. Their first child, Ada, was born June 7, 1877.

In 1881 he became a partner in and operator of the Okoboji Flour Mill at Milford, Iowa. The mill was water-powered whenever there was a sufficient flow of water to turn the water wheel, the rest of the year it was powered by a coal-fired stationary steam engine.

A second daughter, Edna, died in infancy. Grace, the youngest daughter, who later became my mother, was born August 17, 1884. In 1894 Ada married Nick Lund.



D.N. Guthrie

Mrs. D.N. Guthrie

In 1896 Dan Guthrie was elected for a four-year term as County Treasurer, a position equivalent to that of Municipal secretary in this country. When his term of office expired, he sold his flour mill, and farmed and ranched in southeastern Kansas until 1908. Then he bought a general store, and Grace, who had been teaching since 1901, came home to help with it.

Although my grandfather was the local agent for a land development project in Saskatchewan, he decided to homestead in Alberta. His decision was probably influenced by the fact that his daughter Ada and her husband had located in the Olds-Didsbury district in 1902, and later moved to the Dowling Lake area. He chose land north of where the Lunds were, homesteading the NW 19-33-15, and taking NE 24-33-16 as a pre-emption. After fulfilling homestead duties for six months in 1909, and again in 1910, he sold his store in the spring of 1911 and moved his family to the homestead. The train journey with two carloads of settlers' effects ended at Halkirk; the trip thirty-five miles south to the homestead was made by team and wagon.

Grace often spoke of her first impressions of the country, gained on that trip from Halkirk. How fresh and green everything was, the potholes and sloughs full of water with the ducks swimming on them, the meadowlarks, redwing blackbirds, kildeers, and of course the swarms of mosquitoes! The newcomers were seeing Central Alberta at its best. Grace loved the country then and she still did sixty-three years later, in spite of the long cold trips she made by saddle horse to the schools where she taught for the next eight years.

As the result of an accident in his flour mill, my grandfather had lost the index finger on his right hand, and the hand itself was badly mutilated, resulting in poor circulation. This was always a handicap to him in the Canadian winters, especially while driving horses. He was a keen horseman, and insisted on driving lively horses that were right up on the bit at all times. There was none of this walking behind the sleigh to get warm, as I did for so many miles in later years.

One of the first projects the Guthries undertook on the homestead was to set out a shelterbelt of trees from the Forestry Branch Nursery Station at Indian Head. Although the young trees were severely set back by hail storms on two occasions, the grove stands today as a fitting monument to my grandparents, and a testimony to the hours of hoeing and cultivating that were necessary to keep the grass and weeds out of the rows of cuttings.

Dan Guthrie was active in the community. He was the first president of the Chain Lakes U.F.A. Local; the first secretary-treasurer of the Annasheim school district, and served in that capacity for many years. He was local agent for the Great Northern Insurance Company, and for the Farmers' Fire and Hail Insurance Company. He was also a Commissioner to administer Oaths, and assisted people in the preparation of simple legal documents such as leases, wills, agreements of sale, affidavits, etc. This was a popular service in a comparatively isolated area when travel was slow and roads were poor.

I have been told of local dances in those early years when my grandfather's violin was the only music. Other times Grace would accompany him on piano or organ if one was available.

On June 1, 1918, Dan Guthrie suffered a stroke which affected his right side and left him quite weak. Later that summer, against the strict advice of his doctor and in spite of the concerned admonitions of family and friends, he was mowing hay. He always said, "It is better to wear out than to rust out." At any rate, he was injured in an accident typical of many which happened in the days of horse-drawn implements; and described it as follows in a letter to his brother:

"I was mowing three weeks ago yesterday, had brought the mower to the barn to unhitch, had the team all unhitched, lines unsnapped and done up, but failed to unhitch the off tug on the off horse. The team was not hitched together in any way. The finger bar of the mower was standing up. When I started the team, the horse with the one tug hitched became wild. I was rather between the two and near their heads. The only thing I had to stop him with was the bridle rein, and that broke, and I was run over by the mower, and as the tongue was down and the finger bar very low I was dragged and rolled over the ground quite a distance and knew but little about what happened for a time. Dell (Mrs. Guthrie) and Grace got to me as soon as possible and got me to the house in some way. There were no bones broken but my legs were both run over and the right one is just getting so I can use it a little. I think I shall be able to do some work in a few days."

Grace married William Pattinson on August 2, 1920.

In the fall of 1921 my grandfather had an auction sale, rented his land to William Pattinson and moved back to the United States; but by the spring of 1922 they were back in Alberta on the home place. Dan Guthrie died there on March 6, 1923. In the words of his obituary, he "came to Alberta in 1911, where though advanced in years he faced the hardships attendant upon building up a home in a new country with dauntless courage, energy and optimism. His integrity, kindly consideration for all, loyalty to friends and selfless devotion to his family were outstanding characteristics. He was ever ready to assist with intelligent interest and effort whatever tended toward the welfare of the community, as long as health and strength permitted. These failed rapidly during the last two years, and the last illness was of short duration."

About 1914, my grandmother's unmarried sister Mary came from Moscow, New York, to make her home with the Guthrie family. Aunt Mary was very deaf as the result of scarlet fever in childhood. Sometime during the First World War a barbed-wire telephone was installed between the Guthrie farm and the Nick Lund place a mile and a half south; at this time it was discovered that Aunt Mary could hear ordinary telephone conversation quite clearly. It was also a source of wonder and amazement that it was no effort for her to hear normal conversation while riding in a car.

Although her constitution was frail, Aunt Mary was bright and energetic. She made the care of the chickens her responsibility, and she and my grandmother gained a wide reputation for the large vegetable and flower gardens they raised each year.

After my grandfather died in the spring of 1923, Grandma Guthrie and Aunt Mary continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1932 when Aunt Mary died quite suddenly of a heart attack. Grandma was persuaded, much against her will, to come to live with her daughter, Grace.

Grandma had a stove in her room, which she polished periodically with a paste of black lead mixed with water, which was allowed to dry and then polished with a stiff brush. On October 18, 1935, she used a new type of liquid polish which had only to be applied and let dry. There was no warning on the bottle that the polish was very volatile, and the fumes highly explosive and inflammable; sometime later that afternoon, when she struck a match to light her kerosene lamp, the explosion occurred. Instantly the curtains, tablecloth, papers and magazines on the table, the bedding, and Grandma's clothing and hair, were ablaze and burning furiously.

My father had just returned from taking a load of wheat to Endiang, and was at the back door. Because of his prompt action in the use of one of the fire extinguishers which were kept in the house, the flames did not spread; but Grandma was terribly burned and died two days later. She was buried beside her husband at Craigmyle.

It is appropriate to end this story of my grandparents with a word about their Christian faith. Although they were staunch Presbyterians, they were sympathetic and eager to assist any cause based upon true Christian principles, regardless of denomination. Their faith and trust in God, together with a Scotch sense of humor, enabled them to face pioneer life in this land with assurance and a confident sense of purpose.

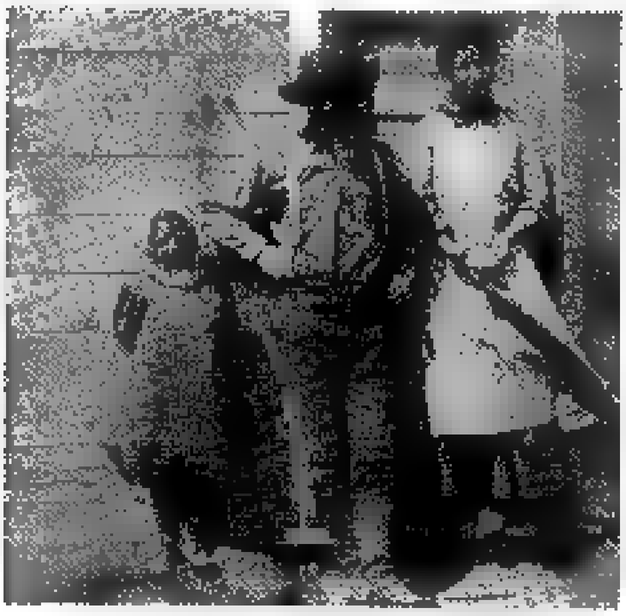
HENRY GILBERTSON, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — Henry Gilbertson was of Swedish descent. He was strong in health and character; a quiet man who liked company, and enjoyed a game of cards.

Mr. Gilbertson came from Minnesota to Alberta, and filed on the NE 26-33-16

in 1909. He took the SE 35-33-16 as his pre-emption. Usually sods for houses were cut with a plow, but Gilbertson cut his with a shovel. He dug a shallow well by hand and cribbed it with rocks from the prairie. He dug a garden spot with his shovel, and had good gardens, and was generous with his produce.

He acquired a horse and an ox. The latter happened to be a cow, which he milked for his own use. His usual mode of transportation was on foot. He was a good carpenter, and eventually built a house, which is still standing, and a barn, part of which was dug into the hillside.

In 1915 he sold his land to George and Fred Chapman; it is now owned by the former's grandson, Doug Johnson. Mr. Gilbertson bought land near Craigmyle, and lived there until he sold to Martin Suelzle in 1928. After a brief holiday in California, he went homesteading again, this time in the Peace River country. After a few years he sold that land and retired to Craigmyle where he died.



Mr. and Mrs. George Banner and Ida

GEORGE BANNER, By Ida Banner Grosse — My father, after selling his butcher business in Kent, England, decided he would like some of the opportunities of Western Canada. My parents came to Magrath in 1908 to visit my Dad's cousin, E.J. Wood who was president of the Mormon Church in Cardston at that time.

In June, 1910, they started their long journey from Cardston to what is known as the Annasheim district, in a wagon with four head of horses, a milk cow, and a saddle horse with a baby colt, which my mother said added considerable pleasure to the trip. It was quite an experience for a city girl with no experience of cooking or hard labor, who also had a wee daughter of two years. They farmed their homestead for years and went through many hardships as everyone did, but always had a cup of tea and a smile for everyone who dropped in.

Never complaining, my mother gave music lessons to quite a few children for next to nothing, often times for a few vegetables, which were very acceptable, as very few had good gardens at that time. She played the organ for all the local concerts at schools and churches, and also at the little Lutheran Church at Scapa, where two services were held, the first in German, and the second in English. In 1913 the first U.F.A. local was formed at Chain Lakes. My mother was secretary for many years. She was also a director of the Acadia Constituency for a good number of years. My parents were among the founders of the Clear Lake Community Club which was formed in the early twenties. Mother was also secretary of this group. They enjoyed their life on their farm and their friends and neighbors.

Mr. Banner passed away on his farm in 1942, and Mrs. Banner passed away in Drumheller in 1976.

JOSEPH BANNER, By Ida Grosse — Joseph, a younger brother of George and Bill Banner, came from England in 1906 to Cardston. When George and his wife came out from England they lived with him for several months, until they got their own home. He was a very talented musician and owned the only piano in

Cardston, which was a very small town at that time. For a time he made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. He played the organ at the church and Mum sang in the choir.

On April 26, 1910, he filed on a homestead, the southwest quarter 24-33-16, but returned to Cardston the same year. He continued with his music lessons and he also played the organ in the Mormon Temple there for many years. Not being a Mormon, this was very unusual, but at that time he was the only one that had the ability. He played for all the weddings and funerals also. It wasn't a very fat living, but he carried on for a number of years. He was married while in Cardston, and had three daughters. Later on he and his family moved to St. Thomas, Ontario, where he bought a beautiful old house. He carried on with his music lessons, played for church and weddings and concerts.

He passed away in the early forties. His wife died several years later. They are both buried in St. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Banner, 1958

WILLIAM BANNER, By Ida Banner Grosse — William Banner and his wife came from England to homestead in 1912. They built a two-room shack, and there their daughters, Lillian and Maggie, were born.

He had been a stable boss in England, and was very fond of horses. He always had the manes and tails of his horses braided, and had good harness on them. He was quite an actor and comedian, telling jokes and singing humorous songs at concerts; and at school house dances he called the square dances. He was also a very good swimmer.

In 1923 he sold out and returned to England, where he worked for his brother on a farm. In 1968 George and I visited them, and he passed away that night. His wife died about 1972.

Hawtrey Goldfinch 187th Battalion World War I

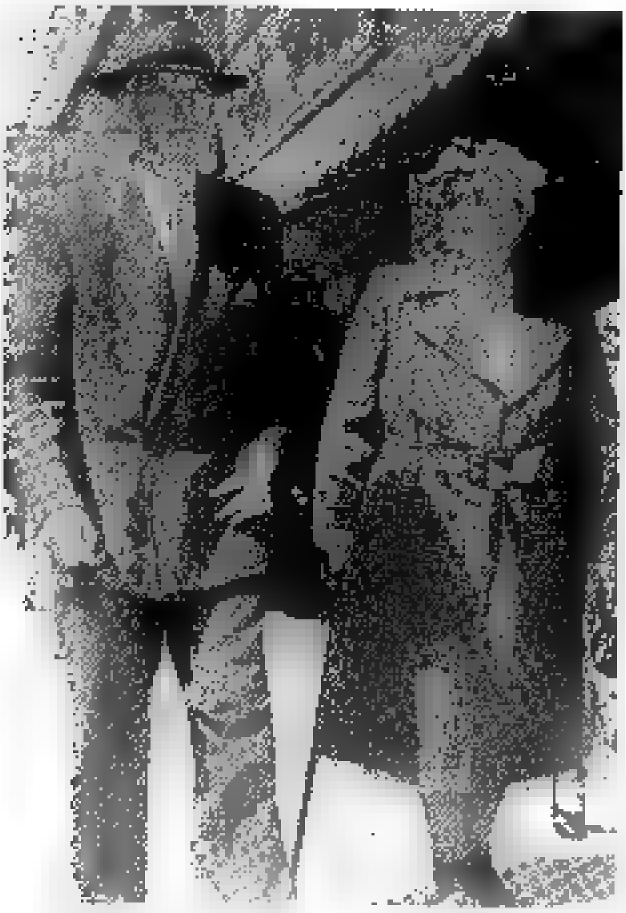
HAWTREY GOLDFINCH, By Ida Grosse and T. Pattinson — Hawtrey Goldfinch came from England to Canada as a very young boy, and made his home with his sister, Mrs. George Banner. He was the only man we knew who never ate meat.

In May 1914, he homesteaded the southwest 12-33-16; joined the army shortly after war was declared, and was severely wounded in action overseas. He proved up on his homestead after his discharge.

In 1922 he married Mrs. Dick Van Slyke, nee Anna Lund, whose first husband died as a result of a kick from a horse. She had a little boy, Jim Van Slyke, and later another son, Jack Goldfinch was born.

In 1928 he began to work for the Soldier Settlement Board, and remained with them until 1956 when his health started to fail, then retired to Victoria where they both enjoyed gardening. Their son Jack was killed in World War II, while serving with the RCAF, and Jim also passed away at an early age as the result of rheumatic fever contracted during military service.

Hawtrey Goldfinch died in Victoria, and Mrs. Goldfinch is now living in Peace River.



Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman

THE CHAPMANS, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman, and my brother Bob emigrated from England to Calgary in 1906. My dad, a fireman by trade, worked out of Calgary on the C.P.R. Calgary-Lacombe run. My uncles, Jim and Fred Chapman, also came to Calgary, in 1908. Uncle Jim had been a 'Bobby' on the police force in England, and worked with the force in Calgary. Uncle Fred worked as fireman on the C.P.R. Crows Nest Pass run. They worked at these jobs until homesteading in 1910.

My dad's homestead was the NW 36-33-16; Uncle Jim's the SW 36-33-16 and Uncle Fred's the NW 35-33-16. Another uncle whom I did not know, Robert Chapman, came to Canada in 1911, and homesteaded the NW 31-33-15. He worked locally until his untimely death in 1915. None of my uncles ever married.

Mother, Dad and my brother Bob came from Calgary to Gadsby by train, and were met at the station by Mr. E.B. Donald with his team and wagon. My dad had a team and a wagon, a colt and a cow, and other settlers' effects. The cow was tied behind the wagon and Mr. Donald led the way to the homestead. My uncles, Jim and Fred, came a few weeks later.

The time was mid-October. It was almost a three-day trip from Gadsby, but there were stopping places along the way where food and a night's lodging could be obtained. That year had been extremely dry, and the homesteaders along the way refused water for the animals, saying that their wells were shallow and almost dry. However, my parents knew that when they arrived at their destination there would be plenty of water, as Uncle Fred's homestead had springs on it.

When they arrived at the homestead, cold and tired, they pitched a tent, which was home to them until sufficient sods were plowed to build a shack. Winter set in with a vengeance in early November of that year. They had no idea of the hardships they would be called upon to face. Supplies and mail and coal were hard to get; they burned dry wood for the first year, later getting coal from the Garden Plain country. Rabbit and prairie chicken provided meat in winter, ducks in summer. The winters were long and cold, with deep snow; and in the summer of 1912, they made their first acquaintance with an Alberta hail storm.

As time went by supplies became a little easier to obtain. Hanna had made its

appearance on the map, even though it was almost a twenty-four hour trip by team. Craigmyle was next, and was our main town for the next fourteen years. Post offices came closer. Our address was Dowling Lake P.O., Via Craigmyle, Alberta, Canada, North West Territories.

In 1912 two farm houses were built, one for my uncles and one for Dad and family. My parents' house was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1914; everything was lost, including Mother's piano, her violin, her music diplomas and trunks full of music. Kind neighbors came to their aid and housed them for the winter months. In the spring Dad bought a half-section of land from Mr. Henry Gilbertson with buildings on it. Mr. Gilbertson moved into the Craigmyle district.

In 1916 there was another fierce hail storm. After struggling three more years with Nature's ups and downs, the present house was completed. Somewhere along the line I made my appearance.

Endiang Cairn Left to right: Glen Tucker, Jean Pattinson, Wilma Hunt, 1975.

As I grew older I often asked those pioneers if they would go through it again, and they replied that though times were tough, it was a free life, the air was pure and Nature was out in all her glory. Our homesteaders are gone now. Uncle Fred passed away in 1953, Uncle Jim in 1956, my dad in 1960, Mother in 1968, and my brother Bob in 1971.

In August of 1975 the Endiang community held a sixty-fifth anniversary homecoming, and over two thousand people, including many pioneers, came home. A beautiful stone cairn, constructed of native rock, was built by George Smith, son of the first section foreman of Endiang, assisted by Doug Donald and other descendants of pioneer families in the district. Inscribed on the plaque of the cairn are these words: "To honor the courageous men and women who homesteaded in this area and the pioneer businessmen who built the hamlet of Endiang, and to Commemorate the opening of the first Endiang Post Office in 1910, and the establishment of the town on its present site in 1925, the people of the Endiang district dedicate this cairn, August 2, 1975. Our Home."

God bless our pioneers who sacrificed so much for us. May they rest in peace.

Gunnar Johnson in leather blacksmith's apron, Endiang Blacksmith's Shop, 1937

MR. and MRS. GUNNAR JOHNSON, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — I was born on the farm in what is known as the old Gilbertson house, which is still standing. I attended Summerhill, Annasheim and Endiang schools, and took three years of correspondence courses. In 1941 I married Gunner Johnson in Calgary, where we lived for ten years.

Gunnar had come to Canada from Sweden in 1927. He was a man who could turn his hand to many trades. He worked as a gold miner and a lumberman in British Columbia, as a brakeman on the C.P.R. between Lacombe and Coronation, then did farming, blacksmithing and welding with the Kelbel Brothers of Endiang. He was also John Deere agent in Endiang. In 1942 he joined the army as an Armament Artificer. Realizing that city life was not for us, we came back to the farm in 1950. We rented my uncles' land and in 1957 bought the Alex Kalenith place one half mile south of Endiang.

Gunnar passed away suddenly on June 20, 1973.

Our older son, Doug, his wife and three children live in their own home on the Kalenith place. Our younger son, Donald, and his wife Blanche live and farm on the original farm of George Chapman. I am still living on the farm.

As I think back to earlier years I remember many things . . . the horseback rides, bareback, to the Dowling Lake post office, eighteen miles the round trip, sometimes with two flour sacks of mail slung over the horse's neck, for we picked up our mail only once every four or six weeks. I soon saved my pennies for a saddle.

The postmaster at Dowling Lake was a Mr. Stanley Price who was always chewing tobacco. The mailboxes were on the inside wall facing the wicket; he loved cats and I counted thirty-nine mailboxes, with a yellow cat in each one. We soon changed our Post Office.

I also remember the long cold and windy democrat rides, and the sleigh rides with upset cutters and runaway horses, the barn dances in the barn lofts. I have seen men fall down the feed chutes and into the mangers below, and live to tell the story, (they had smelled too much home brew); the local picnics, schoolhouse dances and concerts; the fall threshing with Dad's Rumley outfit with bunk car, cook car and twenty-five or thirty men to cook for. Who could forget nineteen cent wheat, fat cattle that didn't bring enough to pay the freight, gathering crows' eggs and gopher tails for a cent apiece?

But most of all I remember the happy times we had with music in the home. Mother was an accomplished pianist and my brother Bob played trumpet and saxophone, and I played whatever instrument was handy. We were known as the Chapman orchestra, and we played for many dances.

J. J. BRUCE HOOPER, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — J.J. Bruce Hooper came from Bruce County, Ontario, to Erskine in 1906-1907. He worked on farms until November, 1910, when he filed on a homestead on the NW 25-33-16. He did

his homestead duties during the summers and worked out during the winters.

In the fall of 1916 he married my aunt, Dora Edmonason, who had come from England to Calgary in 1907. In the fall of 1917 they moved to Lulu Island, B.C., where they had a fruit farm. They are both now deceased.

Uncle Bruce rented his land to Alex Kalenith, and later it was purchased by Hans and John Hansen. It is now owned by Herb Bossert.

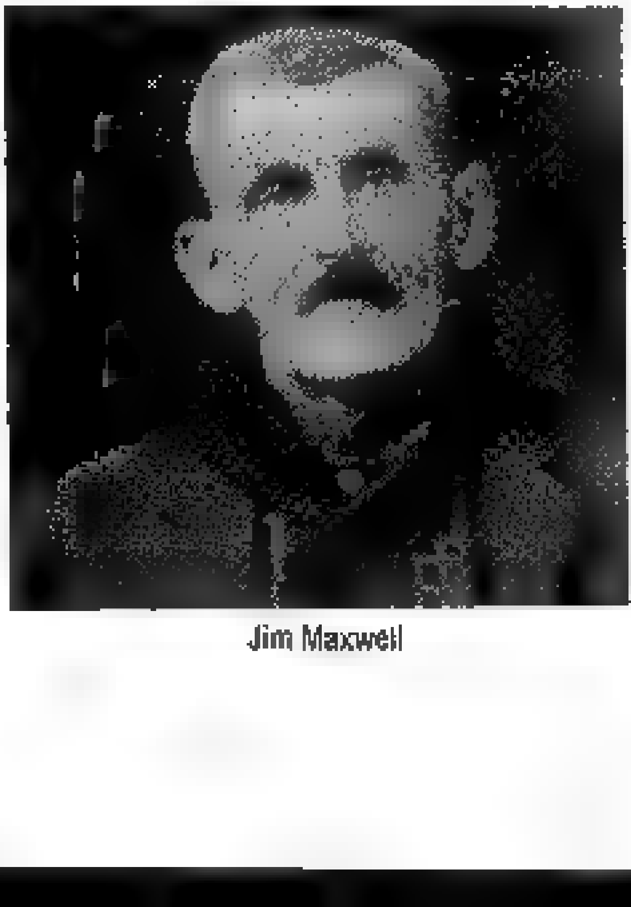
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hooper in the potato patch about 1916.

CHARLES D. PIERSON — In 1910 Charles Pierson came from the United States to homestead the NW 24-33-16. He was married when he came here and had one daughter, Rena, who operated a millinery shop in Endiang for a time. Rena married Louis Ruppel, a trapper from B.C. who had tremendous physical stamina; it was said that he could run the seven miles to Endiang without stopping.

Mrs. Pierson died in the mid twenties. In 1928, Mr. Pierson sold his land to Hans Hansen and moved to Clearwater, B.C. where his daughter and her husband lived. He took out another homestead there, but died before he was able to prove up on it.

JIM MAXWELL — Jim Maxwell was a bachelor who homesteaded the NE 23-33-16 and took the north west quarter of the same section as his pre-emption. He came to Alberta from the United States, and kept quite a number of cattle until 1924 when he sold them and rented his land out. He continued to live on his farm until his death in the early thirties.

Neighbors remember him as a man who never owned a lamp, but always used a lantern in the house. He took a great interest in his community, was a U.F.A. member, and was a trustee of Annesheim school for several years.



Jim Maxwell

BERT A. KIRKEBY — Bert Kirkeby was born in Oslo, Norway, [illegible] 1877. As a boy he came with his family to Minnesota; he later married Mary Moen, a sister [illegible] Svend Moen, in North Dakota. In 1910 he homesteaded the NE 12-33-16, and the following spring pre-empted the north-west quarter of the same section. Bert Kirkeby was the first chairman of the Annasheim school board and served as such for many years.

During the first war the Kirkebys built a large hip-roofed barn which was to become a landmark in the district. [illegible] was the scene of many barn dances and public meetings. Meetings to organize the Alberta Wheat Pool were held there; one of these was addressed by Henry Wise-Wood.

When a dance was to be held, the organ or piano was lifted into the loft with hay slings. It could not be left there between dances as the turkeys would roost on it. The barn, still standing plumb and true, was dismantled in 1976.

In the early twenties, Bert sold his farm to Dan Lund and started a coal mine in the Princeton district. In 1934 he opened a strip mine near his original location but removing the dirt proved too costly, so he sank a vertical shaft to the coal seam and built a tipple. The coal was good and Kirkeby's mine was known far and wide. Countless numbers of two-ton loads were hauled from there by team and wagon or sleigh. 'Going for coal' meant leaving home at three or four o'clock in the morning to get a place near the front [illegible] the line-up, and sometimes there was a long wait even then.

In 1941 the Kirkebys closed the mine and moved to Drumheller. Bert died in 1951 and Mrs. Kirkeby in 1976. There were seven children, Mabel, Lulu, Stella, Eddy, Jim, Gordon and Leonard.

Svend Moen, right, and his brother Chris

SVEND MOEN — Svend Pederson Moen was the son of Peder Hansen and his wife Marit Hansen. As was the custom in Norway at that time, the boy's second name was his father's name with 'son' added, and his surname was the name of the farm where the family lived. Svend was born in 1875.

About 1900, Svend's older brother, Hans, immigrated to North Dakota, and worked until he had saved enough money to bring another member of the family to America. Eventually nearly all his brothers and sisters, and his mother, settled in North Dakota, and in 1911 Svend took a homestead and pre-emption on the west half of 13-33-16. His brother Theodore and his mother lived with him on the homestead.

About 1914 Svend walked up behind a horse in the pasture. It kicked him in the face, and Ole Braaten took him to Gadsby in the back of a democrat, to get medical aid. The face was so badly swollen that there was little that could be done for him, and the bones were allowed to heal without being set, so that the left side of his face was badly deformed. In a later accident [illegible] telephone pole being used as a pry to move [illegible] granary slipped, striking him in the face.

For a number of years Svend leased a school section, 29-33-15. He put a

cedar fence around the entire section and raised cattle there. In the days of stack threshing, Svend had the reputation of being able to build perfectly symmetrical bundle stacks. He had a grinder connected to a windmill with an unusually large wheel, where he crushed his own grain for feed.

After Svend retired from farming he made his home with his nephew, Ben Mohn, for several years, and then moved to Hanna where he died in December, 1959. He is buried in Craigmyle cemetery.

PALMER MOEN — Palmer Moen was born September 10, 1910, the second oldest of the eleven children of Chris Moen. In the fall of 1929 he left the family home in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, to live and work in the Annasheim district with his uncle, Svend Moen.

On December 21, 1935, Palmer and Jean Marnock were married. The couple had three children, Gerald, Isabel and Parry.

Palmer enjoyed hunting, and for seventeen years was the pitcher on the Endiang ball team.

In the fall of 1947 the land was sold to Carl Schultz, and the Moen family moved to a farm at Rimbey. Palmer and Jean are now retired and living at Drayton Valley.

Ole Bernhardson-Braaten with his violin

OLE BERNHARDSON BRAATEN, By Phyllis Chapman Johnson — Ole Bernhardson was born in Norway, moved to Minnesota and then to Birch Hills, Saskatchewan. In 1911 he filed on the SW 24-33-16, which Joe Banner had filed on but given up. The land was very level but quite sandy.

Unlike many homesteaders who arrived almost penniless, Ole did have some money. He lived with a neighbor and helped out on his farm while he was building a house on his own land. Ole never worked fast, but was a very steady man, and whatever he did was well done.

As time went by he accumulated the usual implements and four big dapple grey horses. He always kept his animals in top condition and never overworked them. He milked a cow and made his own butter.

Ole had a beautiful bay mare that he drove on the buggy; he called her Daisy. She was a little high strung but could certainly cover the ground. When my Dad's outfit was threshing for Ole, I, as a young girl, was thrilled to be allowed to drive Daisy to Craigmyle for supplies, or to take lunch to the threshing crew. The single buggy was always kept in a shed to protect it from the weather, and Ole's single cutter was also kept in top shape.

Ole played the violin; the tone he could get out of it was something to be heard. It was certainly not a cheap violin, and Ole was really offended if anyone called it a fiddle. He enjoyed playing an old fashioned waltz, but liked classical

music, and could play it, too. He played for dances and gave lessons to a few of the younger people.

Ole was always well dressed; even his large moustache was always neatly trimmed. In the late twenties he changed his name from Bernhardson to Braaten.

In the early thirties Ole sold his land and bought another farm north-east of Endiang, where he lived for a few years and then moved back to Birch Hills. He farmed the land which had belonged to his half-brother, Ole Johnson, and later bought a farm in the Waiteville district. When he grew older and found the work harder, he retired to the Lutheran Old Folks' Home at Domremy, where he spent his remaining years.

It is believed that he still has a nephew living in the Birch Hills area.

My thanks to Ben Mohn for supplying some of this information.

THE JOHN RENK FAMILY — John Renk homesteaded the SW 31-33-15 on December 15, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Renk had two children, a son who lived in the States and a daughter who was married to George Herr. Because the son's wife had died, the Renks made a home for his daughter, Magdalena.

Mr. and Mrs. Herr and their family lived in Craigmyle for a time, and then moved to the homestead to live with Mrs. Herr's parents.

Magdalena Renk married Sam Hoffman. George Herr moved to Hanna, and about 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Renk and their daughter and her family returned to the United States. Julius Schultz farmed the land.

JACK CHAPMAN — John William Chapman homesteaded the SE 23-33-16 on February 6, 1911. Known as 'The Lion Tamer' because he had once worked in a circus, he was one of the first in the district to have a radio. He bought parts and assembled, sold and serviced radios.

He married while he lived in the district, and had one son, Edward Arthur (Teddy). Teddy became a tinsmith and also operated an electrical service shop in Brooks for a time. He was an enthusiastic ham radio operator, and his call letters are still listed, showing that he resides at Entwhistle.

Jack Chapman was a staunch Social Crediter. He was secretary of Annasheim school district for several years.

About 1937 the Chapmans sold their land, had an auction sale, and moved to a chicken farm near Midnapore. A couple of years later they moved to Calgary where they died.

JULIUS SCHULTZ FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Schultz arrived in Canada from Michigan in 1910, with their first four children, Paul, Carl, Mabel, and Ervin. They settled in Gadsby where Mr. Schultz ran a blacksmith shop, and where Herman was born. In 1911 they moved to the homestead at Endiang. Here they had six more children, Myrtle, Martha, Henry, Edna, Violet and Herbert.

The little brown house on the hill was always filled to capacity with friends and neighbors. Mum Schultz was known far and wide for her cordial hospitality and her delicious meals, that were ready for anyone at any time. It was not unusual to serve Sunday dinner to fifty people. In the early years during hunting season, not only was the house full, but there were beds in the haylofts and granaries. Salesmen who travelled the country made it a point to arrive at the Schultz home at mealtimes.

Not only was she Mum to her eleven children, but also to most of their friends. Because of the distance to hospital and modes of transportation, Mum was called on, very often in the middle of the night, to act as midwife. Many children of the community could say that she was the first person to pat their bottoms.

Dad Schultz was one of the founders and builders of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He acted on its council for a number of years. He was also an active member in different capacities on the Municipal council. In the early years he was the weed inspector for a wide area. In 1931, while he was Secretary-Treasurer for the school board, Annasheim needed a new teacher. There were so many applications that they jam-packed a hundred pound flour sack.

When the country was new, J.C., as he was commonly known, did a lot of blacksmithing. The old forge belched out the heat and the huge anvil resounded with the banging of plow shares. Hundreds of horses walked out of the yard with new shoes. He also did a good deal of carpenter work in the neighborhood. He built one of the first schools in the area, Summerhill, which is still standing on the original site.

Julius and Emma Schultz with their family on their 50th anniversary. The tree cake in the foreground is a replica of their original wedding cake which is baked on a spit over an open fire.

In 1925, while still retaining the homestead, the family moved to Edgewater, B.C. Here they ran a lumber mill and ranched in the vicinity. After two or three years the bottom fell out of the lumber business so they came back to the prairie.

For many years they had one of the big threshing machines in the area. Paul, covered with grease, ran the huge Case engine, and Carl operated the 28" White separator. It took eight hard working men and teams, and a couple of spike pitchers, to feed the brute. Many a neighbor's field was cleaned in jig time.

In 1946 the old homestead was sold and the family moved to Endiang. It wasn't for Mum to retire. Whenever a work crew was looking for a place to board, they somehow found their way to Mum's table.

In November, 1955, J.C. was hit by a car in Calgary, and passed away in January, 1956. Mum staunchly carried on until 1961 when a stroke took her. Paul died in 1960, Mabel in 1967, Martha in 1973 and Violet in 1976.

The rest of the family are living within 150 miles of home. Each year since 1965 we have held a family reunion. We can boast of over a hundred direct descendants. Julius and Emma Schultz will not be soon forgotten.

THE PAUL SCHULTZ FAMILY, By Connie Schultz — Paul Schultz, the oldest child in the Julius Schultz family, moved to the Annasheim district with his parents in 1911, and spent the rest of his life in the area. In 1932 he married Connie Heptonstall; the young couple lived on the Heptonstall homestead for a time, and also lived on the Gus Abram farm and the Van Sickle place before buying the Jack Chapman land in 1936.

Paul and Connie Schultz had seven children. Walter died in infancy; Gordon operates a motel at Brooks; Margaret Jones lives on the home place. Dennis and Ray reside in Calgary. Joan Mohl, who works at the Royal Bank in Hanna, lives south of Hanna. Judy married Albert Ryckman of Hanna and they live at Wetaskiwin.

Paul died suddenly in 1960. Connie is now retired and makes her home in Calgary.

The George Jones family. Left to right: Brenda, Dean, Margaret, Lynn, George, Wesley, Tracey

GEORGE JONES, By Margaret Jones — George Jones was born in Gadsby in 1925, and moved to the Byemoor district the following year. He was the seventh child in the family of John Jones, Sr. I was born in 1935, the second child in the Paul Schultz family. George and I were married at the Scapa Lutheran Church on September 11, 1953. We lived north of Byemoor, and in the Craigmyle area, until the spring of 1961, when we took over my mother's farm after my dad passed away.

George was a carpenter and worked for people [illegible] over the country. He passed away very suddenly on February 28, 1976.

We had five children. Dean operates the UFA bulk station in Byemoor; Lynn is married to Jim Graham and lives in Calgary. Wesley, Brenda and Tracey are still at home and attend school in Hanna.

I still live on and operate the farm.

THE CARL SCHULTZ FAMILY — Carl Schultz is the second child in the Julius Schultz family. As a young man he worked at home on the family farm, operated a well-drilling machine, and installed lightning rods on many buildings. He also worked on the construction of the Scapa-Spondin CNR rail line.

In April, 1942, he married Ida Meyers, and they moved to the Jack Shelberg farm which Carl had purchased from Shelberg's daughter, Mrs. Art Clayton, several years previously. Carl did a great deal of custom combining in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz had two daughters, Betty born in 1943 and Cathy born in 1956. In the fall of 1967, Carl, Ida and Cathy moved to Calgary.

Betty married Ken Halvorsen in 1960. Ken did commercial trucking for several years, and has been a member of the Country Drifters orchestra since its inception. The Halvorsens have three daughters, Debbie, Vicky and Tammy, all attending school in Hanna. They are now operating the farm and live on the home place.

Carl and Ida Schultz with Cathy holding the cat.

The Ken Halvorsen family. Vicky, Debbie, Betty, Tammy and Ken

The Jacob Bossert family. Mr. and Mrs. Bossert, Albert, Bertha and Johnny.

JACOB BOSSERT, By The Grandchildren — Jacob Bossert was born in Bessarabia in 1873. Not much is known of his youth. He married a widow, Louise Hagel (nee Flaig) who was born in Beresina, Bessarabia in 1873. She had a daughter Marie, who was born in 1897.

A daughter Bertha was born to Jacob and Louise in Bessarabia in 1902. They immigrated to North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1903. Twins were born to them on May 23, 1908, in Jud, North Dakota, a son Albert survived. From the United States they moved to Mayton, Alberta, where they lived until 1911. On May 30, 1911 they filed on a homestead on the southwest 30-33-15 and a pre-emption on the northeast 30-33-15, located in what was later known as the Annasheim district. A son Johnny was adopted when he was only a few years old. He helped on the farm and later took a job with the C.N.R. on the Section Crew.

Mr. and Mrs. Bossert farmed until November 1939, when they retired to Hanna.

Louise passed away at her home in Hanna on November 7, 1947, and Jacob spent his last few years in a nursing home in Calgary. He passed away in 1957.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT BOSSERT, By Ervin Bossert and Ruby Robinson — Albert Bossert, son of Jacob and Louise Bossert, was born on May 23, 1908, at Jud, North Dakota. He was baptized December 1, 1908 in the town of Alfred, North Dakota. His parents and their family moved to Mayton, Alberta, then took up a homestead at Endiang in May, 1911. Albert got his education at a country school called Annasheim. He was confirmed in Hanna on April 9, 1922 by Pastor Jacob Kissler.

On November 14, 1929 he married Wilhelmina Bassler. She was born June

25, 1909 and emigrated with her parents from Leipiz, Bessarabia in May, 1927. When they were first married, they lived with Dad's parents and helped them farm. Their first child, a daughter Ida, was born on September 19, 1930. The next year they moved to a two-room house a few miles from Dad's parents' place. Dad still continued to farm with his father. On February 24, 1932 a son Ervin was born. In the fall of 1932 Dad rented a farm in the Garden Plain district which was formerly owned by Henry Pahl. A daughter Ruby was born on February 13, 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bessert, 1956

In the thirties it was dry and the crops were poor so in the fall of 1934 we moved to the Peace River country. Dad rented a farm one mile from North Pine Village. Dad also hauled some freight to make extra money. In the spring of 1936 Dad and Mother again packed up their family and came back south. Dad rented the Chester Bartman place near Scapa. Ida and Ervin attended school at Scapa.

In the spring of 1938 Dad finally bought his own farm, the northeast 7-33-15, from Mack Sobolewski. William Banner had homesteaded this place in 1911. In 1939, a daughter Doreen was born on January 9. In the spring Dad bought a 1932 Ford car. Summer brought an epidemic of sleeping sickness to the area and a lot of our horses died so Dad bought his first tractor. That fall Dad and Mother used this tractor and a horse binder to cut George Banner's crop.

On March 2, 1941 Dad hitched two horses in front of the Ford car and went as far as the McCuish place, then he was able to drive the rest of the way to Hanna with the car to take Mother to the hospital where Shirley was born.

The next two years went on much the same, but Mother found things a little easier when she got her washing machine with a gas motor and they also remodelled the house. On July 13, 1943 Dad had to make another rush trip to town. Betty was born in the Hanna Hospital.

By this time the crops were somewhat better and life was getting a bit easier. Dad had better machinery and also owned a better car. Their last son, Herbert, was born on February 1, 1949. All we children attended Annasheim School until we finished grade nine.

Ida married Robert Dumont who works for the C.N.R. in Edmonton. They have two children, Janice and Kenny. Janice married Brian Waltze in 1976.

Ervin married Thelma Clark and farms in the Chain Lakes district. They have three children: Patti, Kevin and Todd.

Ruby married Wesley Robinson; they farm near Hanna. They have two children: Blake and Sherrie.

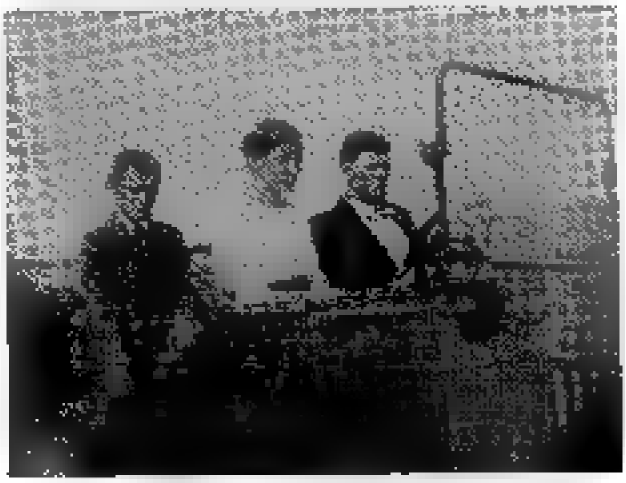
Doreen married Rex Beach, a teacher in Edmonton. They have two sons, Barrie and Sherman.

Shirley married John Aitken, a dentist. They live in Calgary and have four children; Kathy, Michelle, Scott and Steven.

Betty married Dave Wake, a teacher at S.A.I.T. They live in Calgary and have two children, Colin and Carla.

Herbert married Betty Hickle and lives on the home place.

Albert Bossert passed away on January 23, 1969. Wilhelmina died on November 26, 1969. Both are buried in the Hanna Cemetery.


Mr. and Mrs. Martin Baes, Sam Burgemeister

THE MARTIN BAES STORY, By Albert Baes — Martin Baes was born in Bessarabia in 1899. He came with his parents, three older sisters and a younger brother to South Dakota in 1907. In the spring of 1913 the family left South Dakota and moved to Calgary; during the summer his father homesteaded in the Hand Hills. It was in the Hand Hills that Martin spent most of his early years working for established ranchers and farmers until he acquired sufficient capital to begin farming for himself.

On April 2, 1923 he was united in marriage to Bertha Bossert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert of the Dowling Lake district. They lived and farmed in the Hand Hills until 1929 when they moved to the Sayle Brown farm north of Hanna. They lived here during the depression and the dry thirties, suffering the same hardships as a lot of other people in the same circumstances.

In the fall of 1939 our grandparents, the Jacob Bosserts, decided to retire to Hanna, so we moved to their farm south of Endiang [illegible] the Annasheim district. Mother and Dad lived here till 1961 when they moved to Hanna; but Dad continued to help on the farm as he didn't like town life.

There were four children in the family. Albert still lives on the farm at Endiang. Freda is a Nursing Aide at the Dr. Ross Nursing Home in Drumheller. She is married to Stan Waselewski, a C.N.R. employee. Edward works for Ace Construction in Calgary. John is married to Elvina Doering of Kindersley, and they have two daughters, Dallas and Dixie. John works for Kentron Homes in Calgary.

Mother passed away April 23, 1972 after a lengthy illness. Dad passed away suddenly on March 6, 1973. They are both resting in the Hanna cemetery.

THE JOHN BOSSERT STORY — John Meyers, a younger brother of Fred, was born in 1912. When his mother died the Jacob Bossert family adopted him, he took their name, and lived with them until they sold their farm in the fall of 1939. In the spring of 1940 he moved to the A. Blomberg place where he farmed for four years.

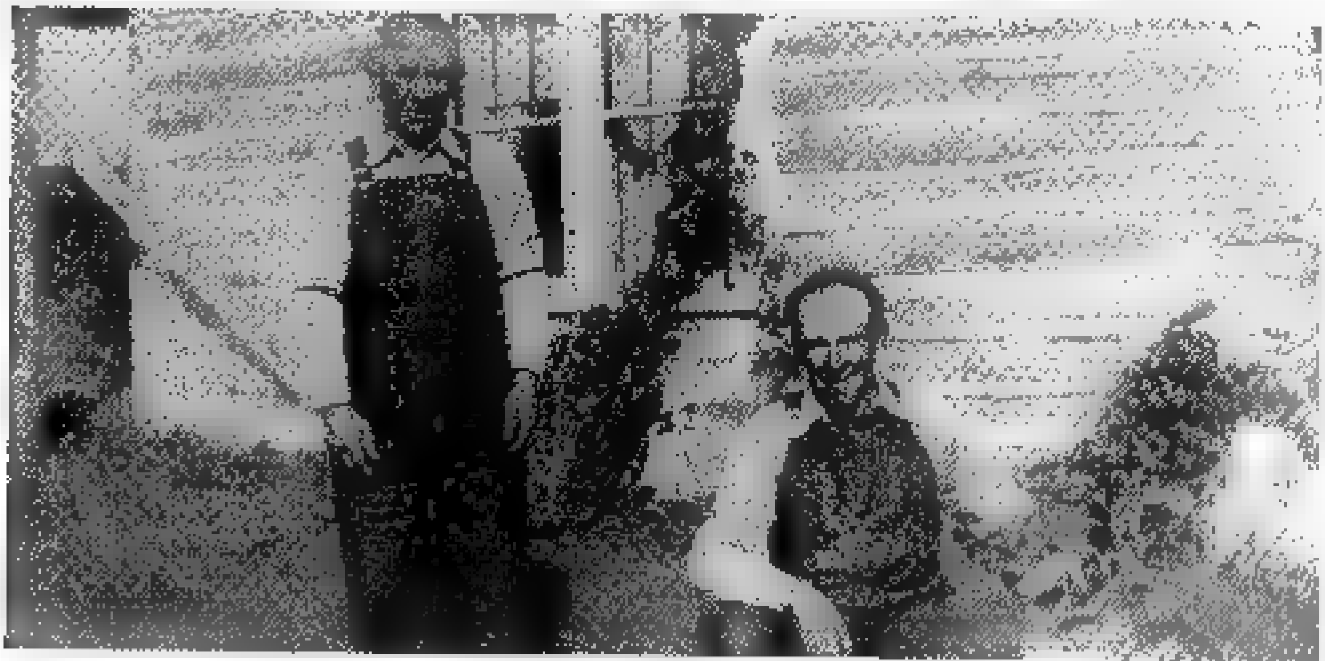
In the spring of 1944 he married Esther Metzger of Carbon. The newlyweds moved to the Emil Kemmerle place, which they rented until 1947 when John went [illegible] work on the section at Endiang. He was transferred to Delacour and Nightingale, worked for a time on a turkey farm at Beiseker and in the Linden Machine Works. He is now retired and living [illegible] Linden.

Esther died in the fall of 1973. They had four children; Orvin who is at Medicine Hat, Philip working on a farm near Drumheller, Lucy and Laura who live in Drumheller.

PHILIP FRED MEYERS — Fred Meyers was one of a family of five children. His father was a section man at Watts, and when his mother died the family was split up. Fred was raised by the Henry Wielie family of Watts, and he worked on the section there for a time before coming to the Annasheim district. He stayed with

the Julius Schultz family for a short while, and then made his home with the Gus Stulberg family.

He was quite mechanically inclined. He had a Model T Ford Coupe with a Ruckstell rear end, of which he was very proud. Jack Stulberg recalls his mother and father leaving for Hanna one spring in Fred's Model T, after it had been on blocks for the winter. All they had was one gallon of gas. They coasted down all the hills with the ignition turned off and made it all the way to Hanna on that one gallon of gas.



P.F. Meyers with his father. Fred is on the right petting the dog.

Fred traded his Model T to Austin Ludlow for a Titan 10-20 tractor. In the winters he and his brother, Johnny Bossert, who owned a grinder, formed a partnership and did custom grinding.

Fred was very fond of dogs, and every dog in the country knew him and would not bark when he came to visit.

In the fall of 1937 Fred left the Annasheim district with the Mac Sobolewski family, to locate near Stony Plain where he bought a farm, built a house and worked in a garage part time.

Fred was last known to be living in Vancouver with his sister.

The Gus Stulberg family. Jack, Walter, Gus, Lawrence, Mrs. Stulberg, Caroline and Lenore. Missing are Pauline and Martha who were married by then.

THE STULBERG FAMILY, By Jack Stulberg — Gus Stulberg was born in Germany on February 16, 1891, to John and Carolina Stulberg. In the early 1900's, his widowed mother brought her four children, Louise, Gus, Gottlieb and Freida, to the state of Washington. Louise married J. Geissler and settled on a farm in southern Saskatchewan; Gus became a baker, but in 1912 he decided that he would like to homestead in Canada.

He travelled to what is now the Scapa-Endiang district to select a homestead quarter. While in the area, Gus stayed at Jacob Bossert's, (today the Albert Baes farm), and Mr. Bossert as-

sisted him in locating a homestead, advising him of the importance of a good water supply. The quarter he chose had a good spring, but was hilly and rocky.

Gus returned to the States. On June 25, 1912, in Spokane, Washington, he married Emma Krauss, who had been born in Germany on July 31, 1894, and had come to the States with her parents and sister and three brothers.

In the spring of 1913 Gus and Emma homesteaded the SW 20-33-15. Gus' mother and sister Freida filed on the north-west quarter of the same section, and his brother Gottlieb homesteaded nearby on the SW 21-33-15. A cousin G. Glubrecht also filed on land in the area.

The Stulbergs had arrived in Stettler by train, then journeyed southwards to their homesteads. They stayed with the Bossert family until a sod shack could be built on Gus' land. Gus and Emma's first child, Caroline, was born on June 30, 1913.

Mrs. Stulberg Sr., Mrs. Gus Stulberg, Caroline (baby), Freda (Mrs. August Hein)

A few acres were broken the first year and their one cow provided the much-needed milk, cream and cheese. The first years were the hardest. There were no towns nearby, so if supplies were needed, a trip had to be made to Hanna. In later years their mail came to Scapa and Endiang.

[illegible] 1915 they decided that a move to the north end of Sullivan Lake might prove successful. Here Gus rented [illegible] farm and mined coal along the lake. While they lived there they got their mail at Cornucopia post office. In 1916 they returned to the homestead, built a wooden house and continued their farming operations. Emma took the quarter south of the homestead as a pre-emption. In later years they rented the Keehn quarter and purchased the Church quarter.

As the years passed their family grew to eight children: Caroline, 1913; Pauline, 1915; Martha, 1916; Lenore, 1918; Walter, 1919; Lillian, 1922; Jack, 1925; and Lawrence, 1927. Lillian died in 1924.

Gus and Emma were hard-working people, and in the winter of 1917-18 Gus took on the feeding of some of Pat Burns' cattle. While he hauled out the feed, she would water the cattle. The pail was on a long rope that she would let down the well, then pull up, hand over hand. It was very hard work and often her clothes would be covered with ice from the water which splashed and froze on them.

During the twenties it was a struggle to raise a large family and at the same time try to build up the farm, so very little could be set aside for a rainy day. When the depression came, things went from bad to worse. To supplement the family income, Gus worked out part time. He worked many years for Emil Kobi, Sr. of Endiang. The Kobis were good friends and the families visited each other for years.

Gus also operated a coal mine east of Scapa for several years. Partners in this venture, for a time, were Robert Keibel and Gottlieb Weber. Gus worked off his taxes by doing road work with horses and fresno, and was often called upon to do veterinary work.

All the children attended Annasheim school, which was one mile west of the homestead. The boys did janitor work at the schhol, and Emma was on the school board. Good times were had at picnics, dances, and Christmas concerts at Annasheim.

Every Sunday the Stulberg family would join their neighbors and friends in worship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Many families from both Endiang and Scapa attended. Quite often after church, friends would come to Stulberg's for dinner and to spend the afternoon.

Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Emma were among the original founding members of the church. Gus helped with the reconstruction of the building. The children were baptized and confirmed in the little church in the hills. Mrs. Carolina Stulberg, Gus and Lillian, are buried in the cemetery at St. Peter's.

Gus' brother Gottlieb, known to many as Joe, sold his homestead and moved to Hanna where he was employed by the C.N.R. and the town of Hanna until the time of his passing. His sister Frieda married August Hein, and they farmed at Scapa. They had three daughters, Ester, Pauline, who died in 1973, and Louise, who died in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Hein reside in Hanna. Gus' mother, Mrs. Caroline Stulberg, lived on the farm until her death in 1946. She was in her ninetieth year.

Prior to the coming of the railroad in 1925, grain had to be hauled to Craigmyle, usually by team and sleigh during the winter months. When the railroad came through, cream no longer had to be hauled to Hanna by team and buggy, as there was regular train service. The much-welcomed towns of Scapa and Endiang meant no more long trips for supplies and a shorter distance to haul grain.

The Stulbergs always planted a large garden, and when it didn't rain, packed water to it by hand. The main fruit was saskatoons and rhubarb, and for a change it was rhubard and saskatoons. In years when local saskatoons were not available, the family would go to Battle River to pick them. In the winter Gus and Gottlieb Weber would travel to Buffalo Lake and bring home a wagon box of fish.

In 1944 Gus bought the Kirkeby farm south of Endiang. The family moved there in 1947 and farmed there until Gus and Emma retired to Hanna in 1951. Gus worked for a time for the Town of Hanna. In 1962, this pioneer couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Gus passed away on March 18, 1963, at the age of seventy-two. Emma later moved to Calgary, where at the age of eighty-two she still looks after her own home and garden.

The children remained in the Endiang-Scapa area for many years, but have since scattered.

Caroline, who is a licensed chef, was employed for many years in Hanna. She now resides in Calgary.

Pauline married Herman Ziemmer in 1935. They farmed for many years north-west of Scapa. In 1967 they sold their land to Lou Lohrmann and bought a smaller place at Mayerthorpe, Alberta, where they are semi-retired.

Martha was united in marriage to Ben Kelbel of Endiang in 1936. They had three daughters, Margaret, Shirley and Donna. They farmed in the Endiang district until they retired to Stettler in 1960. Later they moved to Calgary, where Ben passed away in 1965. Martha and her daughters live in Calgary.

Lenore was married to Reinhold Dewald in 1947. They lived in Hanna for many years, where they raised their two sons, Gordon and Clarence. They also lived briefly at Delia and Endiang; at present they are in Calgary.

Walter, who married Bernice Adams Robertson in 1955, farmed the home place until moving to Hanna where he was employed at the National Hotel. There were three children, Ken, Gordon and Ruth Robertson. Walter and Bernice are now retired and living in Calgary.

The farm was later sold to Ervin and Herb Bossert.

Jack worked as a hired man for several years. In 1950 he lost his right arm in a combine accident. The following year he bought the former Joiner farm at Endiang, and in 1952 married Carol Paxman of Hanna. They have two sons, Les and Larry.

Lawrence married Martha Lizotte in 1959. He worked in Hanna and farmed at Endiang for a few years, then moved to Edmonton where he is a painter in an auto body shop. They have four children, Sherry, Lauri, Kerri and Cory.

Elfreida and August Hein, Louise Hein 1 year old

THE AUGUST HEIN STORY, By Esther Hein Morlock — August Hein was born in Poland, November twenty-ninth, 1894. In 1914, Dad immigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal, after seventeen days of ocean travel. On May 9, 1914 he arrived at Edmonton where he worked till harvest was completed that year.

Dad and his brother Bill went to Castor. From here they walked to the Scapa district, and stayed with a friend Carl Weich, until he found some work with Bert Smyth of Craigmyle. Dad remained here for the winter, hauling hay which was the daily routine.

Dad was fortunate that he had good horses to drive on long hauls. He would tie the lines to the peg and walk behind the load to keep his feet from freezing, as his only footwear was leather shoes. These were far from adequate in twenty below zero conditions.

After that winter he left and worked for a farmer, Sam Leith of Endiang.

After a number of years Dad and his brother decided to go farming on their own. Their first years were not very successful, as a result of severe frost in July. Not one kernel was harvested, so it was out to work again.

Dad's bachelorhood was soon to come to an end. His faithful church going rewarded him because it was here that he met Elfreida Stulberg. They were married in Calgary during December of 1921.

Mother, Elfreida Stulberg was born in southern Russia on November thirteen, 1902. In 1910 she, her mother, sister, two brothers and family immigrated to Canada, arriving in Moznod, Saskatchewan in 1910. In December of that year grandma, mother, brothers Gus and Joe moved to Spokane, Washington where they remained until May of 1913.

With homesteads available, they returned to Alberta. They all pitched in to build brother Gus's new sod shack, which they lived in for that winter. They stayed there until Grandma proved up their homestead. They broke up ten acres of land, then got the title for that. There was no school until Annasheim was built. Mother attended Annasheim school at the same time as Albert and Bertha Bossert, Anna and Dan Lund, who were good friends of mother's.

In those days entertainment was what they made themselves, meeting at different people's places; mother with her mouth organ, another young lad on the accordion, which made for a most enjoyable time. The Clear Lake Hall annual picnics were a stellar attraction in that area. Mother and Bertha Bossert went in the foot races, for the prize for winning was spending money for the day.

The thirties created terrific hardships which were quite general. Russian thistles were gathered on the green side for feed. Cows were sold for ten dollars a head, yearlings for two dollars each. Somehow they survived the depression; as the climate improved, things got better. Since there were no boys in the family, Dad decided to sell the farm, and moved to Hanna in 1947. Dad was employed with the town of Hanna for nineteen years, after which he retired.

Dad and Mother had a family which consisted of three girls, Louise, Esther and Pauline. Louise, the oldest, died as a young girl in 1925. Esther, Mrs. Edgar Morlock residing at Delia, had three children, Darryl, Kenneth and Heather. Pauline, Mrs. Ben Morlock, had two children, Craig of Hanna and Rhonda of Delia. Pauline passed away December nineteenth, 1973.

THE FRED GIEDD STORY, By Austin Ludlow — Fred Giedd was a big, good-natured German who homesteaded and took a pre-emption on the east half of 1-33-16 in 1912. Although these were both fractional quarters, and his farm was small and crowded into the east side of Mud Lake, I never heard him complain.

Fred (Fritz) Giedd

In those days, horses were almost as important as homesteaders, and Fred had a team of white faced Clydes named Blutch and Schnapps. He also had a wagon and an old surrey. If Fred got in a hurry, we would hear him coming, his team on the run, and Fred standing up in the bounding, bouncing surrey.

He liked young folks, and the candy he bought for us was never cheap, but good chocloates.

Fred Giedd left the district about 1920.

PETER DRAXEL — Peter Draxel, who was born in Russia in 1887, immigrated to Spokane, Washington, and in 1912 filed on the east half of 30-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. He married Sophia Rausch and they had three children, two of whom died in infancy. Their surviving son, Emil, had a lifetime career in the services, and died in New Zealand in 1972. His daughter, Mrs. Patsy Juocaitis, lives at Cranbrook, B.C.

Mrs. Draxel died in 1923. Pete sold his farm to Gus Abram in 1926 and moved to Calgary where he worked as a barber for many years. He suffered a stroke in 1951 and after his discharge from hospital he stayed for a time with his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Glubrecht. He then made his home with his niece, Mrs. Erich Woelk, and her family, and remained there until his death in 1957. He was buried in St. Peter's Lutheran Church cemetery at Scapa.

GUSTAV ABRAM — Gus Abram came to Canada from the part of Russia now known as Romania with his uncle, [illegible] Abram. In January, 1915, he homesteaded the NE 20-33-15. A few years later he married Ida Rausch, a sister of Mrs. Pete Draxel. The women were cousins of Mr. Gottlieb Glubrecht.

Mr. Abram donated a corner of his homestead quarter to the Lutheran congregation in 1921; it was on this land that St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the cemetery were located.

In 1926 the Abrams moved to the Pete Draxel place. There were seven children in the family; their oldest child and only daughter died as the result of a ruptured appendix in 1932.

In 1934 the family moved to Rosewelr north of Edmonton, and in the early forties they went to Ontario.

In the early twenties Gus Abram brought his parents, his sister Emma and his brother Otto to Canada. Emma married a man named Wenzel from the Youngstown area. Otto moved north of Edmonton. Gus' parents lived with him till about 1934 when they went to live on the E. Kammerle farm. His mother died in 1936 and his father a year or two later. Both are buried in St. Peter's cemetery.

MR. and MRS. ERIC HICKS COLE, By Phyllis Cole Morlock — Hicks Cole was born on April 28, 1891, in Fillmore, Illinois. One of ten children, he resented having an older sister as his school teacher, and ran away from home, coming to Canada with Earl and Roy Darnell. The Darnells settled in the Horseshoe south of Castor, and Hicks worked for them until he homesteaded the SE 12-33-16 on April 24, 1913. He obtained a shack from Darnells, loaded it on a sleigh, and pulled it to his homestead where it served as his house.

In August, 1916, Hicks married Ruth Hartwell Townsend, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Townsend, who had homesteaded in 1910. They had two children, Hubert and Phyllis.

Hicks took an active part in community life. He was a good dancer and usually acted as floor manager at dances, auctioned pies at pie socials, and played his violin and banjo to entertain his neighbors. He was catcher for the Clear Lake ball club, and when he was no longer able to play ball, he acted as coach and manager for various teams. He was on the executive of the Clear Lake Community

Club, Chairman of the Annasheim school board, and Councillor for Lampton Municipality until it became part of the Special Areas.

Hicks was very acrobatic. Tom Pattinson remembers that as a small boy he was asked to pull the lucky ticket at a community gathering. The tickets had been put in Hicks' hat, and as Tom reached in, Hicks said to him, "You pull my ticket, now." Tom did, and was astonished and delighted to see Hicks put the hat upside down on the floor, and stand on his head in it.

In the early thirties the Cole family lived for about two years on the Jack Shelberg place, where there was a new house, good water, and the children were close to school. Mr. Shelberg was ill at the time, and when he died the Coles returned to their own place. In October of 1954 Mr. and Mrs. Cole were checking bins on land some five miles from home. It was a windy day and when they returned home they discovered that their house had burned down. Nothing was saved. As well as losing all their personal belongings and household furnishings, other valuables were destroyed.

The Coles had been in the habit of saving silver coins, and had several cocoa tins full of them. Although one might assume that the silver would melt into a lump, no trace of it was ever found. Hicks loved to write; over the years he had been in the habit of writing long letters to his parents, and possibly as a result of this, he began to write the story of his life. He called it 'Three Strikes Till Sundown'. The manuscript was destroyed in the fire, and Hicks never re-wrote it.

After the fire, Mr. and Mrs. Cole moved to Endiang, where she operated a restaurant and he drove a rural mail route. Hicks loved to play smear, and in the winter or on rainy days in the summer, he and his cronies would play at a table in the corner of the restaurant.

Hicks died in January, 1959. Mrs. Cole continued to live in Endiang for a few years, then moved to Kelowna, B.C. where at the age of seventy-eight she is well and active.

Hubert became a mechanic, and works in Cessford. He and his wife, the former Mary Mossop, have two children, and make their home in Craigmyle.

Phyllis married Bill Morlock, and they live at Gadsby. They had two sons and two daughters. One son, Keith, was killed in a traffic accident in 1976.

JOE VAN SICKLE — Joe Van Sickle came from eastern Canada. In 1917 he married Effie Wilde from Washington, and lived in a one-roomed house on William Pattinson's pre-emption while he was overseas during World War I. Later Joe bought the south half of 26-33-16 from the Hudson Bay Company and moved a good sized house on to the place.

While the family lived on the farm, Joe did trucking; at one time he had a butcher shop in Craigmyle, and ran a meat wagon during the summers and sold fish in the winters. In the early thirties they moved to Looma, Alberta, where they operated a store for many years.

They had a family of eight children, Agnes, Verna, Violet, Lawrence, Lester, Ray, William and James. Lawrence served overseas during World War II and brought a wife home with him. All the children are married and live close to Looma.

Joe Van Sickle died in 1969.

WILLIAM JARVIS FAMILY — The William Jarvis family came from England to file on the SE 25-33-16 on September 7, 1915. In 1917 they acquired the north-east quarter of the same section as a pre-emption.

There were two children, Lucy and Jessie. The family moved to Calgary about

1923, and shortly afterward Mr. Jarvis was killed when he fell down an elevator shaft during the course [illegible] his work.

Dan and Nick Lund rented the land for a time, and in 1942 Mrs. Jarvis sold it to Martin Bass.

Jessie Jarvis

Lucy Jarvis

THE JOHN KEEHN STORY, By Rose Keehn Mossey — John Keehn was born in the southern part of Russia in 1877. His wife, Rosalie Bais, was born in the same village in 1879. They and their children, Olga, Mary and Elmelia, came to the U.S.A. in 1907. Three more children were born while they lived in Colorado, Elma Rose and John.

Dad came to Canada in 1917, we followed in March of 1919. I was only eight years old at the time, so do not remember the details. Dad had taken out a homestead, and also a coal mine in the Princeton district. We came to Craigmyle by train, then out to the coal mine by sleigh.

We received our mail at a small store run by Mr. Tasker. The address was Dowling, but it was not the same location as Dowling is now. I believe the groceries and other supplies came from Craigmyle.

We spent the winters at the mine and went to the Princeton school. The summers were spent on the homestead and we went to Annasheim school. Mrs. Pattinson was our teacher.

We got our water from a well about half a mile from our two-roomed house. There was no pump; we hauled the water in a barrel on a stoneboat, after we had dipped it out of the well with a pail on a rope and pulley, and by the time we got home, half the water had splashed out.

Our land was quite hilly and had a lot of sloughs. Our main meat was wild ducks, prairie chickens and rabbits.

The neighbor to our west was Gus Stulberg; across the road to the east was Joe Stulberg, who lived in a one-roomed sod house.

Mother was in this district for only three or four years, then she left for the Bullpound area, taking Elma, Rose and John Jr. with her. She stayed there for a year or two, then moved to Hanna where she remained until her death at the age of eighty-one.

Dad rented out the mine and stayed on the homestead until his death as the result of a car accident in 1929. Then the land was rented and later sold for taxes; I do not know who bought it.

Olga married Louie Treber in Colorado before coming to Canada. She is now a widow and is in a nursing home in Calgary.

Mary married Alfred Donald, a homesteader of the Endiang district. They are retired and living in Lacombe.

Elmella married Mr. Welch. She lives in California.

Elma married Jim Eagleson. He was accidently killed while working for the C.N.R. She is also in a nursing home in Calgary.

John married Nettie Pearson. He worked for the C.N.R. until he retired, and now lives in Calgary.

I married Neil Mossey of Lethbridge. When he joined the army in 1940, I came back to Hanna. He died in 1941 and I am still living in Hanna.

The Hans Hansen family, Jerry, Hans, Martha, Jeanette, Mary and Carol, 1967.

HANS HANSEN — My Dad and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hansen, and their seven children, emigrated from Denmark in 1907, and lived on a farm in the Olds area for two years. Two more children were born in Alberta, Nelsine and Thomas.

In 1909 my Dad filed on a homestead in the Victor district, the west half of 1-33-17, and in 1910 he moved the family out. We left Olds with four oxen, two saddle ponies, some cows, two pigs and a few chickens in a crate. It took us a week to make the trip. Dad farmed that land until 1944 when he sold it to Ross McGuire and retired to Craigmyle. He passed away in 1951 at the age of eighty-one; Mother died in 1953 at the age of eighty-three.

My brother John and I bought the west half of 25-33-16 from Alex Kalenith in 1920. We farmed together there until the dry thirties when my brother left. In 1938 the dry years ended, and that fall I married Martha Schultz. We farmed there until 1972, when Martha passed away from cancer. We had four children.

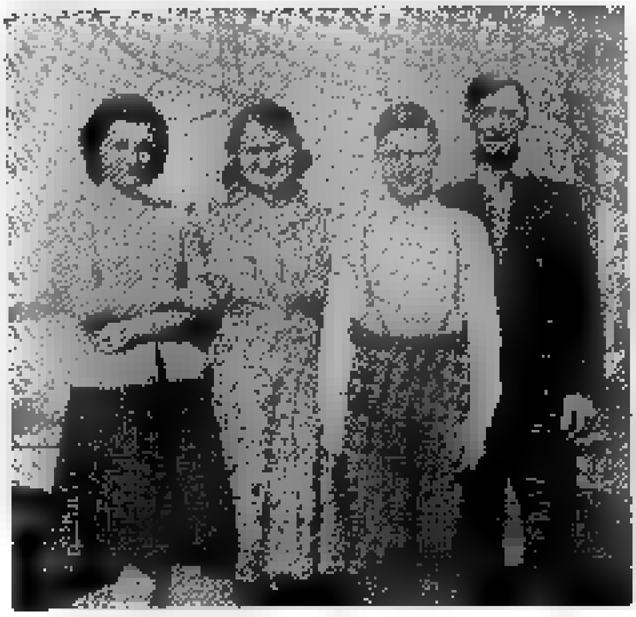
Jeanette, Mrs. Arnie Grindle, lives in Calgary; she has three children. Jerry lives in Hanna. Carol, Mrs. Pat Tailleur, has five children and lives in Calgary as does Mary, Mrs. Ray Riddle.

In 1972 I sold my farm to Herb Bossert and retired to Hanna.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SOBOLEWSKI, By John Moldon — My Father, Michael "Mac" Sobolewski was born in Rodymno, Poland, May 1, 1892 and immigrated to Canada in May 1911. He worked as a hired hand on farms, and in a coal mine in the Craigmyle district from 1912 to 1922. Some of the people he worked for were Bert Kirkeby, George Moldon and Philip Kaster.

In 1918, Margaret Louise Moldon came to Canada from her birthplace of Southampton, England, to keep house for her brother, George Moldon, whose wife had died, and to care for the family. George Moldon farmed in the Craigmyle district.

In 1922 "Mac" who was working for George at the time, married Margaret Moldon in 1923 and moved to the northeast 7-33-15, the Bill Banner farm, twenty-two miles northwest of Hanna and remained there until 1937. Due to poor



Mr. and Mrs. Mack Sobolewski, John and Marjorie

crops because of drought, Mac worked for several winters in the Kirkeby mine.

Mac always drove good horses, and kept his harness in fine condition. He had a reputation of plowing the straightest furrow in the community.

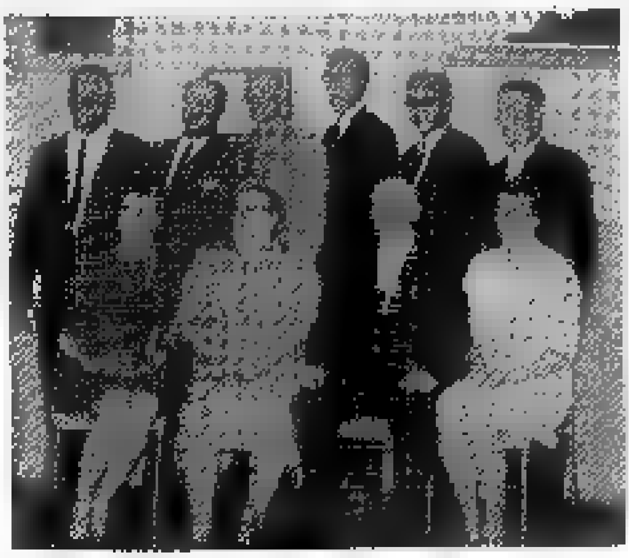
After three consecutive years of drought and being plagued by grasshoppers, Russian thistle and drifting soil, Mac decided, in 1937, to move his family and equipment to ■ farm in the Stony Plain district, thirty miles southwest of Edmonton. Much of the land had to be cleared of large trees but this was accomplished by bulldozers. It is very fertile soil and grows very heavy crops and hay. Mac and his family farmed at Stony Plain until his death in June 1967 at the age of seventy-five years. He was relatively successful farming at Stony Plain as he did not experience a crop failure in thirty years of operation.

Margaret Sobolewski passed away in December 1974 at th age of eighty-two years.

Michael and Margaret had two children, Marjorie and John, born in 1923 and 1929 respectively. They attended the Annasheim school prior to moving to Stony Plain.

Marjorie, Mrs. Robert Laing has two children and is living ■ Spruce Grove, Alberta.

John is married, has two children, and ■ living at Calgary.



The Chris Nill family. Back Row: left to right: Edward, Oscar, Herbert, Elmer, Henry and Fred. Front Row: Ida, Mrs. Nill, Mr. Nill and Frieda. Taken in 1968.

THE NILL STORY — Christian Nill was born February 26, 1902, in Besarina, Bessarabia; Ottilie Fehling was born December 22, 1906, in Klostits, Bessarabia. They were married on May 8, 1923, and farmed and raised fruit until the fall of 1927 when they realized there was no future for them in Romania. They and their son Oscar, born September 23, 1926, arrived in Hanna in October, 1927. They were met there by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bossert, who told them of a neighbor of theirs who wanted to sell out.

The next day they bought the SW 30-33-15 from Frank Mathe, and the machinery and horses from Mike Wagner who had been farming the land. They also rented the NW 29-33-15, which was school land. Now they were Canadian farmers, and as they were not afraid of hard work, they got along fine. Language caused some problems at first but they soon overcame that.

On September 22, 1928, their second son Edward was born. In order to make ends meet they milked ■ dozen cows, shipped cream, and traded butter for groceries. They raised their own pigs and the smoke house was always full of

hams, sausages and bacon. Chicken and beef were canned in sealers. I'm sure that we actually ate better in the twenties and thirties than we do today. Of course there was always the forty-five gallon barrel of sauer kraut. The folks always hoped that their English neighbors would not visit until the sauer kraut had finished fermenting and no longer gave off a kind of cesspool smell.

Another son, Henry, arrived February 25, 1930. Things were getting a little rough and many a year they threshed only enough for next year's seed, and a little chicken feed. Dad usually worked off the threshing bill by hauling bundles on either the Andy Hanson or the Julius Schultz outfit.

When things got really bad about 1933 Dad built a hide-tanning machine and tanned hides to bring in a few dollars. He also made many sets of harness from tanned cow hides. He also made light driving harness with Yankee-style breeching. He braided many a blacksnake whip and made moccasins and shoe laces. Many a rawhide halter, lines and tugs went to the Harold Hunt ranch.

By this time Oscar and Edward had started school at Crow Hill. Those were the days of cold rides and frozen lunches. Oscar remembers one day grabbing the wrong Shamrock Lard pail as he left for school, and discovering that he had his mother's pail of lard for lunch. But Harvey Burt, Roland Kalmbach, Leo Anderson and Lou Lohrmann all chipped in and he soon had lots for lunch.

Another son, Fred, was born November 29, 1931, so that meant we had to milk another cow, or so it seemed. The bigger the family got, the more cows we milked. By 1936 Oscar remembers milking twenty cows.

Dad always raised and broke his own horses. He had spent three years in the Romanian army working with horses, and was an outstanding horseman.

On June 13, 1933, another son, Herbert, was born, another mouth to feed but still very welcome.

In the fall of 1936 Dad bought the east half of 30-33-15 from Frank Mathe. The Gust Abram family had been living there. It had been the Draxel homestead. We moved from the Wagner place to the Draxel land in the spring of 1936. Dad now had four quarters to farm with horses, but we were a little closer to Scapa than to Endiang so it took a little less time to haul the grain to market. Also we were now just one mile from the little Lutheran Church, so hardly ever missed a Sunday. We always had someone in for dinner after church; if it wasn't the Kalmbach family then it would be the Schweikerts or Gottlieb Webers or Dan Mattheis; the John or Alex Engels of the Jacob Buchwitz family.

On January 10, 1936, our first girl, Freda Joanna, arrived. For a while it was a novelty having a baby girl in the family, but that soon wore off. By this time Oscar, Ed and Henry were attending Annasheim school, which was a little closer than Crow Hill. Times were still plenty rough; Dad was still tanning hides.

The neighbors and Dad used to get together and strip their own coal and haul it home. This would take a week or ten days every fall. It meant hard, backbreaking work, sleeping and cooking out under the sky, with the weatherman plenty mean sometimes.

On September 25, 1937, a boy, Elmer, was born, so we made room in the house for him, and room in the barn for yet another milk cow, and we got along. Never will we forget the dust storms of those years, black as night in the middle of the day, and scared the house would take off at any minute. Come haying time we would just put up another stack of Russian thistle, which made good feed if it was put up early when the plant was still tender.

On November 9, 1939, a daughter Ida was born to complete the family. By this time things were getting a little better and we were getting a few rains. With everyone working together life became easier and we soon had a few dollars. We

bought the A.E. Lyxzen place, which gave us nine quarters altogether, and got a tractor which made the work easier and gave the horses a much-needed rest.

In the fall of 1943 we bought six quarters of land north of Delia, again from Frank Mathe, and Oscar and Ed started farming on their own. When Edward went to diesel mechanic school, Oscar and Henry farmed the Delia place.

In 1959 Dad and Mother built a house in Hanna and semi-retired. But Dad's health was failing, and after several major operations, he passed away on April 7, 1969. Mother is still living in Hanna where she does her own gardening and snow shovelling, and has her house full of plants in bloom the year round.

After the war Mother had her orphan nephew, Paul Bauch, come to Canada. He has done very well; he and his wife live in Hanna where they raised their family. Dad's mother also came over for a visit after the war, but she did not like it here, and returned to Germany.

Oscar married Isobel Ing of Craigmyle in 1950. They live on the Delia farm. Their children are Duane, Daryl, Brian, Darlene, Deanna, and Brenda. Their son Barry died as the result of a very tragic farm accident on October 1, 1974, at the age of eleven years.

Edward married Maxine Dove of Hanna, where they and their children, Roxana, James and Myles, now reside.

Henry married Freda Engel of Endiang. They had three daughters, Debra, Dixie and Karen. They live in Calgary.

Fred married Ivy Bedingsfield of Hanna. They and their children, Reid, Kathryn and Trent, live on the home place.

Herbert, his wife, the former Ellen Hogan of Oyen, and their children, Blake, Craig and Angela, live in Hanna.

Frieda married Reinhold Fecho of Hanna. They now reside at Sherwood Park with their family, Larry, Linda, Glenda, Garry, Terry and Kathy.

Elmer married Irene Sward of Sheerness. They are in Hanna.

Ida, Mrs. Kelly Grantham, is the youngest of the Nill family. She and Kelly have three children, Lana, Terry and Doug. They also live in Hanna.

Gottfried, Maggie, and Gerald Glubrecht, 1946

GOTTFRIED GLUBRECHT STORY — The first three years that I farmed in the Annasheim district I leased the Ole Braaten quarter, the SW 24-33-16, from Starland Municipality, and worked the land while I was living on the home place at Scapa. In the spring of 1942 I bought the farm previously owned by Jim Maxwell, the north half of 23-33-16. In 1943 and 44 I built a house and barn and other smaller buildings.

My first tractor was a 1930 12-20 Wallis-Massey-Harris which I bought from Chris Townsend. I used it until repairs became hard to get, then set it back in a fence corner, where it sat until a couple of years ago. Then some of my close neighbors put it back into running order and made a fine job of it. It is now an antique as there are very few of these tractors left in the country. It is now stored in a shop on the farm of Ken Halvorsen.

In 1946 Maggie Bowers, of the Golden Hill district south of Hanna, and I were

married. We have one son, Gerald, who married Mary-Ann Kelly of Drumheller. They have one son, Travis.

In 1967 I leased the farm to our son, who farmed there for three years and then went into the trucking business, and is now located at Sundre. My wife and I moved to Hanna where I worked as caretaker at the Hanna High School. After renting the farm to Tom Pattinson for several years, I decided to sell it to him.

We have many pleasant memories of our days in the Annasheim district. I enjoyed playing for dances and musical sessions at country schools and community centres. For some time my brother Shorty and I teamed up as a two-piece orchestra, and played together until he moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. I used to paint signs for the people living in the area, and still do some of this type of work.

The Herb Litke family. Ruby, Ronnie, Herb, Linda and Melvin

MR. and MRS. HERB LITKE, By Ruby Litke — Herb Litke, son of Michael and Marie Litke, started farming the Adolf Keist place, the west half of 23-32-14 in 1946. In 1950, Herb married Ruby Peterson, daughter of Gustave and Anna Peterson, pioneer farmers in the Rose Lynn district. We made our home here until 1956 when we moved to the Harold Lund farm, the north half of 8-33-15.

We were blessed with four children: Diane Marie was born March 25, 1952, but our joy was short as Our Lord called her home after a few hours. On January 16, 1954 Linda arrived, to be followed by Melvin on April 24, 1956, and Ronnie on June 22, 1966.

The two miles from the Keist buildings to the highway presented problems. About five-thirty one evening in January 1956, when we were coming home from town, using the tractor to pull the truck the last two miles in thirty below zero weather, the steering on the tractor broke when we were about a mile and a half from home. Herb walked to Bill Lumsden's and phoned Harry Lumsden, who came with a tractor with a front-end loader on it. Because of the deep snow in the hilly area, the weight of the farm-hand made the tractor wheels spin. We never got home until one-thirty in the morning and found the water pail frozen. We were glad to move from that place, where no one has lived since, to the Harold Lund farm the north half of 8-33-15.

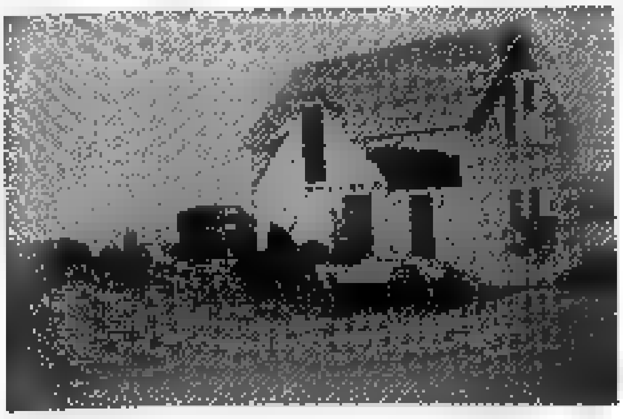
In the spring of 1957, Linda was interested in Easter Bunnies. One evening Linda noticed a jack rabbit running, so over the hill she went to catch the Easter bunny. When she got out of sight of the buildings she became lost, and as it was getting dark she got so frightened and started to cry. We noticed Linda missing so we started to look for her and finally we heard her crying. It was a blessing that we found her. There was a lot of water in the dam and sloughs at the time; we were so worried that she might have fallen in the water.

Both Linda and Melvin graduated from grade twelve in Hanna. Linda did well in secretarial work and later took a hair dressing course in Vernon, B.C.

We had a sale in 1974, rented the farm to a neighbor, and moved to Vernon. We lived there for a couple of years but Herb found it hard to get work so we returned to Hanna where Herb is employed with C.C.I.L.

Melvin had a serious motorcycle accident in 1974 from which he has not yet fully recovered. He lives in Vernon.

Linda married Jerry Vriend in 1976 and they live in Calgary. Ronnie is attending school in Hanna.

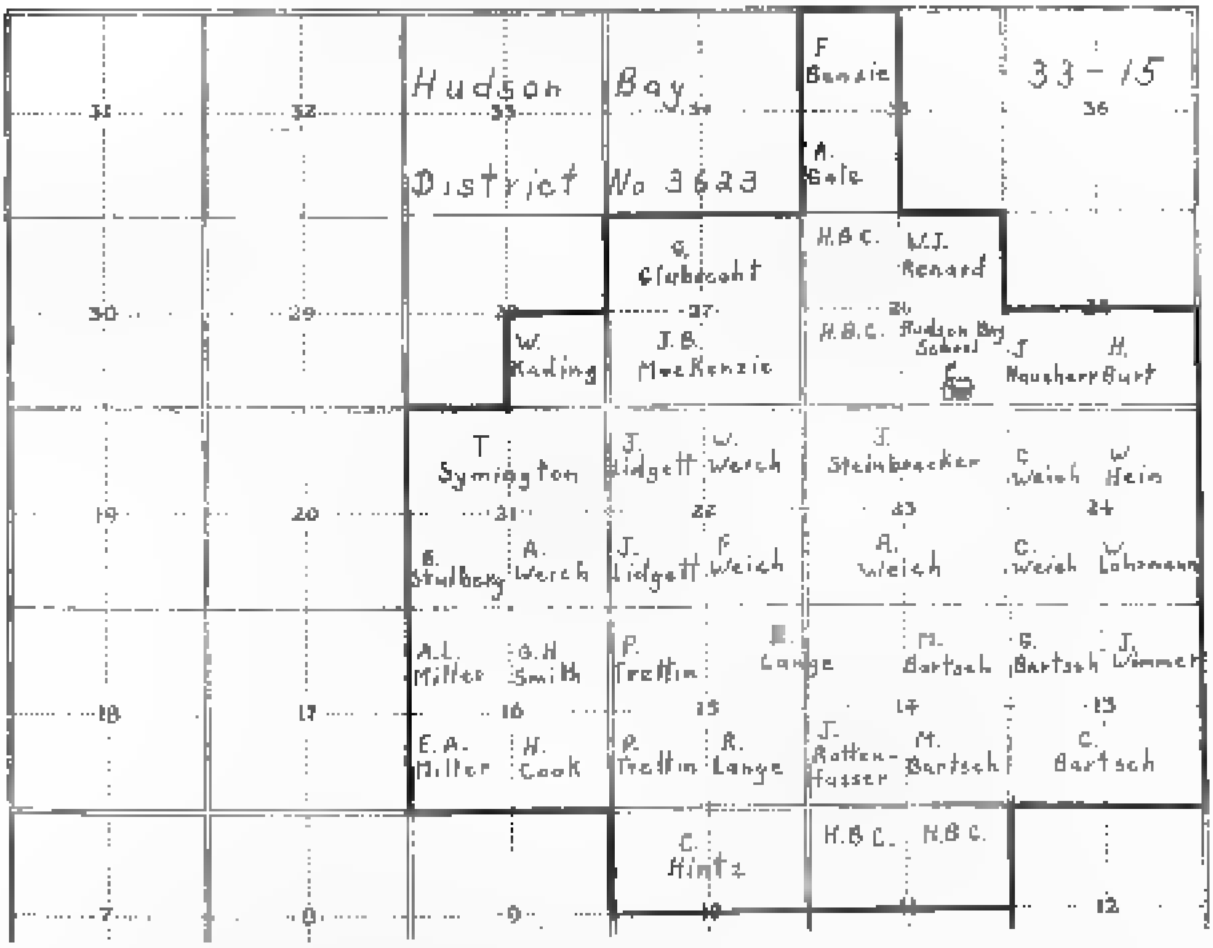

Moving the A. Blomberg house to the Jacob Bossert farm. George Chapman's Rumley Oil Pull and Titan tractors, 1928

ANDREW BLOMBERG — Andrew Blomberg came to Alberta from the mid-west portion of the United States, where he had worked in a brewery. On December 4, 1914 he filed on the east half of 19-33-15 as a homestead and pre-emption. Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg had four children, Stanley, Arthur, Dorinda and Caroline.

Mr. Blomberg loved to hunt and fish. During the winters he would catch fish at Buffalo and other lakes and sell them throughout the area. He had a Waterloo Boy tractor, did custom breaking and plowing, and also had a threshing outfit. He owned one of the first one-ton trucks in the district.

Mr. Blomberg served as chairman of the Annasheim school board for many years. In the mid twenties the family moved to Rife in the Flat Lake district near St. Paul.

HUDSON BAY DISTRICT No. 3623



HOMESTEADERS, OWNERS AND RENTERS — HUDSON BAY

The following is a list of some of the owners and renters in the Hudson Bay School District No. 3623 since the homesteaders. The last name is the present owner or renter.

NE 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
O. Litke
L. Diegel

NW 10-33-15
E. Erion
Ruhl Bros.
A. Litke
L. Diegel

NE 11-33-15
F. Lange
R. Weich
R. F. Weich

NW 11-33-15
F. Diegel
A. Weich
E. Bolander
C. Hintz
W. Diegel
E. Lange
W. Diegel

S 13-33-15
C. Weich
F. Cook
W. Gaugler

NE 13-33-15
H. Wimmer

NW 13-33-15
C. Weich
E. Haessel
J. Wimmer
H. Wimmer

SE 14-33-15
F. Lange
R. Weich
R. F. Weich

SW 14-33-15
R. Lange
E. Lange
O. Erion

NW 14-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

NE 14-33-15
C. Weich
F. Weich

E 15-33-15
E. Lange
O. Erion

W 15-33-15
P. Trettin, Jr.
A. Trettin

SE 16-33-15
D. Welch

SW 16-33-15
R. Welch
D. Welch

NE 16-33-15
F. Cook
D. Welch

NW 16-33-15
A. Weich
L. Weich
G. Hall

SE 21-33-15
L. Weich
G. Hall

SW 21-33-15
A. Weich
L. Weich
G. Hall

N 21-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
H. Ruhl
E. Weich
B. Miller

SE 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

SW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Weich
B. Miller

NE 22-33-15
E. Weich
B. Miller

NW 22-33-15
H. Ruhl Sr.
D. Ruhl
E. Welch
B. Miller

S 23-33-15
F. Weich

N 23-33-15
S. Steinbrecker

SE 24-33-15
E. Haessel
H. Wimmer

NE 24-33-15
C. Welch
F. Welch

W 24-33-15
F. Welch

SE 25-33-15
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Weich
R. F. Welch

SW 25-33-15
H. Burt
F. Pahl
O. Pahl
H. Weich
R. F. Weich

SE 26-33-15
Hudson Bay School
J. Steinbrecker
S. Steinbrecker

SW 26-33-15
A. Hein
G. Glubrecht
E. Weich
B. Miller

NE 26-33-15
F. Weich
R. F. Weich

NW 26-33-15
G. Glubrecht
F. Lange
R. F. Weich

S 27-33-15
J. B. Mackenzie
E. Erion
O. Erion

N 27-33-15
E. Weich
B. Miller

SE 28-33-15
K. Kading
E. Weich
B. Miller

SW 35-33-15
F. Welch
R. F. Weich

NW 35-33-15
C. Lohrmann
L. Lohrmann

HUDSON BAY SCHOOL

By Gottfried Glubrecht

The Hudson Bay School District was formed about 1917 or 1918. The school was built in the fall of 1918, on Hudson Bay land on the SE of 26-33-15; that quarter was later bought by John Steinbrecker.

The first teacher was Hazel Hore; during the following years there were many others: Helen Hamilton, Mary Orde, Mrs. Harry Cook, Anna Copp, Miss Keer, Mary Allen, Janet McTaggart, Mac Slemp, Enos Lundrigan, Ruth Mayhew, Edna Hamilton, Doris Randal, Mildred Wood, John Kelly, Mrs. Wilma Baxter, Miss Bury, Florence Robertson, and Richard Williams.

The school board was made up of several farmers in the district. Some of the trustees were Carl Welch, Harvey Burt, G. Glubrecht, James Mackenzie, Emanuel Erion. Joe Lidgett and Henry Ruhl acted as secretary-treasurer at different times. George Haverstock was the school inspector.

When the school was taken into the large Sullivan Lake school division, William Storch Sr. was the official trustee. After the school was closed, and the

Miss Hamilton, Hudson Bay teacher, 1920.

students transferred to Scapa, the building was moved to, Youngstown where it was used as a public library.

In the early years the school served as a community centre. Many church services were held there, as well as pie and box socials and dances. It also served as a polling both during elections.

The people of the district were fortunate to have a very talented musician, Enos Lundrigan, as teacher. He could play many different instruments, which he had hanging on the walls of the school room. He taught his pupils to play them, and their performance and ability as an orchestra surprised and pleased the school inspector. Many young people in the district would never have been able to develop their musical talents if it had not been for this teacher.

Hudson Bay Pupils, 1942. Herbert Welch, Victor Erion, Douglas Bury, Emanuel Erion, Albert Erion, Fred Glubrecht, Otto Erion, Irena Steinbrecker, Emma Erion, Ruth Welch, Emma Glubrecht, Otto Glubrecht, Herbert Wimmer and Katie Glubrecht.

Some of the settlers in Hudson Bay district at the time the school was opened were the families of Harvey Burt, Ernest Fletcher, G. Glubrecht, August Hein, William Hein, Andy Hanson, the Lohrmanns and the Leichts, Robert Lange, Joe Lidgett, the William, Adolf, Fred and Carl Welchs, John Steinbrecker, Tom Symington, James Mackenzie, and John Bodamann and his parents.

Hudson Bay School, 1928. Back Row, left to right: Benny Schielke, Lena Welch, Rudy Hein, Lydia Ruhl, Gottfried Glubrecht, Ida Weich, Vernon Glenn, Hedwig Hein, Otto Pahl, Mayta Welch. Second Row: first two unknown, Ernest Lange, Lydia Welch, Edward Glubrecht, Lily Schielke, Herbert Hein, Olga Weich, Bertha Weich. Third Row: Kathleen Fennell, David Ruhl, Freda Weich, Ernest Welch, Emma Pahl, Arthur Welch, Martha Glubrecht, Gust Schleike, Arthur Carl Weich. From Row: Ruby Fennell, Reinhardt Welch, Alvina Weich, Margaret Malm, Arvid Malm, Gottlieb Glubrecht, Walter Hein, Annie Welch, Fred Weich, Ronald Hein.

REMINISCENCES OF A COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

By E. G. Lundrigan

Hudson Bay School, 1936. Standing, [illegible] [illegible] right: John Erion, Donald Weich, Henry Weich, Fred Glubrecht, George Steinbrecker, Sam Steinbrecker, Mary Erion, Ted Hintz, Alvina Erion, Emil Glubrecht, Mandy Weich, Esther Hein and Ruby Steinbrecker. Kneeling, Back Row: Irene Steinbrecker, Paulina Hein, Emma Glubrecht, Alma Weich, Lenard Geisler. Front Row: Sam Hintz, Christ Hintz, Reinhold Hintz, Emanuel Erion and Katie Glubrecht.

From September 1933 to June 1936 I taught at the Hudson Bay School, about two and a half miles southwest of Scapa. It was a typical one-room cottage school for grades one to eight, situated on an open plot, without a tree or shrub but with the customary two out houses and a barn. Those were the dirty thirties; the summer winds howled in the shingles and rattled the windows; dust sifted into the school and over everything and everybody. In the winter it was almost impossible to keep the school warm enough; on cold mornings we often huddled around the small stove or marched around the room to keep warm. However, I don't remember anyone complaining about it — perhaps we had too many other problems to think about.

Times were hard for everyone. My salary was $600.00 — later $500.00 per year and I considered myself to be one of the lucky ones for I was paid in full each year. When I considered the financial problems of some of the families in the district I felt a twinge of guilt for having been paid so much. Of course there were many compensations. Very good room and board cost $15.00 per month; the usual charge at weekend dances was 25¢ if you brought your own lunch.

School attendance was in the low thirties. Space will not permit listing all of their names; however I still remember all of them with considerable affection. Families represented included the Weich's (three families), Steinbreckers, Glubrechts, Ruhls, Hintz, Heins, Lidgetts, Erions, Pahls, Bartschs. They were a healthy, energetic group and needed to be kept busy so we all worked hard in the classroom and played hard at recesses and noon. Everyone seemed to enjoy playing ball and we played it with an enthusiasm that left little time for mischief or quarreling. As might be expected, they developed one of the best teams in the area.

Most of them loved music and, particularly during the winter months, spent many hours learning to play whatever instruments they were able to buy or borrow for the purpose. Just about everyone had at least a part ownership in some instrument and I can still hear the din of guitars, violins, banjos, mandolins, etc. as they practised scales, chords and melodies. Soon we were able to form them into an "orchestra" so that at least most of them were playing the same tune. My own musical ability was somewhat limited but with their natural talent and by helping one another they soon began to play quite well, made some public appearances and even divided into senior and junior groups.

In those years one of the main events of the year was the Christmas concert which was held in each school in the latter part of December and which the public for miles around were welcome to attend. November and December were largely devoted to preparation for the event and normal activities and even studies were temporarily suspended in an all out effort to produce the best possible program. The event certainly played havoc with our school schedules but I have often thought that it gave the pupils a wealth of experience in the fields of dramatics, music, deportment, team work and enjoyment which they would otherwise have missed. I never think of these concerts without remembering our first program. When I reached to pull the curtain, I tripped and fell flat on the stage to the merriment of all — except me.

The three years at Hudson Bay went by all too quickly; when I moved to a new location I hoped that I had been a beneficial influence on the lives of those whom I had been privileged to teach. I knew that I had derived a wealth of memories and friendships that would last me for the rest of my life.

In September 1936 I commenced teaching grades 1 - 8 at Scapa. Although originally a one-room school it had a basement which had been modified to provide a small high school room. Of course there was no adequate sound proofing between the floors and the noise from our elementary room must have been almost unbearable for the high school. However I don't remember any complaints.

I doubt that I can recall the names of all who attended the school during my two and a half years at Scapa but the family names included: Graham, Riddle, Hein, Hausher, Haessel, Lohrmann, Smart, Arndt, Camp, Cattanach, Witchen, Panchuk, Ostlund, Schielke, Ostopowich. As at Hudson Bay, most of our extra curricular activities involved music and playing ball. In the former department we were fortunate to have students who were able to play the piano and, as the Scapa Community Hall had a piano, our music took on a better sound and, in addition to Christmas Concerts, our orchestras made a few other appearances.

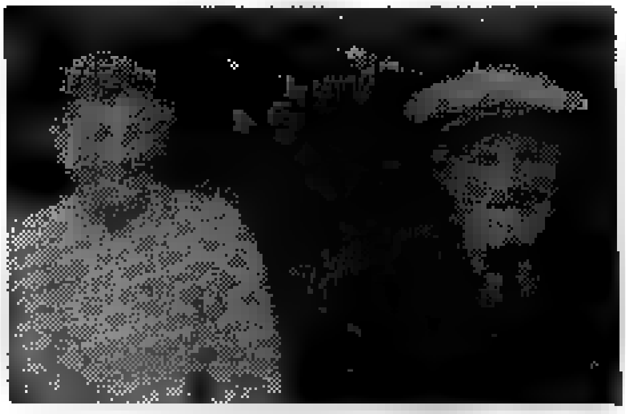
We also decided to take a try at dramatics and entered two items in a festival in Hanna. We must have done everything wrong for we certainly didn't win any prizes but we had an enjoyable time and it was a good experience for all of us. As a special treat for us a friend had donated enough money to buy dinner for everyone. So at noon I took them all to the Club Cafe and they ordered their meals. Before they had finished I remembered something that must be done at the festival and went off to attend to it. I had gone about a block before I remembered that I had not paid for the meals so I turned back, only to meet a waitress rushing after me, bill in hand.

There is another incident which I remember with a certain amount of embarassment. In my spare time I had been studying electronics and had designed and constructed a tiny radio transmitter which put out a weak signal just above broadcast band but tuneable on most home radios. I had some doubts about the legality of such a transmitter, but when I inquired of an acquaintance who had a similar unit, he assured me that it was permissible so long as it did not reach more than fifty miles and did not interfere with the broadcast band. I was naive enough to believe him and for a few months we had a grand time with impromptu programs, conversations, dedications, etc. Eventually word of our activities must have reached the authorities for they suddenly appeared on the scene and we went off the air permanently.

On another occasion the children in the junior grades had been studying Gulliver's Travels and were fascinated with the story of the Lilliputians. As a recess game they persuaded me to lie on the ground so that they could swarm all over me like Lilliputians. At a given signal I had to try to get up. It was quite a struggle but I always made it. One day in the midst of this fun a car drove up and the school inspector got out. I believe he thought that I was being murdered. When I explained what was going on he laughed and enjoyed the joke; that day I received my best inspector's report.

During these years the hard times seemed to get harder. Crops were dried out, blown out, hailed out, cleared out by grasshoppers or worms and many of the farmers began to give up hope of ever having a good crop. Some sold everything and moved away to what appeared to be greener fields. One winter the community received boxcars loaded with green feed for the cattle, apples, beans, fish, etc. for the families; these were gifts from families in more fortunate circumstances. But through all their hardships these people never seemed to lose their sense of humour, cheerfulness and neighborliness; confident that good times were just around the corner. And so they were. But it is in time of adversity that people display their true strength of character; for these rural people I developed a respect and admiration that I will never forget. In December 1938 I left Scapa to teach in a rural high school, thus ending my career as a public school teacher.

The days of the rural school teacher are now long gone and the one-room schools are rapidly disappearing from the landscape. Of course the consolidated schools can provide much better academic training and more efficient transportation for the pupils of today. Yet I never see an abandoned rural school without a feeling of sadness for what was once the heart and social centre for the community whose children it once served and where education was in the hands of a teacher who lived there, was part of the community and had a stake in the future of each and every child.


Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bartsch.

THE MARTIN BARTSCHs, By Helen Bartsch Thompson — Martin and Barbara Bartsch arrived in what is now the Scapa district in 1910 from Washburn, North Dakota. They came by rail to Castor and from there to the homestead, the S.E. quarter 14-33-15, with horses and wagon and all their belongings.

They had to go to Castor for groceries and mail until the railroad arrived in Hanna in 1912. They endured many hardships, one of which was carrying all their water from a spring half a mile away.

To their new home they brought their family of five: Theresa, the oldest, later became Mrs. Charles Johnson and settled in the Dowling district. She had a family of nine. Charles and Theresa Johnson have both passed away.

George, the oldest son, married Catherine Schaffner and homesteaded the N.W. quarter 13-33-15, and after a year moved to Castor. They had a family of six. George passed away in 1940. Catherine still resides at Paintearth Lodge in Castor.

Casper, the second son, homesteaded the S.W. quarter 13-33-15 and later married Marie Lohrmann. They had a family of five. They resided at Scapa for a number of years, then moved to Stony Plain. Both Casper and Marie have passed on.

Marie married Don Cameron and after he passed away she moved to Vancouver where she still lives.

Rochus, the youngest son, left home [illegible] an early age and has not been heard from since.

Grandma Bartsch passed away in 1926 and Grampa moved to Castor where he stayed till his demise in 1940.

Mrs. Johnson, Casper and Marie Bartsch, Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1966.

CASPER (1891 - 1974) ***and MARIE*** (1897 - 1967) ***BARTSCH, By Elma (Bartsch) Burnham*** — Cap Bartsch came from Washburn, North Dakota, to the area north of Hanna with his parents, Martin and Barbara Bartsch, in 1910.

Marie came from Minnesota about a year later with her parents, William and Maria Lohrmann.

They married in 1916 and had five children: Elma Burnham of Wabamun, Lucy Thompson of Edmonton, Eileen Hartum of Stony Plain, Dick Bartsch of Calgary, and Phyllis Connors of Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1913 Cap homesteaded section 13-33-15 north of Hanna. When the grasshoppers came in 1934 they moved to a farm four miles west of Stony Plain. Gone were the days of the big steam threshing machines like Chris Lohrmann had or the smaller ones Charley Lohrmann had. That year the grain was too short to tie. A box was rigged on the binder and the grain dumped in piles. It was then stacked. In less than an hour it was threshed and the machine gone.

After eight years they sold out and went to the coal mines in Cadomin and Luscar till they were shut down in 1952. From there they went to pipeline work in Alberta and Saskatchewan. They retired to a small home in Wabamun in 1960.

As the years passed their memories often went back to their many friends and relations, the good times and the bad times while living in the Hanna - Scapa area. It was always home.

LEO ERION'S STORY — Leo Erion is the youngest son of Emmanuel and Maria Erion. Leo's preschool years were spent on the family's farm two miles south and two miles west of Scapa. He attended school at Scapa up to grade five.

At the age of ten, Leo, along with his folks and his younger sister, Florence, and older brother, Ernie, moved to Creston, B.C. There he lived for eight years during which time he finished his schooling, along with picking fruit, or should I say eating it.

After graduating he returned to Scapa. The next few years he spent on the home farm in the summers and working out at various jobs during the winter.

In 1970 he married Shirley Kenzler from Big Valley. The couple lived on the family farm, which was owned by Otto Erion, for five years.

In 1976 Leo, Shirley and their two-year-old son, Mark, moved to the farm location N.E. 25-33-15 which is just southwest of Scapa. The farmsite, better known as the George Hausher farm, was purchased from Karl and Beryl Friedenberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cook.

MR. and MRS. HENRY TROWBRIDGE COOK, By Ida Grosse — Harry Cook came to Canada as a boy of eighteen, and filed on a homestead seven miles southwest of Scapa, the SE 16-33-15, on June 14, 1912. He more or less made his home with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Banner, until he found a job, and worked for local farmers until he had enough money to build a little shack on his land. He worked for Mr. Farrell, and his name and the date, 1916, can still be seen in the cement of the basement wall of that house. He also worked for Mr. Molden, and ran a custom plowing outfit for Andy Hanson in 1915.

He was talented in many ways. He was a very good skier; he made his first pair of skis, and came over almost every Sunday for dinner. Later he bought a pair of skis from Eaton's, for two dollars, I think it was. They were slightly curved up at the front, and he was so proud of them. One night when he came over I sneaked out to try them out; I went down the hill and cracked one of the skis. I hurried into the house and went to bed, but the next day when I got home from school he was there. I got a good talking-to from him and my dad, and that was when I learned to leave other people's things alone.

Harry was the only man I knew who cut his own hair, and made a good job of it too. He cut my dad's hair for years.

He made one of the first radios in the country, the first one we had heard. Later he made one for my dad and he and I used to have one earphone each to listen to it.

He had a wonderful shop, very small, but with a lot of tools. He had a sign above the door, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." He even swept the dirt floor of that place with a broom.

He lived a very lonely life, but he enjoyed reading, was a beautiful writer, and mailed no end of letters to England. Later on we knew why. One day about 1922 I rode over to Harry's on my pony, and everything in the shack was outside.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"Spring cleaning," he replied.

I went home and told my dad, who thought it was very unusual because the place was always clean. I mentioned the boots and overshoes and clothes that had come out from under the bed, and dad joked that maybe the love bug had bitten him. Sure enough, a few days later he brought his bride over to introduce her to us.

Dorothy Marion O'Neil had come out from England in 1920. She was a nurse who had been in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps during the war, and had worked in hospitals looking after the wounded. She had also taught school in England. She had been married to a friend of Harry's, and after her husband died, continued to correspond with him. Her parents and Harry's were friends. After the war, she went to Calgary and attended Normal school, then taught for a year at Didsbury.

She had a wonderful sense of humor. When she was hired to teach a rural school some distance from her home, the local school board member tried to find a suitable place for her to stay. There was an empty house across the road, not in very good shape, but the trustee told her that it had a very good chimney.

"Mr. Storch," she replied, "I shall not be living in the chimney."

After they were married for a few years, they built another room on their house. Harry washed every rock for the foundation.

Many were the evenings they spent at our home. Mrs. Cook would say, "We shall now have a song from Cookie." It wasn't hard to get him to sing and he had a beautiful tenor voice. Often Stanley Peake would come over too, and with mother playing the organ we would all have a very enjoyable sing-song. Mr. Cook's favorite song was "Thora", and he sang it very well indeed.

Mrs. Cook taught at many rural schools, Orlando, Annasheim, Scapa, Chain Lakes, Hudson Bay, Watts, Corine and Buchan. She was made a life member of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Mr. Cook had walked over a rock in his farm yard for years, but one time when he struck it with his foot it sounded hollow. He dug it up and discovered it was an Indian skull. He named it Pocahontas.

In 1952 Harry had the misfortune to fall off his windcharger and injure his back. When he recovered he decided to sell the farm to Dan Welch. He had a sale and bought a home in Hanna. He had a little shop in his basement where he sharpened saws and built up quite a business. He also made stools and walkers for the hospital; his name is stamped on the bottom of some of them which are still in use.

Both were active members of All Saints Anglican church. Harry sang in the choir and Dorothy held the office of secretary of the Anglican Church Women.

Eventually they moved to the Acadia Lodge where Harry passed away in 1965 at the age of seventy-one. Mrs. Cook died in 1974. Both were cremated and their ashes scattered over their farm.

E. ERION and FAMILY, By O. Erion — Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Erion arrived in Canada May 15, 1927 from Bessarabia, Romania with their five children, Lena, Arnold, Alvina, Mary and John. They bought a half section of land three and a half miles southwest of Scapa from the Soldier Settlement Board.

After they had settled in their new home, on August 1, 1927, Mrs. Erion passed away. She was Rosina Pahl before marriage. Later Emanuel married Maria Pahl, sister to his first wife.

In 1929 they decided to move the buildings to a better location on the farm. Using two C. N. rails and some wagons they moved the three-roomed house one-half mile across the field with twelve horses. Here it was placed on a full cement basement, making more space for the family to live. A granary was also used to sleep in through the summer.

In the thirties they experienced a depression because of the drought, dust storms, grasshoppers and poor grain prices. In 1939, after things got better, Mr.

Erion and O. Paht bought a threshing machine which they used to thresh their own crops and those of other nearby farmers for ten years.

In 1941, six more rooms were built on the house, increasing it from three to nine rooms. Two years later a hip roofed barn was bought seven miles south of the farm. It was moved home on skids behind two caterpillar tractors, and put on a cement floor. A light plant was also installed on the farm and served as power till the line came through in 1952.

In the mid-fifties Mr. and Mrs. Erion moved to Creston, B.C. with some of the family. There they worked until Mrs. Erion passed away in April, 1966. Mr. Erion married again to Anne Wolfrum and retired to Victoria.

Lena, who is Mrs. Carl Weber, is living in Stettler, Alberta where she and her husband are both employed at the Stettler Hospital. Arnold was in the army from 1942 to 1946, in the Lord Strathcona Horse. He served as tank driver in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. After the war Arnold and his wife, who was Freda Mix, farmed in the New Norway district until they moved to Calgary a few years ago. There Freda became ill and passed away. Arnold is now married again. Alvina, Mrs. Nat Buckwitz, lives in the Endiang district where they have ranched for many years. Mary and her husband, Halmet Riemer, live in Kamloops, B.C. John married Lucille Frey. He farms and raises cattle.

Born in Canada as half-brothers and sisters were: Emanuel who lives at Leduc. Emanuel has been a plumber since school days, later taking on gas fitting as well. He is now starting a dairy farm. Otto has been on the farm at home since his folks left for Creston, B.C. He farms with Leo and also hauls gravel. Victor, with his wife who was Violet Graumann, moved to Brooks from Calgary in 1975. He works as maintenance man at the Hospital. Violet drives a school bus. Albert and his wife, who was Tina Thiessen, are in Ethiopia Africa, under the Sudan Interior Mission. Albert works at a radio station and Tina is teaching. Emma and her husband Ken Flag live in Calgary. Walter and his wife who was Diane Leimert, live at New Sarepta, Alberta. Walter is Pastor of one of the churches there. Roland and his wife were at Hinton, Alberta. Roland lost his life in a mine accident there in December, 1975. His wife is now in Red Deer. Ernie and wife live in Camrose where Ernie is a welder. Florence and her husband Terry Murphy live in Calgary. Leo and his wife live near Scapa.

THE GOTTLIEB GLUBRECHT FAMILY, By Gottfried Glubrecht — Gottlieb Glubrecht and his wife Carolina were married in 1908 at Kersonsky, near the Dnieper River in the Ukraine, Russia. They immigrated to North Dakota and farmed near Hebrone, where their oldest son, Gottfried, was born in 1910.

They lived in Spokane, Washington for a time until they moved to Canada and took a homestead two miles west of the present hamlet of Scapa, in 1914.

My father had filed on the NE 27-33-15 in 1913, and built a sod house. One hot day he and his brother-in-law, Pete Draxel, were digging the cellar for the house. The lumber for the roof was piled up nearby. As they were busy digging, they thought that they could smell smoke. Looking up, they discovered that the air was quite thick with smoke. Hurriedly, they scrambled out of the hole and found that a large prairie fire coming from the south was almost upon them. At that time the prairie was covered with a heavy growth of dry grass. Immediately they became concerned about the lumber lying in the grass, and started putting it down in the cellar hole. Fortunately they got it all down before the fire swept across, blackening everything in its path.

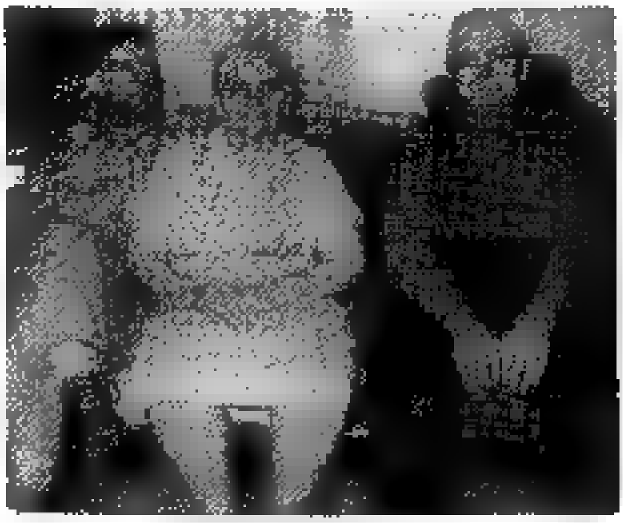
How far north it went or where it stopped I don't remember. A homesteader by the name of Mike Schaffner, who lived about two miles north of our place, had

gone to the Castor district that day. His car-roof shack was built up about two feet off the ground on several large rocks. The grass was quite heavy around that building too, but luckily the fire swept through underneath the house and left it undamaged.

The Gottlieb Glubrecht family, 1938. Standing: Edward, Fred, Gottlieb (Shorty), Emil, Martha and Gottfried. Seated: Mr. Glubrecht, Katherina, Otto, Emma and Mrs. Glubrecht.

There were eleven children born into the Glubrecht family. Bertha and John died as infants. Gottfried, Edward, and Martha live in Hanna. Gottlieb Jr. (Shorty) [illegible] in North Battleford, Saskatchewan; Emil, Fred and Emma (Pat) are in Calgary; Katherine [illegible] living at Victoria and Otto is at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Our parents remained on the farm until Father's passing [illegible] February, 1968. Mother and Edward moved into Hanna that summer, and Mother died in November of the same year.



Sam Hintz, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hin[illegible].

CHRISTIAN HINTZ FAMILY, By the Hintz Brothers — Dad was born in Romania, February 17, 1887; the son of Samuel and Susan Hintz. In 1904 at the age of 17, he left his home and went to South America. He lived and worked in Brazil and Argentina until moving to the Dakotas in the U.S.A. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada; taking a homestead in the Dowling Lake district; the north half of 10-33-15. He was one of the founding members of the Dowling Lake Lutheran Church; also an active board member for many years. In 1938 he moved to the Endiang district where he resided on his farm until his passing, on June 20, 1971 at the age of 84 years.

Our mother was born in Odessa, Russia on September 22, 1891. She was the daughter of Jacob and Karolina Schmiedge. In 1912 she immigrated to Canada with her mother and her younger brother. They settled in the Regina area of Saskatchewan. Mother married Carl Leippi on October 12, 1916; he died a year later in the flu epidemic. There was one son, Adolph, from this marriage. Adolph and his wife Anne are retired in Stettler. They have a son, Carl, who is married and lives at the coast where he operates his own firm.

Christian Hintz ploughing virgin prairie.

Our parents were married June 6, 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan. They took up residence on Dad's homestead. Several months later our Grandmother Schmiedge came to live with us until her passing on April 21, 1922.

Their union was blessed with four sons and one daughter. They are as follows: Theodore, who is married. He and his wife Dorothy are retired in Penticton, B.C. They have a son and a daughter.

Samuel, Christian and Reinhold live on the home farm, section 15-35-15. They are still engaged in farming and ranching.

Regina is married to Keith Marshall and resides in Rimbey. They have a son, Martin in the Air Force and a daughter, Elaine in school.

Dad's cousin William Hintz also immigrated to Canada, taking up a homestead in this area, the N.E. of 34-32-15. He returned to the U.S. for military duty in World War I. Later on he took a position with Union Pacific Railways as an electrical engineer. He held this position until his retirement. In 1959 he sold his land to the late Mrs. Margaret Wiese and her son Walter. He passed away December 27, 1972 in Portland, Oregon.

Other pioneers of the area and neighbors were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Trettin and their son Paul, Mr. Henry Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lindley, and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Renner. These people were some of the nearest neighbors in the pioneer days.

The Lutheran Church services were held in the Renner home for some time in the early days. Rev. Julius Zaetschky was the founder and organizer of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Dowling Lake.

Oxen were the beasts of burden in those early days. We recall interesting tales about how slow and headstrong they were at times. Dad got horses as soon as he was able to make the change.

One other interesting feature about our home was that we had a flowing well in our yard. The amount of water was limitless and the quality second to none. The road allowance north of us was not passable so everyone came through our yard. Many a traveller refreshed his horses and himself at the well.

In the early days considerable trading was done in Castor. However, Hanna was the main shopping town. Most of the grain was hauled to Hanna, or sometimes to Watts. We got our mail from Hanna.

We recall the dirty thirties. A cloud of dust would darken the heavens, so that it was almost like night time. Speaking about events which we will never forget, in the spring of 1929, a prairie fire rolled down on us from the northwest. We can still see it rolling along in the prairie wool. We plowed furrows about one rod apart and our helpful neighbors came and we were able to save our yard. Another event was the hoppers in 1934. They were just everywhere. We used to haul a mixture of sawdust and poison. This was all to no avail. The story was, if your poison killed one hopper, a hundred would come to its funeral.

The first school we attended was called Chain Lakes. It most likely got the name from several small lakes in the area. After a few years we were transferred to Hudson Bay School. As near as we can recall it was on land which was owned at one time by the Hudson Bay Land Company.

In 1936 after we moved to our present farm at Endiang, we attended Leith Hill School. The main reason for the move was the distance to school. To Chain Lakes and Hudson Bay, our former schools, we had almost four miles to go; while Leith Hill was less than a mile. I might add here, our new school was named after Mr. Sam Leith, a pioneer of this area.

One year we were threshing for our neighbor, Mr. Cook. After serving us supper, Mrs. Cook told us that everyone on the crew, excepting the owners, had been her pupils at one time or another. After considerable discussion, she proved her statement correct. Mrs. Cook had taught in various schools in the area for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Cook finally retired to Hanna. Both have passed away. However, she will be remembered by many of her students for years to come. Just another example of the true pioneer spirit.

In early pioneer days the biggest and best gathering was at our church. We, along with most of our neighbors embraced the Lutheran heritage. So in 1921, a church was founded and built. It still stands there till this day, over 56 years later, known far and wide by many as the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, at Scapa. Our Dad was very active both in founding and getting it built. He served on the board for many years.

Our parents were very dedicated to their faith. Naturally we were all raised in a home where our church and religion played a prominent part. The country was new, everything was hard; this held people more towards one goal in life, with their faith playing a very important role.

Through the years we had a long list of ministers serving us. The founding minister of St. Peter's Dowling Lake was Rev. Zaetschky. He travelled many a mile in his buggy. Later on at St. Peter's Lutheran at Scapa, some of our ministers were Rev. H. Bietsch, followed by Rev. S. Menz, Rev. R. Wulff, Rev. J. C. Abs, Rev. H. Brandt, Rev. I. Holm, just to mention a few of them.

We always had a school concert; this was a big event. The school would be jammed with people to see us pupils do our part. We also would have a nice Christmas Concert at the church. All the Christmas Carols and recitations as well as the story of our Saviour's birth in Bethlehem were presented.

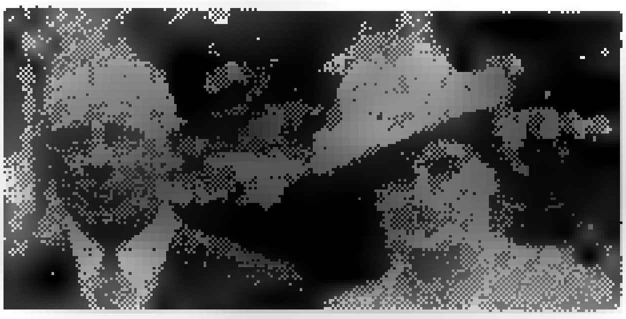
In the summer we had a big day at the end of the school term, a school picnic, with races for all ages, ball games, etc. Clear Lake was used as a summer resort. It

had dances in the hall, booths on the grounds; ball games and swimming and bathing in the lake.

We do complain about prices of beef and grain at present. In those days one cent per pound of beef; a double-deck box on a wagon, full of wheat around eleven dollars. How would we like these prices? Now consider the hard labour in those days, compared to the present day farming, in order to produce the beef and grain. How many of us would do it? There was no government assistance, no Wheat Board. The farmer was at the mercy of everything, including the severe drought.

Most pioneers had sod shacks for their first home. We recall Mr. Henry Cook's sod shack very vividly. It was the last one in the neighborhood.

The foregoing is a brief description of events, conditions and times of the pioneer days. This is how our pioneers worked, played, struggled and prospered. Their goal was to build a life for themselves and their families in a raw and untamed country. Their hardships and suffering gave us, their children, the opportunity to enjoy our modern day life style.



Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Lange.

MR. and MRS. FRITZ LANGE, By E. Lange — Fritz Lange left his native Germany in 1927 and came to Craigmyle, Alberta, where he worked on a large grain farm. In 1929 he acquired the east half of 11-33-15 in the Scapa district. Since the land was all virgin prairie, that summer Mr. Lange broke 150 acres with a Fordson tractor, pulling a two bottom plow. He also built a small house and a garage.

In the fall of 1929 he went back to Germany and in February the following year he was united in marriage with Miss Hedwig Werner. The couple then returned to Canada arriving at the farm March 20, 1930. They were obliged to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] Bohlender until their stove, which they had purchased in Winnipeg, was shipped to Scapa.

Mr. and Mrs. Lange, who were not afraid of hard work, toiled from early morning until late at night milking cows, raising chickens and tilling the fields. Their first chicken house was built of sod, possibly one of the last sod buildings to be in use on the prairies.

With hard work and good management they survived the depression years and when better crops returned Mr. Lange purchased an additional two quarters of land.

They farmed until 1952 and while they were still fairly young in years they disposed of their livestock and machinery and moved to the city of Calgary to retire. In 1956 they made a trip to Germany to visit with relatives and friends. This was to be the last time Mr. Lange saw his homeland because in October of 1968 he was called from this life. Mrs. Lange continued to reside in Calgary until January of 1977 when she too followed her husband in death. The couple was not blessed with children.

THE ROBERT LANGE FAMILY, By Ernest Lange — Robert Lange left Germany in 1895 and came to Minnesota in the United States. In 1905 he came to Nanton, Alberta where he worked for a time on the Bar U Ranch. Later he acquired his own farm in the Nanton area. In 1910 he disposed of his property in Nanton

and made a trip to Germany. In August of 1910 he returned to Canada bringing with him Miss Franziska Geisler whom he married in Calgary the same month. The couple resided in the village of Nanton during the winter of 1910-1911.

In the spring of 1911 they shipped all their belongings by rail to Castor from where they hauled them by horses and wagon to the homestead on N.W. 14-33-15 where Mr. Lange had built temporary shelter consisting of an eight by eight shack and a small barn. Later they obtained the east half of 15-33-15 on which they built a sod house where they spent the winter months. It was necessary to do this in order to "prove up" the homestead.

There were no trees in the area so during the summer they used buffalo chips in the cook stove. For fence posts the men had to drive to Castor and cut trees during the night, because the land was all privately owned. In the spring of 1911 Mr. Lange broke up forty acres of virgin prairie which he seeded to grain. Since none of the land was fenced, cattle belonging to local ranchers roamed freely. It was Mrs. Lange's daily chore to drive these cattle away from the grain with a horse and buggy.

They got their first mail at Lillico Post Office and then at Kane's store at Garden Plains. The first grain had to be hauled to Castor; one of these trips usually took 3 days or longer. When Hanna came into existence in 1912 they thought they were in heaven — they could make the entire trip in one day!

The experience of which Mrs. Lange spoke most frequently was her first trip to the homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Lange left Castor early one morning in March with a team of horses and a wagon with a triple box loaded high with a bed, stove, furniture, groceries, etc. When darkness fell they attempted to cross a small creek somewhere east of the present hamlet of Scapa. The heavily loaded wagon sank down in the deep snow which still lay in the creek, and the horses, played out from the long journey on muddy trails, were unable to pull the load out. Mr. and Mrs. Lange were therefore obliged to spend the night beside the wagon with only a mattress leaned against the wagon for shelter from the cold March wind.

During the night they could hear a dog barking so they presumed that a farmyard could not be too far away. When daylight came they set out on foot and arrived at the Hausher farm, then occupied by George Hausher's father and mother. After having breakfast with the Haushers Mr. Lange returned to his horses and wagon. No sooner had he reached the wagon than a Mr. Renner arrived with a team of oxen. The horses were unhitched and the oxen pulled the load out with ease. Mr. Lange then resumed his journey, picked up Mrs. Lange at Hausher's and they arrived at the Martin Bartsch farm in time for dinner. They were now within a half mile of home.

When they set up housekeeping on their homestead Mr. and Mrs. Lange had to sleep in the barn while Paul Trettin Sr., who stayed with them, slept on a bunk in the eight by eight shack. Mrs. Lange cooked the meals on a small stove in the shack but since there was no room for a table they had to sit outside and eat. Mr. Lange and Mr. Trettin were at this time building a two room house which they were able to occupy in a few weeks.

As more settlers arrived there was much visiting. Playing cards was the main pastime. Every Sunday people could be seen travelling to the Lange's farm home on foot, by saddle horse or horse and buggy for a visit and to enjoy one of Mrs. Lange's delicious meals. Nobody ever left her home without having a lunch or a meal. Thus they spent their life on the farm enduring hail storms, poor prices and finally the drought and dust storms of the depression. Robert Lange passed away in August of 1936. Mrs. Lange continued to reside on the farm until 1948 when she moved to Hanna where she passed away in 1971.

ERNEST LANGE, By Ernest Lange — Ernest Lange was born on the family farm in September of 1918. Because doctors were few and far between, Mrs. Sexsmith, a local midwife, assisted with his birth. He received his education at Hudson Bay School and worked on the farm with his father. Following his father's death he and his mother continued to operate the farm until 1948. From 1948 until 1951 Ernest worked at the Ideal Grocers in Hanna. In 1951 he resumed farming until 1967. Being troubled with allergies all his life, he was forced to give up farming permanently then. Following the death of his mother in 1971 he moved to Osoyoos, British Columbia for four years. In February of 1976 he returned to Hanna to make his home.

ROBERT BRUCE MILLER — I was born and raised at Hanna. After I finished school, I worked at home on the family farm for a while, then worked for Harold Black of Standard at his ranch in the Sunnynook area.

In 1965 I was married to June Hale of Bassano, and in 1968 our son, Clinton Bruce, arrived. In the spring of 1974 I bought the Ernest Welch holdings in the Scapa district.

THE MILLER BROTHERS — There were three brothers, all bachelors, who proved up their homesteads, then sold their farms and moved back to the United States.

A. L. Miller homesteaded the N.W. 16-33-15 and later sold it to A. Welch.

E. A. Miller homesteaded the S.W. 16-33-15, which went back to the government for taxes. D. Welch now has the land leased.

F. R. Miller homesteaded the N.E. 17-33-15 which he sold to a Mr. Tingle who later sold it to P. Trettin. The Trettin family still make their home there.

Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl.

FRIDICH PAHL and FAMILY, By Otto Pahl — Mr. and Mrs. Fridich Pahl and family (Maria, Loui, Julia, Otto and Emma), arrived in Canada from Bessarabia, Romania on October 22, 1927. We travelled via a Swedish ship, Polonia, which docked at Halifax. From there we travelled C.N.R. to Hanna, arriving on October 27.

Some time in November of the same year, Dad and Mother settled on a farm south of Scapa, the S.E. 25-33-15 which Dad bought from Mr. Harvey Burt, Senior. We moved in with the Harvey Burt family. There were seven of them and seven of us, and how all fourteen managed in that house I don't recall. They couldn't understand German and we didn't know a word of English, but somehow we got along. The Burts moved to their farm west of Scapa and we tried to get adjusted to our new surroundings. We were happy for our parents because most of the neighbors were German and they could visit with them. Carl Welch, John Steinbrecker, Fred Welch, William Hein and George Hausher were some of them.

Sister Emma and I started school shortly after we were settled. There were lots of youngsters that could understand German, so it wasn't too hard to get started. Mr. Mac Slemp was our first teacher. We had to talk to him through an interpreter; Rudy Hein was my go-between and sometimes I wondered if he was

telling us what was said. It worked out okay and it didn't take too long until we could understand a bit of English.

The years of 1928 to 1930 were pretty good for us. In 1931 we were hailed out one hundred per cent and never got anything. Then in 1932 the price of wheat dropped to seventeen cents per bushel. Then came the lean years of 1934 when grasshoppers took most of our crop. Those were hard days. Crops we didn't have and cattle prices were down to nothing. Cows brought five to six dollars a head. Dad bought one bull from Mr. Jack Bossert for eleven dollars and sold it for nine dollars. Eggs were four cents a dozen. Dad sold ten hogs in 1934 for four dollars each, and we had to buy the feed to feed them first. Those were the good old days when we made most of our living from milking cows. We made six or seven dollars [illegible] week from cream. After 1938, things started to get better and we managed to pull ourselves out of the debts we had on the farm.

Our oldest brother and three of our older sisters came to Canada before we did. Fred, the oldest, came to Canada early in the spring of 1927. He resided seven miles northeast of Hanna, until 1934, when he moved to Lavoy, Alberta. In 1937 he moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where he lived until he passed away on the last day of 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Pahl, Richard and David.

Rosina, our oldest sister, Mrs. Emanuel Erion, came to the Scapa district in the spring of 1927, but only enjoyed [illegible] few months of her life in Canada. She passed away in August of the same year. Later Emanuel Erion married our sister Marie and they resided on the farm south and west [illegible] Scapa. Marie passed away in April, 1966.

Caroline, Mrs. Daniel Matthels, who resided in the district west of Scapa, passed away in 1972.

One of our brothers, August, was not able to come to Canada with us because he was of age for military service, and had to remain behind, alone. He came over to Canada after World War II, lived in the Spondin area for a number of years, moved to Hanna, and now is living in Linden, Alberta.

In the spring of 1937, Loui got married, living seven miles north east of Hanna. Julia married Jack Mix of Castor, who passed away in 1970. Emma married Otto Mix of Castor and is now residing in Hanna.

In November 1939, I was married to Emma Doering from the Handhills district. We had two boys, Richard and David. Both of the boys are ordained ministers in the Evangelical Church of Canada. Richard is married to Lorraine Viste. They are serving the church at Lipton, Saskatchewan. They have two boys. David is married to Agatha Berg. David and Agatha are serving the churches at Leader and Burstal, Saskatchewan. They also have two boys.

Our father, Fridich Pahl, passed away in 1941, and Mother in 1958.

My wife, Emma, the mother of Richard and David, passed away in 1972. I married Elizabeth Sackman and we are living in the good little town of Hanna.

THE HENRY RUHL FAMILY, By Dave Ruhl — My father, Henry Ruhl, was born in 1876 in Kraft, Russia, a German enclave located on the Volga River. From 1897 to 1902 he was in the Russian army of Czar Nicholas II. In 1903 he married Mary Katharin Schaeffer. They were to have three children while in the Old Country: Daniel, Pauline and Henry.

In 1913 the family left Russia and came to Calgary, where Lydia was born the same year. Father was employed with Patrick Burns until leaving Calgary in 1918 to start farming on the J. B. Johnston farm south of Watts, where in 1920 I, David, was born. The cost of Father's first two horses, with only a halter on each, was $500.00; this put a big hole in the $1500.00 the folks had saved to go farming.

The Henry Ruhl family. Standing: Lydia, Pauline, Daniel, Henry. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruhl and David.

In 1922, with seven cows, four calves and four horses, we moved to the S.E. 22-33-15. Part of the agreement of sale of this quarter was to be three wells, but all of them proved to be dry holes; therefore, water had to be hauled from Rudolf Welch's, which was a mile away. Most of the time this task was done with a horse and stoneboat by Henry, helped at times by Pauline. Often when they were enroute home with a barrel of water the stoneboat would jiggle over a small stone which would cause the barrel to upset. This meant that they had to turn around and get a refill. After one or two of these incidents, a smoother road was taken. Water hauling was done this way, winter and summer, until 1925 when Father and Mother had a well drilled by Frank Ruppert.

The struggle to make ends meet was not easy. The milk cows had to be taken to pasture three and one half miles every morning and brought home each evening, rain or shine, with Henry doing most of the herding, as well as working the farm. Father and Daniel worked for other farmers much of the time and Pauline worked for A. E. Laughlin at Hanna. All the wages they made were pooled to build up the resources.

Hanna, which was twenty-one miles away, was the centre for the post office, supplies and grain delivery. I recall very vividly my mother and father telling of a time in the winter of 1925-26 when they made a trip to Hanna with a sleigh and horses. People going to town from that part of the country took a shortcut across Dowling Lake. The trail hit the lake just a little east of the Schottsneider farm and came out east of Bill McKenzie's. They finished shopping by early evening and left for home via the shortcut. While they were crossing the lake a blizzard came up. The visibility became nil after darkness had fallen. They became lost somewhere in the middle of Dowling Lake. After several hours of wandering they realized they were going along a side hill and that they had to be off the lake, but because of the storm they didn't know where. Completely lost, Father put down fences hoping to find some shelter, farmers or buildings — anything! Sometime after midnight the horses stopped at another wire fence. This time when Dad went to their heads an outline of some buildings appeared. It turned out to be the Mansfield farm which was rented by Reinhart Sieb at that time. This is where they stayed the rest of the night. This experience was never forgotten. It is interesting to note that it was the same $500.00 team of horses mentioned earlier that fought out this ordeal for my parents.

Dan died in 1927 as a result of an accident on a threshing rig.

The years of 1929 to 1938 were rather grim — no rain, so nothing much would grow. The dust storms of 1929 and the thirties were something to behold. At times one would only see an outline of the sun. The alkali of Dowling Lake would rise thousands of feet high! The price of wheat went down to nineteen cents per bushel, oats were seven cents, eggs were worth practically nothing. Butter was the same, many farmers using it to grease their machinery. In 1930 Dad sold two three-year-old steers for $7.50. Nevertheless, through those trying times Mother and Father stayed off the relief rolls.

Winters were cold and very hard on our stock as feed was not plentiful. I remember walking to Hudson Bay School, which was the school Henry, Lydia and I attended, and seeing a farmer's horses down on the road allowance unable to get up. I told the owners and the horses were put out of their misery. One thing about Hudson Bay School, (which was built, I believe, in 1918), was that it was air conditioned — always the same temperature, inside and out!

In 1929 we moved to the north half of 21-33-15 which Father had purchased in 1925 from Tom Symington. Lydia and I then went to Crow Hill School which was blessed with the same quality of air conditioning. In 1932 my folks sent me back to Hudson Bay School where I had one of my finest teachers, Enos Lundrigan. All of us kids did well under him. I also admired him for his musical talents and learned to play a banjo and my basic guitar; in fact, Gottlieb (Shorty) Glubrecht turned out to be a very accomplished banjo player through Lundrigan's tutelage.

In 1936 Father purchased the west half of 22-33-15 from the Soldier's Settlement Board, that was previously owned by Joe Lidgett.

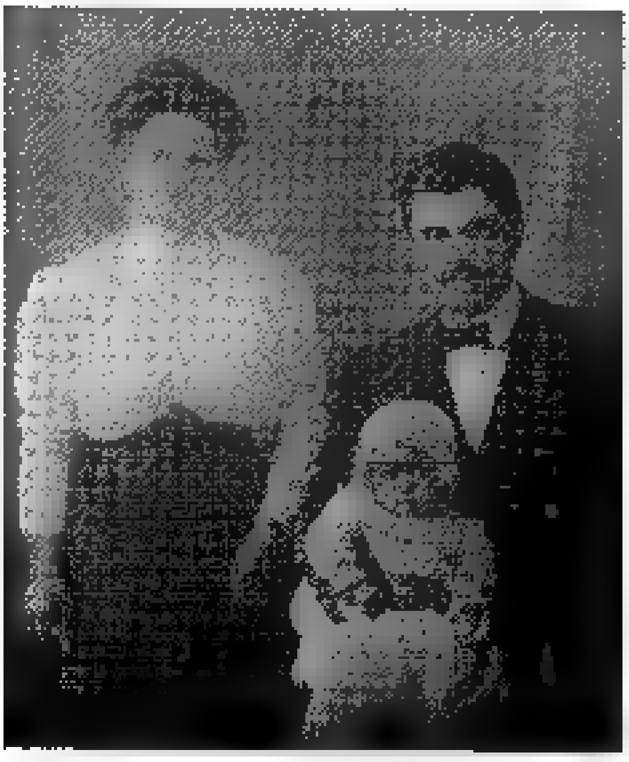
Mother and Father retired in 1943 and lived in Calgary, where Mother passed away ■ 1946. Father passed away in 1963 in Camrose where Pauline was living at that time.

Pauline was married to Carl Andersen who was the manager of the Hanna Creamery. In 1926 he moved to a farm west of Scapa. Later he and his wife moved to New Norway where they operated a grocery store. They retired in Camrose where Carl passed away in 1953. Pauline now makes her home in Calgary.

Lydia married Svend Dittner in 1934 and has one daughter. She makes her home in Calgary.

Henry married Edna Miller in 1945 and lived on the home place until moving to Calgary where he was employed with the Calgary Board of Education.

I live in Calgary, where I was ■ professional wrestler.



Mr. and Mrs. John Steinbrecker and first son, John.

THE JOHN STEINBRECKER FAMILY, By Ruby Steinbrecker Hausher — John and Mary Steinbrecker came to Canada from Colorado in 1910. They settled in Stettler, where Mary worked in a cigar factory while John came to the Scapa area to take up ■ homestead. They built a small two-roomed shack and moved their entire possessions out in ■ wagon.

Farming was a slow but rewarding way of life then, although there were many hardships to be faced, such as prairie fires, and isolation. Mary's first child was born while she was alone ■ home.

Horses were very expensive and the only means of doing the farming. On one occasion when a team ran away, one of the horses was badly cut. It was part of the day's work to sew up the cut and nurse the horse back to health; just as it was all in the day's work to walk several miles to get the milk cows in the days before there were many fences.

In the spring of 1928, the family was coming home from town with the team and buggy when they saw flames shooting out of the house. Mac Slemp, who was teaching at Hudson Bay school at the time, brought his class down to see if they could be of any help, but it was too late to salvage much from the building. One excited person ran into the kitchen, brought out the pan of bread dough which had been left to rise, and carried ■ across the garden before setting it down. There had been ■ beautiful large clock beside the dough, but that was not saved. The family lived in ■ granary until fall, when a large new house was completed.

Hudson Bay school was built on John's land, and he was one of the original members of the board. As the school was only ■ quarter of a mile from the homestead, many of the teachers boarded with them.

Mary acted as midwife for many women in the area, as the nearest hospital was at Craigmyle, and often there was not time to go that far or to get ■ doctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker farmed until 1955, when they retired to Hanna. Mary passed away in 1964, John in 1965.

They had eight children. George lived for a few years in Hanna, then moved to Edgewater, B.C. He married Jean Taylor and had one son, Wes. George died in 1966.

Sam, who now lives on the home place, married Pat Smith. They have six children and two grandchildren.

Ruby married Ervin Hausher and they reside at Endiang. They had three children, Lloyd, Carol, and Cheryl, who lost her life in a car accident in 1973. They have two grandchildren.

Irene married Friedel Haessel and they farmed at Scapa until they moved to Hanna. They have two sons and one daughter.

The four older Steinbrecker children passed away in early life. Willie was killed by a runaway team when he was eighteen years old, he and two other children and their grandmother Hinter are buried on the homestead. A boy who died after an appendectomy is buried in Hanna.

THOMAS SYMINGTON, By Sarah Symington Ryckman — Thomas Symington was born in February, 1885, in Carluke, Scotland. He was married to Sarah Denholm at Glasgow, Scotland on January 24, 1912. They sailed for Canada, arriving at Halifax from where they took the train to Calgary. In 1914 Dad took up a homestead eleven miles north of the town of Watts, N.W. 21-33-15. The trip out to the homestead was made by horse and sleigh. Six children were born of this union: Sarah, Marian, Thomas, Margaret, and Jessie. A daughter Agnes died at the age of three years.

Our first post office was Watts and it was to here we came for our mail and supplies. While Dad was on the farm, he was a councillor for the Dowling Lake Municipality and later was reeve. He drove to Hanna once a month to attend these meetings.

The first school we attended was Hudson Bay. The teachers' names were Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Kerr. After a few years this school became overcrowded and we then went to Crow Hill School. By this time I was old enough to drive the horse, so I took the horse and buggy to school, picking up Mildred and Russell Hanson on the way.

In 1925 Dad sold his farm to Henry Ruhl, and moved to Endiang where my folks operated a restaurant for a year or more. Then Dad went back to his own trade, that of carpenter. He helped build the town of Endiang where we stayed for five years. In the spring of 1930 we moved to Hanna where Dad continued in his trade. In the late thirties Dad and Mother went to Vancouver to reside. Mother passed away there in August 1949, and Dad a few years later in February, 1954.

I was married to Edward Ryckman in December, 1931. Ed passed away in July, 1965. We were blessed with three children: James, Jessie and Albert. I still make my home in Hanna.

ADOLPH and CHRISTINA WEICH, By Louis Weich — Adolph Weich was born in Russia on October 6, 1882. Christina Dechert was also born in Russia, on October 5, 1886. They were married on April 3, 1906, and had three children, Louis, Elsie, and another child who died in infancy.

Dad made a couple of trips to the United States in search of a better way of life. The second time he got a job in Michigan in a foundry. He contracted typhoid fever, and after a long bout of illness, found that he was unable to work at his former job. In the later part of 1911 he went to Edmonton, travelled down to what is

now known as the Scapa area, filed on a homestead and returned to Edmonton where he worked in a foundry until 1913, when Mother, Elsie and myself joined him. We had come over from Russia with Uncle Bill Weich's family, Uncle Rudolf's fiancee, Bertha Dechert, and Uncle Fred Weich. We were all met at the station by my dad, Uncle Rudolf and Uncle William. They were so black from the work they had been doing that when they came to greet us, we children were frightened of the black men and hid behind our mothers' skirts.

The Adolf Weich family, 1917. Aileen, Louie, Adolf, Lydia, Bertha, Mrs. Christina, Alvina, Elsie and May.

About Christmas time of 1913 we all came out to Uncle Carl's homestead, (now known as the Fred Weich Jr. place) and spent the winter with him. In the spring of 1914 Dad built a twelve by fourteen shack on his homestead and this was our first home in Canada. This is also where my sisters and brother were born.

By this time the money from his previous job in Edmonton was getting low and again Dad had to go out to work. This time he got a farm job in the Botha area which paid him thirty-five dollars a month. Of course transportation then wasn't like it is now and if you weren't fortunate enough to catch a ride with someone who had a team and buggy, you had to walk. Dad worked on this farm at Botha for two months before coming home for the first time. When he did come to see us he brought with him a fifty-pound sack of flour. He had gotten a ride for a short distance from the farm where he worked, and walked the remainder of the way with that big sack of flour on his back.

After three months' work he came home and bought our first cow from a neighbor, Mr. Bartsch, who had settled in the area about 1910. Cows were expensive in those days; this one cost Dad about $350, part cash and the rest on time. About that same time Dad added a sod kitchen to our shack and also built a sod barn for the cow. Uncle Carl broke the ground for our sods and also an area for our garden. In 1915 he also broke ten acres for us which he put into crop in 1916 on a third share basis. To our great misfortune the crop hailed out and we had no insurance.

It was also our first experience of a hail storm, and a frightening experience to say the least, especially for us younger folk. At this time Dad was working for Mr. Bartsch, who was cutting our hay crop for us when the storm hit. He came to the house for shelter and stood just inside the door where he could hold onto his team of horses. He had an awful time trying to keep them from running off; they didn't like the hail beating at their bodies any more than we would have. However, he did manage to hang onto them until the storm passed. You can well imagine there was no more hay to be cut; it was a total loss.

In the winter of 1916 Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Drexel, and bought another team from Alex Kalenith in 1917. That spring he bought a new seed drill and a wagon and started farming for himself. Uncle Carl cut our crop that fall; we stooked it and put it in four stacks, which were threshed by Chris Lohrmann. We harvested nearly four hundred bushels of wheat from this crop. While our stacks were being threshed, the horses hauling the bundle racks had to be fed, so they ate from the oats that we had. After the threshing was done and the workers had gone home, Dad gathered up what few oats remained on the ground where the horses had eaten, and sowed them the following spring. Unfortunately the crop didn't yield much, as the seed had been sown on spring-broke ground, which does not produce very good crops the first year.

However, we had sown another crop as well which turned out not too badly. In fact, Dad built a new house that year before threshing time, and we moved into it right away, and used the old shack to store the grain that we harvested that fall.

Mother always had a good garden. Even after the hail storms she managed to salvage lots of potatoes, carrots, turnips and cabbage to see us through the long winter months and on into summer until the next garden was ready.

By the fall of 1918 we had five head of cattle and four horses. Late that fall Hudson Bay school was opened and my sister Elsie and I started our education. We could not speak English, for our family always spoke German at home, but we made our grade one by the end of the school term. The following year Dad bought a pony for us to ride to school; we were very grateful, as previous to that we had to walk, and it seemed an awfully long trip, especially in the winter.

Dad did a lot of blacksmith work, and about this time he decided to get a new forge and anvil. He ordered them from Eaton's, along with some other tools he needed for the cutting down of big wagon wheels, a job he did very well. He made quite a name for himself as a blacksmith and wheelright. Farmers from all over the country brought him plough shares to be sharpened and wagon wheels to be repaired and cut down. He also built a lot of cutters in those days, and running gear for cutters. The smithy business got to be quite big and he carried on with it until his retirement.

This trade also had its drawbacks. Dad had built a shop in 1928, which was big enough to hold his democrat and car when no blacksmithing was being done. One cold winter night Rudolf Fecho came over to get Dad to build him a sleigh. The car was moved out of the shop so there would be enough room to work on this project. During the process of heating and shaping the metal for the sleigh, a piece of red-hot metal flew out of Dad's sight. Although they searched for it, they could not find it. Later on when the sleigh was completed, the car put back in the shop, and Mr. Fecho had gone home, Dad searched again for the missing piece of metal, but was not able to find it. He finally decided that by now the metal would have cooled and that there was no danger, so retired for the night. About three o'clock in the morning we awakened to find the shop on fire.

My sister Bertta wrapped a warm blanket around herself and ran to the neighbor's for help. Our closest neighbor, Joe Lidgett, lived over half a mile from our place and came as soon as they could. Without realizing it at the time, Bertta had run all the way to Lidgett's without any shoes on, and in the bitter cold had frozen her feet quite badly. Meanwhile we salvaged what we could from the shop; the car and most of the democrat and the shop and the rest of the contents burned to the ground.

Dad built another shop, bought more tools, reestablished himself in the smithy business and continued where he had left off prior to the fire, sharpening plow shares, shrinking wagon wheels, making over wagons, etc. I later carried on this blacksmith business on my farm until my retirement, and now my oldest son, Ron, who has a machine shop in Three Hills, is in the process of building an even larger plant. So this blacksmith business has been passed down from generation to generation, you might say it ■ an inborn trait.

Along with the farm work and blacksmith business, Dad also worked for Andy Hansen as ■ separator man on his threshing outfit. Andy Hansen, who was a great asset to our community, used to do the threshing for neighbors miles around the country for ■ good many years.

In 1949 Dad and Mother retired to Hanna, where they resided until their passing, Dad on November 28, 1958, and Mother on January 2, 1976. They were both active members of the Lutheran Church, first at St. Peter's at Scapa and later at Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna.

There were two boys and seven girls in the family. Louie, Bert and May Fecho live in Hanna. Elsie McHugh and Bertta Keall live in Vancouver, B.C. Alvina Sorenson is in Oliver, B.C.; Aileen Smith in Seattle, Washington; Lydia Marron in Camrose and Mandy Schrador in Edmonton.

5 Generations. Lawrence Schmidt (father), Louie Weich (great grandfather), Helen Schmidt (grandmother), holding Michael Schmidt and Mrs. Adolf Weich (great great grandmother).

LOUIS WEICH, By Louis Welch — Louis R. Welch: Born January 15, 1907, in Valenian, Russia, immigrated to Canada with mother Christina Weich and sister Elsie in the fall of 1913. We joined my father, Adolph Welch in Edmonton, Alberta, and journeyed on to what is now known as the Scapa area where we spent our first winter in Canada at the home of my father's brother, Carl Weich.

In the spring of 1914 we moved onto dad's homestead, two miles west of Uncle Carl's farm, where we built our first home, ■ 12' ■ 14' shack. During the summer we added a sod kitchen to our home. During this period Dad was working out in the area, earning approximately ten dollars a month, in order to look after the family.

In the spring of 1916, with the help of neighbors as we had no machinery of our own yet, we sowed our first crop, which we lost due to a severe hail storm. In the fall of the same year Dad bought our first team of horses from Pete Draxel and another team from Alex Kalenith. In 1918, Hudson Bay School was built and my sister Elsie and I began our

schooling that fall. Our only means of getting to school was to walk the three and a quarter miles, always taking the shortest route possible, of course. The following year Dad bought our fifth horse, a pony, which we were able to ride to and from school, for which we were most grateful.

I continued my schooling until the age of fifteen years, during which time I worked with Dad on the homestead and also for neighbors when I could help out.

During the spring of 1923 all the young men in our area who were able went job hunting in the more southern areas where they heard jobs were more plentiful. My name was brought to the attention of a farmer, Mr. George Grieves, who owned a farm in the Bassano area, and who was looking for hired help at the time. Mr. Grieves contacted me about working for him; the reply was "yes" of course. Mother packed me a lunch, I caught a train at Watts, journeyed to Calgary where I caught another train to Bassano, where I contacted a blacksmith who was a friend of Mr. Grieves and who took me out to the Grieves farm in an old Model T Ford car. This was my first job away from my home area. I worked for Mr. Grieves for approximately three months at forty-five dollars per month which was quite an improvement over the fifty cents a day I had been receiving closer to home. This, as I recall, turned out to be one of the best years for farming in the history of the country. Pretty well all of the farmers harvested fifty bushels to the acre that fall.

In 1926 I worked with Dad on a share basis and with good fortune, from my share of the crop which was $400.00, I was able to purchase my first car, a Model T Ford for $350.00. Of course my Dad was not too happy about this but I was sure proud of that car.

The following year I was working for local farmers again and also had a job on a road construction crew in the area. One day in mid-summer on my way home from road work I ran into the biggest hail storm that ever hit the country. This storm covered an area from the south side of Sullivan Lake to the northern end of Dowling Lake. It was storming so badly I had to stop my car and crouch up on the seat to shelter myself under the car roof in order to save my hide from being battered by the hail stones.

In the fall of 1927 I rented what was then known as the Gulseth place, in the Dowling district, and began farming on my own. In November of this same year I married Lenora Mable Halversen who joined me on the farm where our first three children, Helen, Ronald and Hilda, were born.

My first crop on the Gulseth place was hailed out in 1928. Luckily my crop was insured, and with the insurance money I was able to begin buying my own machinery, adding to the four horses, a drill, a plough and an old binder which I previously owned. In 1929 I bought my first tractor, a John Deere with steel wheels, a rough old thing to ride but very modern as far as I was concerned, and a power binder. I was the first person in the area to run my tractor from the binder, operating both at the same time.

In the fall of 1931 we moved from the Gulseth place to the Wade farm south of Hanna, which was mostly ranching, sheep and cattle. Another child, Edwin, was born to us there, whom we later lost at the age of seven due to suffocation. We remained on the Wade farm until the fall of 1935 at which time I had a streak of bad luck and lost everything but my family. We spent that winter living with friends of ours, the Paul Trettins, who lived about two miles from Dad's homestead.

In 1936 I rented what was then known as the George Smith farm, situated approximately three miles north of Dowling Lake. The remainder of my family, Bob, Gordon, George, Harold and Florence, were born on this farm. I started all over again at this time with only three horses and five cows. My brother-in-law, Bill Facho, had a farm about three miles from mine; he also owned three horses and

for the next two years we did our farming together. I also took odd jobs in the area and did a lot of grade work for the Special Areas, which helped me get re-established.

In the winter of 1942 I joined the armed forces and remained with them until the fall of 1945 at which time the war was over and I was able to rejoin my family on the farm. While in the army I had the opportunity of learning a trade, blacksmithing, which was a necessity to farming for repairing machinery, building farm equipment, etc., and with this experience and ability to put it to use I became known as the community handy man.

During my teenage years and while my children were growing up there was a lot of hard work to do but we also had our good times. Our main source of entertainment was local talent and every winter brought to each community the Christmas concerts which were looked forward to by young and old alike. There were also box socials, dances, chivarees for the newly married couples, picnics and ball games in the summer as well as many family gatherings which were enjoyed by all.

My wife Lenora passed away in 1969 in a Calgary Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

Helen married David Schmidt and they live on his father's homestead in the Watts area. They have four sons.

Reinhart married Diane Verstrepen. They live at Three Hills where he runs a machine shop. They have five children.

Hilda married Clifford Paxman and lived on the Paxman homestead. Clifford passed away in May of 1976. They have two daughters and two sons.

Edwin was born in 1934. He passed away in 1941.

Robert married Jeanette Cust. They live at Port Coquitlam, B.C., where he works for B.C. Utilities. They have four daughters and three sons.

Gordon married Lena Cust. They live at Bellis, Alberta on a small farm. They have three daughters.

George married Betty Banwell. They also live at Three Hills where he works for Ron at the machine shop. They have two sons.

Harold married Mary Steinbrecker. They live in Calgary where Harry works for an oil company.

Florence married Frank Koteles but they are now seperated. She lives at Red Deer. They had two sons.

I also have four great grandchildren, Michael and Kari-Ann Schmidt, Jody Hoffman, and April Paxman.

I remained on my farm north of Dowling Lake until the spring of 1974 when I retired, taking many fond memories with me, and proud of having been a member of that particular community.

CARL and LOUISE WEICH and FAMILY, By Art Weich — Carl Weich was born in Wolhian, Russia in 1885 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1906, where he spent the next four years. Then he decided to move to Canada, where there was land available for homesteading. The city of Edmonton was his destination and on his arrival there, he bought a tent in which he lived until he was able to earn enough money to build himself a small shack. During this time Mr. Weich worked as a carpenter. It was in this shack in Edmonton that he accommodated various relatives including the Keibels, who also immigrated to Alberta.

While in Edmonton he checked with the government and was informed there was land available for homesteading northwest of Hanna. He filed on a homestead

and a pre-emption and spent most of his life farming until he retired to Hanna in 1943. A son Fred now owns the original half section and still farms it.

Mr. Welch tells of the many experiences and hardships endured in the process of homesteading. After leaving Edmonton he moved to Stettler and worked there for some time. He decided to walk to the homestead across country, which was around sixty miles. He carried a bag with some groceries, sixty pounds of carpenter tools and clothing. The first day he walked twenty-some miles and when darkness came he dug a hole in a hay stack and spent the night. The stay wasn't too comfortable as it was winter. The next day he arrived at a neighbor's near the homestead and made arrangements to have a load of lumber and supplies delivered, so he could build a farmstead, which was his pride for so many years.

The Carl Welch family. Back Row: Donald, Annie, Fred, Arthur, Freda and Alma. Front Row: Carl, Ruth and Louise.

After he built his small home his brothers and sisters emigrated from Russia one by one and lived with him until they were able to build their own homes. The relatives that lived with him were brothers William, Adolf, Rudolf and Fred, a sister Mrs. Marie Hein, a sister-in-law Matilda Welch and numerous others. In 1915 he married Miss Louise Petsch and raised a family of seven: Freda, Arthur, Anne, Fred, Donald, Alma and Ruth. One son, Harvey, died as an infant.

In 1920 a group of people in the area formed a Lutheran congregation, bought a church in Wetaskiwin, dismantled it and moved it to its present site, four

miles west of Scapa. On many occasions when a minister was not available, Mr. Welch would conduct the services.

During the depression when money was very scarce, Carl Weich would build coffins for people who could not afford [illegible] buy one. He spent many years on the school board and as municipal councillor.

This is just a short resume of one pioneer family who contributed so much to the future of this province. Carl Weich died on July 20, 1975, three months short of 90 years of age. Mr. Louise Weich still lives in Calgary and is in good spirits and health.

Freda is married to Sam Doering, Arthur [illegible] married to Adalena Doering, Donald is married to Mae Delker, Fred is married to Irene Otterstetter, Alma [illegible] married Jim Verrin. They all live in Calgary. Annie [illegible] married to Ben Sielzle and lives in Parksville, B.C. Ruth is married to Tony Brohman and lives in Port Alberni, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weich, Richard and Audrey.

MR. and MRS. FRED WEICH, By Irene Weich — On February 4, 1945, Frederick William Weich and Irene Otterstatter of Craigmyle were united in marriage in St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

We took over the Carl Weich homestead and over the years saw many advances, from coal oil and gas lamps to six and thirty-two volt light plants to Hydro in 1952; from crank telephones to dial phones; from country schools to school vans.

Fred drove the school route in 1952-53, with the car in the summer and a bobsled in winter. He took over the mail route from Mr. G. Glubrecht and delivered mail by car in summer and by closed-in, horse-drawn cutter in winter.

We put up with a few hard winters when we were drifted in with high snow banks, and didn't get out for some time. Also a few hard years, but there were always a few extra dollars to be made with garden vegetables, fryers, eggs and cream.

We had two children. Our son Richard, born May 8, 1946, met his death in a tragic highway accident south of Medicine Hat on October 21, 1970.

Our daughter Audrey, born July 18, 1947, is married to Dennis Hoynick. They live on a farm near Daysland and have three sons and one daughter.

In 1959 we bought [illegible] house in Calgary, and moved there at the end of June. In 1968 we built a new home at 1832 - 47 Street S.E., and live there in winter. We spend our summers on the farm.

THE FREDRICH WEICH FAMILY, By Reinhardt Weich — Fredrich Weich was born in Lutz, Poland of German parents. He was conscripted into the Russian Army. He was assigned to the military band and played the clarinet.

He came to Edmonton in 1911. When he arrived there everything he owned was stolen except for $5.00 he had in his pocket. His clothes, his music, and his clarinet were all gone.

He worked in an iron factory along with his brother Rudolf. They decided to try for some other form of employment. Fred and Rudolf walked to Stettler, where they found work on a farm. Fred came to this area and took up a homestead on SE 22-33-15. He sold this homestead to H. Ruhl and moved to a half section purchased from Bodemans, which is still the home place occupied by Reinhardt.

In 1917 Fred married Florentine Schultz of Bashaw. Florentine was born at Steinbach, Manitoba. Of this union three sons were born, Arthur, Reinhardt and Henry, and two daughters who passed away in infancy.

Arthur married Edna Boehlke. They had two daughters Arleen and Elaine. Edna passed away in 1967. Several years later Arthur married Emily Kaminski.

Reinhardt married Edna Graham. They have two sons and three daughters, Gerald, Beverly, Judy, Stanley and Shelley.

Henry married Margaret Gauld. They had three sons and two daughters, Alan, Douglas, Kenneth, Peggy and Betty.

Fred passed away in March 1941, and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Scapa. When he became ill the roads were passable only with a team and sleigh. He was warmly wrapped in blankets and his son Arthur and his wife Flora started the trip to the hospital in Hanna. At Rudolf Fecho's they changed teams and continued on into Hanna.

Flora is still living and resides at the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. Arthur lives in Calgary, Henry at Red Deer and Reinhardt farms the home farm at Scapa.

In the early years teachers and travelling missionaries often boarded with us.

MR. and MRS. RUDOLF WEICH — Our original birthplace was Kolk, Russia. As a single young man, I landed in New York City in 1909 and found work in the railroad shop, grinding brakes. The future looked brighter in Michigan where I worked as a moulder in a Stove Foundry — piece work which meant hard work for six to eight dollars daily. I drifted from here to Wisconsin to a logging camp — piling lumber on a slasher.

My brother Carl, who had already come to Canada, encouraged me to come to Canada. In 1911 I arrived in Edmonton. I had not seen my brother Carl for about two years; I was such a grown-up man that Carl did not recognize me. He walked back and forth for a length of time and then gave up, thinking that his brother hadn't come. I then made our reacquaintance with tears of joy and laughter. I found work in Edmonton, at Edmonton Iron Works at forty cents per hour. During this time, 1911, I filed for my homestead in Scapa, the S.E. 23-33-15; the southwest quarter was my pre-emption. The land was rolling with many many rocks which we cleared by hand. Transportation was only with horse and wagon and of course there were no roads.

My wife Bertha, along with Mrs. Adolf Weich and Mrs. Bill Weich, arrived in Edmonton in 1913. On November 14, 1913, we were united in marriage. During this time I had learned some English but did not have the opportunity for school as there was no money. My wife, of course, did not know any English. She could only go to the store and show the clerk what we wanted to buy, or I would do the buying. We moved to the Scapa district; as there were no buildings on our homestead we lived with Carl. Our first home was started in 1914, two rooms, 12 feet by 24 feet, made of wood. We depended on our gardens and milk so we purchased a roan cow from Godfried Hinder near Delia. As we slowly progressed we were able to get five horses, a walking plough and later a sulky plough and wagon from Stettler.

To prove our Title for Homestead we broke thirty acres of land. We dug a well in the slough for water and later a well by the house. As years advanced we had a

well dug by Henry Pregitzer. Our coal supply came from Garden Plain where there was also a store and post office. Our food consisted of homemade bread, sauerkraut, potato soup, prairie chicken and wild duck.

We well remember September, 1914, when our home was blessed with our first child. At this same time we had a very heavy snowfall but winter did not settle in; after the snow disappeared we dug up soil ready for our garden in the spring. Besides farming I worked off and on in Stettler for a few years. My wife would attend to the home duties; she had much fear alone because she did not know the English language and could speak only German.

In 1918 there was a flu epidemic and much sorrow came to us when our second child Millie passed away — there was no way of getting any medical help or medicine. Two years later another baby girl passed away. The graves of Millie and Ida are on the homestead on the southwest corner of the southwest quarter, beside the fence. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange have a child buried on their land too.

Our first farm tragedy occurred when lightning killed two of our horses as well as a colt. We saw it happen but couldn't do anything. In 1922 our nice two-roomed house was destroyed by fire. We were visiting the Steinbrecker family and suddenly we saw the house go up in flames. We were so thankful that we had our children with us. The neighbors rushed to help fight the fire, but all we saved was a black cast iron frying pan which we still use today. We started to build anew in 1923, a five-roomed house with a full basement. Brothers Carl and Fred and Mr. Steinbrecker, maybe others which we can't remember at this age, helped us build our house.

With much courage we worked on and soon we were able to buy our first dozen chickens from Steinbreckers. Later we raised at least one hundred of our own, and turkeys and geese every year. We had much hail. One time we were hailed out completely and also lost about thirty of our turkeys. By then we were milking about eight cows and selling the cream for what we could get, about three to five dollars for a five gallon can.

My first overshoes were gunny sacks wrapped around the shoes. I poured water over them to freeze the sacks, so my feet would not get cold when I set out with horses and sleigh for Hanna or Stettler.

Garden Plain had a Stampede in 1920 or 1921. Charlie Lohrmann asked if I would loan a horse for a bucking contest. I did. The horse won first prize and we got a valuable ten dollars.

About 1918 Hudson Bay School opened for students. Our son Walter says that in 1925 an itch epidemic was in the school and Dad went to the pasture and picked white sage for medicine. We bathed and steamed in it; results were no itch — something did the trick.

Our home was blessed with three boys and six girls. Two of the girls died as infants. Our eldest child Mary is living in Okotoks, Walter in Calgary, Helen in Calgary, Emma at Carbon; Dan is farming in the Dowling district, Ben is farming in the Spondin district and Doreen is in Calgary.

We left the homestead about the year 1926 and moved to Delia where we took up a farm with a section of land. We thought we would make a better living with grain and animal farming, but in 1932 wheat was only eighteen cents per bushel. In 1940 we moved back to the Dowling district, where a son Dan is now farming. We have now retired to Calgary. A few years ago we celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary, with sixty-two of the family in attendance. We are happy living in Calgary but still keep a soft spot in our hearts for the life on the farm, remembering the many friends and kindnesses shown us there, and the good times as well as the bad.

We now see the coming generation living in their comfortable homes. May they continue to prosper and make Canada a great nation. Good luck . . .

Mr. and Mrs. William Weich.

WILLIAM WEICH, By Matilda Weich — William (Bill) Weich was born in Valenian, Russia, on August 1, 1880. He was the oldest of a family of five boys and three girls.

In 1910 he married Matilda Fecho, also of Valenian.

In 1912 he immigrated to Canada, arriving in Edmonton. There he worked with some of his brothers for the summer and then later came to Castor. He filed on a homestead west of Scapa, the N.E. 22-33-15, building on it a sod house for a home.

In 1913 his wife and two children, Rudolph and Ida, came to Canada. On the journey over two-year-old Rudolph became ill and died. He was buried at sea.

They lived in a sod house for three years and then built a frame house.

There were three more children born in Canada, Christine, Ernest and Herbert.

[illegible] Weich passed away in 1944, and Matilda is now living in Hanna.

Ida Bordula had nine children and now lives in Calgary. Christine Mansell had a family of six and is living in Red Deer. Ernest married, farmed the home place until selling to Bruce Miller in 1975. They now live in Hanna. Herbert is married and has three boys and also lives in Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wimmer.

JOHN WIMMER, By Herbert Wimmer — John Wimmer was born in Hungary in 1894 and immigrated to Canada with his parents in the spring of 1905, arriving in Regina. Three months later, after purchasing two horses, a wagon, stove, beds and other household supplies, they travelled by trail to Lacombe. From there they travelled by covered wagon to their homestead in the district of what now is Castor. Machinery and supplies were purchased in Stettler and freighted to the homestead by horse and wagon until 1908, when the C.P.R. constructed the railway from Stettler to Castor.

John was at home with his parents until he was about fourteen years old, and then had various jobs, one of which was firing a steam engine breaking land in the area. He also spent some time working for the C.P.R. in the roundhouse at Castor.

In April of 1912 he filed on a homestead, the N.E. 13-33-15, near the Graystone Post Office. For the next three years he worked at homestead duties in the winter and at various other jobs in the summer. In 1916 he started to break some of the land, and the following year he moved to the homestead permanently. The lumber and all other supplies were hauled from Castor by team and wagon.

In 1918 he bought a new Model T Ford car for less than $600.00. As it was one of the first cars in the district, it was used on various occasions to take someone who was sick or injured to a doctor.

The fall of 1919 being wet, and winter coming early, threshing was not completed. The bundles were then hauled onto stacks to be threshed in the spring. After seeding in 1920, he worked as a fireman for Chris Lohrmann, threshing the stacks. Mr. Lohrmann was the separator man; he hired the water man and fireman and the farmer supplied the coal and bundle pitchers. Some days two or three farms were threshed this way. They started in the area just east of Scapa and finished north of Garden Plain on the first of July.

During these years the winter's supply of coal was usually purchased from the Kane or Bradshaw coal mines in the Garden Plain district. When the depression years of the thirties came and money was very scarce, some farmers would mine their own coal on the George Wright farm. The soil was stripped with a team and fresno or slip, and then the coal was broken loose with a walking plow. Then it was loaded into a wagon and hauled home.

In November, 1926, John Wimmer was married to Anna Podetz, who had come to Canada from Hungary in the spring of the same year. They had one son, Herbert, born in 1931.

In later years more land was purchased and they continued to live on this farm until they retired to Hanna in 1964. Anna Wimmer passed away in 1973 and John still resides at his home in Hanna.

HERBERT WIMMER — I was born in Hanna in 1931. I attended Hudson Bay school until grade five, then transferred to Scapa where I remained until grade ten. My main means of transportation to school was a bicycle. After finishing school I remained home with my parents to help Dad with the farming.

As I was fond of old time music, I played the accordion with the Scapa orchestra for about fifteen years.

In 1964 I was married to Annabelle Haessel who was employed at the Royal Bank in Hanna. My parents then retired to Hanna, and we built a new home on the original homestead, which we still operate.

We have two children, Brian and Karen, who are attending school in Hanna.

THE H. A. BURT FAMILY, By Olive Burt Boehlke and Earl Burt — Harvey Burt was born at Marshfield, Missouri in 1884. In 1906 he married Rebecca Kennedy at St. Paul, Kansas, where she had been born in 1883. For a time they operated the dining room of a hotel, with Dad doing the cooking and Mother waiting on tables. Then Dad found a job running an elevator in Apache, Oklahoma, and worked there until he came to Canada.

Like many others, Dad had read literature which seemed to promise homesteaders a fortune within a few years. Many people who came planned to spend only a short time in Canada and then return, but instead, circumstances forced them to stay.

In the spring of 1912 our parents came to Canada, along with the Jackson families who settled north of Castor. They told of reaching Calgary on a cold and snowy day. Mother had worn a sweater when she left the heat of Oklahoma, never thinking she would need the coat packed away in her trunk. They went to Delburne and spent a few weeks with Mother's aunt and uncle, the Tom Blair family, and then went on to Castor where they lived with the Jacksons. They also spent some time with the Slemp family of Fleet, who had come up from Oklahoma some time earlier.

By September of 1912, Dad had filed on a homestead in the Garden Plain area, eighteen miles north of Hanna. Mother tells of living in a tent the next spring until the sod shack was completed. Tragedy almost struck when Dad, burning the grass for a fire guard, lost control of it and almost burned the tent and all their belongings.

The next three years were spent between Castor and the homestead. Each time they moved to Castor to work, they took all their possessions by team and wagon, with a cow tied behind. In the spring and fall Dad worked for Lewis Fuller north of Castor. He was able to get more work out of Fuller's big Rumley than anyone else, and could tell stories about threshing as many as sixty days a year, sometimes in thirty below zero weather.

The Harvey Burt family, 1942. Harvey Sr., Augusta, Bill, Mrs. Burt, Earl, Olive, Harvey Jr., Jim Boehike and Gilbert Tucker. Sitting: Agnes and Elsie.

Dad worked one winter at Kane's mine near Garden Plain. Mr. Kane provided a house for the family and Mother cooked for the miners who lived upstairs. Anyone coming along could have a meal; breakfast was 25¢, dinner 30¢ and supper 35¢. I am sure that there were pancakes and baking powder biscuits for breakfast, as that is a memory from when we were small. Mother's pancakes were the best anyone ever tasted.

The first crop was seeded by hand. Perhaps Dad had help as the E. E. Slemp family lived with us from April, 1914, until their sod shack was completed. By this time, Dad had added a frame room onto our sod shack, but it must have been crowded, with Jane, Edgar and Fred sleeping in the kitchen, and Mother, Dad, Agnes and Olive sleeping in the other room.

The Burts and the Slemps remained the best of friends all through their lives. These two families, along with a close neighbor, the Bodenmons, hayed together for a number of years with a buck and hay slide. Young Bill Burt thought the slide was for other things besides haying, only to find out differently when he picked up a four-inch sliver one Sunday afternoon.

In the early days, mail was hauled from Castor to Garden Plain. Someone from our district would pick it up there and leave the neighbors' mail at Slemp's. The Burts would send Olive and Bill to get their mail and Mother would wonder if they would ever get back home with it.

The money Dad had made by working out was used to buy cattle, horses and chickens. We milked cows, and Mother often drove a wild team of horses eighteen miles down the old "Snake Trail" to Hanna, to sell butter and eggs. The family record book notes that on March 18, 1918, she sold forty-four pounds of butter at 45¢ a pound to Gibb, Brown and Odell, "where service tells".

By 1918, we had added another room to our house, and as there always seemed to be room for one more, Miss Hoar, the teacher at Hudson Bay school, boarded with us for a while.

In the spring of 1923, the farm was rented for a year, and we moved to Hanna. Dad ran the Terwilliger elevator, and Mother went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for an operation. Before she returned to Hanna, she visited with her family in St. Paul, Kansas.

By 1925, the C.N.R. line was built from Hanna to Warden, and the new town of Scapa was born. The UGG built an elevator and hired Dad to operate it. He stayed on with that company until 1943. Ellis Malm built the first store, J. [illegible]. Mackenzie operated the post office, the Schellkes had a garage with a dance hall above it, Mr. Orten had a blacksmith shop and Alf Clark put up a large general store.

About 1926, more was added to the Burt house and a new barn was built. Two dances were held in the big loft. In 1927, the farm was sold to Pahls, who had just arrived from Romania. Later Henry Welch purchased it and now the buildings are vacant.

We moved to a two-roomed house on the Chris Dunkle farm, west of Scapa. That winter we spent three months visiting relatives in Kansas and Oklahoma. What a thrill it was to travel by train. Only now can we realize the extra work our relatives had, feeding and making up beds for the seven of us, for most of the homes we visited had families of the same size. We brought back many happy memories of family reunions and so much kindness. Back home the next spring, a new nine-roomed house was built.

In the spring of 1929, a community committee was formed in Scapa, and by May of that year, lumber was unloaded to construct a community hall. Mother was on the first committee and both Mother and Dad gave many hours of volunteer work to keep things going.

Scapa enjoyed many picnics and sports days, and a baseball team was organized. Dad was a great sportsman, enjoying baseball, hunting ducks and geese, basketball and hockey, in that order. Dad had played ball in Kansas, and became a coach for the Scapa team, which made a name for itself throughout the area. Even though times were hard in the thirties, the coach made sure that there was occasionally a new ball and bat in the bag, and that there was transportation available for the players. After Dad's death, the family thought it fitting that a Harvey Burt Memorial Trophy be awarded in the area.

The thirties were the years of depression, of sand storms and no rain. Nevertheless, Mother managed to grow a garden which not only fed the family, but supplied treats for the neighbors. The government shipped in car loads of apples, dried fish, canned herring and clothing that Dad distributed from the elevator in Scapa. The supplies probably came from people no better off than ourselves, but

they had a surplus of these goods, and we appreciated them. Cold and hungry people forget about language barriers!

Although Dad did not have many years of formal schooling, he felt it was important that his family have the chance of an education. Even though times were hard, Olive and Bill attended Olds Agricultural School in the thirties. The family still wonders about Dad; how could he figuire out those hard fractions in his head?

The elevator closed in the winter of 1934 so Dad bought grain near Fort Saskatchewan and returned home in the spring. His cheque was seventy-five dollars a month, which was very good at that time. He always managed to help a neighbor or two with his generosity. One man returned the money he had been loaned nearly twenty years later, and was still grateful for the favor.

Before this time, Dad had farmed with the help of many hired men, but now there were three boys growing up in the family, so more farm land was rented and bought. It seemed as though more grain was put in than was taken off, but we continued to farm. We built a new barn, and bought a Massey Harris tractor from J. B. Mackenzie. By the late thirties, crops were better and we bought a threshing machine. Earl and Emil Kammerle ran the outfit, and some day Earl will write a book entitled "Experiences with Emil", the best entertainer of any day.

The forties brought a lot of changes to the family. The war took Earl overseas; Agnes, Olive and Bill married and had families of their own; Harvey took over the farm and Mother and Dad operated the store in Scapa. They sold it to Lyxzens, and retired to Edmonton in 1949. Mother passed away in 1951, after many operations. She had had many years of sickness but was always cheerful. Dad died in Lacombe in 1962.

Like many other homesteaders, Mother and Dad came to this country with dreams of making a fortune and returning home. However, this land became their home, and the other hardy homesteaders took the place of the family they had left behind. They had their ups and downs with hail and poor crops, but they always provided well for their own family. As Dad was a carpenter, blacksmith and businessman, his extra income helped out on the farm. Mother and Dad were strong community workers, serving on the school board and on other committees. They were good neighbors who kept their door open for hospitality or help. Old friends will remember the many hours spent playing cards.

Throughout the years, Dad liked to take the whole family travelling. One of our biggest adventures was a two-week trip to Banff and Lake Louise in the new 1926 touring Chev. After Dad's retirement, the folks travelled through the States many times.

Harvey and Rebecca had seven children. One baby girl was buried in St. Paul, Kansas, and Ruby, age one month, was buried on the homestead in 1917.

In 1929 Agnes married Gilbert Tucker, who died in 1948. Later she married Otto Thiel and they live at Ponoka. She had three children from her first marriage, Harvey, Jean and Frank.

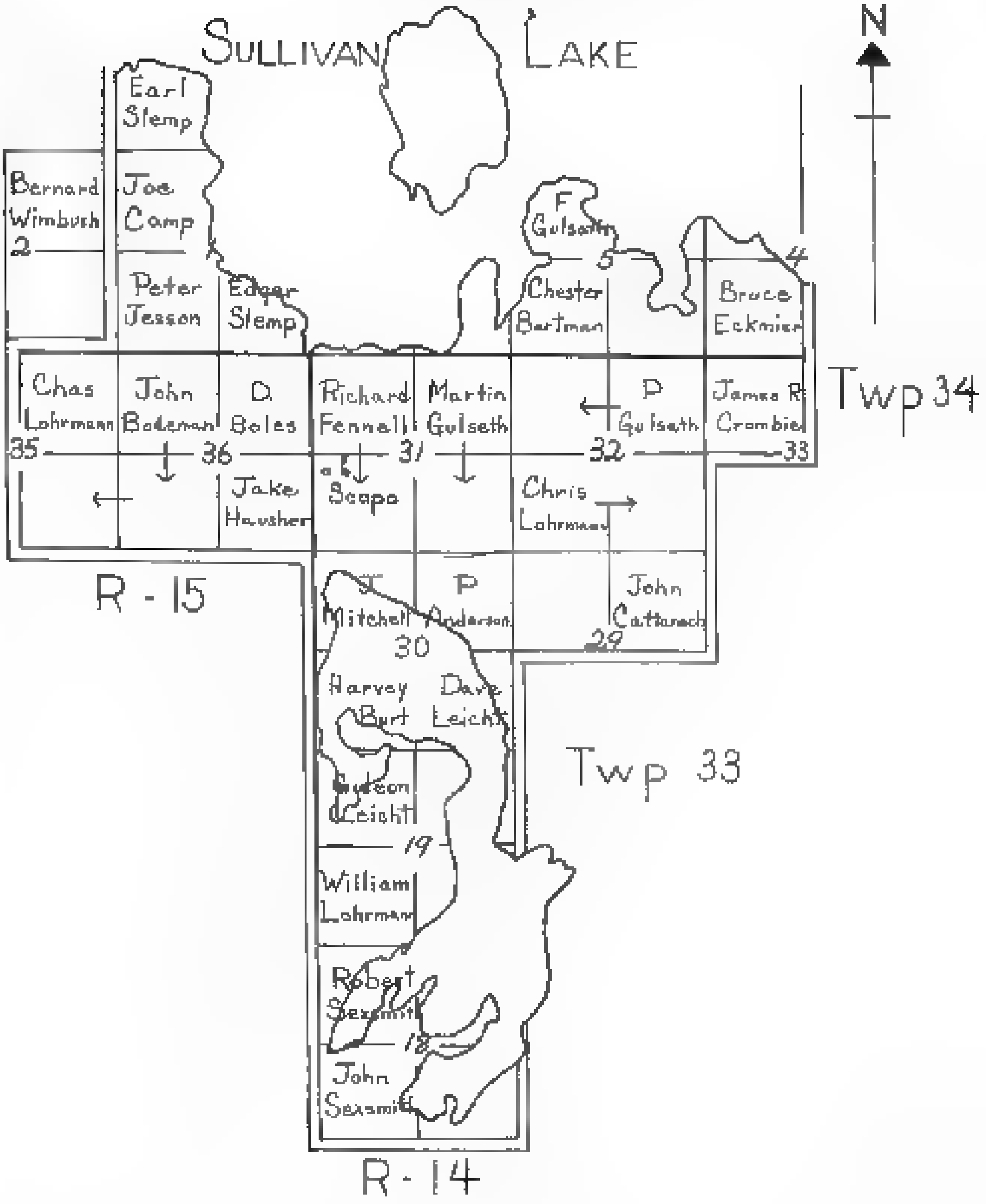
Olive married Jim Boehlke in 1936. They farmed at Endiang and later he became an engineer on the C.N.R. They retired to Kelowna where Jim passed away in 1969, and where Olive still resides. Verne and Velma are their children.

Bill married Augusta Boehlke in 1937, farmed at Scapa and then retired to Balfour, B.C. They have one son, Bob.

Harvey married Gladys Kalenith in 1944. They farmed at Scapa, then moved to Edmonton and are now living in Red Deer. They have three children, Mary, Larry and Carol.

Earl married Elsie Quaschnick in 1942. Their children are Sheila, Garry and Diane. They still farm at Craigmyle.

SCAPA No. 4357



HOMESTEADER	***ONE TIME OWNER OR RENTER WHO LIVED ON THE LAND***	***PRESENT OWNER OCCUPANT***
SE ¼ 1-34-15		
Edgar Slemp		Gus Mattheis
Jake Hausher	George Hausher Carl Smith	Leo Erion
SW ¼ 19-33-14 William Lohrmann	Ernest Haessel	S. Jabs (Acreage)
SW ¼ 32-33-14 Chris Lohrmann	Jack Leicht	Hugh Riddle
NE ¼ 32-33-14 P. Gulseth	John Cattanach	David Cattanach
NW 31-33-14 Richard Fennell		Arthur A. Welch

SCAPA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4357

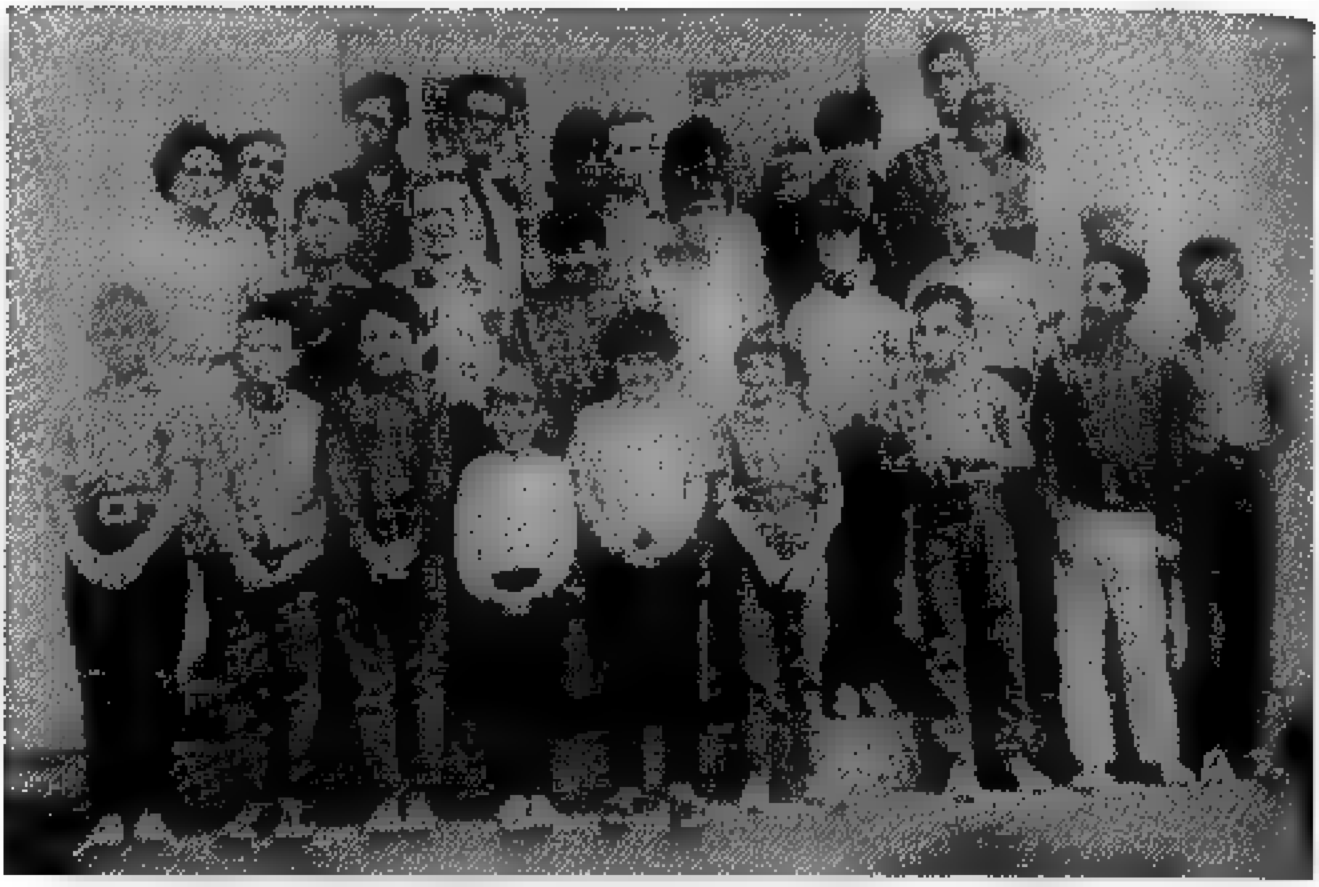
By Edna Weich

The Scapa school district was organized on January 12, 1929. Trustees were Elis Malm, Chairman; E.E. Slemp, Secretary, and Bill Hein. The first classes were held in Malm's warehouse; Helen Jensen taught ■ the end of June and Mrs. Malm did the janitor work.

The contract to build the school was awarded to Aakren and McArthur of Hanna. Mr. Malm paid for the land the school was to be built on, and was later repaid. The new building was completed for the fall term of 1929. Miss Colleen Cameron was hired to teach for the ensuing year at ■ salary of one thousand dollars per year. Rudy Hein did the janitor work for eight dollars ■ month.

First Year of School, Spring 1929, held in Malm's warehouse. Back Row, left to right: Homer Hill, Lavina Hein, Helen Jensen, Hedvig Hein. Second Row: Arvid Malm, Margaret Malm, Gust Schielke, Haskell Hill, Kathleen Fennell, Ruby Fennell. Third Row: Arthur Kemp, Mona Kemp, Teddy Leicht, Billy Leicht. Others unknown.

Scapa School 1929 (Fall). First Row, left to right are Marg Malm, Ronald Hein, Gus Schielke, Arvid Malm, Ted Leicht. Second Row: Ed Hein, Kathleen Fennell, Bill Leicht, Ruby Fennell. Third Row: Lillian Schielke, Hedvig Hein.



Scapa School 1968 (last year of school). Back Row, left to right: Wayne Fecho, Allan Steinbrecker, Ken Annas, Judy Welch, Vernon Steinbrecker, Arleen Welch, Rhonda Sauter, Gerry Harvey, Wayne Johnston. Second Row: Mrs. McQuarry, Rob Allan, Doug Viste, Elsie Wolfert, Elaine Welch, Adele Allan, Barry Annas, Luann Lohrmann. Front Row: Wilfred Albright, Donald Viste, Gary Chidley, Laurie Brunner, Debbie Chidley, Lynne Viste, Tim Annas, Robert Steinbrecker, Stan Welch.

Lou Lohrmann, school bus.

Moving Scapa teacherage to Youngstown to [illegible] used as a teacherage.

As the depression deepened, teachers' salaries decreased to five hundred dollars a year. Money became so scarce it was feared that the school would have to close; but somehow enough became available to pay the teacher's salary.

In 1937 the schools in the area amalgamated to form Sullivan Lake School Division No. [illegible]. Because of declining population and decreased enrollments, Corrine, Garden Plain, Wiese, Crow Hill, Hudson Bay, Annasheim and Chain Lakes were forced to close. Some children from the eastern school districts were bussed to Netherby, some from the west went to Endiang, and the remainder attended Scapa, where grades one to twelve were taught. The basement of the school was converted for use as a high school room.

To accommodate the larger enrollment, a new three-roomed school was built at Scapa in 1955. The original school became a teacherage. But by 1968

enrollment had again declined and to cut costs the school was closed and the children bussed to Hanna. George Burns and Friedel Haessel drove the two busses for many years.

One of the highlights of the school year was the annual Christmas concert, attended by people from far and near. The children waited excitedly for Santa Claus, while the adults tried to guess who was playing the part. Another popular event was the year-end picnic and sports day. It was in the country schools that the children learned the basics of baseball and hockey; possibly the closing of the small schools helped to bring about the decline of these sports, and the end of the good games we used to enjoy watching every Sunday. It seems that with the closing of the schools the community loses much of the feeling of togetherness which binds it.

School bus driven by George Burns 1967-68.

Some of the teachers at Scapa were Helen Jensen, Colleen Cameron, Louise Wade, Vic Trenaman, Caroline Reid, Elizabeth Bardseth, Annie Murell, Charlie Mills, Enos Lundgren, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Mrs. Ethel Tangyee, Mabel Anderson, Doreen Lyxzen, Jo McCullough, Edna J. Welch, Larry Schultheis, Wayne Johnson, Roger Humbke, Shirley Golby, Mrs. McQuarry, Mrs. Davidson, Ralph Ringdahl, Sue Hungerbuhler, Mr. C.O. Tuttle, Blanche Coultis, Miss Ambury, Don Pound, Jack McClaren and J. Meehan.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY LINES

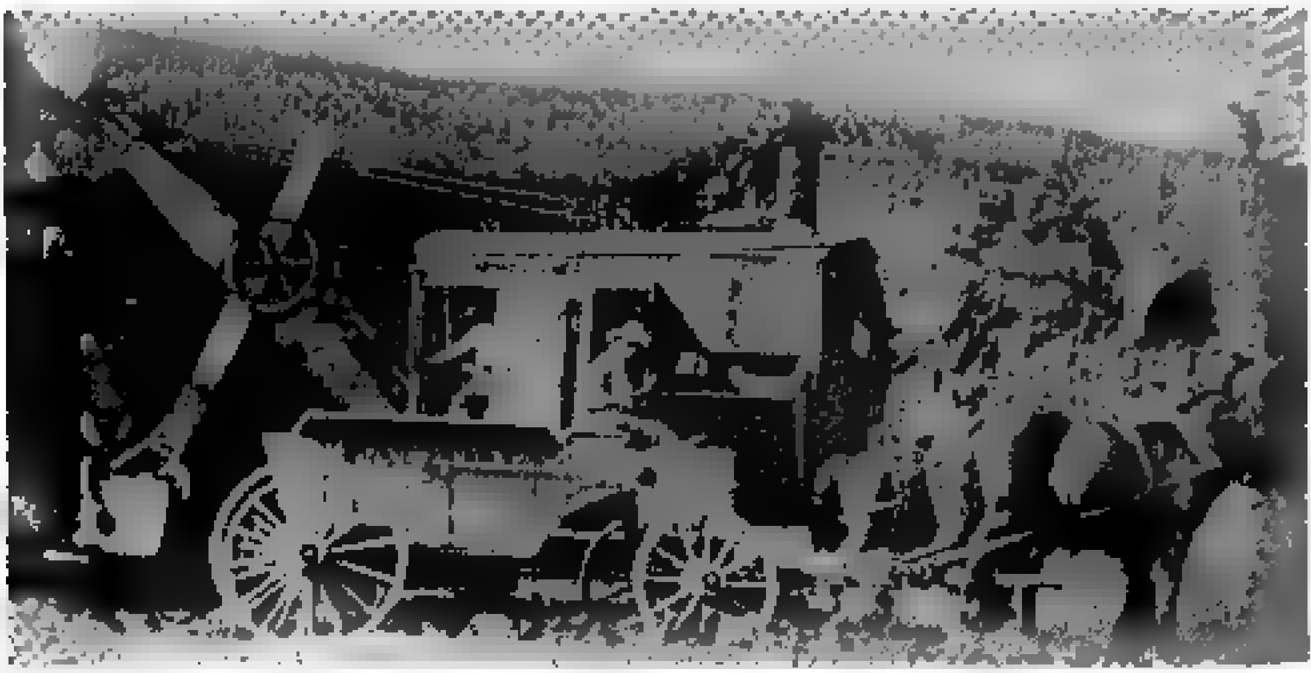
By Edna Welch

In the early twenties there were rumors of a railway to be built from Hanna to Werden. Finally, in 1924, approval was given for the construction of the line and the contract was awarded to Bryson and Sons. Construction began in 1925 and proceeded from Warden to Hanna. When the line came close to Scapa, Mrs. Harvey Burt contracted to cook for the small camp of workers, and began in June, 1925.

By October 8, 1925, the Jackson grading outfit had prepared the road bed as far as Endiang, and by the end of the year steel had been laid as far as Scapa, and for the first time farmers were able to ship their grain by rail.

Railroad Camp

Crew building railway west of Hanna. Hjalmer and Chris Viste are in the third row back, towards the right, wearing wide brimmed hats.



C.N.R. Construction, Dowling, Sid Holloway

Railway Building Crew

Building Spondin Sub

On November 23, 1926, the last spike was driven on the Hanna-Warden line. The crew on the first train were Engineer, Mr. Bigelow; Fireman, H.D. Scott; Conductor, Mark Canning, and Brakemen, Ross McLean and James Cluny. Effective January 2, 1927, tri-weekly service began from Mirror to Hanna and back. With the coming of the railway, small townsites were laid out along the line; in the area covered by this book, were Scapa and Dowling.

The year 1929 saw the start of construction on the Scapa-Spondin sub. Steel was stockpiled on Mrs. Fennell's farm in August, 1929. Mr. Bridges came as manager of the material yard in 1930. Mr. Morrison, a railway contractor, moved his outfit in to work on the grade in May. The previous year a railroad grading outfit owned by a Mr. Owens from Ohio had completed one mile of grade.

Steam Engine, Hanna-Warden Line, 1949

The original station. Joe Culp, telegraph operator on right, and Don MacKenzie.

Train Wreck — August 1949, three miles south of Scapa

Train Wreck — 1950, two or three miles north of Hanna

In November, 1930, preparation to lay steel east began, with E.W. Graham in charge. Many local men earned extra money by hiring on with the various contractors and later by working as section men. The laying of the steel was completed by February, 1931. According to a news item in the Hanna Herald, 'Miss Larson of Hemaruka drove the golden spike.'

The telegraph line to Hemaruka was completed June 11, 1931. J.M. Culp acted as telegraph operator for a short while. Mrs. Marie Lenore operated the cook car for the construction workers, and no doubt the men appreciated her wonderful cooking.

The villages along the Scapa-Spondin sub were Garden Plain, Spondin and Hemaruka. Garden Plain boasted a store, two elevators and a few homes. Spondin, a little larger, had a store, elevators, a school, a creamery and a dance hall, and in later years a curling rink. Hemaruka was the only village along the line to have a hotel. Once in a while the section crews stopped there and returned home a little worse for it.

The plan of the railroad company had been to operate trains from Hanna through Scapa to Hemaruka, and eventually extend the line into Saskatchewan, but the depression put an end to that idea. However, trains did run quite regularly to haul grain from the elevators.

The right-of-way had not been fenced off so that farmers could pasture it. So two men would ride the cow catcher on the engine to open the gates between the fields, and the speeder would follow the train to close them again. Some farmers living along the line resented the track running through their property, and made things difficult. One time the section crew discovered that a rail had been removed from the track. Another time they found a coyote chained to a rail. Ties were often stolen; and if a section crew travelled the line to open gates before the train was due, someone would close them before the train arrived.

Both the east and north lines had section foremen and four or five section men stationed at Scapa and Dowling.

The Spondin sub was abandoned some time ago; the steel and ties were removed in 1976. It is rumored that the Hanna-Warden line will also be abandoned. The building of these branch lines meant the end of isolation and long hauls to town for the pioneers; those who remember the excitement of the railway coming through feel that their abandonment is a breach of faith with our forefathers. Is this progress?

SCAPA

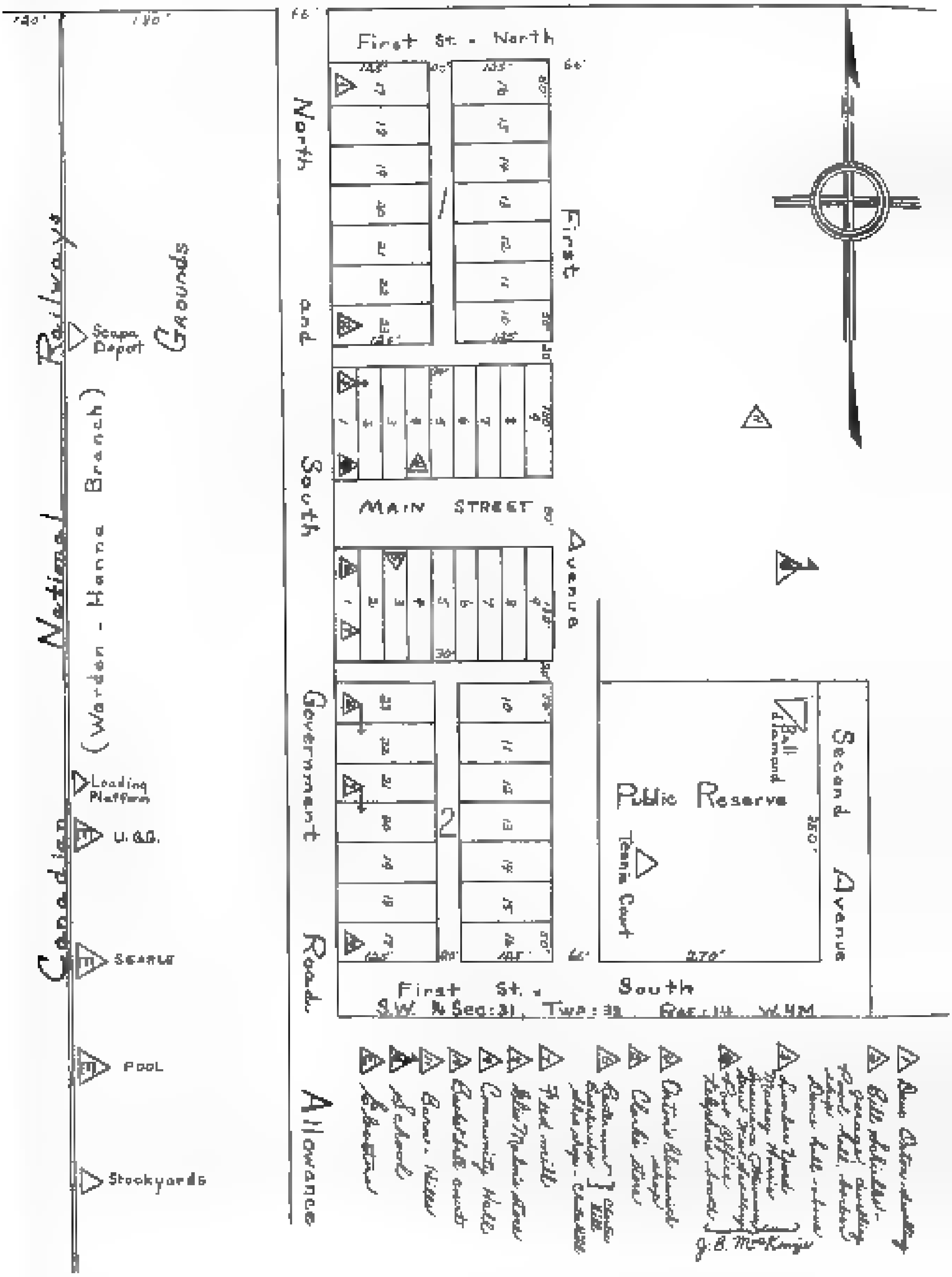
By Edna Welch

With the coming of the railroad in 1925, four lots and the sites for three elevators were surveyed in the hamlet of Scapa. Construction of the U.G.G. elevator began in November of that year and by the end of December Harvey Burt was loading grain to be shipped out. The Home elevator, later Searle, was built in 1926 and in operation by September of that year. Newspaper reports indicate that Joe Camp hauled rock and W.P. Glenn supplied gravel for the foundation of the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator which opened in 1928, with Mr. Louis Schumacher as agent.

Other men who bought grain at the three elevators over the years were Lyd Newman, George Wahl, Lovell Baxter, Mr. Wilson, Ray Ball, Art Welch, Herman Siemp, Richard Zeamer, George Burns, Bernie Wade, Vern Schmatz, Don Leahy; the present operator is Fred Harvey.

Elis Malm opened the first store in Scapa on August 13, 1925, and operated it until his death in 1933. His wife Thyra, with the help of her two children, spent long

hours delivering gas and oil to farmers, picking up supplies, and working in the store and the house. The business was a general store in every way; it carried a stock which met most of the needs of the people in the surrounding area.



Scapa — 1925 - 1930

Mrs. Malm sold the store in 1942, and since then it has had many owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pound, Mr. and Mrs. George Burns, and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer.

Malm's General Store, 1927. Art Wigley in doorway.

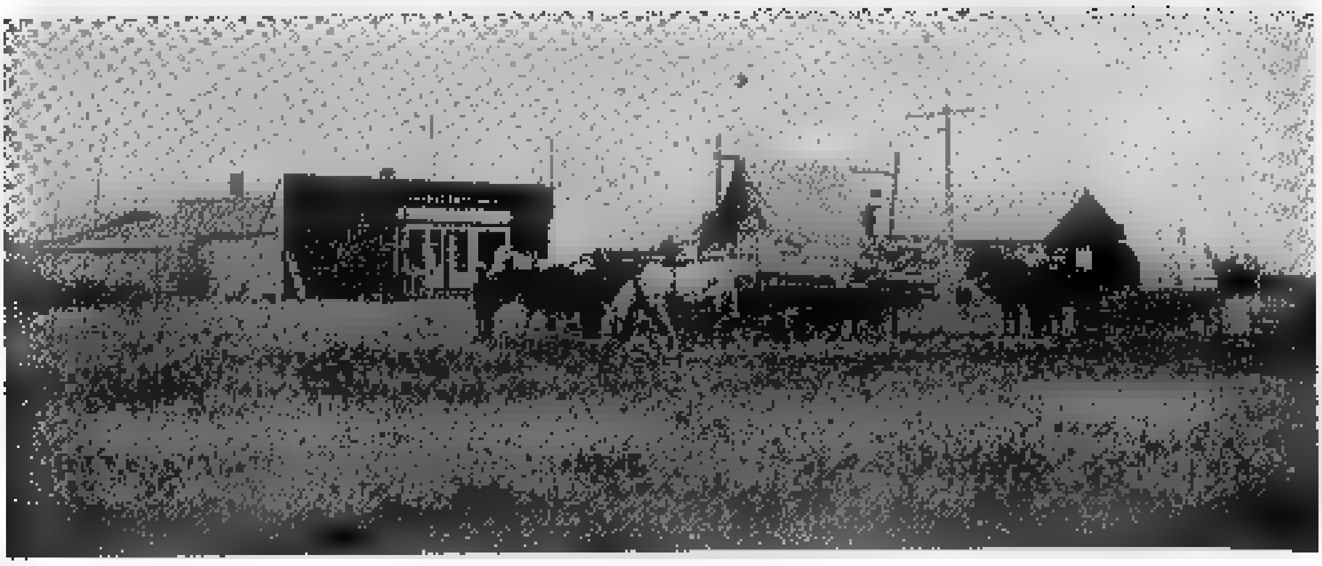
Scapa spring thaw, 1928

Malm Store 1931.

Scapa Store, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. George Burns operated the store longer than anyone else; they also drove a school bus, had a trucking business, and did janitor work at the school. In addition George acted as Searle grain buyer for a time.

By December, 1925, J.B. Mackenzie had erected a store building with living quarters for his family, who helped him as he was also still farming. He operated the post office and also had a lumber yard, a machine agency and a saddlery. It was Mr. Mackenzie who suggested the name, Scapa, for the post office; originally the hamlet had been known as Fennellsville.



Scapa — Moving out in the 1930's

Scapa taken by Art Bains at night.

Scapa First Annual Picnic 1926

There were two rural mail routes out of Scapa. One which went east to the Garden Plain area had sixty mail boxes. Service began November 1, 1926, with Jesse Hill as mailman. The other route ran west and south to the Wiese area.

In 1926 Mr. Dave Orton built a blacksmith shop. The next year William

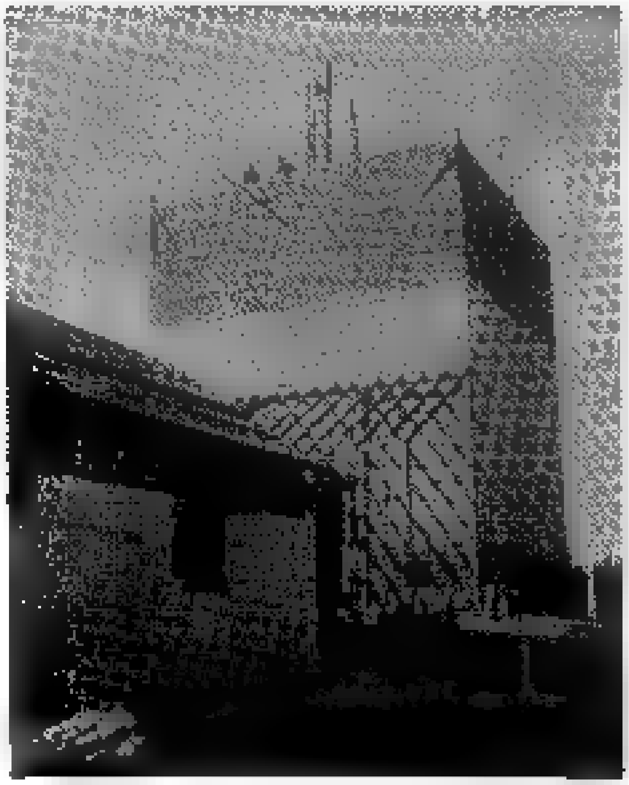
Schielke erected a large building which housed a garage, pool room, barber shop, and living quarters for the family. The top floor was used as a dance hall. In 1928 Mr. Schielke installed a gasoline-powered generator to supply electricity for the building.

A second general store was built by a Mr. Clark in 1928, and later purchased by Mr. Glenn. Subsequent owners were Albert Shaben, Bud Brooker and Harvey Burt. The building was eventually moved to Hanna and became a bowling alley.

A restaurant was built in 1927 and operated by Charlie Hill and his family. When Jim and Olive Boehlke bought it they operated it as a restaurant and general store.

In 1929 Mr. Propokuk opened a butcher shop. The community hall was completed the same year. Mr. C.A. Coughlin addressed the gathering at the opening dance held on June 28, 1929.

Sidewalk superintendents, overseeing the addition to the Post Office. Mrs. Jack Leicht, Beulah Glenn, Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Knudson.



Constructing U.G.G. elevator at Scapa in 1925

Scapa U.G.G. Elevator. Grain drying in early 1970's. Dryer owned by Otto and Leo Erion.

At one time the little village of Scapa was a thriving community of two stores, a restaurant, a post office, garage, pool hall, blacksmith shop, barber shop, three elevators, and two schools. There were stock yards and tennis courts. There were teacherages and homes for the section crews. Now the population has dwindled to twelve; there is a store, the U.G.G. elevator, and the post office run by Fred and Elsie Harvey who took over from Mr. Mackenzie.

Scapa had various community organizations; the U.F.A. local was organized in 1926, with A.B. Hanson as president, C.A. Hill vice-president, and J.B. Mackenzie the secretary-treasurer. There was a Ladies' Aid and a Hall Committee. The only groups active today are the Ladies' Aid and the Athletic Association.

Elis Malm, Margaret and Arvid

ELIS MALM STORY, By Margaret Malm Riddle — Elis Malm emigrated from Sweden as a young man; he homesteaded six miles northwest of Scapa in 1912. From there he worked in the Endiang district; being a carpenter by trade he built many homes and schools. On November 22, 1920 he married Annie Williams, a Welsh lass. In 1922, a set of twins Margaret and Arvid were born at the Campbell farm. At that time my dad operated a general store just east of Endiang. When the railroad came through in 1925, Elis Malm opened up the first general store in Scapa, the Red & White. He also sold gas and oil and had a trucking business.

In 1932, my dad built a square box that fit on a two ton truck. In this day and age it would be called a camper or a motor home. Eight of us, four children and four adults, travelled out to Langley, B.C. camping along the way. Harvey Burt was in charge of the store for six weeks or more while we were gone.

Elis was an ardent sports fan and also had a lot to do with getting a new school built, as well as the community hall. The first school, known as the flour house or a warehouse, was used from January 22, 1929 until the end of June, with the former Helen Jensen being the first teacher.

In 1925, my mother died, leaving my dad to take care of the twins. In 1928 he married a Swedish girl, Thyra Ostlund. They were married only five years when my dad passed away suddenly. My mother continued to operate the store until 1942, when she sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Burk. Since then the store has changed hands many times; other owners were Mr. Harvey Burt, Mr. Lyxzen, Mr. Pound, George Burns and Bob and Pat Fizer.

In 1941, Margaret married Bill Riddle. They had four children and live in Hanna.

Arvid married an English war bride, Eileen Gregarns. They had two girls and live at Lake Louise where he is the post master.

My mother still lives at Riverside, California.

THE BURNS FAMILY — We arrived in Scapa from Nisku, Alberta in August, 1953, with our two boys, Garry and Pat. We took over as agent for the Searle Grain Company. When the new three-roomed school was built in 1954, we

Modern Trucking, George Burns' Truck

were janitors for awhile. We also started to drive the school bus bringing children to Scapa from surrounding areas where the smaller schools were closed due to small enrollments.

In 1956 we purchased the Scapa store from Mrs. L. Pound. About this time the Searle Grain Company sold their elevator, so we started general trucking. In 1964 the Pioneer Grain Company asked us to look after their elevators at Garden Plain and Spondin. The C.N.R. had discontinued service of the Scapa-Hemaruka line, and all grain from the elevators at Spondin and Garden Plain had to be trucked out; we took the contract for this work. In 1968 the Pioneer Grain Company moved their elevators by truck to Cereal. The Pool elevator at Garden Plain remained in operation until 1972, when it was torn down.

In 1974 we sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fizer. We lived on the Glubrecht place for about six months and then moved to Hanna for a year. We continued to drive the school bus until 1976, when we retired after twenty-two years' service, and moved to Stettler.

In 1960 Garry married a local girl, Gene Viste. They and their two girls live in Sherwood Park. Pat married Verna Stensland in 1968. They and their two children live in Hanna.

We enjoyed our years at Scapa and will never forget our friends there.

Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie, Scapa Post Office

J. B. MacKenzie, By Catherine Graham — In May 1914, Mrs. J.B. MacKenzie and her family of four, Catherine, Grace, Donald, and Nancy, left their home in Scotland to come to Canada to join Mr. MacKenzie in Calgary where he had built a new home for his family. He had sailed to Canada two years previous. We had crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the S.S. "Hesperian" which was later sunk during the War of 1914-1918. After a long trip on the train from Montreal we arrived in Calgary, which we liked very much. However, when the Great War broke out in August, work in the building trade had slackened off so much that it was hard to find enough work to survive on, so they looked into the idea that was being promoted at that time, settlers to open up the farmlands of Alberta. They were given a free homestead of 160 acres and they pre-empted another quarter of a section. The original farm, called "Willow Hill Farm", was two miles west of what [illegible] now the town of Scapa, and is now the property of Mr. Erion.

Coming to Craigmyle by train on the C.N.R. from Calgary, Mrs. MacKenzie and her children were driven out by Mr. Tom Symington, her brother-in-law, with a team of horses and wagon he had purchased in Craigmyle on this trip. It was

pouring rain most of the way and the children were in the back of the wagon on a mattress with covers over them. We stopped at a farm then occupied by a family by the name of McCuish and they gave us more covers and my uncle a raincoat. We had not reached my uncle's home before nightfall and we were lost, and the horses being new ones didn't know their way home either. So we slept out on the prairie our first night, just over the hill, as it turned out in the morning, from my uncle's home which was later the Henry Ruhl place near where the little Lutheran Church west of Scapa was later built. Mackenzie built the pulpit used in that church when it was opened.

Other settlers in that area at that time were Andy Hansons, Steinbreckers, Welch, and Linleys, the Glubrechts who used to bring milk to us and Mr. Glubrecht built a sod barn on my uncle's farm. Some of the bachelors were Joe Lidgett, Ernie Fletcher and Harry Cook, all of whom married later.

We stayed with our uncle as Mrs. Symington, Mrs. Mackenzie's sister, was away on a trip to Scotland. On her return about Christmas time we had to find a place to stay where we would be able to go to school, so we moved over to the Orlando School District on the other side of the Chain Lakes, where we rented a home near the school and boarded the school teacher, Miss Mayhew. By this time Mr. MacKenzie had joined the Army in which he served overseas for three years.

The brother of the man who owned the house we were living in at Orlando decided to marry the teacher boarding with us, and wanted the house to live in, so we had to move again. We went to live at Mr. Knudson's at Chain Lakes, where we went to school with his family and Mrs. MacKenzie kept house for us all. Later Mr. MacKenzie's sister came out from Toronto to marry Mr. Knudson and look after his family.

About 1917 Mrs. MacKenzie had Mr. Symington put a house on our own homestead, as they were planning to build the Hudson Bay school. Miss Hoare from Calgary was the first teacher in this school, others following were Miss Hamilton, Miss McLaughlin, Miss McTaggart, Mrs. McNeil, who later became Mrs. Harry Cook, Mary Orde, Mac Slemp, and Miss Woods. We had to go in all kinds of weather during the winters to attend school; there were no busses picking us up and no cars at that time.

The schools were also the centers of entertainment, with dances, box socials, and Christmas concerts being the order of the day with the local musicians providing the music on whatever instruments they could play, to the best of their ability. Church was also held in the schools during the summer months when student ministers would hold services. Later when the towns started up these affairs were held in the local halls.

As there was no doctors handy during these early days Mrs. MacKenzie assisted at the birth of a number of the children born around there about that time. Some coming to mind are Mildred Hanson and Edward Glubrecht.

We had one cow at this time, but in 1918 when the war was over, Mr. MacKenzie came home, and started farming in earnest. That was the winter when Spanish Influenza struck, and in some cases whole families were down with it and many lost their lives.

In 1925 Mr. MacKenzie opened the post office in Scapa, and we all had our turn at helping to carry on at home as he was still operating the farm. He also had a lumber yard and a machine agency.

Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie made their last move when he retired, going to Vancouver to live out their years. All the members of the family married and moved to different parts of the country.

Catherine taught school for a number of years around Hanna, then joined the

C.P.R. Princess boats on the west coast, and worked there for a number of years. She married the late Mr. E.W. Graham and now lives in Kelowna, B.C.

Grace married Dick "Duckie" Holmes of Endiang, where he operated a lumber yard, later moving to Black Diamond and Turner Valley, where Grace lost her life as the result of a gas explosion in their home. Dick is living now in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donald is living in Vancouver and Nancy, Mrs. George Scott, lives in Calgary.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

By E.R. Burt

Mr. Orton's Blacksmith Shop at Scapa

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Orton with their son Mervin came from their homestead south of Bassano to the village of Scapa in the spring of 1926. They built the first house in Scapa and the blacksmith shop.

Dave had apprenticed in Ontario and came west in the early 1900's. He worked in a shop at High River before taking up his homestead.

In those days the plow was an important implement. Dave was kept busy from early morning till late night hammering out plow shares, setting wagon wheels, etc. Winter was horse shoeing time. Blacksmithing is now a lost art and to watch Dave with a hot iron and a hammer was something else. I remember seeing Dave forge a piece of steel into cylinder teeth for a threshing machine. It came out looking like new. There were years when money was scarce and new repairs were out of the question. Dave came to the farmers' rescue.

The blacksmith shop was also a place to replay yesterday's ball game and catch up on all the unprintable news. The milk man usually got a political discussion going, many times almost missing his dinner.

With changing times the blacksmith shop was no longer needed and in the late thirties the Orton family moved to Hanna. Mrs. Orton was a great supporter of community activities and before the cafe opened many a weary traveller was sure to get a good meal at her home.

The Orton family have [illegible] passed away but are not forgotten. I am sure anyone who knew the spot where the blacksmith shop stood can still hear the hammer and anvil ringing. Some of Dave's tools can be seen today in the Hanna Museum.

WILLIAM P. GLENN GENERAL STORE

By Earl Burt

W.P. Glenn came to Scapa in 1927, with his wife and family, Beulah and Vernon. Beulah helped her dad with the store, while Vernon was still attending school. Some will remember the gas pump out front. It was antique even in those days, with the pump having to be cranked up and then down each time to bring up a gallon of gas.

Mr. Glenn took his share of eggs, butter, hides, etc. in trade for supplies and

groceries. Did you ever stop to think where all the butter and eggs went? I am sure that a lot of store keepers of the day, threw them out the back door! They could not refuse the old customer when times were bad.

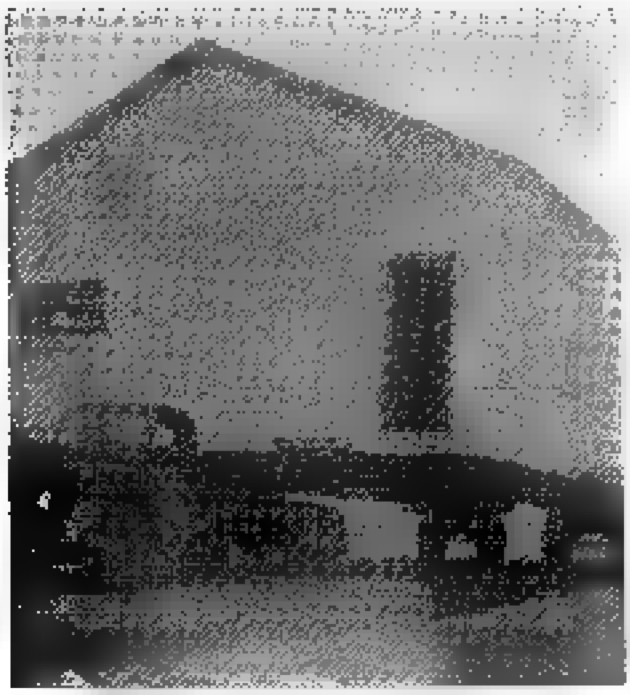
Mr. Glenn kept a big black team of horses. This team was used for dragging and hauling coal from Garden Plain. Vernon was on his way home with a load of coal when the team got thirsty. They walked off the road, down to the creek and turned over the wagon and coal in the creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn were good community supporters. For health reasons, he moved out to New Westminster in the mid-thirties. He sold to Albert Shaben from Endiang.

Mr. Glenn passed away in 1965, and Vernon in 1975. Beulah married Shorty Warwick of Hanna and operates Warwick Ladies Wear. Her mother resides in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna.

CLARK STORE

By Earl Burt



Moving the Glenn-Clark Store to Hanna to use as a bowling alley

Alf Clark and family came to Scapa in 1926 and built a General Store with living quarters in the rear. Alf had homesteaded in the Parr district south of Hanna, and had operated a furniture business in Hanna before coming to Scapa.

Alf did not stay long, but he left his mark in the district. He was a good businessman and a great supporter of new developments in the community. Alf also bought cattle and shipped them out by rail.

Clarks sold the store to their friend and neighbor from homestead days, W.P. Glenn. After leaving Scapa, they took up residence in Dawson Creek and went into the real estate business. Alf was also mayor of Dawson Creek for several years.

Mr. Clark has passed on, and Mrs. Clark resides in Vernon, B.C. Gerald is a prominent psychiatrist in Philadelphia and Shirley lives in Prince George, B.C.

SCAPA FEED MILL

By Earl Burt

In this modern day of skillfully prepared feeds, one would wonder how cattle and horses survived in years gone by.

Interestingly enough, even Scapa had a "Feed Mill" a few years ago. Charlie Hill and boys had an I.H.C. 10-inch grain grinder and a "Mogul" one-cylinder tractor. Tuesday was the day the farmers of the area brought grain into the village. The grain had to be shovelled into the hopper and then gravity-fed to the mill. With no elevator or augers, the shovel came to use. With only a west and north wall around the mill, one was glad to be kept working!

Things went well in the summer as the "Mogul" was a willing worker in warm weather. Winter time brought a [illegible] of action though. The night before grinding, water was carried to fill tubs on a big cook stove. The next morning this was

heated until boiling, at which time it was hustled out to the 10 to 15 gallon tank of the Mogul. Horse blankets were laid on and the whole procedure halted until the oil and cast block warmed up. Armed with a two-foot long crank, the boys would attempt to turn it over. About an hour later, (with the advice from the natives!) a fire had been built around and under the tractor and it finally started. Once running, it never missed — how could it with only one cylinder?

Charlie operated the restaurant at the same time so he brought in a brisk business. His feed mill operation stopped one cold day in February though. After the water and fire treatment on the "Mogul", a native came up with a can of ether which blew the head off! What a sad death for a faithful tractor that had done so much for the country in the beginning.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM SCHIELKE, By Hilda Schielke Talmage — William Schleike and his wife Mary were both born in Roumania. When Bill was five years old he came with his parents, seven brothers and two sisters, to North Dakota. At the age of seventeen, off to Canada he went. He did most of his travelling on a saddle horse; he loved horses and took great pride in keeping his team decorated with tassels and bells. When Bill came to Canada he took up a homestead near Hardisty.

In 1912 he married Mary Turigan, who had come to Canada with her mother and brother. They spent a winter honeymoon in North Dakota with his parents, then came back and settled in the Paintearth district near Galahad, north-west of Castor. They went through lots of hard times; the first house was made of logs and mud, and when the roof leaked, table oilcloth was put over the bed to keep it dry. They began raising cattle, and Mary became a great hunter. She would shoot beaver and sell the pelts to make money. She loved horse back riding and outdoor work, was very fond of gardening, and I always said she could make a weed bloom.

1929 Scapa Ladies' Aid including Mrs. Dick Haessel, Mrs. Camp, Mrs. E. Slemp, Harry Scott, barber, Mrs. Cattanach, Mrs. Malm.

They had a family of four, well planned, a boy, a girl, a boy, a girl. They had their good times. Mrs. Schielke said that harvesting was a lot of work, early hours and late hours; but all the women helped each other, which made it so much easier. As well as working, the women played their share of pranks on the men.

In 1927 they decided to move to Scapa. They sold all the cattle and bought a big building at Richdale, which Bill tore down and began to rebuild in Scapa. He

built a huge building, fifty feet square. He divided it in half and one part was a garage. The two boys were very good mechanics and along with their Dad they made many democrats out of the old running gear of cars.

In another part of the building he had a pool room and barber shop run by Harry Scott. The upstairs of the building became a dance hall, which saw a lot of good old dancing, and it probably swayed with the music. Bill must have been a good carpenter, for the building never collapsed under the weight of the big circles of square dancers. There was also a room for the wee ones to sleep, for there were no baby sitters in those days.

To help with the finances, Bill went to work on the C.N.R. section crew for twenty-five cents an hour, and worked hard laying ties and driving spikes. Pay day was a big day to look forward to; that meant a trip to Endiang and maybe a beer or two in the bar.

Mr. Schielke and his friend, W. P. Glenn, who had a general store at Scapa, liked to play tricks. One night when a bunch were going to a dance, they cut up onions and put them in the sleigh box under the blankets. Everyone wore the same cologne that night.

Another time some of the men got into the apple cider at the store. It had aged and turned into "kick-a-poo" juice. One man in particular had too much and lost his false teeth in a load of oats on the way home.

In 1956, after all the family had grown up and were leaving home, Bill decided to tear down the garage and built three houses out of the lumber, and moved them away. They lived in one of them in Hanna for a short while. About 1959 they moved the house that the son had lived in, in Scapa, to Castor, and took up residence there. In the summer of 1967 Mr. Schielke suffered a stroke which left one side paralyzed. He was a patient in the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary hospital in Stettler until his death on October 12, 1970.

In September, 1976, Mrs. Schielke had a stroke which left her unable to walk or speak. She is still a patient in the Castor hospital.

The family all live in Alberta, Bennie at Turner Valley; Lillian, Mrs. Stan Burkett, in Edmonton; Gus at Big Valley and Hilda, Mrs. Roger Talmage, at Hanna.

Mary and Bill Schielke had five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They were a well-respected couple and enjoyed many happy years with their family. Mrs. Schielke was a quiet person, but both she and her husband had a fine sense of humor. Life never offered them many holidays, nor any trips abroad, but I am sure they would enjoy living their years over again.

LOUIS SCHUMACHER — I was born in 1906 in North Dakota, and moved with my family to the Bassano area when I was one year old. In 1925 I set out on my own, moving to Sunnynook to work in a grain elevator and learn the business.

In 1928 I took charge of the elevator at Scapa. It started out to be a very good growing year, but a hailstorm in August wiped out half the crop in the entire area. Crops were poorer after that, and farmers' incomes were depleted as the depression intensified.

In 1932 I left Scapa and joined an elevator painting crew. That same year I married Gladys Knudson, whose family resided in the Chain Lake area. We had three children. Our son, Stanely, is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Palliser constituency. Our daughter June is a teacher and her twin, Jean, is a nurse.

I tried many different jobs after I left Scapa; buying grain, trucking, operating an implement business, moving buildings and homesteading in Northern Alberta. My wife and I now make our home in Drumheller.

E.W. Graham on left, who worked as a material checker on C.N.R. construction at Bonar, Scapa and on the Spondin-Hemaruka line; Joe Derosier was section foreman from Hemaruka to Fenner.

E. W. GRAHAM, By Edna Graham Welch — Edward Graham came from a railroading family. His father and five of his six brothers worked for the C.N.R., and his two sons, Gordon and Richard, followed the family tradition, Gordon in Montreal and Richard at Jasper.

Edward Graham came to the Scapa district as a material checker for the construction department of the C.N.R., working in the yard on the Spondin Sub. When the depression started he was made section foreman of the Spondin Sub, and remained there until 1948 when he was sent to the Drumheller Valley to work on flood control of the Red Deer River. He was transferred to Biggar, Saskatchewan, as Roadmaster, and later worked at Edmonton, Prince George, B.C., and Brandon, Manitoba. He retired to Vancouver and then moved to Kelowna where he died in August 1974.

His wife was the former Ruth Riddle of Crystal Falls, Quebec. They had two sons, Gordon and Richard, and four daughters: Margaret Irving of Milwaukee, Marjorie St. Louis of Calgary, Edna Welch of Scapa and Mary Anne Smiley of Spruce Grove. His wife passed away in April, 1949, and he later married Catherine MacKenzie, who still resides at Kelowna.

Eddie, as he was known, was an ardent sports fan and coached baseball and hockey teams. He umpired many a ball game, and if anyone argued a call, out of his back pocket came the rule book to end the dispute.

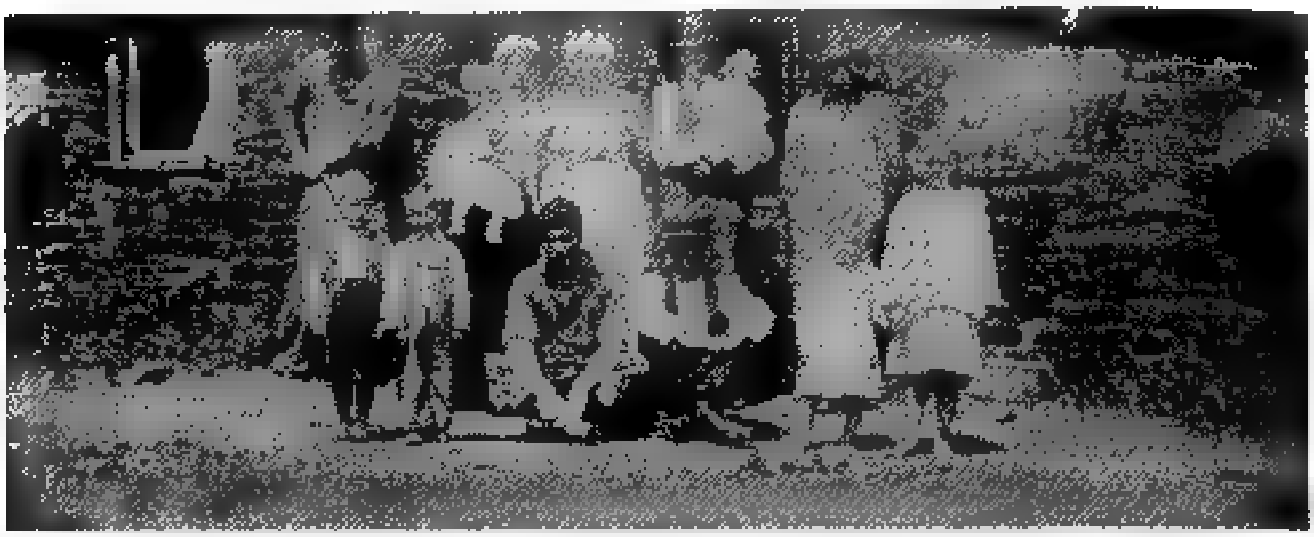
During the winter months he and his friends, Ernest Haessel, Harvey Burt, Elis Malm, Johnny Cattanach, Milton Stuart and Don Cameron, had weekly bridge sessions, starting at seven in the evening and sometimes lasting until seven in the morning. That was the one night of the week when the family expected to be seen but not heard, and woe betide the child who made a noise! The bridge sessions were held in the men's homes, and it was just after the weekly game at his office in the store that Mr. Malm was found sitting in his chair, dead of a heart attack.

THE EDGAR SLEMP STORY, By Mrs. Edgar Slemp — Edgar and Jane Slemp were true pioneers of the Scapa community. Born near Verden, Oklahoma in 1890, Edgar was the oldest of a family of nine boys and three girls. In 1911 he married Francis Jane Vinyard. Their only son Fred was born October 23, 1912.

In 1913 Edgar came to what is now the Scapa community. One year later his wife and son joined him there on their homestead on section 1-34-15 at the south end of Sullivan Lake.

Their first house was built of sod with a shingled roof which was held in position by a heavy stone suspended from each corner. Inside the house there was building paper on the walls and floor was made of boards. While this house was being built they lived with Harvey Burt and family. This was their dwelling until 1917 when they built a frame house 24' x 24' and also a frame barn. A chicken house built of sod served them for a number of years.

Edgar's two brothers, Herman and Earl, lived with them much of the time for three years while proving up on their own two homesteads. Each settler was permitted to apply for one quarter, 160 acres, of homestead (crown) land, and in order to get his patent or title, he was required to pay the sum of $10.00 and live on the land at least six months of each year, and clear and break at least ten "homestead" acres each year for three years. Edgar dug their own well and cribbed it with framework and boards. The water was drawn in a pail with a rope and pulley.



1915 — Sod House, Edgar Slemp Farm. H. Slemp, Mrs. E. Slemp, Mrs. H. Burt, H. Burt holding Bill, Edgar Slemp, Mrs. Hill holding Haskel, Earl Hill, Chester Hill, Earl Slemp, Charlie Hill, Olive Burt, Agnes Burt.

Coal was easily available at Garden Plain some six miles distant. The area was bare prairie except for some brush and trees in the low spots. Their early plowing was done with three horses and a walking plow. Half the cultivated area was summerfallowed each year, often resulting in good crops, some as much as forty bushels of wheat per acre. Wheat was hauled to Hanna during the winter, a distance of eighteen miles. One of the good years Edgar made thirty-seven trips using three horses and a wagon.

In 1924 the railway was built from Hanna to Warden. It cut directly through the Slemp's building site and made it necessary for them to move their buildings to another higher location, also to dig a new well. The new town site of Scapa was less than a mile away. Mail that had been brought from Castor twice a week by team to Garden Plain some six miles away was now delivered to the new post office at Scapa. The first postmaster was William MacKenzie.

In 1919 neighbors cooperated to build a school, to be named Crow Hill. It was three miles from the Slemp farmstead. Mrs. Slemp boarded the first teacher, Miss Christina Campbell, and with the opening of school son Fred and the new teacher drove with a single horse and buggy or cutter in winter. Mrs. Slemp fondly recalls the white horse whose name was "Chalk". She also recalls boarding the teacher at a rate of fifteen dollars per month. Fred later attended school by way of saddle horse. All his schooling as far as Grade ten was at Crow Hill and he was able to board out and complete high school at Fleet. Edgar was a member of the board of trustees at Crow Hill for many years.

Early in the 1940's neighbors built their own telephone line and their mutual company became part of the Hanna exchange.

For social life parties were held alternately at neighbor's homes, and there were frequent dances at Scapa Hall. Weekly church services were held each summer in Scapa Hall with a student minister serving as pastor. Early in the 1920's, Mrs. Slemp and three of her neighbors organized a ladies group known as the "Ladies' Aid".

Edgar and Jennie experienced some rough years. There was an extreme drought the years 1917 to 1922. At least one crop that of 1919 was snowed under. They survived [illegible] these as well as the general hard times of the thirties. They were both victims of the "flu" in February 1919, being ill and bedfast while Fred, who was seven years of age, tended the household duties and neighbors did the outside chores.

Fred married Hazel Kennedy, of the same district, in 1935. They had one daughter Faye and one son Norman. They lived in Hanna where Fred was supervisor in P.F.A.A. until the time of his death in 1964.

Edgar and Jennie sold their farm at Scapa and retired to Fleet in 1949, living there for six years before moving to Lacombe.

Edgar passed away August 10, 1970 and Jennie lives in their home in Lacombe.

Lily and Dick Fennell, Kathleen and Ruby

RICHARD (DICK) FENNELL, By Kathleen Holland — Richard (Dick) Fennell, born in southern Ireland, was one of the very first settlers in the Scapa district. He arrived here in 1908 to homestead, and filed claim to a quarter section of land. He was a real pioneer, as his first home was a sod shack located near the site of Hill's barn in the town of Scapa. At that time there was no town of Hanna, and he had to walk all the way to Stettler to buy groceries and other supplies, staying overnight at "Stopping houses" along the way.

In 1914 Dick Fennell enlisted in the thirty-first Battalion in Calgary, and served overseas in France. After discharge he lived for a while in England, where he met his future wife, the former Lily Reade. They were married in 1919; he returned to Canada in 1920 to his original homestead, while his wife travelled to Ireland to visit her sister-in-law. Their first daughter, Kathleen, was born there, and Mrs. Fennell emigrated the following year with her six month old baby. In the meantime, her husband had built a frame house on the farm. A second daughter, Ruby, was born in 1922.

In 1925 the C.N.R. line from Hanna to Warden was built, and land was purchased from the Fennell's for the site of a town. For a short while it was called "Fennellville" until Mr. James MacKenzie, the first postmaster, submitted the name of "Scapa" for the new village. The name was derived from the large harbor, Scapa Flow, in Scotland, which was the principal naval base of the British fleet in the first World War and again in the second War.

During the 1920's Sullivan Lake was larger than it now is because of wetter seasons, and many people had to travel through the Fennell Farm to bypass the lake.

The C.N.R. railroad from Scapa to Hemaruka was begun in 1929, and the first train began service in 1930.

Dick Fennell died in January, 1929, and was buried in the Hanna cemetery. His wife continued on the farm with the help of a hired man. But farming in the depression, drought-ridden years of the 1930's was tough enough for a man and, after six years of trying to make a go of it, Mrs. Fennell and her daughters left the

farm and moved to Calgary. Fred Welch bought their land, and his son, Arthur, farmed it.

Mrs. Lily Fennell died in 1970 ■ the age of eighty-six. Her daughter, Kathleen, is married to John Holland; they live in Calgary, and have three daughters and one son. Her younger daughter, Ruby, married George Stark, and they also live in Calgary.

THE CAMP STORY, By Hilda Camp — Joe Camp took his homestead and a pre-emption in 1906. Eight or nine people came with him from Dakota at that time but Joe was the only one who stayed. Besides farming he worked ■ the coal mines at Drumheller and Halkirk and hauled coal also.

Joe joined the army in 1916 and went overseas. He contracted the flu and was sent home in 1918. Before he joined the army he felt he might not come back and gave up his pre-emption to Earl Slemp.

In 1920 he married Hilda English who was working for people in the Endiang district by the name of Loomer. They had three children Mona, Arthur and Pauline. Mona lives in B.C. Pauline married Bill Paxman and now resides in Hanna. Arthur works for Pool construction.

We went through the ups and downs of the early years. In 1929 we were able to buy back the pre-emption.

I recall Joe telling about being able to help his neighbors during 1919 outbreak of flu as he had already had it.

Joe passed away in December 1975. Mrs. Camp still resides at her home in Hanna.

B.S. Wimbush

MR. WIMBUSH, as told by Mrs. Camp — Mr. Wimbush was a remittance man from England and had ■ pre-emption across the road from our homestead. He must have been in the Canadian Army during the 1914-1918 war as he received ■ seventy-five dollar a month pension. He travelled home to England for a time, also went to visit his brother ■ Australia. In 1923 he went completely blind. We looked after him. In 1925 he moved into a one-room shack on our farm. In 1944 he became very ill and passed away in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary and is buried in the Hanna Cemetery.

THE BODEMAN FAMILY, By Agnes Burt Thiel — Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman and their son John left Switzerland about 1880 and went to Oklahoma. They came ■ Canada about 1906 and ■ time they took up homesteads at the south end of Sullivan Lake. The parents' homestead was south and west of John's. After they proved up they sold their land to Fred Welch and moved in with John, who had a larger house, ■ barn, and well-kept farmyard. His buildings and garden fence were always kept painted.

He had two teams of mules which he worked with his horses, and had one team of mules which were good trotters; they were used as a driving team and made many trips to Hanna.

Mr. Bodeman did lovely embroidery, and Mrs. Bodeman often walked the mile to visit her neighbor, Mrs. Edgar Slemp. Mr. and Mrs. Bodeman always had an extra good garden and always had treats for us when we went there. The Bodemans. Slemps and Burts worked together at haying time.

In 1919 John took the flu and passed away. I can remember a minister named Rev. Day coming with the mules and a stone boat to give us the sad news. My dad often wondered how Mr. Bodeman and the minister had harnessed and hooked up the mules, as neither one knew which end of the mule to start on.

John's goods and livestock were sold, and his parents remained on the farm for a few years. Then they sold the land to William Hein and moved to Hanna, where they both passed away during the twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Schweikert

THE SCHWEIKERT STORY — Christian Schweikert was born December 22, 1894 in Bessarabia. Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert was born November 6, 1894. They were married November 16, 1918. In the fall of 1929 they came to Canada from Bessarabia. They bought out F. Bochsabuch. They farmed on this place till December of 1947, when on account of his health they moved to Calgary. They sold the land to Mr. Devereaux of Hanna in 1954.

Mr. Schweikert spent eleven months in the T.B. Sanitarium; after a few months' rest at home he began to work for the city. He retired from this job in 1965. In November 1968 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Rosalie Schweikert passed away on October 10, 1974. Mr. Schweikert remains in good health and lives in Calgary. They have no family.

THE WILLIAM HEIN FAMILY, By Elsie Hein Harvey — Our father and mother, William and Marie Hein, and young son Rudy came to Canada in 1914 from Russia. They arrived in Castor, where they were met by mother's brother Carl Welch, and came by team and wagon on a load of lumber to Uncle Carl's farm four miles southwest of the present site of Scapa. They lived with him for two years and then took up a homestead on the northeast of 24-33-15. Their neighbors then were the Harvey Burt family. Dad had to go to work so they could buy horses, a plow and some cows. Mother went out and stooked; her wages sometimes were only one quart of milk a day.

Later they moved to a farm, the NW 26-33-15 and had the Glubrecht family for neighbors. In 1928 they bought the Bodeman farm, the west half of 26-33-15 which was home for many years. The 1930's were rough years, they had to have relief food for the children. Mother bought a spinning wheel and would buy raw wool from the neighbors. Then she would wash it, card it, and she would spin it into wool which was knit into sweaters, socks and mitts for the children. Many years the crops were very poor. The farming was all done with horses; the first tractor was bought in 1946.

Dad was sick for many years so the boys had to help with most of the chores.

He died in 1938, and mother was left with thirteen children to raise. At that time our neighbors were Haushers, Pahls, F. Weigh, Lohrmanns, Herman Slemps and Edgar Slemps, who were very helpful in many ways. The children had to go out to work to help with expenses at home.

The older children went to school at Hudson Bay and later when Scapa started they all went to school there; usually there were seven lunches to make. Baking bread was a big chore, usually three times a week and from ten to fifteen loaves at a time. The washing was done with a board until the first gas washing machine was bought in 1940. The ironing was all done with sad irons which had to be heated on the coal stove, so on those days there had to be extra wood which sometimes was scarce, until we got some ties from the Railroad.

In 1942 three of the boys, Rudy, Walter and Edwin enlisted and went to war, they never came home until 1945. Ranold also left for some army training during those years. In 1953 Benny joined the Air Force and was in for over two years, some of this time overseas. During these years Mother and Freddie, who was fourteen years old at that time, did the farming. By this time prices for grain and cattle were getting a bit better. Mother remained on the farm until 1950 when Ranold and Edwin took over, then in 1956 she sold the farm to a son-in-law, Fred Harvey.

Hein Family. Elmer, Bennie, Fred, Edwin, Walter, Ronald, Rudy, Doreen, Hilda, Hedwig, Mrs. Hein, Lavina, Elsie

There were fifteen children born to William and Marie Hein. The oldest, Rudy, married Mabel Anderson. They have two daughters and live south of Hanna. Then there was Olga who died at the age of two weeks. Hedvig married Earl Ness and they had six children and live in Hanna. Lavina married Ken Ferguson; they had two children and she died in a car accident on September thirteenth, 1958.

Herbert the next son died from a car accident on the farm in 1929. Ranold married Sarah Andurs and has five children. He lives in Hanna. Walter married Mary Moench, they have six children and live in Hanna. Edwin married Elsie Litke. They have three children and live in Calgary. Elsie married Fred Harvey. They have three children and live in Scapa.

Violet married Dan Siewert and had one daughter; they live in New Serepta.

Fred married Mary Reid and had four children, they live in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Hilda married Bill Spencer, they have two children and live in Edmonton. Doreen married Ed Saar, had four children and lives in Calgary. Bennie lives in Hanna and Elmer the youngest died in 1956.

Mother has thirty-seven grandchildren and thirty-seven great grandchildren. On October the twenty-fifth, 1976 she celebrated her eighty-third birthday in her home in Hanna where she still does her own housework and gardening. She is also a member of the Lutheran Church in Hanna and still attends meetings and Church regularly.

OUR STORY by MR. and MRS. HAUSHER — I, George Hausher, came to Stettler from Urk, Washington in the fall of 1909. We stayed with friends over the winter and in the spring of 1910 we moved to the homestead, one half mile south of what is now Scapa. There was mother and dad, my sister Annie and myself. We went by wagon with a cow tied behind, a crate of chickens and my dog that we brought along from Washington. The prairie was green as far as you could see. There was a big prairie fire the year before. We lived in a one-room frame house. Our first visitor was Chris Viste. Our closest neighbor was a bachelor named Anderson.

George Hausher, Gladys and Ervin

George Hausher plowing. Scapa in the background.

We had to get our mail and groceries from Garden Plain store. My dog and I used to walk over to get it. There was open range and one day a herd of cattle came our way. Dad was out getting hay; they started to chase him, the dog was with him and chased the cattle, that was what saved him.

I was alone a lot because my mother was in the Castor hospital and my sister

would help out at the neighbors. One stormy night the Keibel boys came by with loads of coal and stayed overnight. We cooked rice; our first pot was too small, so we put it in a bigger pot and added more water. By the time the rice was soft enough to eat we had several pots full. In 1912, Hanna got started; by this time my sister was married to Jake Frank. I remember going to the first Hanna Stampede. When I was thirteen, we moved north of Castor. I worked at various farms till I got married. Then we started farming on our own in the winter of 1926, and we moved south again to the same place. By this time Scapa was started — a store, post office, lumber yard and elevators. My brother-in-law and I moved things down with two bobsleighs. We used to cross the Sullivan Lake. One time it got dark before we got across. We didn't know if we were going the right direction, then we heard the elevator motor going, and knew that we were near Scapa.

MRS. HAUSHER'S MEMORIES — We had bought a two room house west of Scapa and moved it on the place. I remember the day we moved to Scapa very well. We started out at eight-thirty, on a nice morning of March the tenth, from my folks' place north of Castor with the bobsleigh. We had Gladys and Ervin, who was seven months old. We put the cradle in the sleigh and put Ervin in it. The cradle was made for me by my dad when I was a baby. We stopped for dinner south of Castor with Schritters and arrived at our new home at six o'clock. There was only a kitchen and a bedroom, but we were happy. This was our first own home. I was lonesome at first; missed the folks at Castor and waited for the snow to go away so we could go back to see them. Harvey Burts were our closest neighbors. They lived three-quarters of a mile south of us. Marie and Cap Bartsch came to see us, and we became good friends.

In 1927 we started a foundation to build a new house. Then we got our first hail storm; after that we didn't do anything more on the house. We started again in the spring of 1928, had it already to move in at the end of July, and on August eleventh we had our second hail storm. After that we lost count of the hail storms.

Then came the thirties. We had a lot of dry weather. We had dust storms, many times we would light the lamp in the afternoon. There were hard times in the thirties; one dollar and fifty cents for a can of cream, four cents for a dozen eggs; we used to beat them up and feed them to the calves. I remember selling a cow for eighty-eight dollars, but we could get a pound of coffee for twenty-five cents. Everybody had pigs and in the fall the neighbors would get together and help each other butcher them. There would be three or four couples and we would cut up the lard and meat and make different kinds of sausages. Most of our entertainment was house parties.

Ken and Louise were born in the thirties. By 1953 and 1954 Gladys and Ervin were married. Ken and Louise were working. At present Gladys lives in Calgary, Ervin at Endiang, Ken at Drayton Valley and Louise at Tofield. Their families are growing up and starting to leave home; some are married.

We farmed till 1964. After being hailed out three years in succession, we thought that was enough. We sold out and moved to Stettler. We are sorry that we didn't do it sooner.

MR. and MRS. CARL SMITH — Carl and Lucy Smith moved to the Scapa area in 1963, and purchased the George Hausher farm. In 1974 they moved to Hanna where they still reside. Carl rents land in this area and Lucy is employed in Hanna.

THE SEXSMITH FAMILY, By Pete Ruppert — Robert Sexsmith, his wife Sara Jane and son John came from Napanee, Ontario in 1912.They homesteaded NW 18-33-14 and John took up the south half of 18-33-14. They were of Irish descent, but I wasn't aware of this for a long time, because John always accused me of being an "Irishman" whenever I did something stupid.

They brought all their old dark, heavy furniture, fine china and dishes and beautiful silverware, also an Edison phonograph. Us kids used to play it by the hour. The old folks would sing along with it, and they sure could sing. Mrs. Sexsmith was a midwife, and delivered a lot of the babies in a ten mile radius of their farm. This may not sound like a very big area, but don't forget there was someone living on pretty well every half section. She brought my brother Bill and me into the world, however the rest of her record was good! She said that she never lost a patient. Not many doctors could say that. She always kept her black bag handy, and as kids we were curious about what was in it. It was kept locked at all times.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sexsmith

John Sexsmith as he often travelled during spring breakup, without a box on his wagon.

When they first came out west they locked everything, even the pump. I guess where they came from they had to do this. That however was gradually forgotten. One time a threshing crew moved in, and one fellow was known for stealing things. He found everything locked up, except for a lump of coal that wouldn't go in the shed, so he stole that and took off for home.

In 1925 or 1926 they bought a 1923 Ford Sedan, at the M. Gulseth auction sale, for $300.00. The doors were behind the driver and front passenger's seat, which made it awkward getting in and out of the front seat. The rear window was an oval shaped affair, and the side windows were huge. All of them were equipped with blinds. The windows were fastened with leather straps that had holes in for adjustment. It had a self starter that was famous for not working, so driving it was somewhat of a two-man job. One day when I was in Hanna with John, it clonked out in the middle of an intersection. I cranked until I was too tired to swear. Then I jumped on the running-board and it took off on its own. As for the swearing, John managed very well for both of us. The car was always kept washed and polished and in the shed. It was so high and top heavy, that it wasn't safe to be out in a strong wind with it. However it gave them a lot of years of service, well up into the

forties. I can't remember that it ever let them down on the road, and it sure could plow snow and mud.

One summer I plowed 75 acres for them, with two horses and a sixteen inch walking plow, averaging about two acres a day. It was a good thing that it was a long summer. I was just a young kid then and probably not much good for anything else, so the few dollars I made were sure welcome. Sexsmiths never did get a tractor, so when the time came to farm with them, they hired some work done, or rented the land out.

Roy Coghill had a Rumley Oil Pull, and he did some work for them.

Mrs. Sexsmith was a great lover of cats, and they sure had them. They were every size, shape and color, and they multiplied like rats. I worked there one winter, and I used to shoot them on the sly. I was up to eighty before they noticed there were less cats, and they still had lots left.

In her younger days, Mrs. Sexsmith was a wonderful cook and if you were near their place at meal time and didn't stop in you had a fight on your hands. She put up enough preserves to keep an army, so there were bound to be some loose lids and fermentation would set in. The old folks were teetotalers, but that fruit seemed to go over good. Later on Bill and I would help the odd jar develop a loose lid, and then let nature take its course. I don't think any of the neighbors will forget her tea. It would float a horse-shoe with the horse attached.

They used to love to play cards, their favorite game being "smear". The winter I was there we played cards every night from nine to twelve. It got to be like work after a while but there wasn't much else to do. You can only read one book so many times, and newspapers were far and few between.

I left the country to join the army when the war broke out. I never saw Robert again, and I saw Mrs. Sexsmith only once in 1946. John lived alone after they passed away, but I saw him only a few times too.

THE SEXSMITHS, continued by Bill Gaugler — The Sexsmiths remained loyal to Ontario, and everything that came from there was the best. I remember once when John got some apples from Ontario, he was really in his glory.

In his later years Mr. Sexsmith became disabled and when he couldn't get up and down stairs anymore, he stayed upstairs. Once he got his head stuck between the rungs of the headboard and it took John all afternoon to get him out. I recall being there when the cats got the best of him. He'd take his cane and bang on the floor, and holler and pretty soon they'd come down three deep. The staircase was steep and narrow, so before they hit bottom they were somersaulting over each other. Mrs. Sexsmith devoted a lot of time to looking after him. He passed away in the early forties.

In February of 1946 their house burned down and they lost everything with it, including most of their cats. Mrs. Sexsmith was in her seventies by then, and it was a real shock for her. John bought the old Baxter house from John Wimmer, and the neighbors all helped move it and fix it up. Mrs. Sexsmith and John stayed with the folks until the house was ready. When the men were working on the house they saw to it that there were only two old pet tom cats left, and they didn't reproduce. Mrs. Sexsmith tried very hard to look after the house and herself, but she just wasn't up to it any more. In the fall of 1947, John took her to the hospital and she died shortly after.

After his mother passed away, John had more time to socialize, and because of his sense of humor he was popular with the young people. He always had company or was being taken somewhere. He had his land rented out, but he was still living on the farm when he died in 1958.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOHRMANN, By Pauline Lohrmann Leicht — My parents emigrated from Garrison, North Dakota, on March 28, 1910, and arrived at Castor on April 5. The children who were [illegible] born in the United States, were Lena, Chris, John, Charles, Minnie, Pauline and Marie. Some of the family remained in the States, but Chris, Charles, Marie and I came to Canada with our parents.

In 1910 Father filed on the homestead, the SW 19-33-14, and took a pre-emption across the road. We had six horses, four cows and some chickens as well as other settlers' effects.

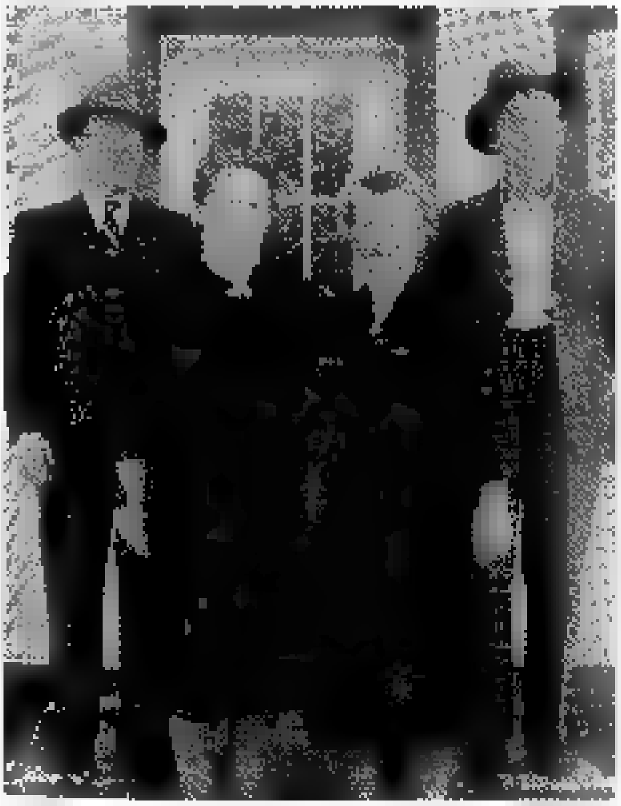
Mr. Kane operated a mine, and a store and post office. Marie Bartsch (Mrs. Don Cameron) worked there for a long time. Our first school was Netherby and the first cemetery was on the same grounds. Mail was delivered twice a week from Castor to Garden Plain.

In 1926 Father and Mother moved to Victoria, B.C. and later went to Langley Prairie. Father died March 9, 1931. Mother died at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton February 20, 1939. Both are buried in Ocean View cemetery, New Westminster, B.C.

DAVID LEICHT SR., By Christina Leicht Lohrmann — David Leicht was born of German parents in South Russia on December 16, 1856. Until he was twenty-one he helped his parents on the farm. Then he was drafted into the Russian army and spent four years training.

Katharina Ketterling was also born of German parents in South Russia December 3, 1863. They were married on February 15, 1884. They left for America in the fall, arriving December 30, 1884, and pioneering and farming in North and South Dakota for eighteen years. By this time they had four children, David Jr., Katharina (Kate), Gideon (Jack), and Christina.

David and family moved to Quincy, Washington, July 1902. They farmed there for eight years. By this time Kate was married to John Weitz. As the country had turned into a dust bowl, David and family, also John and Kate, moved to Olds, Alberta in March 1910.



The Leicht Family. Dave, Christina, Kathy, Jack.

After farming rented land and running a threshing outfit in the Olds district for three years, David decided to move to Hanna. By this time David Jr. was married to Barbara Morlock and living at Trochu.

Jack and David Jr. had been out to Hanna and made arrangements with a Mr. Brown, to rent his place four miles straight east of Hanna. David Jr. bought a lot in Hanna where he later built a 16' x 24' two-roomed car roof house.

Jack and Dad loaded all machinery, household effects, cattle, and horses into a freight car and shipped out to Castor in March 1913, Jack going with the freight car to take care of the stock. Dad, mother and I drove out to Castor with a team and democrat. Road conditions were far from good but we got to Castor in about three days.

Mother and I went to Hanna with a livery team that happened to be going that

way. We stayed at a boarding house while David Jr. moved his family to Hanna from Trochu. Mother stayed with Barbara while David Jr. and I took his team and wagon and went to Castor. Dad and Jack had the car unloaded by this time. After loading the wagons and getting everything ready we only got six miles out the first day, stopping at Peddris for the night.

The next day was hard on horses and cows. It was my lot to drive the cattle, four cows and five or six young stock. They got so tired walking and so did the pony. We arrived about two o'clock in the morning. The poor cows could hardly move for three days, they were so foot sore. I had not done any riding for a long time and I was mighty stiff myself. When I think back now I don't know how we did it.

As it turned out there was no pasture on the place and we had no feed. Dad went out and bought some oats for the horses; the cows we could run on the quarter just south as it was open prairie. We only stayed long enough to put in the crop for Mr. Brown.

In the meantime Dad rented Mr. Dave Lesley's place which was seven miles north. This place had pasture, a good well and cultivated land. There was also an open quarter to the east which had cutbanks down the centre. When the pasture got short we turned the cows out there. One night I went for the cows and one was missing, I started the ones I found for home, and started looking for the missing one. As I walked along the edge of the cutbank I could see her down in the bottom of the flat.

I discovered she had fallen into a "soap" hole, not quite big enough for all her body to go down. I went home for help. Dad and Jack got her out safe and sound. A "soap" hole is very deceiving and dangerous. They very in size, the soil around the edge is firm and natural. The hole is level full of a thin soapy mud, which looks dry and firm, and is bottomless. That was our first and last experience with a "soap" hole.

By this time homesteads were hard to find. Dad finally got one just north of Wilhelm Lohrmann's, the NW 19-33-14. Dad and Jack then started breaking land and getting it ready to seed, and also built a barn and did some fencing, working this all in while farming the Lesley place too. Dad also built a 12' x 20' car roof granary on skids, which was later moved to the homestead and served as a house while putting in the crop.

We moved to the homestead in March 1915. After seeding that summer Dad, Jack and David Jr. added another 12' x 20' to the granary, and raised it to a storey and a half making four rooms.

As part of the land was lake it made us short of hay land. There was a Hudson Bay section about two miles north west of us, so Dad went to Hanna and got a three or four year haying lease on it. Come haying time Dad happened to notice someone putting up hay on it, so he drove over and visited with them for a while. Then he said, "I hope you boys put a good top on that stack as I would not like my hay to spoil." You can imagine what a shock that was. Dad told them if they would finish what they had cut he would pay them for their work, which they did.

There were a lot of good times as the years went by, picnics, ballgames. The First of July at Garden Plain was always a big day, and there were dances at the different schools, and church services.

In 1917 a hail storm came through and flattened all the crops. Mother had quite a flock of ducks, they were all in the slough when it hit. After it was over, the duck flock looked like a battle field, some were killed, some had broken wings, some had broken legs, one had both legs broken, mother set them the best she could and bandaged them, and in a surprisingly short time even the ones with the broken legs were on their way to the slough.

David Leicht Sr. Passed away February 14, 1922. Mother stayed with David Jr. for a time, then she married Fred Schultz October 4, 1922.

Fred Schultz passed away May 9, 1946.

Mother passed away March 24, 1947.

***THE RIDDLE STORY, By William Riddle* —** James Ernest Riddle was born in Glenbrooke, Nevada in 1884. His parents were Canadian citizens living temporarily in Nevada where his father was employed at a sawmill. They returned to their home farm at Crystal Falls, Quebec, and it was there that James and his four sisters, Myrtle, Ruth, Bertha and Iona, were raised.

At the outbreak of World War I James enlisted in the 224th Battalion and later transferred to the Forestry Corps. On February 13, 1918, he was married to Susan Burge in Newton Abbot, Devonshire, England. After the war they returned to Canada, landing at St. John, New Brunswick on April 20, 1919. Their first child, William, was born two days' previously aboard the S.S. Grampian on the Atlantic Ocean.

William and Susan Riddle took up farming at Crystal Falls and there two more sons and three daughters were added to the family. In the fall of 1927 James came west to work in the construction department of Canadian National Railways, and the following year his wife and family joined him at Cameo, Saskatchewan. The next few years were spent at various railway construction jobs in Saskatchewan.

When construction on the Scapa-Spondin line was started, James was moved to Scapa, and in May of 1931 he moved his family here by car, a 1927 two-door Chev sedan which he had purchased from T. Harley. At first the family lived in the old Anderson farm buildings south-east of Scapa; later they moved to the Gulseth house now owned by Art Welch. In 1934 they purchased the Jack Leicht farm one mile east of Scapa.

The family consisted of three sons and five daughters. William, born in 1919, married Margaret Malm in 1940, and resides in Hanna. Their family is mentioned in the Malm story.

Hugh, born 1921, now owns the home farm at Scapa. He married Helen Pinkham of Hanna and has one son, Terry, and a daughter, Annette.

Ernie, born 1922, married Irene Doble and lives in Hanna. Their family consists of daughters Gladys, Gerry, Mary Irene, Harlene and son Bruce.

Margaret, born 1923, married E.G. Pedersen. They and family Rick, Greg and Susan live in Calgary.

Dorothy, born 1925, is now Mrs. W. Hopkins. She has two daughters, Lori Anne and Wendy, and lives in Calgary.

Winnifred, born 1927, is Mrs. A. Carlson. Her children are Doug, Ron, Kevin, Judy, Dorothy, Dana and Paddy.

Iona was born in Hanna in 1935. She married Arthur Stark and they and their daughters, Debbie, Amanda and Cindy, reside in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Mary Jane was born in Hanna on December 3, 1936, and her mother, Susan, passed away two days later, at the age of forty-one years.

James was pensioned from the C.N.R. in August, 1949, and resided with his son Bill and his family until the time of his passing in the Col. Belcher hospital in Calgary on March 16, 1962, at the age of seventy-eight years.

HUGHIE RIDDLE, By Hughie Riddle — I came with my parents and the rest of the family to the Chris Lohrmann farm in the Scapa district in 1931. I attended the Scapa school.

During the summer of 1934, when I was fourteen, I went to work for Rudolph Haessel for two and a half months during the summer holidays. As wages I received a cow which started me [illegible] the cattle business. That winter and the following summer, I went after school to help Mrs. Fennell with her chores, receiving a heifer calf. The next year Bert Sim, on his way home from Scapa, would take me and sometimes Ernie to help with the chores on weekends or after school. I worked for Bert and his dad off and on for years after that.

By 1936 I was through school and was hired by George Wright and Wilfred Smith to help put in the crop and summerfallow. That fall and the following year I worked for Jack Temple.

In the spring of 1938 Don Cameron asked me to work for him. During the time I was there we put in the Caragana shelter belt. We dug the trees out of Kane's grove and hauled them by team and wagon. The five-foot trees were then placed in holes which had been dug beforehand. The holes were filled with rotted manure and thoroughly wetted down. The trees survived and can be still seen, much higher and thicker, where Erbin and Winnie Grove live today.

At Don's I drove horses while Don drove the 10-20 Advance Rumley, which [illegible] had purchased from Harry Bartman. Don also got a combine from Harry at the same time.

After working at Camerons, I came home to stay, farming with horses. I got horses to break from [illegible] relative of my dad's, Pollock of Pollockville. I would ride to Pollocks and drive back, usually four head. The rest of the summer was spent in breaking them. The saddle horse I had at that time was named King. He was brought in from Bassano by Ironsides. They sold him to Ken Williams and I bought him from the Williams auction sale. He was a tough little horse with plenty of stamina. He had five brands on one hip and one on the other. King eventually died of old age.

The winter of 1941-42, I was training with the Army at Camrose.

By 1950 I got my first tractor and eventually disposed of the horses, keeping only cattle. When George Burns came to Scapa and started trucking, I helped him whenever he needed me.

For the past two years I have been operator of the breaker pit at the Sheerness coal mine.

In December 1976, Helen Sieverson and I were married. Our children, Terry and Annette, are bussed to the Hanna School.

CHESTER R. BARTMAN, from information supplied by Harry Bartman and John Grove — Chester Bartman, one of four brothers who came to this area at different times, was born in Tobermorey, Ontario [illegible] 1889. He came west in 1909 to file on his homestead, the SW 5-34-14. He lived in a sod shack until a cottage-type house was built in 1916. Brother Harry, who had been working in Edmonton, drove down in a Regal car to visit Chester and helped him build [illegible] sod pig house.

Chester worked for Gulseths, who had come from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, to homestead. He and Marian Gulseth were married, but she died a year or so later and her folks had her body sent back to Devil's Lake for burial.

The big hipped-roofed barn which could be seen for miles, was built about 1927 or 1928. Chester built up [illegible] herd of good Shorthorn cows, many of which were excellent milkers. By selling cream and raising pigs he made [illegible] modest living. He owned one of the last Model T's ever built, a green coupe.

He had an auction sale in the spring of 1936 and went back to Ontario to live. He rented the place out, but soon returned to live there and to work at doing odd jobs for others. He passed away a few years ago.

ALEXANDER F. (BRUCE) EICKMIER, from information supplied by Harry Bariman and John Grove — Bruce Eickmier homesteaded the SW 4-34-14 in 1910. He hailed originally from Hanover, Bruce County, Ontario, hence the nickname. He was employed in Nacktol's Furniture Factory, and in the winter of 1911 or 1912 he worked as Castor's dog catcher, at a dollar a head. He had a good thing going for him, or so the townspeople of Castor thought. They kept turning out the impounded dogs, so Bruce quit that job.

While on the homestead he lived in a partial dugout, with part of the walls and the roof above ground level. In one of the early years he received slight hail damage to his crop, but he knew the damage was too little for him to make a claim for damages, so taking his oxen and a length of barbed wire, he dragged the remaining crop down. He collected a good claim.

Bruce built a well drilling machine and drilled many wells in this country. He stated that he started building the machine with nine dollars to his name, and that when it was completed he still had three dollars left. Bruce was an accomplished violinist, and had the gift of gab.

He departed here for Hanna where he bought and ran a second hand store. Then he moved to Drumheller where he was in the same business. Tiring of these ventures, he left for an isolated bush farm in the interior of B.C. However, civilization caught up to him again, and in later years he retired to a small holding at Surrey, B.C., where he has since passed away.

Scapa teachers about 1943, Blanche Coultis, Dorothy Cook

MRS. HARRY COOK (DOROTHY), By Blanche Coultis — Mrs. Dorothy Cook, master teacher, war nurse, Scapa pioneer and wife of homesteader Harry Cook, contributed so much to the Sullivan Lake area.

After training as an elementary school teacher in England, she volunteered as a nurse during World War I and served in soldiers' hospitals in her homeland. Emigrating after the war, she came to Scapa where she met again Harry Cook, whom she had known in the Thames Mouth, her English home. Harry, who had expected to enter the British navy, as generations of his family had done, was prevented from doing so by his stuttering. At an early age he took a homestead south-west of Scapa where he spent his life until ill health forced him into retirement in Hanna.

Dorothy and Harry were married, and then Dorothy attended Calgary Normal School. Because of her exceptional ability as a teacher she was offered a position in the Normal Practice School. Instead of accepting she returned home to spend her life teaching in neighboring rural schools. Getting home weekends in good weather and bad often made great demands on her energy. Yet she taught with immense enthusiasm. Pupils remembered her well. She knew them individually and could meet their needs.

I first knew Dorothy Cook when she and I taught in the two-roomed school at Scapa during World War II and lived together in the basement of the elementary school. Gas rationing was in. Once in Scapa a teacher stayed put or walked. Dorothy, an indefatigable English walker, led me around the district despite my protests. Occasionally we walked four or five miles to visit another teacher.

Dorothy could sew and instruct in sewing, something I could not do at [illegible]. Since needlework was on the program of my classroom (grades seven to eleven), Dorothy would painstakingly demonstrate sewing and button-holing at night so I could carry on in class next day. She gave much time out of school to altering patterns and cutting out material while I looked on.

One remembers her continued cheerfulness, her sense of humour, her energy, her joy in teaching, and her concern for the welfare of her pupils. Hundreds of students and many teachers of the Sullivan Lake area can testify to that.

I REMEMBER

By Agnes Burt Thiel

. . . Kane's Mine. The mine house had three rooms, two down and one up. The miners slept upstairs and we slept and ate and served meals in the one downstairs, because the other was too cold. Mother cooked and dad helped serve dinners for 35 cents, breakfasts and suppers for 25 cents. Many two- and four-horse sleighs came from up to thirty miles away for coal; some were driven by children in their early teens. There was a hand-made pump to take water out of the mine, made of four one-by-fours nailed together; the valve had been fashioned [illegible] [illegible] block of wood and leather. There was [illegible] hand bar to push down on the rod to release the valve to let in the water; and [illegible] spring board fastened into the bank of dirt lifted the water up.

. . . Mr. Anderson lining his well with stone; most wells had wooden cribbing and the water tasted of the wood for [illegible] long time.

. . . Dad going to help fight a prairie fire, and the red glow in the sky at night that meant that it was still burning, and him getting home at three in the morning, tired and hungry and black with burnt grass.

. . . the hillsides covered with crocus in the spring, and later the yellow buffalo beans blooming.

. . . going to [illegible] picnic at Wiese school [illegible] 1920 and seeing my first airplane.

. . . so much water in Sullivan Lake that it came under the fence line and almost to the Y of the C.N. tracks at Scapa.

. . . meeting a tall Englishman named Mr. Burley in Fort St. John in 1956. In 1910 he had been [illegible] range rider and travelled from Calgary across the Hand Hills and up the east side of Sullivan Lake to Castor. He wanted to know what had happened to the three-storey house which used to be on the east side of the lake near Castor; I learned later that the lumber had never been paid for so the house was dismantled and sold.

. . . telling two ladies from England who were visiting the Edmonton Museum that I had once lived in [illegible] sod house, and one of them saying, "Will you shake hands with me? I've always wanted to meet someone who lived in one of those houses."

. . . seeing Mrs. Bill Welch carry [illegible] wooden cradle on her back for two miles, so that Mrs. Bill Hein could use it for her new baby.

. . . not having much schooling, but gaining knowledge; how to handle cattle and horses, and do blacksmithing, milk cows and teach calves to drink; and learning that many a baby was kept alive with mare's milk.

SOME MEMORIES OF WARTIME SCAPA 1941–44

By Blanche Coultis

1. As their war effort the pupils collected salvage-rubber tires, lead scrap and tooth paste tubes. I still remember the ants that scurried about in the old tires stacked in the anteroom.

2. Daylight saving came with the war. When the new time system began in late winter I set out in the dark that first morning to build the fire in my classroom. Returning to check later I discovered that while shaking the grates of the little coal heater I had dislodged the stove pipe so that the smoke had poured into the closed room for most of an hour. What a scrubbing job we had. One pupil remarked at the end of the day that we all smelled like cured hams.

3. The high school girls knitted a beautiful baby layette for the Red Cross and put the school's name in it, hoping to hear from the family receiving it. Of course, we never did.

4. There were many delightful cups of tea at the post office with Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie.

5. The social activities were community-centered — Christmas concerts in the hall, dances, "500" card parties in the school to raise money for the boys' overseas parcels. I remember a lantern slide show ("Magic Lantern") which I rented from the university to show at school. Adults asked that the show be given for the public who filled the hall to capacity.

THE HORSE THIEF

There is an old, old story
That's been passed from year to year,
How a horse-man came a-riding,
With some ranchers at his rear.

Some mustangs that they had corralled
He had taken for his own.
And so the desperate flight began,
Of this horse thief, all alone.

O'er hill and dale he galloped
With their horses by his side.
He dared not stop to rest his mount.
There was no place to hide.

They chased him 'cross the prairies
To the edge of Sullivan Lake,
Where from a tree they hung him.
His life they thus did take.

Then they dug a shallow grave
And buried him 'neath the tree.
Near the tiny hamlet of Scapa,
The grave is said to be.

Helen Standing

In every district there are people who move to other farms, to the cities and towns and it is impossible to contact them all and so many may not be mentioned but this is not intentional.

The Martin Gaiseth family went back to Devil's Lake, North Dakota in 1927.

P. Anderson passed away in 1927. The remainder of the stone house built by him is still standing.

The Richard Haessel family moved to the Vancouver area. There were two children, Richard and Alice.

Jack Leicht is mentioned in the Dave Leicht story. He married Pauline Lohrmann. Jack passed away and Mrs. Leicht lives in Edmonton. Their sons, Bill and Ted, live in Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

Other families that lived here for a time were Wittchens, Snaiths, Doerings, Bachmiers, Panchucks, Stouts, Moraschs, Marchants, Ostopovichs, Frank Brunner.

GREYSTONE HALL

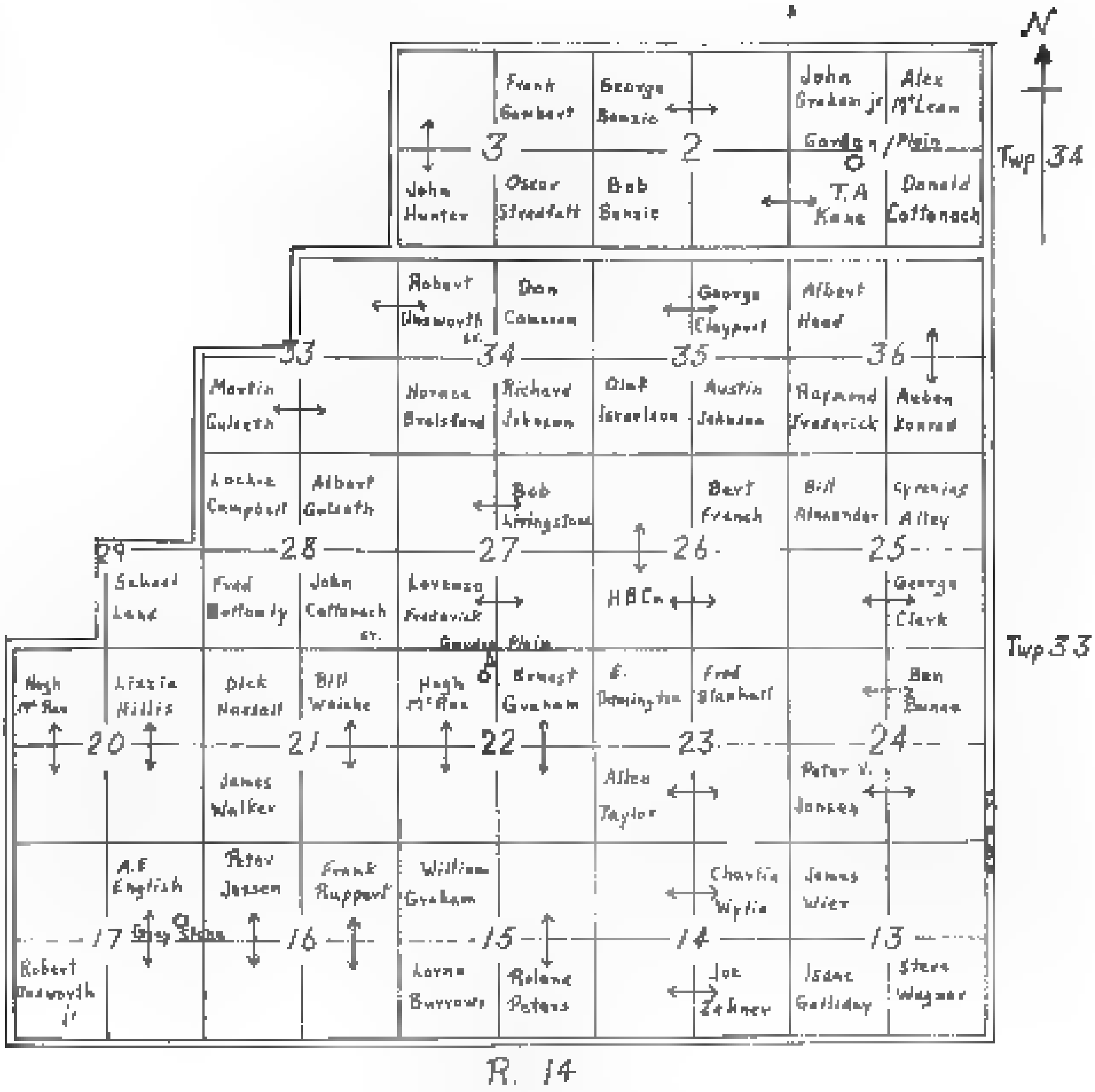
Greystone Hall, named after the post office of the district, was built in January of 1914 by Charlie Lohrmann on his dad's homestead, the SW 19-32-14. It was 32' by 40' in size. The first dance was held there on January 30, 1914, with A. Henderson's orchestra of Hanna supplying the music.

The Greystone correspondent to the Hanna Herald wrote that a barn with ample room and plenty of feed was available. The correspondent later suggested, "Import a car load of girls for the supper dance."

The hall was shortlived, as people began using the schoolhouses for entertainments.

Fred and Flora Weich. Arthur, Reinhardt, Henry.

GARDEN PLAIN No. 2941



OWNERS AND RENTERS — TOWNSHIPS 33 and 34, RANGE 14

S.E. 21-33-14
W. Weshe
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wiens

S.W. 21-33-14
James Walker
A. English
Les Wiens

N.E. 21-33-14
W. Weshe
E. L. Studer
R. and E. Wiens

N.W. 21-33-14
H. Haessel
F. Haessel

S.E. 22-33-14
E. H. Graham
Pierce Morris
Bossert
H. Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

S.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 22-33-14
W. C. Kries
Graham
Pierce Morris
Bossert
Brown
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

N.W. 22-33-14
Hugh McRae
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 23-33-14
Fred Blaxhall
W. Burt
Friedel Haessel

N.E. 23-33-14
E. Dummington
Fred Blaxhall
Bill Burt
Friedel Haessel

S.W. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
Doody
Lyman Grove
Friedel Haessel

S.E. 23-33-14
Allan Taylor
L. Doty
Lyman Grove
F. Haessel

S.E. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
Russel Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

S.W. 24-33-14
P. Jensen
R. Chidley
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 24-33-14
B. Bunse
Robert Sexsmith
Strode
F. W. Johnston
Walter Lewis
F. & R. Johnston

N.W. 24-33-14
B. Bunse
F. & R. Johnston

N.E. 25-33-14
C. Alley
C. M. Young
R. J. Unsworth
Frances Unsworth

N.W. 25-33-14
W. [illegible]. Alexander
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.E. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
Richard Artzenbarker
George Unsworth
L. Unsworth

S.W. 25-33-14
G. E. Clarke
George Forster
R. J. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

N.E. 26-33-14
G. B. French
Nels Wright
Billy Wagney
H. Goodkey
M. Campbell

N.W. 26-33-14
Elmer Sleen
R. Hien
Arnold Grove
Friedel Haessel
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. J. Unsworth

S.E. 26-33-14
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S.W. 26-33-14
Fred Blaxhall
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove

S½ 27-33-14
L. Frederick
Lyman Grove
Erbin Grove
Walter Miller
Leo Wiens

S.E. 28-33-14
J. Cattanach
David Cattanach

N½ 27-33-14
[illegible]. Livingstone
Roy Bartman
Herb Taylor
R. [illegible]. Zeamer
Fred Johnston

S.W. 28-33-14
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.W. 28-33-14
L. Campbell
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 28-33-14
A. Gulseth
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 35-33-14
G. M. Claypool
Don Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 35-33-14
Erbin Grove

S.E. 35-33-14
C. Johnston
M. Gulseth
D. Cameron
Erbin Grove

S.W. 35-33-14
J. Isrealson
Robert Eye
Walter Lewis
Gus Gadtinger
Rayford Johnston

S.E. 35-33-14
M. Gulseth
Erbin Wiens

S.W. 33-33-14
M. Gulseth
[illegible]. M. Stuart
Fred Bottomly
Erbin Wiens

N.E. 33-33-14
R. Unsworth
Hugh McRae
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 33-33-14
J. R. Crombie
R. Haessel
M. M. Stuart
Erbin Wiens

S.E. 34-33-14
R. W. Johnston
M. Gutschon
Morgan

S.W. 34-33-14
H. F. Breison
L. C. Burt
Henry Brown
A. L. Sturgess
Mrs. Smart
Stuart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 34-33-14
Claypool
Mrs. Mary Cameron
Erbin Grove

N.W. 34-33-14
R. Unsworth
Morgan

S.W. 36-33-14
A. Head
Chib Wickson
Herb Taylor
Benny Weller
Rudy Finkbiner
Earl Ness
L. Unsworth

S.E. 36-33-14
Henry Finkbiner
George Unsworth
Albert Finkbiner
R. J. Unsworth

S.W. 36-33-14
R. S. Fredrickson
L. W. Chappell
Johnny Israelson
L. Unsworth

S.E. 15-33-14
R. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 15-33-14
Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.E. 15-33-14
R. Peters
Charles Smith
Stewart McRae
Morgan

N.W. 15-33-14
W. J. Graham
Lorne Burrows
Stewart McRae
Morgan

S.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
Bill Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
E. Wiens
R. and E. Wiens

N.E. 16-33-14
F. Ruppert
E. Wiens
R. and E. Wiens

N.W. 16-33-14
P. Jessen
Bill Wesche
Jack Temple
R. and E. Wiens

S.E. 17-33-14
A. English
R. Gaugler

S.W. 17-33-14
R. J. Unsworth
Bert Sims
Walter Viste
[illegible]. Gaugler

N.E. 17-33-14
A. English
[illegible]. Gaugler

N.W. 17-33-14
Ranch
Walter Viste
B. Gaugler

S.E. 1-34-14
Donald Cattanach
James Bradshaw
Thomas Hunter
Sid Calderbank
Hobson
Alf Sieverson
Stanley Strandberg

S.W. 1-34-14
Thomas Kane
Chib Wickson
George Smith
Jones
Wm. Kissinger
Stanley Strandberg

N.E. 1-34-14
Alix McLean
Henry Nielsen

N.W. 1-34-14
John Graham Jr.
Elmer Nelson

S.E. 20-33-14
Lizzy Hillis
Marge Hillis
E. Haessel
[illegible]. Haessel

S.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
Morgan
W. Viste
W. Gaugler
E. Haessel

N.E. 20-33-14
Lizzy Hillis
Mary Hillis
E. Haessel
F. Haessel

N.W. 20-33-14
Hugh McRae
Byers
Stewart McRae
E. Haessel
W. Viste
Wm. Gaugler

S.E. 2-34-14
T. Kane

Henry Neilson

S.W. 2-34-14
Robert Benzie
Albert Delker

N.E. 2-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.W. 2-34-14
George Benzie
Alfred Delker

N.E. 3-34-14
F. L. Gombert
Alfred Delker

S.E. 13-33-14
Steve Wagner
Bennie Taylor
Rayford Johnston

S.W. 13-33-14
I. Galladay
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.E. 13-33-14
George Forster
C. W. Noyce
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 13-33-14
Jim Wier
C. W. Noyce
Jim Schumaker
Rayford Johnston

N.W. 3-34-14
Thomas Hunter
Albert Delker

S.E. 3-34-14
O. Stredfalt
L. Unsworth

S.W. 3-34-14
Tom Hunter
George Smith

Albert Delker

S½ 14-34-14
J. L. Zehner
Wm. Monroe
Tom Hannah
Baissler
Wittlhem
F. Johnston

N.W. 14-34-14
C. M. Wylie
Jim Wylie
Tom Hannah
Baissler
Madke
F. Johnston

GARDEN PLAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2941

By Louis Unsworth

Garden Plain School, 1945. Back Row, left to right: Billy Cook, Klara Weins, Leo Weins, Charlotte Cook, Tom Ness. Second Row: Gordon Ness, Arnold Grove, Charlotte Zeamer, Agatha Weins, Evelyn Cook, Barbara Grove, Margaret Ness, Rosanna Weins. Front Row: Robert Weins, Erbin Weins, Russell Ness, Frank Cook.

Garden Plain school was built by Mr. Ben Bunce, and was opened in 1914. Some of the teachers who conducted classes were Eve West, Mrs. Violet Frogge, Miss Sterling, Miss Ellis, Verda Hoffman, Don Pound, Miss Holmes, Miss Brydon, Isabelle Payne, Miss Bloomer, Jessie Campbell, Mr. Scollan, Miss McKenzie, Mrs. McLaren, Jack McLaren, Mrs. Agnes Temple, Helen Jensen, Ray Burke, Mr. Chandler, Stella Johnson. When Mr. Scollan became ill Miss Jessie Campbell substituted for him for about three months; she put on the Christmas concert that year.

The first trustees were Hugh McRae, Robert Unsworth and Jim Walker.

The school was closed from June, 1937 to September, 1939 and the pupils were sent elsewhere. [illegible] closed permanently in 1954.

Garden Plain School, 1934 - 35. Benny Brown, Gordon Brown, Leonard Brown, Paul Rupert, - Wittchen, Willie Rupert, Roy McRae, - Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Harold Unsworth, Louis Unsworth, Helen Bartman, George Unsworth. Teacher: Mr. Scollan. Relieving Teacher: Miss Jessie Campbell.

Garden Plain School, 1933 - 34. Back Row, left to right: Stewart Bartman, - Bassler, ?, Peter Rupert, Leonard Brown, teacher Helen Jensen, Hilda Bassler, Esther Finkbiner, Rosa Artzenbacher. Middle Row: George Unsworth, Gordon Brown, Benny Brown, Melfort Finkbiner, Adelheide Artzenbacher, Helen Bartman, Clara Artzenbacher. Front Row: Louis Unsworth, Alfred Bassler, Walter Wittchen, Roy Unsworth, Ida Wittchen, Harold Unsworth.

Children attended Garden Plain school from these families: Grove, Unsworth, Delker, Brown, Bartman, Eye, Peters, Ruppert, Cook, Wettchen, Artzenbacher, Medke, Smart, Weins, Temple, McLaren, Haessel, Ness, Zeamer, Frogge, English, Brooker, Smythe, McRae, Smith, Burt, Finkbiner, Baissler.

GEORGE CLARKE STORY, By Frances Unsworth — Mr. George Clarke homesteaded the south half of 25-33-14 about 1909. He built a small shack and a sod barn in the middle of his land, about a mile from the Castor trail. He was a very quiet, good-natured man, probably in his sixties, and he used to tell us that he was a prospector before he came here.

At first he had a team of oxen, their names were Red and Bright. I remember that they both had very long horns, and that one was brown and the other brown and white. He was very good to his animals and gave them the best of food and treatment.

Fighting Prairie Fire, 1909. Bert Brown, George Clarke, Horace Lewis, Frances Lewis.

He spent a lot of time at our house, as Mother and Dad always invited bachelors for meals and a visit, and they were always glad to accept. From what Mr. Clarke told us, he lived on porridge and pancakes . . . flapjacks, he used to call them . . . and drank green tea, as did most of the people who had come from the United States.

Sometimes we would not see him for a week or so, and my Dad would walk to his shack to see if he was sick. We used to watch for smoke coming from his chimney.

He planted ■ rhubarb patch and a small garden, off which he lived in the summer. He had no cellar to keep things from freezing, so in winter he had only frozen potatoes. He was always invited to our home for his birthday and for Christmas.

After a few years his oxen died and he bought some wild broncos. I will always remember the runaways he had nearly every time he hitched them up.

He farmed for about ten years, then after the First World War he sold through the Soldier Settlement Board to Mr. George Forster, and we never heard from him again.

George and Alice Forster.

MEMORIES OF THE HOMESTEAD, By Alice Lewis Forster — I am the middle daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis. Dad and mother had come from England to Victoria, B.C. in 1906. In May, 1909, our family left Victoria to homestead ■ Alberta with my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sturgess and their family.

We camped in tents at Stettler while Dad and Uncle walked many miles looking for a homestead. While they were away, we were all very saddened by the death of my baby sister Queenie. A very nice man made a little coffin for her and she was buried in Stettler.

Dad and Uncle were lucky to get homesteads side by side. Ours was the south-west of 30-33-13. I was only eight years old at the time but I remember well the journey from Stettler with the oxen and covered wagon. There were no roads then, only winding trails. The prairie wool was very thick and many flowers bloomed.

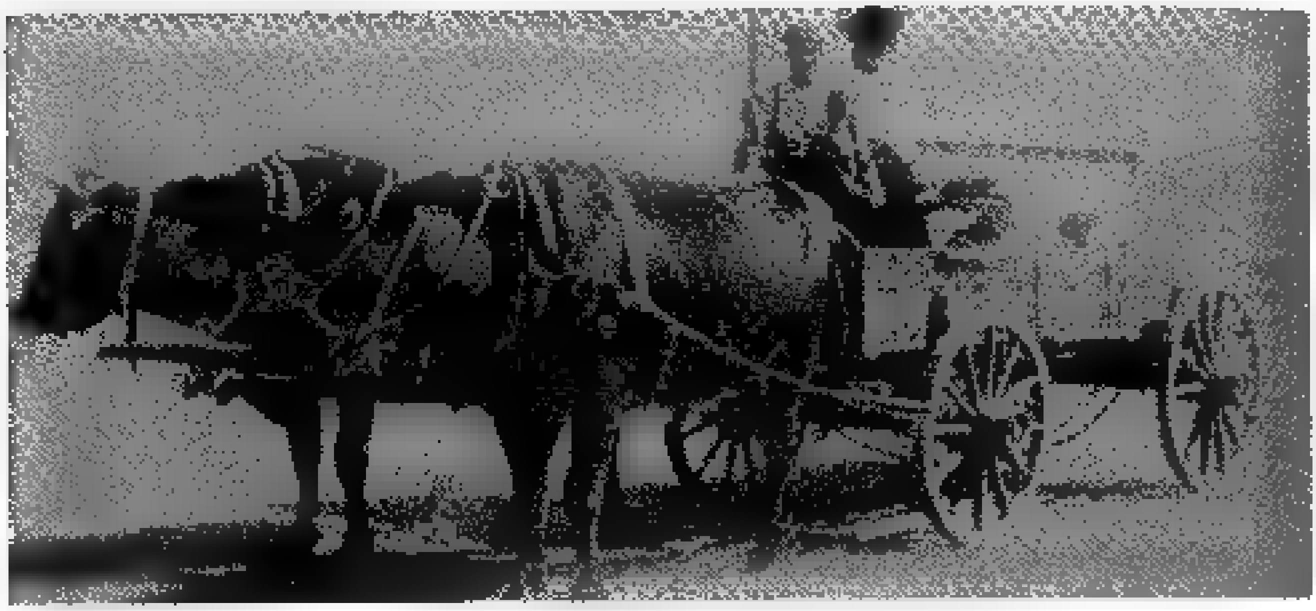
Dad and Mom chose the highest hill on the homestead for our home site. ■ was covered with wild roses, and they said, "We will name our farm Rose Hill Farm." We lived in a tent while Dad built a sod house. Mother plastered the inside walls with blue clay which came from a well that Daddy dug.

Whenever Daddy had to make a trip to Castor for supplies during the hot weather, he would start about three o'clock in the morning so that the oxen would not have to travel in the heat of the day. They could not stand being overheated, and you could not even make them trot because of this.

Meals were a little monotonous, especially in the winter. Beans and rice were the mainstay, with wild rabbits and prairie chicken once in a while for variety. I remember the first sack of potatoes that Dad bought, in the spring of 1910. How good they tasted, for we did not have a garden of our own till the next summer. Even the lowly turnip took on ■ new light in the pioneer days. When one fell off a passerby's wagon, my mother wrapped it up and put it away for our Christmas dinner.

The prairie fires were very frightening in those days. Sometimes at night we could see them all around us and we prayed that the wind would not drive them toward us, as they travelled very fast.

We were on the homestead for two years before a school was built. I often think of the winter mornings when we were so cold from walking the two and a half miles to school that the teacher let us sit around the big round coal heater. I remember walking to school in the summer with a heavy gunny sack folded to form a hood and a cape so the mosquitoes couldn't bite through. We wore netting over our heads as well. One day the mosquitoes were so thick we could hardly see through the netting.



Duck Hunting, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lewis, Alice and Francis.

I remember that when we still lived in the sod house three homesteaders stopped one very cold night. After supper they laid their blankets on the kitchen floor. One man's bed was under the stovepipe elbow. Frost formed on the pipe outside, the heat from the stove melted it, and the water dripped down the pipe and off the elbow all night. The moisture mixed with the coal soot was very black. As it dripped on his face in his sleep, the man thought it was a fly, and tried to brush it away. When morning came his friends laughed and kept him from looking into the one tiny mirror we had. His face was as black as could be!

My love of horses extended to breaking a horse that my Dad had bought. Whenever he harnessed him he would lie on his side and kick; even when harnessed with other horses he would let himself be dragged along the ground. Dad promised I could have the horse, Buster, if I could break him. I always kept a rail between me and Buster whenever I tried to saddle him in the barn. Eventually I could ride him all over the country, but only straight ahead or to the right. He never would turn left. I remember the day I helped Mom up on Buster so that I could take her out to see the crop, for being crippled, she could not walk that far. Buster did not let me down with such an important passenger, and performed very well.

On March 29, 1921, I married a returned soldier, George Forster. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Scallon in Hanna's little Anglican Church. In 1923 we were blessed with a son, David.

In the twenties my husband was very active with the U.F.A. and with the Garden Plain dances and picnics. George and Fred W. Johnston were buddies for many years, both before World War I and then overseas together, as well as farming at Garden Plain. We shared the problems of raising youngsters with the hazard of toddlers crawling under the horses' bellies (and the father's hazards after the little ones had loosened the nuts under the binder!).

We farmed till 1926, but the crops were not too good and cattle prices were low, so we moved to Surrey, B.C., where we developed a poultry farm. In 1927 we were blessed with a daughter, Dorothy.

We shared a happy life as our farm prospered and our children grew up and supplied us with grandchildren to spoil. In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnston came to B.C. to help celebrate our golden wedding. We promised Blanche and Fred that we would return for theirs, but dear George did not make it as we lost him April 16, 1971. I still live within a stone's throw of our farm.

Charlie Young.

CHARLES YOUNG STORY, By Eleanor Young — My name is Eleanor M. Young; I am now eighty-four years old. I was born in Detroit, Michigan, where my parents had settled when they emigrated from Germany.

In 1914 I married Charles Young, who was born in England and who came to this country with his parents when he was nine years old. In 1916 we sold our belongings and moved to Alberta because a doctor told my husband he might not live unless he moved to a cold, dry climate.

Charles' aunt and family, Horace and Jenny Lewis, had come from England and settled in the Garden Plain area about twenty-five miles from Hanna. We stayed with them while looking for a farm. We settled about half a mile down the road from them. The place was in very bad shape and needed much repairing before we could live in it. There was a large living room with a heater stove which burned slack coal as there was no wood, a long kitchen and an unfinished upstairs. To retire each night we had to climb a ladder on the side wall with our nine-month-old baby Hilda.

The first year that we planted wheat it was coming nicely, and was almost ready to harvest when a bad hailstorm ruined it. Our potato crop was beautiful. Charles dug a pit under the floor in the kitchen, right under the stove, to store them, but even there they froze.

That first year the mosquitoes were awful, we had to wear a net bag over our heads. They piled up an inch deep all around the lower window pane, but didn't seem to bother us much in the house. The men had to do their field work very early in the mornings because the mosquitoes bothered the horses too much when it warmed up outdoors. They stood in smudges all day.

Charles' parents and little brother came to Garden Plain, and Dad Young took over the coal mine for a time. Charles was a mechanic and soon people were bringing him their machinery for repairs.

Charles dug a well and put cribbing in it but there was just a trickle of water. Every day in winter we had to melt snow to wash diapers and baby clothes, and for the cooking and drinking Charles had to haul water from his uncle's on a stoneboat. By the time he got home with it, the barrels were only half full. In winter the water splashed over the tops of the barrels and froze.

Two days before Christmas in 1917 our son Frederick Kenneth Young was born. He is now living in Barstow, California.

We had several horses and cows and a sow and nine little pigs. The pigs wandered over to a bachelor's farm, and he didn't like that, so he drove them nine miles to the pound. People got quite a laugh about that.

One time when Charles was painting a granary, he went away for something and left the can of red paint open. The little pigs all stuck their noses in it. When

Hilda tried to keep them out of [illegible] she got red paint all over the back of her head.

We went through many hardships, but one good thing happened, Charles' health was restored. Both Charles and Dad Young were offered good positions [illegible] Kentucky, so Charles sold the farm to Robert Unsworth.

In 1920 another son was born to us, Kenneth Charles.

In 1925 Charles had a severe case of blood poisoning, which took his life.

I live with my daughter Hilda and her husband in Marshall, Michigan.

25th Anniversary, September 28, 1945. Bob and Frances Unsworth.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT UNSWORTH, By Frances Unsworth — In September, 1920, I was married to Robert James Unsworth. His family lived four miles west of us, but we had first met as children in 1906, on the boat coming from England. His family had gone to Nova Scotia, mine to Victoria, B.C.; we moved to Garden Plain in 1909, and the Unsworths came in 1912.

After serving overseas for four years, Bob bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm across the road from my dad's place, and I am still there in 1977, fifty-seven years later. We went through a lot of hard years when we were trying to get [illegible] start in life . . . drought, poor crops, low prices for farm produce . . . and after being gassed in the war, Bob's health was not good. We had nine sons, but had misfortune to lose three of them; the other six boys are all married and have families of their own.

While digging [illegible] well on our farm in 1925, Bob struck coal, so at the first opportunity he sunk a slope and started his own coal mine, which he named the Three Star Mine. He studied at night and got mining papers, and operated it for fifteen years. In the summer I hauled the coal up with horses, and in winter he hired a man for the job.

Unsworth Family, October, 1963. Albert, Cyril, Harold, Louis, Roy and George.

At one time he had eight men working for him, and coal was hauled as far as to the Saskatchewan border to the east, west to Byemoor and Endiang, north [illegible] Fleet and Federal and south to Hanna.

In 1935, my husband had just come home from the hospital and was

recuperating from a broken back sustained in the mine. One of our horses had died, and as times were hard and a dollar very much needed, our oldest son George and I started across the prairie to skin the dead animal. Although there was a lovely mild chinook blowing, my husband was very much against us going a mile from home, and before we got there, the wind changed and it started to snow. Before we had finished the skinning, a raging blizzard was blowing, and to this day I don't know how we both survived and got home. My poor husband was nearly frantic, walking the floor with a full body-cast on.

Bob could not work much after he was injured, but took an active part in community life. He played for dances, was on the executive of many organizations, and served on the hospital board and the telephone association. He passed away in 1947, after a lung operation.

With the help of our six sons, and the Lord giving us good health, we managed to stay on the farm, where I still live. Our eldest son George lives in Ponoka, where he is shop foreman for the County of Ponoka. Roy is Town Superintendent in Hanna, Harold is an Industrial Arts teacher there, and Albert is Maintenance man at the hospital. Louis and Cyril farm in the Garden Plain district.

LOUIS UNSWORTH — I was born in Hanna in May, 1927 and have been farming in the Garden Plain district ever since. I started my farming career with three geese and two calves that I bought from John Sexsmith with my spending money. I got my schooling at Garden Plain and Netherby, walking the three miles or driving a mule and cart. By the time we went to Netherby we had a team of horses for the winter months. We did chores before and after school and played hockey and ball with Dad, as he was great for sports.

Louis and Laura Unsworth and three oldest children: Gerald, Sharon, Robert.

L. Unsworth Children: Sharon, Robert, John, Gerry and Frank.

My father, Robert James Unsworth, passed away in 1947 and left six boys. I ran the farm for Mother and bought land of my own near the home place. I have tried raising everything, cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese.

I married Laura Clarke, a Calgary girl, in 1950. We have five children. Sharon trained as a nurse and worked in Hanna for a time before marrying Wilfred Schritter of South Castor. They have two children. Robert is working for the Town of Hanna and John is a carpenter there. Gerry married a local girl, Adelle Allen, and works for the Treasury Branches of Alberta. Frank is living at home and attending Hanna High school.

I am a member of Unifarm, serve on various local boards as well as the Hanna United Church Board, and have been a school trustee for a number of years.

Louis Unsworth and his team of colts he raised as a teenager.

Unsworth Family, December, 1938. Bob, George, Louis, Roy, Albert, Cyril and Harold.

CYRIL UNSWORTH STORY — I was born in Hanna, Alta., and grew up on the farm in the Garden Plain district. I went to Netherby School for my education, and a short while at Hanna High School, also completed a course in mechanics.

After my Dad passed away I got a job with the Special Areas running a road patrol, and later went to work for the C.N.R. where I worked as a boiler maker for several years, till I decided to go farming, and settled again in Garden Plain district where I grain farm and run a small herd of cattle. I married Eileen Price, a girl from Kitchener, Ont., and we have raised four children — three boys and one girl, Brian, Bill, Bonnie Mae, and Allison.

Allison Unsworth.

Bill, Eileen and Cyril Unsworth, Bonnie Mae and Brian.

THE THREE STAR MINE
OWNED and OPERATED by R. J. UNSWORTH

By Frances Unsworth

Three Star Mine, 1925. Fred Blaxhall, Bob Unsworth, and John Unsworth ready for work in the mine.

On November 1, 1924 Bob Unsworth with the help of a hired man, Bob Holt, started digging a slope for a coal mine. They laid track and timbered the tunnel as they went, working every day except Christmas Day and Sundays until March 1, 1925, when they finally struck coal. It was good quality coal, as the seam was quite deep.

Further work on the mine was delayed until after the crop was put in, and then work was resumed at the surface, putting in scales, a tipple, and a hoist; and digging air shafts for ventilation, ready for putting out coal in the fall.

At first the cars of coal were pulled to the surface by a team of horses on a long cable, but this was not very satisfactory. The cars held about twelve hundred pounds of coal. If the team happened to stop when the car was part way up the slope, they could not get started again, and often the weight of the car would pull them backwards until the car hit the bottom or jumped the track. Usually it jumped the track and knocked a lot of timbers out. Later a steel drum with a safety catch was installed, and one horse on a turntable affair could pull out the loads. It was much safer.

Bob started selling coal in the fall of 1925; some winters he hired eight miners and one top man, but in summer we managed by ourselves, as there was very little trade then anyway.

We put in lots of long hours and hard work, but it was a living in the dry years. I fed the miners and sometimes the coal teams, so we were all busy. Bob ran the mine for fifteen years, until he had his back broken in an accident.

George Unsworth took over the mine then, and put down another slope to meet the old one, and ran it for a few more years. When the price of coal dropped so low that he could not make expenses, he closed the mine down.

Grove Family. Barb, Len and Pam Young. Winnifred, Erbin, Darlene. Lorne, Arnold and Inez Grove.

MR. and MRS. ERBIN GROVE, By Winnifred Lewis Grove — We, Erbin Grove and Winnifred Lewis, were married in June, 1935. This was during the depression years and most of our food was home grown. We milked twelve to fifteen cows and sold cream; the cheques paid for the things we had to buy. On June 4, 1936, our daughter Barbara was born, and on November 10, 1937, our son Arnold came along to complete our little family.

We had many good times as well as hardships to remember. I recall one hot July day we had big plans for attending the Scapa picnic. We started out with our Jewett car; we were only a mile along the road when we had a flat tire.

We fixed it, then another went flat. This continued until all four had gone flat . . . the hot sun melted the patches off the inner tubes while we were stopped.

Another year the children had picked out what they wanted for Christmas as soon as the Eaton's catalogue had arrived in the mail. As the time drew near, with no crops or money to fulfill their wishes, we felt sad, but by the end of November Erbin was able to trap and sell enough fur-bearing animals to make everyone happy.

Picking strawberries. Winnifred, Lyman and Erbin Grove.

Barb and Arnold Grove leaving for school.

On May 1, 1947 we moved to the NE 35-33-14, which had been homesteaded by George Claypool and which we bought from Don Cameron.

Our first radio was a crystal set. It just had earphones and worked quite well. At times we could get Salt Lake City and did get Havana, Cuba, a few times.

In 1951 Rural Electrification Associations were formed, power lines built, and power turned on just before Christmas, 1952. What excitement! It seemed as

if a whole new era had opened up, lights, fridges, deep freezes, vacuum cleaners, etc. The next big event was a new well and running water.

Threshing was always an exciting time of year. We were always glad to see the threshers come, and glad to see them go. How we would have enjoyed deep freezes if we had had them then! One fall Mr. Grove and Erbin hauled the bundles to the machine; I ran the engine and the separator, and fed the threshing machine while Erbin and his dad went back to the field for more bundles. The first combine was such a welcome sight. Just to think that we didn't have to stook all the crop, just the greenfeed. We could almost enjoy doing that.

Erbin was secretary of the Scapa Mutual Telephone Company for twenty-one years. In 1960 we changed to dial phones and our line was divided into two circuits. On March 1, 1973, the government took over the phone lines and they were put underground. Our monthly rate was a dollar a month until the government took over, then the rate was raised to $5.70 a month.

We also had the animal pound in this area for twenty-one years.

Our daughter, Barbara, married Len Young in 1959. They and their daughter live at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Our son Arnold, and his wife and two children, live at Olds.

We still live and work on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Grove and baby Erbin.

THE LYMAN GROVE STORY, By Erbin Grove — Lyman Grove was operating a small farm in the western part of the State of Washington, and working in a coal mine, when the doctors told him that his son Erbin had bronchial asthma. They said that the boy would not live long in that damp climate, and advised the father to move to a drier area. About that time Mr. Grove saw an ad in a Washington newspaper; Mr. Frank Ruppert of the Garden Plain district had land for sale.

Mr. Grove came to Canada to look at the land, but it was too hilly to suit him. However, he did buy the south half of 27-33-14 from Hugh McRae, put in a crop and went back to Washington for the summer.

In the fall of 1919 he came back to harvest the crop and brought his son with him. The climate seemed to agree with the boy, so the following January Mr. Grove instructed his wife to sell their cattle and bring their other sons, Ronald and Glen, to Alberta.

Mrs. Grove had no way to communicate with her husband the exact time of their arrival in Hanna, so she hired a livery driver to take her and the boys to the farm. The driver did not know the country very well and became lost. The weather turned colder and a blizzard came up. It was starting to get dark when the driver saw a house and drove to it. It proved to be the Bradshaw mine.

By this time the driver and his passengers were almost frozen, but were taken into the house where it was warm. To get heat to them quickly, the oven door was opened. The youngest boy, thinking that he was not warming up fast enough,

crawled into the oven while everyone's back was turned. He was soon pulled out, a little too warm, but no harm was done.

Mr. Grove bought another section of land, owned quite a few cattle, and did a great deal of custom threshing. His first threshing outfit was one he bought from Ralph Gaugler; in later years he purchased Herman Slemp's outfit. There was a good crop in 1923 and by Christmas of that year, Mr. Grove and his son had hauled six thousand bushels of wheat to Hanna with wagons.

My two brothers and I (Erbin). farmed with Dad for many years. We broke a good many horses, both for ourselves and other people. I put a sign on the harness of one big bay mare we broke, "Man eater, keep away." She was a good work horse but even after working her for three years I still had to harness and bridle her over another horse.

Dad had one part Belgium mare who raised seven colts. They were all big horses; her first colt weighed 1920 pounds at two years of age. The mother and her seven offspring really made a good eight-horse outfit.

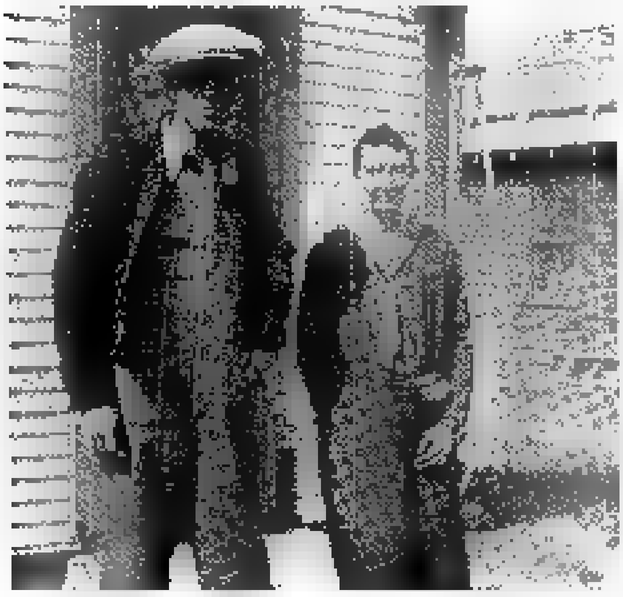
My brother Glen liked to keep coyotes and badgers as pets, so if we ever saw a badger away from his hole we would catch him, put a collar around his neck, and take him home to Glen. Glen kept one pair of coyotes for years, but they never would raise young ones.

Glen built a snowmobile . . . the whole thing, except for the motor at the back which turned a propeller. It worked quite well and he sold it to Fitzsimmons in Hanna.

In 1935 Mother left for the States. Dad did the cooking and milking while Glen and I seeded a thousand acres. We had only thirteen horses that spring, two six-horse outfits and one spare. We cut the crop with two eight-foot binders.

Winnie Lewis and I were married in 1935. During the first twelve years of our marriage, Dad lived with us, and Glen was there for three years, until he moved to the States.

Mr. Grove was a member of the Wheat Pool, a member of the U.F.A., and served on the Garden Plain school board. He suffered a heart attack while driving his truck near the Garden Plain school, and passed away at the age of seventy-six years. He is buried in Netherby cemetery.



Fred and Nora Blaxhall.

FRED BLAXHALL, By Frances Unsworth — Fred Blaxhall was a bachelor who lived one-half mile east of Garden Plain school. He farmed during the summer and worked hoisting coal at the Unsworth mine during the winter. He was a very particular man. He built a nice Aladdin house on his farm, planted a shelter belt and always had a very tidy yard. He later married a widow, Mrs. Nora King.

During World War II he sold his farm and he and his wife returned to England. During the Atlantic crossing, their ship was chased by a submarine.

Mr. Blaxhall passed away suddenly in 1955, and Mrs. Blaxhall went to a rest home where she spent her remaining years.

Mr. Blaxhall was famous in the community for entertaining at concerts, playing his flute and singing comic songs.

Hazel, Stewart and Roy Bartman, 1919.

ROY BARTMAN, By Harry and Love Bartman — Roy was the youngest of the four Bartman brothers who came to this area in the pioneering days. Like his brothers, he was born in Tobermoray, Ontario. In 1912, when Roy was nineteen, he homesteaded on 33-32-10, some twenty odd miles north-east of present-day Stanmore. His post office was Fenner.

Roy put up a small shack and barn on his place. Meanwhile, his brother Harry had been persuaded to settle in the village of Youngstown, but as soon as winter set in he was out of a job, as everyone put their cars on blocks for the winter. So Harry and Roy kept bachelor's hall on Roy's homestead during the winter of 1913-1914. Roy's shack was so small that he could put fuel on the fire without getting out of bed. The only outside chores were looking after a team of horses.

One day when they were making bread, they forgot about the dough they had set on the warming closet to rise. When they returned to the shack they found that the dough had risen all right, clear out of the pan, down the sides, and some of it was resting on the stove top. They made the best of a bad situation and Harry claims it was about the tastiest bread he had ever eaten.

In 1917 Roy left his homestead and bought Bob Livingstone's half section in the Garden Plain district. In March of 1918 he and Hazel Stewart were married at Lions Head, Ontario, and the newlyweds left for the farm at Garden Plain. Shortly after their arrival Hazel wrote to her sister at Lions Head, "We arrived at Chester Bartman's shack near Garden Plain after a fifteen mile trip by team and sleigh that took seven hours. The trails were mostly bare and we went through water three and four feet deep in places. I was a bit timorous about being left alone on the second day here when Roy had to round up his horses which had strayed away. Our trunks have not yet arrived, so I baked a deep apple pie in a frying pan and rolled out biscuits with a big bottle, all the while trying to contend with a coal stove. I was awe-stricken at the way people lived on these 'wild prairies', but the neighbors are fairly close and yet friendly. I might get to like it after a while!"

As soon as they were able, they moved onto their own farm.

Of the flu epidemic of 1918 Roy says, "In the fall of 1918, during the flu season, the province was prohibition. It was stated by doctors that whiskey was the best preventative of flu. My partner, Elmer Sleen, and myself undertook to make some home brew. He was a good mechanic, so had no trouble constructing a good still. Shortly after we had it finished and ready for use a knock came at the door. It was Dr. Nixon. He had come to enquire where certain people lived. He smelled out whiskey right away and knew by the looks of us that we had been into it. (He was a booze artist anyhow). Asked us how long we'd been drinking it, and how much. A little more wouldn't hurt so we all had a few rounds. Then we set out to find his patients. Elmer drove the doctor's car, a Model T Ford, and I knew the country best so I directed him. The doctor slept, in his heavy overcoat, and we went from place to place, rousing him each time to care for his fevered patients. In this manner he travelled many miles and brought relief to many anxious people. I don't think Dr. Nixon ever got the flu himself."

Roy and Elmer, partner and friend from homesteading days at Fenner, bought a threshing outfit from Ralph Gaugler. It was a 25-45 Titan engine and a 32 by 46 inch separator. It took a big crew to operate it. Later they sold this outfit to Lyman Grove and bought another from Roy's brothers, Vic and Harry, who by this time were operating a business in Hanna known as Bartman's Machine Shop. They hauled a cook car with them wherever they threshed. Some of the cooks were Hazel Bartman, a Mrs. Smith, Effie McLaren and Florence Faler.

Roy and Elmer were the life of any gathering. They liked their fun, probably a little better than most, and what deviltry one couldn't think of, the other would. Elmer bought a quarter section of Hudson Bay land across the road from Roy's buildings. Roy farmed this land for Elmer, and also the Bob Eye place which Harry eventually bought.

In the early twenties Roy rented the place to the Groves, and he and his wife and baby Stewart went to Northern Ontario to live. While they were there Helen was born in 1924. But by 1927 the Bartmans were back on the farm. Stewart rode his horse Teddy to school, where his first teacher was Miss Bloomer. When Helen was ready for school they both rode. In winter they drove a horse hitched to a glorified stoneboat. Helen Tucker boarded with the Bartmans and was a bit leery of the shaftless outfit.

During the dry thirties they tried desperately to grow a little garden by hauling water from the creek. One winter they flooded a rink on the coulee flats and had a wonderful time skating. For a time, Roy was abed with rheumatism, having gotten very cold and frostbitten while getting a load of coal.

In 1934, Pete Jensen built an addition to the house. In the fall of 1936 the Bartmans had an auction sale and went to a farm near Wiarton, Ontario. Roy had sent a carload of horses back east before the sale. Herb and Ellen Taylor lived on the place for a while, and Herb finished building the dam on the coulee, a P.F.R.A. project which Roy had started. However, with the large spring runoff the spillway washed out and the dam never did hold much water.

Roy and Hazel eventually retired to Wiarton where Hazel passed away in 1976 and Roy still resides. Stewart and his wife Lova still farm at Wiarton. Helen is married and lives close by.

MR. and MRS. BOB EYE, By Margaret Eye — I met my husband in Dakota when I was sixteen. We were married there, and later moved to Spokane, Washington, where my husband, Robert, read in a paper that Mr. McRae wanted a hired man. He answered the ad and was hired. We travelled to Canada with our three oldest children, worked for Mr. McRae and later bought 160 acres from Albert Hardman. There was a two-roomed house with a cellar on the property, and later we built on two bedrooms. There was also a barn and a cowshed.

We lived on our place for eleven years, and our two youngest daughters were born while we were there. We worked the land with six head of horses, most of which were bought from Roy Bartman, our closest neighbor.

The four oldest girls went to school at Garden Plain. They rode horses to school, but sometimes in the winter they went by sled.

My husband and I were among the first in that area to plant a shelterbelt, and I think Rob was the first to introduce strawberries to that country. We always raised a big garden and had cows, calves, pigs, and chickens to care for.

To help make ends meet, Rob also worked for Mr. Unsworth in his coal mine. I remember one time it was so foggy when he came out of the mine that he had to turn his horse loose to search for the house.

When Rob was working away from home, I did most of the chores such as

milking and caring for the stock. Of course the girls helped too. During blizzards I tied a rope to the house and held on to it until I found the barn, then tied the other end to the barn so I could find my way back to the house and the kids. During one bad storm, one of our cows had frozen tits. I had to tie her to the back of the stall so she couldn't kick. She was fresh and had to be milked.

I think the hardest part was watering the stock. We had to pull the water up from the well by a pulley. It was hard for me as sometimes a women can't handle such chores as well as a man. It was hardest when the wind blew and I didn't feel very well. Still, we did get the job done and when Rob was away. I also knitted my husband's socks and made the girls' clothes. The girls weren't dressed fancy, but the best I could. Being well dressed wasn't so important in those days. We were all too busy to notice, but at least they were all clean.

Rob planted most of the land to wheat, and some to oats for feed. I remember only one bumper crop in all of our eleven years, and then the price was poor. Frost and drought ruined most of our crops, still, we had good times too.

Rob helped to build the hall at Garden Plain. All the people came to dance and brought their children along. We enjoyed our neighbors' company. One evening Chester Bartman and his wife came to call. When they went to leave, Mrs. Bartman and my eldest daughter, Marion, decided to have some fun. They traded coats and Marion started off for home with Chester. I don't know how far they went before Chester discovered it was Marion, but they both came back laughing.

We sold out and went to the States in 1928 because of Marion's ill health. They called it leakage of the heart, brought on by St. Vitus dance, a disease of the day. Years later it was determined to be the result of a lack of citrus fruits or vitamin 'C'. We had been able to get dried fruit, but only at Christmas time were oranges and tangerines available. Marion died in 1965. She was to have had open heart surgery at Iowa City, but suffered a stroke at the hospital before the surgery could be completed. She never recovered enough to have the operation.

I will be eighty-four years old in June of 1977. I now live with my daughters. I am now with Maxine and feel pretty good for my years. This letter has been written with the help of my daughter.

Your old neighbor and friend, Margaret Eye.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT EYE, By Neva Eye Hawkins — My parents were married in South Dakota in 1909. They later lived in Minnesota, Idaho, and Washington, and in 1917 moved to Calgary, where I was born. They had three older daughters, Marion, Gladys and Mildred.

In the spring of 1918 they moved to the Garden Plain area. They travelled to Castor by train and were met by Hugh McRae with horse and buggy. Dad worked for Mr. McRae. When the farm work was finished for that year, they lived in a shack and worked in the Bradshaw coal mine. Next he bought land from a man I have always called Grandpa Hardman. I think his name was Albert. Dad farmed until leaving the district in 1928; in the winters mother did the chores and he worked in the Bradshaw and Unsworth mines.

We went through drought, grasshoppers, army worms, hail and blizzards, but in 1923 we had what they called a bumper crop. I wasn't allowed in the wheat field for fear I'd get lost, as the grain was way above my head.

The big event of 1925 was that I had a new baby sister, Lula Maxine. She was named after our neighbor, Mrs. Grove.

In 1926 in a very bad blizzard we lost a young stallion to the storm; he had gotten within a few feet of shelter. My dad had gone to Iowa to his dad's funeral, and we didn't get the horses into the barn before the storm struck. Mother worked shovelling snow and tending stock until she could do no more, then she sent Gladys to Fred Blaxhall for help. She walked on the crust of the snow, but Fred, being heavier, fell through the crust about every third step, and was very tired by the time they got to the house.

In December of 1927, Dad and Roy Bartman had been butchering pigs all day, when late in the afternoon my older sister Marion had an attack of appendicitis. Dad and Roy hitched the team to the bobsled and started for Hanna about the same time as a winter storm struck. Marion got her appendix out the next morning and was doing fine. That Saturday Dad took mother to the train at Scapa so she could go to visit Marion; when he got home I was having an attack of appendicitis. As another storm was in the air he brought grain and oat bundles for the horses' feed into the house to warm, at daylight he packed me into the bobsleigh with hot grain at my feet and warm oat bundles all around me. We broke trail all but the last two miles into Hanna. Dr. Argue put me right on the operating table and my appendix broke as he laid them on the tray. I came home on December 23, and on Christmas Day, to the horror of my parents and the Bartmans, I was out with Stewart to try out his new toboggan. I didn't get the skis I was planning on as no one thought I'd be able to rough and tumble that year after my operation, but they were wrong. Frances Unsworth gave me a Campfire Book as a get-well gift.

I think I was about five years old when we got Darky, to me he was the most wonderful horse that ever lived. Soon everyone got tired of putting me on his back, so I'd put grain on the ground and straddle his head. When he raised his head I'd be on his back and then all I had to do was turn around and I was ready to go. When he got tired of me he would buck me off, but if I pretended I was hurt, he wouldn't leave me, just stay out of my reach. The sad day came when my dad gave Darky to Peter Ruppert to ride to school. By that time I was eight years old and could ride any horse we had, but none ever took Darky's place, so I took out my hate and frustration on Peter, I'd pick a fight with him at school every chance I got, not because I really had anything against Peter, but because he had my Darky.

Roy Bartmans moved east, then came back again to be our neighbors. Stewart was eight and I was nine. He wasn't supposed to run his horse till he was nine, but I had been running horses as far back as I could remember, so when we got out of sight of the buildings we let them run. The horses told on us, though. Mother and Mrs. Bartman got on the horses we had been riding to go to Wickson's store; when they got out of sight of our house they took off!

My memories of the area are those of a ten-year-old. I remember dances, and sleeping on the table in the back room, covered over with coats, while the older people danced till morning. I remember when Scapa got on the map. When the new store at Scapa was opened, my dad was the first customer. He bought fifteen cents' worth of tobacco.

My dad died in Oregon in 1962, my sister Marion in Iowa in 1965. My mother who is 83 lives with me at present, and also spends some time with my sister Gladys in Spokane. Mildred is in Spokane, and Lula Maxine in Dexter, Oregon. Maxine doesn't remember living in Canada, but when Gladys and I get together we relive those times.

A LETTER TO CANADIAN FRIENDS, from Maxine Eye Nielson — I was born Lula Maxine Eye on May 6, 1925, the youngest daughter of Robert and Margaret Eye. My name was a mistake as I was to have been named Janice Maxine, but when Lula Grove visited Mother in hospital, she said, "Are you going to give her my name?" meaning the one she and Mother both liked, Janice, but

Mother thought she meant her own given name, Lula. Perhaps I was a mistake too, as I was seven years younger than my sister Neva, who had been the baby of the family.

Our folks gave us [illegible] that it was in their power to give. Times were tough during my growing-up years but I had twenty-five cents to go skating every Thursday night while I was in high school, and now I wonder where Dad managed to get it. My sisters spoiled me too. Marion made me a white lace dress with a yellow underskirt. Gladys taught me to make my first apple pie. Mildred bought me my first horn so that I could play in the band. Neva, bless her, kept me in line.

We came to the States when I was three years old so I don't remember much . . . my sisters coming up the lane on horseback from school, playing in the barn, the new coat my folks bought for me. During World War II I needed my birth certificate, and discovered that both Neva and I have dual citizenship, because we were born in Canada of American parents during a certain time.

I never returned to Canada until 1970, when Mother and Mildred and I went to visit the people I'd heard talked about all my life. We stayed at Winnie and Erbin Grove's; they insisted, and wouldn't hear of us going to Hanna for a room. They took us on a grand tour of the surrounding territory and back to see what was left of our old home.

I met Frances Unsworth next. She invited us to dinner. What a meal! It was like Thanksgiving! We were also introduced to her son, so much like his mother with his warm and friendly greeting. One inherits traits like that.

We also met Mr. and Mrs. Johnson that day. When they heard that Mrs. Eye was in the neighborhood they came just as they were, and came running. Another lovely couple to remember. I'd heard that we had given them our dog when we left for the States. We also spent a very nice evening with Stewart Mc Rae. He and his sister had been schoolmates of my older sisters.

I'll never forget the return to the place of my birth, and the hospitality shown us. I hope some day to return again with my husband. If it's meant to be, I will be coming again.

ROBERT LIVINGSTONE, By Fred Johnston — Mr. and Mrs. Bob Livingstone and their adopted daughter Christine emigrated from Scotland to homestead the north half of 27-33-14 in the early part of 1910. They erected their buildings on the west quarter, but after living there for some time they moved to the east quarter, overlooking the coulee. The creek at the bottom of the coulee emptied into Sullivan Lake some four miles away, and carried the spring runoff from the large watershed to the east.

Before Garden Plain school was built, church services were held in their home. Bob taught the Sunday school classes and John Sims delivered the sermons. Christine was among the first pupils of Garden Plain school.

They sold their land to Roy Bartman in 1917, and bought land south of Hanna. In 1920 they sold that place to W.E. Fitzsimmons, the Hanna auctioneer, and went to California, where they had a vineyard.

JAMES CROMBIE — Jim Crombie was an early settler who came in 1909 to homestead. He was a bachelor and a brother of Mrs. Breisford. In 1914, while digging a well on his homestead northwest 33-33-14, he lost his life when gas seeped into the hole. Bill Weiche was helping him at the time. Jim is interred in the Netherby cemetery.

Richard and Mildred, Charlotte and Marlene Zeamer.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ZEAMER, By Mildred Hanson Zeamer — Richard and I were married in 1937 at the Lutheran parsonage in Craigmyle and went to live at Harrogate, B.C. Our first child, Charlotte was born while we were there.

In 1939 we moved to the Scapa district, and lived on a farm five and a half miles east of Scapa. In 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. Both girls attended Garden Plain school. Mrs. Agnes Temple and Gerda Hoffman Litke were their teachers.

We moved to Hanna in 1948 and have lived here ever since. Charlotte Dembicki has two girls, Myrna and Susan. Marlene Little has a boy Brett and a girl Michele.

RICHARD and MILDRED ZEAMER — Richard and I and our daughter Charlotte moved onto the Roy Bartman place in the spring of 1939. Our folks gave us cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks and turkeys, and we used their machinery for the first year.

For four years Richard drove mail route No. 1 from Scapa, going south to H. Viste's, coming up to Gaugler's corner, west and north past Carl Welch's; then west past Hanson's and north to Lyxzen's corner, east past Burt's, Lohrmann's, and Siemp's, and south into Scapa. It was a thirty-five mile route. In winter he drove a team on a cutter, and stopped at Chris Viste's to feed his horses and have his own lunch. In summer he drove a truck.

In October, 1941 our second daughter, Marlene, was born. In the fall of 1942 our crops were snowed under and we had to take them off in the spring of 1943. That fall Charlotte started school at Garden Plain; Mrs. Agnes Temple was the teacher. When the children had their Christmas concerts, I always played the piano to accompany their singing, and for their drills. We also used to enjoy the picnics with the homemade ice cream and sandwiches and cake. Parents who could play softball took part, and entered the races too.

Once when Richard and Uncle Bill and I were coming home from Hanna we were caught in a blizzard and had to spend the night in an empty house belonging to Vic Bartman. We were lucky as there was a heater there and we were able to keep warm. In the morning Richard walked to Riddle's and got help. That was in February, 1947. We had to leave our car there and it was April before we got it home.

Once when Charlotte was little she went out with her dad in the winter, and put her tongue on a big steel wheel that was in the yard. Of course it got stuck and Richard had to loosen it. Her tongue was bleeding so badly that I phoned Dr. Argue and he told me to put strong tea on it. Richard had to drive the team a mile to Uncle Bill's to get some tea, but by eleven o'clock that night the tongue had healed enough that Charlotte was able to drink hot chocolate.

Richard worked in the U.G.G. elevator for two years, and in 1947 started working for the Special Areas. We moved to Hanna in December, 1948, and we still live there, as do our daughters. Charlotte married Eddie Dembicki and has two daughters. Marlene married Sergeant Vance Little of the R.C.M.P. and has a son and a daughter.

Mrs. Agnes Temple, who taught both our girls, was one of the first teachers that my brother, Bud Hanson, and I had.

The Cook Family: Fred, Andy, Chester, Frank, Seiri, Evelyn, Charlotte, Mrs. Seiri Cook, Bill Cook, Sharon and Annie Cook.

THE BILL COOK STORY, By Mildred Zeamer — Mr. and Mrs. W.F. (Bill) Cook and their children, Fred, Charlotte, Bill and Frank, moved to the Brown farm which they had bought, in the spring of 1939. While they lived there six more children were added to the family, Evelyn in 1939, Chester in 1941, Seiri in 1944, Annie in 1945, Andy in 1947, and Sharon in 1949.

My aunt always grew a big garden and had new potatoes earlier than anyone else in the spring. She had a lot of patience; she peeled the little potatoes because her husband didn't like them boiled with the skins on. Her cakes were made with what little she had, but they were tasty, and she made the best stew around.

My cousins, Bill and Frank, used to walk a mile to our place for water, and carry it home in syrup pails.

In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Frank and Evelyn, were caught in a blizzard on their way home from Hanna. Bill left his wife and the two children in the car and started walking home. He got lost walking across our land, and all that saved him was that their dog kept barking and guided him home. He was badly frozen, and though he did not have to have any parts amputated, he was in hospital a long time.

The oldest girl, Charlotte, was at home with the rest of the family. Next morning she phoned my husband in Scapa and asked him to go to the car or to Greenway's and get her mother and the two children. When Richard opened the car door, he got quite a shock to see them still inside it, but they were quite well, except that the children's toes were frost bitten.

In February of 1950 Annie was rushed to the Hanna hospital, with a ruptured appendix. For several days the doctor feared that she would not live, but after two or three months in hospital she recovered.

The Cooks sold the farm and moved to Hanna in 1962. Aunt Seiri died on her wedding anniversary in 1967. Uncle Bill is in a private home in Edmonton.

Fred lives at Drumheller. Charlotte, Mrs. Mervin Clarkson, and Evelyn, Mrs. Ken White, live in Calgary. Bill lives south of Langdon Corner; Seiri, Mrs. Lawrence Woodbury, is at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Frank, Chester, Andy, Annie (Mrs. Allen Watt), and Sharon, Mrs. Doug McBride, [illegible] live at Edmonton.

JAMES WEIR, By Frances Unsworth — Jim Weir, a bachelor and brother of Mrs. Bob Livingstone, emigrated from Scotland. He came to the Garden Plain area in 1913 to homestead the north-west of 13-33-14. He lived in a sod shack, the remains of which can still be seen today. He was a blacksmith by trade and used to

ply his trade at the Diamond mine located on Donald Cattanach's homestead. He joined the army during World War I and was posted overseas.

Jim did work for his neighbors, and took part in many parties and concerts, singing many Scottish songs. One of his favorite songs was 'Just a wee Doch and Doris'.

THE HUGH McRAE FAMILY, By Stuart McRae — My father, Hugh McRae, was born in Scotland and came to Canada as a young man in 1905. He worked as a dining-car waiter on the C.P.R. line between Calgary and Edmonton, and though there was the promise of advancement, and an adequate pension upon retirement, my father was not satisfied.

Land in abundance was there for the taking, and people by the thousands rushed to possess it. Urged by the hope of carving a life of prosperity and independence from the wilderness, or simply by the desire for adventure, people from all over the world looked to the prairies. Excitement, enthusiasm and rags-to-riches stories filled the air. There was an awareness of the hardships involved, but it was felt to be a small price to pay for the prize.

So my father, yielding to the temptation of the land, went to Stettler in 1908 and filed on the west half of 20-33-14 as his homestead and pre-emption. He returned to Calgary and worked another year for the C.P.R., meanwhile preparing for his conquest of the wilderness. Acquiring a wagon, a team of horses and a team of mules, and other necessities, he was ready early in 1909 to start his great adventure.

Many of the early prairie settlers were from farm backgrounds. They knew about livestock, land cultivation, planting and harvesting, so that though they found themselves in an environment much different than the one they had left, they were able nonetheless to put their knowledge to good use.

There were also those who knew nothing about farming; those who were lumped together as 'green Englishmen', though in fact they might have been of almost any nationality. They were the butt of endless jokes about harnessing the horses with the collars upside down, fetching the left-handed monkey wrench or greasing the wheels on the harrows. My father was one of these, green as the prairie grass in June.

He told the story of how, on his last Sunday in Calgary, he took several of his friends for a ride to show off his team and wagon. All went well until they entered a dead-end street and tried to turn around. Then he discovered that no matter how he manoevered the team, it couldn't be done. So they sat waiting, my father dying of embarrassment, until some kind pedestrian came to their rescue. He turned the outfit by cramping and backing the wagon and set them on their way.

In the spring of 1909 my father, driving the horses and leading the mules, headed east toward his new home. As he rattled over the raw turtleback of the Morrin-Munsen country he wondered why anyone would settle this rough area when a few miles beyond so much smooth and easily worked land could be theirs for the asking. Little did he know that the land he questioned was to become the breadbasket of Alberta.

Arriving eventually at the homestead, he set about doing all the necessary things to get established, building his first shack, digging for water, fencing, putting up hay for winter feed and breaking the land.

In between times he got to know his neighbors. There was Lizzie Hillis, an Irish woman who in defiance of convention had set about realizing her dream without benefit of male help. She must have been a remarkable person, working, dealing and fighting with men at a time when women, like children, were to be seen and not heard. There were the Lohrmanns, the Leichts and the Bartchs all of whom were connected in some way with that most necessary and romantic machine of early rural life, the great steam threshing outfit. Each fall it rumbled majestically from farm to farm, trailing in its wake swarms of bundle teams, spike pitchers, field pitchers, cook cars and bunk houses.

Jim Walker was a small, quick-tempered Irish American, highly imaginative and full of quite impractical ideas, but an exciting and interesting person. We children weren't raised on fairy tales; instead we listened to endless hilarious stories having to do with Jim Walker. It seems that he and his oxen helped my father break some land, but during the heat of the day insect pests drove the oxen, plough and all, into a slough.

"Mac", said Jim, "We will tie lanterns to the yokes and work at night."

This they did but the lanterns attracted the insects and again the oxen high-tailed it for the water. After struggling for an hour in darkness and up to their hips in water, they finally gave up.

"To hell with it," said Jim. "Let them be."

This they did and sure enough next morning they found the oxen lying by the edge of the slough quietly chewing their cuds.

Many years later we met Jim Walker's eldest son, a man now of sixty, but who had been seventeen when he knew my father. It was his turn now to tell long funny stories about my father, which he did with great enthusiasm. My father, as seen through his eyes, was someone I hardly knew.

There was Mr. Ruppert, a man of such strength that he could carry a hundred pounds of beans on his back from Stettler, and of such skill with an axe that he could cut a perfect steak from a frozen beef with one swipe. And there were many more, some whose only concern was proving up on their homestead and selling out, but most with a deep faith that they could wrest a good life from the land.

By 1912 my father had bought the west half of 22-33-14, had moved the shack from the west half of 20, and prepared to make this new location his centre of operations. Also in 1912 he went to Edmonton, married my mother, and brought her to the farm. They spent their first night on the prairies at Seaba's stopping house, ten miles south of Castor.

My mother, who had lived a comparatively sheltered life, knew little about the hardships of prairie settlement, but she was soon to learn. A Mrs. Christ had an accident while discing, and badly injured her foot. Somehow she managed to attract my parents' attention, and they took her to Castor where her foot was amputated. Many years later a car drove into the yard and a large jolly woman bounded from it. It was Mrs. Christ. I was surprised to see how little she seemed to have been affected by her past tragedy, yet I should not have been, because I've long since learned that many people endured great suffering in those early days and still were able to live in peace and happiness to a ripe old age. Perhaps hardship was the fire that tempered them.

My sister Bella was born in 1914 and I in 1915. My father was prospering and the trappings of civilization began to make life easier. The price of produce was reasonably good, and there had been no major crop failures. It wasn't until the ruinous frost of 1918 that my father for sure and many others probably, began to suspect that the land they had chosen might not flow forever with milk and honey.

It was during the First World War years that many farmers began to borrow money. Then, as now, it was needed for expansion and to improve living conditions. Banks and mortgage companies were willing lenders.

Snow came early in 1919. Many crops were left unthreshed and people were short of feed. As winter progressed and the cold intensified, feed prices went out

of sight. Cattle prices had been high in the fall and it was expected that they would be even higher in the spring. But such was not to be. When after one of the worst winters on record, spring finally came, many cattle were dead of starvation, prices were half of what they had been the previous fall, and cattlemen were deeper in debt. The effects of the disaster were felt right across the country and many were forced into bankruptcy.

My brother Roy was born in September of 1921. I remember it well. My mother's time having come, as they used to say, we set off in the early evening for the hospital in Hanna, some twenty miles away. My father and mother were in the seat of the buggy while Bell and I sat in the little box behind. It was a warm night; there was no moon but the stars were bright. We knew that something unusual was about to happen but we children were excited by it, not frightened. As the buggy moved steadily along we gazed at the stars and we watched the roadside shrubs loom large as we approached them, then recede into mysterious darkness as we left them behind. We saw fireflies too that night and the tiny glowing lights filled us with wonder. Time passed happily for us, but not for my mother. While still some four miles from Hanna, she could go no farther. We drove to a large white farm house, (I think Paulsen was the owner) and there Roy was born.

As I think back to those long-gone days, two great differences from life today come forcibly to mind. The first has to do with night-time darkness. When the light of the sun was gone we depended on the coal oil lamp and lantern. Indoors we lived by the thin light of a table lamp, hardly bright enough to carry to the furthermost wall. Outdoors it was the lantern. We hung it from a peg in the barn and if we had to set it down we were careful not to let it topple on dry straw. We fumbled with harness straps and buckles in darkness. But most of all we travelled in darkness. Mile after mile and hour after hour we were in darkness.

Today we have light, houselights of all sorts, barn lights, yard lights, street lights, car lights, so that we are seldom in darkness. Yet I sometimes think that in eradicating darkness so completely from our lives we have removed ourselves still further from nature, and that this separation from the natural world may produce more unhappiness than joy.

The second difference from life today has to do with horses. Which of us who lived with them can forget them?

They were the means by which we coaxed our living from the soil; they were our tractors, trucks and cars. They kindled our deepest affection, frustration and pride, fear and hopes. And they shared our fortunes. They were fat and sleek as we prospered, suffered too as we suffered. No two horses were alike. Each expressed his personality according to his nature. Some were fast, the lead team on the plough or the drivers on the road. Some were slow, slow as molasses running up hill in January. Some could move huge loads, churning the ground with their feet, their bellies close to the ground, pulling their hearts out. Others wouldn't pull the hat off your head. Some were wind broke, spavined, foundered or sway back, these we pitied. Others, young and strong, thundered over the prairies, manes and tails flying, heads high, snorting their defiance to the world. These were beautiful.

We listened to others' stories of horses, and told our own. We heard of settlers lost in a blizzard giving head to their horses and being taken home. We heard and told of runaways, of eight- and ten-horse teams driven to frenzy in a hail storm, racing uncontrolled for shelter, or of four on a binder suddenly bolting, the bull wheel leaving the ground and bundles thrown twenty feet until the crown and pinion stripped. Strange how they would all take off at once as though each had received a simultaneous shock.

Once when my father was returning from Castor with a half a box of willow posts and ■ supply of groceries, including several dozen eggs, a line slipped from his hand and the horses ran. Eventually they slowed down enough that he was able to retrieve the line and gain control. His anger was aroused; he decided that if they wanted to run he'd let them, so he grabbed ■ post and proceeded to give them 'what-for'. He no sooner had them whipped to full speed than he again lost a line. Off they went once more, careening wildly over the prairie. When finally the commotion ceased he discovered that the posts had worked their way over the groceries and the eggs were pounded into the finest omelet you could hope to see.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother, Bell and I waiting impatiently for father's return from hauling wheat to Hanna. My mother, preparing his supper, stops from time to time to listen. At last we hear it, the jingle of heel chains, the muted sound of harness leather, the soft flop of sleigh runners and finally the loud, 'Whoa', spoken as much for our benefit as for the horses. Moments later he comes through the door, huge in his great fur coat, carrying ■ box of groceries wrapped ■ blankets and exuding the pure cold smell of a winter night. Through the open door we catch a glimpse of the horses, grey with frost; one, my father's favorite, whinneying for attention. Bell and I dance with excitement as we watch him draw a small paper bag of candy from his pocket. He gives it to us, then leaves to look after the horses. Bell and I, sucking our candy, go happily to bed.

Another memory is of Bell and I being routed from our beds early on ■ summer morning to bring the horses from the pasture. Disgruntled and angry, wiping sleep from our eyes, we set off. Our spirits soon improve as the rising sun warms us and we hear the bright songs of meadowlarks and blackbirds. We make our way to the highest hill of the pasture and look back, marvelling at the paths extending to the farmstead half a mile away, that our feet had made as they brushed the heavy dew from the grass. We gather the horses and return home convinced that the world ■ a wonderful place after all.

The days of collars and nose nets, of sweatpads and sore shoulders are long since gone. But when I go to the barn, and gaze at a set of harness still hanging on the wall, I feel it in my arms as I throw it across a horse's back, and I feel the pressure on my shoulder as I brace against the collar to tighten the hame strap.

Time passed on the prairies. The completion of the C.N.R. line from Hanna to Warden marked ■ decided improvement in our way of life. We still had to travel to Hanna for many necessities, but we were only six miles from the new town of Scapa. Cars had made their appearance some ten years before but they were erratic, temperamental creatures, not widely used or trusted. The Model Ts, McLaughlin-Buicks, Chevs, Stars, Essex and Hudsons of the day were mostly associated with flat tires, frozen radiators, faulty motors, and horses pulling them out of mudholes. However, as roads and automotive technology improved, cars commenced their rapid rise to dominance.

By and large the twenties were good years. There were hail storms, but insurance at reasonable rates was available, and heavy crops before the hail destroyed them proved at least that the country could grow grain. But the good times were not to last. The stock market crashed in 1929 and prices began to fall. The dry year of 1933 was the first of a series that was to drive thousands off the land and dash the hopes of everyone. It was impossible now to find money to repay debts incurred in more prosperous times. Foreclosures and bankruptcies were the order of the day. From 1933 to 1937 there were years of drought, dust, boxes on binders, Bennet buggies, relief food and feed and carloads of vegetables, fruit and fish shipped into Scapa. In an effort to curb unemployment,

the government paid farmers five dollars a month to hire a man and it paid the man five dollars a month to work for the farmer. Social Credit was born in those years and leaped to power on the promise of ending poverty in the midst of plenty, and of $25.00 per month.

Still life went on. People amused themselves with picnics, card parties, visiting and dances; we didn't have much money but we didn't need much to get by. Ten cents for ten cigarettes, twenty-five cents to go to a dance, and the ladies brought lunch.

During the thirties my father started selling life insurance, and also established connections in Vancouver where he was to spend the last years of his life. In 1935 he advertised the farm for sale at a ridiculously low price. He was swamped by so many offers to buy that he decided that if all those poeple wanted it [illegible] had to be worth something, so he kept it.

In 1931 or 1932 a high school had been established at the home of Bill Harvey, four miles north of where we lived. I attended that school in 1933. Thinking back I am impressed by the amount we learned in the living room of a farmhouse, a far cry from the elaborate educational facilities we have today. A Mr. Reid was in charge. Years before his arm had been amputated after having been mangled by an enraged stallion, or so rumor had it. He was an excellent teacher, knowledgeable, yet compassionate and understanding. Which is to say, I suppose, that education depends more on the quality of the relationship between the pupils and the teacher than on the physical setting in which it takes place.

The outbreak of war in 1939 marked the end of the old days and the beginning of the new. The great drought ended in 1938 and the war created a demand for farm products. Unemployment became a thing of the past as people rushed to the armed services or to war-stimulated industries. Those farmers who had weathered the depression absorbed the land forsaken by their former neighbors and thus accelerated the trend toward larger farms. Mechanization swept the country; in a few short years the horse was almost extinct. The passing of the horse signalled the passing of a way of life which would never return. It could live only in the memories of those who had experienced it.

My father died in Vancouver in 1965, my mother in 1967, my sister Bella in 1975. Roy lives in Richmond, a suburb of Vancouver, while I live on a small farm near the village of Innisfree. The country around here, unlike the prairie, has many trees, but there is enough open space and rolling hills to remind me constantly of the land where I was born and raised.

OF WELLS AND WATER, By Pat Taylor McRae — A book could be written about wells in the early days, or about the lack of them. We can all recall tales of people who, discouraged and fed up with the hard unrewarding life, jumped into wells and ended their troubles. There were others who displeased someone, or who perhaps had money someone wanted, and they were disposed of and dumped down abandoned wells.

When Stuart and I were first married in 1946, we lived almost indentically to the way his parents lived. We lived in the same shack that Hugh McRae threw up back in 1910. We hauled water out of a well that we dug ourselves, Stuart down at the bottom and me at the top pulling the mud and slush up, until we hit a good stream of water. Sometimes if I was a bit careless, mud would fall back down the well and over poor Stuart. Many were the bad words passed back and forth before we finished, and at times I was tempted to leave another unsolved mystery down at the bottom of the well.

The well was dug at the bottom of our coulee and the shack was at the top.

The first year we were going to make our fortune with five hundred chickens. As they got older, they required more and more water. And the house required water. It required a lot of leg work to carry the pails up the hill.

At that time we had a big old horse named Dock that we bought from Milton Stuart. Every day I would harness him and hook him to the stoneboat and down the hill we would go to the well. Hand over hand I would pull the water up and dump it in the barrel. When it was full, I'd put a tub over it and we'd go back up the hill. Days when the nose flies were bad, shaking his head up and down, he'd start up with a jerk. The barrel would teeter and if I wasn't quick enough, over it would go, barrel and water rolling down the hill and Dock running up. Some bad days I'd have to make two or three tries to get a full barrel of water up the hill. By then I'd be screaming at Dock and crying and heaping curses on farm life, horses, and everything in general.

In 1949 we built, with Fred Harvey's help, a small house at the east end of the trees. It seemed like a castle after the old shack; there was even a propane stove! We dug another well just twenty feet from the house. That was heaven. I still pulled the water from the well hand over hand, but I had no hill to climb. In the winter, the spilt water would freeze and build up until the well casing was only about two feet above it, and it was a treacherous job to keep one's footing and not fall in.

I remember one bad winter morning I got up and went out to get four pails of water, two for the boiler for washing and two for drinking and cooking. I left the top of the well up between trips. At that time we had a cat and a dog who had a continuous running battle; when the dog chased her, the cat would leap to safety on top of the well cover. On this particular morning the cat took a running leap to what she thought was safety and disappeared from sight. I heard a splash, tore into the house and that was the fastest Stuart ever got out of bed. He slipped on pants and shoes and went down the well on the steps nailed to the inside of the cribbing. He rescued the cat from a watery grave, but she refused to drink any more water during her stay at our place.

Wells were our coolers in the early days. We would hang a can of cream on a rope down the well, butter and meat in another pail on another rope. Sometimes in hot weather it was almost an obstacle course, to try to find room to pull up a pail of water. Sometimes we had problems, like when the ropes on the cream can came unknotted and the can of cream fell in the well, and then we had to bail all the water out.

Wells were receptacles for many strange things. I remember when I was very young going to visit a girl friend. We were pulling up a pail of water for the house and in it was a very dead gopher, bloated to several times his normal size. After that I never drank water when I visited them, I could always see in my mind that bloated gopher with his four little legs sticking straight out. If the water in our own well ever began to get an odd taste or odor, we would clean it out, mud and all, and usually find a dead mouse.

Then there were the different flavors in the water. Some had so much soda in it that it made the tea as black as ink. It also forced most visitors to make innumerable trips to the little house out back. No two farms seemed to have water that tasted the same. One got used to one's own well water even if it was loaded with iron and soda and alkali and could hardly drink any other kind.

Water was a very big item in locating homestead buildings. Some people were lucky and found it without too much difficulty; others were not. Some people had a talent for witching wells; sometimes this worked and sometimes it didn't. One case I know of was the Unsworth farm, where over the past fifty years wells

have been witched and dug and drilled at great expense, but as far as I know, to this day they have never struck water.

Yes indeed, many are the changes that have taken place since those early years. I guess I'd haul water up a hill in a pail, I'd wash diapers for twins and dry them in the kitchen; I'd even dig another well if I had my youth and the enthusiasm I had then; but now, in my twilight years, I like my little luxuries.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ARTZENBACHER, By Clara Artzen — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Artzenbacher and their four children, Ferdie, Rose, Adelaide and Clara, came to Canada from Germany in 1927. They settled on a farm at Garden Plain, eighteen miles north of Hanna on the Castor highway.

There was a shortage of water on the farm, only enough for cooking purposes. Mrs. Artzenbacher would haul water for the stock and household with open barrels on a stoneboat. It was a two-mile trip, and often the barrels would be half empty when she arrived home. Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher dug seven wells on the farm to try to find a dependable source of water. The seventh well was a good one, but that year they left the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher.

Ferdinand Artzen and Family (Artzenbacher). Ferdinand was raised and attended school in Garden Plain.

The children went to Garden Plain school, three miles from the farm, and made their first Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. George's Catholic Church, Hanna.

Although most of the family shopping was done at Scapa, Mr. Artzenbacher hauled wheat to Castor to have it milled into flour. It was a two-day trip with a team and box wagon.

In 1928 their house burned to the ground. Mrs. Artzenbacher made several trips back into the house and managed to save some of their belongings.

In 1934 there was a drought, and the grasshoppers ate up the crop and grass. Mr. Artzenbacher and Ferdie took a mower and hayrack and horses and went to Rocky Mountain House where they cut a lot of slough hay. That fall the family moved to the Crimson Lake area where both Mr. and Mrs. Artzenbacher took up homesteads.

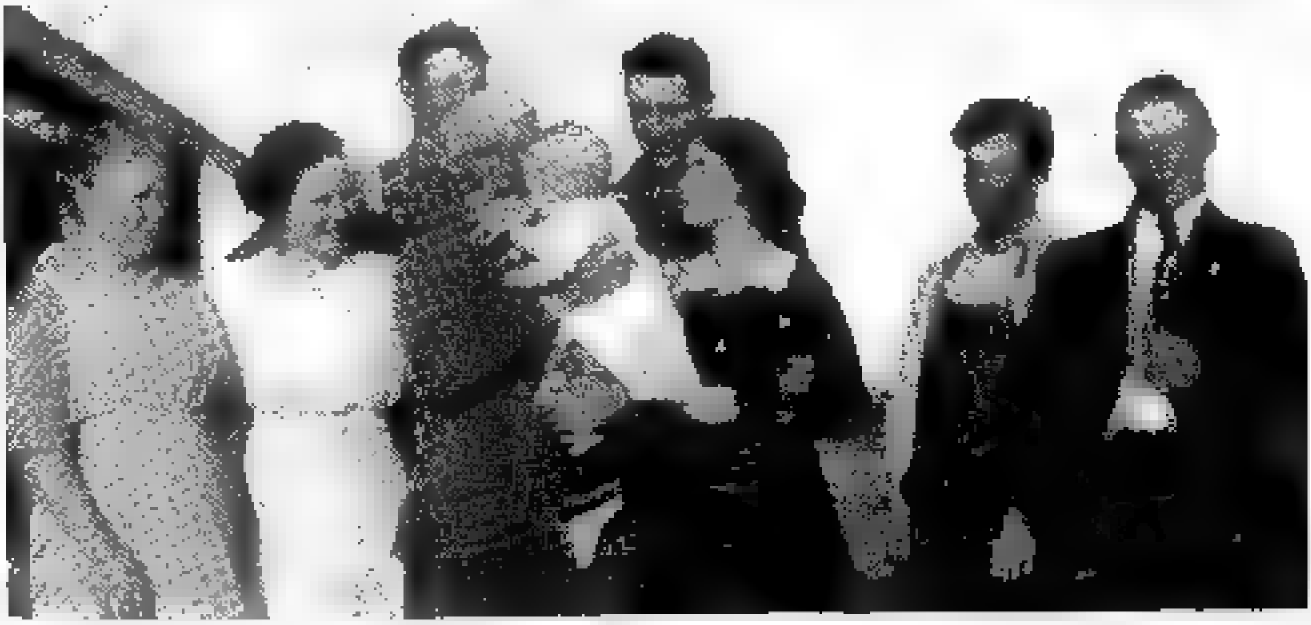
In 1945 they had their name legally changed to Artzen.

Mr. Artzen died in February, 1945.

THE CATTANACH FAMILY, By Margaret Cattanach Blocksom — John and Margaret Cattanach emigrated from Nairn, near Inverness, Scotland, to Canada in 1910, accompanied by six of their eight children. Their sons Donald and Aleck had come over about four years previously. Their four older daughters, Mag, Jessie, Kath and Mollie remained in Calgary where they worked as seamstresses for the Hudson's Bay Company. The younger children, Elizabeth and John, continued on to the Scapa district with their parents and a homestead was established.

Grandpa Cattanach farmed his homestead until 1926 when his wife Margaret died of a heart attack. He spent some of his remaining years with his son John and wife Maymie, and some with his married daughters, Mag and Mollie, in Vancouver, where he died in 1934.

Marguerite and David Cattanach. John and Mammie Cattanach. Peg and Ken Blocksom. Joyce and Ralph Quaschnick.



Mrs. John Cattanach Sr., Mrs. George Wright, George Wright, John Cattanach Sr. with granddaughter, Margaret Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce Morris, John Cattanach, Bob Unsworth.

My father, John Cattanach, bought a half section of land from Peter Gullseth in 1919, and began to establish his own home two miles east of Scapa. To supplement the farm income he worked with a team of horses on the building of the Scapa-Hemaruka railway. He also worked with the men who surveyed the Sullivan Lake line for the Pearce irrigation scheme.

My father met my mother, Maymie Hill, when she was working in the store

and cafe at Scapa. They were married in 1929 and had five children, Margaret (Peggy), Joyce and Jean, the twins, Sheila who passed away in 1938, and David.

The depression years were hard times for everyone, but my folks managed, and if any of the neighbors needed a hand to pull a balky pump, move a granary, or whatever, my dad was ready to help. If anyone happened by at mealtime there was always a welcome. When harvest rolled around, the threshing crews went from farm to farm and each farmer accompanied the thresher to do his best to help get the crops off before Old Man Winter hit. Many years the threshing was not completed until spring.

It was in the fall of 1942 that dad had his first ruptured ulcer, and he was to be plagued with recurring sessions of this until in 1945 he was sent to a specialist in Winnipeg for an operation to sever the vagus nerve to the stomach.

My mother was active in the Scapa Ladies' Aid and was a seamstress well known for her ability to 'make over'. As times became more affluent she sewed for many of the neighbors and their families with new material and patterns, a real treat for her.

We children all received the greater part of our education in the Scapa school, walking the two miles each way most of the time. Only occasionally were we lucky enough to have a ride with someone driving a team and wagon to Scapa, or back to a neighboring farm east of ours. The walking was good for us though, and we still had bundles of energy left when we got home to do our chores and play a while before supper.

I remember the time that dad was milking a rather unruly cow who kept switching him with her tail and then managed to get her foot far enough ahead to upset the bucket of milk. Dad had a strong Scottish temper and he jumped up and gave the cow a healthy kick. To his horror his foot appeared to break, with the toe of his boot sticking straight up. Well, he hobbled to the house to tell Mom he had broken his foot, and we all had a good laugh when he discovered that the worn sole of his boot had given way with the kick and had pointed skyward.

Dad worked with the P.F.R.A., starting under Fred Siemp in 1950, taking farmers' statements for the drought bonus. He worked each fall at this until 1973; during the last three years my mother accompanied him to drive the car. Dad was well known by most farmers from the Stettler, Castor, Consort line on the north to the Red Deer River near the Brooks area in the south. He made many lasting friendships on those travels.

John and Maymie retired from the farm in 1974, to reside in Dove's Trailer Court in Hanna. Dad passed away in March, 1977.

I married Ken Blocksom in 1951 and we have three children, Terry, Patti and Gay, and one grandson Kyle.

Joyce married Ralph Quaschnick in 1953; they have four children, Don, Keith, Marvin and Mary.

Jean married Dick Moskal in 1956 and they have five children, Randy, Larry, Sheila, Sandra and Carla.

David married Marguerite Connell in 1961. They have two children, Jim and Debbie, and live on the home place. Dave also drives a school bus.

THE BENZIE BROTHERS, By Frances Unsworth — Robert and George Benzie took up homesteads a few miles west of the Garden Plain store in 1908. Frank, their younger brother, came later. George was a blacksmith, and Frank a tailor by trade.

They drove oxen for a few years, and later changed to horses, and were noted for the lovely grey Percherons that they drove. They did breaking for their

neighbors, and freighted from Castor to Hanna, and George did blacksmithing to earn money to pay expenses while they were proving up on their homesteads. George and Frank also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

Robert used to amuse the Lepard children with Scottish stories and jokes when he baby-sat with them. Miss Benzie came and stayed with her brothers for a while. Later she became Mrs. George Hunter and moved to the Buchan district. The Delker brothers bought the Benzie place and are still farming it.

MEMORIES OF THE FARM, By Pearce Morris — I came from England in March, 1913, and worked for a time loading C.P.R. box cars for twenty-five cents an hour. In January, 1916, I joined the army and served overseas till the war ended.

Back in civilian life, I married the girl, Mary Cattanach, to whom I was engaged before I went overseas. We started our life together on the Hardman farm, which was close to Garden Plain school. I loved the life very much, especially when I was ploughing, for the smell of the new ground was like a tonic to me, but this area needed a lot of rain to ensure a good crop and often we just didn't get it.

I had my well drilled by a Mr. Ruppert. He had to go down 110 feet before striking water. I put in a two-inch pipe and with a one-and-a-half horse engine running steadily for eight hours, it didn't show signs of slackening a bit. In fact, we had the finest soft water in the district. The stock loved it, and although we had water in the creek in the pasture, the stock would always come to the tank for a drink.

My two daughters were both born during our stay in Alberta. The eldest, Anna Margaret, was born at home; Dr. Wade, who attended my wife, stayed with us all night to make sure that everything was all right before he left her in the care of her mother. My younger daughter, Greta Marie, was born in the Hanna hospital. Dr. Argue escorted her into the world in 1926.

Mrs. Cattanach, my wife's mother, died while on a visit to our farm. She just asked for a drink of water and collapsed and died before Dr. Wade could be called. It was quite a shock to us as she had never complained and always seemed to be in the best of health. After losing his wife, John Cattanach went to live with one of his daughters in Vancouver, and later died and was buried there.

I think one of the worst storms I ever encountered started when I was in Hanna one day. I met Dick Haessel who lived a little north-west of me; I wondered if we ought to stay in Hanna for the night but he thought we could make the twenty miles home, so we started out. The snow was hitting us like small pellets, the horses just had to feel their way and at times I wasn't even sure that we were on the trail. My wife's brother, John Cattanach, was staying with her and assured her that I wouldn't try to come home in that storm. They were very surprised to hear the jingle of harness as we drove into the yard. He unhitched the team for me and covered them with blankets; after I had my supper I went out to unharness them. It had been impossible to do it before as all the buckles were frozen. A few years later the steel came through Scapa and our long trips to town were a thing of the past.

In 1927 I had over one hundred acres of wheat, seventy-five of oats and fifteen of barley, and crop prospects were very good. On July 8, I drove into Hanna taking a little sheaf of wheat to show to Jack O'Dell, who owned a store there. About three o'clock I started back home because of a very angry-looking sky. It started to hail and I had to take shelter at Ralph Greenway's farm. The storm was a severe one and when it had abated and I was able to go home I discovered that my crop was completely gone, not a stalk standing any place. Fortunately, I had

insured the wheat for ten dollars an acre, so it was not a complete loss. I waited till the inspector came out to verify the damage, and then headed for the coast with my wife and two daughters, aged three years and ten months, respectively. I left my brother-in-law to sell my stock, and turned my horses out on the school section. My brother-in-law said that he would see that they didn't stray too far away, as I intended to come back in the spring to put in a crop. However, my plans changed and I never did return to farming.

My first job in Vancouver was selling Maytag washers. I tried several other occupations and finally joined the Prudential Insurance Company, with whom I stayed till I retired.

I have been blessed with good health and my life has been a happy one, saddened only by the loss of my wife on August 13, 1974.

THE GRAHAM STORY, By Bill Graham — My great-great grandparents came from County Antrim in Northern Ireland to New York; later many of my relatives came to Ontario and Quebec as United Empire Loyalists. My grandparents on both sides, and my parents were born near Kemptville, Ontario.

I came as a small boy with my parents to Alberta in 1910. I came in a carload of settlers' effects to Castor, which was the end of the railroad going east from Lacombe. My father's name was Ernest H. Graham, my mother Annie Graham.

W. J. Graham's Sod Shack, 1912. Four miles southwest of Garden Plain Store.

My father had a feed barn south of the railway tracks in Castor. In 1912 we moved south of Castor to homestead at Garden Plain. Our sod shack was about four miles from the Garden Plain store and post office operated by Mr. Kane.

We were located near Sullivan Lake, a large weedy lake. There would be thousands of wild geese on that lake every night; they would go out in large flocks to feed in the daytime. People used to come down to the lake from Castor in Model T Fords to shoot the geese, and would return home with the back seats piled full.

We all had to work hard and try to get along on very little money. We used both oxen and horses in the farming operations. We made our own amusements. Dances were held at different homes and all the small children went also. When the children got tired they were put down to sleep in rows on the floor of one of the rooms, and the noise did not disturb their sleep. The music was generally supplied by two local men on the accordion and violin.

I taught school for a short time at Williston. Then I came to Calgary and eventually obtained work in a grain office. I worked twenty years with the Alberta Pacific; then in 1931 went to the Alberta Wheat Pool, where I worked for thirty years.

RICHARD JOHNSTON — Richard was a tall gangly American who came in 1911 to homestead the southeast of 34-33-14. He lived in a dugout on the side of the creek which split his homestead. Dick had a big flock of sheep which was herded on lands not yet homesteaded north towards Sullivan Lake, and in Range 13 where there was a lot of open range. The spear grass got in the sheep's wool and caused no end of trouble for it left big sores in the sheep's hide. Richard was an excellent ball player and enjoyed playing the game on the diamond opposite Donald Cattanach's homestead. At the many socials and variety concerts held in the Hall Richard sang and recited poetry. He was an above-average actor.

MR. and MRS. A. E. ENGLISH, By Freda Viste — Mr. and Mrs. English came from Ireland to Boston. Mrs. English's sister, Elizabeth Hillis, came from Ireland to Alberta in 1911 to file on a homestead, and later that same year the Englishes filed on the east half of 17-33-14, directly south of Miss Hillis' land. They had one son, Stanwood, when they came.

A relative who was a carpenter came from Ireland to help them build a beautiful two-storey, seven-roomed house. One room, about the size of a pantry, was equipped with a wicket and used as a post office. The house with its fine furnishings was a great contrast to the others in the neighborhood at that time.

The Englishes operated the Greystone post office in their home from 1912 until they left. It was named after Mr. English's home town in Ireland. Mail was brought from the Garden Plain post office to Greystone on horseback, by Mr. English or Lizzie Hillis. When Greystone closed down, a rural route from Hanna served the area until Scapa was established.

The Englishes were hospitable people and many a time a neighbor would stop there on his way to or from Castor, and spend most of the night playing cards in their parlor. It was important that the room be called 'the parlor'. According to neighbors, Mr. English was a good farmer and had built up a fair-sized herd of cattle. He differed from most of the homesteaders, since he had money when he came. Perhaps that is why the blows of adversity hit him harder than those who had nothing to lose. He shipped a carload of cattle and didn't make enough on them to pay shipping and feeding costs. During the night, without a word to anyone, they loaded what would fit into a wagon and left. This was probably in 1922 or 1923, as birth certificates issued to Pete and Bill Ruppert in 1920 and 1921 list Greystone, Alberta, as their place of birth; and Erbin Grove recalls that Stanwood English attended Garden Plain school in the early twenties.

No one understood how they could go and leave their beautiful furniture, drapes, silver and chandeliers behind. The table was left with dishes on it, just as they got up from a meal. Their bookshelves, full of good books, became a sort of community library, with people borrowing them, reading them and returning them to exchange for others. The livestock that had been left broke out and scattered, some ending up in the pound at John Sim's. It was well on into the thirties when thefts and vandalism finally destroyed the once-prized possessions.

The Englishes went back to Boston without any attempt to sell their things. Taxes were always paid up on the land. Rupperts rented it from 1927 to 1933, then it lay idle until Dad, Ralph Gaugler, rented it in 1942. He bought it about twelve years later.

Either the Englishes had built a boarding house when they were in Boston the first time, and went back to it, or they bought one on their return. At any rate, when Mother and Dad visited them there in 1948, they still pictured the place as they had left it, and enquired about their big leather chair, their cream separator, sewing machine, silverware, harness and a trunk full of velvet materials. Of course everything was gone by then.

Stanwood was married and in the central United States by that time. Mr. and Mrs. English have both passed away since then.

At one time Greystone was the centre of a large district which had an entertainment hall, a football team which defeated Hanna at the Agricultural fair in 1916; even a Greystone news column in the Hanna Herald.

MISS ELIZABETH HILLIS, By Pete Ruppert — Miss Hillis homesteaded the NE 20-33-14 and pre-empted the NW 21-33-14 in 1914. She proved up and got her title in 1917. This was a big job for a single girl, but as I remember her she could keep up to any man and do any work he did, even hauling bundles on the threshing crew. One fall she hauled bundles on Ralph Gaugler's crew, and it was several days before some of them realized she was a woman.

Her batching was probably no worse than that of most of the men who were homesteaders, but it was no better either. She used to make most of her own clothes and these, too, were rough and ready. Mother used to tell about one outfit she made out of flour sacks. She didn't do a very good bleach job on them, so she had a clearly visible "Alberta's Best" right across her seat.

I wasn't very old at the time, but I remember that there was very little money to spend on clothes and everyone made the best of what they had. Most of the men had a trade to fall back on for a few extra bucks, but not so with her. She depended on her income from the farm, and that wasn't much.

Living alone caused many a homesteader to become hard to get along with, and to do strange things. No one beat around the bush about it, they were referred to as being crazy. "Old Lizzie", as everyone called her, was famous for taking after people she didn't like with a pitchfork. There was a priest in Hanna at the time by the name of Father O'Sullivan He was Irish, as Lizzie was. He loved to hunt and one day he stopped along the road by her place to shoot a gopher. She tackled him with her pitch fork, and he wasn't long leaving.

He stopped at our place and told Mother about it. She told him, "It's a pity you Irish people can't get along better."

He said, "If she's Irish, I'm going back to see her."

We were surprised to hear that he got a great welcome.

Lizzie could hold her own with anybody, and cuss like a trooper. Her health wasn't very good the last few years she was here. She stayed at our place for a while, and insisted on helping us, even though we knew that she didn't feel well. She never could accept anything for nothing.

In the late twenties she went back to Ireland, and from what we heard she wasn't very well there. She passed away in her homeland.

Lizzie had gotten her mail at the Greystone post office. She was a sister of Mrs. A.E. English.

MISS MARY HILLIS, By Pete Ruppert — Mary Hillis, a sister to Lizzie, came to Alberta from Ireland about 1936. She was an old maid, and partially paralyzed. Everyone wondered how she could survive living alone. Jack Temple brought her out from Hanna to Lizzie's place.

She built a fairly good house on the old site, but for heating she had a fancy fireplace built. [illegible] was absolutely useless, and the only warmth from it was generated by the person shovelling the wood and coal into it. Her hands were crippled and it made you wonder how she could dress and undress herself, let alone shovel coal into that confounded fireplace.

I used to go over and chop wood for her, and help her as much as I could. She always insisted on paying me, and she paid all it was worth. One day she manoevered me into setting the price for the work I had done. When I suggested the same amount she had been paying, she got mad and told me I was too expensive, and I wasn't to come back. I let her cool down before I went back, but I never did commit myself to setting a price again.

About 1939, a nephew Randolph Hillis came to stay with her. It wasn't for long though, because he joined the army. I joined up too, and when I returned Mary had passed away.

At one time the Groves boys worked for her, hauling her water and taking milk to her, building, and shingling her roof. Randolph Hillis returned after the war was over and spent a short time with his aunt, and then went to the States.

Mary took sick, and was found by the neighbors frozen to death under her kitchen table. Apparently she had pulled the table over on herself as she fell.

She [illegible] buried in the Hanna cemetery.

Jim Walker.

MEMORIES OF HOMESTEADING DAYS, By Eva Walker Gabriel — My father and mother, Jim and Clara Walker, had ten children born to them. I am the oldest, then Frank, Cecil, Philip, Gladys, Everett, Nettie and Vera. We were all born in the States. Myrtle and Margaret were born in Alberta.

Our family, our grandparents, the Wheelers, their son Ed and his wife Minnie all travelled by train to Stettler in June, 1909. Our sister Myrtle was born a few days after we got there, but lived only a few minutes and was buried there.

My dad, Mr. Lewis and Al Sturgess all went out to find homesteads, and the families became good friends. Mrs. Lewis was my mom's midwife when our youngest sister Margaret was born.

We spent the winter months of 1909-10 at old Williston, which was later moved to the railroad and became the town of Castor. We moved to the homestead in June, 1910. My folks put up two tents to live in until we got our house finished. Grandpa Phil Walker of Fleet had put up the sides and roof, and before winter my dad nailed boards on the inside of the two-by-fours and sodded the outside.

The second day after we got to the homestead, a terrible wind and snowstorm came up. Dad had been using his brother's horses, which had just been shipped in from Washington, and he had to enlarge the door of the house and drive the three big work horses in. Dad, Grandpa, Mom and myself had to hold their heads all night, and my brother had to keep the snow off the tent that the other kids were sleeping in. He was twelve; I was thirteen.

We had the cattle tied to willow brush around the slough. Next morning dad

led the cows up to the door of the house, and mom milked them. Some of them had their tails frozen off. The snow was gone the next day. That storm was June 2, 1910.

Our Grandpa Walker stayed with us every winter when dad went back to Washington to work in the Burnett mines. Whenever Mr. Yesum came down to our place to get milk, bread and butter he would come early and he and Grandpa would play checkers all day if the weather was fine.

Mom and the older kids built our fifty foot long barns. They were both dug in the side of a hill and sodded. In winter, when we could not drive the stock to Frank Ruppert's spring, we put big barrels inside the barn, and filled them with snow to water the cattle and horses.

There was no school for us to go to, so my folks hired Mr. English to teach us at home in the winter. We went to Sunday school at the home of a close neighbor, Mr. Livingstone.

One year Mr. Livingstone had a nice big crop of wheat, so he went to Castor and bought a new binder. As he drove it into his yard it started to hail, and the team ran away and tore the binder all to pieces.

Charley Christ was a neighbor of ours. He built a big sod house on his homestead, and on the end of it built a long sod barn. He was often gone from home and his wife did all the farming; she kept the barn as clean as a house.

One time she came over to borrow our disc. She was barefooted. She set two of her little boys in the pans of the disc, but one of them fell off in front of the disc, and when she reached down to grab him, her foot got caught and was cut off. Mr. Hugh Mc Rae took her to Castor to the doctor, but on the way he got lost, and it took him over two days to get there. She lived.

Later dad worked for his brother at Fleet in the summer. He would come home on Saturday night and back Sunday afternoon, fifty miles by foot.

Our dad and Frank hauled lots of freight for Mr. Kane. Frank hauled the first load of lumber that went to Hanna. One time he got caught in a bad snowstorm and had to turn the sleigh over and get under it to keep from freezing.

Dad, Frank and Cecil all drove teams building the railroad grade between Castor and Coronation. Philip did the cooking for them; he was ten years old. Frank and I did a lot of plowing for the neighbors, and every winter Frank would set traps in the garden. He caught quail, pheasants, snowshoe rabbits and weasels.

When I was sixteen I worked for the Hockett Stopping house, and also for their daughter, a teacher named Mrs. Braham. Once I took her two children with me when I went home to visit my folks. It started to rain so I put up the umbrella, and the horse ran away. I threw the umbrella out of the buggy and the wind blew it down the road beside the horse. I had to turn off the road and very near turned over.

Our mom took people in to room and board till they could get their buildings up. She used to bake bread for almost all of the bachelors around us, and knitted for them as well as for her own family . . . gloves, mittens, caps, scarfs, stockings and socks. She always had a big garden, and lots of chickens. She dressed the chickens when it turned real cold, and hung them on the porch with the rest of our winter's meat. Then, by accident, we found a better place to store it.

Dad and McRae dug a well close to the house, but after they had gone down seventy-five feet they found that there was coal in the hole, so they filled it back in up to thirty feet, and that was our freezer from then on. There was ice in all summer and winter. They dug another well twenty feet closer to the house and went down twenty feet and the water came up very near to the top and never went down.

When our dad butchered he always poisoned the head, feet and insides of the animal and staked them in the ground in the hills, south of us, to kill the coyotes. One time he found six coyote pups in a den and brought them home. There were millions of gophers so we fed them all summer, but when winter came my Grandpa had to kill them. We had tamed five of them just like dogs, but the other one was always mean like a coyote.

The four oldest of us kids used to walk to Kane's store at Garden Plain with vegetables and butter to trade for staples. It was five miles over there. Dad had built an eight by fourteen room at the end of the bedroom with a small door to put in the coal that he hauled in the fall from Kane's coal mine, and he always bought twelve big sacks of sugar and flour and stored it in the bedroom.

Dad had good land and good crops, though he lost a couple of them by hail. When we had hail storms, some of the stones would come through the tar paper and knot holes of the roof into the house. The first time we had threshers there were fifteen, and a threshing machine that was powered by horses walking round and round all day.

We went to lots of dances in the winter. One time Frank took his girl home after a dance, and was telling her goodbye when the door opened and her mother came out with a broom and started to hit him. He was so startled he backed up and fell off the porch into a swill barrel, and came out covered with grease and muck. The girl's father came out and told Frank to come in the house, and gave him some clean clothes to put on, and made his wife clean Frank's suit and clothes.

One day when my folks were away my ten-year-old sister hitched a mean horse to Frank's new buggy; it kicked the dashboard and seat off it.

Frank was the only one who was allowed to handle a gun, and he could not have any of us kids with him. One day my two brothers sneaked after him and when Frank laid down the shotgun, Philip grabbed it and pulled the trigger. He did not come to for two days, and had a terrible headache.

We had found a large rock which was split into slabs, and dad had used it to make a stone floor by the porch steps. Mom used to sit there in the shade to churn her butter. Of course there were lots of flies then. Mom had one of the kids fanning the flies away with a piece of paper, but when dad came along and saw them, it made him mad. He had a terrible temper. He picked the churn up and threw it on the rocks and broke it all to pieces. The cream flew all over the rocks and the side of the house, and then there were more flies than ever. After that mom put the cream in half-gallon fruit jars and all of us would shake the jars till the butter came. Finally dad got tired of seeing everybody shaking jars so he walked to Livingstone's and bought a six-gallon barrel churn. He packed it home, and it took him three hours to walk the one and a half miles. It was real hot and he sure was tired.

I met John Gabriel at a dance at Fleet; three months later, April 14, 1914, we were married at the Catholic Church in Castor. His people lived near Fleet. They had a big engine and threshing machine and threshed and plowed all over the country.

We live in Washington now. I am eighty years old; my husband is eighty-nine. All my brothers are gone, and my sister Nettie, and there is only Joe, Mike and Anna left of the Gabriels.

MR. and MRS. JAMES WYLIE and CHARLIE WYLIE, By Joan Iftody — My grandmother, Laura Anderson Wylie, moved with her family from North Dakota to a farm twenty miles south of Coronation in 1908. Her brother, Anton,

had talked his dad into moving to Canada, and he went on ahead and filed on a half-section of land for himself and a half-section for his father.

On September 6, 1911, grandmother was married to James Wylie in Castor. Grandfather's parents had come to Canada around the turn of the century, and at the time of my grandparents' marriage, grandfather's brother Charlie had homesteaded five miles south of Garden Plain, on the NE of 14-33-14, and was living there with his mother.

Being a bachelor, Charlie wanted to rent his farm for a couple of years and work out, so the newly-weds, James and Laura Wylie, took over the farm. They lived in a four roomed lumber house and even the floor was made of rough lumber . . . not the easiest floor to scrub come Saturday. They were fortunate, however, as they had shallow wells with plenty of water and managed to make a living by selling cream, butter, eggs, chickens, etc.

Fuel was of little concern as there was a mine two miles away which provided ample coal at two dollars for a wagon box full. Help and company was always available from the neighbors.

In due time, Charlie returned to the farm and married a Scottish girl. Eleven months later he lost his wife and ten-pound infant son in the Hanna hospital, even though two doctors were in attendance. Charlie then sold out, took his money and his mother and left for California.

As there was no homestead land available around Garden Plain, my grandparents packed up their few possessions and their baby daughter Laura Ella, born June 26, 1912 and moved to a homestead at West Wingham, Alberta. Later they moved to the Peace River district.

Grandfather passed away in the Berwyn hospital in October, 1957. Grandmother lived with my parents until 1973 when she moved into an auxiliary hospital. At the age of 86 she is in reasonably good health.

THE FRANK RUPPERT and PETE RUPPERT STORIES, By Pete Ruppert — My father, Frank Ruppert, was born in Glencoe, Minnesota in 1886. Mother was born in 1898 in New Ulm, Minnesota. Father came to Canada in 1904 and was employed in Saskatchewan as a steam engineer for the C.P.R. After a few years he left the company and operated gas and steam outfits for large farms in Saskatchewan.

When he came to Alberta to homestead in 1912, he walked the prairie following the buffalo trails with the idea of finding a constant supply of water. He homesteaded the SE 16-33-14 and pre-empted the adjoining north quarter section. The spring there, where those buffalo trails converged, has never run dry.

To prove up the homestead he did his breaking with oxen. Hard times were the order of the day. He managed to keep going by drilling wells for almost everybody in the country. In 1914 he was injured in a well-drilling accident and spent the next three years in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. He never walked without crutches again.

Mother and Father were married in New Ulm, Minnesota in 1918. The following year they came to Calgary where they bought a horse and buggy and started for the homestead. Mother used to tell about the trip . . . over 150 miles. She wondered if Father really had a farm out there or if she was 'being led down the garden path.'

I was born in 1920 with brother Bill coming in 1921. (Bad luck comes in bunches). Our post office was Greystones, Alberta. The building is still standing on NE 17-33-14, and was operated by a Mr. A. English. His wife was a sister to

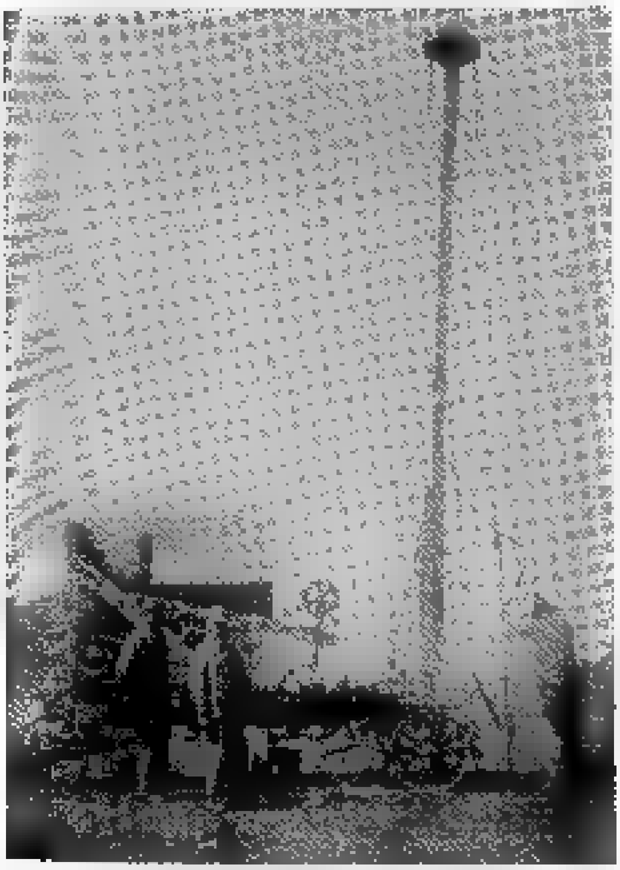
Elizabeth Hillis who homesteaded and pre-empted on section 20. She was better known, but not to her face, as 'Old Liz'.

No doctors were available in those days and Mrs. Sexsmith was a midwife. She brought both Bill and me into the world. Brother Paul was born in 1927 but that time Dr. Paul Baxendale was in attendance. He had a Model T Ford car and when he started to go someplace, he got there. He probably wrecked more cars than anyone alive, but he got there, and in one piece. When brother Bill got pneumonia he came out to the farm in an open car over roads that were indescribable, and it was twenty to thirty degrees below zero. He probably saved more lives than he could remember. I can remember seeing one of his cars, a new Model A Ford, with both the fenders and the running boards torn off. He had hit a bridge east of Hanna in a fog, but he never even stopped, and got where he was going.

Elmer Studer, located on SW 16-33-14, was our closest neighbor in the twenties. He rented the land from Bill Veshe who homesteaded NE 21-33-14. About 1926 Elmer Studer moved away to the north country, and a family by the name of Bressler farmed it for a year or two. Later Jack Temple bought the Veshe place.

Father bought a Fordson tractor in 1926. It was second hand but he was a good mechanic; he needed to be. In 1928 he bought a new Woods Brothers' separator.

In 1930 Father died of cancer of the stomach. He was buried on his forty-fourth birthday.


Drilling for water, 1921. Frank Ruppert and Herman Slemp.

Ruppert boys, 1930. Pete, Bill and Paul.

Mother married Erich Wiens. At that time we had not yet felt the effects of the depression and in 1931 the first car was bought. It was a 1927 Chev. It ran like new, was easy on gas, and the self-starter even worked! In 1932 we bought a new Massey-Harris binder, an Oliver drill and a new Fordson. The drill was good, the Fordson was bad, and the binder was one of the worst pieces of junk I have ever seen. Around that time wheat went down to nineteen cents a bushel, cattle

couldn't be given away, butter brought a nickel a pound, and as John Sexsmith said, eggs were not worth the wear and tear on the hens' backsides.

The winter of 1932 was bad. Mother got desperately sick and Jack Temple had her to the hospital in one hour . . . fifteen miles in three feet of snow with horses, of which he always had the best. After that the flu hit. The first one to get it was my step-father, Erich Wiens, then Leo (Bud), the baby. Bill and I had a time milking twelve cows, feeding and watering them and the horses, and looking after the chickens. Baby Paul got it next, and then Bill. I gave up trying to do chores and tried to keep the house warm. It got dirty and cold. One morning I saw Mr. Temple, Jack's Dad, going by. I ran out of the house and waved him in. The next thing I can remember was the house being warm and clean. Mrs. Temple was there and she looked like an angel. I wanted to get up to do the chores but was not needed. It seemed that whenever there was help needed in the neighborhood, Jack Temple and his dad were always there.

We dried out badly in 1933, 34 and 35. The big news then was the Brownlee scandal. R.B. Bennett was prime minister and the Bennett buggy with the Brownlee pole was a common sight.

My teachers, God bless them, at Garden Plain school were Miss Bloomer, Miss Helen Jensen (later Mrs. Frank Tucker), Miss Janet Ellis, Mr. Chandler, Raymond Burke, and again Mrs. Frank Tucker.

Bill and I batched one winter on the Hugh McRae place, the NW 22-33-14, and sort of farmed it with a 10-20 Titan. Our cooking just about killed both of us. Fortunately we had good neighbors, Lyman Grove and his son Erbin and Erbin's wife Winnie. We would go over and help with the chores and never turn down the invitation to stay for supper. Mrs. Jack Temple was teaching school, and one day when I went over to help Jack, Paul was to bake some bread. It turned out a delicate blue color, with some coal ashes and straw in it. When Mother saw it she sent over some more bread, with instructions to bury what Paul had made in case a dog might eat it and die.

I joined the army and so did Bill. We served in the same unit in England and in Europe. In 1942 I married Anna Chase of Woodstock, New Brunswick. Anna and I got back to Hanna on New Year's Eve of 1945 and Bill arrived on New Year's Day. Bill went to work for the Special Areas and has been there ever since. He is now Shop Foreman at Youngstown.

I went to New Brunswick where I worked as a logger for a while. Then I went to welding, with a trucking business on the side. Our oldest children, Margaret and Frank, were born in New Brunswick. In 1949 I came west again, worked for a time for the Special Areas, then went welding for the late Earl Armstrong at Lomond, Alberta. In 1957 I bought the business and still own it today. Our younger children, Erich, Marie and William were born at Lomond. Billy passed away in April, 1975, and is buried at Vulcan.

Mother passed away in 1954. She was buried beside Dad in the Catholic cemetery in Hanna.

Margaret married Don Zuba, and has two children. They live at Cold Lake where her husband is stationed.

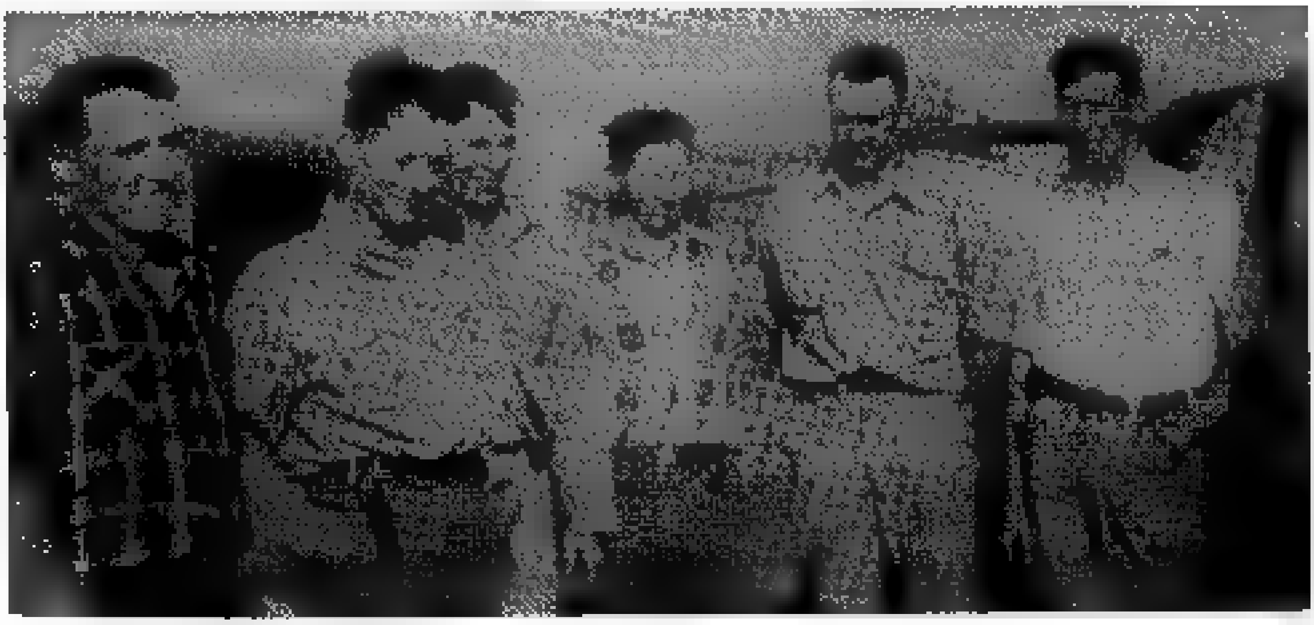
Frank lives at Burdett where he is a repair crew foreman for the Alberta Wheat Pool. He is married and has two children.

Erich, his wife and son live at Red Deer.

Marie and her husband, Bill Moskal, both work in Lethbridge. They have no family.

ERICH and MARGARET WIENS, By Rosanna Wiens Lenfesty — Dad was born in Danzig, Germany, on December 24, 1898. He was a German soldier in World War I and in 1926 he immigrated to Canada. He arrived in Hanna and worked for his sponsor, Dominic Rains, then for J. Kellermann and then began farming on some Hudson Bay land situated near Dowling Lake, NE 26-32-15. After Frank Ruppert passed away Dad worked for my mother, Margaret Ruppert, and later they were married. They remained on the Ruppert homestead, which is now the home of Robert and Carol Wiens and family, for all but a few years of their married life. Between 1937 and 1940 we lived on the Kellermann place, across the road from the Granthams.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Weins.



Weins and Ruppert boys: Robert, Pete, Paul, Bill, Bud, Bumpy.

Dad showed many of his European skills, although he did not often talk about his native land. His first dwelling was typically European as the barn and the house were connected. He enjoyed farming and working with cattle and horses as he had in Germany. The neighbors frequently called on him to do veterinary work. He was also a skilled butcher.

Dad died on December 27, 1957.

I felt that my mother lived a very hard but fulfilling life. She was born in New Ulm, Minnesota, on April 10, 1898; married a homesteader of the Garden Plain district, Frank Ruppert; gave birth to three Ruppert boys, Pete, Bill and Paul; was a widow when the depression started; married Erich Wiens and raised another six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, Rosanna, Robert and Erbin.

Like most pioneer women, Mom kept herself busy. Along with the household duties she raised a large garden, helped with the farm chores, was active in community affairs, played the organ, read the latest serial in the 'Free Press' or the 'Western Producer', was an extremely good cook, and whether the radio program be 'Ma Perkins', 'Pepper Young's Family' or the 'Lux Radio Theatre', Mom would be either knitting, crocheting or mending clothes while she listened to it.

Mom passed away on March 1, 1954, at the age of fifty-six years.

Peter Ruppert owns and operates a welding and machine shop at Lomond, Alberta. William and Paul Ruppert work for the Special Areas at Youngstown.

Leo (Bud) Wiens is Superintendent of Roads for the Special Areas and also farms the Tony Brunner land near Dowling. Klaire Wiens Paul is the Matron of the Mental Hospital at Vernon, B.C. Agatha Wiens Grisedale is a secretary in a Vancouver hospital. Rosanna Wiens Lenfesty became a school teacher. She and her husband and family live in the Hand Hills.

Robert Wiens and his wife Carol and children farm on the SE 16-33-14. Erbin (Bumpy) Wiens, his wife Cathy and four children are farming on the SW 33-33-14.

MR. and MRS. FRANK RUPPERT — MR. and MRS. ERIC WIENS — Frank Ruppert homesteaded the east half of 16-33-14, and in 1919 was joined by his wife, the former Margaret Koepel. Frank was a farmer and well driller, and drilled many wells for homesteaders in that area. Frank and Margaret had three sons, Pete, Bill and Paul.

After Frank's death Margaret married Eric Wiens, who came to Canada from Germany in 1926, and who farmed in the Dowling area, the north half of 26-32-15. From this union there were six children, Leo, Klara, Agatha, twins Rosanna and Robert, and Erbin. Most of their schooling was received at the Garden Plain school, as the family had returned to the original home place in 1939. In 1964 Erbin purchased the Milton Stuart and Fred Bottomley farm and still occupies the original house which was built in 1909.

For entertainment in the early years, many nights were spent playing cards with the neighbors. On one occasion when John Sexsmith stayed late, the night got very dark. John had been accustomed to driving a Model T, and was not yet familiar with the Model A he had acquired. While he was getting it started, the car jumped ahead, and John's elbow hit the light switch, plunging him into complete darkness. To everyone's amazement the car came out between two hay racks, unharmed.

HORSES, By Klaire Wiens Paul — Our lives were influenced a great deal by horses.

A team and buggy started to take our parents to town in April, 1937, only to turn back at the pasture and return home with a baby girl, Rosanne. Another baby, Robert, was born shortly after Mom walked into the house!

A caravan of teams took us and our machinery to the farm near Clear Lake in 1937. Many of those horses died during the next three years of an epidemic of sleeping sickness.

We returned to Garden Plain in 1940, horses again doing their duty in the field, taking us to school and running away when they darned well pleased! Many

farmers had threshing outfits, several teams of horses hitched to bundle racks gathered the bundles from the stooks in the fields and hauled them to the separator. A team and man made ten dollars a day.

I rode to Alps school on Shorty, who was always undecided whether to stop for a gate or to go over it.

I don't imagine anyone in Scapa will ever forget Nannie, my old yellow buckskin horse that I rode from 1948-1950. She terrified all the car drivers who wished to pass, by rearing up and spinning around in front of them. She demolished the barn at Scapa as she didn't like being tied up. She refused to be led, but she brought me home through blizzards, and could run like the wind if coaxed, and to me, a fifteen year old, she was beautiful.

I left Scapa in 1950 to take Nursing training in Manitoba. Nannie was sold to Mr. Chidley who probably remembers her as a bad-natured buckskin. I've used many modes of transportation since those days, but nothing beats a horse. It's the only thing that kicks you back if you don't have due respect for it.

I REMEMBER

By Rosanna Lenfesty

— Garden Plain school being the focal point of activity for us when we were young. Card parties and dances, with the Pat and Stuart McRae orchestra, were held to raised money for the Christmas concert, the highlight event of the year.

— Sleigh riding and skating parties on Sundays with the Cooks and the Temples.

— when Dad worked on the road for days with horses and fresno to pay off the taxes that had accrued during the thirties.

— the hustle and bustle on the farm as Ralph Gaugler's threshing crew moved from field to field.

— John Sexsmith 'dropping in' every bake day.

— milking ten to twenty cows because like many farmers at that time the cream cheque meant our 'bread and butter'.

— when Bud bought Mom her first washing machine with a gas motor.

— when Pete and Bill returned from the war. I guess we had changed as much to them as they had changed to us.

— the anxious moments before the prairie fire on Mr. Bottomly's and Mr. Stuart's places was brought under control.

THE WIEGE STORY, By Emma Wiege Burgemeister as told to Pearl Reuteman — Henry and Sophie Wiege were farmers in Leipzig, Romania. They had five children: Dan, Julia, Emma, Christine, and Marie. It was a struggle to make a living on a small farm. If you were poor you stayed poor.

In 1927 many Romanians immigrated into Canada which had been advocated as The Promised Land, a land where a man could acquire unlimited acres of his own, be free and not only make a good living but even become wealthy. This was the land and this was the year when Dan along with his uncle William Hiller, friends and countrymen came to the Hanna district. He rented the Wagner Place, eighteen miles north of Hanna along what is now No. 36 Highway. Dan had his own farm, an almost impossible accomplishment in Romania. Here he learned the new language, customs and methods of farming and soon adapted to the vast expanses of the prairie plains. In his letters to his folks he begged and encouraged them to come to this new land where they would not be poor anymore.

On May 1, 1929, Henry and Sophie Wiege with Emma, Christine and Marie

packed what few belongings they could bring and said good-bye to Julia who had married and decided to stay behind. Julia Anudt and family came over in 1952 but settled in Wenatchee, Washington.

The ocean voyage proved a nauseating experience when all became seasick due to the heavy seas. However, several events broke the monotony, made the trip more bearable, and prepared them for the many surprises and experiences they would encounter in the strange land which was to become home. One day as the huge waves buffeted the ship, they were served coffee cake and jello for lunch. The jello jiggled and the dishes jiggled as though alive, and the family were so frightened that none dared eat this living food which they had never seen before. The second incident occurred when the family was put onto the train, there they encountered several colored ladies who were chewing gum. They had never seen a colored person, nor had they learned about gum. They stared with mouths agape, convinced that these were a strange type of cud-chewing creature. The colored ladies probably had similar thoughts about them in their strange mode of attire.

The long, dirty, tiresome train ride ended when they arrived in Hanna, on June 2, 1929, just in time to be confronted with the grim years which the drought of the thirties brought. Mr. Rosenbaum met them at the station and took them to their friends the Dorsch's who had come over in 1927. Here they spent the night and caught up on news of friends.

Next morning Mrs. Wiege's brother William Hiller arrived from the farm he had rented, the Ferg James homestead in the Olive School District. Their belongings were tied in bundles and put into the lumber wagon, properly named because it had to be one of the roughest conveyances ever invented. They bounced and jostled over the prairie trail and became fearful of the open sparsely settled country. It seemed they were still on the ocean only now it was a sea of prairie, limitless and rolling, an expanse of land which seemed to recede until it finally met the sky in the far distance. The sun's glare shimmered on the prairie alive with the stirring by the wind. Emma hid her feelings that if she could have walked back she would have, a sentiment felt by many of the pioneer women.

They stayed with Hillers a few days until Dan came to take them home. On the way home Dan tried to teach Emma to count in English. The family was re-united and the future looked promising and secure. Fortunately they did not know that the next ten years would bring feelings of insecurity, fear, panic, frustration, humiliation and aloneness when the Dirty Thirties struck. It had to be lived to be understood. Relatives and friends would gather on the street corners on Saturday afternoons, dressed in their traditional clothing with black shawls tied around their heads, a head covering quite common today although modernized with gay colors. They spoke German and were very happy when some of the English speaking neighbors could speak German. They were all willing to learn the language and customs and adapted readily. This was home now.

Marie attended the Garden Plain School and soon learned English. Emma and Christine had to go to work, Christine at the hospital for a while, then for Doctor Argue. Emma worked for Noonans where there were six hungry men to feed. At mealtimes they laughed and joked and Emma was sure that she was the butt of their humor, as she could not understand them. Later Emma got a job [illegible] the hospital in Hanna, where the wages were fifteen dollars a month and everything was done by hand.

Dan married Ida Quaschnick and they moved into a little house on Dan's farm. They had one son Ed. When Dan's wife died he moved to Bella Coola, B.C. [illegible] live with Ed and family. They had two daughters, Freda who lives in the east and Irene in Edmonton.

Christine married Reinholdt Cook and moved to Trochu, where she died in 1935 when her baby girl was born. Mr. Wiege had died in 1934, at age sixty, so Mrs. Wiege moved to Trochu to care for the baby. She died in 1949 at the age of sixty-nine.

Marie married and had five children. She lived at Trochu for a time but is now at Hondu, Alberta.

Emma married Fred Burgemeister and went to live in the Hand Hills area. They had seven children, and still reside in the new home they built on their farm.

***THE FRANK HOLMES STORY, By Edna Holmes Twidale* —** My father, Frank Holmes, was born in England in 1886. In 1909 he filed claim on a homestead in the Garden Plain area. He and his friend Jack Miller lived in a tent all winter, and hauled supplies from Stettler or Coronation.

One memorable trip started on a cold clear day when my father went for coal, flour and a few other essentials. On the return trip the following day, a blizzard came up and temperatures were very low: one of the horses refused to go on struggling through the drifts. So my father left that horse and sleigh, put a bag of flour on the back of the other horse, and stumbled on, father hoping that the horse could find its way.

Meanwhile, back at the tent, Jack Miller had been on watch for hours. Now it was late at night and Jack took a final look outside before going to bed. A few yards from the house he saw the horse standing; he went to investigate and saw where my father had fallen there in the snow. His life was saved, but he did suffer for sometime as his feet were badly frozen.

In 1912, he was married at Innisfail to his fiancee, Annie Jane (Jean) Reeves, who had just arrived from England. They attended the first Calgary Stampede. (My father also attended the fiftieth Stampede in 1962.) They lived at Huxley until the spring of 1913 and then moved to the homestead at Garden Plain.

In 1916, Frank Holmes joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 187 Battalion. He served in France till the end of the war. While he was with the Tank Corps at Amiens, his tank was blown up and he was lucky to escape alive. He also saw action at Vimy, Passchendale and Arras. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1919.

As the country in eastern Alberta was very dry, the family moved to Elnora in the early 1920's. In 1923, Mrs. Holmes passed away, and her sister, Clara, arrived from England to care for the family. She and Mr. Holmes were married in 1924. They farmed till 1963, when they retired to Elnora. Mr. Holmes passed away in April, 1976, at the age of 89.

The children of Frank and Jean Holmes are Phyllis, married to Peter Stirling and living at Ponoka; Ronald, who farms near Huxley; and Frank, who was killed in action overseas in 1942.

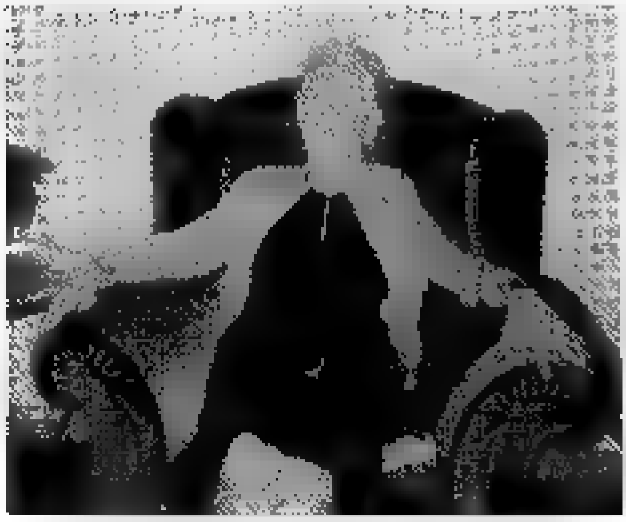
The family of Frank and Clara Holmes are Edna, married to Joseph Twidale, and Alfred. They and their families farm near Elnora.

PROGRAM PRESENTED AT U.F.A HALL, GARDEN PLAIN, 1913

Recitation, Frances Collins; Vocal Duet, Isabelle Ironside and Jean Ironside; Recitation, Leonora McCafferty; Song, Jimmy Weir; Recitation, Maggie Ironside; Music, Mrs. Harvey; Recitation, Alice Lewis; Song, John Graham; Recitation, Elichia Lepard; Music, orchestra; Monologue, Rudy Moore; Dialogue, W. Collins, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. George Claypool, Mrs. W. Harvey; Recitation, Donald Simon; Recitation, Valetta Wagner; Song, Mrs. Livingstone; Recitation, Mrs. John Claypool.

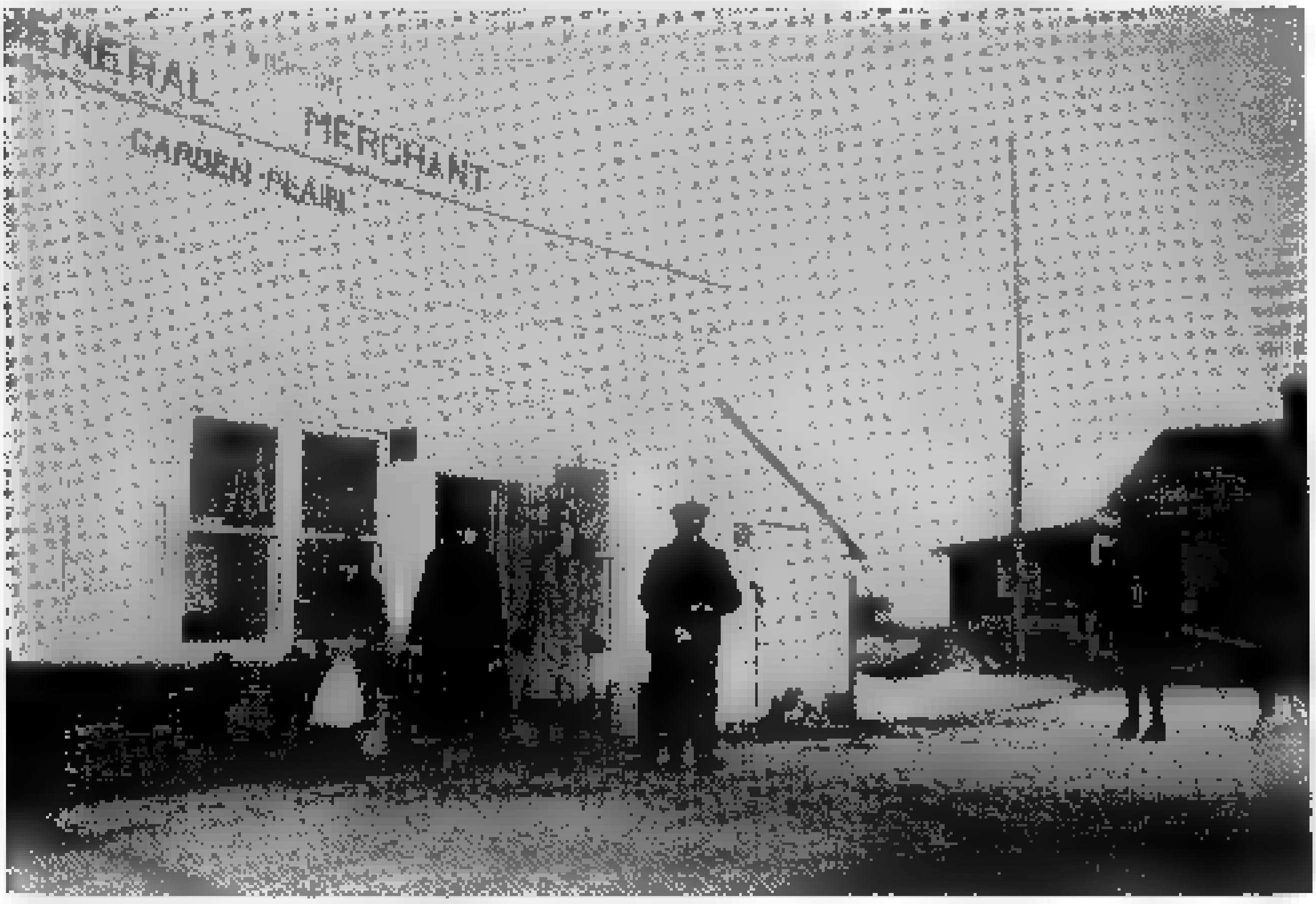
THE FIRST GARDEN PLAIN STORE

By Frances Unsworth


Mrs. Harriet Wickson, age 99 years.

In 1910 the Williston Trading Company opened a store, post office and lumber yard on Mr. Tom Kane's homestead at Garden Plain. The store burned down on December 24 of the same year, and everything except the contents of the till was lost. The store was rebuilt, with Harry Long and Bert French among the first storekeepers. Mr. Olson carried the mail from Castor, and took passengers with him on his trips.

Later on Mr. Kane took over the store, with Miss Marie Bartsch as assistant. Mail day was a very busy time at Garden Plain, especially during World War I, when the residents of the district were expecting mail from friends and relatives at the front. Teams and saddle horses would be tied to the row of hitching posts at the front of the store; and all sorts of conversations would be going on, discussions of weather and crops, and telling of favorite stories and jokes. To us it was almost as good as going to town.



Garden Plain Store, 1920. C. A. Wickson, owner.

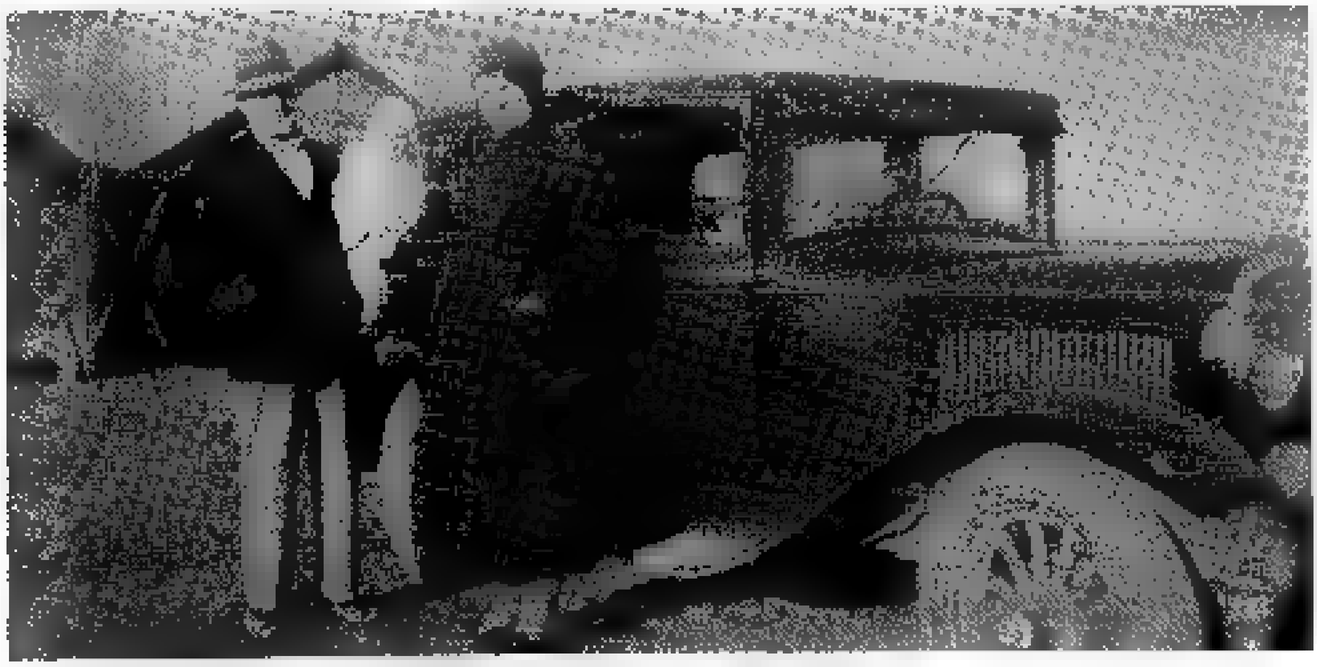
Mr. Kane had the post office in his house on the farm for a while. Later Alf Sturgess kept the post office in a small shack on the hill by the coulee, and ran a small barber shop in conjunction with it. In 1914 the post office was moved to the Cattanach farm on the Castor trail, with Miss Lizzie Cattanach as postmistress. At that time Mr. A. Butchard brought the mail from Castor.

In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Kane sold the store, and in 1923 traded the farm and coal mine for property in Oregon. They farmed there for eleven years, then operated a summer resort until 1946. Mr. Kane died in 1947 at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickson took over the store in 1919, and operated it with the help of Miss Grace Crowe as clerk. Mr. Wickson did his own freighting with an old Model T truck with solid tires on the back. The Wicksons built a nice home, which was later sold to Joe Higgins who moved it to his farm in the Corinne district.

The store and post office was closed in 1927, and the Wicksons moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C., where Mr. Wickson passed away in 1949. Mrs. Wickson lives with her son Mac.

LIFE AT GARDEN PLAIN, By Nelson Wright — I, Nelson Wright, son of Sarah and Will Wright, came to Garden Plain from New Brunswick in 1914. I lived with my parents for a few years; in 1916 I bought a quarter section near Garden Plain school and moved there in 1918 to make a home for my bride-to-be. I married Georgina Hilts in October, 1918, and our son Vernon was born in 1919.


Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wright and Wilma.

Times were not the easiest and in 1925 we decided to move back to the old home in New Brunswick. We remained there for a few years and then with our children Vernon and Wilma we moved to Garrick, Saskatchewan, where I was employed by the Post Office.

In the fall of 1948 we moved to Victoria, B.C., where we are still residing in a suite on Hibberson Crescent. Wilma and her husband and daughter live not too far from us.

HORACE F. BRELSFORD — Mr. Brelsford, a very early homesteader, filed on southeast of 34-33-14 in 1909. He was a plumber by trade and was away plying his trade when not on the homestead. The Brelsfords built a low, sloped roof house which was a head knocker for tall people.

In 1919 L.C. Burt bought the place through the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

MILTON STEWART and MR. and MRS. BOTTOMLY — Mr. Stewart came to the Garden Plain district from England after World War I, and bought the Guiseth land. He was a good farmer, a good neighbor, and a friend to everyone. He was joined a little later by Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly, who lived and farmed with him. Mr.

Bottomly drove the rural mail route east from Scapa for many years, and was very fond of children.

Mr. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Bottomly sold out to Erbin Wiens and moved to Hanna when their health began to fail. Mr. Stewart lost his eyesight and passed away several years later; Mrs. Bottomly has also passed on. Mr. Bottomly still resides in Hanna, and enjoys going to the Pioneer Hall for a game of cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Peters and Ray.

ROLAND J. PETERS, By Doris Peters Yacoboski — Mom and Dad met in London, England. Dad came to Calgary in 1906 and Mom followed in May of 1907. They were married and lived in Calgary where Dad worked in a store. My brother Lawrence was born in 1908 and I came along eighteen months later.

During the spring of 1910, Mother's brother, Jack Cape, came out from England, and as Dad had already filed for two places, we all left Calgary for the homesteads. I am not sure but I think that mother and we two children went to Castor by train. Dad and my uncle had set out earlier from Calgary with oxen. We lived in a tent until a sod house was erected, and later a house was built with materials freighted from Castor.

Our homestead was the east half of 15-33-14, some thirty miles south [illegible] Castor. The closest store was at Garden Plain, operated by T.A. Kane, and what business couldn't be done there had to be attended to in Castor. That meant a three-day trip, one to go, one to do the business, and one to come home. I remember staying overnight at Hockett's stopping house; it was full of people and all were so friendly.

When Hanna started in 1912 it made it much easier as we could make the seventeen miles there, do what we had to, and return the same day. We got our mail at the Greystone post office, two and a half miles west of us. Mr. and Mrs. English, May and Stanwood ran it.

Between 1910 and 1915 times were really hard. If it was a dry summer, there were the hazards of prairie fires. [illegible] we got a crop, we would get severe hail storms. It was very slow getting started, but each year saw a little improvement. I remember attending the first picnic at the new Garden Plain hall site in July, 1914.

In 1915 our neighbor, Mrs. Stanfield, was not well, so we moved in with them, and Mom took care of her. While we were there my brother and I started school at Alps. Nellie Thompson was our teacher; Burrows, Overtons and Weakleys were also attending. The next year when we moved back to the homestead we attended Garden Plain school which was two and a half miles away. We sure had some good times at the school. Himmelreich brothers played for dances and box socials which lasted [illegible] seven o'clock in the morning.

Once a year several families would plan a day to go to Sullivan Lake to pick saskatoons and chokecherries. I have happy memories of those outings, and my mouth waters at the thought of those juicy berries.

In 1917 we had a severe hail storm. I remember going to meet my mother, who had got caught in it. The stones were as big as golf balls. They knocked her down, and my legs were bleeding where big chunks of ice had cut them. We were hailed out completely, and like many others, we had no insurance.

In August of 1919 Hanna was having a big Round Up, with ferris wheel, circus

and fair. As we had never attended one before, Mom and Dad took us to town to see it. It was a hot day, and at noon a terrible thunderstorm came up, blowing the fancy streamers and decorations down. Everyone took shelter in the stores and hotels. On our way home a neighbor came to meet us with the information that our house had been struck by lightning. Nothing was saved except what we had on our backs.

We stayed with our uncle and aunt who lived not too far from us. The neighbors were wonderful; they had a building bee and put up a new house for us. But Mom couldn't take it any more, so we moved to Hanna where she got a job at the National Hotel. That winter was the terrible flu, and Mom was very ill. Dr. Wade saved her life. Dad also had flu and spent three months in hospital. The land was rented to Everett Dorman and Lorne Burrows; later it was sold and eventually Stewart McRae got it. He sold out and Morgan's Transport of Olds now owns it.

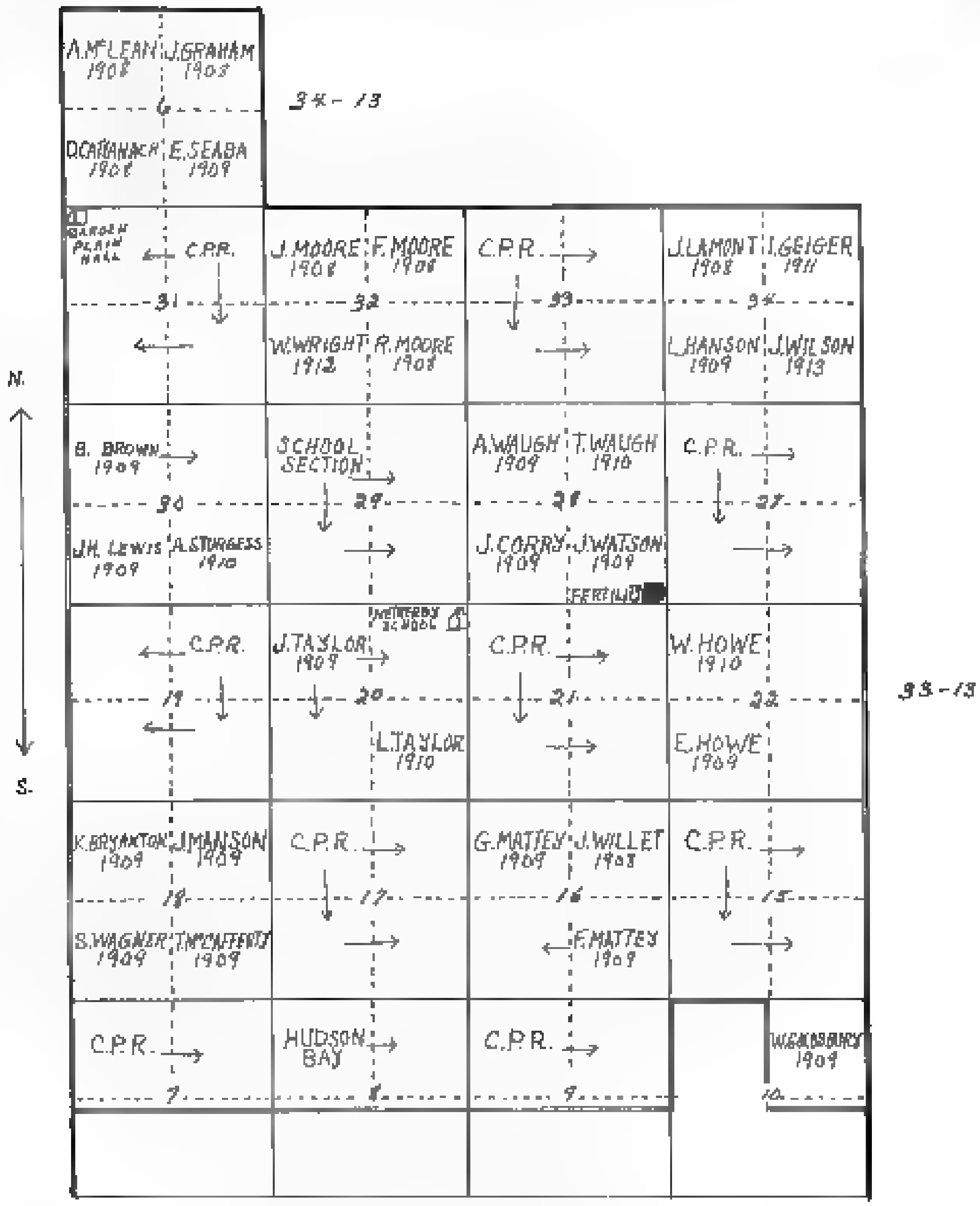
While we were still on the farm, Mother lost a baby girl who was buried in Netherby cemetery. In 1924 our brother Raymond was born in the Hanna hospital. Lawrence, who had spent some time in the sanitorium in Calgary, died in 1931.

About 1940 Mom and Dad moved to North Vancouver; I followed in 1944, from Calgary where I had been working. I was married in 1949 and my husband and son and I live in Vancouver. Raymond, who was in the R.C.A.F. during World War II and his wife and daughter are in North Vancouver.

Our dear Mother passed away in 1948 and Dad in 1958.

We had some tough times through the years, but in spite of that, we remember the early days on the farm as happy times.

NETHERBY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2348



OWNERS AND RENTERS

NW 6-34-13
Alex McLean
Henry Nielsen

NE 6-34-13
J. Graham
Henry Nielsen

SW 6-34-13
D. Cattanach
Jim Wright
George Wright
Henry Nielsen

SE 6-34-13
E. Seaba
[illegible]. Nielsen

N ½ 31-33-13
Henry Nielsen

S ½ 31-33-13
Cyril Unsworth

NW 32-33-13
J. Moore
E. Job

NE 32-33-13
F. Moore
E. Job

SW 32-33-13
W. Wright
E. Job

SE 32-33-13
[illegible]. Moore
E. Job

NW 33-33-13
[illegible]. Strandberg

NE 33-33-13
C. Corry

SW 33-33-13
C. Corry

SE 33-33-13
C. Corry

NW 34-33-13
J. Lamont
A. Wilson
S. Strandberg

NE 34-33-13
I. Gieger
K. Storch

SW 34-33-13
L. Hanson
[illegible]. Strandberg

SE 34-33-13
J. Wilson
S. Strandberg

Sec. 27-33-13
S. Strandberg

NW 28-33-13
A. Waugh
[illegible]. Hoodless
T. Hoodless
C. Corry

NE 28-33-13
T. Waugh
C. Corry

SW 28-33-13
J. Corry
C. Corry

SE 28-33-13
J. Watson
R. Crabb
C. Corry

Sec. 29-33-13
C. Corry

NW 30-33-13
B. Brown
J. Taylor
H. Taylor
G. Taylor
E. Ness
G. Grover
S. Steinbraker
A. Unsworth
C. Unsworth
W. Hein
G. Unsworth
L. Unsworth

NE 30-33-13
B. Brown
L. Unsworth

SW 30-33-13
J. Lewis
L. Unsworth

SE 30-33-13
A. Sturgess
L. Unsworth

Sec. 19-33-13
L. Unsworth

NW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
S. Donaldson
R. Haessel
W. Halverson
E. Whiteman
C. Whiteman
R. Hein
R. Corry
C. Corry

NE 20-33-13
J. Taylor
C. Corry

SW 20-33-13
J. Taylor
R. Corry

SE 20-33-13
L. Taylor
W. Job

Sec. 21-33-13
S. Herring
J. Roth
E. Job

NW 22-33-13
W. Howe
S. Herring
I. Job

E ½ 22-33-13
Fertility Grazing Group

SW 22-33-13
[illegible]. Howe
G. Standing Est.

NW 15-33-13
R. Standing

E ½ 15-33-13
L. Legran
[illegible]. Weiler
[illegible]. Standing Jr.

SW 15-33-13
H. Glere

NW 16-33-13
G. Mattey
S. Patton
E. Job

NE 16-33-13
J. Willet
G. Standing Sr.
R. Standing

S ½ 16-33-13
F. Mattey
E. Standing

NW 17-33-13
W. Job

NE 17-33-13
E. Small
A. Welch
S. Doering
A. Fecho
W. Fecho
W. Job

S ½ 17-33-13
W. Job

NW 18-33-13
K. Bryanton
E. Small
H. Strandberg

NE 18-33-13
J. Manson
G. Wright
W. Job

SW 18-33-13
S. Wagner
S. Vigle
[illegible]. Strandberg

SE 18-33-13
T. McCafferty
P. Jensen
H. Mattis
J. Tait
J. Boulter

N ½ 7-33-13
C. Corry

N ½ 8-33-13
P. Boyd
E. Gross
I. Hauk
D. Buckwitz

W ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Job

E ½ of NW 9-33-13
E. Standing Jr.

NE 9-33-13
G. Standing Jr.

NE 10-33-13
W. Goldsbury
D. Temple
H. Mattis
G. Standing

NETHERBY SCHOOL

By Winnifred Grove

Netherby School District No. 2348 in the Sullivan Lake School Division, was formed in 1911. The first two loads of lumber for the building were hauled February 28, 1911, from Travers and Finlayson at Castor. On March 13 the school site was staked out. Neighbors from around the district helped with the construction, and by June 5 the one-roomed building was completed and classes commenced, with Miss Carrie DeLong as teacher. Some of the first pupils were Frances and Alice Lewis, Violet and Lillian Wagner, Reggie, Lewis and Frank Sturgess, Lily, Jimmy and Tommy Watson, Roberta Willett and Lenora McCafferty. Among the first trustees were J. Taylor, J. Corry, W. Hoodless and Mr. Willett.

The first picnic was held on Coronation Day, June 22, 1911, on the school grounds; it was a huge success with large crowds attending. On August 3 they held a school picnic, and thereafter the picnics that were held to mark the end of the term were looked forward to with anticipation. The first visit from a school inspector occurred on September 7, 1911.

First Netherby school teacher — Miss Carrie DeLong

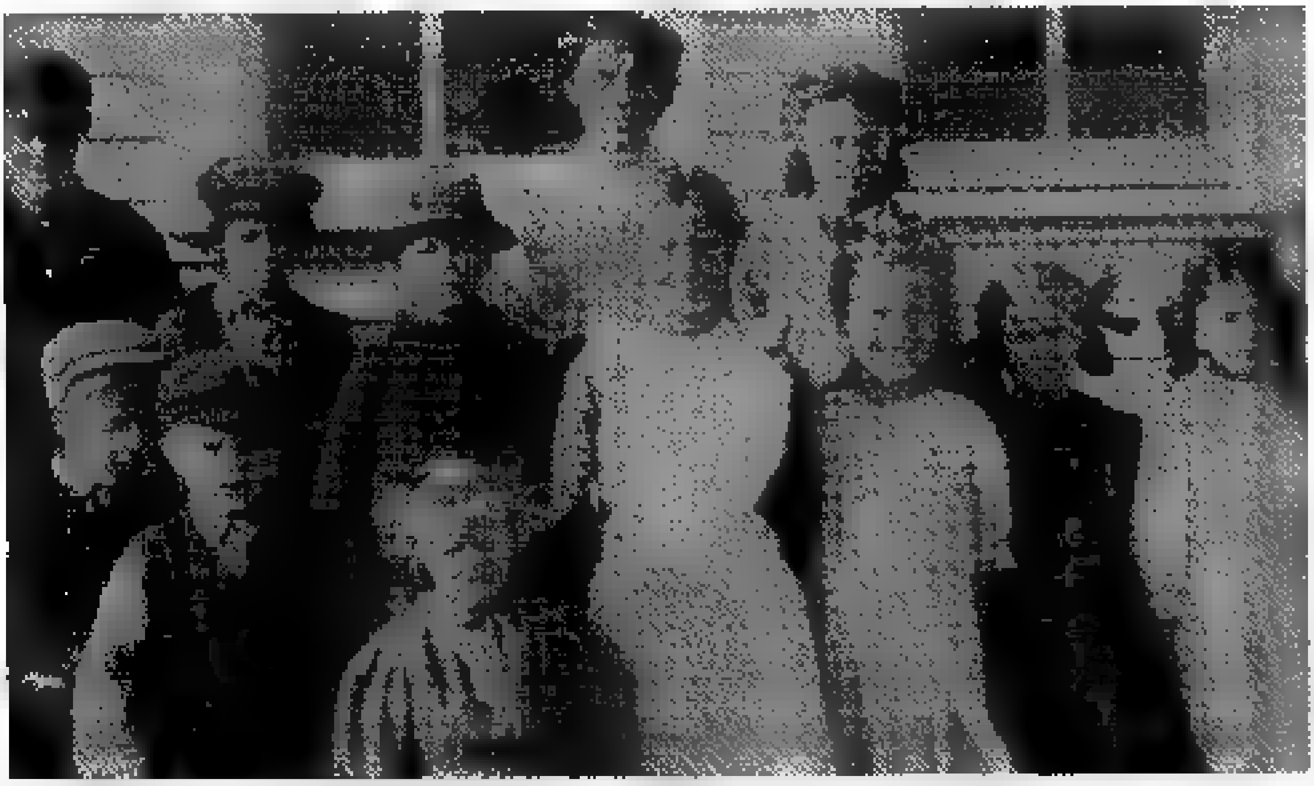
In the early years the teachers usually boarded with families who lived near the school; [illegible] later years, a teacherage in the school yard was supplied for them to live in.

The teacher usually did the janitor work, and sometimes it was quite an effort to get the big coal heater to warm the room in time for morning classes. The children took turns helping sweep the floor and clean blackboards and brushes.

Recesses and noon hours were always something to look forward to, for without a lot of expensive equipment we could play games we all knew, hide and seek, pom-pom pull away, cops and robbers, Anti-I-Over, tag, basketball, run sheep run, X and O, hangman, hop scotch, marbles, baseball, ring around a rosie, prisoner's base, and so on.

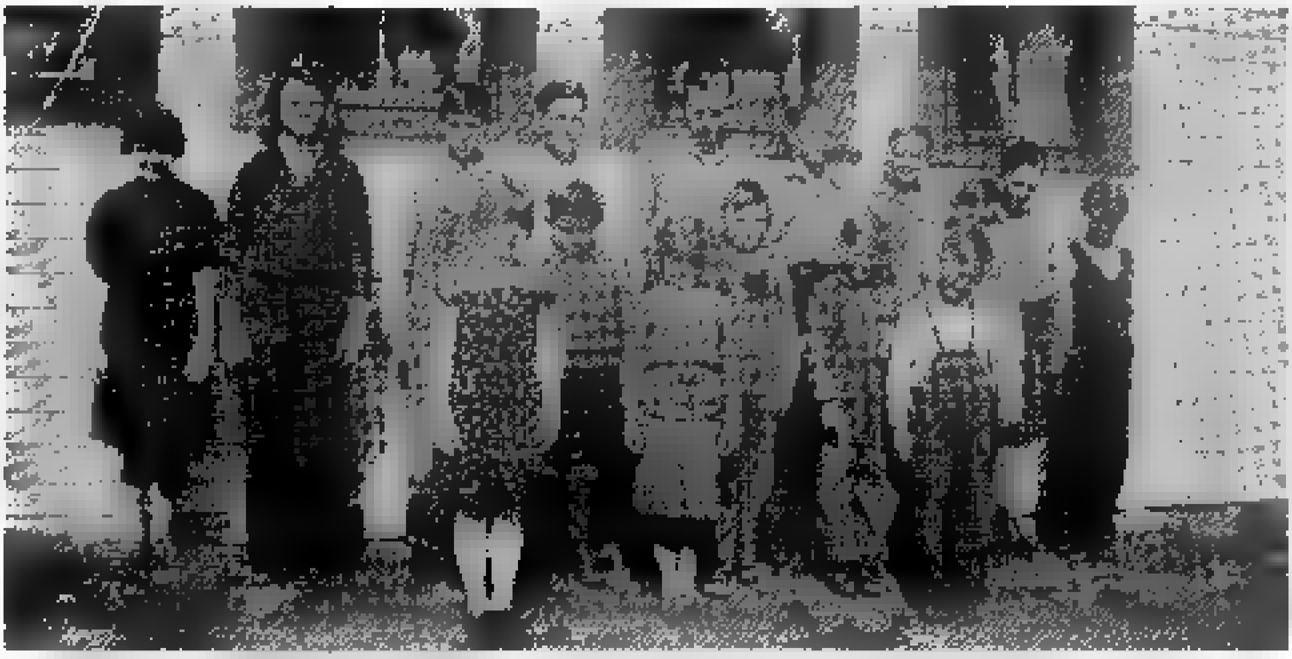
We always had a little party on special days, Valentine's, Hallowe'en, Easter and of course Christmas was the tops. All our spare time during recesses and noon hour, plus other time if we worked harder and got our class work done more quickly, was spent on practising for our Christmas concert. That was an event that everyone looked forward to and enjoyed thoroughly.

There would be a nice big Christmas tree decorated with strings of popcorn, candy canes, and ornaments, presents, candles and treats; Santa's visit, and then a dance. There were always local people with talent who would be kind enough to bring a violin and join someone on the piano for music. The dance finished off the evening in great style, and everyone went home happy.



Netherby School children — 1912. Back Row: Joe Clark, Tom Watson, Reginald Sturgess, Frances Lewis, Lillian Wagner, Alice Lewis, Gertie Howe, Roberta Willet, Lenora McCafferty. Front Row: Lewis Sturgess, Frank Sturgess, Doris Sturgess.

Netherby School children - 1921. Back Row: Dorothy Crabb, Iona Wright, Gladys Auning, Helen Jensen. Middle Row: Nan Herring, George Standing, Frances Herring, Vera Standing, Winnifred Lewis, Gwendoline Miller, Rosanna Corry, Walter Jensen. Front Row: Albert Wagner.



Netherby School children - 1941. Back Row: Doreen Wright, Peggy Standing, Louis Unsworth, Edwin Wright, Cliff Corry, Roy Unsworth, Blythe Herring, Harold Unsworth, Rod Standing. Front Row: Thelma Grover, Tom Standing, Georgine Wright, John Patton, Albert Unsworth, Abner Grover, Cyril Unsworth.

Children came to school by all modes of travel, afoot, on horseback, by horse and buggy or sleigh and team, by bicycle. In the earlier years the small barn was almost always full of horses.

The two little outhouses were situated a long way from the school, or so it seemed in the cold weather. There was a pump and well at the north end of the schoolyard to supply water.

About 1953 a second school building was moved into the yard and classes were held there too, so that the lower and higher grades each had a room to themselves. That building was later moved away.

In 1955 a new two-roomed school was built across the road to the east, where

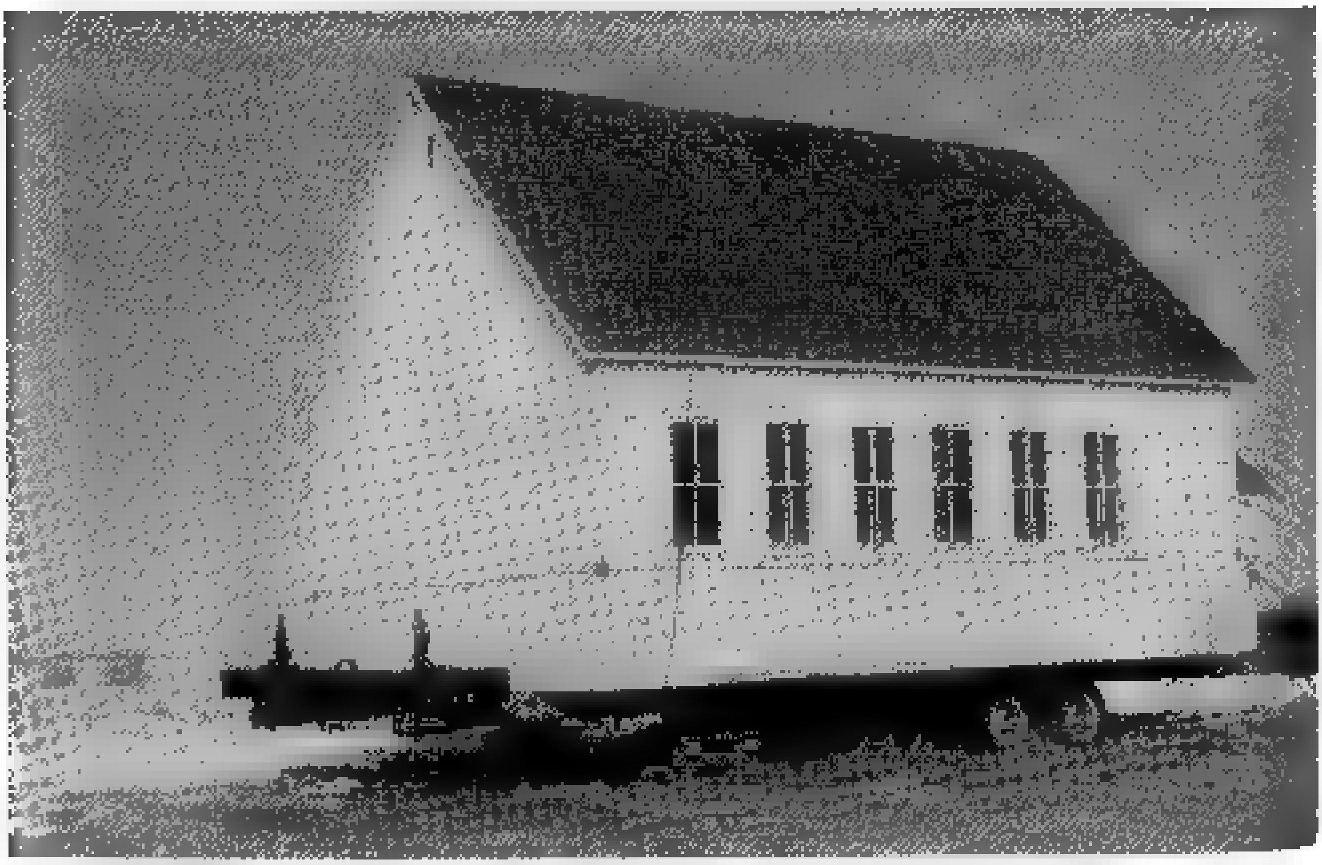
Frank Lee was the first teacher of grades one to six, and Jack McLaren for grades seven to ten. A large teacherage was moved into position on the south side of the new school, and all the buildings were equipped with modern conveniences such as running water and controlled central heating. By this time, smaller rural school districts were starting to amalgamate, and children from other districts were attending Netherby. In 1963 Netherby school was closed, the building was moved to Cessford, and the children were bussed to Hanna.

Some of the families whose children attended classes at Netherby were Watson, Sturgess, Lewis, Willet, Wagner, Jensen, Crabb, Riis, Corry, Vigen, Paetz, Unsworth, McLaren, Chaney, Marlowe, Wright, Greenway, Moulding, Stickney, Rehill, Chidley, Shumaker, Wolfert, Brunner, Smith, Kautz, Lumsden, Siverson, Howery, Anderson, Sieppert, Bossert, Lee, Storch, Mattis, Taylor, Strandberg, Haessel, Gustafson, Ironside, Nelson, Miller, Wilson, Bailey, Boyd, Fecho, Standing, Wild, Moran, Doering, Garbutt, Payne, Ness, Cunningham, Job, Park, Thomas, Tetz, Herring and Patton.

Some of the teachers who taught at Netherby were: Miss C. DeLong, Miss Fisher, Mr. Williams, Mr. Frederick, Miss Green, Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Reed, Miss O'Lacy, Miss Geddes, R. Wallace, W. Smith, V. Trenaman, K. McKenzie, A. Penman, Miss M. Taylor, R. Penny, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Shufflebarger, J. Smith, Mrs. H. Bossert, J. Feeney, J. Lenuik, L. Schultheis, L. Longmore, Mrs. F. Storch, Mrs. L. McLaren, Miss L. Benjamin, Ernestine Battryn, F. Lee and J. McLaren.

In the spring of 1976 the original Netherby school was moved to a site four miles east of Hanna, where it was used in the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher?", a movie in which several local residents took part. When the filming was completed, the school was returned to its original site and put on a cement foundation.

Today the building [illegible] still in good shape, serving as a community centre. For the past number of years it has been used for various social functions, card parties, meetings, Sunday school and church services. Several funerals have been held there, as the Netherby cemetery adjoins the school grounds.



Netherby School loaded ready for moving [illegible] the site of the filming of "Why Shoot the Teacher", starring Samantha Eggar and Bud Cort.

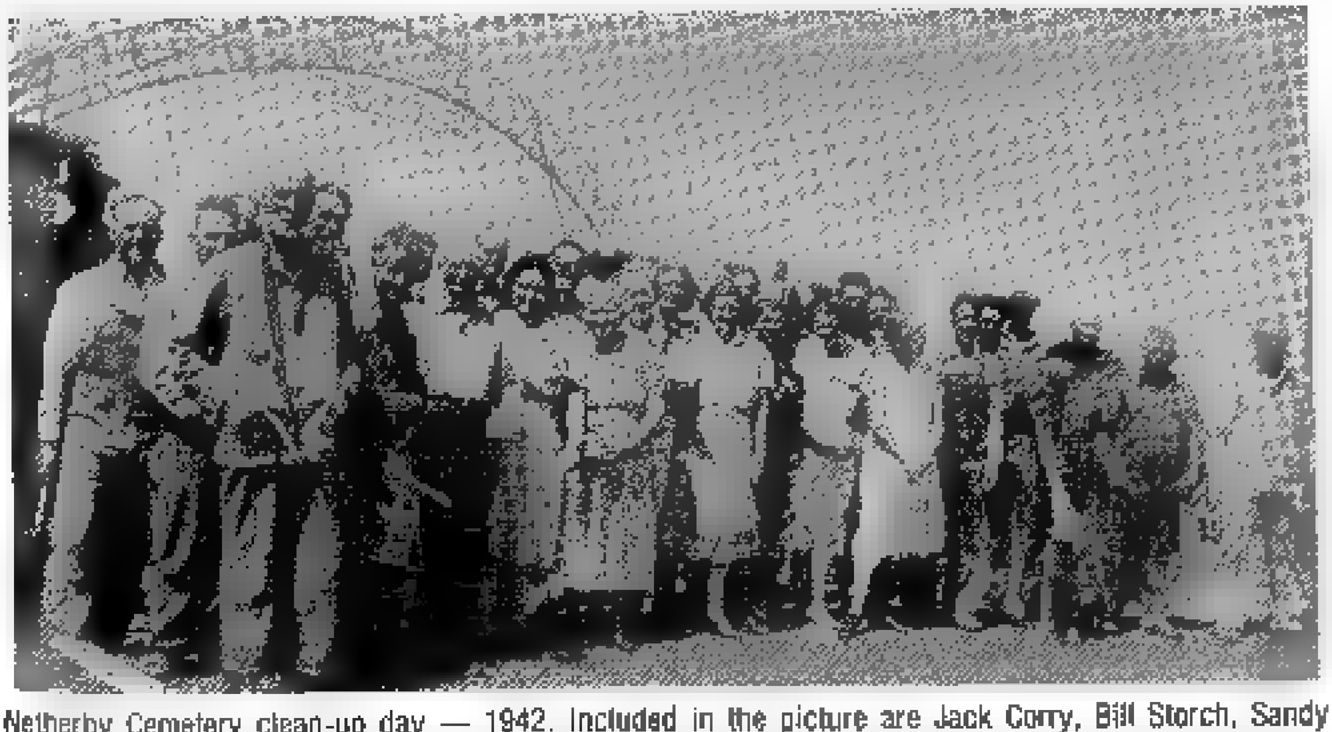
During the filming. The film was chosen as one of the six best films produced in Canada in 1976, and was shown at the world film festival at Cannes, France. It was described by Martin Knelman in the Edmonton Journal of May 28 as "a happy surprise . . . a gently funny adaptation of Max Braithewaite's memoir of his days presiding over a one-room schoolhouse in Saskatchewan during the depression years." The film will be shown in Alberta in September, 1977.

NETHERBY CEMETERY

By Mrs. Erbin Grove

The land for Netherby cemetery, a portion of the NE 20-33-13 adjacent to the south side of Netherby school grounds, was donated in 1913 by a homesteader, J.W. Taylor. In that same year the first burial, that of William Lewis, took place.

The cemetery is maintained by the people of the community who hold clean-up days, when they gather to mow the grass, trim trees, paint the fence and haul away debris.



Netherby Cemetery clean-up day — 1942. Included in the picture are Jack Corry, Bill Storch, Sandy Donaldson, Alex Wilson, Mary Cameron, Mrs. Sid Herring, Mrs. Ray Armstrong, Mrs. Charley Blayney, Mrs. Jack Corry, Mrs. Dick Roberts, Mrs. Jane Wilson, Mrs. George Wright, Andy Glover, Chas. Blayney, Ralph Greenaway, Chas. Strandberg, Bill Glover, Stanley Strandberg, Willie Storch, Ernie Taylor, Bob Rehill, Patsy Taylor, Frank Benzie, John Marlowe, Howard Armstrong.

Another homesteader, John Corry, took care of the register and the measuring of new grave sites until his death, when his son Clifford assumed these duties. Whenever a new grave is needed, the men of the community dig and prepare it.

The name, Netherby Cemetery, is formed of metal letters in an arch over the gateway. In 1966 a cairn was erected in memory of the pioneers buried there. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

Netherby Cemetery
In memory of the
Pioneers of Garden Plain
and district
1966

At this time of writing, February 22, 1977, there are one hundred and two graves in Netherby cemetery; each has a marker or headstone to mark its location.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Taylor

MR. and MRS. JAMES W. TAYLOR, By Jim Taylor Jr. and Marion Taylor Fox — James W. Taylor, a South African War veteran, owned and operated a furniture store in Okotoks from 1906 to 1909. In 1907 he married Winnifred DeLong, a registered nurse who was working in High River.

In 1908 the Dominion government passed the South African Bounty Act, which allowed veterans of the Boer War to obtain a half-section of land by fulfilling homestead duties. As soon as Mr. Taylor was able to dispose of his business, he got in touch with a real estate firm which advertised, "Homesteads located, $25.00 per half section." With a group of other landseekers, he travelled by train to Calgary, Lacombe and Stettler, where they hired a livery rig and driver at six dollars per day plus expenses. They spent their first night at Beaver Dam Creek, (where Castor is now located), and slept twenty-four men in a twelve-by-fourteen shack. The next day they drove south, and stopped the night with an old bachelor, seventy-seven years old, who had just gotten a shack built and who was preparing to perform the duties necessary to enable him to acquire deed to the land.

Their 'expert land locator' did not prove so very expert when it came to running the lines and finding the necessary mounds and stakes left by the surveyors. However, by tying a white handkerchief on the spokes of the wheel, and counting the revolutions, they were able to find the stakes and locate some choice land in Township 33, Range 13. They returned to Calgary and filed on their choices in the Land Office there.

In September, 1909, Mrs. Taylor and their two small boys, Jim, 15 months old, and Herbert, 3 months, joined Mr. Taylor on the homestead. Until Mrs. Taylor's passing at Garden Plain in February, 1943, she was an invaluable partner,

and a loving mother to their eight children, two of whom pre-deceased her. She was a dedicated church and community worker, and will always be remembered for her services as a nurse. It was not uncommon, on a twenty below winter night, for a neighbor to come with a team and sleigh, put heated rocks at her feet, and drive her many miles to tend the sick, or to deliver a baby.

The Taylors had the only piano in the district in those early years, and it bore a 'moving scratches' forever, as it was often taken to the schoolhouse or the community hall for various social functions. I can still remember my parents tell of the wonderful sing-songs which were enjoyed by neighbors who gathered at our home on winter evenings. If it happened to blizzard during such a gathering, it lasted for two or three days, with everyone taking turns sleeping, as bed space was limited.

In 1910 the town of Castor, almost thirty miles north, came into existence, and a year or two later, the town of Hanna. Mr. Taylor hauled lumber from these towns and built a nice house, and in due course, a barn. He was always a believer in keeping his buildings painted, and he called his farm "Hillside Farm", which was painted in large letters on the barn.

Mrs. Taylor always missed the trees and was not fond of the bald prairie, so in 1918 the family moved to Alix, and later to Manitoba. In 1930 they returned to Garden Plain, where their son Herbert took over the farming operations while Mr. Taylor opened and operated a small general store at Garden Plain.

Mrs. Taylor passed away at Garden Plain in 1943; Mr. Taylor died at Castor in 1958. Their eldest son, Jim, lives in Calgary. Herbert predeceased his father in 1946. George died in Australia in 1973. Marion married Herbert Fox and lives in Chilliwack; Patricia is Mrs. Stuart McRae and lives near Innisfree. Ernest, the youngest son, is at 100 Mile House, B.C. All the family except Herbert served in the armed forces during World War II.

Following are excerpts from the diaries of Mr. Taylor, who recorded in them regularly until his death:

June 20, 1909 . . . Walked over towards Hand Hills about five miles. Noticed a great variety of flowers on prairie, almost a new variety every day. Today saw a wild rose in blossom, and strawberry plants in full bloom. Sun still shining at 8:55 p.m.

August 9, 1909 . . . Fine and hot. Cutting hay in the forenoon, stacking after dinner until seven p.m. Being considerably bothered by flying ants, I lit some hay to drive them away and immediately my load was on fire. I tried to unhitch but only partly succeeded. The horses ran away, broke the whipple trees, and ran into the rake, damaging one wheel. Wagon and rack completely destroyed, no chance to save them, no water.

August 20, 1909 . . . Got a message from Stettler, by livery, to go at once to Calgary as baby Herb was very ill . . . rode back to Castor with livery, there borrowed wheel (bicycle), started for Stettler, overtaken by storm, laid up in a haystack till daylight. Arrived at Stettler at 10:15 next day, tired and hungry . . . a very fatiguing trip. Telephoned Calgary and got cheerful news.

August 30, 1909 . . . Left family at Okotoks, wheeled to Calgary in evening, took train for Stettler in morning.

September 1, 1909 . . . Wheeled from Stettler eighteen miles northwest to look at coal mine for Dr. DeLong (Mrs. Taylor's brother). Wheeled back to Stettler, very hot and thirsty ride, pushed towards home. Arrived at Castor at eight p.m. tired and weary from dusty road and slight head wind.

June 24, 1911 . . . Heavy rain in a.m. Splendid growth this summer. Prairie

greenest for years. Grain well advanced. Peas and tomatoes in flower, radish and lettuce on the table. Lots of wild strawberries, and wild roses.

August 13, 1911 . . . Fine and hot till 5 p.m. when heavy cloud came from west and hailed out all crops. Eight miles wide and twelve miles long. The grain was looking splendid, wheat would have gone twenty bushels per acre, oats fifty. All gone except a little feed. Hail broke fourteen panes of glass, stones as big as crabapples.

May 20, 1913 . . . crop seeded: wheat, 62 acres; oats, 40 acres; barley, 15; potatoes, 3. Total 120 acres.

THE WATSONS, By Irene Paton — Irene Paton, daughter of Lily Watson recalls what she has heard of the early years:

The year 1909 brought John Watson, a grain merchant from Scotland, to homestead in the area. Doctor's orders to locate in a drier climate prompted his move, and he chose this part of the country because a school friend, Jack Picken, had come to the Sullivan Lake country about 1905.

John Watson homesteaded the SE of 28-33-13 and proceeded to have a house built in preparation for his wife and family coming. The carpenter was a fellow Scot, John Maxwell, who was the father-in-law of a lumber merchant in Castor, Tom Finlayson. After sixty-seven years the house is still in use, having been moved into Hanna by Mr. and Mrs. Corry when they retired in 1960. Rosanna Corry Hanlon is now owner of the house.

Mrs. Watson, Lily, Tom and Jimmy arrived on one of the first trains to Castor, May 31, 1910. Tom recalls a foot of snow a few days later, and sleighs being used. The weather incident I recall my grandmother telling about often was a hailstorm one of the first summers, which broke all their west windows, and imbedded straw in the opposite walls!

Mr. and Mrs. John Watson and Lily Watson — 1919

About 1911 or 1912 the Watsons started a general store in their farmyard, with supplies freighted out from Castor by Bill Glover. A post office in connection with the store was named Fertility and operated for some years with mail coming from Castor to Garden Plain where Watsons picked it up. Many years later I recall amusing myself with grandfather's Notary stamp and Post Office stamp.

The younger boy, Jimmy, was trampled when the children were riding steers, and died of intestinal injuries in 1912, about seven years of age. Lily and Tom attended Netherby school, and often the teachers and the student ministers boarded with the family. Two names I recall hearing mentioned were Mr. Pritchard, who I believe was a student minister, and Miss Fisher, a teacher.

Closest neighbors through the years were the Corrys, and though the Watsons sold to R.S. Crabb and moved north of Castor in 1918, that friendship carried on.

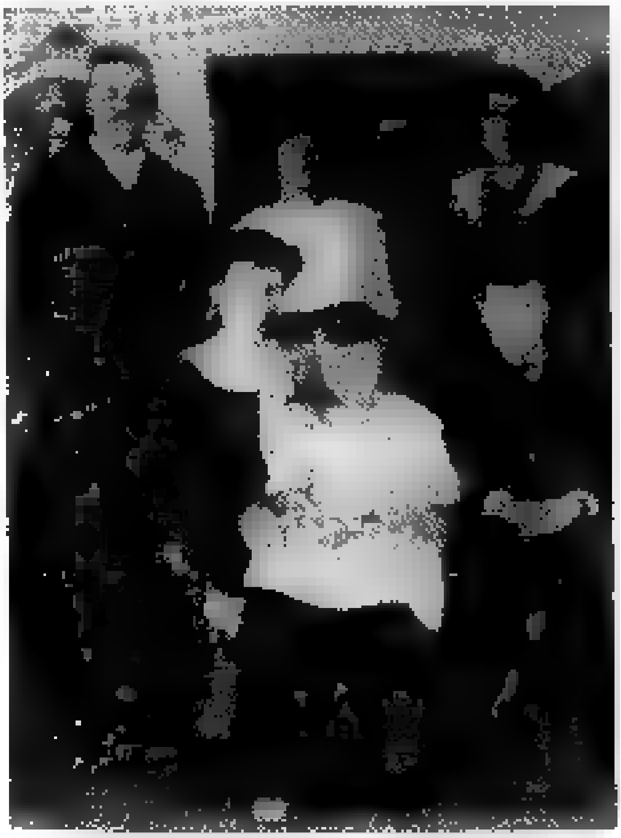
Lily married Ralph Wangeness of the Glengile district, but died when their daughter Irene was born in August of 1923. A year later Mr. Watson passed away.

Mrs. Watson and Tom continued farming until 1939. Through the years I recall many visits from old friends of the Garden Plain and Hanna areas . . . the Corrys, Elliotts, Herrings and MacLeods. How could I forget the MacLeods, for on one visit they gave me their daughter's doll carriage, a real prize for a lonely little girl on an isolated farm.

About 1940 Tom became an elevator agent, first at Veldt, then Castor, Clive and Rocky Mountain House where Mrs. Watson passed away in 1954. She was buried at Castor, and after all those years Netherby district was at the funeral. Mr. Corry was a pallbearer, and I recall Mrs. Unsworth telling me she had gone to school with my mother.

Tom Watson is now retired and living in South Edmonton. I have been married for nearly twenty-five years to Bert Paton and we also live in Edmonton.

The old Watson house holds many memories of happy days spent under its roof when I was a child.



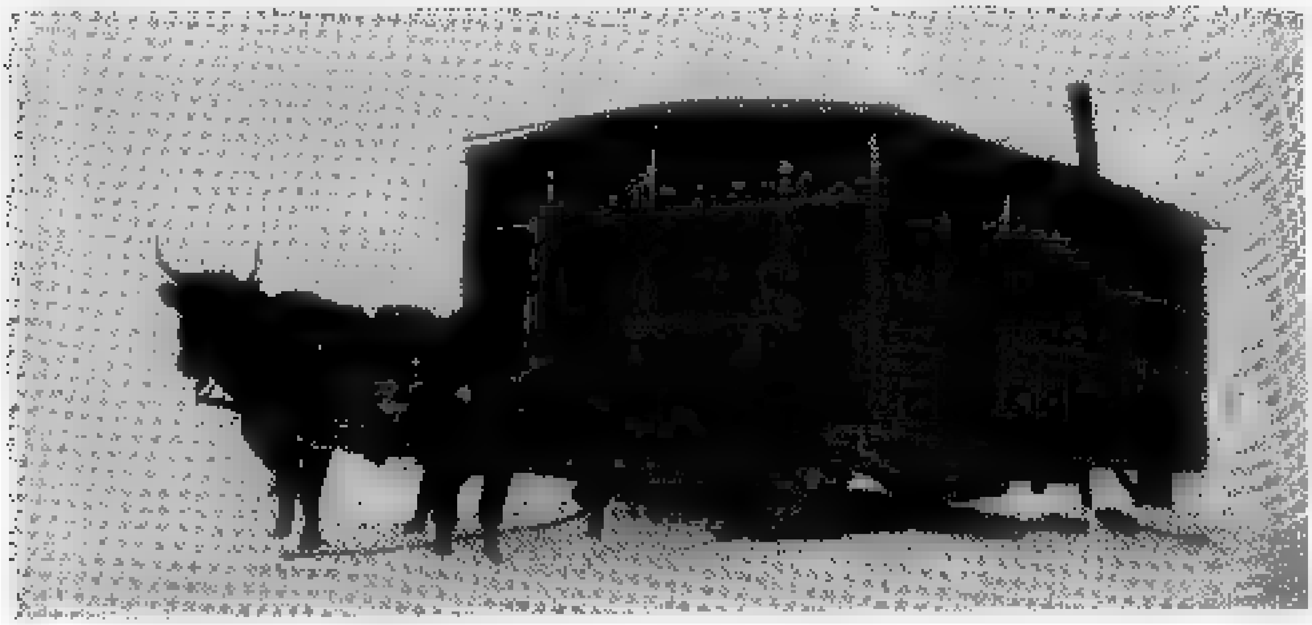
Lewis Family: Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Lewis, Alice, Frances, Walter and Winnifred.

THE JASPER HORACE S. LEWIS STORY, By Frances Lewis Unsworth, Alice Lewis Forster, Winnifred Lewis Grove — Our father was born in Wales in 1874, and lived for a time in New York city where his father worked for a large newspaper. After his mother's death, his father returned to England, where our father worked as a silk tie cutter. In 1897 he married Jane Frances Young, and in 1906 he brought his wife and two small daughters to Victoria, B.C. In June, 1909, he decided to come to Alberta to take up a homestead. By this time a son and another daughter had been added to the family, and travelling with them were our uncle and aunt, Alf Sturgess and family.

We lived in tents at Stettler while our father and our uncle walked to the Garden Plain area to choose homesteads. They decided on two adjoining quarters, and tossed a coin to see which of them would have the land on the main road, now Number 36 Highway. It fell to our dad. When they returned to Stettler they found that in their absence our two-month-old baby sister had died and was already buried.

Dad bought a team of oxen and a Bain wagon and put bows and a canvas

over the box. He loaded ■ walking plow, some coal oil, and enough groceries to last a month . . . dried beans, rice, flour, yeast cakes, tea, rolled oats, sugar and salt. When we arrived at the homestead he went to look for drinking water, which he found about four miles west where a Mr. Breister had dug a well. We had a Jersey cow and the milk, butter and cottage cheese helped our diet a lot. Our only furniture was bought from ■ disgusted homesteader, ■ Mr. Ed Wheeler, who was giving up and going back to the States. Our mattresses were ticks filled with slough hay.



Mr. H. Lewis moving the [redacted] Sturgess home down from Castor with his team of oxen — Teddy and Spud.

In order to prove up on the homestead, Dad had to break ten acres a year for three years, and build a frame dwelling worth three hundred dollars. After the frame house was built, it was called "Lewis Stopping House", and Dad and Mother fed men and teams who were going to the country to the south.

The first years were very hard. Dad worked on the roads with ■ fresno and scraper to work out his taxes. We dug several wells, with Mother and Frances pulling the dirt out of the holes with ■ bucket and rope, before finding enough water for the cattle and the house.

We once had a cow pushed into the well by another cow, in mid-winter, and had to pull her out with ■ team. She was frozen stiff, but we got her to the barn and put blankets on her and she lived.

In 1911 another little boy came to our family, but he passed away eighteen months later, and his little grave was the first in Netherby cemetery. Mr. J. W. Taylor had donated the land for the cemetery.

Dad tanned rabbit skins and mother used them to line winter hats and make collars. When we went out in a sleigh in winter, we would cover up with fur robes or horse blankets, and if it was to be a long trip, we wrapped heated stones in ■ sack to put our feet on. In winter we wore moccasins, or felt boots and rubbers, or heavy 'German' socks or knee-high felt socks with rubbers. There were also clogs, felt-lined boots with wooden soles, which were guaranteed to keep you warm at sixty below, but we nearly froze in them. Those who could afford them had fur mitts and hats and coats; one could buy ■ good heavy fur coat in those days for fifteen or twenty dollars.

Our home remedies were flax seed ground up for poultices, or bread and hot water, and for animals we sometimes used cow manure. Our spring tonics were boiled dandelion leaves, sulphur and molasses, and castor oil; and our first fresh vegetables were the pigweeds which grew around the sod barns.

At first the closest doctor and hospital was at Stettler, seventy-five miles away, but fortunately we did not need either one very often. There didn't seem to be as many diseases then, I suppose because people didn't mix so much.

When our school was first built, the term lasted from the first of March till Christmas, with a two-week holiday in July. One summer day there was a bad hailstorm and cloudburst, which flooded the coulee between our house and the school. A neighbor and our uncle came to help us across the coulee when it was time to go home. They had brought a team and wagon to ford the coulee, but forgot to tie the wagon box on, so it floated off and went down to Berry Creek. The horses swam through with the running gear, and my uncle piggy-backed all the younger children over, but we older ones had to walk upstream two miles to where the water wasn't so deep. It really was cold wading through there, with the hailstones still lying on the edge of the water.

If anyone was out away from home after dark, we always hung a lantern on a pole on the hill beside the house, and also put a lamp in the window to help guide them home.

In 1914 our youngest sister, Winnifred, was born.

After our father had proved up on the original homestead, he also took up a purchase homestead in the Solon area, and farmed that land too.

In 1919 an epidemic of flu hit this country, and as there was only one doctor in town, it was impossible to get help. Three of us children and our dad were all sick at one time. Our father developed pleurisy and the neighbors rode horseback all night to try to find the doctor, who was out in the country on another case. Finally the neighbors made up a bed in a bobsleigh, and even though a terrible blizzard was raging, got him to the hospital in Castor. He passed away ten days later, February 24, 1920.

Both Frances and Alice were married within the year, and on Christmas Day, 1927, Walter was married to Beulah Kruger. They lived in the district for a few years, then moved with their baby son to Viking. Walter's back was broken in an accident with a runaway team in May, 1931, and after seven months in hospital he died.

For many years Mother and I (Winnifred) lived on the farm alone. One fall Mother hired a man to cut our crop with our nearly-new binder. He didn't even know how to put the canvas on and wanted me to help him. Needless to say he was sent on his way and I did the job myself. I helped with the farm work and milked cows for a living; hauling feed and water during the winter proved quite a hardship for me and those prices in the depression years were so low. One year I helped drive over a hundred head of cattle to town to be shipped and the owners received a cent a pound for payment.

Life was not easy for my mother. When they lived in a tent during those first months on the homestead, she was always worried that wild animals such as gophers or mice might crawl under the edge of the tent and gnaw the little children while they were sleeping. When they operated a stopping house, they had some difficult guests. On one occasion a lady and her daughter were going to stay there, but wanted to know the number of their room and the way to the bathroom. When they found out that men would be sleeping in the room next to them they decided to go on their way. Then there was the minister who tied his horse to the gate post and walked up to the house for dinner. After the meal he shook a little salt from the salt shaker, popped it in his mouth, and moved his chair back from the table. When the next person who stopped there came in to eat, he pulled his chair back to the table and ate again.

A third incident was when two men got lost in a bad blizzard several miles

from our house. At times when the storm abated somewhat, they would catch a glimpse of the light in our window. They finally made it to our gateway but couldn't get out of their wagon to open the gate as their feet were so badly frozen. Dad had gone to bed and kept telling mother to put out the light and come too, but she said that she thought she heard noises outside, and finally convinved him to get up and go to see what it was. He got the poor men into the house and put their team away, then rubbed the frozen feet with coal oil and gave them hot drinks and food.

After Winnifred's marriage in 1935, Mother moved to the Hanna area where she resided until 1959. She died in 1961 and is buried at Netherby cemetery.

Frances Lewis Unsworth and Winnifred Lewis Grove still live in the Garden Plain area. Alice Lewis Forster makes her home at Surrey, B.C.

Bert Brown by his sod house.

B. C. BROWN, By Frances Unsworth — Mr. Bert Brown was a South African War veteran who filed on South African scrip land in 1909, the north half of 30-33-13. He built a small square sod shack with a lean-to roof on the bank of a slough surrounded by willows and poplars. He also dug a well, but it gave him only a few pails of water a day.

Bert was born in Birmingham, England, but I believe he came here from New Zealand. He worked around at the neighbors', helping wherever he was needed or wherever he could make a dollar, and in return managed to get the necessary land work done on his farm, as he never owned any horses or machinery himself. He worked in coal mines in the winter, mainly at the Ken Bryanton strip mine.

If he wanted to go to town he just started walking, leaving about six o'clock in the morning and coming home the next day. He would not accept a ride as he got great pleasure out of walking. On moonlight nights he would walk to the neighbors for an evening of cards.

To prove up on his land, he built a $300.00 frame house and dug another well. The house is still standing in 1977, and has had many tenants: J.W. Taylor, Herb Taylor, George Taylor, Steinbreckers, Grovers, Nesses, Cyril Unsworth, Albert Unsworth, Gerry Unsworth; Louis Unsworth now owns the land.

When World War I started in 1914, Bert enlisted, as though it was his duty to do so as he was single. He kept in touch with all of his friends, but eventually we received word from one of his comrades that Bert had been killed in action in November, 1917. We had all lost a kind and true friend.

JOHN CORRY, By Mrs. John Corry and Rosanna Corry Hanlon — John Corry was born on February 15, 1883, at Hoddom Mill, Dumfrieceshire, Scotland. In 1906 he, his mother, his sister, and his brother came to Canada to join a brother who had come out earlier.

He spent the winter of 1906 in Manitoba, and the next year worked on a ranch in the Kamloops, B.C. area. In May of 1909 he took up a homestead, the SW 28-33-13, built a shack and sod barn and dug a well. He hauled all his supplies from Stettler, a distance of seventy-five miles, with a team of oxen and a wagon. As the round trip took a week, he often slept under the wagon.

Albert Brown, John Corry, Archie Corry Sr, Chris Corry, Mary Waugh, Hannah Brown, Rachel Corry, Cliff Corry, and Rosanna Corry.

He returned to Kamloops for the winter of 1909, and there met Jane Hodgson, whom he married. By this time he had a team of horses and a cow, Lena, from whom he started his herd of cattle. He also had a cattle dog, Flossie, who would bring the cows to the yard at milking time.

His first crop was hailed out, with no insurance, and later he was to lose five crops out of eight due to hail. Prairie fires, drought and intensive cultivation took their toll of the land, and many hard times lay ahead for the young farmers, but through many personal sacrifices, they gradually got ahead. In 1929 John Corry won the Kiwanis Cup for the best standing crop in the area.

Mrs. Corry became ill and was nursed by Rae Neider Lunn, a member of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and a Red Cross nurse from Hanna. She died in 1916, leaving a daughter, two-year-old Rosanna. Mr. Corry's mother came out to take care of the little family until Rachel Hodgson arrived from England.

John Corry married Rachel Hodgson in February, 1917. They had three sons. Joe died of cholera in 1923 and Archie was killed in a car accident in 1938. Clifford married Eileen Johnston in 1948 and had four children, Reg, Archie, Leonard and Linda. They live on the original homestead quarter.

Rosanna married Ed Hanlon. Their children are Corry, Garth, Marjorie Jean and John.

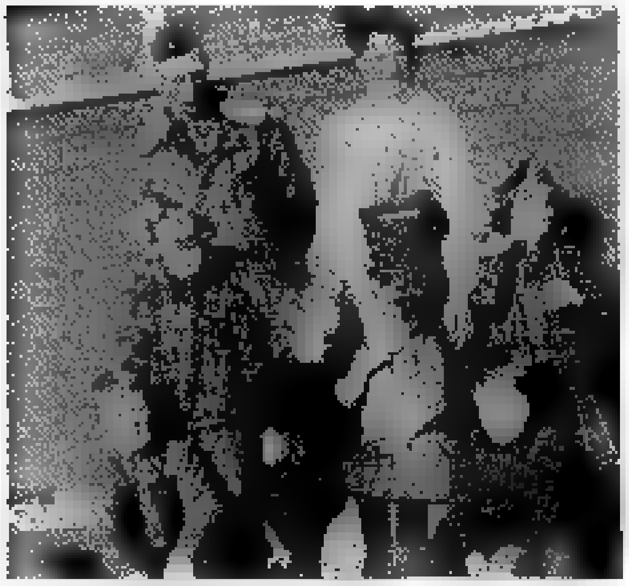
Rosanna recalls him getting ready to haul grain to the elevator at Bonar. He would wear a big buffalo coat, and spend much of the trip walking along beside the sleigh. His big treat was to smoke a cigar or two to help keep himself warm. He and Billy Hoodless usually planned to take loads at the same time. He returned home from one trip quite upset, for he had found Billy lying by the side of the road, hurt and unable to get up, and had taken him to the hospital. Another unhappy day was when he saw smoke at Alex Wilson's house; he hurried down there but all that was saved were a few sacks of flour.

A happier incident occurred during the family's yearly visit to the Billy Howe and John Watson families, who had left the district and moved north of Castor. He and Billy went shooting ducks and got so many that they had to take off their

overalls, tie the legs and put the ducks in them so that they could carry them home. They took them to the Watson's where they distributed them among all the neighbors and had a very fine feast.

John Corry always took an active part in community affairs. He was Reeve of the Sullivan Lake Municipality for many years. He worked hard to get the Municipal Hospital in Hanna and served on that Board for the last twenty years of his life. He was president of the Co-op store executive for many years, and was instrumental in getting the rural mail route and telephone into his district. He always helped to raise funds for Christmas treats at the local school concerts, and took care of the Netherby cemetery from the time it was surveyed until his death.

Despite many hardships, he always felt that he had had a full and active life, and often reminded us how fortunate we were to live in such a productive and peaceful land.



Mr. and Mrs. Alf Sturgess and family

MR. and MRS. ALFRED STURGESS from information supplied by Dolly Sturgess Englund and Reg Sturgess — The Sturgess family travelled with their relatives, the Horace Lewis family, from Victoria, B.C. to Stettler in the spring of 1909. The women and children lived in tents at Stettler while the men walked to the Garden Plain area to find homesteads.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess had five children. The oldest, Reg, was six years old. He walked most of the way with the men while the women and children rode in the wagon.

During their first winter on the prairie, the family lived in a sod building which had been formerly used as an Anglican Church near the present town of Castor; the next summer Mr. Sturgess built a small house in Castor. In March, 1911, Mr. Lewis hitched his oxen to the Sturgess house and moved it to the homestead for them. The family continued to occupy their home during the move, which took three days.

That summer, Mr. Sturgess went to work in the mountains. While he was away, his wife gave birth to twin girls, with only her brother, Mr. Lewis, to assist. A few weeks later, the little home was destroyed by a severe hail storm, and the family moved in with the Lewises. When Mr. Sturgess returned from his summer job, he moved his family back to Castor, and later to Coronation. There was a fuel shortage that winter, and for added protection against the cold, the family slept in a tent pitched upstairs in the house.

In the spring of 1912 the family returned to the homestead, and lived in a sod barn until Mr. Sturgess was able to build them a house. After the Thomas Walters store burned to the ground on Christmas Day, 1912, Mr. Sturgess operated a post office and also cut hair, as there was no other barber in the area. He was known as 'the Englishman'.

In 1915 Mr. Sturgess sold his homestead and moved his family and his livestock to Lane's Lake, west of Castor, until he disposed of his stock in November of that year. Then he took his family to Australia, where they remained until 1923.

On their return to Canada, they stayed in Calgary for a short while, then

bought horses and a wagon, put a tent over the wagon and set out for Garden Plain.

Mrs. Englund says, "Mrs. Horace Lewis was a widow then, and when our dad went to her door, she thought that we were travelling gypsies. She was so surprised that the Sturgess family had returned to the Garden Plain country after so many years away. We stayed there until June, 1925."

The Sturgess family lived in Calgary for the next ten years, then moved to the Vancouver area, where both Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess died.

Their children were Reginald, Lewis, Francis, Doris, Gertrude, Vivian and Vida (twins) and Alfred.

JIM ELLIOT — I was born in Calgary. My parents moved to what is now the Spondin district and I grew up there.

I first arrived in the Garden Plain district in 1923. I came to work in the harvest fields and worked for Bill Hoodless, John Corry and Robert Crabb, mostly stooking the grain. These three farmers all lived on the same section, so the farms were a lot smaller then than they are nowadays.

I came back at harvest time in 1925 and spent over three years at the Corry farm. This was the longest stretch that I put in there. I was back there several times afterwards, mainly in the summer time, the last year being 1939. In all I spent over six years working for John Corry.

The twenties were good years, the times of good crops and reasonably decent prices for the grain. The thirties were something else again, as a lot of us can remember.

However, as I remember the times, it seemed we had quite a lot of fun too. In the twenties we shot rabbits by moonlight with a shotgun. By the thirties, though, even the rabbits seemed to have dried up. Then we had card parties at Netherby school, dances at the Garden Plain hall, and so on.

I can remember very clearly the Sunday morning that Jack Corry, Jim Peterson and I sat in the living room and listened to Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of Britain, announce the declaration of war on Germany. When he was through we were all quiet and sober looking. I think that we all knew that things were never going to be quite the same again. That was September 3, 1939.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM HOWE, By Edith Howe Hronek — William Howe homesteaded in 1910 in the Netherby district, on the NW 22-33-13. His brother Ernie also homesteaded nearby, so they worked together, and also worked with Charles Blaney. During the winter of 1910-11 he worked for John Chidley at the livery barn in Castor.

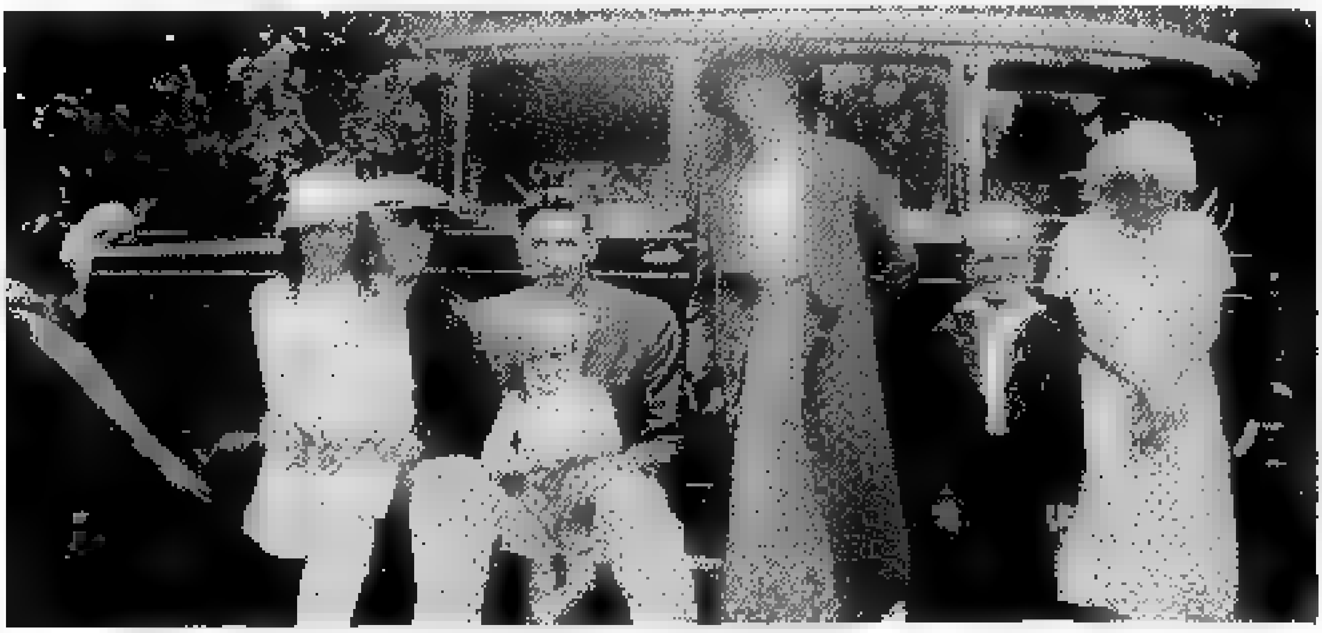
On September 27, 1911, he married Christena Chidley of Castor and moved to the homestead. They had three daughters born at Fertility, Dorothy, Edith and Elsie; and two sons, Stanley and William, born at Castor.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe lived on the homestead for seven years, and their crops were hailed out five times in those seven years, so they decided to move. In the spring of 1918 they bought land in the Lauderdale district north-west of Castor; that year their crop was frozen out in July.

Mrs. Howe passed away in 1946. Mr. Howe farmed until 1953 when he retired to Castor. He passed away in 1972 at the age of ninety-two.

STEPHEN WAGNER, By Vallette Wagner Waine — My father was born in Nova Scotia, but came to Alberta from Maine, where he had been employed in a paper mill. He and Ken Bryanton arrived in Stettler in April, 1908, and filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain district. In one of his letters to us, my father said that it was a beautiful country with many lakes and wild ducks and geese.

In December of that year my mother and sister and I joined father in Stettler, where my sister and I attended school and father did freighting. The following March we moved to the Garden Plain area, living with Mr. James Manson in his sod house for three weeks until our frame home was completed, with his help. As our house was located on the Castor Trail on the SW 18-33-13, many men freighting supplies to the south country stopped at our place to spend the night.

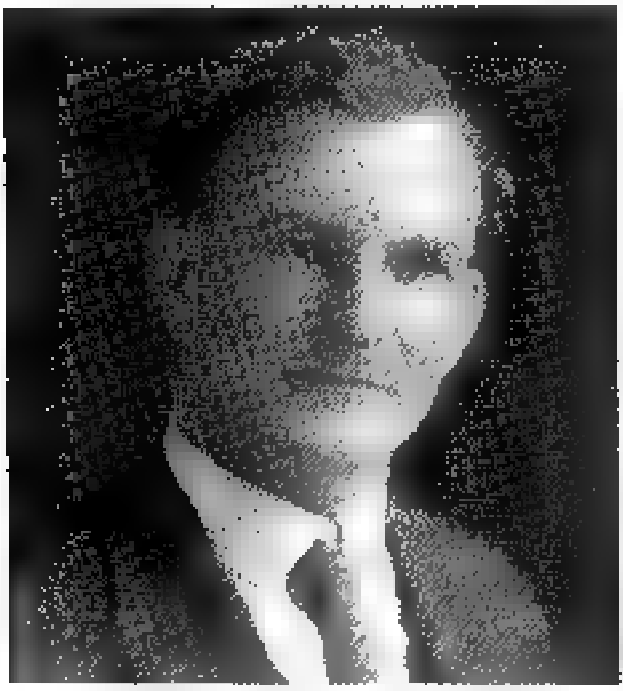


Steve Wagner, his son Albert, Mrs. Wagner and their grandchildren.

We met many wonderful people, and there was such a friendly feeling among everyone. Wherever a helping hand was needed, all worked together. On several occasions Mother was called upon to usher a little one into the world.

My sister and I walked three miles to Netherby school, and I remember that there were very many mosquitoes.

My brother Albert was born in 1914, and also attended Netherby school. In 1929 my parents moved to Oregon, where my sister Lillian died in 1950, my mother in 1960 and my father in 1962.



Rudy Moore

RUDY MOORE, By Harold Strandberg — Rudy Moore was born at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in 1888. In 1906, he, his father Jacob and uncle Fred, came to Alberta and filed on homesteads on the same section, 32-33-13. Jacob had the north-west quarter, Fred the north-east, and Rudy the south-east. Instead of building a shack on each quarter, they built one house so that part of it rested on each claim.

Rudy and his father did a lot of carpenter work in Castor after the railway reached there, and one day in July, 1909, while they were away, a neighbor found Fred dead. He is buried in an unmarked grave on his homestead.

Until the three claims were proved up and the titles received, Jacob Moore spent the winters at his home in Rice

Lake and returned each spring to the homesteads. After he received the title to his brother's land, he went back to the States and never returned. He was accidentally killed in 1923 while blowing stumps in a land-clearing project in Wisconsin.

After his father left, Rudy moved the house to the eastern part of the southeast quarter so that he would be close to the road. He continued to farm the three quarters, usually with the help of a hired man. Some of these fellows could speak very little English, but with the aid of the Eaton's catalogue, Rudy soon had them both speaking and writing the language.

In 1928 Rudy hired Mrs. N. Ortt, from Peterborough, Ontario, as his housekeeper. Her daughter Ruth attended Netherby school, later married John Pokojoy and had one son, Jack. This [illegible] what she says about her mother's employer:

"Rudy Moore knew all about hard times and being resourceful. During the lean thirties he did blacksmith work for himself and his neighbors, and made many useful and interesting things in his shop.

"Soap was expensive, so he made both hand and laundry soap. There was no money for furniture polish, so he made it, but [illegible] did take a lot of rubbing to produce a shine. Rudy enjoyed his pinch of snuff, so when times got even worse he made his own. It was a funny color, and he never said how it tasted. He made coffee by cracking roasted wheat and adding chicory. Mother and I did use the soap, but after sampling the coffee, mother preferred to drink tea and I had milk.

"Rudy loved company and made everyone welcome to share whatever there was to eat. There were always potatoes, eggs if the hens were laying, and Mother's homemade bread and freshly churned butter. Rudy never turned away anyone who had no place to go. Often he had two men staying with him, even if there wasn't much to do in the winter except bring in water, keep the wood box and coal scuttles full, and feed a few cattle and horses. For years an older gentleman, Mr. Stillman, stayed with him and looked after the garden in the summer time. We never knew where he came from, or where he went when he left."

Mrs. Ortt lived in Hanna for a few years before her death in 1956.

When the railroad was built in 1929, it passed through Rudy's land, and the hamlet of Garden Plain was situated on his homestead quarter. Two elevators and a store were built there, so Rudy had close neighbors for over thirty years. Eventually the store closed, one elevator was moved to Cereal and the other torn down and the material used to build a new one in Hanna.

In 1958 Rudy sold his farm to [illegible] neighbor, Ed Job, but continued to live in his home. In 1963 he suffered a broken arm when he had an accident with his half-ton truck, and after that he depended on his neighbors for transportation to town or to go visiting. He was found dead in October, 1966, and was buried [illegible] Netherby cemetery.

OUR RETURN TO THE WEST, By Ruth Ortt Haden — My mother, Mrs. James Edwin Ortt, and I came to Hanna in August, 1928, from Peterborough, Ontario. Our journey took one week on the excursion train. We were so glad we had packed a big wicker basket of food to eat on the trip. While travelling, we spent our time visiting with the other passengers, reading and doing fancy work. It must have been a very tiring trip for my mother, but for me, a girl eleven years old, I could curl up and sleep on the leather seats. We stayed overnight at the Dominion Rooming House in Hanna, and Mr. Rudy Moore, for whom my mother was going to work, came into town with his Model T Ford and brought us out to his farm at Garden Plain.

Tom McCafferty and son Harry

Mother and I had lived 'out west', as the easterners say, with my father on the homestead near Paynton and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, so mother had an idea of what life would be like on the farm. However, I was a small girl when my father died and we returned east to be near our relations. I could not remember ever seeing coal oil lamps, water in pails, or outdoor plumbing.

Yes, I had many experiences in store for me. We had hardly had time to get settled when I began to realize that Netherby school, one and one half miles south, would be starting, and I would either have to walk or learn to ride a horse. One sunny afternoon a neighbor girl came over on a quiet farm horse and offered to teach me how to ride. After putting on the saddle, and getting me seated therein, she jumped up behind. We rode at a trot for over a mile, with me bouncing up and down. I felt every bone in my body beginning to ache, as I said, "Could we possibly let the horse walk for a while?"

This girl was a good rider and I guess she felt she had stood about enough from me, even having to show me how to get on the horse. She replied, "If you don't like it, get off and take your saddle with you."

Needless to say, I stayed on, but I didn't do any riding or even sitting down for a few days. However, I did learn to ride and I even got my own pony, Tepee, and loved to gallop over the open prairie riding Indian style.

I have heard so much talk about the dirty thirties, but for me there were many good memories. The wind blew, but when it did the windcharger would charge up the batteries for the car and the radio. Then we could listen to Major Bowes, the ten o'clock news, Lux Theatre, Eb and Zeb, Amos and Andy, and other good programs. In the cold winter evenings we sat around the heater in the front room doing sewing, embroidering flour sack pillow cases and flour sack luncheon cloths, eating apples or reading the Free Press, especially the Home Loving Hearts pages, or the Country Guide, or a book. Of course my mother insisted that my homework must be done first.

There is never a Christmas that I do not recall the Netherby Christmas concert. Each child had a little piece to say, and we all lined up on the stage to sing the Christmas carols. Santa came and each child received a present from under the big tree at the front. Candies and oranges were passed out to everyone. After the concert no one went home. The men took out the school desks and benches to clear the floor and a dance began. Music was supplied by a pick-up orchestra. The first dance I took part in was the Heel and Toe Polka. I was twelve years old.

As I grew older there were dances in the Garden Plain hall. Everyone went, even the children. We never went home until the wee hours of the morning. One night when we were all shaking up the floor doing a square dance, the big stove pipes fell down. They were quickly put up, the floor swept, and the dance went on.

I also remember the United Farm Young People's. We held our meetings at one another's homes. As I recall, these meetings were in the winter time, and we went by sleighloads, straw in the bottom of the sleigh, heated rocks and blankets. There was such a nice bunch of young people, and we had a marvellous time.

Another memory I have is the building of the railroad. One of the workers used to cook his meals on an old kitchen stove out on the prairie. One day a wind got up, and before anyone noticed, the prairie was on fire. It looked as if the house and buildings would be burned to the ground. Rudy Moore had his hands burned fighting the fire with wet sacks. The men fought the fire all night to bring it under control.

Two elevators and one store were built at Garden Plain. The crew that built the Pioneer elevator had their own cook, but my mother, Blake Haden and I cooked three meals a day and did all the dishes for the gang that built the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in 1939, earning the big sum of one dollar a day and our board. Rudy Moore made and bottled root beer and sold it to the crew for ten cents a bottle.

I left Mr. Moore's to continue my high schooling and to take a business course in Edmonton and Hanna. Mother stayed on the farm until she moved into Hanna in 1950. She often talked about returning to the east to be near her people, but she really liked the freedom of the west. In the summer time there was always a bouquet of wild flowers on the kitchen table. My son has a box of Indian arrowheads that Mother found on her walks around the farm. My dear mother passed away in 1956, and is buried in Hanna cemetery.

I married in 1944 and have one son, Jack, who is in exploration geology and spends much of his working time in the arctic, looking for gas and oil.

My husband, Blake Haden, and I have made our home in the village of Halkirk. We often reminisce about the good old days at Garden Plain.

THOMAS McCAFFERTY, By Lenora McCafferty Meehan — Thomas McCafferty came to Alberta in 1909 from the State of Maine in the U.S.A. His wife and daughter Lenora followed the next year.

He worked on a farm south of Castor for a Mr. and Mrs. Behrens until he earned enough money to buy a team of horses and a wagon, then he drove newcomers over the land available for homesteaders, helping them to locate. He filed on the south-east of 18-33-13 and built a frame house and a sod barn.

The first year was spent building fences, cutting prairie wool for hay, and breaking ground for next year's crop. The work was accomplished by all four settlers on the section working together. Steve Wagner and Ken Bryanton had come from Maine with Mr. McCafferty, Jim Manson came from Nova Scotia, and the four men pooled tools and machines and helped each other with their work.

Tom McCafferty hauled freight from Castor south to Copeville, near where the town of Hanna is now located. The money he earned helped to buy groceries and machinery and equipment to help improve life on the homestead.

Later he developed a coal mine on the south-east corner of his land. At one time he stripped a bit of land to get at the coal beneath several feet of surface soil. It was necessary to have qualified miners to operate an underground mine, so in the summers he would hire Mr. Baxter and Mr. Camp, who were also homesteaders but who worked in the large coal mines in Drumheller during the winter.

Tom McCafferty had a contract for hauling mail three times a week from the post office at Garden Plain to the post office at Fertility. Neither rain, hail nor blinding blizzard stopped the Royal Mail from going through.

The long trip to haul grain to the elevators in winter was a special hardship for him. He was lame as the result of a broken hip in his youth, and consequently could not walk behind his load to keep warm as the other men did, but he never complained.

The most severe hailstorm occurred in 1915. There had been ample rain and a bumper crop was ripening in Tom McCafferty's field. He was in the process of making arrangements with Fred Whaley to have his crop cut.

In those days the grain was cut with a binder which tied the grain into uniform bundles and deposited them on the ground in piles. Men would pick up the bundles and place several of them together in an upright position to form a stook, where they were left to dry until they could be threshed.

It was a beautiful Sunday in that late summer of 1915 when Fred Whaley came to look at the crop which Tom wanted him to cut. Sunday dinner was prepared and the table set for the meal. A beautiful shortcake was sitting on the table, embellished with whipped cream and orange sections. As the men returned from the field, the skies darkened and the wind started to blow. Rain fell, followed by hail the size of golf balls, some as big as baseballs. Windows in the house were broken; glass was spattered over the table and the beautiful cake. The wheat was flattened. In less than an hour, the hard work and prospects of an income for a whole year were gone. The homesteaders gathered up the remains for feed and carried on as best they could, hoping for a better return for their labors the next year.

Tom McCafferty sold his farm, stock and equipment in 1917, and purchased a farm north of Garden Plain. He and his wife have both passed away and are buried at Castor.

Their son Harry, born in 1911, lives at Botha. Lenora lives in Calgary.

THE JOHN WILLETT FAMILY, By Roberta Willett Sargeant — My dad filed on the NE 16-33-13 in 1907. He had come to Alberta from North Dakota where he had farmed and been a Superintendent of Schools. Mother and I came out in the spring of 1909. In the meantime dad had taught school, (Sullivan Lake, I think) and had built a house on his land.

Four more children were born while we were on the farm: Boyd in 1910, Stanley in 1915, (he died in 1921), Laura in 1917 and Angie in 1919.

I dimly remember being with dad on one trip he went for supplies. We could see smoke from a fire behind us to the north-west. Oxen are so slow! If a prairie fire came, our home was protected only by a narrow plowed fireguard. Mother was home alone, but when we got there we discovered that she had wet gunny sacks ready; fortunately that fire went away to the north and east so the sacks weren't needed.

Everyone did things the hard way, because there were no labor-saving devices. We had a well that gave us clear cold water, but we had to draw it or pump it by hand for the stock, and carry it to the house by the pailful. The kitchen stove had a reservoir on the side which kept some warm water handy, but on washdays a larger quantity was heated in a large boiler on top of the stove. Clothes used to be boiled in that boiler too, to get them white. The washing was done on a scrub board, rinsed and wrung out by hand. Floors were scrubbed with a brush and mop, soap was homemade.

Coal and wood, but mostly coal, were the fuels in those days. Our home was heated by the range in the kitchen, and by a round-bellied stove in the living room. The pipe from this stove went through the upstairs and so our sleeping quarters received some heat.

In the years we were on the farm we grew only two really good crops, and one of them was hailed out, in 1916, I think. Shortage of rain was such a problem! I remember milking cows, and churning . . . how I used to dislike that; it took so long to get butter by moving the dasher up and down . . . but how good the butter was after mother had worked it! We had our own beef and pork and chickens and eggs.

One of my chores was to go for the cattle after school. Sometimes it was quite a hunt. I remember one time it was dusk before I found them, in an area where cacti grew, and I was barefoot. Another time I was bringing in a cow with her new calf, and a coyote followed me to the top of the hill west of George Mattey's. There he stopped and howled and howled; his supper had gotten away.

When my sister Laura was born, a nurse stayed with us to care for mother and the baby, but after a few days she was called away on an emergency case. I was only eleven years old, but I took over as best I could, even bathing the baby. I had all the confidence in the world, but I wonder how my mother felt?

I remember, during the flu epidemic, that our family always wore masks when away from home. I remember the neighbors gathering on a Sunday afternoon to listen to the music of J.W. Taylor's gramaphone. That was the first one in the district; it had a horn and cylindrical records.

I remember watching a storm from our kitchen doorway. The wind was of cyclone speed and we were watching the cloud carried by it. Mr. Williams was driving home from Hanna. He pulled his team in to the shelter of a building, but the wind lifted the roof off it and dropped it on Mr. Williams in his democrat. He was in hospital for months after that, and walked with a limp for the rest of his life.

Dad sold the farm to George Standing, through the Soldier Settlement Board, and we moved to Calgary in 1919. Primarily, I believe the move was made with the education of the children in mind.

Mother died in 1951 at the age of seventy-one; dad in 1954 at eighty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson

ALEX WILSON, By Ruby Wilson — Alex Wilson was born in Deskford, Banffshire, Scotland on November twenty-seventh 1886.

A cousin, Alex Lyon, emigrated to Manitoba and sent glowing reports; these interested the young man so much that in 1911 Alex decided to venture out to the land of opportunity.

The family was a close knit one; on the day of his departure, his father, who hated to see his son go, couldn't say goodbye, but just walked down the road with him, turned, waved his hand in farewell, never looking back. That was the last Alex ever saw his dear Dad as he became a victim of the flu epidemic a few years later.

Alex sailed on April fourteenth, 1911, from Liverpool, England, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia eight days later in company with Jim Andrew's brother, John. There were no dining cars on the train, so meals were had whenever, and wherever a long stop occurred and the

young men could find a restaurant nearby. Jim Andrew met the young immigrants and all three worked for a short time on the railroad at Empress. When the outfit moved to Coronation Alex went along to help in the building of the railroad at that point. While there the first store and bank were opened so a new town was born. The work continued on the railroad till freeze-up. Alex then went to Castor and owing to a coal strike (they were around in these days too) he was able to get work at the coal mine. Work was work and nothing too menial to tackle. Christmas 1911, and once again Alex was on his way to Coronation, this time by train. Jim Andrew met him and both men walked back to Jim's homestead, north of Stanmore; from Coronation a distance of thirty-three miles. They reached their destination in one day, in spite of heavy snow left by a three-day blizzard.

In January of 1912, John Bye's father-in-law was returning from Castor to his homestead north of Richdale and invited Alex to accompany him. The first night was spent at the Ricket place and the following day they arrived at Watson's, also Scots, who operated the post office and store at Fertility. This house in later years was renovated and moved to Hanna and is still used as a dwelling. The kindly couple gave Alex work that winter, hauling freight from Castor, choring and the odd time hauling mail from Garden Plain Post Office to Fertility. In late March Alex got a ride with an Irishman named Ryan going north to within seven miles of Castor and he walked the remainder of the way to meet his brother John, who arrived that night from Scotland.

The brothers joined the Andrew brothers and all four men journeyed to Bassano to work with the irrigation crew. That fall John, who now had a homestead, returned to Fertility and built a shack on his homestead north-east of Watson's store. The following summer both brothers returned to Bassano and late that year Alex filed his claim on a homestead in the Spondin district. Alex never lived on his homestead. During the winter he batched with John and the following spring, 1914, John helped him build his shack. Later that year Alex purchased a team of horses, some farm machinery and commenced farming. During this time John Wilson was working in Hanna in the construction of the Old Public School, so Alex seeded thirty acres for each of them and broke eighty acres on each homestead.

In 1915 John enlisted in the Services, but he never returned to farming, being badly wounded and obliged to change his type of work. He moved to Calgary, married Dorothy Alice Lee and had one son John Robert who was drowned in Chestermere Lake in 1945. John, prior to retiring in the late fifties was Supervisor in the Custom's office in Calgary. He died in 1963. John's widow Dorothy passed away in 1969.

Alex farmed both homesteads until 1917 at which time he sold his homestead at Spondin to Messrs. John and Henry Adolph, whose land adjoined his. He also owned the south-east of 35-33-12 which he farmed for a short time, but owing to the distance from Fertility he found it inconvenient to operate and so allowed the creamery operator to pasture his cows on one part and Gus Adolph farmed the remainder. This same quarter section was sold to Gus Adolph in October 1952 for one half-ton truck of barley and one cow.

Alex's mother, the late Mrs. Jane Wilson, joined Alex in October, 1919. At that time she was a lady of sixty years old and amused the station master at Castor on her arrival by carrying an umbrella, as he remarked "to the banana belt". Nothing undaunted, she laughingly replied, "then I'll use it as a sunshade." During her long stay in the area Mrs. Wilson, Sr., put her nursing knowledge to use by acting as a midwife on many occasions. She was loved by one and all and although she retained the Scottish dialect of the north, the children and adults too managed to

understand her. Alex often recalled how much she liked to visit Hanna and would say she required to go on the pretense of being short of tea (she would hide it) but Alex finally found out, and then she had to resort to another excuse for an outing. A trip to Hanna in those days had to be planned well ahead, lists made, etc.

The first winter of Alex's mother's sojourn in the land of her adoption was spent at Glover's until Alex was able to build on to his shack. On one occasion, on a return trip from Castor where he had gone for lumber, he stopped at Glover's to visit and have supper. While unhitching the horses he noticed that a quarter of beef he had purchased was missing, but before he could hitch up the team again they were off, and each time he almost caught up to them they would gallop away. He finally ran them down at Eklund's three miles away, and was a thankful man to do so, as at the time the chase began he was wearing a fur coat which greatly hampered his progress. He found the meat, too.

Alex loved his animals and the care and attention they received were evidence of this. He never had an animal lie down in wet or soggy bedding, nor had he any half-starved looking cattle; in fact, his cattle usually brought the top price.

On going through some receipts, one was found in which he had paid for four hours of labor the substantial sum of twelve dollars per hour.

In the spring of 1923, while Alex's mother was away visiting a neighbor, their home was razed by fire, the result of warm ashes being used for a pathway round the house and a high wind coming up in her absence. In later years all such ash paths were well doused with water. For a time Grandma Wilson, as she was affectionately known, and Alex lived in the Hanson house and in 1936 moved to a new location and a new home on northwest 34-33-13, which at that time was almost void of trees with the exception of a few wilds. It is believed that an elderly gentleman was buried among the few willows in the very early years, but no stone marks his resting place. In the early 1960's a young lady called enquiring about his burial place and stating she was a relative of his, but Alex was unable to help her, he only being able to relay the hearsay story.

Over the years Alex planted twenty thousand trees by hand and possessed the loveliest setting of home, buildings and shelter belts in the entire area. His mother passed away in January 1944 at the age of eighty-five, active until the end; she was greatly missed by all.

In September 1946, Ruby Kellie, a friend of Grandma Wilson's sister flew over from Glasgow for a visit, and in December the same year she became the bride of Alex. They were married in the Calvery Tabernacle in Hanna (now known as the Alliance Church). The plane she flew in was a converted bomber which developed engine trouble enroute and had to make a forced landing in Gander, Newfoundland, which resulted in a delay of several hours; and Miss Kellie missed her connection for the west from Dorval. As she had been advised of her flight on very short notice (while attending a church service) she had been unable to say goodbye to anyone prior to leaving Scotland nor been able to advise Alex of her impending arrival. A telegram was sent from Dorval giving the arrival time at Calgary, but due to the telephone lines being down (a thing unknown in Scotland) Alex never received the message and Ruby arrived in Calgary expecting Alex to meet her at any moment.

The date of her arrival coincided with that of Lord Montgomery who was coming for an airport inspection, and naturally the airport authorities wanted the place cleared for this event. Ruby was asked several times if someone was coming to pick her up. Eventually the airport authorities phoned the Customs Office where John, Alex's brother, was Supervisor, but he thought the call was just about a

parcel so didn't trouble to return their call. However, after the Airport's third call he returned theirs and was able to converse with Ruby. At first he thought she might be his niece from Glasgow and was so surprised when he found out who she was; Alex had never mentioned her possible visit. Ruby spent the day at John's home, and in the evening travelled by train to Hanna. Alex did not know of her arrival in Canada until about five the same evening and wanted to drive to Calgary to meet her but she had come thus far alone another hundred miles wasn't too much. Ruby spent her first week at Jack Corry's farm and was made very welcome. It was a very wet fall and Alex rode over each evening to visit her, the roads being too muddy to travel by truck.

The day of her arrival coincided with that of Mr. Rehill's funeral, so her first introduction to the neighbors and district was attendance at a funeral, during which the rain poured and the streets in Hanna were a quagmire.

Prior to coming to Canada Ruby had been employed for a number of years as Secretary in a Scottish Hospital. In her course of duties she met many Canadians, even the late Sid Herring of the Netherby district. She had been preparing for work in the Sudan Interior Mission as a Missionary, but little did she realize her trip to Canada was preparing her for a mission field of a different kind. The isolation, the drabness of the unpainted frame house, the dust, brown grass, mud when it rained, and the lack of mail when it stormed, phones knocked out in the high winds; sometimes was almost too much to bear and she wished she could swim back to Scotland.

Mail day was most important in the Wilson home for then they could escape for a few hours from the frustrations that at times seemed to be part of their daily lives.

On the couple's return from their honeymoon they ran into a snow storm and stayed overnight at Frances Unsworth's; during the night Alex suffered a gall bladder attack and the following day was taken by ambulance to Hanna. The snow had to be pushed to the side of the road to make a pathway for the ambulance. The kindness of the Unsworth family will never be forgotten and thus a friendship with the Scottish bride was cemented which has endured ever since, growing richer over the years. While the couple had been on their honeymoon, the man Alex had hired to do the chores in their absence had gone away and Mrs. Unsworth's son, Roy, had gone over daily, a distance of three miles each way, to attend to the cattle, and continued to do so until Alex was discharged from hospital and able to return to the farm. The roads were still snowbound on his discharge from hospital, but the couple took the train to Scapa and were met by Tiff Ironside who, with his Belgian team drove them back to the farm. Thus the couple, who were welcomed by the bagpipes on their arrival on their honeymoon in Vancouver, returned home accompanied by the cheery jingle of the horses' bells all the way from Scapa to the farm.

Alex never was of robust health but he was hard working and took a pride in his Scottish heritage. His home and buildings were always neat, well arranged, well painted and gladdened the eye of all callers. In April 1948 a daughter arrived to bless this home. The mailman Fred Harvey helped the stork in this case, having taken the expectant mother by cutter from Garden Plain Store just four days previously, to catch the train for Hanna. The previous winter had deposited lots of snow, and Alex drove Ruby by team over Mr. Corry's field to the store, and the remaining miles to Scapa she accompanied Fred Harvey with his mail. That was a very long day, having left home at nine in the morning and arriving at Hanna shortly after seven in the evening. The post office officials in Calgary, on learning of Fred's assistance, honoured him with a scroll. A month later on her return trip the happy couple called at Frances Unsworth's to show her their treasure — Frances was the first neighbor to share with them their new found joy. In May 1950 a son, Fraser, was born and their cup was full.

Often in the winter when the roads were not too bad Ruby would take the sled and pull it the one and a half miles to Garden Plain Store for provisions, and enjoy the exercise. The children were taken out most days in the buggy and she often walked down to Mrs. Patton's, a dear Irish lady who lived about four miles from the Wilson farm. Babysitters were not for Ruby, her children were too precious to trust to another's care.

When Fraser was about fifteen months old Alex's health deteriorated and his prognosis was poor. At that time Prairie Bible Institute were advertising for stenographers, and on enquiry Ruby was informed that in the event of Alex's demise a position would be available for her, supplying room and board for herself and children, plus fifteen dollars monthly for incidentals. Fortunately the need never arose.

The fall of 1951 was a lovely one and on October seventeenth, the Wilsons drove with a student minister, Graham Clark who had been staying at the Wilson's and helping with the harvest. The minister, Rev. Harder, who had married the couple had moved to Wimbourne the year previous, and as he was having special services that weekend had invited the family. During the service a snow storm arose and the Wilson's and Clark had to remain in Three Hills overnight; the following day after being pulled by three different tractors they arrived at Gadsby only to find the hotel being renovated and with no heating. They had to sleep with their clothes on and coats piled on top of the blankets. The following day (Tuesday) highway twelve was cleared and when they finally reached home they found the block of the tractor had cracked and their crop deep under snow. So winter had arrived once again and there was nothing one could do but accept the fact.

The following spring the Special Areas Crew bulldozed out the stooks and the farmers then had plenty of feed, the rabbits and mice too.

Ruby still hadn't tried milking; cows were fine at a distance, but with Alex's failing health and more prolonged stays in bed this had to be overcome. Her neighbor, Inga Strandberg, elected to teach her. The following evening at Strandberg's farm the lesson began, Inga demonstrating the milking technique on Ruby's index finger, explaining that squeezing, not pulling, gave results. With an upturned pail for a stool Ruby got under the cow and gingerly commenced and by the time she got a cup full Inga's pail was almost full. At that precise moment a cow entered the barn (the cows were not chained) and Ruby's cow side-tracked, Ruby fell, knocking Inga over on her back with the pail of milk streaming down her face. All Ruby observed were two legs up in the air and she ran — that was her first and only milking lesson. It proved to be instant learning.

Once a year the train from Scapa to Hemaruka would run and it was a highlight for the children as it passed through the pasture close to the house. When its whistle sounded at the Elevator one mile west Ruby got out the buggy and hurried down the road with the children so that they could wave to the engineer. Quite often he would pull the whistle an extra time for the enjoyment of the children. These men often stopped and filled their large cans from the Wilson well as it was known for its lovely water. The elevator families also came to the Wilson's twice a week for their water supply.

The Alex Wilson family were a close-knit family, their lives revolving mainly round the farm and church. They attended Sunday School first at Solon, later at

Dundee and then at Netherby. When the roads were too muddy to drive they walked.

Ruby never ventured on the road with the truck or car before committing herself and children to the Lord's care and when highway thirty-six was reached they stopped and gave thanks. Similarly on the return trip: it could be thirty below zero and colder yet Ruby always left home coatless and on the return trip would take off her coat prior to venturing on the remaining five miles on the dirt road. The five miles of that road were prayed on every inch of the way. The children never argued or fought in the truck; when they became concerned about the road condition they would bow their heads in prayer — such co-operation from the family made Ruby's burden lighter.

Another source of concern to Ruby was the annual trips to Halkirk for coal. In earlier years Alex accompanied her but soon the distance was too long and the trip too tiring for him so Ruby would go alone. She left early in the forenoon calling on Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse enroute and would enquire if they wanted anything taken to Castor, or mail and groceries delivered on her return trip. The truck was always loaded to capacity making the return trip a nightmare for fear that it had been overloaded. Mrs. Waterhouse who was a Glaswegian loved to visit with a fellow Scot and always had the kettle boiling and a cup of tea ready. The children often accompanied Ruby and loved visiting Mrs. Waterhouse and for years thought her name was Mrs. Hooch Aye, an expression she often used. The trips would continue until twenty tons had been hauled, then Ruby would sigh with relief and thankfulness. Flat tires and slipping into the ditch were only some of the mishaps she encountered, but always some kind person came to the rescue. By the time Hope was eleven years old, she could change a tire as efficiently as anyone.

The crop year of 1963 promised to be a good one. The wheat and oats had never stood so tall nor looked better; the garden was good and people's hearts were gladdened and all sorts of plans were being formed, when in August hail struck twice, a week apart. The second severe hail storm was accompanied by extremely high winds. Following the hail, heavy downpours of rain fell, which also contributed to the general damaging effects of the storm. Windows in farm homes were smashed, siding on homes dented, shingles ripped loose, and even some smaller farm buildings twisted from their foundations. When it was over, Alex commented "Never fear, dear, God has always supplied our needs, and He will never fail us", and He never did.

Alex was not a lazy man and when his health permitted he would resume his farming operations, often attempting too much. A portion of the land was rented out but brought very little remuneration. Thus the years passed until 1964 when Hope was in grade ten and Fraser in grade eight.

All during the years Ruby had kept up her shorthand speed by taking down lectures from radio talks, and her typing by submitting articles to various papers and magazines. A position as secretary with the Provincial Government became vacant and now that the family was in their teens Ruby felt she could best contribute to the household finances by resuming, if possible, her former occupation. It was a day of thankfulness and joy when her acceptance was received and she was officially appointed to her office, a position she has continued in to the present time.

The day prior to commencing her employment Alex once again was admitted to the Hanna Hospital and remained there six weeks. When Ruby took up her first pay cheque to show him, he wept, and remarked, "I'm the one who should be supporting you."

Hope entered the Seventh Day Adventist College later that year (she had been baby sitting during the summer for one of the Doctor's wives, who evidently got her interested in the college). The following year Fraser entered the same college and completed his education at that institution. For almost a year Ruby commuted from the farm to Hanna but it really was too long to leave Alex alone so in the fall of 1965 the farm was sold to Stanley Strandberg.

Alex was a very quiet man and it was only in the latter months of his life he revealed just how much he disliked living in Hanna and missed the farm. He always liked to take a run out at the weekends just to see the old home and surroundings.

The year prior to selling the farm, Dan Trefz rented the farm and after all expenses were paid the Wilson s got a thousand dollars, the most they had seen in many years. The Trefz' were real friends in need, coming up in the winter and taking the milk cows to their own farm, milking them for the Wilsons, and then bringing back milk. Dan Trefz sold his farm the following year and the remainder of our cows the same day and moved to B.C., otherwise the Wilson s would probably still be the owners.

Hope was married in 1966 and has a daughter, Coleen Michelle, Fraser is a bachelor and resides with his mother in Hanna.

In May and June of 1968 Alex and Ruby revisited their homeland, spending some time at the home where Alex was born, the school he attended as a lad, his church and his kindred. The weather was very kind, only one shower in the five weeks. Alex returned to Canada looking ten years younger; everyone remarking on the great change. The stewardess confided that she had not expected him on the return trip he had looked so frail when going over. At eighty-three he still was not grey-haired and often was taken for a much younger man.

In June 1971, after a long spell in hospital, Alex passed away and lies in Netherby Cemetery awaiting the coming of the Lord. He left to honor his memory his loving wife Ruby, Hope and Fraser, and one grandchild Coleen Michelle.

In retrospect, despite the many setbacks experienced, their lives on the farm were complete; in fact, the trials and tribulations became a source of strengthening of their faith and reliance on the Lord, and they could reiterate with assurance the old saying, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

SARAH and WILL WRIGHT'S STORY, as remembered by their daughter, Jessie Wright McMurchie and compiled by granddaughter Sarah McMurchie Brown — Sarah Jane West and William Wright were both born in 1853 in the village of Dundas in New Brunswick. They were married in October, 1882, continuing to live near Dundas where they farmed and cut out a home for themselves from the forest in which they lived. They had nine children, Edwin, Jim, Harry, Emily, Bill, Nelson, Jessie, George and Vernon, who died at the age of seven.

In 1906 their second son, Jim, came west and took land in Alberta near Castor. He did not prove up on it, but moved farther south and took up strip mining in the Garden Plain district.

In the spring of 1911 Jim sent back to New Brunswick for some of his family. Those who came were his father and mother, Sarah and Will Wright, his sisters Emily and Jessie, and his two younger brothers, Nelson and George.

Later Will Wright took over land at Garden Plain, the SW 32-34-13. Jim and Nelson also had land at Garden Plain and George had land near Sullivan Lake. All three boys lived at home until they married.

Back Row: Emily Wright, Jess Wright, H. Simon, William Wright Sr., George Wright. Front Row: Eva West, Mrs. H. Simon, Mrs. Wm. Wright Sr. and Mrs. George Wright.

In May, 1918, George married Elizabeth Cattanach. They had three sons, Bill, Lorne and Edwin, and three daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Georgean.

Nelson married Georgina Hilts in October, 1918. They had one son, Vernon, and a daughter, Wilma.

Jim was married in January, 1920, to Mabel Dawson. They had two sons, Jim and Norman, and two daughters, Audrey and Nona.

When the flu epidemic broke out [illegible] 1918, Emily returned to Moncton to nurse her brothers' families, and never returned to Alberta. She married Wylder Cudmore. They had five children and she died at Christmas of 1947 in Moncton.

Jessie Wright married a World War veteran in October, 1922. They were married at her folks' home at Garden Plain. It was a double celebration that day as it was her parents' fortieth wedding anniversary. After the wedding they moved directly to their new home north of Delia. They lived on the family farm until his death in 1961. Since that time she has lived in Delia, Calgary and Drumheller. Her four daughters, Sarah, Margaret, Jackie and Elizabeth have given her seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Wright returned to New Brunswick to live with their son [illegible] at Moncton. She died at Christmastime in 1932; he passed on in June of 1933.

GEORGE WRIGHT, By Margaret Wright Nelson — My dad, George Hugh Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, April 20, 1895. He came west with his parents and two sisters to Castor in 1911. His father. took a homestead on the SW ¼ 32-33-13 in June 1912. There the family moved and made Garden Plain their home. Dad took out [illegible] homestead SE 4-34-14 W4 on January 20, 1912, proved it up and continued to work and live at home. In 1916 Dad went into service in World War I. He was stationed in Calgary all during his stay in the army.

Elizabeth Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, on February 23, 1899. In 1910, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cattanach, their five daughters and one son sailed for Canada. They went to Calgary where they spent about two years, before coming to Garden Plain. In 1914 a post office was opened on the premises of [illegible]

Cattanach and Mother became Postmistress. I believe the post office was moved to Garden Plain store, west of there, in 1916.

In 1918 Mother and Dad married, and lived a few years with Dad's folks. In 1920 or 1921 Dad bought the James Manson place and started farming on his own. By this time he had acquired four mules. During the winter and off season he worked in the coal mines for Bryanton and in the last Cattanach mine. But this came to an end in the early twenties.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wright — 50th anniversary May 11, 1968. Back Row: Lorne Wright, Edwin Wright, Doreen Rehill, Georgean Mohl. Front Row: Bill Wright, Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, Margaret Nelson.

Crops were good, bad and indifferent during the roaring twenties as they were later called. Then came the tragic thirties. Poor crops, grasshoppers, wheat prices dropping to the twenty-two cent mark for some grades of wheat. Cattle prices about [illegible] cent a pound. I can remember Dad selling pail bunter calves for six to eight dollars apiece. During the early thirties things were worse. I can remember that it cost eight dollars for licenses for the 1926 Model T, just the price of one steer. Dad just couldn't afford to buy the license. It was driven illegally at times but not very often as one had to buy gas too. In 1935 we moved from the farm to Jim Wright's place. He had just sold his machinery at a farm sale and moved to Edmonton.

This additional land meant that more horses were needed. Dad had quite a few good horses by now. Jesse and Dick Roberts had a number of horses and dad would get horses from them and break them. By then [illegible] was in the very late thirties, and with the two older boys able to help, at least sixteen horses were used for two outfits.

As far back as the twenties Dad always had cattle. There were generally six to eight cows to milk twice a day most of the year. There were also chickens and turkeys to tend. In the early years Mother made butter and took it to Hanna and traded it at the old Stephens Store for groceries. Later on the cream was collected by the creamery truck from Hanna or Spondin.

It was a big winter job cutting ice for the ice house. If it wasn't cut and packed

properly it melted too fast in summer, and by early September when it was needed to keep meat for threshing it would be gone. There was ■ big difference ■ price between a five gallon can of special cream and one that had soured and Graded one or two. The ice helped keep the cream sweet. By 1950 power was put in, and so ended the ice age.

The year 1929 saw the railway bed laid from Scapa to Hemaruka. In 1930 the steel followed and in 1930-31 the Pioneer Grain Company built an elevator at Garden Plain. This elevator was opened in August 1931. Mr. George Wilson was the first elevator agent. Dad had the first load of grain to go into the elevator. Bill, then only ten, proudly drove the team to the elevator, and had the honor of delivering the first load of wheat to the Pioneer Grain Company. Finally, the Great Depression was over. There were hardships, but we never suffered like some for which we were ■ grateful. The 1940's brought ■ gradual return to normal, although cattle prices in the forties were from ten to fifteen cents for fat steers.

The mid forties to mid fifties saw all the family marry and leave home. In 1961 Dad thought he and Mother should sell out and retire to Calgary. They enjoyed good health and happiness until 1969 when Dad's health started to fail. In 1970 they moved back to Hanna.

Mother and Dad celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 11, 1968 with all their children and grandchildren present. On June 21, 1972 after two years of poor health Dad passed away and was laid to rest in the Netherby Cemetery. Mother, in fair health resides in the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna. There were six children in the family. Margaret married Harry Nelson in 1945. Bill left the farm to work and went to the west coast. In 1953 he married Hazel Johnson in Vancouver. A few years later he moved to Gibson's, B.C. and has resided there ever since. They have two children Wayne and Heather.

Lorne worked in Hanna part time and in 1951 married Betty Marlowe. They have one daughter Lorna. They moved to Stettler in 1965 and still reside there where Lorne works for Wootton Tire Ltd.

Edwin left the farm at an early age and in 1947 moved to the west coast. He never returned home after that. He worked on the coast for ■ number of years before going to Arizona. He lives in Phoenix. He and Stella enjoy the Arizona climate especially in the winter.

Doreen married Bob Rehill in 1950 and has two sons. Ken and Jack both at home.

Georgean married Richard Mohl in 1953. Their oldest child Scott died in 1974. They and their two children Jeffery and Winona live in Hanna, where Richard is owner of Dick's Men's Wear.

JAMES EMERSON WRIGHT, By Mabel Dawson Wright — James Wright was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, on November 28, 1883, the second oldest of ■ family of eight. At the age of twelve he left home to work in the Glace Bay Colliery and in 1903, left for the West. He worked in lumber camps and mines until 1906, when he took up a homestead near Castor. Later he and his partner, Ed Fortner, operated a mine near Saunders, Alberta.

Mabel Dawson was born in England in 1894. She came to Lethbridge in 1914 to visit her sister Ella and her husband William Thompson. When war broke out, Mabel moved with them to Calgary where she attended business school. Upon finishing her course, she worked in the Royal Bank and in 1918 was transferred to Castor.

James Wright and Mabel Dawson were married in January, 1920, and moved

to a farm at Garden Plain, the SW 6-34-13. James Wright also strip mined on this farm.

They had four children. James was born at the farm in November, 1920 and died in 1974. His wife, May, and daughter Moira, live in Edmonton. Norman was born in England in 1922 and lives in Edmonton with his mother, who is still enjoying good health. Audrey was born in 1925 and lives in Edmonton with her husband, Wilf Bowe, and their two daughters. Nona was born in 1926 and lives with her husband, Cecil White, at Peers. They have eight children, six from a previous marriage.

James Wright Family — Nona, Mable, James and Audrey.

Jim Wright farmed until 1935, when after repeated droughts, he sold out and moved to Mirror where he leased the Imperial Hotel for one year, with the option of buying. He found that the hotel business was not to his liking, so they moved to Jasper Place where he bought a garage and store from B. A. Gas and Oil Company. Jim was happy with this business and continued to work at the garage up to his death on March 21, 1963.

Donald Cattanach — taken in Peace River area.

DONALD CATTANACH, By Margaret Nelson — My uncle, Donald Cattanach was born in Nairn, Scotland, October 5, 1885. At the age of 21 he decided to come to Canada. He left Glasgow March 9, 1907 and 13 days later landed at St. John. Heading west, he worked in Winnipeg, North Battleford, Calgary and Langdon, where he met his brother Alick and friends, Jack Campbell and Jim Adams.

In 1908 he filed on his homestead on SW 6-34-13 and in January 1909, with a team and wagon and six month's provisions, landed on the homestead.

In 1910 Walter's Store with Mr. and Mrs. French as storekeepers, opened one-half mile west. He used to go and help them look after the store every Sunday. On Christmas Day of 1910 Mr. and Mrs. French cooked dinner for all the bachelors of the area. About twenty were there.

In the spring of 1910 he went to Calgary and worked on the First Street Subway. He came back to the homestead in the fall. Hugh McRae rented the twenty acres which was broke and there was a good crop of oats. That year he also built [illegible] twelve by sixteen shack.

In 1911 coal was found just south of the present house, on SW [illegible]. By 1913 [illegible].

Livingstone, Donald Campbell and Donald Cattanach had a mine operation. They rented it to Mr. Unsworth. Shortly afterward it caved in.

In 1913 the first wheat grown was on thirty acres of new breaking. Fred Saar threshed it. It had been stacked and after threshing it heated and spoiled. He said, "I even took it out of the bin and put it on ice on the slough, but it still spoiled." About this time Donald proved up on his pre-emption and sold to Kane.

From 1913 till 1919, he worked in Stettler during the winters, helping Mr. Davidson look after the bulls he consigned to sales in Calgary and Kamloops.

In 1920 he sold to Jim Wright. He put in the crop for him that spring, and ended his homestead days in Garden Plain. In 1921 he moved to Fleet, Alberta and in 1929 to the Peace River area.

In the fall of 1965 he came to spend the winter with his relatives at Garden Plain. In late January he became ill and passed away in Hanna General Hospital on February 4, 1966 at the age of 80 years. He was buried in the family plot at Netherby.

Alick McLean — mixing mortor for Harry Nelson —1945.

ALEXANDER M. McLEAN, By Margaret Nelson — Alexander M. McLean was born in Nairn, Scotland on March 6, 1876. As a young man he learned the stone mason trade. He enlisted his services in the Boer War, and upon returning home decided to come to Canada.

In 1906 he left Scotland, on arriving in Canada he headed west. He spent some time in the North Battleford area, with homesteading in mind, before deciding to go farther west. He went to Calgary where he obtained work and in 1908 met his brother Donald, Jack Campbell, a friend from Scotland, and Jack's partner, Jim Adams. All filed on homesteads in the Garden Plain area in 1908, Alick's being NW 6-34-13.

In the fall of 1908 John Grove and Bud Hackett built a sod house and barn for him, and later that year he moved to the homestead for good. He proved up on his land and took a pre-emption across the road, NE 1-34-14.

Brother Donald, who homesteaded the next quarter, needed help with his homestead duties, so Alick lent a helping hand whenever possible. When homes or schools needed brick chimneys he always built them. This he did until into the late forties.

Alick lived a very quiet life, by himself in a one room shack. During the depression years times were hard, but in 1946 he got his Old Age Pension and lived much better.

He passed away in the Hanna General Hospital after a brief illness, at the age of 85 years on March 10, 1961. Burial was in the Netherby Cemetery.

GEORGE MATTEY — I was born in England, came to Canada in July of 1906, and after working at various jobs in Manitoba, I joined my brother, Fred Mattey, on his homestead in the Lauderdale district in the fall of 1907. My first job in Alberta was keeping the straw away from a twelve-horse threshing machine.

In the spring of 1909 my brother and I took up land in what is now the

Netherby district, one mile south of where the schoolhouse was later built. My brother broke forty acres with oxen; he plowed through the full mile, making twenty acres on his land and twenty on mine. Meanwhile I picked rocks, built a lumber shack on my place, and a sod barn on his. Later on in the summer we put up hay, using oxen for power. That fall a big prairie fire swept through the country; Fred and I were away harvesting at the time. Our hay was burned, and Fred's barn, but thanks to the neighbors my shack was saved.

That winter I worked for George Rutherford north of Castor, and the next spring he loaned me the money to buy a team of horses. We seeded the breaking to oats, broke more land and put up hay. As it had been a dry year the crop was very short, and we cut it with a mower with a sacker attached to the cutter bar to catch the heads. The job was hardly worth doing. That fall I sold the team, Fred and Bones, to J.W. Taylor, and spent the winter with the Rutherfords.

The next spring I bought a team of oxen and seeded our breaking to oats. As Fred did not come to the homestead that spring, I made a deal with a young fellow to put his oxen with mine to do more breaking. I hardly got started when one of my oxen died, so that stopped the breaking. I traded my remaining ox to Chic Wickson in return for him working the land, and started to work for William Goldsbury. One Sunday afternoon Charlie Blaney, who lived on the same section as Goldsburys, and I walked over to my place. While we were there a hail storm struck. We sheltered in my shack but the hail smashed the west window and came through the roof. Charlie crept under the bed. The oats were too badly hailed to be worth threshing and I sold the stack of bundles two years later.

In 1912 I seeded to oats, and summerfallowed the twenty acres of old land. I used Goldsbury's outfit to do my field work, giving them three days' work for each day I used the outfit. That fall I threshed with the Fred Saar outfit, which charged eight cents a bushel for threshing. Crops were good but there was no real market for the oats. I had worked all summer for Goldsbury, but didn't ask for wages, as I knew that blood doesn't run from stones. Mrs. Goldsbury's mother, Mrs. Pyle, loaned me money to pay my thresh bill.

That fall I took two loads of Goldsbury's wheat to Castor. There were no grain elevators in those days, but some townspeople bought and shipped wheat. When I got there the buyers' bins were full. I stayed the night and in the morning I phoned the dealer at Halkirk. He said he had room, so I headed for there, but when I arrived I learned that he had filled his bin while I was on the road. I left the wheat in a bin on Goldsbury's homestead three miles east of Halkirk, and headed for home. Later that winter I boarded up the end of a stall in the livery barn and carried a load of wheat into it with pails, because the buyers had no room.

The following spring I sold most of my oats to James Burns for about fifteen cents a bushel. After seeding I went north of Castor to work, and in the spring of 1914 bought a team and went back to the homestead. I did summerfallowing and breaking, and dug some wells for neighbors. There was a good crop in 1915 and the price was good, but there was a shortage of elevator room. J.R. Willett and I built a bin in Hanna and hauled into it. When elevator room became available in the spring we moved the grain from the bin to the elevator.

There was a good growing season in 1916, but after an August hail storm, my wheat was not worth cutting. I did some plowing for Jim Manson, and later worked for the Johnston threshing outfit. The water tank driver quit and I took over his job. We were still threshing in February, and the weather was too cold for a pump, so I used a long-handled ladle. By night I was covered with ice which made music when I moved and which could be heard for a considerable distance.

By 1917 I had progressed to four horses, the crop was fair and the price

good. In 1918 it was very dry, with frost in July. The crop was a complete failure. In 1919 I had a fair crop and hauled my wheat and some oats to the Bonar elevator. In January 1920 I sold the homestead to Len Taylor through the Soldier Settlement Board.

This ended my homesteading experience.

KEN and ANNIE BRYANTON, By Fred Johnston — Ken Bryanton was born in Prince Edward Island in 1861; Annie was born 1867. Both had gone to the state of Maine to seek employment, and there they met and were married in 1893. They lived in Maine until 1909 when they came to Alberta to homestead on the NE 18-33-13.

He soon had a strip mine in operation on his homestead, and he and Annie milked cows. One should say that Annie milked cows. Ken was much troubled by rheumatism. One time when my dad was visiting there when Ken was recuperating from a bout of rheumatism, Ken held up his claw-like hands and said, "And how can you milk with hands like these?"

Annie replied, "I would get down on my hands and knees and suck them."

They were childless, and liked dogs. They had one intelligent dog, Fanny, who was trained to bring the cows in from the pasture.

Ken belonged to the old U.F.A. and was a threshing syndicate member. He died in hospital in Hanna in 1926, aged sixty-five, and was interred in Netherby cemetery.

Annie was in hospital at the same time. Shortly afterward she had a sale and disposed of the farm to Eric Small. She kept house for Billy Hoodless until about 1928 when she went east and was house mother at a young ladies' finishing school, in New York. She retired to the home of her nephew and his wife in New Brunswick. She died in April, 1961, soon after her ninety-fourth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Jensen — 1908.

PETER VALDEMAR JENSEN, By Helen Jensen Northey — Peter Valdemar Jensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1881. He worked as a grocery boy for a couple of summers and went to sea at age thirteen, sailing on German and Danish merchant ships to New York and as far south as Central America. He worked in iron mines in Michigan and Minnesota about 1906. Then he worked building dams in Montana and Washington. He married Anna Carlson in February 1908. Mrs. Jensen said they changed their place of residence seventeen times in the first year of their marriage as Pete changed from one place of employment to another. Daughter Helen was born on December eighteenth.

When his friend, Tom Ryan, drove from Spokane to Bassano, Alberta, Pete ventured with him. In the autumn of 1910, he went by train from Spokane to Castor, and walked to look around the country to the south. He filed on a homestead thirty miles south of Castor and made the acquaintance of Judd, Charley and Arley Doran, who kept a stopping-house. In the spring of 1911 Pete loaded his wagon with tools and household goods and drove north from Spokane.

In June, Anna and child went by train to Castor and travelled to Dorans by stage-wagon (not coach), and stayed at Dorans' six weeks waiting for Pete.

Meanwhile Pete pressed on with team and wagon. When he crossed the Old Man River near Pincher Creek his wagon almost hung up on a rock as he forded, and he feared that his goods would be swept away into the deeper water. An Indian woman had told him, "Stay in rough water, still water deep."

After Pete camped that night a hailstorm struck. One of his hobbled mares broke her leg. Pete walked to an R.N.W.M.P. Station at Fort MacLeod and got a revolver. He walked back, killed the mare, returned the revolver and went back to bury the mare. Then he hitched the other mare to the wagon and he himself supported the neck-yoke on the other side. In this way he went for about ten miles. He tried to buy a horse from an Indian woman, and while he waited for her husband to return, he ate his noon meal. Then the Indian woman said she would not sell the horse (because it was "Loco") to a poor honest man.

So Pete went on carrying the neck-yoke. After he had camped, a man named Brigham with an English remittance man for a cook, drove up with his horse and buggy and took Pete to his homestead shack. In the morning they hitched his stallion to the buggy, and hitched his mare with Pete's mare and drove the wagon to the homestead. Pete stayed for about three weeks framing some buildings and doing other handyman jobs. Then he traded his good set of harness for a not-so-good set and a mare, and travelled to Dorans' and to the homestead north along the Castor Trail.

There a sod house and canvas gave shelter to the family and Pete followed a walking plow to get some fields ready for planting. He worked out at times building, butchering and plowing. Pete hauled some sawed lumber from Stettler, and built a room beside the sod structure.

There, on February thirteenth, 1912, when the prairie was a trackless waste of snow, the first son Walter was born and tended with the help of good neighbors.

I can remember that when Dad went to the shelter he had built for the horses in the side of the cutbank below the sod shack, he sometimes came back with two eggs from the two hens that shared the barn shelter. I think we sometimes got milk from Ken and Annie Bryanton, good neighbors a half mile away. That winter we ran short of flour. Either Bryantons or bachelor neighbor Jim Manson had given Dad a gunny-sack of "chicken-feed", (screenings from the threshed wheat), as pay for some repair jobs, and I can remember Dad and Mother picking out the best grains of wheat and grinding them in the coffee-mill to make biscuits. As winter roads opened again I expect that flour came from Castor by stage-sleigh.

In the summer Dad was working for W.O. Stevenson of Richdale. While baby Walter slept, Mom would hitch our ox Tom to the stoneboat with a barrel on it and haul water from a well in the cutbanks a half mile away. By the time the barrel was hauled home, half its contents had splashed out.

Later, while Dad broke more ground on the homestead quarter, Mom kept house and tended three W.O. Stevenson children so they could attend school near Richdale. Walter and I found the older children stimulating company. One day they held a dead bull snake over a stick, calling to Mom, who was much shaken by the incident, to come to the window to "see". When they told how the snake had swallowed all her young ones to protect them, the incident became an indelible impression. I can still see in memory the arrival of W.O. in the black leather-upholstered buggy, wielding the long black driving whip, urging his high-stepping team in fancy harness and net covering.

The family spent the next winter in charge of the stopping-house while the Dorans were away. I remember so well a green pine tree brought from Castor for

Christmas and placed in a stand my father fashioned. We had been told that Santa wouldn't come until after we had gone to bed. We woke in gray dawn to view the tree laden with candles and strings of popcorn, and red netted bags filled with homemade turkish delight, seafoam, fudge and peanut brittle; a lovely doll with eyes that opened and closed; a warm wooly toque for my head. How long had Santa been gone? I ran to the door in my long nightgown, hoping to catch a glimpse of that elusive Santa and his reindeer but alas! all I could see were travellers leaving the stopping-house heading their horse-drawn sleighs down the snowy trail.

One morning, to try to keep Walter quiet, I let him shake pennies out of my iron bank. His face looked so crinkled when he swallowed one. It hurt his throat and I cried out in concern for Mom's attention. Then the vigil of the next twenty-four hours to see that the penny was passed, lest gangrene take the life of my loved brother.

Later Pete took a pre-emption quarter of land, still searching and digging for a supply of water. He found a flow of water, finished the well and cribbed it; soon he dug a cellar and hauled lumber and built a house and a privy, adding later a barn for cows and horses and a coop for chickens. By this time lumber and other necessities could be hauled about twenty miles from the new town of Hanna that sprang up in 1912 when the C.N.R. came through.

The J.W. Taylors north-east of us lived in a large two-storey house painted green. Mrs. Winnifred Taylor was the trained nurse who came pioneering with her husband James. She had assisted at the birth of my brother Walter. The winter of 1914-15 our family wintered at the Taylor farm while they spent the season at Victoria, B.C. All my early life was enriched by that winter's use of their gramaphone's musical records, among them "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and Harry Lauder vocals, also by a library that gave me the joy of "Little Tom, the Water Baby," "Black Beauty" and other books.

One day Walter decided to meet me walking home from school. While Mom and neighbors searched for the missing child, wondering if he had fallen into one of the deeper muddy holes in the meandering creek he arrived at a spot where Chris Lohrmann was getting the steam engine and grain seperator ready for harvest. Mosquitoes were constant irritants. Chris spoke with the little fellow. Yes, his name was Walter, but Walter who? Whose boy was he? "Mama's boy", he repeated, as he playfully answered so many times. Dad soon came to rescue him and calm the frightened women.

Walter started to accompany me to school before he was five years old. The winding trail took us past the Allan Taylor family home or, if we preferred, past the Dumington place. On a rise of the ground were many horned eyeless skulls of buffalo. Thunderstorms that shook the firmament were sometimes frightening in mid-afternoon, mosquitoes so troublesome that bags of green net hung from wide hat brims to ankles. Like the farm animals one sought relief with smoke from smudges, especially in the evenings.

Teacher MacDonald was replaced in mid-summer by a Mr. Eagan who took over a living area in what had been a small coal-shed at the back of the school. At noon hour, while Mr. Eagan was absent, an adventurous older pupil went into the coal-shed and brought a package of dates to the play area. When school resumed Mr. Eagan told all who had eaten dates to stand up. He had paid Mr. MacDonald twenty cents good money for those dates, so most of the pupils including myself were lined up and strapped on the hands. That was shame enough, for some of us had not known that the dates were stolen, but to add more shame, that big May English stood there on the platform and wet her clothes and made a puddle on the wooden floor. By later newspaper accounts Mr. Eagan did become rather notorious.

I remember being sent on errands to the home of old Mrs. Wylie who kept house for her son Charles, and trying to understand her Scottish speech. Or welcoming Mr. Israelson who was from a different part of Sweden from our Mother's Varmland, and sang his words, his eyes twinkling at our joy when he brought five sticks of gum wrapped in a felt flag of one of the world's countries. These flags, postcard size, made beautiful cushion tops. Sometimes Marie Bartsch, who tended Tom Kane's Garden Plain country store and post office near Kane's coal-mine, sent the gum with our grocery order, a loved treat, the gum wads saved in strange places, usually inside the kitchen cupboard, and lamented when Mom decided it was time to throw them in the fire. Later the flag wrapping gave way to smaller silken flower-bedecked pieces.

Winter gave Dad time to mend harness and make our wooden toys: wagons, sleds, blocks, derricks of wood and string and wire, wheelbarrows, rocking chairs of swan or rabbit designs. Empty thread spools made wheels and spinning tops. I used to marvel how our Dad knew so much; and how Mom could make a tasty meal of so little; how she could fashion dresses, jumper skirts, aprons, even under-garments from flour and sugar sacks bleached, dyed and trimmed with lace or embroidery or hemstitching.

The land of the homestead and pre-emption was not productive, and in a few years, Dad bought a quarter of land from Tommy McCafferty, who was moving away. Our household goods were loaded on the hayrack and arranged in the new home. Cows, calves, pigs, chickens and dog were moved, and our pleasure was real that we acquired a buckskin pony with black mane and tail along with the farm. Buck was patient with us and carried us three and a half miles to Netherby School. He was a shrewd old cow-pony who herded strays so well that his sudden turns and dodges sometimes dumped us on the prairie. One time I lay very still and Buck came to nuzzle me, so he was more easily caught that time. We couldn't always jump up bareback without the help of a fence-wire or a burn-out.

It may have been the autumn of 1920 that we noticed from the schoolyard that our house in the distance was burning. Such a feeling of disbelief and foreboding! Walter and I rode to Bryantons where we found Mama and Laura and baby Russell safe, sheltered and comforted by dear Annie Bryanton, Ken having gone with other neighbors to help Dad keep the fire from other buildings. Dad and Mom had been digging and storing potatoes. The Home Comfort range sat squarely on the kitchen floor, and later Mom remembered that she had emptied the ashes that morning and probably hot coals falling from the grate had caused the wooden floor boards to ignite. Anyhow, when Mom and Dad looked up, smoke was coming from under the eaves, and as Dad broke the bedroom window to pull out Mom's trunk and articles of bedding, other windows blew out from the heat and all else was lost.

The neighbors were wonderfully kind. We cleaned the small blacksmith shop for a temporary shelter and were glad to move into a new clean twelve by sixteen foot building, using a granary in summer for extra space. Our home-site was moved to a hill in the centre of the quarter, where Dad had found an excellent supply of good well water. We planted caragana hedges and a big garden. After two years we were able to move into the downstairs of our new house built over a full cement basement, and in time, the stairs were built and the four upstairs bedrooms were ready for occupancy.

The move to Netherby School gave us good teachers: Mr. Fredericks, Mrs. Johnson, Miss O'Lacey, Miss Shufflebarger and Mrs. Ellen Grimes. That dear lady saw me through grade eight departmental exams, ready at thirteen years of age to go to work for my room and board at Harry Bartman's in Hanna where I took grade nine.

I can recall clear moonlight nights, the snow sparkling with millions of diamond lights as we walked or drove with team and sleigh to visit a neighbor or attend a social or dance. Sometimes in the week before Christmas holidays one could attend a concert each night in the surrounding schoolhouses. Card parties and dances in winter months often went on until daybreak, and morning chores would be completed before taking a few hours' rest.

Firing the kitchen range and heater was steady and the tank heater keeping the water for the stock from freezing should not be neglected. In all the winters on the prairies we never failed to feed, water, clean barns, bed down and sometimes "doctor" our stock, besides harnessing and saddling and the reverse, but the knowledge that there were people who did not go to the barn during a three-day blizzard has always wrung my heart's blood, thinking of animal suffering.

The Bryantons could not recover three turkeys when one blizzard struck. Imagine the shocked surprise and delight three weeks later of seeing the turkeys come out from under a melting snowdrift! Springtime! crocuses! birdsongs! buttercups! shooting stars! wading in the sloughs! tadpoles! making yards of chains from sloughgrass! discovering a patch of wild strawberries or a bush laden with ripening saskatoon berries or tart gooseberries!

First of July picnic and sports day! Dad had helped to build the community hall and barn and outhouses, the booth for refreshments, the swings and teeter-totters, even a merry-go-round propelled by willing feet, the chutes for the bucking horses, a smooth stretch of ground for foot races, three-legged, wheelbarrow, thread and needle and egg race.

A growing child looked for two outfits of clothing a year, one for Christmas and one for the first of July. I remember laying out outfits for the family in readiness for dressing up after all chores were tended and the picnic lunch basket filled with salads, sandwiches, pies and other goodies, fearing that the cows might get through the fence into the cropped field, or that the horses coming in off the range would break down the gate and drink the farm trough dry (filling that huge tank was labor on the pump-handle, but better than pail and rope), fearing that someone might need to stay with a sick animal and spoil the family outing! Sudden wind and rainstorm! Hurrying home to clucking hens hovering over drowned chicks, or worse still, hailed crops and gardens, broken windows and leaking roofs. Yet we survived as a family as did most of our neighbors. Sometimes we could attend church or Sunday school and go to the neighbor's for Sunday supper or have neighbors come to us.

Dad used to say that the section of land 18-33-13 of which his quarter was a part, was the only one around that supported four families: Bryantons, Wagners, Jim Manson and McCaffertys. Later the four families were Eric Smalls, George Wrights, Pete Jensens and Vieges.

To the Jensens five more sons and daughters were born before the family moved to Langley, B.C. Laura in 1916, Russell in 1918, Donald in 1920, Betty in 1923 and Leone in 1930.

An interesting follow-up was that in the spring of 1934 when Pete and sons, Walter and Russell left the dry Alberta farms and drove in an old car to settle in the Langley area near Vancouver, they had supper in MacLeod and an old man approached Pete and said, "I never forget a face. Where did we meet before?" Conversation brought out that he was the officer, since retired, who had loaned Pete a revolver in 1911.

Another interesting note is that Pete's naturalization papers are marked "duplicate, original lost through enemy action at sea, British Merchant Navy, 1940."

Pete sits in the sun with Tina, his second wife, in a cozy home and garden at Mazatlan on the west coast of Mexico, ninety-five years at this time of writing, May 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. George Standing Sr., Vera and George Jr. — 1914.

GEORGE C. STANDING SR. — George was born in Cape Town, South Africa, August 23, 1882. His parents moved back to London, England when he was six months old. His father was a tailor by trade. His mother died when he was only eleven years old. He had four sisters, Edith, Vera, Mae and a baby sister who died and one brother, Ernie.

As a young man he went to work as an apprentice for his uncle in a butcher shop and learned that trade. One day in 1907, he and his brother Ernie decided to travel across the ocean.

They both worked and helped build a church in Saskatoon. When that job was finished they travelled west across Alberta, British Columbia, then down to Spokane, Washington, where they worked building churches and also in the harvest fields.

They went back to London, England, but didn't stay very long and returned to Calgary looking for land. While there they met someone who told them to go to Stettler as there was homestead land available there. They left by train but on the train they met another man who said to drop off at Carstairs, as there was land for sale but not homestead land.

They found a section of unbroken land which was to their satisfaction six and a half miles northeast of Carstairs. With financial help from their father in England, they were able to buy this land. They hired a steam breaking outfit to break six hundred acres the first summer. The crop was very good, the first on the new land.

In the fall of 1909 George married Roselina Mathews, an English girl from Bath. They had met on the boat as she was going to Yorkton to visit her aunt and he was on his way to Alberta. They had corresponded and he asked her to come to Alberta before she returned to England. They were married in Crossfield and settled on the farm at Carstairs. They had two children, a boy George in 1910 and a girl Vera in 1912.

World War I was declared in 1914, so they sold everything and he joined the forces in Calgary and went overseas, where his wife and two children joined him. He was wounded on Vimy Ridge in 1917. When he recovered they returned to Calgary. He worked in a garage for a while but soon got a job with the Soldiers Settlement Board as a land inspector. On one of his land inspecting trips he saw land in the Fertility district which was for sale. It seemed satisfactory to him and there was also a half section for his brother Ernie. The location of the land, northeast 16-33-13, the former Willet homestead, was also known as a stopping

place between Castor and Youngstown. His brother, Ernie, got the south half of 16-33-13, the Fred Mattle homestead. George Sr., his eight year old son George Jr., and Uncle Ernie came to these farms in May 1919. They batched on the farm until the fall of 1919 when his wife Rose and daughter Vera sold their home in Calgary and joined them on the farm. Their second daughter, Evelyn, was born on the farm in November, 1919.

There were good years and there were bad years in the early twenties. In the fall 1923-24 and 1924-25 they moved into Hanna and worked on the C.N.R. but always moved back to the farm in the Spring. The year 1927 was a very good year until a very bad hailstorm, the worst they had ever seen, destroyed their good crop. In 1928 there was another good crop but it froze. Their second son, Roderick, was born in 1926. The years 1919 to 1928 they hauled their grain by team and wagon to the Bonar elevator fifteen miles away, and to Hanna nineteen miles. They also hauled to Scapa twelve and a half miles away. During those years the price of grain was on the open market, which resulted in it fluctuating between $2.30 and $.19 a bushel.

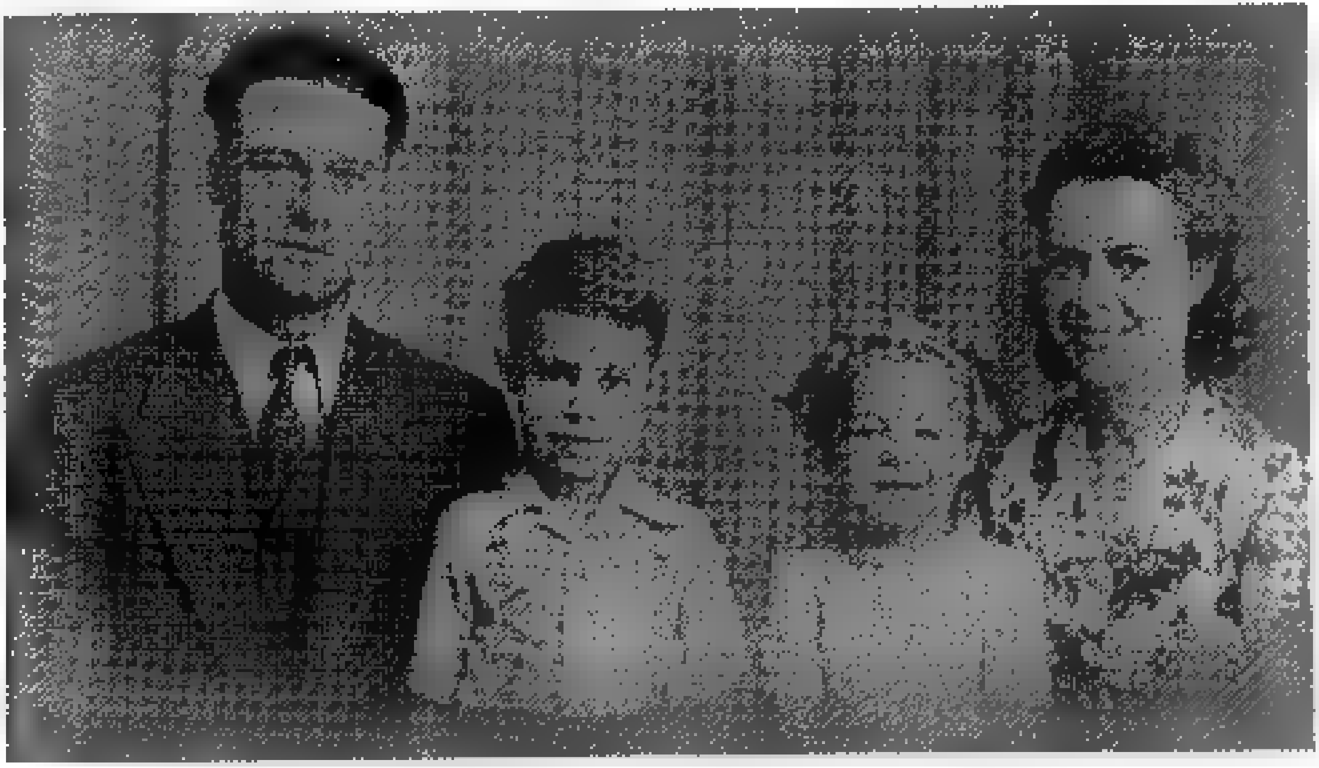
Their oldest son, George Jr., was married to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma in 1939 and settled on his own farm, the east half of 15-33-13. Vera married Harvey Hancock, an R.C.M.P., in Calgary in 1941. They have a daughter, Heather, and are living in Ottawa. Evelyn married Leslie Swan in 1950. They have three children. Their home is in Regina. Roderick married Eileen Andrus from Pollockville in 1955. They have three children. Their home is on the family farm at Garden Plain.

In 1962 George and Rose retired to Hanna, but his happiness and thoughts were still on the farm. He passed away January 1, 1964. Rose is still living in their home in Hanna and enjoying good health. She walks down town most days and loves to travel.

GEORGE C. STANDING, JR. — We came to Hanna by train in May, 1919, and stayed over night in town. When my uncle bought the farm, he also purchased a team and democrat formerly owned by Fred Mattle. When Fred went to Calgary, he left the team in town so father, uncle Ernie and myself could drive out to the farm in the Fertility District, the south half of 16-33-13. I was only eight years old and lived with my father and uncle Ernie on his farm for the summer, as the Willets were still living in the house that my father purchased and the crops were just being seeded. The land wasn't all broke so they got busy and broke more land, while I spent time with the Willet family. The boy's name was Boyd and the girl's Roberta and on Sundays we went to Sunday School taught by Mrs. [illegible]. Herring in the Netherby school. Mother and sister Vera came in October and we moved to the Willet farm.

In the fall I started to attend school in Netherby; my teachers' names were Miss Hunt, Miss Green, Miss O'Lacey, Mr. Robert Wallace, Mrs. S. Grimes, Miss Gettas and Mr. George Smith. We spent two winters in Hanna so I went to school there in 1923-24 and 1924-25. The teachers I had were Miss Venus, who married Dr. Baxendale, and Miss Foot. I quit school in 1927 as my folks' crop was hailed. I went to work in the harvest field for Alex Richards in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Cowan district; we threshed crops in the Lake Thelma district too. Later in the fall I went threshing in the Centre Point district with Neville Thomas and Giltner threshing outfits. In the spring of 1928 I went to work for George Mattie in the Grassy Slope district, the farm now is owned by Fred Fecho. The wages in 1928 were $50.00 a month and two years later only $20.00 a month. I worked long hours and with horses. Then for a few years I worked at home with my father. I worked for Ironsides for over [illegible] year and then decided I would purchase land and start my career in farming.

In the spring of 1933 I leased the northeast of 9-33-13 and seeded my first crop and my only return was the seed. In 1934 I seeded ninety acres of back setting and got only five hundred bushels as the grasshoppers were so bad. That fall I sold a straw stack to John Corry for ten dollars and another straw stack traded to Theodore Ekelund for a yearling heifer and one dollar. I then jumped the freight train at Scapa and travelled north of Edmonton. [illegible] was too wet up there so came back to Camrose and walked back to Ohaton to our friends. Two days later I got a job shovelling wheat in flat bins in an elevator for Jim Mobler, the top wages were twenty-five cents an hour. I stayed there for two weeks and then went to work for his brother at Strome for the rest of the fall and all winter for twenty dollars [illegible] month.



Mr. and Mrs. George Standing Jr., Janet and George Arthur — 1947

When spring came I returned to my folks and went to a farm sale at Chester Bartman's [illegible] the Scapa district and invested my money in four cows and two calves for $66.50. I then had five cows and two calves and four horses to start farming. I seeded a crop in 1935 which yielded very well. In 1936 it was not so good. In the fall of 1936 I worked in the coal mines for Mr. Russel Hemstock in the Dundee district. In 1937 I had not a very good crop but in 1938 and 1939 had very good crops. In the spring of 1938 I bought the east half of 15-33-13. It had only eighty-five acres broke on it so I broke more as the years went by.

In the years that I was growing up there were church services at the school, stampedes at Garden Plain on July first and there were school picnics in most districts. We went and took an active part in playing ball, playing horseshoe, racing horses and at night there were the dances that lasted until early hours of the morning. In the winter time there were card parties, dances and house parties. We played hockey on the sloughs and trapped weasels and badgers for spending money.

I got married on November 11, 1939 to Evelyn Vigen from Lake Thelma district and we lived on my farm.

The mail was delivered from Scapa post office on the mail route by Mr. Bottomley twice a week. Our grocery supplies were bought mostly at Garden Plain

store, managed for many years by Mr. J.W. Taylor. We milked cows so we would take the cream to the Spondin Creamery which was managed by Mr. Rasmussen. There was also a store there so we could get some supplies from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henrikson. The town for business was Hanna and I guess still is.

During the Second World War the ladies formed the Dundee Red Cross. They were busy knitting articles, wrapping food parcels for the boys overseas, and also made warm quilts for the Red Cross.

In the fall of 1940 a son, George Arthur, was born and in 1943 a daughter, Janet Arlene, was born.

I farmed with horses until the fall of 1944 when I purchased a John Deere A-R tractor at a farm sale. The following year I bought a combine. I was hailed out in 1944-45 and 1949, also in 1960. They were real bad hailstorms, but having cattle and doing mixed farming enabled us to survive on the farm.

When the children started school it was so far to Netherby so in 1948 we decided to buy the farm that was formerly owned by Theodore Ekelund, the east half of 4-34-13. The children then had only one mile to go to Buchan school. In a few years the schools were centralized so then the children were all transported by bus to Netherby; then a few years later to Hanna school. They both graduated from grade twelve. George Arthur then attended Olds College and decided to farm with me. He married Elizabeth Berthot from Big Valley and they have three sons and are living in their own home with us on our farm. Janet attended business college in Calgary. She married Ronald Thumlert from Castor and they have two children. They are presently living in Sherwood Park.

There were many good years and many bad years on the farm but I still enjoy the life.

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Standing, Roger, Charlotte and Greg.

RODERICK STANDING — I was born in the Hanna Hospital, December 24, 1928. I went to school at Netherby from 1934-45 with the exception of two months when I attended Buchan, because there was no teacher for Netherby. The winters of 1937 and 1938 my parents and I lived in Calgary, coming back to the farm in the spring. I attended Hanna High school for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47.

When I quit school I returned to the farm and worked with my dad. In 1955 I married Eileen Andrus of Finnegan district. In 1957 I started driving the school bus to the Netherby school. In 1963 Netherby was closed and I started driving into Hanna.

In 1962 mom and dad retired to Hanna and I took over the farm. We have three children, Roger born September 29, 1956; Charlotte born December 12, 1957; and Gregory born August 30, 1960.

MR. and MRS. E. J. STANDING, By Margaret Currie Standing — Ernest Jesse Standing was born in London, England, in 1883. He fought in the Boer and First World Wars where he became a sergeant. After the First World War he

Ernie Standing

worked for a short time as an appraiser for the Soldier Settlement Board. When he saw the present Standing farm, the south half of 16-33-13, he decided that this was the time and place to settle. He bought the farm from Fred Mattey and settled there in 1919. He resided on the farm until his death in 1961.

Margaret Gill Currie was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1895. Her mother died in 1902, leaving three children, including a ten-week-old baby. An aunt cared for the children for several years, and in 1912 Margaret, her sister Dorothy, and her aunt went to Calgary where another aunt was teaching school. Margaret completed her High School there and attended Normal School. In 1925 she taught the North Berry Creek school, and there she met and later married Ernest Jesse Standing.

My travelling to open that school in North Berry Creek was by horse and sleigh. As was commonly done in those days, I was delivered to my boarding place by the mailman on his rural route. Schools were social centres. Picnics, dances, local orchestras held sway here. The July First Dominion Day event was particularly of interest, well attended and enjoyed by all. Outdoor sports such as ball games, races and children's games, were followed by a dance at night, with lunches and snacks throughout the day. The school also had church services, Sunday school, and at times there were interesting evenings of lantern slides. The cemetery adjoins Netherby school yard, so funeral services were also held in the school.

We managed for several years with horses . . . work horses for the fields, and a team for road trips. In winter the roads, new and none too easy for travel, became impassable after heavy snow storms and blizzards left drifts. For fourteen consecutive years we were never in the town of Hanna. We got groceries and supplies at Jim Taylor's store at Garden Plain, or at Scapa.

As time went on, farms became more and more mechanized. No more sounds of hoofs or wagon wheels; the roads were much improved, and the snow plow kept them open. Tractors, wider discs and drills, swather and baler, the all-important combine . . . all made the farmers' work easier, as did also different sizes of trucks for everyday use and for hauling and shipping grain and cattle. To all this is added the family car, snowmobiles, skidoos, skis and airplanes for both work and pleasure.

Mechanization didn't stop outside. The home now has telephone, washing machine and dryer, color televisions, gas range and furnace and hot water heater, replacing the wash tub and scrubbing board, the wood and coal stoves and heaters, and there are no more coal or gas lanterns or lamps.

The Standing farm has been described as one of the prettiest in Alberta, having four brushpiles gloriuosly green in spring, and picturesque with color in autumn, and a slough of considerable size, both of which are aids in raising cattle.

We shared lease land for cattle raising with the neighbors, the water supply on the lease being a part of the slough, with a natural spring supplying water if the slough should dry up. This year is my fifty-first in the Netherby area, and only twice in that time did we have drought disaster, by which is meant no crop to harvest.

As for family life, my daughter Margaret, known as Peggy, married Ernie Matthews and lives in Bowness. Her two sons are both in the services, Donald in the Air Force and Brian in the Navy. My son, Jess Standing, is married and has five children. Their oldest daughter made me a great grandmother in 1974. My older son, Tom, died a diabetic in 1967. He had three children.

Margaret Standing is still living on the farm which is operated by her son Jess, and is very active.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS, By P.S. Herring — My parents, Annie and Sid Herring, were born and raised in New Westminster, B.C. After dad had cleared two farms, one on Lulu Island and then one in Pitt Meadows, he had his fill of removing large stumps, and in 1917 bought a farm near Fertility post office. My mother and two sisters, Nan and Frances, moved with dad to this farm where they planned to raise horses, cattle and grain. It seemed like an ideal area for this purpose, no trees to clear before plowing, and a large expanse of range ideal for grazing.

When the army was mechanized and stopped buying horses, the price for them went down, but dad had established a herd of purebred Angus cattle, and we managed to survive and educate the family.

Stephen Herring, Mr. and Mrs. Herring and Blythe Herring.

I was born at Castor simply because dad couldn't leave the farm at that time and the mail came from Castor. Dad arranged for mother to ride to Castor with the mailman who took her to the Castor hospital. I arrived a few days later during a blinding blizzard. My two brothers, Stephen and Blythe, were born in Hanna a few years later and did not get to ride to town with the mailman.

The arrival of the mail was always a big event. Fertility post office was in the kitchen of Mr. and Mrs. Crabb. One of my earliest recollections is that of waiting in the Crabb kitchen, along with all the neighbors, for the mail to be sorted and handed out. When a post office was established at Scapa, we received mail delivery to our own mail box twice a week. In the winter time I recall the mailman using a team and a covered sleigh which was fitted out like a miniature post office itself, it even had a little heater in it.

The party line telephone was a great convenience. The wires were properly strung on telephone poles rather than using the barbed wire fence, and I seldom remember when it was out of order. If the lines did cross in a storm, someone usually spotted the trouble and untangled the wires. Our telephone number was 714 and our ring was one long and four shorts.

I spent a good portion of my childhood summers riding horseback over the open prairie, trying to keep the cattle from wandering too far from their home range. Some summers were so dry that very little grass grew, and the cattle would wander away looking for better feed. Two or three times they found it in an unfenced grain field north of Spondin. Once some of the stock ended up in the pound and cash money had to be paid to get them back.

Harvest was always a particularly busy time for the whole family; stooking behind the four-horse binder required a lot of hard work and many long days. Dad had a steam threshing outfit in the early days and did custom work for many of the neighbors. It was a grand sight to see the steam engine with a long drive belt running the separator, the water wagon, the coal wagon, the numerous bundle racks and teams, and the golden grain pouring into the granary. When the outfit went away to thresh on other farms, a bunkhouse on wheels went with it, to accommodate those of the crew who did not live nearby.

When combines were invented, Dad sold the steam rig and bought the first swather and combine in the area. We missed the excitement of the big threshing crews, but the combine made threshing a job that could be handled by the family without much extra help.

We had a Titon tractor which dad used originally to break sod, and later for stationary engine power such as for grinding grain, but we did most of our work with horses. The largest team I remember was twelve horses used to pull a road grader on new road construction. The horses were arranged like three four-horse teams, one behind the other. They were not difficult to handle once you got the hang of it, but the line you drove had to be straight and you needed to depend on well-trained lead horses.

Horses provided us with a new car in 1929; Dad had arranged to trade the old car and about twenty horses for it. I remember him assemblying the selected horses into a herd and driving them to Delia, where the car dealer took possession and we picked up the car.

It was a great time to be young; one learned to cope with problems at an early age.

THE ROTH and JOB FAMILIES, By Carol Job — The Sid Herring farm was purchased by Mr. Jacob Roth of Burstall, Saskatchewan, in 1945. His sons Oscar and Art Roth farmed it for two years. Art Roth married Hattie Price of Medicine Hat in 1947. Oscar Roth moved to Medicine Hat and Art and Hattie farmed the land for three years. Then they returned to Medicine Hat where Art entered carpentry apprenticeship with his father-in-law.

Herb Pfahl married Mabel Roth in 1949 and rented the place for the next three years. Then they moved to Herb's father's farm about five miles north-east of Hanna, where they now reside.

Ed and Irene Job, nee Roth, purchased the farm from the Roth estate, and lived there until their son Willis married Carol Gustafson in 1964. In the spring of 1965 they moved a house trailer onto the new Netherby school site, and later built a new house there.

Willis and Carol Job and their three children, Clayton, Tracey and Pam, now live in the house Sid Herring built.

OUR LIFE ON THE PRAIRIES, By Eric Small — It was Friday, March 13, 1925 that my wife of one month and I set sail from England for Canada. We travelled by immigrant train from St. John, N. B. to Calgary. The coaches had wooden seats which you pulled out at night for your bed, wooden racks above for your luggage, and a pot-bellied stove in the caboose to boil your water or heat your soup. Everyone supplied their own blankets and pillows. Needless to say, we all slept in the clothes we were wearing. The train did stop at the busier stations where we could buy something to eat.

Mr. and Mrs. Small — 1925.

It had been spring in England, but on the prairies of Canada the grass was brown and the trees bare of leaf, and there was still snow in places. Where were the green fields dotted with white-faced cattle and horses, which we had been looking at for the past three months on brochures supplied to us by the C.P.R.? We did not expect to see fields of golden grain this time of year, but what we had seen impressed on us that we had landed in a cold, hard country, no place for weaklings.

We arrived in Calgary after four days of travel which we shall never forget. It was an eye opener for two British immigrants, at least. Our first view of the Rockies was fascinating. I think what impressed us most was the unlimited space of this Canada.

After spending two days in Calgary, we decided that we would not buy land, but would work out for a year to get some experience of the Canadian way of life. I had been raised on a farm in England, and I could see that farming over here was an entirely different proposition. Through the Soldier Settlement Board we hired out to Jesse Roberts of Round Lake, south of Fleet.

I should mention that my wife, Hilda, had lived all her life in a city, and that ride from Fleet to the farm was her introduction to life on the prairie. We rode in a wagon, on dirt roads; in the low places the water was up to the horses' bellies. But Hilda never complained, nor did she ever complain about the hardships we went through during the tough years ahead, and that is one reason that we came out on top in the end. She soon learned to drive a team and ride a saddle horse.

We stayed at Jess Roberts' until March, 1926. By that time we had decided that we should be on our own. We were both healthy and strong and enjoying the Canadian way of life, and nothing seemed impossible. So I bought the NW of section 18 from Mrs. Bryanton, whose husband, Ken, had died that winter. There were still a few open sections around at that time so we had free grazing for our livestock.

In 1926 we had a light crop, but raised enough feed for our six milk cows and their calves. We were expecting our first child, about the end of December, Dr. Baxendale said. The weather turned cold and there was snow the end of November so the doctor suggested that, it being Hilda's first baby, she should go and wait in Hanna, as the roads could be snowed in at any time. Pete Jensen had a Model T Ford and we took Hilda to Hanna in it the first week in December. She stayed at Mrs. Trennaman's until she went to hospital January 2, 1927. It was a complicated birth. We lost the baby and nearly lost Hilda too. Thank the Lord she survived, but was not able to come home until the end of January.

The spring of 1927 was wet, and there was lots of moisture in June. The mosquitoes were terrible for man and beast. That summer we put a graded road through for two miles straight north from Netherby school. I drove the eight-horse outfit on the grader, and I think it was Bill Hoodless who ran the grader, and Rudy Moore had the four horses on the plough. The mosquitoes were so bad that we had a smudge at both ends of the grade. I wore a wide-brimmed hat and mosquito netting and a leather jacket to keep the devils from biting. We were paid six dollars a day for a man and four horses, and the money was applied to your taxes. You had to put in eight hours on the grade, no travelling time, and as I had to travel two and a half miles, it meant a ten hour day.

On July 26, 1927, a hailstorm pounded our crop right into the ground. It also ruined the prairie for haying. It was not big hail, about pea size, but it was hard and so thick that you could shovel it up on the north side of the barn the next morning. Now what could we do ? No feed and no money to buy it. We sold the cattle and I went out harvesting and threshing. Walter Jensen, a lad of sixteen, went with me. Hilda went to Calgary and found work with a family in Three Hills. I managed to find work until the middle of December, when Alex Wilson and his mother went to the Coast for a holiday. I sent for Hilda and we looked after his farm until spring.

Some of the open range was beginning to be bought up, so instead of replacing my livestock in the spring of 1928, I bought the east half of section 17. Hilda went to housekeep for Bill Hoodless and I broke seventy-five acres with five horses and a sixteen inch sulky plow. That fall the Netherby School Board decided to drill a well, hired a driller from Scapa, and I helped him. Four dollars a day, and the last day I got my hand smashed and was handicapped for the winter. For compensation the well driller gave me a heifer calf.

I did not break any new land in 1929, as it was a very dry year, but I had a fair crop on the breaking I had done the previous year. In September we were blessed with a daughter, Moyra. The next three years saw us struggling along with poor crops and poor prices. Pete Jensen and I opened up a coal mine on the Bryanton quarter. We stripped twelve feet of dirt with fresnos and got a three-foot seam of coal, which we sold for $2.50 per ton. In February, 1932, Pete Jensen and I moved our house and buildings over to the east half of section seventeen.

In 1933 Eric was born. By this time we were well into the Depression, and during the next three years prices for farm commodities reached rock bottom. How did we survive? We had our own beef and pork, cured our own bacon and canned our beef for summer. We had a garden, and canned saskatoons for winter fruit. We had chickens and eggs, ground our wheat for cereal, and took wheat to

the Hanna Flour Mill where we traded it for flour, shorts and bran. We never went hungry.

Those were the years of the grasshopper plague. We tried poisoning them with bran and strychnine around the outside of our crops; the wife would drive the team and I would spread the poison with a scoop shovel, but it was a useless effort. The only thing that got rid of them was a cold wet spring which killed the young as they hatched.

In 1934 I bought our first car, a 1930 Model T in perfect running condition, for thirty dollars. I turned it over one night coming from Hanna, after picking up some relief supplies for distribution . . . potatoes, apples and dried salt cod. Some of those cod were as big as sweat pads and looked the same, and that was what people called them. I couldn't afford to fix my car so turned it into a Bennet Buggy.

Crops were good in 1938, but it was doomsday year for us. Just before harvest time, Encephalitis (sleeping sickness) struck our horses, and I lost three brood mares and one colt. We raised the three orphan colts on skim milk fed from a pail. Then in October while we were threshing oats, the straw stack caught fire. The fire spread to my corral, my feed stacks and buildings. We managed to save a granary full of oats and the house. There was no insurance. There were enough oat sheaves in the field to feed the livestock if I reduced their numbers, which I did, and with the help of Jack Corry and Norman Greenway we put up a barn and some sheds.

After fourteen years of long cold winters, hail storms, dry summers and grasshoppers, we were just about where we had started, so we decided to take a look at B.C. Our old neighbors, the Jensens, were living at Langley, so we visited them, but tragedy followed us there. On January 21, 1939, we lost Moyra, nine and a half years old, after an appendix operation at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

Three tragedies within six months! No matter what the odds are you must keep fighting back, so we returned to the farm and put our crop in. It was a good crop, prices had improved, and since World War II had started, money had appeared back in circulation. I called a sale in October and got rid of the farm. We stayed in Hanna until December as Hilda was expecting a child, and after our experience in B.C. she wanted Dr. Baxendale to be with her. Barbara was born December 5, 1939, and soon afterward we bade goodbye to the Prairies.

I farmed at Cloverdale for six years, then sold out, dabbled a little in real estate, and finally joined a Cloverdale firm as an insurance agent. After twenty years with that company, I retired in 1967, and since then we have been enjoying the fruits of our labors.

Mrs. Patton, son John and Mr. Patton.

THE PATTON STORY, By Meta Patton Mason — My father, Samuel Patton, first came to Alberta about 1910. He travelled the length of Alberta, from Lethbridge to the Peace River country, and at one time, before the first war, held title to land where Edmonton's Municipal Airport is now. When World War I broke out, he returned to Ireland and in 1920 married Sarah Clyde. They engaged in farming for several years, but times were difficult, and in 1926 my father sold his farm and sailed for Can-

ada. He went to relatives in Toronto, heard there was good money to be made during the harvest season in the West, and decided to come to Alberta again.

He found work with Mr. Herring, a farmer of the Netherby district. He took charge of their farm and livestock while the family spent the winter at New Westminster. In the spring, he was able to rent the adjoining farm formerly occupied by Mr. Len Taylor, who had decided to give up farming and move to Vancouver.

During this time my mother, my sister Joan and myself had been living with my grandparets, but on August 4, 1928, we sailed for Canada, accompanied by my father's sister, Martha Patton, who resided with us until a few months before her death at the age of ninety-four. Our trip was uneventful until we reached Winnipeg, where we encountered one of the fiercest electric storms we had ever seen, and which gave us quite a scare. At the same time I became violently ill from the change of water, so my memories of Winnipeg are not too good!

The fall that we arrived at the farm the crop was beautiful, but it received an early frost, so consequently nobody made any fortunes that year. In 1930 a son was added to the family, my brother John. The following years were hard and lean at times, but they weren't unhappy, and we were luckier than some in that we had close neighbors. Prairie neighbors are a special breed, not found anywhere else.

Many of my early memories revolve around horses. I can well remember my father in the earlier days, hauling our winter coal from the mines north of our place. He had a beautiful black mare named Maggie. One evening, when he was coming home with a loaded wagon, she developed colic, but bravely brought the load home where she dropped dead in the yard.

In the years of growing up on the farm, we saw two of our closest neighbors at different times lose practically all their possessions by fire. During the dry thirties we were threatened by prairie fire more than once. During these years I can also remember my mother being called upon to officiate at both birth and death.

In later years, Mr. J.W. Taylor operated a general store at Garden Plain, which was a great convenience to the surrounding community. Mrs. Taylor, too, will be remembered for her many contributions to our early entertainment. The success of many a Christmas concert was due to the long hours of patient practice she put in with the children; when she passed away very suddenly, it was a great loss to our family as well as to the community at large.

After they lost all their crop by hail in the fall of 1952, my parents decided to move into Edmonton for the winter to be close to my sister and myself who had, by this time, married two brothers, George and Steve Mason. They spent the winter with us, but dad was restless in the city, and when the leaves started showing up in the spring, he decided that he wanted to go back to the farm again.

They continued farming for three years, after which they decided to give up farming for good, as my brother always had trouble with asthma and my father's health was getting progressively worse. They rented the farm to Ed Job, who later bought it, and moved to the city.

In October, 1957, my father passed away at the age of eighty-two years. The following year, my brother John married and has two daughters in high school. My sister Joan has three children, a girl and two boys, and I have three sons.

My mother continues to live with me and has very good health mentally and physically, considering her age which is eighty-seven.

THE STORY OF MY LIFE, By Henry Mattis — I was born at Leduc on October 26, 1908. I came to this part of the country with my parents when I was two years old. My father, Frederick Mattis, came here in 1910. He bought the south

half of 36-31-13, it was Boer War scrip, and took up a homestead, SW 12-32-13. He built a house and barn, put up a fence, and moved his family from Leduc.

As there was no school in our district, my father paid tuition fees so that my sister and three brothers and I could attend Centre Point school, three and a half miles away across country. I took all my schooling there.

From the time I was fifteen, I worked on the threshing rigs in the fall, putting in a day's work along with the older men. My brothers and I helped dad farm. We each drove an outfit of horses. In the winter it was almost a daily chore to haul grain to the elevators at Richdale, Bonar or Hanna. In the fall we hauled coal from the Brown mine, and later from Sheerness.

In 1916 or 1917 dad bought a threshing machine, hand fed, with a straw carrier in the back, powered by an eight-horse stationary engine. We threshed with this outfit until 1920, when he bought a 22 inch International separator which was powered by the first tractor he bought, a Titan. This outfit was run by my brother Dan until he bought a Rumley outfit for himself, then I ran the smaller one. My dad had bought a McCormick-Deering tractor in 1927 and then we threshed with it.

I worked with my dad until the spring of 1934, when I rented the Pete Jensen place, SE 18-33-13 in the Garden Plain district, but I still helped dad with his farming, as the other brothers were all on their own farms. I farmed with horses until the early years of World War II.

For entertainment, we used to have house parties and dances at the different homes in the district. It was always my turn to have the people of the district come to my home on New Year's Eve. We certainly had real fun in those days and we didn't need to have a bottle to have a good time either.

In the fall of 1938 Florence Wilkinson and I were married. She was born and raised in the Hiram district south of Coronation. Our three oldest children were born during the time we were on the Jensen place, Inza in 1940, Sandra in 1941 and Gordon in 1942.

In the spring of 1944 we bought the Bill Goldsbury place, three quarters of 10-33-13. About 1948 we bought the other quarter of the same section from Jim Cuthbert.

In the spring of 1944 our second son, Dennis, was born, and in 1947 Rosemary and in 1953, Doris.

When we moved on April 4, 1944, the roads were dry and the dust was blowing. I started seeding on April 18, and that was the last year I was able to get on the land that early, during the years we lived there.

The farm was quite run down when I took it over, the fences all needed repairing, and we rebuilt the house as we had to have a larger home. The first few years we had a bored well, which was about fifty feet deep and pumped by hand. The quicksand kept coming in, giving trouble all the time. In the winter time I had to water the cattle at a spring a mile away from the buildings, which was quite a chore for me and the stock in cold weather.

About 1953 Peter Boyd and I bought a well-drilling rig. We drilled a well for Pete, and put down two at my place, one at the barn for the stock, and later one next to the house. These proved to be excellent wells; we could not pump them dry. I also put up a larger barn, cattle sheds and corrals.

The children went to school at Netherby, Dundee, and again to Netherby. The youngest ones were bussed to Hanna.

Inza married John Carls; they have two children and live in the East Coulee district.

Sandra married George Callahan. They and their three children live at Slave Lake.

Gordon married Rose Schwier. They had three children but lost one of them when she was not quite two years old. They live at Nacmine.

Rosemary married Tom Jones; they have two children and live in Hanna. Doris married Gordon Edwards; they also have two children and live in Hanna.

Dennis died July 26, 1966, as the result [illegible] a car accident.

My folks lived on their farm until 1945, then they went to live in [illegible] small house in the same yard as Dan, their eldest son. There they lived out their last years; mother passed away March 25, 1950, at the age of eighty years, and my father died in November, 1958, at the age of ninety.

My sister, the oldest of the family, lived at home with my parents, and after they died she continued to live in the little house on brother Dan's place until 1969, when she went to the Sunnyside Nursing Home in Medicine Hat, where she died July 26, 1976.

My brother Dan farmed all his life on the land a few miles north-west of my dad's place. He married Belle Thomas and they had three children. He passed away suddenly September 26, 1966.

My brother Albert still farms just [illegible] half a mile from the home place. He married Emilie Jess and they had five children.

My brother Fred farmed at Spondin and Standard, and after all his family was married, he and his wife, the former Barbara Schram, moved back to the farm he had in the Garden Plain district. He lived there until his death in October, 1973. They had four daughters.

Due to poor health, I sold everything except the land in the fall of 1967, and moved to Hanna. In 1971 I sold my farm to Arthur Standing.

MR. and MRS. STANLEY STRANDBERG, By Inga Strandberg — For the first year after he finished school, Stanley worked for the neighbors, then rented the Theodore Ekelund farm from 1924-1926. In 1927 he purchased the east half of 21-34-13 on time. His crop was hailed in 1928, but he had hail insurance, and [illegible] was not until the depression years that he found it impossible to make his payments on his land. The agent of the Dominion Land Development Company promised him that if he signed a quit claim he would be able to rent the land; Stanley signed but the agent did not keep his promise. That served as a never-to-be-forgotten lesson to beware of agents.

In 1933 he started farming the NW 27-33-13, and continued to live with his parents until 1941, when he started to build up his farmstead. Over the years more land has been added until now we have a small mixed farm. In 1942 he and I, Inga Siverson, were married. We have three children. Muriel, who arrived in 1943, is now Mrs. Bruce Beach of Calgary; Kenneth, born in 1946, is farming at Daysland, and Lloyd, born in 1948, farms with his dad.

We bought our first combine in 1950 and put an end to stooking and threshing. However, we still needed the straw for the livestock, so we obtained a contraption to pull behind the combine to collect the straw in. The straw would build up in front and for the next ten years it was my rather dusty job to stand on the side and fork the straw back, and dump the barge when it became full. It is now arranged that the straw can be handled from the tractor seat.

Whenever the combine got plugged up, Stanley used to prop up the feeder on [illegible] wooden block and crawl in and clean it out. Once when he was inside the block slipped, imprisoning him, fortunately unhurt. The first thing I heard was, "Get me out of here, I've got work to do. I need to keep combining." I am sure it

seemed a long time to him before I did anything because I could not lift up the feeder with him inside. I had to get blocks and a crowbar to pry it up. I am glad that I was close by so that he did not have to be in there for hours. After that he made sure that it was well blocked before he crawled in.

Muriel Strandberg, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Strandberg and sons Lloyd and Kenneth.

Stanley is handy at keeping machinery in repair, and with more modern equipment farming is not so time consuming or such hard work. For many years Stanley was the secretary of the Fertility Community Grazing Association. Later our son Lloyd took over the position and now Reg Corry has that office.

After some fifty years I still milk cows. In 1968 I received the Central Alberta Dairy Pool trophy and in 1972 the F.A. Rasmussen trophy at the Hanna Fall Fair for dairy products. In 1976 when the movie, "Why Shoot the Teacher?" was being filmed, I had the pleasure of having a small part in it, and also baked bread for some scenes. Unfortunately, no way would the fast-rising yeast make three such nice big loaves in one pan as those square Royal yeast cakes of other days.

On February 18, 1977, Harold and Marion Gustafson surprised us with a thirty-fifth wedding anniversary supper with a few friends. They presented us with corsages and an engraved tray.

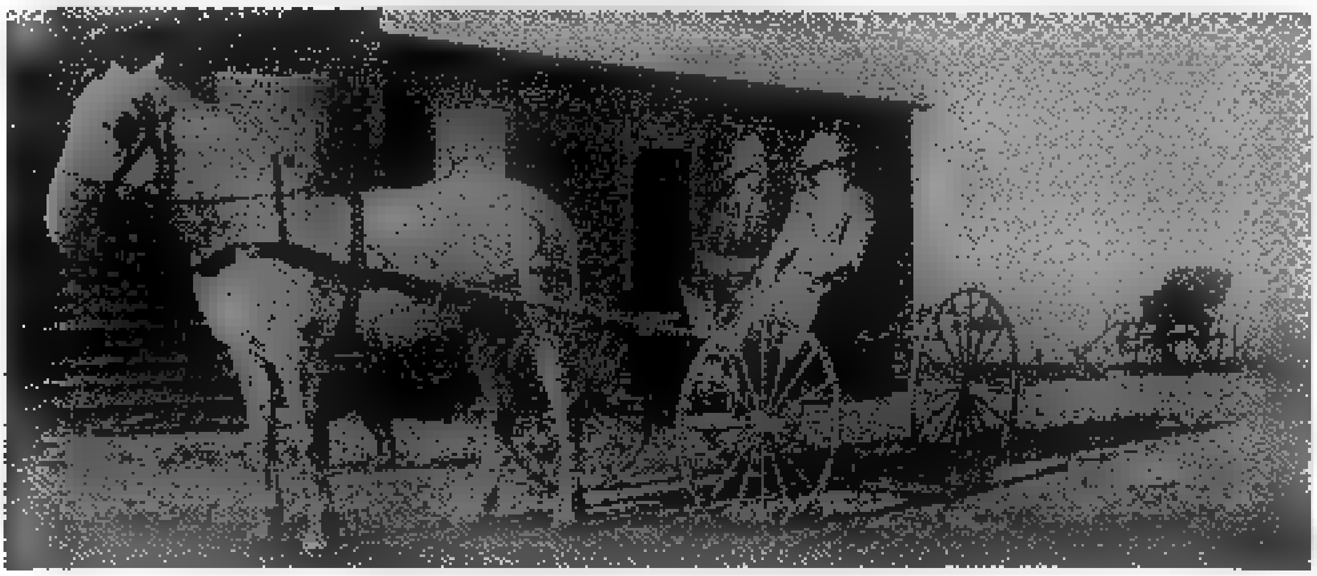
We have wonderful neighbors in this community.

THE DONALDSONS, By Helen Jensen Northey — Alexander and Euphemia Donaldson, known to family and friends as Sandy and Phemie, were a delightful couple who came to the Netherby area about 1918. They had worked at Nanton, Alberta, for a farming and ranching company; Sandy was the foreman and Phemie the cook. They bought the J.W. Taylor farm. Sandy's sister, Madge Kay, and her husband who had been invalided home from war service, lived with them for a time. Phemie's mother, Mrs. Patterson, also lived with them, and received tender and devoted care until her death about 1920.

Sandy was a hard-working dour Scot with a heart of gold and a quiet humor

that showed in his laughing blue eyes. Phemie went about her labors, indoors and out, usually on the run. She always had scones and oatcakes on hand for visitors stopping for tea, and Scotch shortbread, and haggis in season. She loved to tell jokes on the Scottish people, and had a never ending succession of tales.

She led a busy life, sympathetic to everyone's need. Our home and most of its contents had been destroyed by fire in 1919; Dad had built a twelve by sixteen shack to shelter the family temporarily, but when the fifth child of our family was expected, the Donaldsons insisted that mother come to them and be cared for through her confinement. There our youngest brother came into the world with the help of Dr. Baxendale, and was named Donald.



Setting out for home — Sandy and Euphemie Donaldson.

In later years Phemie often told that when Donald stopped by on an errand she offered him two nickels, but he backed away, saying, "I'm only saving dimes."

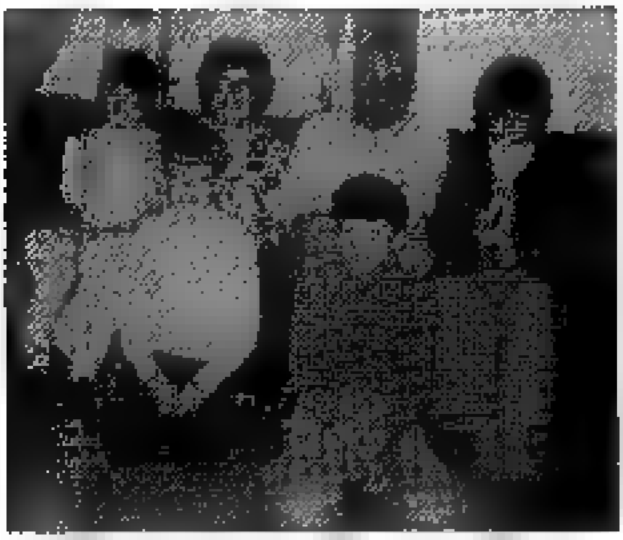
The Donaldsons were members of the Beef Ring. They participated actively in the affairs of Netherby school and cemetery, and of Garden Plain hall. Phemie sometimes cooked on the cook car of Sid Herring's threshing outfit. Sandy and Billy Hoodless were partners in a Hart Parr tractor and a Nichols and Sheperd combine. After Billy died, Sandy sold the outfit.

In 1943 the Donaldsons sold their farm and moved to Calgary where they operated a chicken farm and sold eggs. Phemie, who had been born in Luntritton, Perthshire, Scotland in 1879, died in Calgary in August, 1952, aged seventy-three years.

Sandy moved back to Hanna where he enjoyed the fellowship with his sister and her husband, and his many friends until his death in April, 1960 in his seventy-ninth year. He also was a native of Perthshire.

HENRY NIELSEN — I was born in Castor on February 6, 1930, and started school at Buchan in 1936. At that time there were six pupils attending, Murray and Raymond Halverson, Bill and Betty Marlowe, my sister Eva and myself. The teacher was Miss Bonnie Shoults.

The next year I went to Corinne School. At that time there were twenty-six pupils: Margaret, Velma, Lois and Joyce Waterhouse; Arley and Murl Chidley; Dave Wallace; Francis, Andy and Nellie Harvey; Mae and Alfred Delker; Dorothy, Donna and Harold Lepard; Irene Kennedy; Mary, Isobel and Donald Campbell; Gordon, Mary and Allan Ironside; Alf Siverson; Joe Higgins; Eva and Henry Neilsen. Teachers during my time there were Mr. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Daisy Kerner, and Doreen Lyxzen.



Henry Nielsen Family — Shiela, Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, Kathleen, Kenneth and Douglas.

The two main highlights of the school year were always the Christmas concert with all the preparation and excitement of concert night and Santa, and the school picnic at the end of the term in June. I remember during one of these picnics at Corinne, two moose came up fairly close to the school yard during a ball game. This was a real oddity on the prairies.

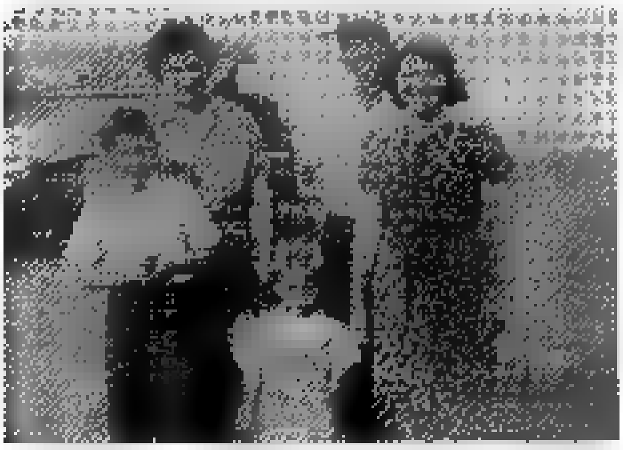
Our mode of transportation in the summer was a two-wheeled cart made from a Model T differential, and a little buckskin mare called Nellie. In the winter it was a cutter or shank's pony.

I started grade ten in Hanna in the fall of 1945, staying in the dormitory there, but quit in November of the same year. I helped at home, and when we were caught up there I stooked for some of the neighbors and hauled bundles at threshing time. During the winter of 1949-50 I worked for Lyman Grove in the Garden Plain district. That was the coldest winter I remember. The potatoes froze in the house behind the heater in the front room. The temperature didn't get above zero for I believe forty-two days straight. In the winter of 1953 I did Rudolph Haessel's chores while they were on a holiday to Germany.

In 1958 I went to Lacombe and got a job with Ellis Construction, doing carpenter work. While I was there I met Irene Holman who was a secretary for the Department of Highways in Red Deer. We were married on August 3, 1961, and lived in Lacombe for one year.

In 1962 we bought a farm in the Garden Plain district formerly owned by George Wright. In 1971 we purchased the SE 2-34-14, and also have other land rented.

We have four children, Kathleen, Sheila, Douglas and Kenneth. They are all attending school in Hanna.



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Boyd and Family — Donald, Ilene and Dorothy.

PETER BOYD, By Dorothy Boyd Harvey and F. Johnston — Pete was born in Dauphin, Manitoba in 1905, the eldest of a large family. In the summer of 1926 he came to work for Charlie Noyce. Pete became one of the family and worked for Noyces for years.

That fall of 1926 Pete ran the 20-40 Case twin opposed kerosene engine while Charlie was separator man. In 1928 Charlie purchased a new 20-40 Rumley Oil Pull and Pete worked with it until 1938 when one of the first rubber tired tractors in this area, a 25 Massey, was purchased. Pete did most of the field work for Noyces with the tractor.

During the first few years that Pete was here he drove horses for field work. In 1927 Pete and Charlie were caught in a severe hail storm when they were driving sixteen head of horses abreast on a big double disc. Sensing the impending storm, they hurriedly tried to unhitch but didn't quite make it. The horses tore

loose and went with the storm, scattering harness and equipment over a wide area. Except for minor wire cuts the horses escaped serious injury, but both men spent days gathering up the pieces.

When Pete lived in Dauphin he owned a Case car so when he arrived, an experienced driver, he was relegated to drive Charlie's trucks. The first two were, a Model T with Ruxel axle and a Graham Paige. One hundred bushels was a big load for either one. At Bill Goldsbury's sale a 1928 Ford Phaeton was bought and Pete and the Noyces got good mileage out of it. Charlie bought a No. 7 Massey combine in 1939, one of the first in this area, and Pete operated it. Winter arrived early in 1941 and Pete was hired to straight combine flax for Paxmans, Tom Campion and Fred Engel. He worked off and on during that whole winter, finishing in January. The fall of 1950 he went with Art Welch to do custom combining in the Vulcan area.

Pete and Margaret Noyce were married in 1936. They set up housekeeping in a small house in Noyce's yard for awhile. In the spring of 1939 they moved to the Hudson Bay section, two miles east. A house had been moved in by Kirby from the south country and placed in about the middle of the section. A barn and other outbuildings were built on the place. Water was obtainable at seventy feet but quicksand was always present requiring a new well quite frequently. Joe Slepecka bored a well for them; however, before Joe got to the water bearing formation, a big sandstone rock stopped him from going any further. Pete got the Fred Johnston's machine and eventually punched a hole through. Later Pete and Henry Mattis acquired an old well drill of their own. An eight hundred pound bit suspended by a cable from a walking beam on a high tower pounded its way through the soil without any water being used. This machine, though old and rickety, drilled a number of successful wells. There were some of the other kind too. The drilling machine ended its usefulness abruptly when the bit got wedged in a rock formation while Pete was drilling a well for Shorty Bossert. No amount of hammering could budge it. As a last resort a charge of dynamite was set off somewhere near where the bit was lodged. They were very disappointed when, after winding the cable up, they found that the hammer portion of the bit was all that they retrieved. The rest of the bit is still down there.

In 1955 the school division started bussing to Netherby school. Pete drove one of the routes. Later on he bussed the high school students to Hanna once a week for special classes.

Pete and Margaret and the children liked to go fishing. When Carolside Dam was stocked he and the family, the Rudy Haessels and Ralph Bailey family would spend a Sunday trying to get the early pike. Buffalo Lake was another favorite spot that the family loved to go to.

In the spring of 1963 Pete and Margaret sold their farm and moved to Hanna where Pete operated a gravel truck until he retired in 1974.

Margaret was very active helping form the Association for Retarded Children and the school for Retarded Children in Hanna. She was also active in the women's group of the United Church.

Margaret passed away in March of 1965 and Pete in January of 1975. The children are, Dorothy, Mrs. J. Harvey of Hanna; Donald, of Hanna; Ileane, Mrs. Dale Cox, of Winfield, Alberta; Leslie, of Calgary; and David, of Hanna. There are five grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. STAN SANDERSON — In the fall of 1939 Stan Sanderson opened the new Pool elevator at Garden Plain and the following September he married Marguerite Martin of Oyen. There was no Pool dwelling at Garden Plain so George Wright moved over a one-room dwelling which served as a home until the Pool moved one from Excel the next year. We were blessed with two sons, Harold and Fred, while we lived at Garden Plain. In June 1947 we moved to Sibbald, leaving behind many lasting friendships and taking with us fond memories of our years at Garden Plain. In the fall of 1963 Harold went to Dowling and Garden Plain as Pool agent and was there for three years.

After leaving Garden Plain we moved to Sibbald where we were blessed with two more sons, Dennis and Richard. In 1965 we moved to Oyen, where Stan passed away on March 13, 1972.

THE EARL NESS STORY, By Tom Ness — Earl Ness was born in 1916 and was raised in the Nevis, Alberta district. In 1933 he met Hedvig Hein, who was working on a neighboring farm. They married in 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ness and Family — Margaret, Gordon, Evelyn, Russell and Tom.

In 1938 Earl, Hedvig and children, Tom, Russel and Gordon, moved to the Garden Plain district, settling on the Wickson farm, now vacant but owned by Louis Unsworth. Margaret was born a year later and Evelyn two years later. Water had to be hauled by stone boat from neighbor Don Cameron every day. Due to the long dry spell and several dry wells it was the nearest source of water for them.

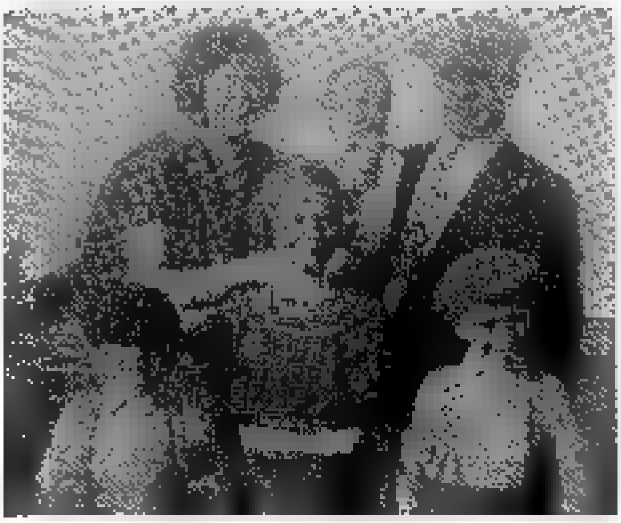
To supplement earnings from the rather poor crops Earl worked in the Unsworth coal mines. In the fall of 1941 Earl and the family moved to Scapa. Then he worked in the coal mines in Drumheller. In 1942 they moved one half mile south of Scapa where Earl worked for the C.N.R. During the fall of 1943 the family moved back to the Wickson place. The children then attended Garden Plain School which was four miles away. Earl and Tom hauled their coal supply from Tiff Ironside's strip mine. They also used railroad ties that the C.N.R. had discarded for fuel.

A spectacle to see was the geese migrating south in the fall. Many was the morning while they were feeding on Cameron's fields their honking woke us up. Because Earl's house was on a hill he often shot his supper from the front door step.

The fall of 1946 Earl started hauling freight from Scapa to Garden Plain for Taylor's General Store, with his faithful old team "Tony and Baldy". There were many stories about Earl and his team. At the time when threshing crews moved from farm to farm, hauling bundles, an unusual cloud of dust often appeared. More times than not it was just "Tony and Baldy" in another runaway. Being a fast runner Earl was very seldom left very far behind.

In 1948 the Ness family moved from the Wickson place to the Taylor place now occupied by Gerald Unsworth. The children attended Netherby school, which was two and a half miles away. The next year, 1949, was a highlight year for Earl. He modernized his operation with the addition of a well worn Rumley tractor and a 1938 Pontiac car.

In 1952 Earl and the family moved to Hanna where he was employed by Imperial Oil and Massey-Harris.



Mr. and Mrs. Glen Grover and Family.

LOOKING BACK, By Glen Grover — Owing to the rapid progress made in scientific farming, modern machinery and transportation, it [illegible] unlikely that any generation will ever experience again the hard times and rough life that we had during the hungry thirties.

We were living in Hanna in those years, and we thought we would try farming. So in the spring of 1939 we moved to the Taylor farm at Garden Plain. Mr. Taylor owned and operated the Garden Plain store, and was [illegible] fine gentleman to have as [illegible] landlord. We were very fortunate as 1939 was the beginning of the good crop years. Mr. George Wright did our threshing.

The following year they tore down the Pool elevator at Scapa and moved it to Garden Plain, and to help our finances I helped tear it down and rebuild it. We were milking thirteen cows that summer, so we delivered milk and cream to the crew, and could those Swedes drink milk!

It was not [illegible] work though. I played ball with the Scapa Club and I believe we won the league that year.

We had five children, two of school age, and they attended Netherby school. In the summer they rode two Shetland ponies and in the winter the sons of our good neighbor, the late Robert Unsworth, picked our children up in their sleigh and took them to school with them. How times have changed in regard to school transportation!

The winter of 1940–41 was the winter of the deep snow. I hauled Mr. Taylor's freight from Scapa to the store. Many trips were made with four horses in order to break trail.

It was with regret that we left the Garden Plain district, as we liked the farm life very much, but there was no more land available, as everyone was farming every acre of arable land. Garden Plain was one of the best neighborhoods to be found anywhere; the people were always ready to give [illegible] helping hand to anyone in need.

After we left the farm I started working for the Special Areas, where I remained for twenty-five years until retiring in 1967.

THE GARDEN PLAIN STORE 1933 - 1951

By Marion Taylor Fox

In 1933 my Dad and Mother decided to open a store at the new Garden Plain siding on the recently-built C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka. However, after a few trial runs, the line was not used too often; only in harvest time and whenever carloads of grain had to be brought out, or coal shipped in. Occasionally during the drought years, feed grains were shipped in to be distributed among the farmers for their cattle.

Across the road from, and facing the Pioneer elevator, was [illegible] small three-roomed building which the grain company had rented from R. W. Moore, to be used as a home for their buyer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Shand. About 1933, the

J.W. Taylor in front of his store at Garden Plain.

Pioneer Grain Company built a house, and so, Dad was able to rent the Moore building for use as a store. He continued to rent it until 1951, mainly because Mr. Moore didn't want to sell it.

The large front room was fitted up with a counter, and shelves along the east and west walls. With a bank loan, and Dad's good credit standing, he was able to stock staple articles from groceries to nails, Leckie's shoes, and a few dry goods. In the granery warehouse outside near the hitching rail, were stored Robin Hood flour, sugar, sacks of bran and blocks of salt. Later there was a [illegible]. A. gas pump in front, serviced in later years from Drumheller, but in those early years Kirby's truck from Hanna kept the bulk gasoline tanks and the kerosene barrels filled.

I can remember the odd sleepless night when one of us who weren't used to serving fuel oil would lie awake most of the night, wondering [illegible] we'd filled some customer's kerosene can with gas by mistake. Nothing serious every occurred, but on occasion one of us would have to make a flying trip to some farm to check, mainly by sniffing. There weren't too many phones then and who'd want the others on the party line to know of such carelessness, in any case?

For almost two years Dad continued to operate the store from our farm a mile and a half away, across from Robert Unsworth's. In the slack season, one of us children, home on holidays, would walk or ride the bike across the old Wright farm to the siding, to serve the few customers. [illegible] the weather turned nasty in winter, Dad would sleep on an old Winnipeg couch in the phone room at the store. Business was quiet in the early years.

In summer freight was often picked up in Hanna with our half-ton truck; or from the C.N. station in Scapa, as it had been shipped from McDonald's Consolidated in Camrose. Fresh fruit and bakery products usually came from Calgary wholesalers. In winter the freight trips were really hard on the horses and drivers. Often fresh produce was frozen during its long trip in the sleigh, in spite of the effort of the drivers to prevent it.

I'll never forget the horrible experiences of driving over gumbo roads after [illegible] heavy rain, to get freight and bundles of mail from the Scapa post office. Our customers, like ourselves, were always anxious for letters, especially during the war years when many of our local boys were serving overseas.

In August, 1935, Dad and Mother commenced building a small bungalow between the Pioneer house and the store, and lived there after October. How well I remember the thrill of coming home to the store from Mrs. Kennedy's, with whom I boarded in the Corinne district, the first weekend of November, 1935. And later, going [illegible] to Hanna to attend the teachers' convention, via team and sleigh with Mr. and Mrs. George Wright; [illegible] long weary trip, but no grumbling, just thankful to be able to attend.

My parents continued to operate the expanding store until my Mother's sudden passing, in February, 1943. Dad sold his stock, closed the doors, and moved to Calgary. However, he never felt comfortable in the busy city. He missed his community, his old neighbors, his independence. He left his Calgary house for Patsy and me to live in while she worked for the R.C.A.F. and I in C.W.A.C., and re-

opened the Garden Plain store in August, 1943. He continued to operate it until he retired to Castor in the fall of 1951.

I remember the friendly visits with the regular Friday customers, many of whom were bachelors from the Buchan, Corinne and Lake Thelma districts. We could almost write up their weekly order from memory; bread, butter, jam, rolled oats, tinned milk, tobacco or snoose, kerosene, etc.

I remember the wonderful happy feeling of thankfulness when finally the trucks and horse-drawn wagons would bring their newly-threshed wheat to the elevators, and everyone was hustling and bustling to get back home for another load.

I remember the many, many times we would run from our barb-wire phone in the house to catch a local Dad in the store, to have him add another item to his list. Often we had to redirect a local message to someone on the regular phone line, but Mother and Dad performed the service cheerfully, slipping on a sweater to run to the store to relay the message.

I remember our kitchen table being covered with paper bags, treats for the Christmas concert, and what better place to fill them ? And the Community club wrapping parcels for overseas.

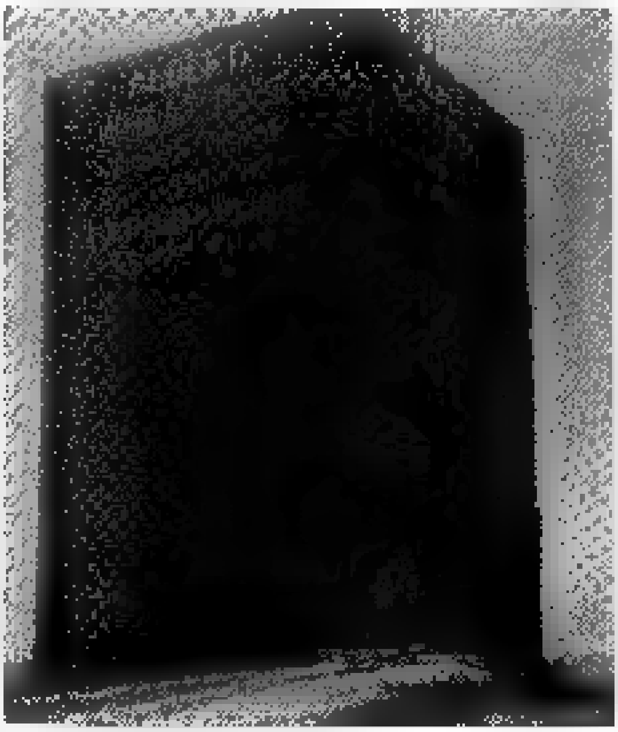
Dad and Mother had an extensive library, and were always lending to or exchanging books with regular customers. Newspapers and magazines were never thrown away, but rolled up, and tucked in someone's grocery box, along wth a bonus bag of candy if there were children in the home.

Those years had their hardships, but they had their rewards too, stemming from the need for each other in the community. No matter what, everyone cared and was willing to help in times of fellowship , distress or illness. I am grateful to have been a part of the growth of the Garden Plain store.

GARDEN PLAIN ELEVATORS

By Margaret Nelson

Following the completion of the C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka in 1931, the Pioneer Grain Co. started building an elevator. This was opened for business in August 1931. It is believed nearly all the material was shipped in by rail. The first agent, Mr. Wilson rented the W. Wright house. Mr. Shand rented a small house which R.W. Moore had built until the Pioneer Grain Co. had completed their own house.



Tearing down elevator at Garden Plain — 1974

The following is a list of agents who were at Garden Plain: George Wilson, August to October 1931; A.W. Shand, October 1931 to May 1937; Elevator Closed, May 1937 to July 1938; W.J. Kennedy, July 1938 to May 1945; H.M. Taylor, May to July 1945; C.J. Hergott, July 1945 to June 1947; D.C. Ross, June 1947 to May 1949; J. Paetz, May 1949 to July 1950; E. Renschler, July 1950 to September 1951; J. Biko, September 1951 to April 1952; S.T. Canning, April 1952 to September 1952; L. Fraser, September 1952 to July 1956; [redacted]. Stickney, July 1956 to November 1960; J.C. Foy, November 1960 to April 1962; G. Burns, April 1962 to November 1967.

The elevator at Garden Plain was closed in November of 1967 and was subsequently moved to Cereal, Alberta by G. Champagne Movers from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The elevator left Garden Plain February 26, 1968.

The Alberta Wheat Pool elevator was built in Scapa and in 1936 torn down and the lumber hauled to Garden Plain. It was rebuilt, along with new material hauled from Wainwright by Albert Storch. This was done in time for the harvest of 1939. The elevator had a 40,000 bushel capacity.

First load of grain to Pioneer Company, Garden Plain — August 27, 1931.

Grain delivered to the Pool's Garden Plain Elevator from 1939 to 1972 totaled 1,476,437 bushels. The highest handling was 108,856 bushels in 1942 to 1943, the lowest handling was recorded in 1949 to 1950 at 5,249 bushels.

Elevator Managers who have operated the Garden Plain Elevator are listed below with the dates of service: S.B. Sanderson, Aug 17/39 to June 9/47; J.M. Ferguson, Jun 9/47 to Aug 4/48; A.T. Chaney, Aug 4/48 to Apr 3/49; L.O. Paulson, Apr 3/49 to Jun 10/49; A.W. Garbutt, Jul 19/49 to Oct 19/51; H.R. Cunningham, Oct 19/51 to Jan 15/52; P.J. Moran, Feb 7/52 to Dec 10/53; R.C. Baily, Dec 10/53 to Oct 27/63; S.H. Sanderson, Nov 24/63 to Sep 27/65; R.L. Stapley, Sep 27/65 to Jun 24/66; D.B. Gilbert, Jun 24/66.

A local Pool member who was elected as Delegate, to represent the members in the Sub-District in which Garden Plain is located was Edward D. Blain, Hanna in 1924-26.

A house was moved into Garden Plain in 1941 for the agent. Prior to that he boarded, then rented a small house.

The elevator was torn down early in 1975. Some of the lumber was hauled to Hanna. This was mainly dimensional lumber which was used in the construction of the new Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Hanna. The scales were sold and the unuseable remains were burned.

After the elevator closed Ed Job bought the house and dismantled it.

BAILEY STORY, By Mrs. Marie Brix — The Bailey family arrived in Garden Plain on January first, 1954. Ralph was the new Alberta Wheat Pool agent. We came from Craigmyle where he had been second man.

Ralph was of farming background, and we soon got some cows to milk and some Shetland ponies. We bought a quarter section of land close to the elevator from Mr. George Wright, for pasture. Ralph loved horses, and it seemed to me that when he took one to an auction market to sell, he brought two more home.

The children rode Shetland ponies to school and on visits to their friends.

We soon became involved in community life, taking in the dances and card parties. We enjoyed learning the game of "500" which was played there, and missed it when we left.

We found the people of Garden Plain area were among the friendliest we had ever met.

In June 1963 we bought a farm in the Viking area. The children and I left in August 1963 so they could be ready to start school. Ralph remained at the elevator until after the cut-off in October.

We have four children, Ronald now resides in Red Deer, Sharon in Edmonton, Bill at Drayton Valley and Lee at Viking.

Ralph passed away while visiting his son at Drayton Valley in November of 1973.

I have since remarried and live at Ryley.

MR. and MRS. FRANK LEE — When the Lee family, Eileen and Frank, Trever (12) and Robert (10) dismounted at the C.N. Station in Hanna, at 3:00 a.m. 14 August 1954, our sense of curiosity and adventure really awoke.

These senses were kindled by our trip out to Netherby School. While being driven out by School Superintendent, Gordon Hay, we had the sight of Rayford and Freddie Johnson trying to coax a bull back to the pasture from Highway 36, and by coming upon Winnie Grove in distress with a flat.

We were not left out of things for very long, for less than a week later, I was called upon by Rudolph Haessel to bring a hammer, and joined the men in putting in the new hardwood floor at Garden Plain Hall.

The school certainly was the centre of the community, with card parties, Christmas concerts, film shows, meetings, church services, funerals and other activities. All seemed to go off well, even if we did have the occasional skunk under the school to disrupt the proceedings.

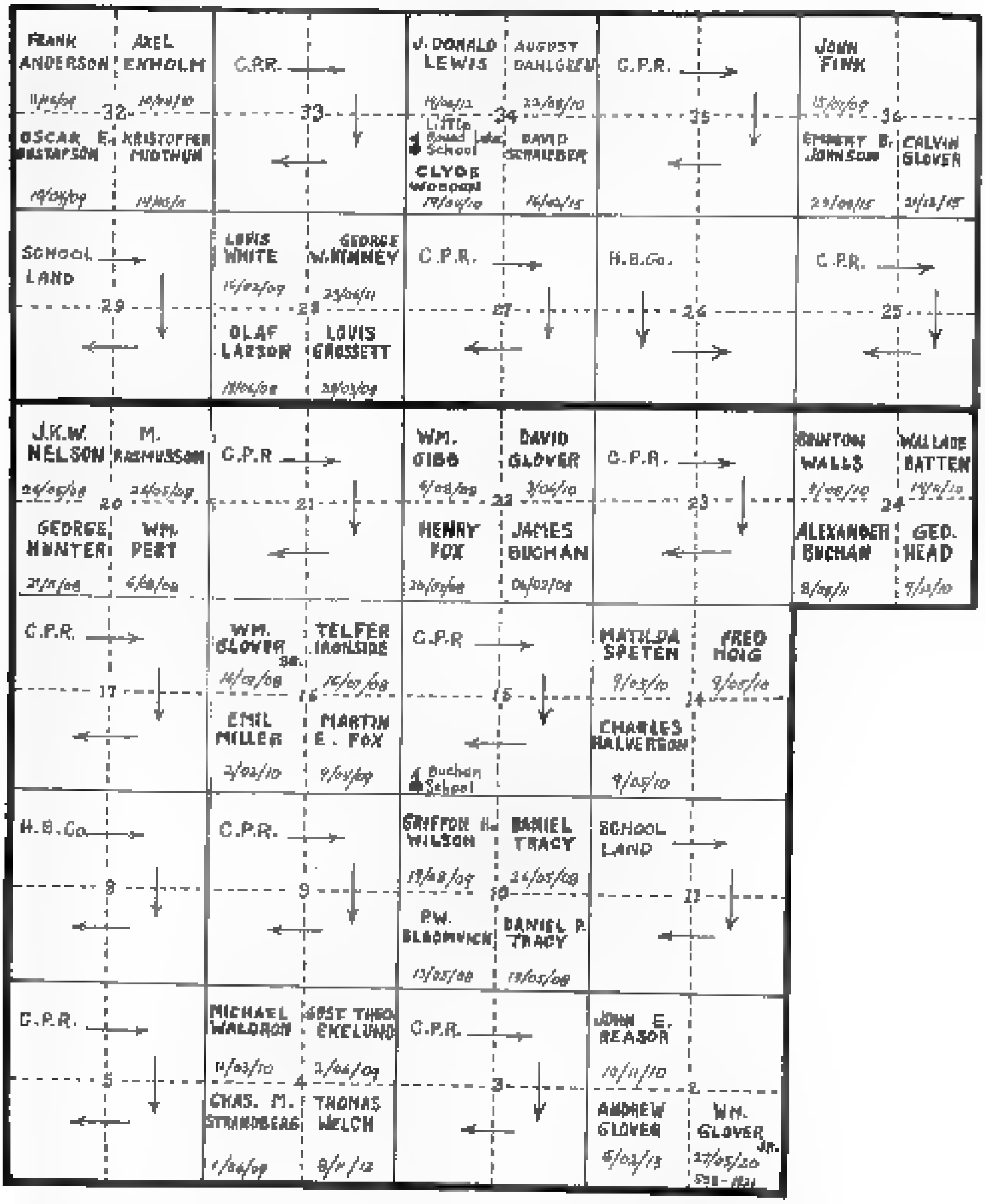
The winter of 1955-56 was a memorable one as Grassy Slope School had been pulled in to centralize the area. It was cold and we had so much snow we had to utilize two "bombadiers" to haul the students to school. That was the winter also when we had a dozen cars and trucks parked in the school yard, with their batteries being kept warm behind our wood and coal stove in the teacherage kitchen, while their drivers drove home in sleighs or on horseback.

Memories flood back especially such incidents as the "wash-out" on the new two mile high grade in the spring of '56; the Boxing Day fire at Basil Stickney's elevator house; grass fires on the community pasture; and the day that Walter Haessel broke his leg in the middle of writing his Grade Nine examinations. This was a memorable day because my mother arrived from England that evening and accused me of being drunk because of the way the car was weaving from side to side during the six mile trip on the back road from Norman Greenway's corner, and I was congratulating myself on having kept in the ruts to get us home successfully after all the rain we had had!

Although conditions in the teacherage (and in teaching) were so vastly different from those we had been accustomed to in the old country we thoroughly enjoyed our three years in the community, and still have many friends we look forward to seeing whenever we travel down in that direction.

BUCHAN No. 2330
LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 2819
TOWNSHIP 34, RANGE 13

HOMESTEADERS



OTHER RENTERS and OWNERS IN BUCHAN and LITTLE ROUND LAKE S.D.

Section 2 NW ¼
W. Glover Jr.
F. Tetz
J. Nielsen
G.P. Grazing Group

Section 3
W.R. Storch
A. Storch

Section 4 NW ¼
[illegible]. Calderbank
H. Strandberg

NE ¼
N. Williams
[illegible]. Morris
J. Sleeth
S. Strandberg
T. Ekelund

[illegible]. Standing

SW ¼
H. Strandberg

Section 9 NE ¼
S. Armstrong

J. Marlowe

SE ¼
[illegible]. Armstrong
G. Standing

Section 10 SW ¼
A. Anderson
K. Storch

Section 14 W ½
[illegible]. Halverson
[illegible]. Halverson
P. Dobija
A. and R. Storch

SE ¼
H. Wilson
G.P. Grazing Group

Section 15 SE of SW ¼
W.L. Storch

Section 16 NW ¼
[illegible]. Quaschnick
W. Glover
[illegible]. Roberts
[illegible]. Strandberg

SE ¼
C. Blayney

F. Evans
W.L. Storch

Section 20 NW ¼
H. Nelson

NE ¼
T.F. Ironside
E.B. Ironside
W.J. Ironside
C. Unsworth

SW ¼
N. Storch

Section 21 [illegible] ½
[illegible]. Doyle
P. Russell
J. Marlowe

Section 22 N ½
W. Glover Sr.
A. Storch

SE ¼
E. Halverson
K. Storch

Section 28 NW ¼
Mrs. Arthur
E. Storch

NE ¼
J. Scott
F. Evans
R. Roberts
M. Johnson
M. Lamb
B. Riemsbottom
E. Dawson
[illegible]. Collins
Morgan Transport

SE ¼
J. Hutcheson
Keller & Williams
J. Keller
J. Marlowe

SW ¼
T. Williams
E. Storch

Section 32 NE ¼
H. Gustafson

SE ¼
J. Nielsen
[illegible]. Gustafson

SW ¼
C. Dahlgren

O. Gustafson
H. Gustafson

Section 33 NW ¼
C. Bergan
Morgan Transport

Section 34 NW ¼
J.H. Roberts
J. Morgan
W. Thomas
R. Heckenlible
V. Howery
F. Matlis
Morgan Transport

NE ¼
Orvin Dahl
Morgan Transport

Section 36 NW ¼
W. Grantham
E. Walsh

BUCHAN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2330

To the best of our knowledge, Buchan School opened in the spring of 1912 with Miss Laura Amanda McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia, as the first teacher. The Secretary was Daniel Tracy and the Trustees were T.F. Ironside, Charles Halverson and Martin Fox.

The school was built by Mr. Julius Block of Maunders on the south west of 15-34-13 and was named for the district of Buchan in Scotland from which a number of area residents had come a few years earlier. An early homesteader, Jim Buchan, plowed the fireguard around the school yard with a team of oxen. A caragana hedge planted shortly afterward is still there today.

As the number 2330 indicates Buchan was the first school built in the area and it operated continuously until 1935, when lack of students forced it to close for a short time. Due to consolidation with Netherby it closed permanently in 1955.

Some Buchan teachers were: Miss L.A. MacDonald, Mrs. T.F. Ironside, Marjorie Dixon, Sidney Gilson, E.V. Springbett, Wm. Marsh, Hal Henry, Mrs. Richard Morris, Ralph Barnett, Mrs. S. Grimes, Albert Oke, Mrs. Wells, Morris Carnat, Ralph Cook, John Vanderberg, Chester Laing, Donald Green, Florence McRae, who also taught as Mrs. Wm. L. Storch, Bonna Shoults, George B. Holt, Georgina Horne, who also taught as Mrs. Norbert Dylke, Joyce Evans, Wm. Gibb, Mrs. M.D. Cook, Irene Hohm, Marlene Schultheis and George Patzer.

Buchan and Little Round Lake districts are flat and treeless, drained by branches of the Berry Creek, which flows north-east into North Berry Creek and then on to the Red Deer River near Wardlow. The soil varies from clay to sand and gravel with numerous burned out holes where there is very little growth, perhaps due to tree roots being burned following a prairie fire. The numerous arrow and spear heads, hammers and pieces of pottery as well as campsites, stone tent rings and burial sites indicate that this area was once either Indian hunting or battle grounds.

LITTLE ROUND LAKE No. 2819

In 1913 the contract to build Little Round Lake school was let to Henry Dunington for the cost of roughly nine hundred dollars. With the help of local farmers the school was built on the homestead of Clyde Wooden on the south west of 34-34-13. A well was dug by Mr. Wooden and the school opened for the fall term with Mrs. T.F. Ironside as first teacher. She was also the last, for the school operated for less than six months and closed because a family having five school-aged children left the district. As the attendance was now too low to justify paying a teacher, the district consolidated with Cowan, Lake Thelma and Buchan.

The building was used as a community centre for picnics, card parties and dances until the early forties, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Dahl and moved to their farm three miles to the north-east where it was used for a dwelling. Today it forms part of the modern farm home of Mr. and Mrs. George Welsh and family.

EKHOLM — ANDERSON, as told to Harry Nelson by Emil Ekholm — Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm, Mrs. Ekholm's brothers Frank and Otto Anderson, and her father Mr. Anderson came to Alberta from Spokane in 1909. Frank Anderson filed on the NW 32-34-13, Otto Anderson filed on the NE 30-34-13. They all went back to Spokane for the winter of 1909-10. In the early spring of 1910 they all returned to Alberta and Axel Ekholm filed on the NE 32-34-13 on the fourth day of April 1910.

Their closest neighbor was Oscar Gustafson who had filed on SW 32-34-13 on the tenth day of April 1909. He had built a house on the south-west corner of his homestead and Otto built one on the north-east corner of his homestead. Neither house was very big so these families ate and cooked in one house and crossed the road allowance and slept [illegible] the other one. This went on till Axel Ekholm got his own buildings put up.

Mr. and Mrs. Axel Ekholm had a family of three. Emil, born in 1905; Ruth [illegible] 1907, and Andrew (Pete) in 1912. Axel proved up on his homestead and was getting pretty well established when his health began to fail. He passed away on December 21, 1914. Mrs. Ekholm, being of hardy pioneer stock, continued to farm and look after her children. Mrs. Ekholm's father lived with her and helped with the work on the farm. In those days you did not buy bread at the store, which was too far away anyway, and Mrs. Ekholm, being very industrious and [illegible] hard worker, used to bake bread for the bachelors for miles around, D. Lewis, B. Ludlow, D. Carlson, J. Nelson just to name a few. She used to get $2.50 for baking up 100 pounds of flour. She did this for quite a number of years.

Mrs. Ekholm's brother Frank Anderson, proved up his homestead and also worked out in his spare time. He used to work around Stettler, or wherever work was available till 1917. He then came back and stayed on the farm with Mrs. Ekholm and family, working his land from there as it was on the same section. Frank bought more land and raised good crops for some years.

In 1937, after a number of bad years, Frank and Mrs. Ekholm and Andrew (Pete) left this area and moved to Donalda where they farmed for a number of years. Mr. Anderson passed away in 1929 at the age of ninety-two years. Frank Anderson passed away in 1964 and Mrs. Axel Ekholm passed away July 19, 1968.

Otto Anderson proved up on his homestead. He used to rent his land out and go up around Stettler. He did a lot of carpenter work, as he was good at that, but he would take any kind [illegible] work. He generally spent the summer around Stettler and part of the winter in this area. Otto was [illegible] great guy for walking and when he went visiting around here he always walked. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside in the 1950's and more or less retired around Donalda and Stettler. He passed away on April 1, 1959 at the age of 79.

Emil Ekholm, the oldest one, spent his school years at Little Round Lake School and Cowan School, mostly at Cowan as Round Lake was only open for a few months. After he finished school he started farming, buying some land and renting some. He also played a guitar with some of the early day orchestras. In the winter time he often rode horseback or drove in a cutter fifteen or twenty miles to help play for a dance and a lot of the time the temperature was well below zero.

Emil married Erna Blum on November 1, 1933. They have one son, Donald. After they were married they continued farming around here till about 1937. After a series of poor crops and low grain and cattle prices they decided to move to Donalda.

Emil has producers' Certificates from Scapa elevators dating back to 1929. That year number one wheat sold for 82½ cents a bushel, then in February 1931 it was worth 23½ cents [illegible] bushel, up just slightly from the winter of 1930 when [illegible] had dropped to 22½ cents a bushel. By October 1935 it had gone up to 66½ cents [illegible] bushel. Some of the later certificates were from the Pioneer Grain at Garden Plain. In 1936 he shipped thirteen head of mixed cattle, cows, calves, and some steers, [illegible] grain fed, to A.W.W. in Calgary and received a cheque for $130.00. Could that be what they call 'The good old days?'

Emil and Erna continued farming in the Donalda area for a number of years. They are now retired and make their home in Donalda.

Ruth Ekholm, the only daughter, married Walter Rochan on December 10, 1931. They farmed her uncle's (Otto Anderson), farm till 1935 then decided to move to the Red Willow - Donalda area where they farmed for some years. They had one son Gordon.

Ruth and Walter were killed in a tragic train-vehicle collision in Bashaw on May 17, 1976.

Andrew (Pete) Ekholm grew up in this area. When he was through school he farmed with his mother and Uncle Frank, and went with them to Donalda. Pete was musical, and used to play and sing at the local dances. He passed away on February 12, 1976.

AUGUST DAHLGREN, By Harry Nelson — August Dahlgren was born in Sweden and as [illegible] young man immigrated to the United States. In the summer of 1910 he came to Alberta in search of a homestead.

He filed on NE 34-34-13 on August 8, 1910.

He proved up his homestead and also worked out. For a number of years he was grader man for the local municipality, building roads. In his later years, after he retired, he lived in a small house in Mrs. Ekholm's yard.

He passed away [illegible] the early thirties and is buried in the Castor Cemetery.

CALVIN B. GLOVER, By Margaret Nelson — Calvin Glover homesteaded the SE 36-34-13 on December 21, 1915. He proved up his homestead by building a small house and breaking some land. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glover were musical. Mr. Glover played the violin and Mrs. Glover was a beautiful singer. In 1918 he took the job of secretary of the Sullivan Lake Municipality No. 335. He then moved to Castor and later on to Calgary. Mr. Embert Johnson, who homesteaded the next quarter, farmed his land into the twenties.

DAVID SHRIEBER, By Margaret Nelson — Mr. Shrieber was a late homesteader, coming to the area in February 1915, to file on SE 34-34-13. He farmed his land and proved up from his other land holdings a few miles north. He married and remained in the area till the early twenties when Dick Roberts bought his land.

JAMES DONALD LEWIS, By Margaret Nelson — Don Lewis homesteaded the NW 34-34-13 in June of 1912. He proved up his land and remained in the area about six years. On leaving he sold his land to Jesse Roberts.

Willis, Pam, Carol, Tracy and Clayton Job; Marion, Harold, Lee and Brenda Gustafson; Carol and Fred Jenkins.

OSCAR GUSTAFSON, By Harry Nelson — Oscar Gustafson was born in Minnesota September 11, 1879. He came from a large family and as there was not enough to do at home, he decided to head for Canada where homesteads were still available. In March of 1909 he arrived in Stettler where he met another Scandinavian by the name of Olaf Larson.

It was through Larson that Oscar decided to file on SW 32-34-13 as this was only about two miles from where Larson had homesteaded. He proved up his homestead, breaking ten acres every year for three years, and also working out in his spare time to make ends meet.

Mr. Oscar Gustafson

Mrs. Oscar Gustafson

Oscar and William Nelson worked together a lot stacking hay and bundles in the fall. They also had their first binder in partnership. Oscar handled the binder in the fall as he was very good at that, and Nelson did the stooking.

In the early days when it was not easy to get threshed early, they often stacked all their grain crops and threshed them late in the fall or early winter whenever a machine was available. They did this exchange work for years and I never once heard one complaint about one doing more work on one farm than the other.

Oscar was married to Miss Hattie Dahlgren in the teens but his wife passed away in the early twenties when their son was born. After his wife passed away

Oscar rented out to his brother-in-law, Charlie Dahlgren, and went up to Stettler and worked out for some years. He eventually returned to the homestead and took up farming again. He bought another quarter of land and farmed and raised a few cattle for some years. He was also a municipal councillor for a term of two or three years.

When he got older, Oscar got rid of his cattle and straight grain farmed till about 1950 when he decided to retire. He bought a house in Castor and lived there till January 1966, when he passed away at the age of 86 years. He is buried in the Castor Cemetery.

Oscar had only one son, Harold, who still farms his Dad's homestead. Harold was married to Violet Walker in 1943. She was killed in a tragic car accident near Blairmore in August 1962. She is buried in the Castor Cemetery. They had three children, Carol, now Mrs. Willis Job; Lee on the home place; and Brenda who married John Taylor and is living on a farm in the Halkirk area.

CLYDE WOODEN, as told by Mrs. Wooden written by Margaret Nelson — Clyde Wooden came from Missouri U.S.A. in 1909. He filed blind on his first homestead and on coming to find his land found it to be in Sullivan Lake. He cancelled this claim. On locating another claim, a friend Bill Knight, also from Missouri, drove him to Stettler with a team of mules. He filed on SW 34-34-13 in April 1910. This land had been homesteaded previously and thrown up. Clyde paid for the shack and what improvements were made.

Clyde spent much time working in coal mines. His mining career in early years has been traced from strip mining to the first underground mine in the area. Mrs. Wooden also cooked for the men at the first mine he worked [illegible].

By 1913, the homestead shack now consisted of three rooms. Clyde built a barn that summer. Also that year Little Round Lake School was built and to earn extra money Clyde dug a well at the school.

In 1912 a hail storm swept through, the oat crop was destroyed. The next year the shelled-out oats volunteered and an eighty bushel per acre crop was harvested.

In the spring of 1917 Clyde fenced his quarter of land with cedar posts. This was the only land fenced with cedar posts at that time.

In summer Clyde was an ardent ball player. Mrs. Wooden recalls some others, Harry Fox, Howard Wilson and Seaba Brothers as being on the same team. In winter his talents turned to music. He played the banjo, mandolin, or guitar which ever was handy. Later he mastered the violin. He helped play for many dances and house parties.

Mrs. Wooden recalls a picnic at Corinne School in 1913 when lemonade was made in a galvanized wash tub and an old hammer used to crush the lemons. Many people were sick after drinking it. No one was ever sure if it was the lead from the tub or the hammer.

Mrs. Wooden tells of going back to the homestead site about 1960 to find some rhubarb planted in 1913 still thriving. By this time Mr. Fred Mattis owned the land and had sheep grazing on it. Apparently the sheep didn't care for the rhubarb.

In the fall of 1917 Clyde sold his homestead to Roy Scott and moved to the Rumsey, Alberta area where he continued coal mining.

Clyde Wooden was united in marriage to Virgie Cresey on January 31, 1913. To this union four children were born. Lester died as the result of a car accident in July 1976. Anna and Elsie live at Byemoor and Clifford at Ashcroft, B.C. There are twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mr. Wooden passed away at Kelowna, August 6, 1975 at the age of eighty-five years.

Mrs. Wooden lives at Heart Haven in Stettler, where she enjoys good health. A remarkable lady to talk to about the Good Old Days!

LOUIS WHITE, By Margaret Nelson — Louis White filed on NW 28-34-13. This land was proved up. He married Miss Hackett from the Castor area. Mr. White passed away. Mrs. White later married Mr. Arthur. They farmed the original homestead till 1917 when they sold to Olaf Larson.

Jesse and Dick Roberts

JESSE HERBERT ROBERTS, By Trevor Roberts — My uncle, Jesse Roberts, was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales. In 1907 he came to Innisfail, Alberta, where he hired a team and buggy to go in search of a homestead. He drove over the Three Hills - Ghost Pine area and decided if the land wouldn't grow grass it was no good. This same land is some of the best in Alberta today. He finally homesteaded on the northwest quarter of 10-35-13 on land that grew prairie wool but very little grain. Later he bought land farther south and made his home on the northwest of 34-34-13 where he raised Clydesdale horses and registered Shorthorn cattle.

In 1917 he married Belle Ironside but they separated in 1924.

For many years Mr. Roberts was councillor of Sullivan Lake Municipality and was also secretary of Little Round Lake School.

In 1946 he sold his ranch to Fred Mattis and retired to Wales where he died in 1959. In his will he left one hundred dollars to be used for the upkeep of Netherby Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts in Wales

MR. and MRS. RICHARD TUDOR ROBERTS — Mr. Roberts was born in Dyserth, Flintshire, North Wales in 1884. He came to Canada in 1907 and homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 10-35-13. Later he moved to the northeast of 28-34-13, where he raised Aberdeen Angus cattle and Percheron horses.

In 1942 he married Mrs. Marjorie Donaldson Kay who had been keeping house for William Glover Sr. since the death of Mrs. Glover in 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts continued to farm until they sold out to Fred Mattis in 1946. They moved to Hanna where Mrs. Roberts was a charter member of

the Hanna Social Credit Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a member of Hanna United Church and was a life member of the Missionary Society.

Mrs. Roberts passed away in June 1965 following a lengthy illness. Mr. Roberts died in December 1965. Both are buried in Hanna.

OLAF LARSON, By Jennie Larson — In June of 1908, Mr. Olaf (Ole) Larson and Mr. Louis Grossett put packs of supplies on their backs and walked from Stettler, Alberta to the area now called Garden Plain, Alberta to file their homesteads. They were the first homesteaders in that district. Mr. Larson's land was SW 28-34-13.

Mr. Grossett filed on the quarter section east of Ole Larson.

Mr. Larson built a sod house to live in, then walked back and forth to Stettler for supplies. He eventually brought back an ox and a mule which he put to work breaking the land. In order to improve the homestead he had to go out on other jobs to earn a grub stake. These jobs included, helping to build the C.P.R. from Lacombe to Castor and hauling lumber to start the building of the town of Hanna.

Ole Larson, Norman Larson, Mrs. Ole Larson, Mrs. Emil Paasche, baby Esther Larson

In 1914, he managed to build a very nice, large red barn with the help of a very good friend Mr. Chris Midthun. Also in this year he received the title to his homestead.

In 1917 Mr. Larson married and bought another quarter of land, north of his homestead. He then invested in some cattle and started mixed farming. In the meantime other settlers had arrived.

Mr. C.A. Wickson opened a store at Garden Plain and a hall was built, where all the gatherings and dances were held.

Mr. Olson [redacted] remembered as bringing mail and supplies from Castor to Garden Plain for a number of years.

Buchan School was built and Norman Larson attended this school until Mr. Larson sold the farm in 1928 and moved to Castor.

Mrs. Larson remembered some very hard times when there was a lot of hard work to do and not many returns. She remembers selling butter for twenty-five

cents per pound and eggs for ten cents a dozen. First class steers sold at five dollars a head.

The first homesteaders hauled grain into Castor for nineteen cents a bushel. Some years of drought and hail were experienced and crops were destroyed. At that time no restitution was made to the farmers by the government.

Mr. Olaf Larson was born in Bodo, Norway in 1885. He passed away in Penticton, B.C. in 1967 at the age of eighty-three years.

His wife Jennie was born in Nordsand, Norway in 1895. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

They had three children. Norman was born in Coronation Alberta on November 27, 1918. He lives in Grande Prairie, Alta. Ernest Larson was born in Coronation, Alberta on August 28, 1920. Their second son met death by accident in June 1923, and is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

Esther Larson Grover was born in Castor, on August 3, 1927. She is now residing in Penticton, B.C.

ENBERT JOHNSON, By Margaret Nelson — Johnson filed on the SW 36-34-13 in August 1915. Because of his health, he was persuaded by his family to return home. He had only been here long enough to prove up. The last year or two he farmed Calvin Glover's land.

JOHN FINK, By Margaret Nelson — John Fink homesteaded the NW 36-34-13 on July 15, 1909. He built his first sod shack into the coulee bank. He proved up his land and worked out doing carpenter work around Coronation. He worked for Carl Stettler when he built a hotel in Castor. He also built a frame house for himself.

In the late twenties he built a big chicken house, raised chickens and sold eggs. The chicken house was built into a coulee bank and was two stories high. At the back you could go into the top floor at ground level. This was used for feed and incubation. The lower floor was used for the laying hens.

He sold his farm in 1930-31 to Mr. W. Grantham and moved to British Columbia. Here he continued chicken ranching.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink had one son Earl. When Earl was a young boy he had the misfortune of having one of his legs cut off below the knee in a binder accident. At that time he was fitted with a peg leg and attended school playing like any other boy would. When he grew up he was fitted with an artificial leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fink both passed away some years ago.

Earl made a trip out to see the old homestead in 1950; at that time he lived at Rossland, B.C.

GEORGE KINNEY, By Margaret Nelson — George Kinney came to the Castor area from the United States. In June of 1911 he decided to homestead and filed on NE 28-34-13.

Mr. Kinney was a carpenter before coming to the homestead. He worked at his trade in Castor for extra money. He helped the contractor build Little Round Lake School, along with Mr. Spalding and Mr. Waldron.

Mr. Kinney had the first car in the area, about 1916. It was a Chevrolet model.

Delbert, the only child, went to school at Little Round Lake, Cowan and Buchan. When he was young his Mother drove him to school, later he rode a horse.

In 1917 the Kinneys sold their farm to J. Scott. At that time they returned to the United States. Mrs. Kinney passed away shortly after and Mr. Kinney some time later. Son Delbert still lives in Billings, Montana.

LOUIS GROSSETT, By Harry Nelson — L. Grossett was one of the earliest homesteaders in this area having filed on the SE 28-34,13, on March 28, 1908. He proved up his homestead and worked out part time. A cottage roofed house was built and still stands there today.

He farmed his land for a few years and then rented it to his neighbor. It was later sold to J. Hutcheson. This land was later sold to Keller and Williams and the present owner is Mr. J. Marlowe.

It is believed that when Mr. and Mrs. Grossett left here they went to the Rocky Mountain House area as he was very fond of hunting and trapping.

MR. and MRS. JOHN HUTCHESON, By Mrs. John Hutcheson 1934, and reprinted from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, The Dundee Women's Institute — First of ■ I will tell how I came to be among the early pioneers of this community when I was Mrs. Matilda Speten.

Those of you who have lived in the United States are familiar with, or have at least seen the pamphlets that are sent out picturing Canada the Golden West. My brother-in-law, Mr. Halverson, took the Canada fever, and as I was of ■ roving nature it did not take me very long to decide that I would see Canada too. Cars were ordered on April 23, 1910, and were billed out for Canada. My car consisted of two horses, six head of cattle, six hens, household goods and some implements. A few days later my sister and I followed and we landed in Castor on May 2, where we camped for two weeks.

Mr. Halverson then located the homesteads after which applications for filing were made. A few days elapsed before we found out if they were open for entry. At last the great day came, and everything was packed for moving again. We started out on the morning of May 16 and landed on our homestead on the seventeenth at four p.m. on the north-west of 14-34-13.

Chrissie Glover, Mabel Speten and Mrs. Matilda Speten in front of the tar paper shack. Note rocks on roof.

What a change from the land we had left! We had lived in the Park region of Minnesota where small lakes and rivers were numerous and there were plenty of fish, trees of all kinds, and plenty of wild fruit and game.

A prairie fire which passed through in the fall of 1909 had left this ■ very barren country indeed. The ground was covered with black ashes four inches deep, and one was ready for a bath after walking through it only a short distance. There hadn't been any snow in the winter to pack it down. To the east the white rocks showed up like sheep lying on the hillside. Feed for stock was very scarce, there was only a little grass along the coulee.

We lived in a tent while waiting for a shack to be built. This was a one-roomed, car-roofed, tarpapered building twelve by fourteen feet, which cost sixty-seven dollars. A barn, a temporary shelter, was erected for the horses, cows and hens. Next a garden patch was broken for potatoes and vegetables which did very well.

On May 31 I could see a storm coming up so I packed Mabel, my daughter, on my back, and set out for the cattle. I saw them but could not get to them three quarters of a mile away. The snow and small hail pelted my face so hard that I was forced to turn back to the shack without them. In the morning, the first of June, there was a snow drift in front of the house three feet deep, and also a lot inside which came through the knot holes in the walls, and no cattle to be seen. I started out to look for them plunging through the snow drifts on horseback. The snow lasted for six days, then a neighbor told me he had seen the cattle on the place where Dave Carlson now lives. It was seven o'clock the same evening when I set out to look for them, and brought them home at midnight. No roads or fences in those days, just crossed the prairie anywhere.

My only cow died four days after being fresh, leaving me with a little calf and no milk. I had to take it over to Mr. Halverson and they fed it until I got a cow, which was a range cow, the price being thirty-five dollars. She was some kicker, too, believe me!

Later in the summer a well was dug, a hen house built, also a coalhouse, all of prairie sod, or Alberta bricks, as they were sometimes called. The settlers in the district were made up of ninety-six per cent bachelors and four per cent families, being Ironside, Fox, Halverson and myself. There was a store at Garden Plain known as the Williston Trading Company. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Watson opened a store and post office at Fertility. The Buchan school was organized in 1910 and was built in 1911. The first term of school opened on April 7, 1912, the teacher being Miss McDonald, a girl from Nova Scotia. On the last day of school, August 7, the first U.F.A. picnic was held. A good crowd gathered in spite of the mosquitoes. Baseball and races made up the sports.

Our nearest railroad was Castor, twenty-five miles away, and many a time a round trip was made with a team of horses and a lumber wagon. In April, 1911, the farming began. Breaking was done with one team of horses, two three-year-old steers and a walking plough. I broke ten acres in time for crop on my own and rented nineteen from Jim Buchan; this was into oats. Twelve hundred bushels were threshed that fall by Fred Saar. The year was wet and the mosquitoes near ate you alive. Everybody wore mosquito nets down over their faces, all the colors that were going. Smudges were going night and day for the stock, I even took a smudge pail into the barn when milking to save my own skin.

Later in the summer I had enough broke to make thirty acres, the homestead duty. This was all in crop in 1912. Twelve acres of wheat and the rest in oats. It was hailed on August 27. Hay was cut anywhere on the prairie for winter feed. By this time I had thirteen head of stock.

On February 27, 1911, I took a quick trip back to the States and came back in time for the first dance held at Mr. William Glover's house, which was built while I was away.

In the spring of 1913 I sold five pigs, which brought one hundred and three dollars. This was a dry year and the crops were light. In the fall I sold my oxen and bought a saddle horse. From her I raised five colts. I sold three and kept two which are still going strong. In 1914 all my field was summerfallowed so I had no crop.

By 1915 the first stages of pioneering were over, and I had settled into a routine much as it is today. That was a very wet year, the first part of the season,

and the crops were the best they had ever been. I had two hundred bushels of wheat from five acres and oats went seventy bushels per acre. This crop was threshed by Mr. William Glover and Company two weeks before Christmas.

The crop in 1916 was good too, but slightly frozen. The fall was very wet and the wild ducks were playing hide and seek among the grain. This summer I spent three and a half months in North Dakota. During my absence a creamery was built three-quarters of a mile south-east of where the Spondin Creamery now stands. The old creamery was operated by Louis Kofoed.

I weaned the calves and sold cream. It was worth thirty-five to forty cents a pound in those days. This was a new stunt for me and still stays by me. The cream was collected with horses and a wagon once a week. Late in the fall they moved the outfit to Hanna, and then the cream had to be taken by the farmers in turn.

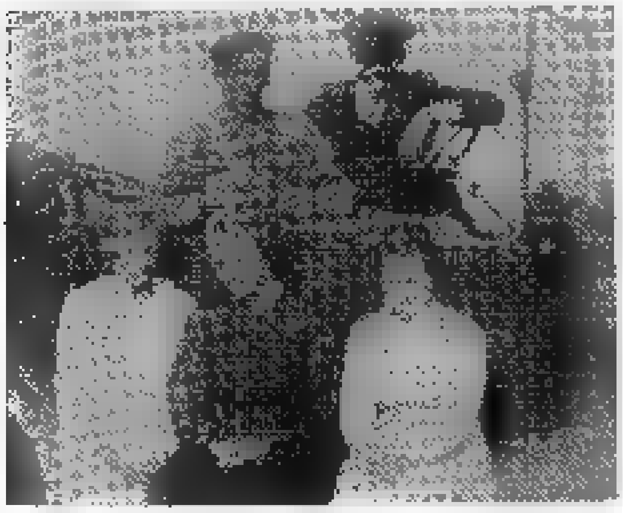
By this time I was fed up with my tar-papered hut so I raised the roof and added another room. This made a room ten by fourteen feet and the other twelve by fourteen feet. In 1920 another room was added, six by ten feet, and then I had room to let so I boarded a school teacher, E.V. Springbett.

Nothing of any particular interest took place during 1917-18-19. The winter of 19 and 20 was very hard, lots of stock dying for want of feed and feed was not to be got for money anywhere. Oat bundles sold for fifteen cents each and straw stacks brought sixty-five dollars apiece.

In the fall of 1920 I had a sale, and so put an end to my homesteading days. I have not said much about the entertainment in the early days. Our first Dominion Day in Canada, 1910, was spent at Clement Lake, which [illegible] on the quarter where Jesse Roberts now lives. Halversons and I packed our lunches and hit for a clump of trees and ate our dinner. The rest of the day was spent splashing in the water.

The first Christmas tree and program in 1911 was held at the Buchan school. The Christmas tree was furnished by John MacCurly, a young minister who held services through the summer. The second U.F.A. picnic was held at Corinne in 1913. During this year the Garden Plain hall was built and the third U.F.A. picnic was held there on the first of July, 1914, where it was held annually until the late twenties.

Editor's Note: In the twenties Mrs. Speten married a local bachelor, John Hutcheson, and they moved to the southeast quarter of section 28-34-13 where they farmed until the late thirties when they moved to the town of Stettler. They later settled in Calgary where they both died the same day. Mr. Hutcheson died of cancer on the morning of October 25, 1953 and Mrs. Hutcheson of shock that afternoon. Both are buried at Netherby.



Brinton Walls, Jim Hamilton, Mabel Speten, Clara Halverson, Gladys Hamilton

BRINTON WALLS — Brinton (Shorty) Walls came from Nova Scotia and in 1910 homesteaded on the northeast quarter of 24-34-13. While proving up, he worked in pool halls in Castor and Coronation. In 1912 he hauled water for the Fred Saar steam engine at threshing time.

After living alone for some time he moved in with another bachelor, Jim Buchan, on southeast of 22-34-13. They farmed together until Mr. Walls passed away in 1947. He is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

FRED HOIG — Fred Hoig came to Canada from Minnesota in 1910, at the same time as Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halverson and family and Mrs. Matilda Speten and daughter. They all homesteaded on section 14-34-13.

When war broke out in 1914 he enlisted and was killed overseas.

Howard and Emil Halverson

THE CHARLES HALVERSON STORY, as told by his son Howard Halverson — My father, Charles Halverson, was born in Droman, Norway and came to Canada from Minnesota in 1909. He homesteaded on the southwest of 14-34-13 southeast of Castor in the Garden Plain district.

In 1910 he went back to Moose Creek, Minnesota and brought his wife, Bertha, his five daughters, Clara, Mamie, Pearl, Matilda and Lenora, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Matilda Speten and her daughter, Mabel, back to the homestead. Mrs. Speten homesteaded on the adjoining quarter.

They built a huge sod barn for their four horses, four cows and their chickens. Their machinery was small, a six foot binder, a small drill, a diamond harrow made of oak and a fourteen inch, one-share sulky plow which had to be steered with a lever. They had a logging sleigh, four inches wider than average, handmade of oak with chain connections and cast runners.

The lumber for our house was hauled from Castor and the house was built by John Reasor who homesteaded south of us on northwest 2-34-13.

My dad plowed twenty-five acres, one furrow at a time, the first year.

To make money he hauled freight from Castor to Hanna before the CN railway came [illegible] Hanna. The trip took two days each way. The stopping house was Hunt's south of Castor.

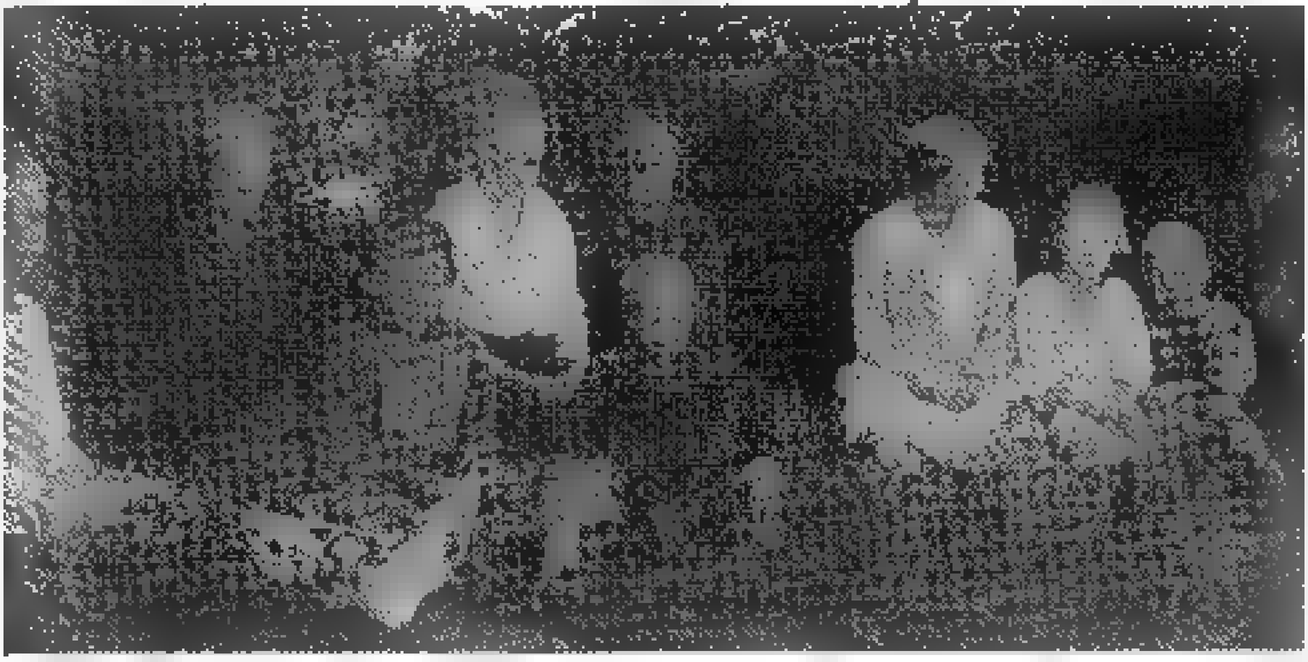
Coal and groceries came from the Kane mine and store at Garden Plain on section 1-34-14. Our mailman from Castor was Mr. Olson who drove the mail to Fertility post office on southeast 26-33-13. He drove nothing but broncs and made the round trip of fifty miles in one day.

When the C.P.R. was extended from Castor to Fleet we hauled our grain there and received twenty-two cents per bushel. When the C.N.R. track was extended east of Hanna to Bonar, my dad would leave at four o'clock in the morning with [illegible] load of grain and return from the fifty mile trip at midnight.

From 1911 to 1925 seven more children were born. They were Clarence, Emil, Irene, Roy, Howard, Mamie, Murray and Raymond. The reason there were two Mamies in our family was that the first Mamie died of flu in April 1919 and the baby girl born June 10, 1919 was named Little Mamie.

We certainly had some storms in those days. When we still had the sod barn the cattle were out by the straw stacks when the storm hit. We had to knock the icicles off the cows' eyes so they could see. The milk cows and the horses were in the sod barn and we had to dig them out as the snow was three feet deep. The storm was so bad that my dad never got home from Hanna for three days. The willows and poplars which were twenty feet high were covered with snow. The

rabbits could find no food so they came like flocks of sheep to eat at our feed stacks.



Back: Lenora and Tillie Halverson; Mrs. Charles Halverson, Mrs. Matilda Speten, Mabel Speten, Irene and Roy Halverson. Front: Clarence and Emil Halverson

We would undermine the snowbanks, and when two bachelor neighbors, Jim Buchan and Shorty Walls, came at night to listen to our radio, Shorty fell through the tunnel and Jim couldn't figure out what happened to him.

We all went to Buchan school which was one mile west of us. My dad used to play the violin for dances, house parties and chivarees. We had the best Christmas programs at the school and people came from miles around to our concert and dance. One time before Christmas we [redacted] got scarlet fever so that ended that. We had box socials at Buchan and some boxes sold for fifty dollars.

We went to church at Netherby in a democrat with two seats, as we had no car.

We had dust storms which turned day into night and lasted for a week at a time. Then the army worms came and cleaned the leaves off the trees. No matter how tight you closed the doors and windows they came in. Then the grasshoppers came and just wiped the crop out leaving only a few spears here and there. We got some stuff from the government to poison the grasshoppers. Then the best horses died when they got sleeping sickness.

Then in October, 1930, my dad took sick. He had heart trouble and died at home. William Storch senior went to Hanna and got the casket and brought it out to the house and prepared my dad for burial. He is buried in Netherby cemetery. Then my sister, Tillie, who was going to college in Calgary got her knee hurt while playing basketball and became a cripple. I used to carry her around and I was only fifteen years old at the time. Mrs. Charlie Blayney was at our house the day Tillie died in August 1936. William Storch senior brought out the casket and she was buried at Netherby with Reverend Scallon conducting the service.

When I was fourteen I worked for one dollar a day stooking and helping cook meals. I pitched bundles and got two dollars a day.

My sister Mamie and I and Irene Williams and Harold Gustafson poisoned gophers and got paid twenty dollars each by the Castor Municipality. We had to walk about four miles a day and put poisoned oats in gopher holes. Out of the twenty dollars I bought myself a pair of long pants, a blue shirt, a tweed cap, a pair of shoes and still had money left over.

I played guitar and banjo for dances all over, sometimes five nights a week. I

would have to ride nine or ten miles on my saddle horse, milk four cows when I came home, get one hour sleep and then go to school. I was so tired from playing all night that I fell asleep at my desk and started to snore. The teacher told me to lie down by the platform and catch some sleep.

Mrs. Harry Saar and I played together at house parties and dances for two dollars a night. We would all bunch together and take one team to dances [illegible] Bingo, Saar, Spondin, Dundee, Netherby, Corinne and Buchan.

We had stampedes at home. I rode a big red pig with spurs and got flattened out. We also rode cattle when our parents were in town and got heck for that, because we put the saddle on the cows and tied it to their tails. When we came out of the chute we called each other cowboy names, rode a few jumps and got bucked off. Best days of our lives!

My mother became crippled with arthritis and was in a wheel chair. All other members of the family had left home but I stayed on the farm and looked after her for seven years and did the farming and cooking and cooked for ten men at threshing time.

We went to Vancouver and she went to the St. Paul Hospital where they found out she had cancer. After an operation she went to live for a year with my brother Roy and his wife Mabel in Vancouver. We moved back to Hanna and mother died in the Hanna Hospital on January 26, 1951.

In 1952 I married a wonderful girl, Sylvia Lokken, from Vancouver. We now live in Calgary and have two fine boys, Charles and Harold.

JAMES BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Jim Buchan was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The family were fishermen. Jim was a cooper, a barrel maker by trade.

In 1905 he came to Canada with the Ironside family as Mrs. Ironside was his sister. He spent two years in Ontario and one in Manitoba. In August 1908 he came to Stettler and filed on a homestead on SE 22-34-13. The spring of 1909 he returned again from Manitoba and began homesteading. He had a team of oxen. With no buildings on his place, he lived with John Hutcheson. John had a team of horses. Together John and Jim broke up land for themselves and anyone else requiring help.

Jim went to Calgary in search of work. He found a job at the Breweries, but being an abstainer he didn't stay long. Returning home he found work at Dylkie's farm south of Hanna. When Louis Kofoed built his first creamery in Hanna he worked for him. When it was time to return to farming he moved back to the homestead, milked cows, raised chickens and turkeys. He remained there many years, with his friend Brinton (Shorty) Walls living with him.

Jim returned to Scotland where he passed away about 1947.

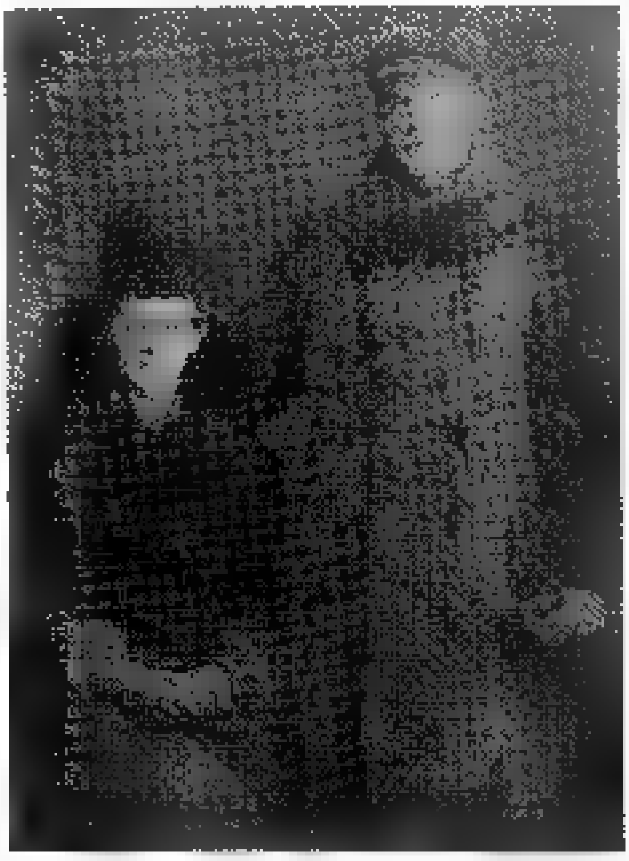
MATT DOYLE, By Harry Nelson — Mr. and Mrs. M. Doyle came into this area in the early twenties. They came from the Munson area. Matt, as he was known, bought the east half of 21-34-13 from the Canadian Dominion Development Co. He hired Mr. S. Armstrong to break some of the land, also breaking some of it himself. While Matt farmed this land he had about one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, the balance was used for pasture. He owned two purebred Clyde stallions that stood for service.

Matt generally kept a hired man as his health was not too good. I believe he was gassed in World War I.

In the spring of 1927, not being able to keep up with the payments on the land, he was given sheriff's orders to leave. This he did.

While in the process of moving one of those three day blizzards blew in which slowed things up.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle moved back to Munson taking their belongings with them. It is not known what happened to them after this.


Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Ironside

T. F. IRONSIDE, By E.B. (Butch) Ironside — In 1905 Dad and Mother set sail from Scotland for Canada. They lived in Ontario for two years before going on to Manitoba. Manitoba held their interest only for a year, and in the summer of 1908 they came to Alberta to homestead. A group of Scotsmen, George Hunter, John Hutcheson, William Glover, Jim Buchan, and Dad all set out for Stettler to file on land.

Dad filed on the NE 16-34-13 on the sixteenth day of July, 1908. In due time Dad returned to Manitoba and in October of 1909 the family came to the homestead. He brought two horses and two cows with him. The rest of the equipment came to Stettler later. A sod shack, and a sod barn had been built in the summer of 1909 by Pap Rickard and Bill Seaba. We were the first family here at that time.

In the summer and fall of 1909 lumber was hauled from Stettler to build a frame house. Our friends Hunter, Hutcheson, and Glover helped us to build. This became a stopping house from 1910 on. In 1910 we built a big sod barn. The roof was made with poles and straw or hay. We shipped the poles up from Manitoba for this. I remember that winter the snow was so deep and built up so much around the barn that a cow walked on top of the roof and fell through, doing much damage.

1923 — T.F. Ironside Family. Back: Belle, Butch, Tiff, Jean. Front: Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. Ironside, Will.

Dad helped organize the Buchan School district in 1910 and realized his goal when the school was built in 1911. In 1913 he was busy organizing the Sullivan Lake Municipality. He was a councillor for many years and at the time of his retirement in 1934 was Reeve. About the same time he was active in a Co-Op store which was formed in Castor, and also in the United Farmers of Alberta movement.

By 1914 more good horses were needed so a Stallion Club was organized. A purebred stallion was obtained through the government. This horse was travelled throughout the country. Some of the members of the club were: Kinney, Don Lewis, as secretary; J.H. Roberts, [illegible]. Waldron as well as Dad.

The winter of 1912-1913 Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor to Hanna [illegible] winter.

Church services were held in our home before Buchan School was open, later in the school.

In 1913 Dad bought the homestead of Marinus Rasmussen, this being [illegible] 20-34-13; 1915 saw the start on a new house there. The crop being good that year, some of the grain was put into the started house. The weight of the grain pushed the single floor into the cellar below. In 1916 the house was completed. The spring of 1917 we moved there. A big barn was also built. Chris Midthun did a lot of the work on both buildings.

Mother was a teacher. She taught at three schools, in 1913 at Buchan, about six months at Little Round Lake, and a year at Cowan School.

By 1923 there was more need for horses so Dad started dealing in horses and cattle, buying, trading and shipping. Some of these went to Calgary.

Because of poor health, Dad and Mother left the farm in 1934. Both Dad and Mother were born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Dad on October 24, 1873, and mother February 5, 1873. Dad passed away in Vancouver April 5, 1935.

Mother returned to the farm about 1940 to live with Will. She stayed there till the fall of 1948 when she went to High River to live with Belle. She passed away in April 1951 and was laid to rest at High River.

There were seven children in the family. The oldest child a son, died in infancy in 1899. Belle Cooper, 1900, resides in Vancouver; Jean Adams, 1901, lives in Calgary; Telfer, 1902, at Castor; Edward (Butch) 1905, resides in Hanna; Margaret (Mag) Smith, 1906, at Calgary and William, 1908, in Hanna.

TELFER (TIFF) IRONSIDE, By Tiff Ironside — I was born on a farm in Newdeer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1902. I came with my parents and two older sisters to Shaw Station, Ontario in 1905. Two years later we moved to a farm in Carman, Manitoba. The family had now grown by two brothers and a sister.

In the fall of 1909 we came to Alberta to homestead in the Garden Plain area on the north east of 18-34-13 where we lived in a one-roomed sod shack with a dirt floor. That winter we hauled lumber from Tom Finlayson [illegible] Castor and built a two-storey house which soon became known as the Ironside Stopping House for travellers between Castor and Youngstown and points between. Wagon trails across unplowed fields are still visible in 1977. Some poles were hauled from north of Castor to roof a sod barn, which would hold twenty head of horses. Martin Fox, who lived on the same section, had a team of white oxen and a wagon and took Dad and me to Stettler. The first day we got to a stopping house just west of Castor where the menu was biscuits, bacon and beans three times a day. The second day we got as far as Botha where we met George Hunter who was helping to build a hotel there. The third day we reached Stettler.

In 1917 we moved to the north east of 20-34-13 where Chris Midthun helped us build a new house and a hip roofed barn. My mother taught Cowan School,

eight miles north of us. I drove my mother and my two brothers and three sisters to school in our covered wagon driven by a spirited team, picking up other students along the way.

After I quit school I fired a steam engine for Alex Richards each harvest for six years. As I fired with straw I had to get up at quarter to four to get steam up for the day.

I learned to play the violin so with sister Belle and brother Butch, we played for Garden Plain dances every two weeks. Others I played with were [redacted] Berg, Jens Sands, Torlif Bergum and Earl Hemridge.

On Sundays, unknown to our parents, we would go to Dick Roberts farm and ride bucking horses, but no one was ever seriously injured. I broke broncs for Dick so he could sell them as work horses. Some ended up bucking in Hand Hills Stampedes and some became race horses. One race horse I remember was Cricket. In 1921 I rode him for Dick at the Bingo School Stampede. The same year he hired a jockey to ride him at the Garden Plain picnic. He won easily at both places. Bets were high.

In 1923 I went to Roberts Creek, B.C. where I worked in a sawmill but I soon returned to Garden Plain where in 1929 I married Ruth Clark of Maunders. We farmed on the north east of 19-34-13. On this property there was a burn out where coal was visible near the surface. For forty dollars I leased the mineral rights from the C.P.R. and started a strip mine. I had to pay the Alberta Department of Lands and Mines ten cents per ton for each ton sold. In 1932 I opened another mine on 5-34-13 where there was a better grade of coal. In 1934 we moved to the south west of 30-34-13 where I still live. We have four sons and four daughters, Gordon at home, Mary Towers in Florida, Allan a missionary in India, Clark at Devon, Margaret Sleppert in Calgary, Bruce in Youngstown, Mabel Pluister at Blackfalds and Marilyn Gurnett in Edmonton.

E. B. (BUTCH) IRONSIDE, By Butch Ironside — I was born in Ontario June 6, 1905. At the age of four I arrived at our homestead with Dad, Mother, three sisters and two brothers.

In 1912 I started school at Buchan, at the age of seven. That year Dad and Tiff freighted from Castor to Hanna. My oldest sister Belle, then thirteen, and I did the chores. We had pigs to water, this we did by cutting a hole in the ice in the creek. One day we cut the hole too big and a pig fell in. Next morning only its head was out of the hole, the rest was frozen in the ice. There were also bundles to haul in on a stone boat out of the stooks in the field.

My first year of threshing was in 1919, I hauled bundles for Alex Richards. The next six years I hauled water for his steam engine at threshing time.

I remember my first trip to Hanna. It was in 1913. I went along with Tiff, my older brother, when he was taking a load of freight in. I thought it was great riding on top of the load.

In the winter of 1919-1920 I worked for Dick Roberts. Wages were good at that time; I got forty-five dollars a month.

My first attempt at farming on my own was in 1923. That year I rented August Dahlgren's land and farmed it with horses. In 1926 I bought the SW 21-34-13 and broke a hundred acres. In 1927 it was in crop, 1928 it was hailed out. The spring of 1930 I rented Dan Tracy's land. I had a good crop in 1930 but 1931 was different. It had been hailed and snow came early. Some of it was cut late as the snow went away in November. Some still stood and I pastured horses that winter.

I bought a Ford ½ ton truck in 1929. It was two years old then, I had hounds so

did quite a lot of coyote hunting. In the fall I used the Ford; two hounds rode in the back and one in front with me. In winter I used the team and sleigh.

I bought an International 15-30 tractor in 1928. The next year we got a Massey Harris combine and did some custom work. In 1932 we got our first grain separator.

When Dad and Mother left the farm in the fall of 1934, I took over the home place. I stayed there until 1942 when I bought the homestead of Billy Wagner from a mortgage company. I farmed this land until 1951, when I started working for Ducks Unlimited.

In December of 1951 I moved to Hanna where we still live. I sold my land to Henry and Elmer Nelson.

I married Cora Nelson on November 17, 1934. We have three children. Corinne, Mrs. Glen Brown, resides in Jasper where Glen is employed. They have two boys. Gladys, Mrs. Lyle Robbs, lives at Bluffton. Lyle farms and works at a Gas Plant. William married Marion McLean, they live at Didsbury where Willie is employed by Shell Oil. They have two children.

ALEXANDER BUCHAN, By Margaret Nelson — Sandy Buchan came from Scotland to Canada in 1910. His wife remained in Scotland. Sandy had been a Sea Captain. He filed on SW 24-34-13 in September 1911. He stayed at Ironsides, as his wife was a sister of Mrs. Ironside. From here he homesteaded and worked out around Coronation. He returned to Scotland in 1913.

MARTIN and HENRY FOX, By Margaret Nelson — Henry Fox, Harry as he was best known filed on SW 22-34-13 in July of 1908. Brother Martin Fox filed April 1909 on SE 16-34-13. Harry and Martin worked together, Martin having the equipment to prove up. Harry worked out. In 1915 Martin Fox traded homesteads with Mr. Charles Blayney of the Castor area. Martin Fox was married and had three children, Harry was a bachelor. From Castor they went to Calgary.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES BLAYNEY, reprinted in part from the Garden Plain Story with the permission of the authors, the Dundee Women's Institute — Charles Blayney was born in Dolgelly, Merionethshire, West Wales. He came to Canada in 1906; in 1910 he homesteaded at Lauderdale on the southwest quarter of 12-39-15. A few years later he traded his homestead to Martin Fox for the southeast quarter of section 16-34-13 in the Garden Plain district, where he farmed until his death in 1950.

Charles Blayney enjoying his paper and pipe.

In 1917 he married Winnifred Evans who came to Canada from Abermule, Montgomeryshire, Wales and together they made their grounds a show place in the community. They planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables of all kinds, some of which had never been grown before in this part of the province. After establishing a shelter belt which included four kinds of evergreens, they started to grow fruit trees such as cherries, plums and crabapples as well as red, white and black currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries. Asparagus planted before 1919 was still producing forty years later in 1959. Oak trees and evergreens purchased from Estevan, Saskatchewan, grew and flourished after much care and watering during our dry summers.

Mr. and Mrs. Blayney had no family, but when Mrs. Norman Williams, a family friend, passed away following a lingering illness, the Blayneys took their two small daughters, Ruby and Nora, to live with them. They cared for the two girls until they went to live with their father who was now working in Hanna.

Mrs. Blayney was a staunch member of the Anglican Church and was always interested in community work. Mr. Blayney was for years the chairman of Buchan School Board.

Mrs. Blayney died in 1948, her husband in 1950 and both are buried in Netherby cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams in Wales

MR. and MRS. NORMAN WILLIAMS, By Nora Froelick and Ruby Befus — Norman B. Williams came to Canada from Abermule, Wales in 1913. He had visions of becoming a cowboy so the first thing he bought was a pair of red sheepskin chaps which he wore on Hallowe'en for years.

He had been a school teacher in London, England so took a teaching job at Netherby in 1913-14.

His wife Pauline and small daughter Ruby left England in 1914 on the day the First World War started. They had a hazardous trip dodging mine fields but arrived safely in Halifax and took the train to Hanna, Alberta. They lived in a sod shack with another Welshman, Charles Blayney, until Mr. Williams took up a homestead on the northwest quarter of 7-33-12. While there he taught North Berry Creek school.

His wife suffered from tuberculosis, so a nurse, Winnifred Evans, came from Wales to look after Mrs. Williams and her baby daughter, Nora.

Mrs. Williams died in 1917 and is buried in Calgary. Winnifred Evans married Charles Blayney and they cared for the two small girls on their farm on southeast 16-34-13.

In 1918 Mr. Williams was seriously injured when a small cyclone went through the area. He was on his way back from Hanna after dark and turned into a farm yard to escape the hail. The roof blew off a barn pinning him beneath and breaking his pelvis. He managed to pull himself up onto his horse who was lying beside him.

He got to the farm house and was taken to the Hanna Hospital. For many years he was badly crippled.

In 1923 he gave up his homestead and found a railway job in Hanna. He took Ruby and Nora to live with him, then in 1926 they moved to Calgary.

He died in 1960 while on a visit to England and Wales. Ruby lives in Calgary and Nora in Edmonton.

THE FRANK EVANS STORY, Told in part by Nora Froelick — Frank Evans was the youngest brother of Mrs. Charles Blayney. He had enlisted in the British Army at the age of seventeen and arrived in Canada immediately after the war ended in 1918. He made his home with his brother-in-law and sister until he rented the northeast quarter of 28-34-13.

He was always a happy-go-lucky person and will be remembered for his love of animals and on his frequent visits to neighbors he was always accompanied by "me dog". He had a habit of leaving his mitts behind when he visited. Next day he would come back looking for "me mitts".

Frank never married and when his health failed he moved to the Senior Citizens Lodge in Castor. He died in 1969 and was buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

JAMES SCOTT, By Margaret Nelson — James Scott came from Nanton, Alberta, in 1917 and bought the George Kinney land. His son Roy farmed the land along with other land he rented. One of Mr. Scott's sons was married to a Miss Loree from Nanton. Her father purchased land close by and Scott's farmed that too. After five or six years the Scott's decided to return to Nanton. Frank Evans rented the land for a short time before it was sold to Dick Roberts.

EMIL MILLER, By Margaret Nelson — Emil Miller homesteaded S.W. 16-34-13 in February 1910. Thirty acres was broke in the southwest corner. Martin Fox farmed it, later Mr. Glover rented it. It was then bought by Mr. Blayney.

THE GLOVER FAMILY — William and Elizabeth Glover were among those courageous people who emigrated from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, stopping temporarily in Manitoba for a while, and finally venturing on to Alberta to homestead on NW 16-34-13 in the Buchan School District in 1908. They had farmed in the old country on a 300 acre farm between Peterhead and the village of St. Fergus. The farm was then and still is known as Lunderton, and borders right on the North Sea. In fact, they have a saying that there are 100 more acres when the tide is out. Old records held by the present owner show Mr. Glover as the reeve, or foreman, for a while, and later before deciding to leave for Canada, he was the tenant, or lessee. The farm of course in those days was owned by a laird. While still in Scotland, the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland awarded Mr. Glover a silver medal for his prowess in a ploughing competition.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glover Sr. taken in Glenboro, Manitoba.

Mr. and Mrs. Glover had eight children, five sons and three daughters, all of whom came to Canada. They were not joined by all of their children in the homesteading venture.

Bessie stayed in Manitoba, married there and farmed with her husband, Fred Davidson. She brought forth twelve sturdy children, eleven of whom are still living. Bessie is now a widow and lives in Cypress River, Manitoba. She is the last living member of the original Glover family.

Annie came west to Alberta with the family and in 1911 she married Jack MacRae. Annie lost her husband in 1962 and she herself died in 1966.

Christina married Norman MacLeod in 1916 in Red Deer, Alberta. Prior to her marriage, Christina had worked in Hanna for Black & Macleod who ran the Dominion rooming house there in the early days. They had two children Elizabeth and Chrissie. She died in March of 1946 and is buried in Calgary.

William married Margaret McGee and they farmed in the Buchan and Dundee Districts. In 1955 he died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage and is buried in the Field of Honour, Burnsland Cemetery.

David, who homesteaded on NE 22-34-13, had been in poor health when the family lived in Manitoba. He lived only to be 22 years old, and in 1913 he was the first one of the family to be buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

Hugh was well known around Hanna and the Goose Lake Line as he travelled these areas as a service representative for the International Harvester Co. for over 40 years. He passed away in High River after a short illness and is buried in the cemetery there. He left to mourn him a wife, Selina, and two sons, Bill and Harry.

John homesteaded on NE 28-34-13 but before proving up decided to be a policeman in Calgary. He died in Edmonton and is buried there.

Last but not least was Andrew (Andy for short), the baby of the family. He was the bachelor type and stayed pretty close to his parents. As a lad of 14 he worked side by side with his father freighting supplies of all kinds by team and wagon from Castor to Hanna townsite before the railroad was built through Hanna. Close to the end of World War I, Andy was conscripted since he was still single and living alone on a quarter section. He went to Calgary, passed his medical, got his army number then returned to the farm to wait to be called for army service. However, the war ended and he did not have to go to fight. In 1922 he left the area for a short while and worked in Calgary on the construction of the Imperial Oil Refinery. The city lights held very little attraction for him and he returned to rural life again and resumed farming. It is interesting to note that the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed in 1923 and on the 50th anniversary of the Wheat Pool, Andy was one of the original founding members still living. Andy farmed at Scapa until suffering a stroke in the early fall of 1973 and was hospitalized in Hanna until he passed away in February 1975. He is buried in Netherby Cemetery.

William and Elizabeth ran into some pretty rough times during their homesteading days in Alberta. Although the land was virgin territory, some years crops were good and other years they were burned out from lack of moisture, or they were hailed out. A great many of the farmers left the area. William had a great love of the land, and he was not one to give up easily. One of his great joys was an appreciation of good cattle and he did his best to improve the strain he liked best — the white-faced Herefords. William's pride showed greatly when in 1919 he was successful in achieving a first prize for one of his Hereford bulls at the Calgary Bull Show & Sale. It was a four year old bull by name of George Rex. The next year William tried again with another Hereford — a two year old by name of Rob Roy, but no luck this time. In competition you learn to take the losses with dignity.

Tragedy was soon to come into William's life in the loss of his wife, Elizabeth, in 1921. She died in Calgary and is laid to rest in Union Cemetery there. When a man loses his life partner, something goes out of his life; the challenge the land demands from him becomes different; yet William hid his sorrow and courageously faced the future with determination to go on through whatever was to come. He continued to farm until 1943. He was fortunate indeed to obtain a very capable housekeeper in the person of Mrs. Madge Kay, a widow, who kept house for him faithfully all through the years that remained of his life. He took sick suddenly in September of 1943; just a three day illness and he was gone. Another pioneer had finished the role God had set out for him. He was laid to rest in Netherby Cemetery.

ANDY GLOVER, By William L. Storch — Andy Glover homesteaded on SW 2-34-13. As a young lad he helped his dad freight lumber and merchandise from Castor to Hanna. He often told how, when he got dry, he would take a drink or two from the jugs of whiskey he was hauling, and when they came to a well they would fill them up with water.

Andy Glover, Miss L.A. MacDonald, Miss Margaret Fisher and Sidney Gilson.

He was known for the humorous stories and jokes he loved to tell. If he could get a joke on someone he really thought he had something going.

In the later years of his life he lived in a shack on SE 18-34-13. Then he built himself a two roomed house, and from his east window he could take his binoculars and watch what the neighbors were doing.

He used to farm with four horses. In later years he farmed with a small tractor. He would take his tractor and two old tractor tires and drag the roads.

He didn't have any cattle, but used to talk about the striped gopher he had. Sometimes a cat would come around and he would take it in and feed it. He loved dogs but he never had one.

He liked to be among people; he never married, but he often said if he could get a woman with no less than fifty thousand dollars he would marry in a minute.

He always attended the Netherby Cemetery clean up day. At one time he made markers for all the unmarked graves.

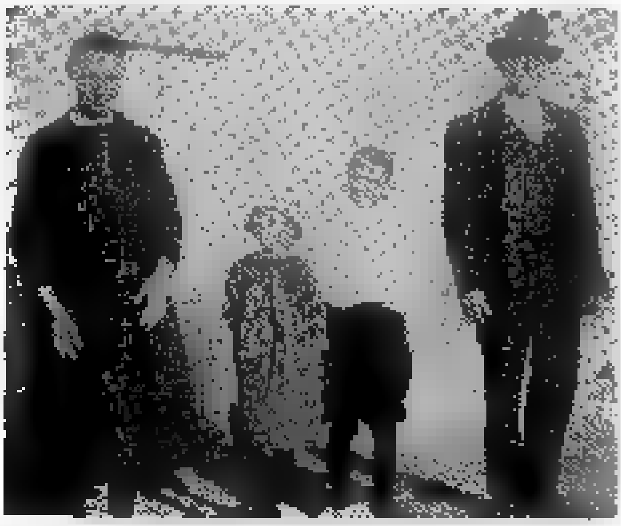
He was on the barbed wire telephone with the neighbors. He got a great charge out of rubbering on the neighbor ladies as they talked on the phone. If what they said wasn't right he would butt in and tell them so. If something was wrong with the phone, he was right out there fixing it, rain or shine, as he didn't want to miss any of the gossip.

He was very fond of children and they liked him too. At picnics he would buy them candy bars and when he met them in town he would buy them some kind of sweets, for he loved sweets himself.

He was a very handy man to have around. There was no job he wouldn't tackle, he was called the handy man of the neighborhood. When he would come around at meal times, he would say, "Just put another cup of water in the soup." He enjoyed his meals when he was out as he had to cook them himself at home.

Late one Hallowe'en night [illegible] bachelor neighbor dressed up as a fat lady, came to Andy's house, crawled into bed with him, and tried to make love to him. I won't say what he had to say about that. [illegible] was out of this world anyway.

He used to say that [illegible] he came home the worse for drink, he could throw his cap in and [illegible] wouldn't come out; "But you married guys can't do that." And then he would have a good laugh. He was born in Scotland and passed away after a stroke in 1975.


1928 — Mrs. Michael Quaschnick, Emma, Jack and Mr. Michael Quaschnick.

THE MICHAEL QUASCHNICK FAMILY, By Elsie Quaschnick Bennett — My parents, Michael and Maria Quaschnick, and six children, Ida, Olga, Bertha, Elsie, Jack and Emma, came [illegible] Canada from Leipzig, Roumania in October 1927.

We bought land from William Glover Sr. and made our home on the northwest quarter of 16-34-13, where for the next eight years we all worked hard at farming in a strange new land.

In the fall of 1935 we sold out and moved to British Columbia where we were able to make a better living.

My dad died in 1948 of a heart attack in Chilliwack, B.C., at the age of 66. Mother passed away in 1970 at 84 years of age.

GEORGE HUNTER, By Harry Nelson — George Hunter came to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1905. He came to Ontario, then to Manitoba where he spent about two years. In 1907 he came to Erskine, Alberta where he did carpenter work for about one year. In the fall of 1908 he, along with John Hutcheson, came in to what is now known as the Garden Plain area looking for land. George filed on the SW 20-34-13 on November 20, 1908. John Hutcheson filed on the NE of 18-34-13 on November 21, 1908. They farmed jointly for the first few years, John doing the homestead duties and George doing the carpenter work in the area. After they were established George did his own farming, also doing carpenter work for other homesteaders in his spare time. He was co-owner of the first steam threshing outfit in this area, the Hunter-Campbell-Glover-Hutcheson Syndicate, which threshed throughout the country for a number of years. George batched for

about twelve or thirteen years of his homestead days. On March 27, 1923 he married Miss Rebecca Benzie who lived with her brother Frank on the former John Hutcheson homestead. After they were married George farmed this land along with his own for a number of years. They lived on the Benzie farm as the house was better there.

About 1931 George had a house built on his own land. After it was finished they moved into it. From then on he farmed only his own land. He continued to farm his own land till about 1952 when he decided to retire and have a sale. All his machinery and buildings except the house were sold. He sold the land to Rudolph Storch but reserved the right to stay on the place as long as he wanted to. George Hunter passed away on December 21, 1955 at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Hunter continued to live on the farm till about 1958 when she moved to Coronation, to live with her brother George Benzie. She passed away on March 12, 1966 at the age of eighty years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are buried in the Netherby Cemetery.

MARINUS RASMUSSEN, By Harry Nelson — Marinus Rasmussen filed on the NE 20-34-13 on May 20, 1908. He proved up his homestead, breaking so much every year and worked out in his spare time. In the spring of 1913 he had a farm sale and went back to Denmark where he came from. He sold his farm to T.F. Ironside in 1913, who farmed it till the fall of 1934, when he left for Vancouver. It was then farmed by his son E.B. Ironside till 1942. After that it was farmed by the youngest son W.J. Ironside till 1964. He then had a farm sale and the land was bought by Cyril Unsworth who still farms it.

WILLIAM PERT, By Margaret Nelson — William Pert filed on the SE 20-34-13 in August 1908. He built a shack and broke thirty acres of land in order to prove up. After four or five years on the prairie he decided to go to Calgary. Wm. Glover bought the land; after his death Dick Roberts bought it. Ironside bought from Roberts and in 1964 sold to Cyril Unsworth.

1912 — Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, taken In Denmark

WILLIAM NELSON, By Harry Nelson — William Nelson was born in Denmark May 19, 1886. In the spring of 1905 he left Denmark for the United States in search of work. He came to North Dakota where he got a job on a farm. I can recall him telling of some terrible blizzards in North Dakota while he was there. From North Dakota he went to Montana where he worked on railroad construction until the spring of 1908. He then left for Alberta with the intention of filing on a homestead which he did in May 1908, at Stettler, Alberta. The land that was filed on was the north west quarter of 20-34-13 in the Garden Plain area. After homestead duties were done for that year, he went back to work on the railroad construction in order to make enough money to buy livestock and equipment to prove up on his homestead.

He got a job with Leach Brothers, a contractor from the United States, who

had three elevating graders plus a large number of dump wagons. The graders were pulled by eight horses or mules in front and four behind the grader. Most of the dump wagons were pulled by two mules. Most of the construction was on the Stettler to Castor C.P.R. line and at Fox Coulee in the Drumheller area.

When the railroads were done in this area he worked on the irrigation ditches at Bassano and Brooks. By this time he had an outfit of mules of his own so got work from Jackson Contractors. They would sublet sections of ditching which paid off pretty well. By the winter of 1911 he had made enough money to return to Denmark and was married on February 23, 1912. In the spring of 1912 he returned to Canada and worked on railroad construction in Saskatchewan for the summer, then came back to the homestead.

When the people first homesteaded Stettler was the closest town and they often walked to Stettler and back home a distance of sixty-five or seventy miles one way. In the fall of 1909 the railroad reached Castor, so for a number of years what grain was grown was hauled to there, a distance of about twenty-four miles, a two day trip. Later it was hauled to Fleet which was about sixteen or eighteen miles. Then Scapa was built and later Garden Plain which was only five miles.

From 1914 to 1923 there were good years and years when there was frost or hail. There were bumper crops in this area in 1923 to the early thirties so there were good years and bad years, some with dust so thick that it was almost impossible to see.

Then came 1934 and the grasshoppers. They pretty well cleaned off the grain as fast as it came up, in spite of all the grasshopper poison that was spread. Andy Glover had the poison mixing station and every evening the surrounding farmers would go and get the poison for spreading in the morning, but in spite of all this work the grasshoppers cleaned off the crops. Through the dirty thirties, as they were called, a lot of the original homesteaders left this area for greener pastures.

From the homestead days till 1938 all the field work was done first with mules then horses. Threshing was done with steam power. Some of the first steamers in this area were W. Glover, [illegible]. Hunter, J. Campbell Syndicate, and A. Richards outfits. Then later there was gasoline outfits. In the early thirties combining became the way of harvesting. T.F. Ironside owned one of the first combines in this area.

About 1928 Mr. Nelson bought another half section of land from the C.P.R. Land Company. This was all broken up with horses and a two-bottom breaking plow. A lot of C.P.R. land was sold about this time. Prices ranged from about eight to fifteen dollars an acre. Terms were a down payment and so much per year. About 1935, when crops had been poor for some years and payments were not being made the C.P.R. decided to sell it to the original purchaser for whatever cash payments he could offer. A lot of the land was bought for about fifty dollars for a quarter section.

It was about this time that the local Municipal Council was dissolved and the Special Areas took over. A lot of vacant land with back taxes owing was taken over by Special Areas and is still controlled by them. It is leased out to local farmers either for grazing or cultivation lease.

In the late thirties or early forties things started improving. Crops and cattle prices were better. By the late forties and early fifties everybody had changed from horses to tractors, which enabled them to farm more land. When anyone sold out the land was bought by the local farmers. Through the fifties and early sixties crops were reasonably good and so were cattle prices, so everyone prospered.

William Nelson retired from active farming about 1960 after suffering a heart condition. He passed away July 27, 1968. He was predeceased by his wife and one

son in 1945. He is survived by one daughter Cora, Mrs. E.B. Ironside living in Hanna, and one son, Harry still on the original homestead.

CHRISTOPHER MIDTHUN — Chris Midthun came to Alberta from Norway and homesteaded on south-east 32-34-13 in May 1911. As he was a good carpenter his services were in great demand by homesteaders who were building for the first time.

Butch Ironside, Tift Ironside, Christoffer Midthun and Emil Paasche

In 1919 he married Edith Ekman of the Lake Thelma district. Shortly after they moved to Castor where he became a full time carpenter. Later they moved to Washington where he was a building contractor. Chris will be remembered as a good-natured helpful neighbor.

1933 — Mr. and Mrs. John Nielsen and children Henry and Eva.

JOHN NIELSEN, By Henry Nielsen — I left Copenhagen, Denmark on May 12, 1916 to sail to Canada on the Scandinavian-American Ship "Frederick VII" and landed in New York on May 28. From there I went by train to Calgary, then to Lacombe and Castor where my brother Bill met me and took me to his homestead on the NE 20-34-13. I stayed with Bill and his family until July when I went to work for a Danish family by the name of Alfred Jensen who lived north of the correction line. I worked there until November and then spent the winter with brother Bill.

In the summer of 1917 I worked for Arthur Groves who lived five miles north of the correction line over near Sullivan Lake. We broke a number of horses that summer as well as doing the general farm work. The winter of 1917-18 I

worked at Shuswap Lake, B.C. for Adams River Lumber Company. The spring of 1918 I rented the NE 30-34-13 from Otto Anderson. I farmed this land with four horses that I bought from Arthur Groves. In the winter of 1918-1919 I was out in the B.C. logging camp again, returning in the spring to farm the Otto Anderson land. In 1920 I bought the SE 32-34-13 from Chris Midthun and farmed that as well as Anderson's.

I remember one winter in the early twenties, I went over to Roy Scott's to find that he had broken his leg that day. Apparently he had hooked up his team to go somewhere, and got down off the sleigh again to do something when one of his horses kicked him, breaking his leg. The doctor had been sent for and arrived about the same time I did. The doctor, needed some help setting the leg, asked me to assist. My job was to stretch the leg while he manipulated the bones back into place and put a cast on. Six weeks later I took Roy to Castor hospital to get the cast removed and found the leg was alright again.

About 1923 I bought my first two cows from Timmerman who lived north of the correction line.

In 1926 I rented the farm to Vagn Hansen and went to Denmark. On July 15, 1927 I married Ane Paulsen and we returned to Canada again that fall.

At a land sale in Coronation in June of 1928 I bought the NE 29-34-13 and then we quit farming Otto Anderson's. On November 16, 1928 our daughter Eva was born in the Castor Hospital. Henry was born February 6, 1930 also in the Castor Hospital. In 1930 we moved the house from the original place on Chris Midthun's down to the school land because of better water. A sod barn was built there also. We farmed here until the kids had to start school. By this time Round Lake School was closed so our nearest school was Buchan, almost four miles away. So after much deliberation, in 1935 we decided to move to the W ½ 2-34-13 which was only 2½ miles from school.

In June 1935 Elmer was born. Eva and Henry started school in September of 1936 and completed one term at Buchan. This same year we didn't get enough wheat to fill a triple wagon box. Our first Angus bull was bought this fall from Sid Herring for $15.00.

The summer of 1937 there were quite a number of vacant farms so we decided to move to a better location. We rented the S ½ 25-34-14 formerly farmed by Blums and moved there in October 1937. It was just across the road from Corinne School. In 1939 we moved again, this time two and one half miles south of Corinne to the SW 12-34-14 which had been previously farmed by Rutherfords. Along with this we leased the NW 1-34-14, N ½ 24-34-14 and the NE 25-34-14. During the next few years things got better as prices improved after the depression and we had more rainfall. Now we were able to increase our cow herd and get some new machinery.

When Eva completed her high school she supervised at the Ozark School from September to Christmas. In 1948 she attended Normal School and took up teaching. She married Clarence Moran in September of 1953. At present they are living in Bowness and Eva is a librarian at Eugene Coste School while Clarence is employed at Burns Packing Plant.

Henry helped at home until he went to Lacombe to take up carpentry. Later he returned to the area and went farming. He married Irene Holman and they have four children.

In November 1959, when Elmer got married to Doris Hoffart, we bought a house in Hanna and Elmer and Doris lived on the farm. They have two children, Terry and Peggy. When we retired from active farming we had a herd of good

Angus cows, all descendants of the first two cows I bought from Timmerman and the $15.00 bull I got from Herring.

In 1969 I took a trip to Denmark by air. Owing to poor health Ane was not able to go, but after I found what relatives were left, we both went back the following year. In September of 1974 we sold the house in Hanna and moved into the Acadia Lodge. On February 11, 1975 Ane entered Hanna Hospital and remained there, except for a few months in the Palliser Nursing Home, until her passing on February 7, 1977. At present I am a resident of the Acadia Lodge.

HARRY NELSON, By Harry Nelson — I was born on September 21, 1914 on NW 20-34-13 W4, my dad's homestead, and am still living there.

The first years of school my sister and I drove a horse and buggy in summer and a cutter in winter. When we were a little older we rode horseback a distance of three and one-half miles.

In those days I believe it was permissable to quit school at the age of fifteen.

In June or July of 1929 work was started on the C.N.R. line from Scapa to Hemaruka and it was an awful dry year and not much to do at home; I decided to try and get work with some of the contractors on this line.

About three miles west of Spondin, an American company by the name of J. Owen & Sons had set up their camp, so I rode down to see them about getting work. They asked if I could drive horses, I assured them I could and was told I could start work the next day. The next morning after breakfast I followed the rest of the men down to the barn. The barn boss told me to wait until the other boys had their horses out and then helped me get my three horses harnessed and hitched up to a dump wagon. I spent the summer of 1929 with them and stayed on until they completed their contract on the grade which I believe was late October or early November.

The Harry Nelson Family. Rena, Bill, Scott, Margaret and Harry Nelson; Keith, Diane and Barry Hutton. Gordon Hutton in front.

The wage those days was forty dollars a month and if you remained with the company in the fall it was sixty dollars a month plus room and board. Not much by today's standards but pretty good in those days.

The company had one elevating grader which was pulled by a Holt 60 Cat.

The cat skinner on the grader was the youngest son, Bill Owen. The next son was John Owen who drove another Holt 60 pulling two large steel dump wagons. The rest of the dirt was hauled by dump wagons pulled by three horses. There were approximately fifteen or twenty wagons. Ralph Owen, the oldest son, was the foreman and a great fellow to work for. Then there was John Owen senior, a fairly elderly man and father to the three boys. He did a lot of grumping and growling if you happened to have a breakdown.

The crop at home in 1929 was very poor. There was hardly any rain all summer. I remember in 1928 my dad had the SE 19-34-13 rented from F. Benzie, it was new breaking and would have been a good crop but it was hailed out. The following year (1929) was pretty well dried out though some of it was cut. I believe dad threshed something like one hundred and thirty-five bushels off the hundred acres.

I was at home during the winter of 1929 and summer of 1930.

The fall and winter of 1930-31 I believe the C.N.R. laid the steel between Scapa and Hemaruka. I hired on with the railway helping lay the steel starting approximately one mile east of Scapa straight through to Hemaruka.

The winter of 1930-31 was fairly mild with very little snow. It was possible to drive a car home every weekend even though there were no high grade roads at that time. The railway line was completed in the winter of 1931. This same line is now abandoned and has not been in use for several years. The last piece of the rail from Scapa to Spondin was removed during the fall and winter of 1976. (Progress in reverse.) The track from Spondin to Hemaruka was removed several years ago.

The first elevator at Garden Plain was the Pioneer Grain Co. built in the summer of 1931 and operating that fall. George Wilson was the first grain buyer followed by A.W. Shand in 1932. A store was opened about this time by Mr. J.W. Taylor who operated there for a number of years.

I was home most of the time from 1931 until the fall of 1933 helping around the farm.

The winter of 1933 and summer of 1934 I worked for the next door neighbor, Mr. T.F. Ironside.

During the fairly dry summer of 1934 the grasshoppers moved in. They destroyed the crops in spite of all the poison bait that was spread out. That fall a lot of feed grain was shipped in to Garden Plain to feed the livestock in the area.

Cattle prices were at an all time low the fall of 1934. A lot of people had to sell because of the feed shortage. A lot of good cattle were shipped that fall for a penny a pound or less.

In the fall of 1934 I went to Calgary to work for Maxwell Smith, a well known Thoroughbred breeder, who lived about ten miles west of Calgary. I worked there for most of the time until 1938 when I came home and started to farm with my dad.

We acquired more land and the first tractor in the spring of 1939. The crops were good in the fall of 1940 and I bought my first combine. I did our combining plus a lot of custom work.

There was a series of good years in the 1940's. In 1942 there were exceptional crops although several of them were out all winter.

Through the forties and fifties there was a series of good years with better than average crops.

We also got through the 1960's and 1970's with not many problems. There was one year, 1962, started out dry and it looked as if there would be a feed shortage. A couple of the neighbors and myself went up to Vegreville area to put up feed. While we were there it started raining so we decided to go home. When we got home there was water everywhere. There had been five inches of rain

overnight and two inches more the following day so that solved the feed problem that year. This rain came about the twelfth of July so all the later sown crops produced a lot of feed.

There was more progress in 1974. The East-Central Gas Co-Op was formed and gas lines were laid through most of this area. Now everybody that wanted it has natural gas on the farm, a real benefit.

In January 1945 I was married to Margaret Wright. We built a house on the home place and still live there.

We have two children, Diane, now Mrs. Barry Hutton, is living on a farm north of Watts. Bill married Rena Braconnier and they are living in their own trailer on the home place.

I still farm and raise cattle and haven't thought of retiring for awhile yet.

KEN WILLIAMS STORY, By Ken Williams — My father Tom Williams purchased the Ole Larson farm in the fall of 1928. My mother and I, brothers Keith and Bud, and sister Irene moved on January 6, 1929. The weather was just like the first of July. Soon after that, winter set in and we had lots of snow.

My first job was to get coal at Bob Unsworth's Three Star Mine eight miles south.

Next thing we had to find our school. We were actually in Little Round Lake district but that school was closed. We enrolled at Buchan School three miles away and Mr. Venderburg was our teacher.

We always looked forward to the mailman coming around. Earl Hill made his rounds by cutter and team in winter. In summer he drove a "Bennett Buggy". The mail came from Scapa, sixteen miles away.

The depression of the thirties set in so Dad decided he had better continue his job on the C.N.R. so he stayed in Hanna and I was left to take over.

As we had good neighbors, we managed. There was John Nelson to the north, Ironsides and Bill Nelson to the west, Quaschnick to the south and John Hutcheson and Bill Glover to the east. They were always willing to lend a helping hand.

We had three sisters born into the family while on the Larson place, Joyce, Shirley and June.

In the spring of 1935 Dad decided to move the family closer to Hanna so we moved to what was called the old Overton place, fourteen miles north of Hanna. There we met new neighbors, to the north lived Fred Johnstons and Greenways and Jim Taylor, to the east Marion Wright and the Rehill family, south were Harry Lumsden and Ed Loveday. William Lumsden was west of us.

I took over the farm in the fall of 1935 and Mother and sisters including Bud went back to town. I was married to Mildred Harvey of Corinne district in the fall of 1939. She taught at Solon for two years.

In the summer of 1941 I got a job with the C.N.R. in Hanna, later I left the farm and moved back to Hanna. Our two sons, Bob and Jim, were born in Hanna.

After serving three years [illegible] the Air Force we moved to Mirror where I continued with the C.N.R. I am retired now. My wife taught at Mirror School for twenty-four years and retired last June. We are now enjoying visiting with our sons and three grandchildren, and looking forward to travelling and relaxing at our cabin at Pelican Point on Buffalo Lake.

FRED and BARBARA MATTIS, Written by Barbara Mattis — Fred Mattis homesteaded west of Spondin in 1927, and it was here that I, Barbara Schram, met him when I came to teach Saar school in 1931. We were married in September

of 1933 and managed to make our way with hard work and horse power through the "Dirty Thirties" on the homestead.

In 1938, Fred did some horse trading and obtained his first tractor, and I.H.C. Caterpillar, which contained under its hood much more horse power that didn't have to be fed and harnessed every day. With this, he became ambitious for a larger farm in a better district where he could also expand in livestock. He found one at Standard and seeded the first crop in 1939 and the children and I moved down in the fall of 1940.

Fred was a great lover and judge of good horses and, as the herd increased beyond the capacity of the homestead and the open range became leases, he sought to find more pasture for them. It was then that Jesse Roberts was wanting to sell out and go back to the "Old Country". His brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts, who owned adjoining property, also decided to sell out and retire to Hanna, so Fred bought them both out in 1946 and this became our ranch. Both the house and barn on the Jesse Roberts place burned and were rebuilt. Vivian Howery managed the ranch and looked after the place for twelve years.

The Dick Roberts place was fitted for sheep raising and a man was placed there to look after them. At shearing time, many neighbors would come to watch.

By 1960, our family of four girls were away from home and married, so we began to think about reducing the work load for the "Old Team" to handle, so advertised the farm and went out of the sheep. The Standard farm was sold in 1965, so we moved our livestock and equipment to the Jesse Roberts place, whose buildings were situated on northwest 34-34-13, a picturesque spot between two bodies of water known as Little Round and Clement Lakes, and continued farming and ranching in this area.

We concentrated on a large herd of good Belgian and Percheron horses and buyers came from everywhere to purchase them. A lot of them were shipped to the United States and some went to Hollywood to be used for entertainment purposes, while others went all over Canada and the United States to be used in lumber camps and for wagons of various kinds. In 1975, I went to Victoria, British Columbia, especially to see our horses hooked to the "Tally-Ho Sightseeing Tour" wagons. At the 1976 Camrose Fair, I got the thrill of my life to discover that a lovely grey Percheron gelding brought in from Saskatchewan had our brand on his left hip and was taking prizes. I learned that he had taken second in his class at the Royal Winter Fair. We sold most of our remaining herd to two men in southeastern Saskatchewan and they are still raising horses from them.

In the spring of 1973 we sold the ranch to Jack Morgan and had an auction sale in June. We were preparing to move and retire to Castor when Fred passed away suddenly October 27. The house on the ranch was not going to be used so I remained there for another year, then moved into a new home in Castor.

VIV HOWERY, By Ina Howery — I came from the Spondin area to work for Fred Mattis in 1952, and lived on the former J.H. Roberts place. I became foreman and worked for him eleven years. Fred operated eleven sections of land and had about two hundred head of draft horses.

I generally had a hired man, we had to keep up the fences and put up hay for feed. I had to bring the horses off the lease each fall. Winter pasture was close at home.

I ran about a hundred head of feeder cattle of my own each year and also had some ponies of my own. I bought my grain and roughage.

I did some farming each year. Some years Fred sent up help from Standard,

where he had other land. On December 3, 1952, I married Ina Mulgrove of Spondin. We have three children.

The two oldest children went to school at Netherby by bus. Garry is married and living at Viking. Debbie married Barry Quinton and lives in Edmonton. Valerie is still at home and [illegible] in her last year of high school.

In 1963 we moved to Viking where I bought a farm. Here we grow grain, feed cattle and have ponies which I drive in summer on Pony Chuckwagons. Ina is a hairdresser.

JOHN REASOR — John Reasor came to Alberta from Texas in 1909. He homesteaded on northwest 2-34-13. He farmed and hauled freight with oxen for several years, even after most of his neighbors had horses.

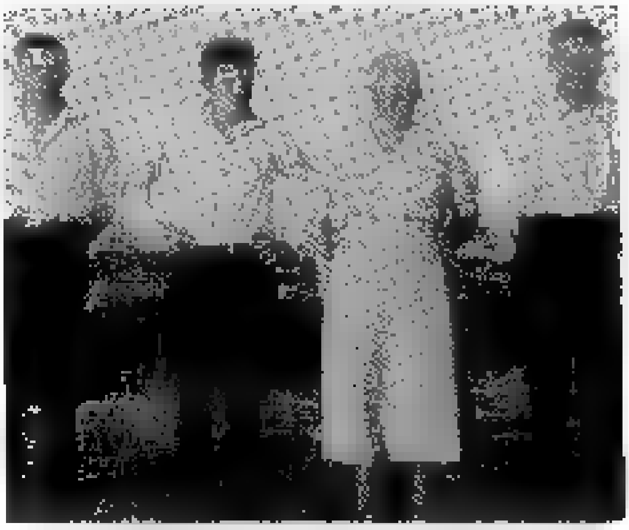
One year he did not have any seed grain or the money to buy any. In order to fulfill his homestead duties he had to seed something; so he sent an order to the T. Eaton Company for fifty cents worth of turnip seed. He seeded it by broadcasting with a hand-cranked seeder. That fall, people for many miles around came to buy his turnips.

John Reasor plowing with oxen

In October, 1912, he rented Charles Strandberg's homestead quarter and moved onto it. His own homestead turned out to be a poor piece of ground, [illegible] it was in an area three to four miles wide and about twelve miles long which became known as the "Poverty Flats" during the homestead days. This land is very rocky and has a thin layer of top soil; at present it is divided into grazing leases.

In 1918 Charles Strandberg, with his family, returned from the United States, so John moved back to his own place. He did not farm much after that. He had an auction sale in the spring of 1920, held at Strandberg's farm. He sold his land to the Soldiers Settlement Board and moved to New York where he married [illegible] childhood friend.

He died in 1924, aged eighty years.



The Charles Strandberg family. Harold, Eric, Mrs. Strandberg, Mr. Strandberg.

CHARLES M. STRANDBERG, By Harold Strandberg — Charles M. Strandberg was born in Sweden in 1876, the oldest of eleven children. His parents moved to the U.S.A. in 1880 where they homesteaded about twenty miles north of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1906 he married Beda Ekelund who had come from Sweden in 1903. A son Stanley was born in 1907.

In May 1908 he came to Alberta and filed on a homestead about sixty miles southeast of Stettler, southwest 4-34-13. His brother-in-law, Theodor Ekelund, who came with him filed on the northeast quarter of the same section. In October that year, Mr. Strandberg received the sad news that his wife had passed away, along with her infant daughter. He went back to the U.S.A. the same month.

Due to the circumstances, his entry for this quarter section was protected for one year, although he had not been able to stay the required six months. He returned to the homestead in April 1909 and continued with the work that was required in order to "prove up". He went back to the States in November and returned in April of each year until the fall of 1912 when he rented the one hundred and sixty acres to John Reasor.

During the time he was on the homestead he did a lot of breaking using three oxen and a walking plow. He broke about eighty acres of his own and also broke land for several of his neighbors who would be away working for wages during the summer months and living on their homesteads during the winter.

In the fall of 1909 a prairie fire burned through this area; he lost his shack and everything in it.

He married Anna Anderson in 1913. She was born in Sweden in 1880, one of a family of ten children. She had come to Minneapolis in 1899 and resided with an older brother who had arrived two years earlier. She soon obtained employment at the Oak Ridge Farm, a country estate owned by the former president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison. She was still employed there as a cook when she married.

A son, Harold, was born in 1916. In July of that year the family moved to the homestead in Alberta, arriving by train at Castor and travelling the rest of the way in Theodor Ekelund's new model T car. A new house was built the same year. In 1921, a son, Eric, was born. Stanley, Harold and Eric attended Buchan school.

The next years were up and down financially. Several times the crops were hailed out, sometimes they were frozen; it seemed that whenever there was a good yield the price was low. During the thirties there were several dry years in succession and some of the neighbors left for what they hoped would be a better farming area.

In 1942 Stanley married Inga Siverson. They live about two miles southeast of the homestead.

During the forties and fifties, cattle prices improved and there were fewer crop failures, so in 1952 a new house was built with running water, electricity and eventually natural gas. Mr. Strandberg fell and broke his hip in 1951 and was never able to walk after the accident. He passed away in 1959. Mrs. Strandberg passed away in 1953 after a short illness.

In 1967 Eric married. He lives in Hanna but owns land and cattle, and shares his farming operations with Harold, who still lives on the old homestead.

MR. and MRS. THEODOR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Gustave Theodor Nilson Ekelund was born in Skattebol, Varmland, Sverige (Sweden), the year 1880. He worked there as a policeman before he sought adventure by sailing for the U.S.A. He worked in the logging industry and at other jobs. Theodor, his brother Oscar, and sister Beda met the Sven Johan Strandberg family in Wyoming, Minnesota. Beda became the bride of Carl M. (Charles) Strandberg in 1906. Glowing reports of next-to-free land inspired Theodor and Charles Strandberg to head for Canada. Theodor filed on his homestead NE 4-34-13 on June 2, 1908. He was taken to his homestead by Haldor Bratsberg, who assisted homesteaders to locate their places.

He built himself the necessary shelters of sod. At times strange noises were heard in his barn. Believing that he had built it on the grave of an Indian Chief, he buried [illegible] box of snuff in the floor as a peace offering. He believed that helped to stop the racket, for he never heard the noises again.

Edit Elisabeth Lindroth was born in Sweden, in 1891. She lived in Bergforsen, and Karlsborg before immigrating to the U.S.A. She worked there until she came to Castor, Alberta, where she was married to Theodor Ekelund on November 11, 1911. After the ceremony they drove to the homestead where together they built up a nice little farm which they named Newhem.

In the spring of 1920 they had a sale and went back to Sweden until 1927, when they returned to Newhem. Mr. Norman Williams and daughters Ruby and Nora operated Newhem after Ekelunds left for Sweden until Morris arrived [illegible] the late summer of 1920. Mr. Richard Morris operated the farm until 1923, while Mrs. Morris taught Buchan school. Two boys were born to the Morris's while on the Ekelund farm. From the fall of 1923 to the spring of 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sleeth lived there. Stanley Strandberg operated the farm from 1924 until Ekelund's return in 1927.

Theodor and Edit loved their animals. Once they sold four steers to Pete Kennedy. When he came to get them the animals had strayed away down the road so Theodor boarded the truck with Pete, drove to where the animals were, and instructed Pete to park the truck against a bank so the animals could walk into it. Carrying a pail of chop, Theodor then called, "Come Kalven, Come Kalven" and walked into the truck. To Pete's amazement, the steers followed him.

As Theodor had no brand, Pete had been rather dubious about loading cattle anywhere else than on the owner's property, in case people would think he was stealing cattle. Theodor proved without a doubt whose cattle they were.

In 1948 they had another sale. In 1949 they went back to Sweden where they both passed away.

BLOOMVICK — ANDERSON, By Margaret Nelson — P.W. Bloomvick homesteaded the SW 10-34-13 May 13, 1908. Mr. Bloomvick came from the United States. His wife remained there. One daughter and one son came out later. The daughter became Mrs. Gerritz of the Cowan School district. The homestead was worked and [illegible] improvements made that were necessary. In 1914 or 1915 son Anton Anderson took over the land. He also bought the homestead of Griff Wilson.

Anton's brother came out from the States and stayed with him for a year in the early twenties.

In summer Anton liked to play baseball. He was a member of the Sullivan

Lake Ball team and was their pitcher. One story told of his records, that he pitched three games in one day and won them all.

About 1924 Anton decided to return to the States. Mr. Halverson rented the land for a few years, then it was sold to Mr. Storch in 1928.

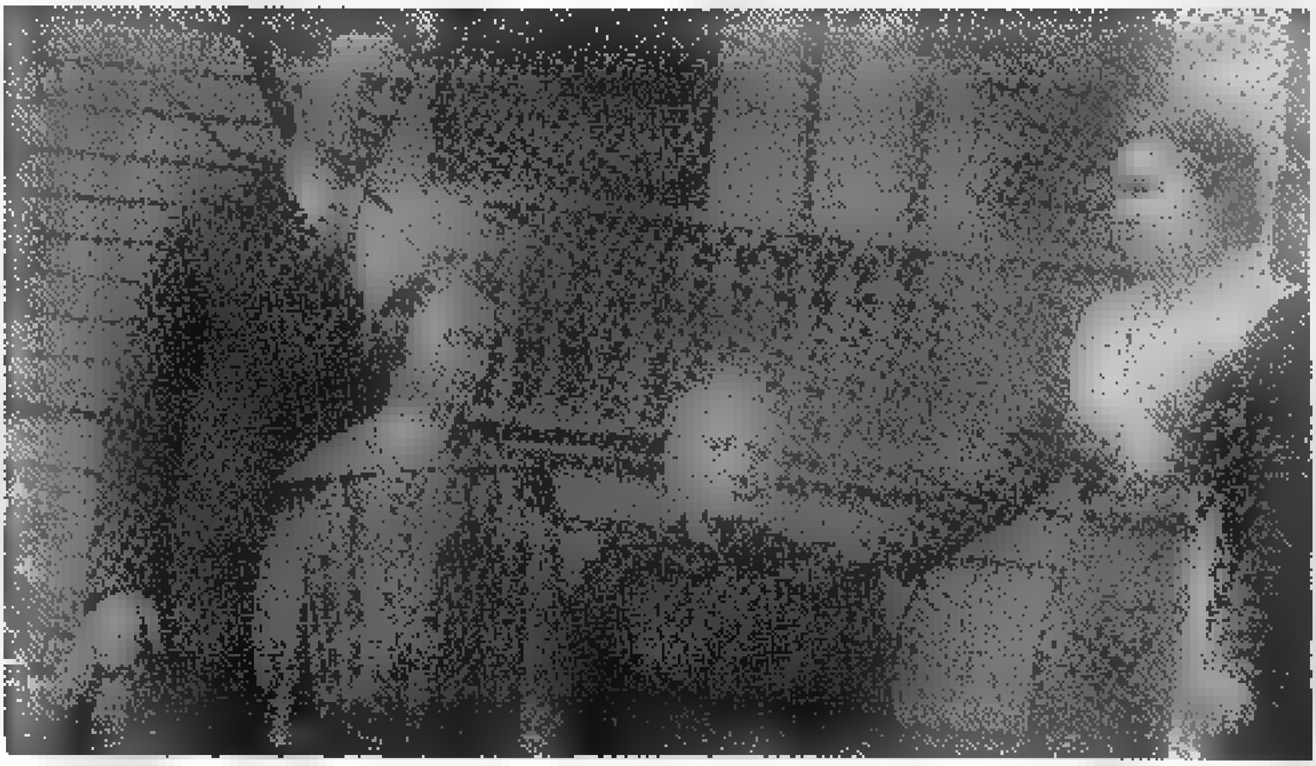
In the summer of 1976 Anton Anderson, over eighty, was still living in the State of Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Griff Wilson

GRIFFON WILSON, By Margaret Nelson — Griff Wilson homesteaded the NW 10-34-13 in August 1909. His brother Howard lived on SE 14-34-13. Griff broke his land and built a shack. Griff and Howard Wilson were brothers of Mrs. Martin Fox. In 1914 or 1915 Wilsons sold to Anton Anderson.

WALLACE BATTEN, By Margaret Nelson — Wallace Batten filed on the NE 24-34-13 in December 1910. He spent his time, off the homestead, working in Coronation and at harvest time on the Fred Sear threshing crew. He left the area only four or five years after arriving.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF THE WELCH'S, By Margaret Welch Foss — My folks, my Dad's brother Frank Welch and I came to Canada from North Dakota in 1911. We crossed the border at Portal, came to Castor by train and the rest by horse and wagon. We had a wagon filled with all the items needed for the days ahead; such as a grind stone, post hole digger, picks and all types of shovels, dishes, clothing, pots and pans, wash tubs, a boiler and even a churn. It seemed to me, if my memory is correct that we had two wagons but considering the fact that I was only two and a half years old, I am not too clear on some things.



1918 — Tom Welch, Margaret Welch, Mrs. Welch Sr. and Mrs. Tom Welch.

There are things though that I do remember very clearly. The nearest town to our homestead was Castor and from there they took the horses, and the cattle were brought along by foot. My Mother and I took the Stage to the stopping house

which was run by Mr. and Mrs. Herm Simon. They served meals and provided rooms for overnight guests. It was situated on what was known as "The Castor Trail" and believe me, in those days, it was truly a trail; strictly wagon ruts.

I'll never forget our arrival at Simon's stopping house that day, as I refused to get out of the stagecoach for a very good reason. It had rained the night before and there was a little puddle of water on the seat where I had to sit, consequently, I was soaked and knew that the wet would show on my white dress and I was sure everyone would think that I had suffered an accident. Finally my mother and Mrs. Simon convinced me that no one would think that, and Mrs. Simon promptly went into the house and told the stagecoach driver that he better be more careful in the future and dry off the seats before letting people get aboard. Then and only then did I feel vindicated and ready to face the world.

Garden Plain consisted of a small store which had groceries, dry goods, hardware (even the pickle barrel), and the Post Office was located in the store as well. It was owned by Tom Kane who had to bring all the supplies by horse and wagon from Castor or Stettler to supply the people who settled in the area. Mr. Kane also owned and operated a coal mine about a quarter of a mile from the store.

He had a young lady help in the store and Post Office, who was invaluable to everyone as she was quick and more than willing to serve people and a very good worker; her name was Marie Bartsch. In later years she married Don Cameron. I always appreciated her kindness to me a few years later when I was able to ride my horse over to get the mail and groceries. My folks felt I was too young to use a saddle, in case I would get hung up in the stirrups, so I had to ride bareback. The only trouble with that was that, even though I could get off the horse I just never mastered the knack of getting on again. Consequently I had to be helped upon the horse, a Pinto Indian pony that was blind in one eye, and when I went to the store Marie would pack the groceries and the mail in two saddle bags, tied together and thrown on the pony's shoulders, then she would give me a boost up and away I'd gallop the three and a half miles to my home. No matter how many people were in the store or how busy she was, Marie was never impatient and would always tell others they would have to wait their turn, because I came first. I'm sure she never realized how important she made me feel, giving me such priority. She made sure the bags were evenly balanced so everything arrived home safe and sound. I guess a child never forgets a kindness like that and I felt so grown up and responsible to be able to go for the groceries and an inner glow of pleasure in many such kindnesses people bestowed on me. I was truly a very fortunate youngster in that regard.

My Dad (Tom Welch) had come to Canada beforehand, filed on the homestead and had built a one room shack, so we had a place to go for a roof over our heads. My Dad had worked on the Railway during the time they were completing the line beyond Castor. My Mother and Dad bought the first lots to be sold in Coronation, and built a small house on the lot. We packed up and moved to Coronation, stayed for six months and then reversed the procedure and went back to the homestead for another six months. Coronation was one of the real frontier towns, which really mushroomed in a short time.

I remember the school being built, when it was finished I thought that was all anyone needed to have to be able to attend. I was so anxious to go to school that one day I took it into my head that This Was The Day For Me, so I walked right into school classes in session. The teacher was very nice, asked me my name and what I wanted, so I told her I was starting school that day and she showed me to a desk, gave me a pencil and paper and told me to pay attention like all of the others were doing; after all this was the fifth grade (I didn't believe [illegible] starting at the bottom). I remained until recess and then the teacher told me I had to go home because she was afraid my Mother would be looking for me. She also said that I could come back any time as long as I was quiet as I had been that day. I was never more grown up when I was twenty-one than I was walking home from school that day! My Mother was embarrassed when I told her I was going to school, so much so that she bought a nice box of chocolates and we both went to school and gave them to the teacher with [illegible] most heartfelt "Thank You" for her understanding and kindness to a three and a half year old school girl.

One time when we were going to Coronation there was still a great deal [illegible] snow on the ground and some very high drifts, to keep warm we had lap robes and [illegible] couple of foot warmers, these were containers covered with asbestos and velvet and inside was a couple of bricks of coke, which when lit burned a long time and gave an unbelievable amount of warmth.

On the way Dad bought a cow from someone and the poor thing was so thin she just looked like hide and bones. They loaded her in the sleigh with plenty of nice hay which she started to eat with great relish. I was holding my little tin box of doll dishes. All of [illegible] sudden we hit a high snowbank and the sleigh tipped upside down. We were thrown clear and were not injured but my Mother and Dad were afraid the cow had been killed because she was on her back and the sleigh was upside down on top of her. When they got the sleigh turned right side up again they looked at her with concern and were astounded to see that she was still eating hay and was unconcerned. In the meantime, I was standing on a snowbank crying and my folks came over to see if I had been hurt, even though they had checked me over first of all. When they came over to see why I was crying, I told them I was afraid my doll dishes were broken; the day was saved when upon opening my little tin box they found everything in perfect order.

This brings to mind [illegible] time my husband and I needed to have our car pulled out of the snow. We had our young baby with us and try as we would we could not budge the car. We were right in front of a neighbor's farmhouse and my husband had to ask their help with [illegible] team. The horses gave one good pull and in a matter of minutes we were in the clear once more. Where upon the neighbor said "That will be six dollars." Now this was in the depression when six dollars was a lot of money, comparable to about $50.00 nowadays.

I've often wondered how much good that money did them. One thing for sure that's one neighbor I've never forgotten, even though the memory isn't kindly. That person had been on the receiving end of more than one favor from our family. No doubt the memory of this incident remains so clear in mind because such events were few and far between.

Both of my parents loved Canada very much and were always very loyal to their adopted country. Many people in this day and age of television, radio and planes would think our lives as dull. I doubt very much that any child in today's living has as full and enjoyable life as I did. I was most fortunate in having parents who showed their love for me and each other. We shared everything and I went everywhere with them. In those days this was not unusual because there was no such thing as [illegible] babysitter. [illegible] was anything but a lonely life because as time went on and more people came to our country there were card parties at people's homes and dances at the school houses. Coffee was made in [illegible] wash boiler with coffee tied in a cheese cloth bag added and was a beautiful brew. After lunch the chairs and card tables were cleared away and everyone danced to four or five a.m. The youngest children were put to bed, usually on the stage. The parents brought blankets and pillows and made very comfortable beds. The kids went to bed undisturbed by the music or laughter or talking. All of this made for a wonderful relationship between adults and the children. The children had great respect for the adults. The togetherness enjoyed by all in those days is something that could well be employed by the families and friends in our present society to the advantage of all. The families not only enjoyed recreation together but worked together. My job after I was seven or eight years old was to round the cattle up off the open range every night and corral them. Also I was supposed to gather all the eggs. There were sometimes when I slipped up on the latter, not through neglect on my part but because I had a further distance to go for the cows which were chased by the heel flies.

Our home was always a gathering place for young and old for parties and fun. I never had to hesitate if I wanted to bring my friends after a dance for a lunch and more fun and music. Mother wasn't long making a plate of sandwiches and producing another plate of cookies, a pot of coffee plus a pitcher of milk for us to feast on. Sometimes Mother and Dad would be in bed when we arrived home, however, my friends would troop into their bedroom to relate the evening events with them. The folks always wound up being served coffee in bed. This program continued even while I was away in the U.S.A. My folks were not very rich in worldly goods, but were rich in the most worthwhile things in life. They both remained young at heart and in their interests.

One thing that stands out in my memory is the storms in winter and summer. The lightning storms we had were more than a little vicious. To this day I'm terrified of thunder storms, and I blame it on the fact that I stood at our kitchen door and watched lightning strike six fence posts one after another, and strike and stun cattle in the corral. I also saw lightning strike the house next to ours in Coronation. The only thing that saved it from fire was that the people who lived there had the baby's bath water in the tub and used it to put out the flames. The crash was so loud we thought it was our house that the lightning had hit.

The winter storms in their own way were equally frightening. With all that open prairie and high winds those blizzards were something to behold. The visibility was nil and it wasn't too unusual to hear of someone getting lost between the house and the barn. They were terrible storms for the livestock, especially to those caught on the open prairie; they would drift with the storm and be found miles away, many times unfortunately dead. There were others over the years who weren't found until after the storm, frozen to death or still alive with serious frost bites to their bodies. It's surprising there weren't more such cases considering the ruggedness of our dear frontier land in those days.

The two years I spent in the Convent in Castor, when I was nine to eleven years old was a far cry from my home life, but all in all was a good experience for me. Looking back I feel for the poor Sisters dealing with me; they were determined to make a lady of me and I'm afraid they had to fight an uphill battle in that respect. I had been accustomed to dealing with adults on more or less equal footing, but of course with proper respect. However, the Sisters, who were French and French Canadian had another view point entirely concerning the proper attitude of a child towards adults. I finally saw the light and found I really could defer with proper respect and decorum toward my superiors. Somehow answering my parents "Yes Ma'am" was short lived when I went home to stay! Thank goodness we were so close in our relationship, for such stiff formality was strictly for the convent. I really didn't mind the two years spent in Castor, but it was good to get home again and back to a normal life once again.

One thing I had in my early childhood that the children of today missed out on, was waking up to the beautiful song of the meadowlarks, there's no music in

this world so sweet and wonderful. Another thing I enjoyed, was when my Dad was breaking the new land and I would follow bare foot in the deep, moist wonderful smelling furrows of the freshly turned soil. Every so often we would find a duck's nest, which Daddy would very carefully pick up and transfer to the sod, being so careful not to disturb the nest or the eggs. The duck would stay at a distance but after we did a couple more rounds we would see her settle on her eggs once more staying there to hatch her brood.

One time Daddy took a few eggs from a duck nest and put them under one of our setting hens. I'll never forget the consternation of that poor hen when the little ducklings hatched and promptly took off in a straight line for the slough half a mile away, the mother hen in hot pursuit, cackling at them all the way. The last straw for her was when they reached the water and took off swimming happily. The hen ran up and down scolding the ducklings every step of the way and they paid no attention to her. We finally picked up the poor distraught hen, carried her home and put her on some chicken eggs that hatched in three weeks and everyone lived happily ever after. The ducklings had taken up with their own kind and fared much better I'm sure, than had they been raised as chickens.

The heel flies seemed to be worse in the early days, probably because of all the growth of prairie wool, that wonderful grass we had for hay. Haying was done in August, the hottest month of the year. The fresh cut hay had such a wonderful aroma but the pleasure was diminished by the pesky hay needles that would penetrate any type of clothing and work their way into the skin. They burned like old fury, when removed from the flesh. Haying was much hard work for all concerned but when there were rows of stacks ready for the cattle and horses in the winter time it seemed so very worthwhile. Now they raise tame grass but I'm sure it doesn't compare with the old fashioned wild hay of by gone days.

Our animals had another benefit, something very necessary for animals, all the water they wanted. My Dad dug the well by hand and only had to dig down twelve feet, where he hit sandstone and water came rushing in clear, ice cold beautiful drinking water. The water was ice cold even on the hottest days and my Dad built a shelf about half way down the well and we put milk, cream and butter in containers and lowered them with a rope. In the days of no refrigeration this was a distinct benefit because everything came out cold. During the terrible drought we suffered in later years so many wells went dry and the poor cattle and horses, as well as people could have perished if it hadn't been for our wonderful well. People would drive a whole herd of cattle and horses to our place for a drink. It was pathetic to see them bury their faces in the water, drink their fill; walk away for awhile only to return and drink some more. The people would bring large barrels on a stoneboat and fill them up to take home for household use.

That drought period is something I'm sure everyone who lived through it would love to forget — the parched, burned up fields and grassland. The farmers would optimistically seed grain, praying for rain while working in violent dust storms. The drifting of the soil was tragic, it blew so hard that the fence posts along the field were almost buried in top soil. The animals were skin and bones from lack of food, the cows had their poor little calves and didn't have enough milk to give them a good start. Then we were plagued with grasshoppers. A field could be green and within minutes after the grasshoppers landed it looked like a ploughed field; stripped of every vestige of growth.

How the people could stand it year after year and still try again is hard to comprehend. Of course every year there were those who took off for greener pastures. Like so many of the pioneers, Tom and Agnes Welch held on through seven years of drought and grasshoppers. Then my Dad said, he could take lack of money for their own needs, cut back on so many things but when his prized horses and cattle were starving to death, hardly able to walk; their hides stretched over their bones; that was more than he could take and they were leaving. They packed up all they owned in a Bennett Buggy and hayrack and headed north to the Vermilion district, where grass was plentiful for the animals.

When the cattle showed results of good food and got fat enough to sell, the folks packed it in, sold everything and came to Calgary where they remained the rest of their lives. When the war broke out my Dad was accepted in the army, was stationed at Currie Barracks as a Batman. Dad was well liked by the officers he served. After the war they put him in charge of the horses of Strathconas and once more was in his true element and loved every minute he remained there before retirement. He died in December 1955, my mother in August 1967.

My dad was a hard working man and he appreciated all my mother had done for him, not only at threshing time but all year. He also had the same feeling for me. In spite of the fact my mother was raised in the city, she soon learned to drive an outfit of horses in the field and she loved it, not only did it save hiring outside help but the two of them enjoyed working together. The only time I remember them having an argument was when putting up new stove pipes (no one has lived until they have tackled this job) and when they papered the house. This was before the convenience of the selfstick paper of this day. The paste used was a mixture of flour and water mixed in a large dish pan. Once when I was about five years old, I inadvertently backed into and sat down in a full pan of this mixture. Naturally I cried out because I could not extricate myself from my predicament. When my folks turned around and saw me they both burst out laughing and came to help me out of that pan of paste, which was clinging in thick gobs all over my overalls and right through to my skin. Mama had to take time to remove all my clothing, including my long underwear children had to wear in those days, wash me and my hair and dress me up again in clean clothing. They finally got back to their job of papering; the one bright spot of this episode was the fact that it was the only time I can remember that they didn't have an argument while papering; every time they were on the verge, they'd look at me and roar with laughter. I guess it was worth the humiliation I suffered.

The Christmas Concerts held at various schools were the highlights of the year to every child taking part, each one working for weeks on learning their piece. I'll always remember one little one in the first grade who had a piece to recite and part of it was to do with "Santa came down the chimney like as not." The little guy had a strong Swedish accent and the above came out some what like this, "Santa Claus came down the shimney like a snot." He, of course, didn't realize the poem didn't come out as exactly as written and when he finished with a flourishing bow, he was delighted to receive a resounding laugh and applause from the audience. Another happy memory of Christmas I have is of Mr. Storch giving me a lovely Christmas tree every year. He went somewhere up north and brought back a load of trees to sell to neighbors and to the schools in the district. He always picked one for me because he knew how much pleasure I got out of trimming a tree to the best of my ability. Imagine my surprise the first Christmas after I was married to find Mr. Storch at the door with the nicest tree he had ever given me. He continued the practice as long as we lived in Hanna.

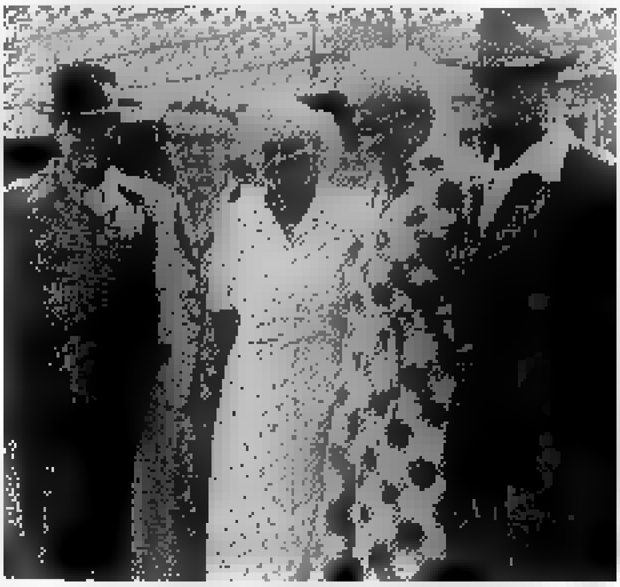
Harry Landis, a man who worked for us during harvest time was from Pennsylvania. His folks had a radio which he spoke of often. He was determined we should buy a radio because he realized how our lives were inter-woven with music. He insisted on digging a deep hole and installing an enormous pole for an aerial. In November 1925, my folks purchased a King Radio, a large box with dials

on it and a horn which plugged into the front of the machine. It was run with batteries, a large A battery as is used in cars and two sets of B batteries. No one can realize the enjoyment we got from that radio and reception was unbelievable, especially during the winter months. We could get stations over our radio from the U.S.A. The neighbors all dropped by to hear the new contraption and within a year or so most people had purchased one. No one who ever listened to C.F.C.N. can forget the resonant tones of W. W. Grant as he read baseball results and gave a play by play account of the games.

Speaking of entertainment I swear that people enjoyed the telephone more than anything else. It was a party line and the pastime was listening in on other's conversations. One person on our line had a squeaky receiver and it was quite the usual thing when talking to someone to hear that squeaky receiver being lifted. In this case no one really minded because the party involved meant no harm, it was only curiosity that made them listen. However, such wasn't the case with some who made it a point not to miss any conversation and repeat them to all and sundry, without regard for the truth. Another man really got my Mother and Mrs. Storch's natures in high gear; he not only listened, but would interrupt with what he considered smart remarks. I'll never forget one day they gave him a jolt; he felt he was hiding behind the anonymity of the party line but they called him by name. They were bothered much less by him from then on. Whenever they heard a receiver being lifted they would greet him by name and a cheery hello. They were guessing he was on the line. He must have been on because immediately someone would hang up.

No matter what happens in our lifetime, the sweetest memories always come to the top of our minds. In my case those memories are of my very happy childhood. The time between then and now has all gone by much too fast. I was more fortunate than most, having happy well adjusted parents with wonderful sense of humor.

I married a good man, Stan (Bud) Foss and we have been blessed with two lovely, decent daughters, Loy Demers and Gail Ruff. All in all my life has been very good in those things that really count. Thank you for giving me the chance to share some of these memories with you, and I hope all who read this will enjoy this trip to the past as much as I have.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Waldron, May Rush, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Welch.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL [illegible] WALDRON, By Margaret Welch Foss — My mother's sister, Belle Waldron, and her husband filed on the quarter section which cornered our place. For six months each year for three years my uncle Mike did barbering in Coronation, as well as looking after a feed mill there. They lived in the living quarters above the mill.

They didn't stay in Canada too long and left to return to the United States with some unhappy memories. When they came to Canada their daughter, Dorothy, was just a tiny baby and a very dear little thing. While living in Coronation she took ill and in a matter of a few days she passed away and was buried in Castor cemetery. A few months later, Roy, a son was born.

My aunt and uncle stayed long enough to prove up on their claim and moved to Spokane, Washington where he again went into the barbering business.

1926 — D.P. Tracy Sr. and his granddaughter Margaret Welch.

DANIEL TRACY SR., By Margaret Welch Foss — My grandfather, Daniel Tracy, filed on the southeast of 10-34-13 in 1908. He also filed on a homestead for my uncle Dan Tracy and built a house for himself. Grandpa stayed on the homestead year round and in three years proved up and got the deed to his land.

After we came to the area I can remember going to Grandpa's and having him tell us of some of his experiences in the Civil War. Somehow the vision of Grandpa is always with a book which he would put down on his lap to talk to me. Before our conversation was finished he would tell me what he was reading and outline [illegible] he felt I could understand of the story.

My Grandad remained for some time and my folks always looked out for him.

When my aunt Jen Cooney from North Dakota visited us, Grandpa returned with them and went over to South Dakota to the Civil War Veteran's Home and Hospital where many of his Civil War cronies were living. He stayed there some months, then took up residence in Spokane where he spent his remaining years.

Dan Tracy Jr.

DANIEL [illegible] TRACY JR., By Margaret Welch Foss — My uncle Danny homesteaded in 1908 on a quarter adjoining the land of his father. He was a barber and had a barbershop in Stettler where he worked for six months each year for three years. After proving up his homestead he rented his land and returned to the United States, spent quite [illegible] few years in Omack, Washington where he had his barbershop, and eventually spent several years in southern California. When he retired from barbering he returned to Canada and lived with my family as long as they remained in the Garden Plain district. After they left there he fixed up a place, with my Dad's help, on his own property and remained there for several years until he took ill and passed away in the Hanna Hospital in 1945.

THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY, By Howard Armstrong — We came from Bethany, Illinois, to the Garden Plain district in the spring of 1922. My grandfather, Sylvester Armstrong, came in 1921 and built the house and the barn. There were five of us in our family, my father Ray, mother Cree, brother Bill, sister Helen and

myself, Howard. We were all born in Bethany, Illinois. Bill in 1911, Helen in 1913 and I was born in 1915.

We came to Canada by railway, crossing the border at Emerson, Manitoba. We brought most of our furniture with us. We settled on the north half of section 9-34-13 with buildings a quarter mile west of Buchan school where John Marlowe now lives. In 1926 we moved to the south half of section nine, one half mile south of the school.

Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Ekelund, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ekelund, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Armstrong

Our first store and post office was four miles west of us at the coal mines at Garden Plain. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Chib Wickson. In later years, when the railway came through and elevators were built, it was moved to the farm of R.W. Moore and owned by J.W. Taylor. Our mail was then sent out of Scapa.

Living conditions were not too bad in the twenties but in the Dirty Thirties it was terrible, no crops, no rain, just grasshoppers and caterpillars to eat what little bit did want to grow. It was always said the gophers had to carry their lunch when passing through the district in those years. Cattle prices were next to nothing. We sold cattle for one cent a pound as there was no feed for them.

Even through the hard times everyone looked forward to the dances and card parties held at the Garden Plain hall and Buchan School. Christmas was good with all the Christmas concerts at the various schools. Bill, Helen and myself all attended Buchan school.

My dad was interested in all sports and was a rodeo fan. In the twenties he was catcher for the Garden Plain baseball team.

We left there in the thirties, but mother and dad stayed on for a few years until they retired to Hanna and later to Calgary. Bill married Violet Bertschy of Majorville and they are living in Medicine Hat. They have one daughter, Faye, now living in Houston, Texas. Helen married Ed Lindy of Vancouver where she still lives. They had one son, Richard. I married Gladys Robinson of Sunnynook and we live in Calgary. We have two sons and one daughter all living in Calgary. We have five grandchildren. Mother passed away in Calgary in 1962 and father passed away in 1970, also in Calgary. Ed Lindy passed away in 1963 in Vancouver.

MR. and MRS. LORNE WRIGHT, By Betty Wright — I am the eldest daughter of the John Marlowe family. I attended Buchan School for the first seven years, then attended Netherby for two years. From there I stayed in the dormitory in Hanna and attended Hanna High School.

In 1951 I married Lorne Wright also from the Garden Plain district. We lived in Hanna for fourteen years where our only child was born; a daughter, Lorna Louise. She attended grades one to three at Hanna Elementary school, then we moved to Stettler in 1965. Lorna finished her schooling in Stettler and then went on to College. We still reside in Stettler.

The John Marlowe Family. Back: Marie, Shirley, Bette. Front: Bill, Mr. Marlowe, Mrs. Marlowe and Jack.

THE JOHN MARLOWE STORY, as told to Shirley Carlson — I made my appearance into the world on September 17, 1899 to Elmer and Ada Belle Marlowe in Clark County, Illinois.

I'd yearned to see the country of Canada so when I got the chance to work in Alberta, I accepted. Sylvester Armstrong and I had known each other for years, having lived in the same town of Bethany, Illinois. He offered me fifty dollars per month plus board and paid my fare to Alberta.

After a four day train trip, I arrived [illegible] Hanna, April 15, 1928, with only a suitcase of clothes. When Sylvester Armstrong and I arrived at my present home we were met with snowdrifts in the front yard. Snow didn't appeal to me as I'd worked on the land two weeks before leaving Illinois.

Before starting to work we had to buy feed for the horses. What little machinery we had was in poor condition. Mr. Armstrong had come to Canada in 1923 when he had bought land from the Dominion Development Company. His son, Ray, farmed the land until we came up in 1928.

Our crop that first year was partially hailed and the grain was frozen. Mr. Armstrong returned to Illinois for the winter and asked me to stay to take care of his farm. I agreed on one condition; [illegible] my girlfriend would come up, I'd stay. Eva Lillis Sharp arrived (paying her own fare) on August 24, 1928, and we were married that day in Hanna by the United Church minister, Reverend Coone. One of our witnesses was Carol Mathe. The neighbors chivareed us at home and had a dance at Buchan School. Charles Halverson played the violin. In this way we became acquainted with our fine neighbors.

Our first winter was spent quietly as there was very little to do. We had one cow to milk and our eight horses foraged on their own. The saddle horse also served as a work horse.

Spring finally arrived and Mr. Armstrong returned driving a Dodge car. I was pleased to be back on the land but the type of farming was entirely different from what I was used to. I wasn't too pleased to think that the only source of income was from grain so I decided, then, that if I ever farmed on my own I'd raise cattle.

After four years of farming for Mr. Armstrong, I bought out the farm. The first quarter purchased was where Buchan school is, then the home quarter, northeast 9-34-13.

The crops were fair but prices were low, about fifty cents per bushel, but in 1932 wheat was as low as nineteen cents per bushel.

Every time I had the chance, and the money, I bought a cow. A good neighbor often helped by loaning me the necessary cash. I got into the cattle feeding business and for forty-seven years I've fed cattle. My first bull was a registered Shorthorn bought in the thirties. Frank Kennedy bought my first fat steer for fifty

dollars. I changed to Herefords and have always tried to improve the herd by buying as good a bull as I could afford.

During the thirties prices received for produce were low, cattle for sixteen dollars per head, a five gallon can of cream for a dollar and a half, and eggs for three cents a dozen.

I bought my first car from Mr. Armstrong, the Dodge he'd driven up in 1929. I made it into a truck, the back seat serving for years as a couch in the house.

A John Deere A-R, which I bought in 1944, was my first tractor. Since then there have been eight Case tractors on the farm.

The farm was added to in the spring of 1947 when I bought the Jo Keller farm and Jo moved to Oliver, British Columbia.

Coal was the source of fuel for the house. I stripped coal at Tiff Ironsides and at Bradshaws long enough to get sufficient coal for the winter. I also bought coal at Unsworths and at Finkbiners. Our house was a convenient stopping place for coal haulers who loaded at the Tiff Ironside strip mine and on their homeward trip to the east stayed overnight with us.

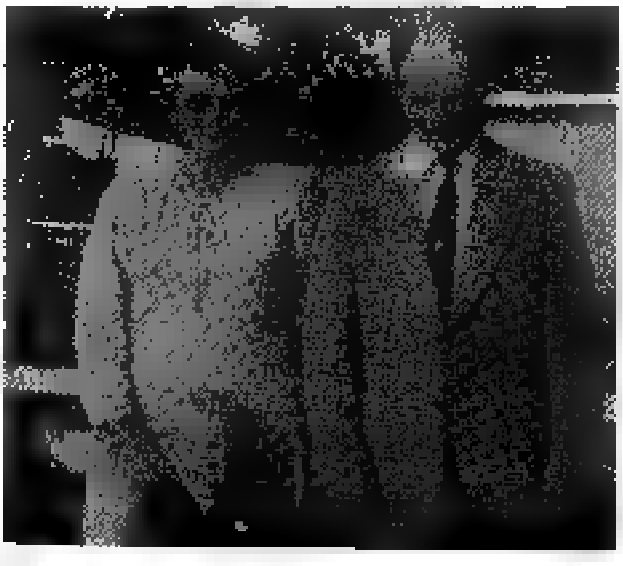
My wife and I were blessed with two sons and three daughters, William Wayne, June 2, 1929; Betty Louise (Wright), July 25, 1930; John Keith, August 30, 1932; Eva Marie (Vigen), June 7, 1934; and Shirley Jean (Carlson), March 27, 1938. I have twelve grandchildren and one great grandson. My wife passed away September 5, 1963.

My first four children went to Buchan school, then the "kids" had to drive a horse and homemade "cab" (wood frame covered with tin) five miles to Netherby. Marie and Shirley finished their junior high at Buchan and all but one went to Hanna for their high school.

Our neighbors were of the highest calibre, always kind, friendly and helpful when needed. Mr. Blayney often offered us fruit from his many trees. The Blayney's, Charles and Winnifred, and Frank Evans always spent Christmas Eve at our house. The Jo Keller family spent Christmas night with us and we went to their place for New Year's day.

The Christmas concert was an event the children looked forward to. On one occasion Bill noticed that Santa had a hat "just like Dad's".

Over the years there have been a few renovations to the house and farm, so I still live comfortably in the once tar-papered shack on the prairie.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marlowe and son David

JACK and JOAN MARLOWE STORY

By Joan Marlowe — Jack, (John K.) the son of John and Eva Marlowe was born in 1932. He has always lived on the farm his father purchased from Mr. Armstrong in 1932, in the Garden Plain district.

He received all his education at Buchan and Netherby Schools.

I, Joan, the daughter of Fred and Louise Cook was born in 1940. The first seven years of my life were spent on the farm, five of which were on the Leo Kirby farm 3 miles north of Hanna. In 1946 my parents moved to Hanna. There I received my education. In 1959, I graduated from the Sisters of Charity Commercial School in Hanna.

We were married in 1968. In 1973 our son David was born. We now reside on the original farm; where we farm and ranch with Jack's father, John Marlowe senior.

The Jo Keller Family — 1945. Mary, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Keller, Jolan and Anne.

THE JO KELLER STORY, By Jolan Keller Inkpen — My father, Ignacz (Jo) Keller was born in Tesa, Hungary on January 1, 1898. He was a steam engineer and blacksmith by trade. He married Rozalia Sarvojc and they had four daughters, Elizabeth, Jolan, Mary and Annie, of which I am the second eldest.

Shortly after the First World War the economy of the country was in a very poor state. Rumors had it that Canada was in need of farm laborers rather than skilled immigrants. Thus, father became a farm laborer and as such he set out for a new life in Canada.

After his arrival in Canada in May, 1928, he travelled to Calgary and from there was sent to a farm at Acme. Apart from not knowing too much about farming, his immediate problem was the language barrier. In addition to Hungarian, father was fluent in German. Neither language was of any use to him until he made the discovery that the farmer also could speak German. For lack of communication his immense misery of the first few days was now over, he no longer had to drink his coffee without sugar and was told how to command his team of horses in English. The team on a previous occasion had run away, dragging him along the ground.

After a couple of years on the farm, father decided to go to Vancouver to try his luck there and to be near an aunt, also an immigrant, who was working there.

By this time jobs were getting more and more scarce and father took whatever jobs were available. He worked on the docks, demolishing old buildings, was on a bridge building gang for the C.P.R. and for a while he even tried panning for gold.

Canada was well into the depression years by now. Without a steady job, his responsibilities for the maintenance of his family at home drove him once more back to farming. Jumping freight trains was his only means of transportation (a necessary mode of transport for many in those days). He returned to Alberta for fall harvesting.

At the end of the harvest season, he stayed on with a farmer, repairing farm machinery in exchange for food and lodging. At this time he met a James Williams, also a farm hand, and together they bought land in the Garden Plain area (southeast quarter 26-34-13) which they later farmed jointly.

As father became financially more secure, and could provide a permanent home for us, arrangements were made for us to follow him. Nine years had passed, then in May, 1937, after a long and tiring journey, we were reunited with a man we could hardly remember.

We came from a fairly large town, according to European standards, with many fruit bearing trees, beautiful flowers, clean and well kept houses and yards.

I remember well the impression my sister and I had upon arrival at my father's house. Our shock was immense and most unbearable. As we stood in the yard and observed this vast open prairie, where the naked eye could see for miles

in any direction, we looked at each other and broke down crying for the things we had left behind.

Our readjustment period started soon after. We attended a one room country school. Over the next few years our teachers worked patiently and diligently to teach us this language we found so hard to learn.

That first summer we learned to cope with many strange things. Our first "sand storm" made us flee indoors with terror, where we covered our heads with blankets, because we did not know what was coming next. The drought and myriads of grasshoppers were other things we had to learn about.

In the winter the inclement weather, heavy snowfall and snowdrifts were another new experience for us, coming from a fairly mild climate. Father had to string rope from house to well and barn before a big storm as a safety measure against being lost in the yard. In bad weather we had to stay in school until father came for us with a team and sleigh. The sleigh had a box built over it and a coal stove inside it to keep us warm on the way home. Otherwise we walked the two miles to and from school.

The two older ones of us girls always had specific chores to do after school, while our younger sister could take her time drowning gophers on the way home. The gophers were a plague to the farmers and we were forever poisoning them.

We children were adapting to the use of English relatively quickly, but the subtle nuances eluded us for a long time. When my older sister went to visit my aunt I was asked at a picnic by a neighbor — "Do you miss Elizabeth?" My reply was "No, I'm Miss Jolan." That error, one of many, was rather embarrassing to me for quite some time.

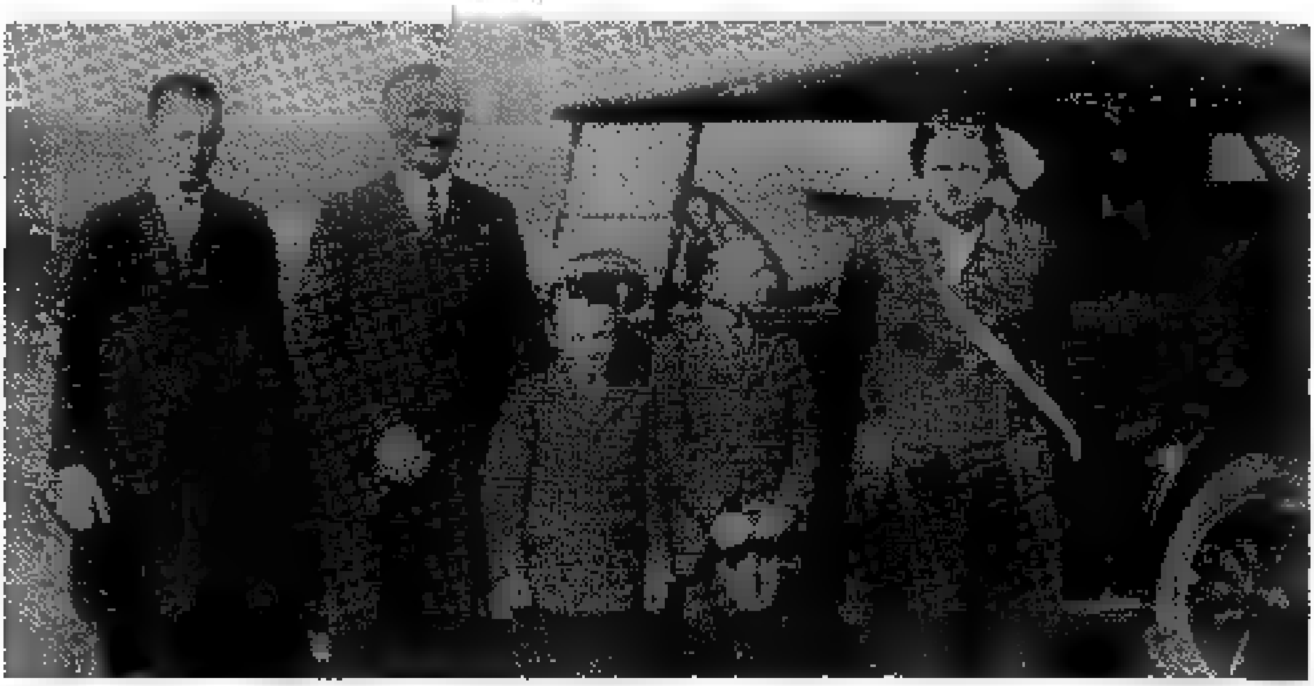
Both of my parents were very industrious people, idleness was never tolerated.

The role of my mother as wife and helpmate was a very hard one. She had already had the care and responsibility of our upbringing alone for nine years. In coming to Canada, she had to accept an unknown partner of father's. She had to adapt to a new life style on a remote farm, learn a new and strange language, and in addition, had a new Canadian born daughter, Annie.

With World War Two now raging in Europe, my father's partner joined the Armed Forces, so father managed the farm on his own for a few years until he became ill. Later, by mutual agreement, they sold out, thus dissolving their partnership. The family moved to Hanna, Alberta, for a few years and from there to Oliver, British Columbia, where my father bought and managed a fruit farm until his death in 1967.

THE W. R. STORCH STORY, as told to Rodine Storch by Mrs. Louise Storch — William Rudolph Storch was born at Congo, Arkansas, in 1890. His parents had originally come from Germany. Mrs. Storch was born in Germany in 1899 and had immigrated to Arkansas with her mother and brother at an early age. They were married February 16, 1916 at Little Rock, Arkansas, and made their first home at Congo.

W.R. Storch and his father, John, operated a general store and butchering business in Congo. In 1909, John and a younger son, George, came to Canada and filed on land in the Morrin district. They returned to Congo with reports of rich and virgin farmland in Alberta. In 1912 William visited brother George at Morrin. Later George filed on what is now the home place at Garden Plain, and realizing that he could not handle both farms, turned the latter over to William. In 1921, William sold his share in the store to his brother-in-law and decided to move to Canada.



William Jr., Mr. William R. Storch, Rudolph, Albert and Mrs. William R. Storch in front of their Chevrolet touring car.

By this time his family consisted of himself, his wife and three sons, William, Albert and Rudolph. They were accompanied on the journey by George and his bride, who had been honeymooning in Arkansas, and a nephew, Louis Schaufele. The family loaded all their possessions on a three-ton, Federal truck with solid rubber tires, and a rear-end chain drive; and a 1918 Studebaker eight-passenger touring car with side curtains. They were three days packing for the 3200 mile journey across country to Canada. They had purchased a large army tent, sixteen by sixteen, an oil stove, three adult beds, a child's crib and food for the journey. The party, including Tippy, the dog, left Congo on a bright warm morning, January 28, 1921. They travelled through the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming and Montana, and crossed the international boundary into Canada on April 2, 1921. They were forced to camp for a week at Warner, Alberta, on account of heavy snows and impassable roads. George and Mary took the train to their home at Morrin so that he could start spring work. On April 13 the travellers took to the wet, slippery roads again, arriving in Calgary two days later. Here they had to go through customs and register their guns and pistol. Once more on the road, they spent an hour pushing and shoving the two vehicles up the muddy Drumheller hill. They arrived at George Storch's at Morrin on April 17, after travelling 3200 miles in thirty-one days travelling time.

The expenses for the trip were: gas, $159.10; oil, $55.50; repairs, $34.85; groceries, $130.56; tolls, $3.00, for a total of $383.01.

After helping George finish seeding his crop, the rest of the family continued their journey to the farm on section 3–34–13. There were no roads, no fences, no buildings. From May till September they lived in the tent. The day after their arrival they awoke to a heavy snowstorm, so went to Hanna to buy lumber to put a board floor in the tent. Their next task was to dig a well; when they had dug to a depth of twenty-four feet they found an abundance of clear soft water. The digging was done by hand, and in the meantime water was hauled in barrels from a neighbor's well.

Lumber for the house was hauled from Castor, and a carpenter from Stettler, Mr. MacMillan, was hired to do the building. Meanwhile, nephew Louis had moved eight horses from Morrin to break one hundred acres on the home quarter.

Their first crop was good, oats and wheat on breaking. All was lost to severe hail storms in 1923 and 1928. Other devastating hail years were 1935 and 1959.

Dad and the boys constructed and used the 'poverty box' to harvest short crops in the dry thirties. They farmed through hail, drought, frost and grasshoppers, always looking for better times ahead.

The three boys walked to Buchan school. Rural entertainment consisted of card parties in various homes where "500" was played. Card parties and dances in nearby schools helped raise money for the annual Christmas concerts and treats. The family tell of driving miles with team and sleigh to plays and dances; of attending picnics and rodeos in the summer.

The family attended Lutheran church services, first at St. John's, Castor; later at St. Peter's at Scapa and Redeemer Lutheran in Hanna. Mother was the only lady in the district who drove [illegible] car and she travelled many miles picking up the local ladies to take them to their meetings.

Dad became very active in community affairs. He installed the first telephone in the area in 1928 and for many years relayed important messages. He was secretary of Buchan school district for nineteen years, and also acted as secretary of the Mutual Telephone and Trunk Line committee, and the Garden Plain Grazing Society. He was on the executive of the R.E.A. to bring electricity to rural areas, and Chairman of the Church Council of Redeemer Lutheran. He was a member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local, the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the Hanna Board of Trade.

He was elected to the Sullivan Lake school board in 1937 and was Chairman of the board until his retirement in 1952. During this time he served many years on the dormitory committee. The following are exerpts from a tribute paid to him at his retirement party by J.D. Aikenhead, Superintendent of Sullivan Lake school division.

"W.R. Storch came to Alberta . . . to make it the richer, especially for twenty-three years work in the school business. His shrewdness is as sharp as the twinkle in his eyes. No detail is too small for his attention, no problem too minute for his thought, no day too long for him. Parallel with his ability to work is his ability to get along with others, and to pour oil on troubled waters . . . as long as there are men like Bill to act as a tower of strength, no problem will ever be too difficult."

In 1931 Dad won the Hanna Kiwanis Club silver cup award for Marquis wheat in the standing field crops competition.

The highlight [illegible] his farming career was receiving the Master Farm Family award in October, 1954, from the provincial Department of Agriculture. The Storchs were the first family in this area to receive the award, which gave them a cash prize of $1000, an engraved wall plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance. Judging was based on good farming, right living and clear thinking.

Dad continued farming actively until his death [illegible] the Hanna Hospital on November 1, 1960. His sons remained in the area.

William started farming on his own land nearby in 1938. In November of that year he married Florence McRae of Coronation. They have three sons, Donald, Edward and Leslie.

Albert married Rodina McRae of Coronation in November 1941. They have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman.

Rudolph farmed with his dad and brother Albert until he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the fall of 1942. He served in Sicily, Italy and North-west Europe, and was mentioned in dispatches. He returned to the family farm in 1945, where his main interest was in Hereford cattle. He died in the Col. Belcher hospital on August 8, 1970.

Mrs. Storch still lives in her own home on the farm and has supplied the details for this story.

MY STORY, By William L. Storch — I left Arkansas with my parents and two brothers to come to Alberta in the spring of 1921. We came in a touring car and a solid rubber tired Federal truck loaded with things for the farm. We got stuck with the truck lots of times on the way up. One time mother and Aunt Mary did our washing, then they threw the wash water under the truck and when we went to move the truck we were stuck. We had a big rope block and tackle which we used to pull the truck out.

When we first arrived at the farm we put up a high square tent. Next morning a neighbor living three-quarters of a mile east of us saw the tent, so he ran back into the house and said to his wife, "Maw, the Indians have moved in on us."

My dad was in the yard one day and he heard the neighbor and his wife to the west of us shooting, so he went over to see what the trouble was. The man and wife were trying to drive a skunk away from their yard. Dad picked up a few rocks and started throwing them at the skunk. The wife, who had quite an accent, said to her husband, "Don't get too close to the skunk or he may vet on you."

One of those dry windy years another neighbor said "You know, I put seventeen posts up before dinner and when I came back all but five had blown down."

In those days, we as kids often got measles or chicken pox. One neighbor said one day "You know, I've had the measles fourteen times, sick enough to die every time."

After I quit school, I helped my dad farm till 1932. I bought the east half section of 15-34-13, where I still live today, for which I paid eight dollars an acre. That was a big price for land at that time. Price of wheat was twenty-five cents a bushel for number one wheat. Oats were six or seven cents a bushel; it didn't pay to have them threshed. I farmed this land from dad's place till 1938. In the fall of 1938 I married Florence McRae, who taught the school I had attended some years before. Her home was at Federal. I used to take the saddle horse and ride to see her. I had some long rides and cold ones too, but I put up with it.

Late in the fall of 1938 we moved a house on to the farm. We remodelled it in 1939. Since that time we have gone from coal to propane to natural gas; coal oil lamp to thirty-two volt power to one hundred and ten power.

I did my farming with eight head of horses, cut crop with four horses on a binder and did the stooking. I hauled bundles on my dad's threshing rig in harvest time. I hauled grain to the elevator in winter with two horses on a sleigh and wagon box.

When I was farming with horses I used to take one of the boys, when they were small, and hold him on my lap and he would go to sleep as we went up and down the field.

I bought my first D-Case tractor in 1947. Since that time I've had four or five Case tractors. At present I'm using an air cooled Deutz tractor. I'm amazed at how it stays cool in hot weather. It handles real well under heavy loads.

In these later years my sons and I have been feeding cattle. We feed our bull calves out, they are virgin bulls. They get a lot bigger and finish quicker than steers. They are ready a month before steers are ready to go but we have to keep them away from heifers.

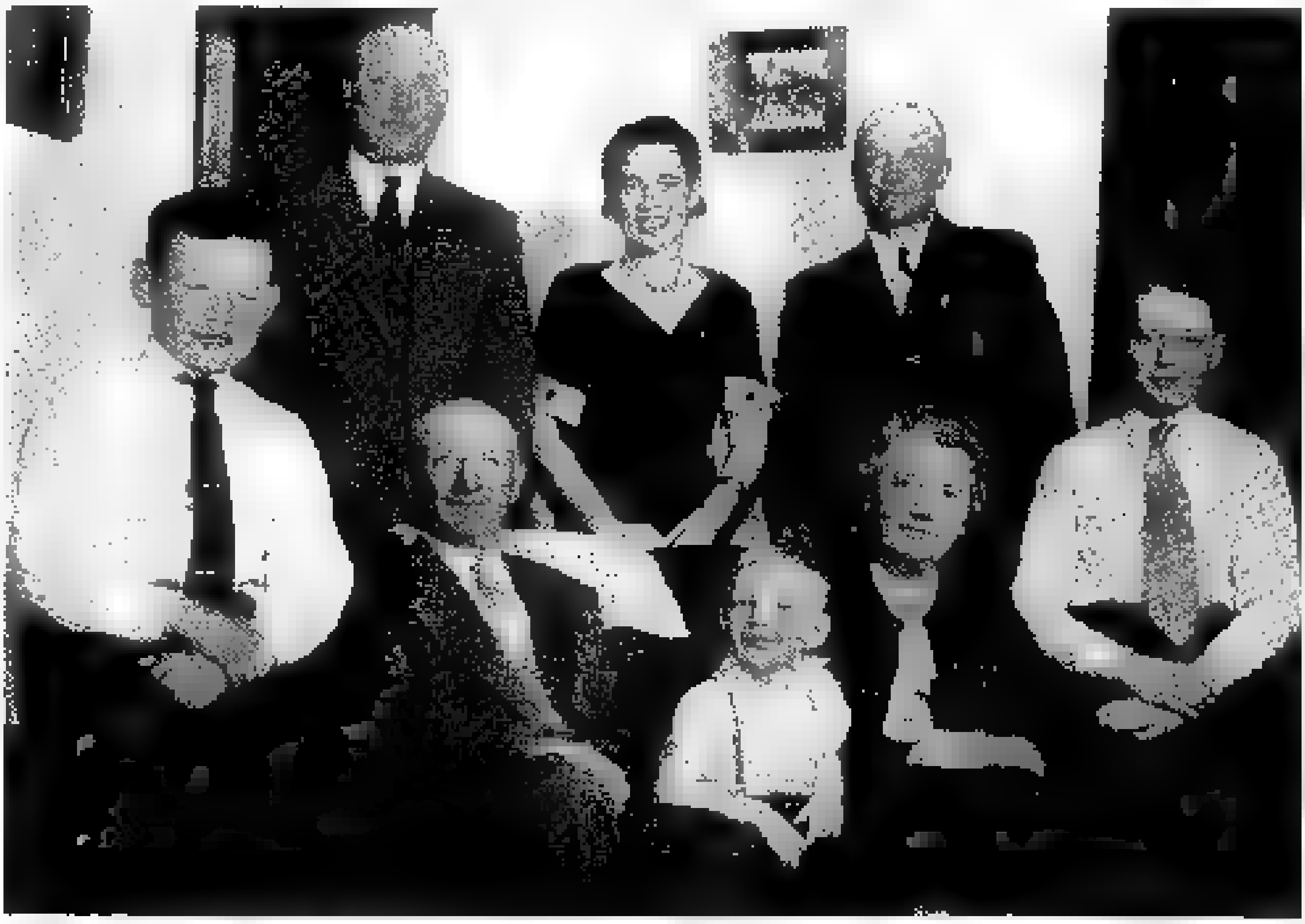
We have been using artificial insemination on our cows for the past few years. We get bigger calves and a better type of calf and can try different breeds.

We have three children. Donald, who married Janet Hennig, lives in Edmonton. Edward, who married Margaret Pangle, lives five miles to the northwest of us. Leslie, who married Elsie Wolfert, lives on the home place. Donald has

three children, Edward has two children, and Leslie hasn't given us any grandchildren.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT STORCH — Albert Storch was born in a small country town, Congo, Arkansas, on December 28, 1916. He travelled across country with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Storch and two brothers, William and Rudolph, to Garden Plain, Alberta, in the spring of 1921. He attended at Buchan; his first teacher was Mrs. Sid Grimes.

His farming career started when Mr. Dan Tracy, a close neighbor, asked the boys to do his summer fallow for him. They used three eight-horse shifts daily and a small eight foot cultivator. Their payment for the summer's work was a wagon and box as cash was very scarce then. The boys got their start in Hereford cattle when good neighbor, Alex Wilson, gave them an orphan calf to raise. For spending money the three brothers spent many a happy hour shooting rabbits; these were skinned and sold to Mr. Chris German, fur and cattle buyer from Hanna, for the handsome sum of ten cents per hide.



1954 — Master Farm Family. Back: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Storch, Rudolph. Front: Terry, Mr. W.R. Storch, Norman, Mrs. W.R. Storch, Kenneth.

In 1936 Albert went into partnership farming with his brother Rudolph and rented Mr. Dan Tracy's land, the east half of 10-34-13 and seeded their first wheat crop. The rent agreement read that they would deliver one third share of the crop to the Garden Plain elevator for Mr. Tracy. That fall they bought their first Chev truck from General Supplies, Calgary for $933.00 ($23.00 extra for heavy duty tires). The farm work was all done with horses until the spring of 1940 when they were able to buy their first rubber tired Case tractor from E.A. Laughlin, Hanna, for $1,891.00 and their first tiller, also from Laughlin, for $590.00. Horses were traded in on the deal. Meantime their cattle herd grew and prices were as follows: 1938, sold 3 heifers at $19.00 each; 7 steers at $25.00 each, to Mr. Wm. Duncan, cattle buyer from Coronation. 1939, sold 3 heifers, 800 pounds each, at 4½ cents per pound; [illegible] steers, 850 pounds each, at [illegible] cents per pound, to Mr. Wm. Duncan, Coronation.

Albert was a member of the Scapa baseball team for several years. He married Rodina McRae of Coronation in 1941 and they have three sons, Kenneth, Terry and Norman. Kenneth married Lynda Sunbury of Castor and resides on the family farm. They have three children. Terry married Rita Spilde of Provost and they have two daughters. They reside at Huxley where Terry is principal of the Huxley school. Norman married Leona Kneller of Castor and they operate an extensive poultry project on their farm near the home place.

Like his dad before him, Albert has always taken an active part in the affairs of the community. During the war years he was president of the Garden Plain Community Club. The club raised large sums of money by putting on plays, dances, card parties, etc. to send packages overseas to all the local boys who were in the services. The Garden Plain hall was renovated by the club; all the windows on the north side were boarded up and a new hardwood floor laid. Albert has been the Red Cross canvasser in the Garden Plain district for over twenty-five years. He was operator of the local snow plow machine for many years.

Goose shooting has always been a favorite sport on the Storch farm.

Albert has retired on the farm and enjoys his hobbies of wood craft and carpentry.

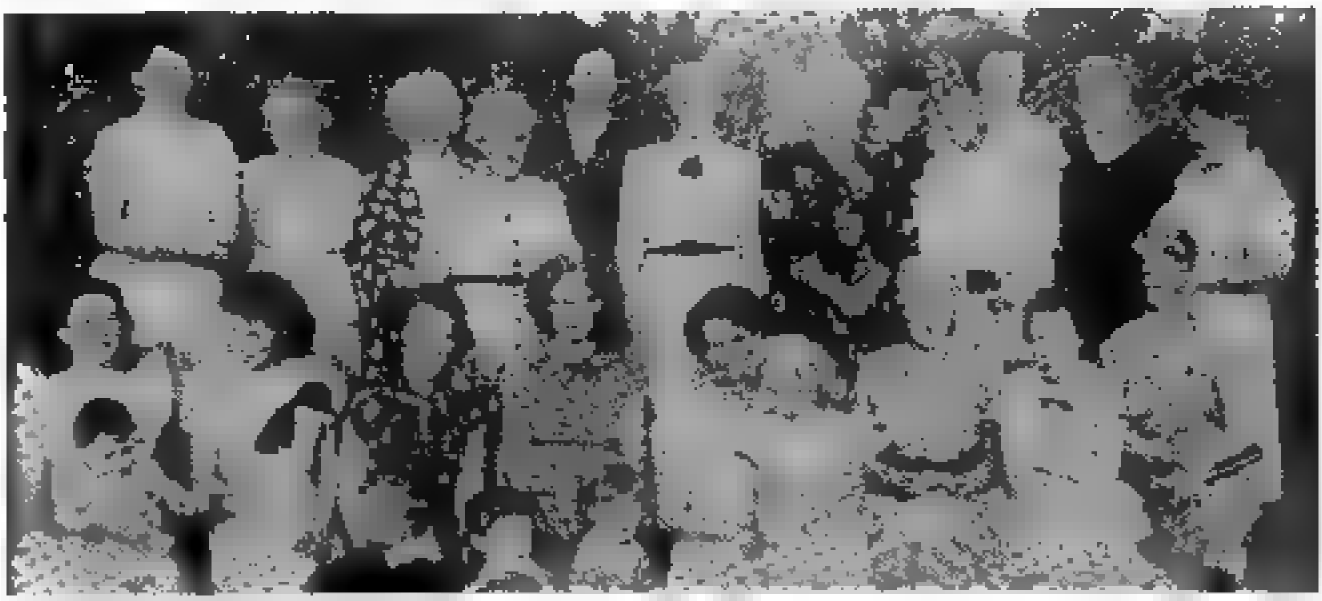
WILLIAM GIBB, By Margaret Nelson — On August 6, 1908, Bill Gibb filed on the NW 22-34-13. For extra income to help with the homesteading he worked on the C.P.R. line around Castor. After proving up he left the homestead and worked for the Department of Public Works under the U.F.A. Government. Later he bought Rabbit Hill Collieries out of Edmonton, which he operated a few years until it flooded out. Going north again, he worked in construction. He passed away while in the far north in the late thirties.

Mrs. Gibb, a sister of Mrs. T.F. Ironside, lived in Edmonton. She passed away in the fifties. Both are buried in Edmonton.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

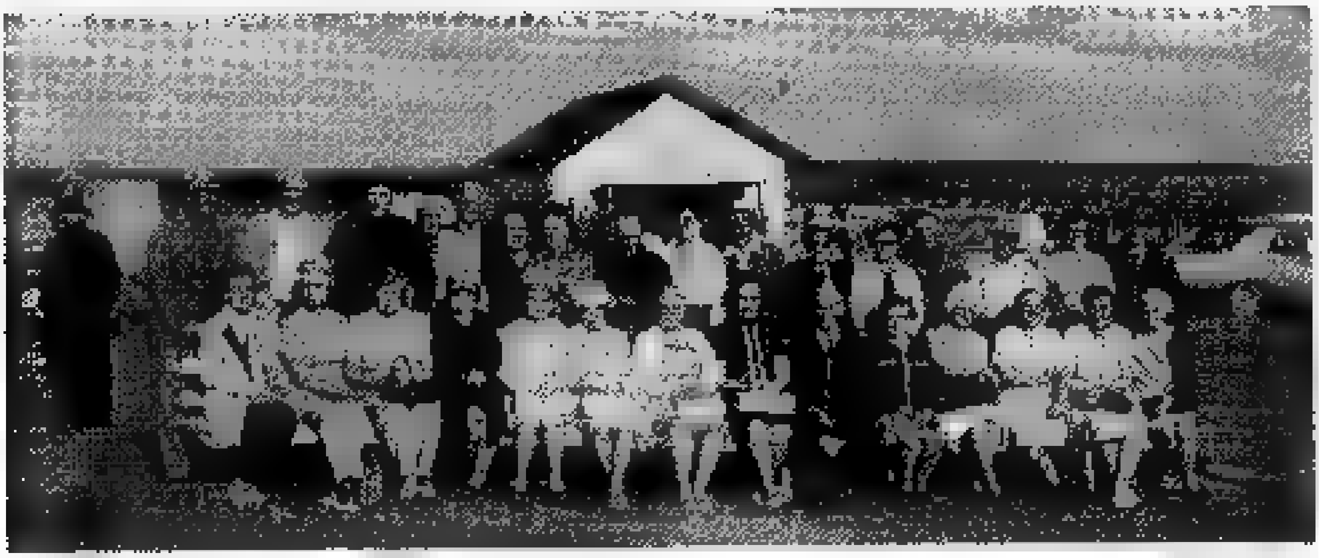
Farewell Tea for Mrs. Calderbank - 1934. Back Row: Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Strandberg, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. G. Wright. Front Row: Mrs. Corry, Mrs. Rudy Finkbiner, Mrs. A. W. Shand, Kenny Calderbank, Mrs. Calderbank, Doreen Wright, Mrs. J. Wright, Mrs. Bradshaw.

Round Lake Ladies Aid Group — 1933. Mrs. J. Marlowe, F. McRae, M. Speten, Mrs. G. Hunter, Mrs. J. Hutcheson, R. McRae. Mrs. C. Blayney, Mrs. R. Armstrong, Mrs. S. Herring, Mrs. M. Kay, Mrs. J. Wilson.

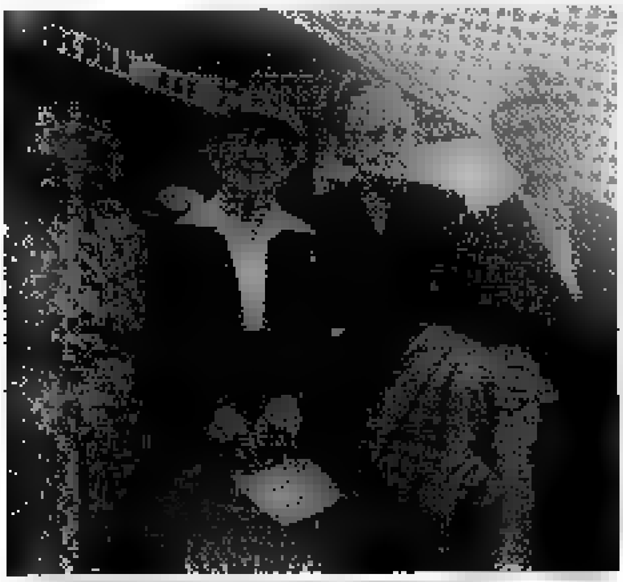


Guests at a shower for Isobel Campbell at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright. Back Row: Mrs. Murl Chidley, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. Herb Waterhouse, Isobel Campbell, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Fred Lyxzen, Mrs. Fred Hildreth and daughter, Marion Taylor, Nan Campbell, Mrs. George Wright. Front Row: Mary Kerner holding Dallas Chidley, Lois Waterhouse, Velma Waterhouse, Mrs. Stuart McRae, Mrs. John Cattanach holding Diane Nelson, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Slemp, Mrs. Ray Armstrong. Children in front unidentified.

1955 — Shower for Mary Kerner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nelson. Mrs. Viv Howery holding son Garry, Mrs. Harold Gustafson, Mrs. Arley Chidley, Mary Kerner, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. Fred Lyxzen, Mrs. George Hunter, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. Harry Nelson. The children are Diane Nelson and Lee Gustafson.



Garden Plain Pioneer picnic — 1972. Back: Ralph Tucker, Tom Northey, Jack Temple, John Marlowe, Andy Glover, Mrs. Butch Ironside, Mrs. Harry Nelson, Butch Ironside, Stanley Strandberg, Mrs. Stanley Strandberg, Erbin Grove, Harold Davies, Mrs. George Unsworth, George Unsworth, John Nelson, Mrs. Will Ironside, John Grove. Front: Mrs. Ralph Tucker, Mrs. Tom Northey, Mrs. Jack Temple, Mrs. George Vigen, Mrs. Jack Corry, Mrs. George Standing Sr., Mrs. William Storch Sr., Mrs. Erbin Grove, Fred Johnston, Mrs. Fred Johnston, Mrs. Russell Chidley, Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. R.J. Unsworth, Mrs. John Grove.

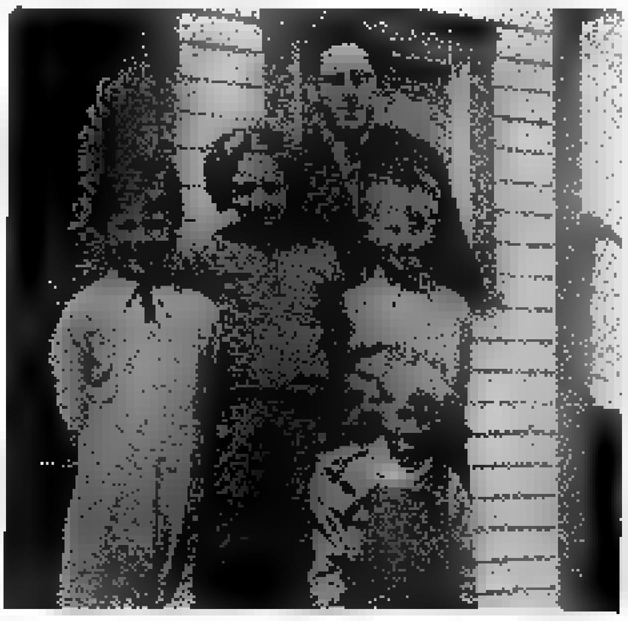


1962 — Garden Plain Pioneers meet at the Golden Age Club in Calgary. Mrs. Bill Harvey, Mrs. Herman Simon, Mrs. Tom Welch and Mrs. Jo Higgins, Sr.

Strawberry Tea put on by Dundee W.I. at home of Blanche Johnston — June 1976. Back : Mrs. Erbin Grove, Mrs. [redacted] Storch, Mrs. George Wright, Mrs. W.L. Storch, Mrs. Art Standing, Mrs. Margaret Standing, Mrs. Selma Vigen, Mrs. Rod Standing, Mrs. Louise Storch, Mrs. Sarah Noyce, Mrs. Dave Temple, Mrs. Effie Crossfield, Mrs. Frances Unsworth. Front: Mrs. Rose Standing, Mrs. Rachel Corry, Mrs. Nellie Greenway, Mrs. Blanche Johnston, Mrs. George Standing Jr.

BUCHAN SCHOOL PUPILS AND TEACHERS

Buchan School pupils with teacher, Sidney Gilson — 1915. Back: Pearl, Mamie and Clara Halverson, Delbert Kinney, Margaret and Butch Ironside. Front: Tillie Halverson and Will Ironside.



George B. Holt (teacher) — 1938. Betty Marlowe, Mary Keller, Bill Marlowe and Jack Marlowe.

Buchan Students at Netherby School — 1955. Back: Jack McLaren (teacher), G. Arthur Standing, Donald Storch, Kenneth Storch, Terry Storch, Jim Taylor, Kenneth Strandberg, Muriel Strandberg, Carol Gustafson, Frank Lee (teacher). Front: Janet Standing, Edward Storch, Judy Ironside, Diane Nelson, Hope Wilson, Lloyd Strandberg, Lee Gustafson.

"THE DUTCHMAN"

'Twas in the early nineteen - hundreds
In an area not far from here.
That a stranger known as "The Dutchman"
Came hiding in terror and fear.

He tended his land and his cattle
As all of his neighbors did.
But of his fears and suspicions
He never seemed to be rid.

What made him shun his neighbors?
Why did he live under a ban?
Why was his heart filled with terror?
This stranger known as "The Dutchman."

Then one day in the stillness
His neighbors heard more than one shot.
When finally they went to investigate,
The sight was not soon forgot.

His livestock were all shot to death,
His home was burned to the ground.
And of the man called "The Dutchman"
No trace was ever to be found.

Who was it that slew his cattle?
Who set his buildings aflame?
Was it someone from the past who found him?
Or was "The Dutchman" himself to blame?

Where did this stranger come from?
Where did "The Dutchman" go?
Was his body burned with his buildings?
No one will ever know.

Helen Standing

COMPRESSOR STATION

As told by Mike Yakimowich, written by Harry Nelson

Over a period of years Triad Oil Co. Ltd. drilled several exploratory wells in the Sullivan Lake and Garden Plain areas. Some of these turned out as good gas producers, but were not put into production as there was not too much demand for natural gas and the price was too low. Also there was no pipe line close enough to carry it to a market.

About 1972 Alberta Gas Trunk Lines installed a carrier line west of Sullivan Lake. In 1974 they also ran a feeder line east to the Garden Plain area and built a meter station on SW 18-34-13.

In the meantime B.P. of Canada had bought the Triad wells in this area and proceeded to put them into production.

They leased approximately seven and a half acres of land on the SW 31-34-13 to build a compressor station and access road.

In 1974 they built the compressor station and also a pipe line gathering system from the Sullivan Lake wells to the plant, and a three mile line of pipe from the plant to the meter station. By September of 1974 they had four wells from the Sullivan Lake area in production.

In 1975 and 1976 more wells were drilled and two were producers.

At the present time there are eight wells feeding into this compressor plant, six from Sullivan Lake and two from north Garden Plain area.

The compressor station is used to pick up the low pressure gas from wells and to increase it to high pressure before putting it into Alberta Gas Trunk line. It consists of a 1400 horsepower V16 Wakeshaw motor to drive the compressor. It is run by natural gas from the line and uses approximately two hundred and sixteen thousand cubic feet of gas per twenty-four hour period.

This plant is fully automated. If anything goes wrong the plant automatically stops, and by means of an A.G.T. connection sounds an alarm at the home in Castor of either of the two operators of the plant.

To date there are about fifteen miles of carrier pipe from wells to plant site.

In 1952 a well was drilled in the south Garden Plain area. It was owned by an American and called Eden Gas Co. This well had the potential of being a high producer. Sulpetro of Canada Ltd. also had a number of wells drilled in this area. In the spring of 1976 InterCity, who had bought the Eden Wells, leased a six acre site on the W ½ 15-33-13 and put in a small portable compressor plant. It is powered by a 400 horsepower motor. When this was completed they also began selling gas to the Alberta Gas Trunk line, which is also carried to the same Alberta Gas Trunk Line meter station on SW 18-34-13. A seven mile carrier line had been put in in the fall of 1975.

In the summer of 1976 Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co., who had bought the Sulpetro rights, also built a Compressor Station on the same site as InterCity. This is powered by a V12, 1000 horsepower Wakeshaw motor. They also installed a processing plant to take out water and hyrocarbons from the gas. The by-products from this plant are trucked to a refining plant. At the present time Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co. have one well in production.

These Compressor Stations are both operated by Mike Yakimowich and Frank Gutenbuerg. Mike also travels to other parts of Alberta if any problems develop at other compressor sites or gas wells.

BLIZZARD OF 1937

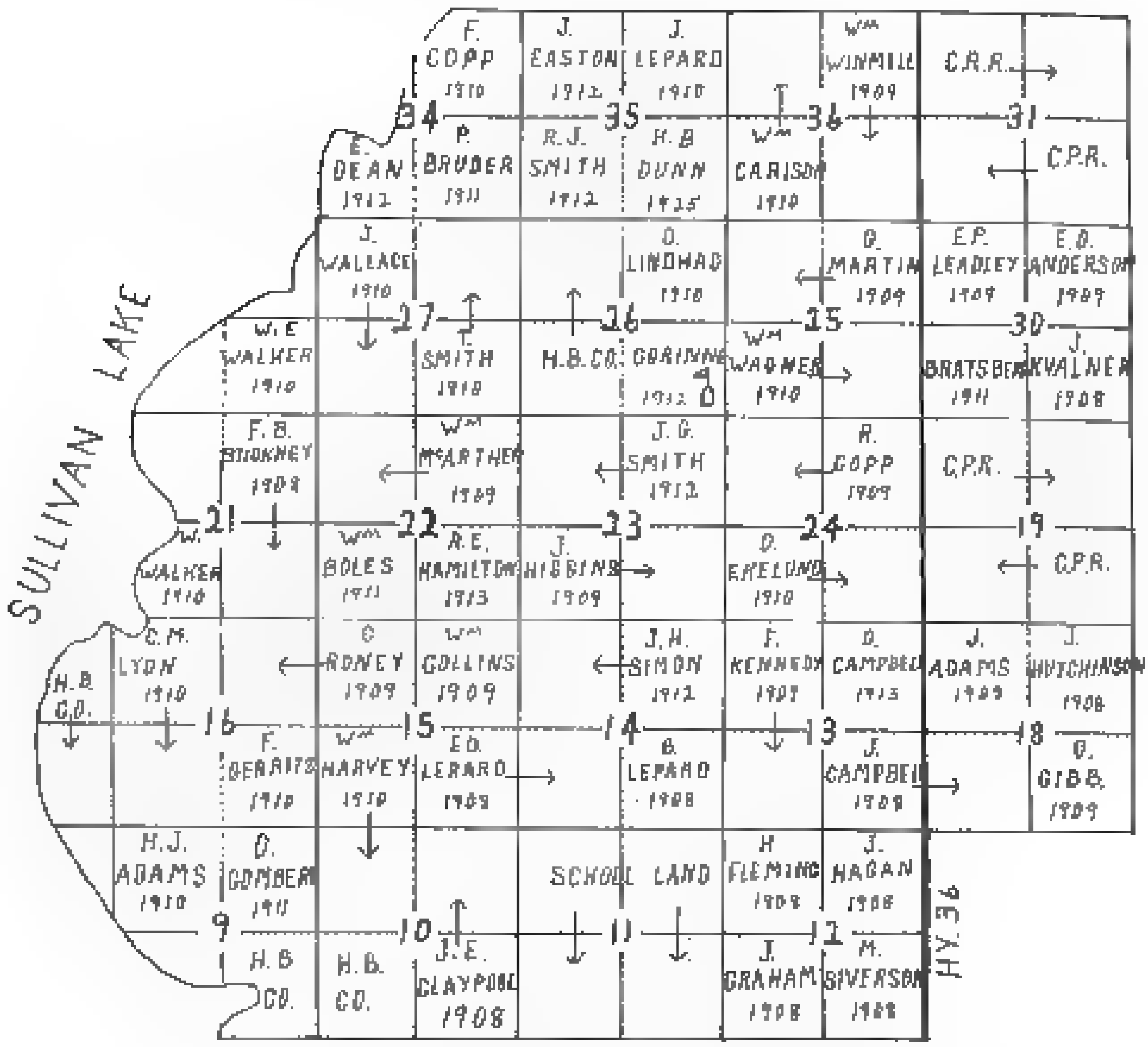
By Harry Nelson

Good Friday dawned a bright clear balmy day in April. The snow had all melted, except a few drifts in the trees and coulees. All the sloughs had already filled with water. About four o'clock in the afternoon the wind started to blow a little from the north and it soon clouded over. Pretty soon the first flakes of snow began falling. By nightfall the wind had risen and snow was really falling. Visibility was near zero. This kept on all night and the next day and into the next night temperatures dropped to well below zero.

As the weather had been good and the snow gone, a lot of farmers had turned their cattle on the open range to graze. When the storm came with no warning it was impossible to get them home. The cattle drifted with the storm. A lot of them waded into sloughs and stayed there. After the storm was over there was a great loss of livestock. The ones in the sloughs froze in and died there.

This was only one of the early day blizzards, but coming at that time of year there was probably more livestock lost than in most of them. There may be contradictions on this but that is the way I remember it.

CORINNE S. D. No. 2497



HOMESTEADERS, RENTERS and OWNERS OF SAID LAND

Homesteaders top the list with the year of filing following their name
Present Owners at the bottom of the list

By Orpha Wolfert

NW 18-34-13
James Adams, 3-9-1908
Oscar Ekalund
Andy Glover
William Storch

NE 8-34-13
John Hutchinson,
20-11-1908
Frank Benzie
George Hunter
A. Walbank
E. Ekholm
John Wallace
George Benzie
Harry Nelson

SW 18-34-13
John Campbell, 24-6-1908
Hugh Campbell
M. Chidley

SE 18-34-13
George Gibb, 2-7-1909
A. Glover
Wm. Storch

N ½ 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
H. Nelson
[illegible]. Storch

SW 19-34-13
C.P.R.
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SE 19-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Benzie
Wm. Nelson
A. Walbank
E. Ekholm
[illegible]. Benzie
[illegible]. Nelson

NW ½ 30-34-13
E. Leadley, 29-3-1909
Miss O. Leadley
Charlie Dahlgren
Tiff G. Ironside
Edward Storch

NE 30-34-13
Otto Anderson, 1-4-1909
E.J. Nielson
W. Nelson
E. Ekholm
W. Rochan
H. Nelson
T.G. Ironside
E. Storch

SW 30-34-13
J. Bratsberg, 21-2-1911
C. Dahlgren
T.G. Ironside
[illegible]. Storch

SE 30-34-13
J. Kvalner, 16-7-1908
Hubert
A. Kennedy
[illegible]. Nelson

S ½ 31-34-13
C.P.R.
Wm. Nelson
H. Nelson

NW 31-34-13
C.P.R.
F. Anderson
J. Deiker
G. Ensign

NE 31-34-13
E. Ekholm
J. Delker
G. Ensign

NW 9-34-14
Henry Adams, 30-11-1910
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 9-34-14
Otto Gombert, 23-3-1911
Henry Adames
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Dwight & Jean Boyson

S ½ 9-34-14
H.B. Co.
Wm. Harvey
Andy Harvey
Linden Boyson

NW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SW 10-34-14
Wm. Harvey
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

E ½ 10-34-14
John Claypool Sr.
John Delker Sr.
Mary Delker

Section 11-34-14
Tom Kane
Herman Slemp
Edgar Slemp
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

NW 12-34-14
H. Fleming, 11-6-1908
Frank Kennedy
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

SW 12-34-14
John Graham
Dan Campbell
Wm. Rutherford
J. Nelson
E. Nelson

SE 12-34-14
M. Siverson, 27-6-1908
Alf Siverson
Hugh Riddle
Elmer Nelson

NE 13-34-14
D. Campbell, 14-7-1913
Hugh Campbell
Campbell Estate

SE 13-34-14
J. Campbell, 4-9-1908
Hugh Campbell
Dallas Chidley

W ½ 13-34-14
Frank Kennedy, 7-9-1909
Fred Slemp
Alex Wolfert

N ½ 14-34-14
John Simon, 28-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Albert Delker

SW 14-34-14
E. Lepard, 19-8-1908
Ted Smith
James Roney
Joe Lepard
Arley Chidley
Wm. & Thelma Boyson

SE 14-34-14
Ben Lepard, 7-10-1910
Joe Lepard
Arley Chidley
William & T. Boyson

SW 15-34-14
Wm. Harvey, 28-11-1910
A. Harvey
L. Boyson

SE 15-34-14
E. Lepard, 19-8-1908
T. Smith
Willard Roney
Albert Delker

NW 15-34-14
C. Roney, 6-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
Fred Harvey
Fred Lyxzen
Andy Harvey
John Schedeck
David Cattanach
Dwight & Jean Boyson

NE 15-34-14
Wm. Collins, 26-1-1912
Robert Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

NW 16-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
[illegible]. Adames
Melvin Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

NW 16-34-14
C. Roney, 6-5-1909
Wm. Harvey
F. Harvey
F. Lyxzen
E. Haessel
J. Schedeck
A. Harvey
D. Cattanach
[illegible]. and J. Boyson

SW 16-34-14
C.M. Lyon, 17-3-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd.
Linden Boyson

SE 16-34-14
F. Gerritz, 19-5-1910
Wm. Lepard
J. Lepard
A. Harvey
Morgan's Transport
L. Boyson

NE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport Ltd.

SE 17-34-14
H.B. Co.
A. Harvey
D. and J. Boyson

SW 21-34-14
W.E. Walker, 29-1-1910
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

E ½ 21-34-14
F.B. Stickney, 5-10-1908
M. Walker
M. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NW 22-34-14
William [illegible]. McArthur,
10-6-1909
William Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
B. Chidley
D. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

SW 22-34-14
William A. Boles
W. Roney
G. Tucker
F. Harvey
R. Chidley
M. Chidley
B. Chidley
D. Chidley
Morgan's Transport

NE 22-34-14
William H. McArthur
W. Roney
R. Chidley
Arley Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

SE 22-34-14
Robert E. Hamilton
Joe Lepard
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

N ½ 23-34-14
J.C. Smith, 16-12-1912
A. Kennedy
C. Wigley
A. Wigley
[illegible]. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

[illegible] ½ 23-34-14
J. Higgins, 6-5-1909
[illegible]. Campbell
A. Wolfert
D. Boyson

N ½ 24-34-14
Robert Copp, 17-11-1909
M. McMillan
C. Dahlgren
J. Nielson
E. Nelson

SW 24-34-14
Oscar Ekelund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
A. Wolfert

SE 24-34-14
Oscar Ekelund, 25-5-1910
F. Slemp
H. Campbell
D. Chidley

N ½ 25-34-14
George Martin, 1-4-1909
J. Easton
J. Nielson
[illegible]. Nelson

S ½ 25-34-14
Wm. Wagner, 29-1-1910
C. Blum
F. Blum
J. Nielson
[illegible]. Ironside
H. Nielson
E. Nelson

NE 26-34-14
David Lindhag, 15-6-1910
[illegible]. Walker
L. Lohrmann
D. and L. Lallier

SE 26-34-14
H.B. Co.

E ½ 27-34-14
T. Smith, 17-9-1910
R. Chidley
A. Chidley
Wm and T. Boyson

W ½ 27-34-14
J. Wallace, 17-9-1910

A. Lyxzen
J. Schadeck
E. Haessel
[illegible]. Chidley
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 28-34-14
W.E. Walker, 17-3-1910
C. Blum
M. Walker
[illegible]. Chidley
Morgan Transport Ltd.

NE 34-34-14
Frank Copp, 29-11-1910
Mac Lepard
[illegible]. Chidley

A. Chidley
Wm. and T. Boyson

SW 34-34-14
E.H. Dean, 28-8-1912
J. Wallace
A. Lyxzen
J. Schadeck

SW 34-34-14
B. Chidley
E. Haessel
Wm. Storch
L. Erion

SE 34-34-14
Phil Bruder, 31-5-1911
[illegible]. McCafferty
R. Chidley

M. Chidley
Morgan Transport

NW 35-34-14
John Easton, 3-7-1912
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

NE 35-34-14
John Lepard, 6-9-1910
T. McCafferty
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann
D. and L. Latlier

SE 35-34-14
Rob Smith, 27-7-1912
J. Simon
H. McCafferty

T. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

SE 35-34-14
H.B. Dunn, 22-12-1925
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

W ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Carlson, 26-6-1910
O. Ekelund
J. Nielsen
H. McCafferty
L. Lohrmann

E ½ 36-34-14
Wm. Winmill, 1-4-1909
H. Nelson

I am sorry for any errors or omissions in the names and land locations. Land presently being lived on:

SE 27-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. D. Boyson

NE 10-34-14
Albert & Alfred Deiker
Mrs. Mary Deiker

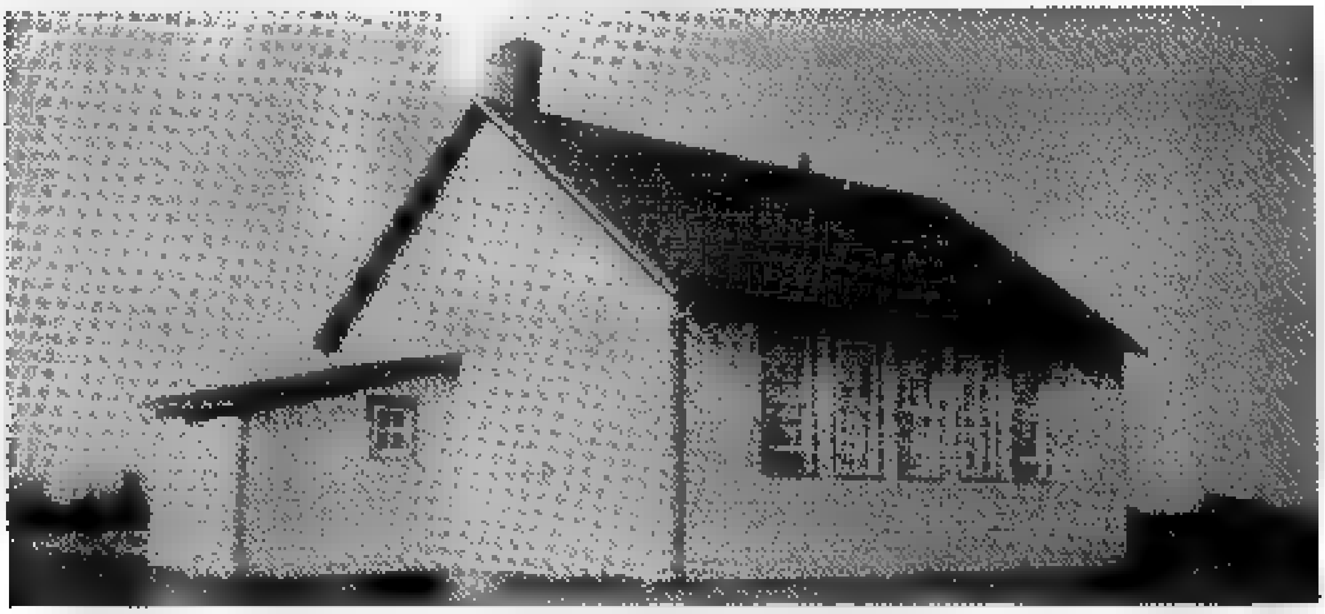
NW 13-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. A. Wolfert

SW 12-34-14
Mr. & Mrs. E. Nelson

CORINNE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2497

By Orpha Wolfert

In July, 1911, the Department of Education gave instructions to Mr. Frank Kennedy to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a board to transact the business of the district. Trustees were Edward Lepard, Herman Simon and Frank Kennedy. By September they had chosen a site in the centre of the district, the south-east corner of the south-east quarter of 26-34-14.



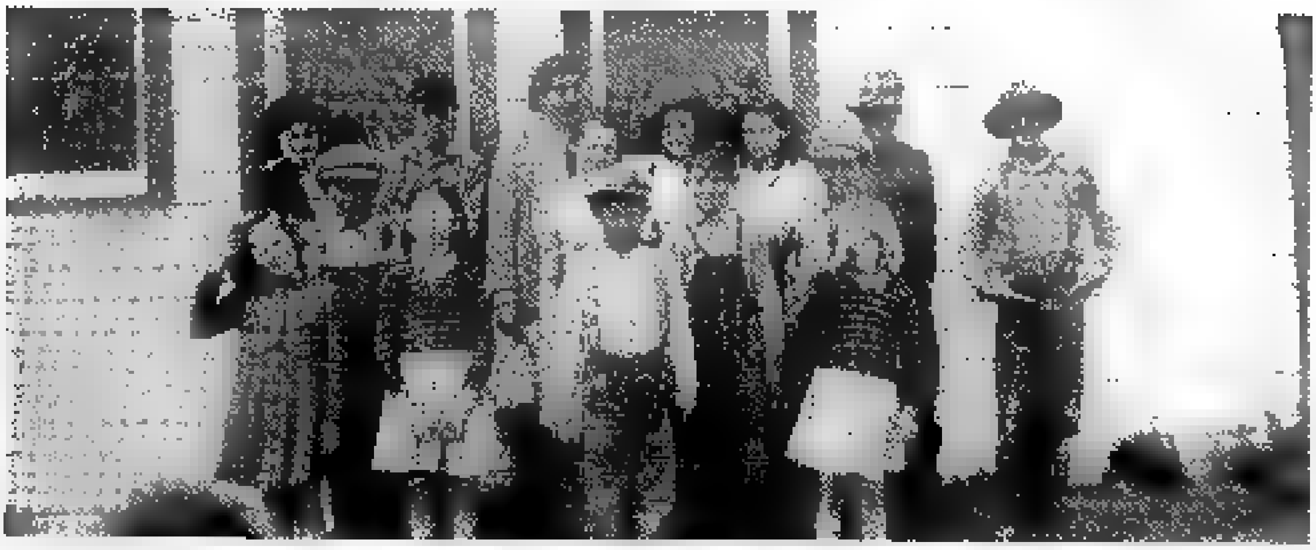
Corinne School built in 1912

In order to build the school house, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars was borrowed on the securities of the district. The money was to be repaid in ten installments at eight per cent interest. The lumber was purchased from the Stettler Lumber Company at a cost of $485.00. John Wallace did the mason work and the plastering, furnishing all materials except the stones, which were supplied by William Collins. William Harvey hauled all the lumber and hardware and supplied the labor. The Illsey Brothers furnished all the hardware for the erected schoolhouse, coal shed and outbuildings. The business of purchasing the building supplies for the proposed school was completed on December 6, 1911, and the school was built in 1912. It was named Corinne after the birthplace of an American settler, Herman Simon.

The first meeting after the completion of the school was held in the building on January 15, 1913. The minutes tell of holding classes only eight months of the year, to take advantage of the warm summer months. School started in March or April, and there was a two week vacation in the middle of the term. In 1927 the school had to be closed for ten days due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Corinne School students — 1931. John Wallace, Arthur Ekelund, William Rutherford, Ken Simon, Lucy Wigley, Grace Wigley, Fred Harvey, Arley Chidley, Janet Easton, Jewel Adams, Mary Campbell, Margaret Simon, Alex Rutherford, Bill Chidley, Zelma Blum, Patrick Lepard, Fred Wigley, Albert Delker, David Wallace, Francis Harvey, Josephine Harvey, Ethel Rutherford, Joe Higgins, Jessie Rutherford, Harold Simon, Margaret Wallace, Hazel Kennedy, Hugh Campbell.

Corinne School students — 1934-36. Teacher, Marion Taylor. Back Row: David Easton, Joe Higgins, Bill Chidley, Albert Delker, Margaret Wallace, Mary Campbell. Second Row: Andy Harvey, Murl Chidley, Arley Chidley, Mae Delker. Third Row: Dorothy Lepard, Irene Kennedy, Isobel Campbell, Evelyn Ekelund, Alfred Delker. Front Row: Nellie Harvey, Don Campbell, Donna Lepard.



Corinne School pupils — 1944. Teacher, Doreen Lyxzen. Dorothy Lepard, Donald Campbell, Henry Nelson, Gordon Ironside, Allan Ironside, Mary Ironside, Clark Ironside, Harold Lepard, Corinne Ironside, Elmer Nelson, Gladys Ironside.

Corinne School students — 1946. Taylor Twin, Bert Chidley, Clark Ironside, Taylor Twin, Margaret Ironside, Georgian Wright, Gladys Ironside, Norman Wallace, Norman Slemp.

There seemed to be the need for another school to accommodate the children from the southern part of the district, so a new school district, Pleasant Site No. 4210, was formed. According to the minutes of the meetings, the school district was formed but no building was ever erected. Apparently the formation of a district was sufficient to allow a grant to be paid to Corinne for the pupils who attended there from Pleasant Site. Corinne accepted the eight pupils from the area, and the new district was never mentioned again. Mr. William Henderson was the teacher at the time.

In 1931, a room was rented in the William Harvey home for the purpose of holding high school classes. Grades one to eight remained in Corinne school. In 1934 the district had financial problems and hiring a teacher was almost impossible. After advertising in the papers, the board hired Miss Marion Taylor, brought grade nine back to Corinne, and closed the high school. Pupils from grades ten, eleven and twelve had to go to Castor or Hanna to further their education.

In 1935 the small school districts became part of Sullivan Lake school division, with offices in Hanna.

Corinne was not only the centre of the education facilities for the district, it was also used for church services, concerts, card parties and dances. In the earlier years the people of the Endiang community came to entertain with plays and songs. After the concerts there would be lunch; then the desks would be piled up and pushed against the walls and the dancing would start. Old and young enjoyed these dances. Music was supplied by the Lepard family, or the Ironside brothers with violin and guitar. For the Christmas concert, all the boys and girls had the pleasure of new clothes.

Corinne school was kept open until 1952, when the children were vanned to Scapa. It was difficult to get teachers to come to a school which was so far from town. At one time Corinne consisted of a school, a barn, a coal shed and a well, and the yard was surrounded by a page wire fence. Trees had been planted. But now the time has taken its toll and [illegible] that remains [illegible] the schoolhouse, which is used as a granary.

Names of families who attended the school were: Adams, Blum, Boles, Carlson, Campbell, Chidley, Copp, Coulter, Deiker, Easton, Ekelund, Gustafson, Herring, Harvey, Higgins, Hamilton, Ironside, Johnson, Keller, Kerner, Kennedy, Lepard, McRae, McCafferty, Nelson, Ortt, Parro, Rehill, Rutherford, Simon, Slemp, Tucker, Taylor, Wallace, Walker, Waterhouse, Wigley, Wright and Winmill.

Teachers and supervisors who taught at Corinne and the high school were Miss Dawson, Mr. Frederickson, Miss McEachern, W.H. Pedley, Miss Ford, E.V. Smart, C.A. Sullivan, M.G. Scott, James McPherson, Jean Blackwood, Jean Palmer, Annie English, Violet Williams Lepard, E.G. Hamilton, Edith Smith, William Henderson, Mary Trenaman, Edna Blackwood, L.A. Reid, Scollan, Violet Diprose, Marion Taylor, C.O. Tuttle, Norine Maynes, Bernard Holt, Dorothy Cook, Margaret Waterhouse, Daisy Kerner, Doreen Lyxzen, Miss Nester, Shirley Ekman, Mrs. Art Welch, Jos. A. Connelly, Francis R. Thompson, A.R. Barton, Harold Unsworth, William Coulter.

These names are not in the order that they taught in the district, and I am sorry for any omissions.

Superintendents were W.G. Hay, Mr. Korek, J.C. Jonason, L.A. Thurber, G.K. Haverstock, J.C. Butchart, C.B. Yule, W.J. McLean, J.D. Aikenhead and F.J. Carr.

Of all the farm steads in the school district that were occupied at one time, now only four have families living on them: Deiker, Wolfert, Boyson and Nelson.

One evening in February, 1977, we visited with Mr. Donald Simon and Mr. Harry McCafferty. They began to reminisce about school days at Corinne. The conversation went something like this:

"Donald, do you remember when we used to squirt the teacher with those old fountain pens? Boy, would she get mad!"

"Yes, Harry, that was Miss Williams. She was [illegible] good teacher and very nice to us, despite what we put her through."

"Do you remember when you and Bob Hamilton used to sign each other's report cards, until you signed Tom instead of Thomas on Bob's card. Boy! That strap sure did hurt!"

"Well, that didn't hurt our dignity as bad as the time when we washed my brother Ken's face with frozen potatoes and Miss Williams nearly wore herself out strapping us boys. Counting us to see how many she had spanked she said, 'There is one more. Who is it? ' Alex Wallace spoke up and said, 'All I did was rub dirt on his face.' Out came the strap again."

"We had fun at school, although I sometimes wonder why we went."

"Remember how you used to hide your books under the bridge when you didn't get your homework done?"

"Yes, Don, and she would send me back to get them, and I had to do my homework at recess, but that wasn't too bad. At least my parents didn't find out."

Taken at Corinne School — 1942. Dorothy Lepard, Joe Lepard, Herman Simon, Harold Lepard, Mrs. Tom McCafferty, Harry McCafferty, Mrs. Harvey, George Benzie, Bill Hener, Frank Benzie, Mrs. Simon, Joe Higgins, Bill Harvey, Tom McCafferty, Donna Lepard.

"Do you remember the time we went poisoning gophers and sampled that snuff in the little round box?"

"I thought I was poisoned. Snuff chewing wasn't for us."

"I thought you were going to die on me!"

Leslie Walker, another former student at Corinne, remembers two of his teachers. "Mr. Frederickson was an elderly man with grey whiskers, and he drove to school in a buggy with a single horse. He travelled seven miles each way, and to get his horse to go faster he would say, "Hip-a holly!" After lunch hour he would put his feet on the desk and lean back against the chalk rail below the blackboard for a siesta. Three of us boys would get out our elastic bands and roll up inch squares of paper for spit wads, and aim them at his number nines. All was fine until one went between his feet and smacked him on the chin. That fun was short-lived, and we were punished by having to stay in after school to clean the blackboards and sweep the floor. After that he took his rest at noon hour while us students were outside eating our lunch.

"Miss Sullivan was a good-sized teacher with an Irish accent. We boys thought she was very strict, as we couldn't get away with any pranks on the girls anymore. One of the boys' pastimes was to have about thirty feet of chalk line and make a slip knot in one end and catch gophers. We would lay the loop around the gopher hole and when the gopher would stick his head out of the hole, we pulled the string and we had him around the neck. One morning we caught one and put it in the desk with the attendance records. When she pulled open the drawer for roll call, the rodent squeaked and jumped on her lap, she squealed and jumped on her desk. No one knew who had done the trick, but everyone helped chase it out."

MRS. DOREEN LYXZEN KERNER, By Victoria Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — I was born on the farm on August 15, 1920. My first seven years of schooling were at Crow Hill. My first teacher was Agnes Cameron. In 1933 I took my grade nine in Scapa so Marie Lohrmann and I rode to school. I had an old chestnut-colored horse appropriately named Chess, who shied at everything and sometimes dumped me off. For the next two years I was back at Crow Hill, but the Board wouldn't allow instruction in Grade 11 so I worked by myself with help from Wilma

Symth after school hours. It was a lost year. I spent one year at Stettler High School and then went back to riding to Scapa, a bay this time I called "Beauty". Ralph Ringdahl was teaching high school. I never missed many days of school, except if there was a blizzard.

In 1938 the Dormitory opened in Hanna and I attended Hanna High school to get my remaining subjects and grade twelve. Because I couldn't get a third year Latin course which I needed, I stayed home one year and took correspondence. In 1940 I attended Calgary Normal School.

Tea party at Corinne School teacherage — 1943. Dorothy Lepard, Mary Ironside, Sheilla Barnes, Doreen Lyxzen, Mrs. Chidley, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Campbell, Cora Ironside holding Willie, Hazel Slemp and Faye, Mrs. Lepard, Ruth Ironside.

My teaching career started at Bingo, a school set in the north-east corner of a twelve mile cattle lease. I was never short of 'Beef on the Hoof', especially one night during a blizzard when they all crowded on the south side of my teacherage. Thank goodness the fence was a few feet away from the teacherage. There were three families there, the Lebmans, Sarrs and Roesslers. I boarded with the Roesslers and their seven children, until the powers that be hauled in a two-roomed teacherage.

I did the janitor work for the use of the teacherage. I split a lot of wood and hauled in a lot of coal, as well as clinkers and ashes which went out. Those old Waterbury furnaces had enormous appetites and were quite disconcerting at times, such as when a solid clinker formed, and as one tried to remove it, all the hot coals would fall into the ash pan. So one would hurriedly try to start a new fire and hope the school would get warm enough. School started at 9:30 during the winter months. Sometimes pupils ran up and down the aisles to keep warm or brought desks up close beside the furnace to do their work.

I had many varied experiences in my first teacherage and school, once a family of skunks decided to make their home under the school. My teacherage was pretty wide open. Water in the wash basin, three feet from a huge cast iron range, would freeze during forenoon while I was at school. I had a pot-bellied heater next to my bed in the second room and often sat on the bed with my coat on, to eat my lunch. One morning after a blizzard I discovered a snow drift inside the house as high as my window sill on the north side, and petering out at my range. I had to shovel snow before I could get my breakfast; of course there was a film of snow over everything in the room. The second year my eight-year-old cousin Myrna Erickson stayed with me.

In October 1943 I started teaching at Corinne. This was the year the polio was

bad and all schools were closed for about a month. The second year Mary Keller stayed with me to finish her grade nine. We lived in a one roomed teacherage and our main problem here was the chimney. When the wind blew from a certain direction all my stove would do was smoke. One morning I left the door open while I was over at the school and Mr. Keller who was bringing Mary back, breasted the hill and came hurrying down because he thought the teacherage was on fire. Finally a cap was put on the chimney that was almost tall enough to be a spire, but it solved the problem.

In the fall of 1945 I started teaching grades one to six in Scapa, and also working in the store. I quit at Christmas. Mrs. Harry Cook was teaching Junior High. No teacher was available for the smaller grades at first so a Supervisor was hired for a few weeks. I returned to teaching in 1947 at Rosebud, near Drumheller. I was to teach nineteen pupils, but opening morning I thought there was no end. The last one in the door was number 33. I hadn't enough desks, seats, space or anything. Many had to double up in a seat. Imagine the discipline problem! Finally more desks were brought in, but there wasn't enough spaces so rows were pushed together and right up to the blackboards. I had trouble moving between desks and the blackboards. After the New Year a larger school was hauled in. That was the year Seven Creek flooded and we were without mail for a month.

I completed my Junior Home Economics that summer at the University of Alberta and started my specialized career on the circuit at Champion, Carmangay and Barons. I had unique boarding facilities at Champion. I lived at Libby Latiff's and had breakfast there. For dinner (when not on circuit) and supper I had to go to the Marshman's. Lunch was non-existant out on the circuit unless I bought something to eat. After summer school again I moved south to the Bow Island-Foremost circuit.

I married John Wendlane Kerner on July 7, 1951 and we started wildcatting in the oil fields for four years. It took us to such places as Lac La Biche in north-eastern Alberta, Hudson Hope in B.C., Aden near the Montana border and Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. One son Brian Wayne was born at Castor on October 16, 1953. In the spring of 1955 we bought a quarter of irrigated land three miles east of Bow Island and left the oil fields for good. After John died of cancer on July 12, 1971, I rented the land but continue to live on the farm. I had gone back to teaching Home Economics at Senator Gershaw High in 1962, and fifteen years later, I'm still there.

FRED STICKNEY, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Fred Stickney homesteaded on the NE 21-34-14 in 1906. He and his wife lived in a sod house. His wife was a very handy person so she undertook the job of plastering the inside of their home with plaster of paris. The walls were snow white. Mrs. Chidley commented on Mrs. Stickney's management. This house was the most beautiful home to walk into.

During threshing time, Fred was engineer on a steam threshing machine which belonged to Fred Saar. He was a brother of Harry Saar of the Spondin district.

JULIEN KVALNER, By Harry Nelson — Julien Kvalner filed on the SE 30-34-13 on July 16, 1908. He proved up on his homestead and also worked out. After he got title to the land he rented it out to Albert Kennedy for a few years and later sold it to Mr. Hubert who farmed it for a short time. It was then sold to Oscar Gustafson who farmed it till he retired. Harry Nelson bought it and still farms it. Not too much is known about Julien Kvalner as he was only here a few years and then left the country.

JOHN GRAHAM SR. STORY, By Inga Strandberg — John Graham homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14 in 1908. His son John junior filed on his homestead on the NE 6-34-14, and a pre-emption on the NW 12-34-14. They made their home on the SW 12-34-14. John Graham Sr. had two children, a son John and a daughter, who was a trained nurse. The daughter came to live with her father and brother for a couple of years and nursed in the district. She enjoyed driving around with Mrs. Lepard in a buggy.

Siquard Larson courted her and later they were married. Later Mr. Graham Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Larson left for New Zealand. While Mr. Graham was in the district he was chairman at the first U.F.A. meeting in the Garden Plain hall. He sold his land to Dan Campbell before leaving. Mr. Graham lived to the ripe old age of 104.

Graham family and Larson — Kathy, John Sr., John Jr., Sigrid Larson

THE JOHN GRAHAM JR. STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — John Graham Jr. was the son of John Graham Sr., and he homesteaded on the SW 12-34-14. He was a bachelor and enjoyed his life.

Mrs. Elechia Chidley remembered the Lepard boys catching John Graham's chickens and tying them to the fence posts, as the chickens were squawking, Mr. Graham came out in his pyjamas, seeing who it was and what they were doing he jumped on his horse in his pyjamas and rode his horse as fast as he could to see Mr. Lepard. By the time he got there the boys were already home, and he didn't have much to say or explain why he was wearing his sleeping attire. He was a good sport about it all. The boys liked to play tricks on the old man. Another night they took one of his little pigs and put it in the attic of his house. Poor John didn't know what to do, but he got his thoughts about him and rescued the poor little animal and laughed about it.

Mrs. Chidley enjoyed playing the violin and remembers her first store violin (the others were homemade ones) this was a gift from Mr. Graham..

THE DAN CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Mrs. Dan Campbell — My husband, Dan Campbell returned to Canada after four years with the Canadian Army in 1919. I came as a war bride and we decided to go farming. Before the war, Dan had a homestead north of Cochrane, where he owned several head of cattle and horses, which had multiplied during the years. We bought a Soldier Settlement Board farm twenty-four miles north of Hanna, where Mr. Graham lived. We shipped the cattle there as soon as we could. Mr. Bob Smith was the Superior of the Board at that time. With the war gratuities we bought a team of work horses from Mr. and Mrs. Wickson, who operated the General Store and Post Office, just a mile north of us. Later we purchased a saddle horse and a buggy from Mac Lepard.

That first winter was a hard winter with lots of snow and severe cold weather. We had a terrific blizzard towards the end, and most of the cattle perished in the deep snow drifts. We fed the cattle on green feed bought from a neighbor for five cents a sheaf. We drew water from a well which was a few yards from the house. The water contained alkali and made us both quite ill for a while.

We lived in a two-roomed house which was very small and very cold. Eventually Dan built a bungalow, hauling the lumber for it with a team and wagon from Castor. After the first planting of wheat, Dan broke more acres of land for next year's crop. We also planted a garden and raised chickens, borrowing brood hens from our very kind neighbors. Our crops were very poor, yielding scarcely enough seed for the following year.

In May 1920, our daughter was born in Castor, where Doctor McPherson was our doctor. Our nearest neighbors were the Donald Campbell family.

The work was hard, we milked cows and were able to ship cream to Hanna. Our eggs and some cream we took to the Garden Plain Store and exchanged them for groceries. Our water for washing had to be carried from the well and clothing had to be scrubbed on a wash board.

We were sorry to leave our first home, but decided to give up farming after a lot of hard work and only one crop, which was destroyed by hail just before being harvested. We never regretted leaving when we did. Dan went into the garage business in Calgary and was with General Supplies for over twenty years. During the Second World War, Dan worked as an Instructor in Mechanics for the Navy; later lived in Victoria where he owned a Service Station at Langford. He passed away July 6, 1964.

WILLIAM RUTHERFORD and FAMILY, By Ethel Rutherford Martin — William Rutherford and his wife Dora and seven children landed in Hanna in November 1923 during the biggest blizzard they had had in years in the Hanna district. They came from England and had never seen snow. We lived with Granddad Rutherford on his farm at Dowling Lake for a year, then Dad got a job on the railroad (he was a coal miner in England) and we moved to the town of Hanna.

We lived in town for a couple of years, then dad, a World War veteran, arranged to buy a farm in the Garden Plain district, through the Soldier Settlement Board. We farmed there for eleven years, were dried out and hailed out at least eight of the years we lived there. Our garden more than once was blown onto the road allowance and the lettuce and radishes grew out there. I will never forget the sandstorms and blizzards. More than once Mrs. Higgins let us children stay at her house when we couldn't get home from school on account of the storms.

We worked hard on the farm; Mom had chickens and turkeys, dad kept some cattle, horses and pigs. He was very busy and very fussy also, every thing had to be kept tidy and in its place. We planted hundreds of carragana and always had a

big garden. We all had to help pull mustard weed, make hay, stook bundles and so on. Mother was a jolly Scottish lady and kept us all as happy as she could. She had to work hard as the rest of us although she was never very strong. My parents had never farmed before and we had left a real nice home in England where we didn't know what hard times were. Dad made us a swing and homemade sleigh, and would go out to play ball with us when he had time. When he wasn't too tired he would sing or play the mouth organ.

Alex was the family cut up. He would make plasticine bucking horses, etc., and when the teacher wasn't looking, he would make them prance on his desk. When he was caught and the teacher would give him the strap he could bring on the tears, so she would end up feeling sorry for him.

Once when Isabel and Dora had gone to Scapa in an open cutter for groceries, a blizzard came up. Dora ran behind the sleigh to keep warm, but Isabel froze the toes on her left foot. Two of her toes fell off at home before the folks could get her to the hospital, as the roads were blocked and there was no way to get to a doctor. When she did get to Hanna they operated and removed all but her little toe. It was very painful, but [illegible] didn't hold her back. She danced and lived life to the fullest.

We have all had a good life and lots of memories, happy and otherwise. The folks moved to Armistice, Alberta in 1937.

Mary married M. Campbell and passed away when she was thirty. The cause of her death was unknown.

Dora married C. Nessen. Isabell married G. Hoover, they lived in southern Alberta. They both have passed away.

Ethel married P. Martin, and we live in Edmonton. Jessie married M. Abram, of Dewberry.

Bill was in active service overseas, he married Daisy Hawker, an English war bride. They live at Ponoka.

Alex was killed in Action on D. Day at the age of twenty-two. Dad passed away in 1950 at the age of 78 years, and Mother in 1953 [illegible] the age of 75 years.

JAMES ADAMS, By Margaret Nelson — James Adams came to Garden Plain area with his partner John Campbell to homestead in the year 1908. He filed on NW 18-34-13. Little is known of his early days. He proved up his land and a short time later returned to Calgary where he had worked before his endeavor in homesteading.

[illegible]r. and Mrs. Donald Campbell Wedding Day

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Don Campbell — Jack Campbell came to the Garden Plain district in 1908, approximately one year after the area north east of Drumheller was opened up for homesteading. He and his partner, James Adams, settled on a homestead on the SW 18-34-14. James returned to Calgary but Jack remained on the homestead until 1909 when he, too, returned to Calgary. On New Year's Day in 1910 he came back to the homestead and remained in the district until his death in 1974.

Soon after he settled on the homestead he was joined by his sister Nan and his parents.

His brother, Don Campbell, homesteaded the NE 13-34-14. He served overseas for four years during World War I with the 31st Infantry Battalion. On his return after the war, he and his wife Agnes and son Hugh, who had been born in Scotland, lived in a granary in Jack's yard until the home across the way was built. Four more children were born in Canada, Leslie who died at the age of four, Mary, Isabel and Don. Jack's original homestead remained in the family for some sixty-seven years, until it was sold in 1976 after Hugh's death.

During his early years on the homestead Jack was very active in community affairs, serving on the board of Buchan school and the United Farmers of Alberta. Being the musical member of the family, he enjoyed playing the accordion at get-togethers.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY, By Mrs. Betty Waterhouse — My husband, Bert Waterhouse, first met the Campbells in 1919. He was on his way to Unsworth's with his team and wagon to get his first load of coal, and stopped in at Campbell's to enquire where the coal mine was, as he was an easterner from Ontario, and didn't know too much about the west, especially the bald headed prairies. He was asked in for a cup of tea and a piece of shortbread, and that was the beginning of a long-standing, wonderful friendship. Donald and Bert had both been in the first World War and had lots in common to talk about.

Mrs. Campbell came from Nairn, Scotland, in 1918, I believe, and I came from Glasgow in 1920, so the Campbells and I had lots to talk about and it was good to meet someone else from Scotland. I am sure a finer family would be hard to find; they were so kind to everyone. One just got inside the house when the kettle was put on the stove and there would be tea and shortbread, a favorite of Mrs. Campbell's which she loved to bake.

I remember one time in the twenties, Donald was taking a load of grain to the elevator, and on his way back home from Castor he called in at our house. I put the kettle on for a cup of tea, but Donald said, "I just came in because I have a wee treat to share with you." He had bought sausages in Castor and shared them with us. We never forgot that treat; that was only one of the times. They were always sharing with others, no matter what it was.

I also remember Donald's Dad, a wonderful old gentleman and very Scotch.

Nan and Jack were wonderful people too. One never left their place without having a cup of tea and a good friendly chat. Donald's garden was something to be admired, flowers of all kinds and colors. He took such pride in it, and I always came home with a lovely big bouquet.

Hugh never complained and never turned down anyone if they needed a helping hand. They have all gone from us now to a well-deserved rest where I am sure their kindness has been rewarded.

My four daughters and I still correspond with Poll, Isobel and Don. We like to keep up the friendship that started so long ago. We will never forget the good times we had and the people who helped make them. We were all poor, but rich in the things money cannot buy.

MR. WILLIAM BOLES, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. William Boles homesteaded on the SW 22-34-14 in 1911. He had a brother in the Scapa district. William and his wife had two daughters and one son: Gladys was the oldest born in 1905, Delia was the youngest girl born in 1913. Their only son Byron, was born in 1911.

Garden Plain Breezes in the Castor Advance in 1916 read; In 1916, William Boles was elected to the council of the Municipality of the Sullivan Lake School Division No. 335. He served on the council until 1927.

The Bole Family sold their land to Willard Roney and left the district. Their destiny is unknown.

Clarence Roney

CLARENCE RONEY, By Gladys M. Roney — My husband, Clarence W. Roney was one of the first settlers in the Garden Plain district, along with Harry McArthur and Joseph Higgins who homesteaded together.

Clarence Roney was born in Willmington, Delaware, in 1887. He went to the Yukon to pan for gold and then came to Canada, became a Canadian citizen, and homesteaded in 1909. He worked on the homestead for six months of the year, the other six months he worked as a surveyor on the Banff-Windermere highway. He built a sod house on the homestead, and made his own bread, pies and cakes.

In 1914 he joined the army and trained in Calgary, went overseas with the 31st battalion, and returned in 1919. He built a house and started farming, obtaining his stock and machinery through the Soldier Settlement Board.

In 1926 he married Gladys Hamilton, daughter of R.E. Hamilton. We have one daughter Betty. We stayed on the farm until 1932 when we went into business at Dinant, Alberta.

In 1937 we moved to British Columbia. Clarence was in the retail business until his retirement in 1958. He died on July 25, 1971, in Vancouver, B.C.

WILLARD RONEY, By Orpha Weifert — In 1910, Willard Roney, his brother James and their parents, came from Unionville, Iowa, to the Corinne district. Their brother Clarence had come in 1909. Willard purchased the Boles homestead and the Harry McCafferty farm. He had filed on a parcel of land which he didn't keep, and let Mr. R.E. Hamilton take possession of it.

Willard returned to Unionville, but later came back to the Corinne district. He and his wife Nellie had a daughter, Gladys, who married a man whose surname was Light. Willard has passed away; his wife still lives in Unionville.

Alberta Kennedy, Mrs. Frank Kennedy, Mrs. Herman Simon, Helen Kennedy, Donald Simon, Maxine Simon, Ken Simon, Jim Adams, Herman Simon, Frank Kennedy, Willard Roney, William Harvey, Mildred Harvey, Irene Kennedy, Margurite Simon, Fred Harvey, Andy Harvey, Frances Harvey, Harold Simon, Nellie Harvey.

MR. and MRS. MARTIN SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — Martin Siverson was born in Oslo, Norway on September 16, 1885. His mother made a living washing clothes by hand, scrubbing them on a washboard. In the winter the clothes would freeze on the line and my dad would help bring them into the house to finish drying. Dad worked in a cork factory, cutting corks by hand with a sharp knife from slabs of cork tree bark. It was a very tiresome job, and made him decide to emigrate to try to make [illegible] living in [illegible] more interesting way.

In the United States he worked on the railroad and as a lumberjack, but the slogan, 'Go west, young man', and the desire to own a farm so he could eat all the eggs he wanted, inspired him to go homesteading. Perhaps eggs were expensive because [illegible] chicks were hatched by hens on the farm in those days.

He arrived [illegible] the Garden Plain area during the wet years and with the tall ungrazed prairie wool to hold the moisture, water was abundant. He had come from a land noted for its fjords and fish; he chose to homestead the SE 12-34-14 because it had [illegible] couple of sloughs on it, and he believed they would have fish in them.

Harold, Stanley, Inga Strandberg, Alf Siverson, Mr. and Mrs. Strandberg holding Kenneth, Mr. and Mrs. Siverson holding Muriel.

What wonderful plans for a farm that would produce crops, livestock, chickens and even fish, went through his mind as he filed on his homestead on June 27, 1908.

In Stettler Dad met Jacob Hagan who had filed on the NE 12-34-14 the same day, and Siguard Larson. The three men walked together to their homesteads. Jacob had bought some oxen and [illegible] walking plow. He built a sod shack and a barn; Larson, a carpenter by trade, built a sturdy ten by twelve building of lumber on my dad's homestead for their home.

Once Dad went duck hunting on Sullivan Lake. A very heavy fog came up suddenly, and lasted for thirty-six hours. Dad became lost and walked in circles for two nights and [illegible] day; he had to keep moving so that he would not freeze to death. A search party found his footprints only fifty feet from a home north of the correction line. When the fog finally cleared he was half a mile from a stopping house where he sought shelter. He was too tired to eat; [illegible] bed never felt better.

During the winter Dad went to Calgary and Gleichen to work. In the spring of

1909 he returned to the homestead with a walking plow and four oxen. One of the oxen was a white bull that sired a white heifer calf for John Campbell. John kept the heifer, and for as long as he farmed, he occasionally had white calves from her offspring.

During the summer Dad broke some land and worked for Kane. He built another shack to replace the one which had been destroyed by a prairie fire, but that was blown down by [illegible] strong wind, so [illegible] had to start [illegible] over again. During a hail storm in 1928, [illegible] gust of wind which shook the house we were living in, picked up the shack. It flew past the window, then up in the air, twirling around, tearing into pieces which scattered for some distance. It really frightened me and every time it blows hard I remember that shack flying past the window.

After Dad got his shack built, Larson moved his building to the Hagan homestead, and lived there until he married Miss Graham. Hagan then occupied it until he left for Prince Rupert, and from that time until 1927 it was used for storing grain. That summer the Johanssons, mother's brother and his family, arrived from Sweden, and lived in it. While they were there, my uncle worked in the mine and hunted ducks and rabbits for meat. One time he shot a badger. My aunt borrowed my mother's meat grinder and made hamburger from it. When our relatives left for Edmonton in 1928, the shack stood empty until it was moved to Dad's farmstead to be used for storage. When Alf operated the Garden Plain service station during the sixties it was moved there to be used as an office building. It is now a chicken house on the farm of Walter Gross of Spondin.

In 1913 Siguard Larson helped Dad dig a well in his hog pasture, but the water contained so many salts that [illegible] was fit for neither man nor beast to drink.

When Hagan left he rented his homestead to my dad. During the thirties when times were so bad, the taxes were not paid, and the Special Areas took possession of it. Dad rented [illegible] from them until Alf took it over. He eventually sold the lease rights to Lloyd Strandberg who is now operating it.

About 1916 Larson built a two-roomed cottage which was Dad's home for the remainder of his life. That same year Karin Johansson left her homeland in Sweden and visited her sister, Anna Peterson, at Richdale. Then she came to stay with another sister, Matilda Ekelund, in the Corinne district. She worked for the Frank Kennedy family for a while, then in 1918 she married Martin Siverson.

On May 13, 1919, their daughter Inga Marie was born, with Mrs. Matilda Speten assisting. Incidentally, my birth was not registered, so when I applied for [illegible] birth certificate in 1957, Mr. Alex Wilson and my Dad had to sign a form stating that they had known me all my life. My brother, Alf, was born on November 17, 1924. This time Mrs. Halverson was with my mother.

In 1920 Dad bought two cows, the herd foundation and the beginning of milking cows. At first the cream was churned and the butter sold at the stores. I can remember when Dad brought the first cream can home. From then on the cream was shipped to the creamery.

Hail can be destructive, but in 1928 I gained from it. I took my total savings of $7.50 and insured Dad's crop. When it was hailed out I received $75.00. With the money I bought [illegible] black calf from James Bradshaw for $20.00, and later sold it for $40.00 I was rich. However, the depression struck and daddy borrowed it [illegible]. He did not forget it though; after I was married he gave me my favorite cow, Gullroos, and a mare. The mare produced two colts, but they have all been sold. The cow gave me a heifer and [illegible] bull calf; money from the sale of offspring bought a purebred cow which has increased into [illegible] small herd. There are still descendants of Gullroos in our herd, and she had come from one of the cows dad had bought at Mrs. Speten's sale in 1920.

Because of the distance to school, I did not attend until I was twelve years old. Mother had the equivalent of a grade eight in Sweden, she was partially deaf, could not read English, and spoke it very little. But with the aid [illegible] a first reader and an arithmetic book which Mrs. Halverson gave her, and a dictionary, Mother began to teach me. She discovered that school books were obtainable through Eaton's mail order service, so for years I received new readers for Christmas presents. I used to love the stories in those readers, and would read them through silently, but Mother insisted that I had to read aloud for an hour every day. I used to read aloud and churn the butter at the same time. Due to mother's efforts, I was able to go into grade seven when I started school, and obtained my grade eight diploma after two years at Corrine.

Firewood and kindling was very scarce, and I can remember helping my mother gather dry cow chips to use as fuel.

One fall day when I was quite young I noticed the buckbrush turning black on SW 7-34-13. My mother was milking a cow, and how I must have frightened her when I came running and yelling that the prairie was on fire. She quickly went to the house and wrote a note, "Please send Martin home as there is [illegible] prairie fire east of our house." She instructed me to go to James Wright's place, where Dad was working on the threshing outfit, as fast as I could. I ran most of the way, not far short of a mile. Mrs. Wright got the message to my dad, and people from far and near came to fight the fire. Mrs. Burt from Scapa came in a car; she took my mother, Alf and me with her, and cream cans of water so the men could soak the sacks they were using to beat out the flames. Luckily there was little wind so the fire was brought under control before it caused much damage to the native grass.

Those golden straw stacks of the threshing era provided food and shelter for the livestock during the winter. As the animals ate around them they became mushroom-shaped; with a blanket of snow and ice on them they could become death traps if the tops slid on top of the animals. Such an avalanche put me in a tricky situation one time when I had gone with my father for a load of straw.

He was using a wagon box on bobsleighs, pulled by a team of horses. My dad started to load the straw when he noticed the top of the stack starting to move. He yelled a warning, but before I could get out [illegible] the way the top of the stack came down on me, pinning my face against the wagon box. It was God's providence that the team did not move; I shudder at the thought of what would have happened if my face had rubbed against the box with the stakes and bolts sticking out of it. My dad dug me out, none the worse for the experience, except for some black and blue spots which disappeared in time.

Horses can be balky. My dad had one, a pretty little bay called Maud. As he was short of horses, he had to use her, but after [illegible] night's rest she would balk; she just refused to work in the morning. So I would hold the rest of the horses while dad jumped on her and rode her at full gallop around the field. Then he would hook the horses to the implement and away she would go and work, sweaty, puffing and blowing.

Our bachelor neighbor used to leave the oven door of his coal and wood stove open, so that the heat from the oven would help warm the one-room shack which was his home all of his days at Garden Plain. His beloved cats lived in the shack too. One morning he put kindling [illegible] the stove, filled the teakettle, shut the drafts enough that the fire would not burn out of control, closed the oven door and went out to feed his horses. When he returned he was met by an unfamiliar smell, so he opened the oven door, and there was his cat, roasted. What an awful feeling that kindhearted man must have had! To my knowledge he never closed that oven

door again. The last time I saw that stove he had put so much stuff on the oven door that it would be impossible to close it without thinking.

He also kept some chickens. Once they were visited by a striped kitty who helped himself to breakfast; the owner borrowed a gun and sat down in the chicken coop to wait for the unwelcome visitor. The animal was so long in coming that the man fell asleep. When the skunk did arrive the squawking of the chickens awakened the man, who sleepily grabbed his trusty pitchfork and killed the intruder, but not before it had sprayed man, coop and all with the offensive odor reserved for anyone getting in its way.

In the dry thirties, those sloughs that my dad had believed might have fish in them, turned out to be alkaline flats with big cracks in the parched soil. The rainfall of the forties filled them again, and for a while one of them became the neighborhood skating rink; my dad donned skates and played goalkeeper.

It was during the late thirties that some hot fat spattered into one of Mother's eyes when she was frying something. From that day on she mentioned that it bothered her. It turned to cancer which spread, and she passed away in July, 1949. Dad remained on the farm until his death in 1964.

My mother instilled in me a faith in God that has never left me; it is the one thing I can turn to when the going gets tough. As I enter the sunset years I thank God for my wonderful mother who made the best of what she had. She missed the Bun Hus or mission place that she used to go to in Sweden, as she did not get to go to meetings here, but she taught me that you don't have to go to church to worship God as He lives within us. May we meet again in the house of many mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

MR. and MRS. ALF SIVERSON, By Inga Strandberg — After Alf finished school he worked on the farm with his dad. He married Helen Pincombe in 1953, and they had six children, Marie, May, Sandra, Arthur, Terry and Annette. May is now married to Walter Peach; they have two daughters, Vickie and Bertha. Sandra is married to Henry Scheffelmaier and has one daughter Tammy. Marie and Arthur are working in Calgary.

At first the family lived on SW 12-34-14 but later moved to the SE 1-34-14 where Alf operated the Garden Plain service station as well as the farm. In 1967 Alf had a sale and moved to Calgary and later to Langdon.

Alf and Helen are now divorced, and she is married to Hugh Riddle. Terry and Annette are with their mother. Alf lives at Langdon where he is an Amway and Rawleigh distributor.

MR. and MRS. OSCAR EKELUND, By Inga Strandberg — Oscar Neilson Ekelund was born in Skattebol, Varmland, Sweden in 1878. Like other young men he wanted adventure, so with his brother Theodor and sister Beda set sail for the United States where he worked in the logging industry in South Dakota and Washington. Later he went back to his homeland for a visit and in 1910 immigrated to Canada. On May 25, 1910, he filed on NW 24-34-14 as his homestead and NE 24-34-14 as his pre-emption in the Corinne district. He built his homestead shack alongside the burnout on his pre-emption, and later built a house a mile further west.

Matilda Johansson was born on April 25, 1886 in Varmland. On June 2, 1909, Matilda and her sister Anna Maria left Sweden for Chicago where they both worked until 1913, when she immigrated to the Corinne district near Garden Plain, and was united in marriage with her childhood sweetheart, Oscar Ekelund.

To this union seven children were born. Four died in infancy. Astrid, Arthur

and Evelyn attended Corinne school. The family loved to visit their relatives and friends, and attended local social functions such as concerts and picnics. They were well liked as Oscar was a very honest man.

The depression years and the drought inspired the family to look for greener pastures. They found a likeable place in the Daysland district, where they moved in 1937. In the first letter I received from my cousin Astrid after they moved she wrote, "And all the nice clear water we can use!" In the Corinne district their farmstead must have been where coal was close to the surface, as the water was a very dark brown. It must have been hard for my godmother, Aunt Matilda, to keep house at Corinne, as water for washing clothes was hauled from the neighbors. And if my godfather, Uncle Oscar, was like most men, she must have heard often, "Do you have to use so much water all the time? I've got other things to do besides hauling water for you to pour out."

Mr. and Mrs. Ekelund, Evelyn, Astrid, Arthur Ekelund.

They farmed in the Daysland district until they retired to the town of Daysland in 1956, only a few months before Astrid passed away after many years of painful suffering from arthritis and waiting for the day she would meet Jesus face to face.

Arthur is married to Ann Gordash, and farms the home place. They have seven children, Gordon, Douglas, Vickie, Timmy, Danny, Barbra and Marilyn.

Evelyn is married to Ole Larson and has three chosen children, Allen, Carol and Joy. They live in Wetaskiwin.

Oscar passed away in 1965 and Matilda in 1972.

THE WINMILL STORY — Mr. William Winmill came to the Corinne district in 1909 to take up a homestead. This homestead was on the NE 36-34-14. Mr. and Mrs. William Winmill had three children: Doris, the oldest child was born in 1921. Ervine, born in 1909, and the youngest was Raymond born in 1920. The three children attended school in the Corinne School. They are all married and the two boys Ervine and Raymond are living in Edmonton.

Several years ago Mr. William Winmill was seen in Edmonton, a friend of his remembers visiting him in the hotel in the southern part of the city. Mrs. Winmill has remarried and is Mrs. Flynn and is living in Edmonton.

GEORGE GIBB, By Margaret Nelson — In July of 1909 George Gibb filed on the SE 18-34-13. He broke up the required land and built a shack; during the winter of 1912-13 he freighted from Castor. After his homestead was proved up, he had enough of Alberta. He went to Saskatoon where he worked for a time

before going to Calgary. He later spent some time in British Columbia before retiring in Calgary where he passed away a few years ago. About 1921, Andrew Glover bought his land.

EDWARD LEADLY, By Harry Nelson — Edward Parker Leadly homesteaded the NW 30-34-13 on March 29, 1909. He apparently proved up his homestead.

Sometime later he was found dead in his shack, apparently a victim of ptomaine poisoning. His land was taken over by the Special Areas in the early thirties. It was leased by T.G. Ironside for pasture and at the present time E. Storch has the grazing rights.

ROBERT COPP, By Orpha Wolfert — The year 1909 brought numbers of families to the Corinne area in search of land to homestead. Robert filed on the north west of 24-34-14 to make this his home. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Copp had two children, Frank and Vivian. Vivian attended school at the Corinne School. She was a very pleasant girl and full of laughter. She would ride her horse about four miles for the mail each day.

Frank homesteaded on the north east of 34-34-14 in 1910. Later he married Bessie Ogg. They had one son, Robert.

The Robert Copp and the Frank Copp families lived together and owned and operated a stopping house. This along with other stopping houses provided lodging for people travelling north and south on the main road. Later he sold his property to Thomas Smith.

WILLIAM HENRY McARTHUR, By Orpha Wolfert — William McArthur homesteaded on the NE of 22-34-14 in 1909. After farming his land, he moved to Castor where he owned and operated a butcher shop. William sold his homestead to Mr. Willard Roney. Later he moved to British Columbia. While in B.C. he found a loved one and married. William passed away in 1970.

GEORGE MARTIN, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1909, George came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead on the north half of 25-34-14. He farmed his land until 1920, when he left the district. George was a very short man and acquired the name of Little George. While homesteading he found it very difficult to harness his horses; he built himself a box to stand on to bridle and harness them.

In 1919, George worked with Alex Richard on a large steam threshing machine doing threshing for the neighbors. In 1920, George left the district.

George was a very sociable bachelor with a nice personality. He enjoyed his "oil of happiness" and while walking down the streets of Castor he would sing his favorite little song, "I built the Rocky Mountains and placed them where they are. Sold Whiskey to the Indians, from my little Bar."

THE HIGGINS FAMILY, By Mrs. N. Higgins — Joseph Higgins filed on a homestead and pre-emption about halfway between Castor and Hanna in 1909. He built a sod house, dug a well, and farmed for a time with oxen, then changed to horses.

About the same time, Mary and Edward Lepard settled in the Garden Plain area. In 1913, Mary Lepard's widowed mother, Mrs. O'Connor, and her only sister, Hanora, came to visit them. Mrs. O'Connor died about ten days after their arrival, and Hanora remained in Alberta. She married Joseph Higgins in 1917. Their son, Joseph Junior, was born in 1922.

When Mr. Wickson, the storekeeper and postmaster, moved to British Columbia, he sold his house to Mr. Higgins, who moved it on to his homestead.

Joseph Higgins' health failed and his son, relying on his father's experience and advice, took over the operation of the farm. But conditions were poor. Very little rain fell, crops were damaged by frost. Grasshoppers ate the little that did grow.

The farmers didn't lose hope; they kept saying, "Next year will be a good year," but it didn't happen that way. Almost every year, some part of the district was hailed. The Hail Insurance companies considered it a high risk area, and charged very high premiums. The government would insure the crop for a smaller amount at a lower premium, but if the farmer was unable to pay it, it was charged against his land.

Some farmers were lucky enough to sell their property; others packed what they could, took their horses and cattle and left to start a home elsewhere. Others decided to stay as there was so much land that couldn't be used for farming but could be used for pasture, they went in to ranching. It proved to be a wise choice and worked out very well.

Joseph Senior died in 1945. Joseph Junior put in one more crop, but didn't even get enough feed for the stock. He wanted to try something else, so he sold the farm to one neighbor and the house to another, and he and his mother moved to Castor. He got a job supervising a school near Coronation and the next year went to Normal and started to teach.

He taught several schools near Castor, and periodically spent a year at University to upgrade his qualifications. He taught in Calgary until his health failed. He died of cancer in 1975.

His widow, his three step-children and his mother live in Calgary.

IT'S THE LANDING THAT TELLS, By Marie Lepard Claypool — In the year of 1909 my parents with eight of us youngsters moved from a coastal city in the state of Washington to the prairies of Alberta. After rattling through the Canadian Rockies in what the Canadian Railway Company called immigration cars, we arrived in Calgary, a city snuggled in the foothills. There, the scene changed (but not the cars) to a rolling green prairie dotted with yellow buttercups and white daisies. After swaying and bumping along over the unballasted railroad for many hours our train pulled into the little wooden town of Stettler and the end of the line, but not the end of the journey for us, for a whole new life was opening before us.

Stiff and tired from our journey we stood on the platform of the tiny red depot looking around us with mixed feelings of which dismay was not the least.

For Father's sake I had kept my feelings well under my hat. It was when he came into the hotel the next morning, calmly telling us we would have to go before a North West Mounted Policeman and kiss the Union Jack — well, what had been so carefully hidden came out as I told all and sundry that I would kiss no flag but the Stars and Stripes and I did not care if King George himself gave the order. Of course Father enjoyed this and when he was able to stop laughing told us he was only joking. But there was no joking when he brought around a lumber wagon piled high with everything including the kitchen stove. On the very top he had placed mattresses and the ten of us climbed on to them holding on the best we could. Then as if to add insult to injury two red long-horned oxen were hitched to this monstrosity and we started our sixty mile trek as the crow flies to journey's end, over hills and valleys, through and around mud holes, for four of the longest days of my life.

We arrived at dusk at two small shacks where we hastily prepared supper and without any coaxing retired for a much needed rest. The ground looked like

that we had passed over and not too promising and as the last chore of the night we staked out the oxen.

Something went wrong for the next morning the oxen were gone. Two of my brothers went in one direction and my older brother and I went in the other. We walked for miles before we found them on the bank of a ravine. Being tired and hungry we were anxious to get home. I got the idea that perhaps we could ride the creatures. Did you ever ride an ox? Well don't.

There was one short rope we had and my brother put that on his ox and I had my mother's hubbard apron to tie onto mine. After putting the horns of the animal through the straps of the apron my brother gave me a boost sending me on top of a very resentful ox. I got a good grip on the apron, using it very much as one would reins on a saddle horse, when the fun began. The ox started bucking up and circling around, then humping his back — head down and tail in the air — plunged down the ravine into a gooey gumbo mud puddle. The other ox with my brother perched on his back was walking in all the dignity you please up the other bank. Where was my dignity? Well! that is what I landed on in the mud hole. The moral of this story is: it's not the take off as much as the landing that tells.

THE JOHN DELKER FAMILY, By Alfred and Albert Delker — John and Mary Delker and their five children came from Bessarabia in July, 1927. They bought the John Claypool farm north-east of Scapa on the east half of 10-34-14. The children attended Garden Plain and Corinne schools. John Delker Sr. passed away in 1938.

John Delker Jr. married Violet Tachritter and lived on a farm twenty miles south of Castor. They have two children, Shirley and Douglas. John Delker Jr. passed away in 1972.

Elsie Delker married Earl Burt and now lives on a farm north of Craigmyle. They have three children, Sheila, Gary and Diane.

Mae married Don Welch and lives in Calgary. They have two children, Gloria and Marilyn.

Mrs. Mary Delker, Albert and Alfred still live on the original farm.

THE ED LEPARD STORY, By Belle Lepard Provost — Mother and Dad were married in Michigan, United States of America, where all of us eight children were born, Marie, Ed, John, Dave, George, Mary, Belle and Laurette. My Dad had a lumber mill in Michigan. He sold out in 1907 and moved to Hoquiam, Washington, where he worked in a saw mill till the spring of 1909.

The family came to Canada and settled in the Garden Plain district on the south west quarter of section fourteen, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen. We arrived in Stettler on the eighteenth of April 1919.

They bought a yoke of oxen and wagon, also a little cook stove and some dishes and other necessary items. They loaded the bedding, two guns, two trunks, the stove and dishes, Mother, Dad and us eight children piled on top. The load was completed.

With a cow behind the wagon, we started across country to the homestead. After wandering around sloughs and mud holes for several days, we came to the Smith and Wallace homesteads just two and a half miles from our own.

They had come in just before us and had built two shacks. So we stayed there for a few days, while Dad and Dave took the oxen and wagon back to Stettler to get lumber to put a floor in our tent. They also hoped to get our other belongings which were shipped from Washington. When Dad went to the station, someone else had claimed the shipment. This was a big loss to our parents as Mother's

sewing machine and all our clothing and other household goods were all gone, and it was impossible to trace things like that in those days.

While Dad and Dave were gone, a prairie fire came from the north, headed straight for our tent. It was coming fast as the grass was long then. Mother got all us children together and gave us our orders. The older ones hauled water from a slough nearby and Mother and the older ones back fired around the shacks. We younger ones dipped coats or anything we could find to keep wet for them to use. Mary and I had to watch Lauretta as she was too small to do anything.

That was a long hard fight, but the shacks and all of us were saved. My Dad was so relieved to find us all safe when he got back. He had heard of the fire on his way home, and was very proud of Mother for the way she had managed in such a terrible situation.

They put up the tent on our homestead and we lived in it until they got the sod house built. Then in June we got a blizzard and the roof blew off the sod house. By that time Jack Claypool's father had finished his sod house so he took us all over there.

Later when Dad had the oxen on a hay rack and the heel flies were bad and took after the oxen, Dad had a merry ride till the oxen stopped in the middle of a big slough.

We sold out and moved north of Castor in 1919. This was after brother John and cousin Mack Lepard came home after the end of World War One. We liked the Lauderdale district and remained there till the end of Dad's farming days. Of the eight children only two remain, George of Calgary, and Belle of Edmonton.

THE BEN LEPARD STORY, By Elechia Lepard Chidley — Ben Lepard was born and raised in the Township of Mara, Ontario. He married Hannah McMillan in 1886. To this marriage there were born nine children, Bill, Mary, Maggie, Belle, Lizzie, Mack, Joe, Hannah and Elechia, all born in Ontario. In 1910 Ben had heard of the Great North West from his brothers, who were already here, so he landed in Calgary in the early spring and filed on the south east of 14-34-14. He broke up the thirty acres that was required for a homestead and built a twelve by sixteen, found work north of Castor for awhile and finally worked for Mr. G.B. Hoover of Gadsby until the spring of 1913. Then he returned to Ontario for his family and such belongings as could be made use of in Alberta. He shipped a railway carload about April 1st, it took two weeks to get to Lacombe. The family had left Ontario a week later, and when our train pulled into Lacombe, we were very pleased to see dad and the dog standing in a box car door. We continued on to Gadsby to the Hoover farm where the men worked until late October, then we came to the homestead in the Garden Plain area. The men built an additional twelve by sixteen shack to the original, plowed sod three inches deep and fourteen inches wide cut into eighteen inch lengths and laid them around our shiplap shack. That was a warm place to live. They also built a sod barn and chicken house.

We were very fortunate to be living beside a very good clear water spring, and farther up the creek we had our own coal. It was about four feet down to a two foot seam of very hard shiny coal. All our neighbors helped strip coal every fall for their own use.

The fall of 1913 was very warm. On Christmas Day my mother walked all over our quarter section with only a white blouse and skirt on. On January sixth, Ed Lepard broke up a few acres and seeded wheat, also Mr. Claypool seeded some, it came up a few inches then winter came.

In 1917 Dad built a house twenty by twenty-six with twelve foot studs. This was shiplap, two layers of tar paper and drop siding. It too was warm. And the price! Five hundred and seventy-five dollars, this was five, two-year-old steers sold to Harold Hunt from Endiang at one hundred dollars each, the other seventy-five was some of my brothers' wages.

This house held many happy occasions for the Lepards and their neighbors. As the front room and dining room were all one, thirteen by twenty feet, we had many dances there, supplying our own music — a mouth organ, which most of us played, a violin and guitar, and we rattled the bones too. You may be able to understand what our parents had to listen to. They were very tolerant; only once did Mother tell Mack to quit, but he just went outside and kept playing. A violin is a very squeally thing.

Mother must have had a lot of patience or else she would have crowned me early in life. Shortly after we came to Alberta, I was washing all her fancy cups and saucers that the kind relatives had given her when leaving Ontario. I never noticed the open cellar door and pushed the table over it. A leg went down, and all the dishes too. Oh my! I was ten years old then and not very smart, eh?

When I was seventeen, and Russell Chidley was our regular Sunday visitor, I decided to really clean the separator room. So I put plenty of water on the floor and sprinkled it generously with Gillette Lye, took an old broom and gave it the what for — then swished it [redacted] down the drain and away to the coulee. Later mother looked out and said, "Oh my goodness, all my turkeys are lying beside the drain, dead." Poor me again. So you see what some parents have to put up with. I guess they sighed with relief when I married and got out of there.

Mother and Dad lived there until about 1936 then moved to Castor and stayed with my sister Lizzie, Mrs. Bert Barnes. They passed away there in 1939 and 1941 respectively.

Of their children, only four remain in 1976. Belle eighty-three years in Edmonton, M.G. "Mack" eighty years in Surrey, British Columbia, Hannah seventy-five years in Orillia, Ontario and Elechia seventy-three in Hanna, Alberta.

MYLES G. (Mac) LEPARD — My Father, Ben Lepard, had filed on a homestead on the SE 14-34-14 in 1910. My brother Bill had joined him in 1912. In the spring of 1913 my father moved the rest of the family from Ontario to the G.B. Hoover ranch north-east of Gadsby, where he and I and brother Bill worked for the summer. In the fall of 1913 the family moved to the homestead; the following spring I helped with the building of the U.F.A. hall at Garden Plain, then went back to the Hoover ranch.

In 1914 I filed on a quarter section on the north side of the correction line; I worked for J.H. Simon on the horse-powered threshing rig owned by the Simon brothers. This was a relic of the past, which was hand fed and had a straw carrier.

In the spring of 1915 I was turned down for the army because of being underweight; but was finally accepted in the fall of 1917. I was attached to the Tenth Battalion and went overseas, but came down with flu and was sent to England for the duration. I returned home in July 1919, bought another quarter section, and tried to farm, but without much success. I moved to Ohaton and later to B.C. where I worked as a logger.

In 1939 I joined [redacted] Company of the Westminster Regiment at Chilliwack, went overseas with them and later transferred to the R.C.E.M.E. When I returned home in 1945 I got married and have lived at Surrey, B.C., ever since.

During my stay at Garden Plain I was on the hall committee for much of the time.

MR. and MRS. JOE LEPARD, By Violet William Lepard — I am the youngest of ten children of the C.B. William family. My parents and seven children came from North Dakota to the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill area. Three children passed away in Iowa from diphtheria. My father heard of homesteads in Alberta, so he came west and homesteaded in the Sedgewick and Neutral Hill district.

Dad was a carpenter, so he built a shack for Mother and the family, who came in 1907, a sod room had to be added to accommodate us all. Dad and the boys built the Hill Park School, which later I attended until I was eleven years of age. Later I attended the Neutral Hill School, taking grade eleven in Consort and finishing my education in Normal in 1921-22.

I taught the Silver Beach School near Gooseberry Lake for ten years and in 1924-25 came to the Corinne School and boarded with the Frank Kennedy family.

In June 1926, Joseph Lepard and I were united in marriage and lived in the Ben Lepard home until the spring of 1927 when he began carpentering with Bert Barnes. We moved back to the Lepard home in the fall of 1930, we had two small daughters, then a baby brother kept them company at Christmas of thirty-one.

During the thirties the grasshoppers and the dry weather didn't leave much for the people to get by with. In those years there were nasty blizzards, feed was scarce and had to be shipped into Scapa.

Some families had left the district, among them was the Hermon Simon family. We rented and lived on their land until the spring of 1948. About the middle of April a snowplow opened the highway to Hanna. We had to sell cattle as we didn't have enough feed to keep them. That summer Joe farmed our own quarter and the McCafferty place.

In the spring of 1949 there were only a few spots of snow left by the first of March, when we moved to a farm south of Nevis.

Joe passed away in July 1963. That fall I moved into Stettler and have been residing there since. Harold and his wife, Joan live in the Erskine area, Keith, Dorothy and their daughter are at Whitecourt.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley Wedding Day

THE RUSSELL CHIDLEY STORY, By Elechie Chidley — Russell came to Manitoba from Devil's Lake, North Dakota with his family. Russell had three sisters and two brothers. One sister Grace, had long hair and while she was blowing out the coal oil lamp, her hair caught fire. She breathed in the flames and passed away shortly after.

The family later moved to Edmonton, then to Castor or rather Old Williston as the town was known then. Russell attended school there for a few years. After the Railroad reached Castor, the family moved to Hanna, where they felt there was more opportunity for a pioneer family. In 1913, they pitched their tent and Russell often told of the very severe cold in that tent that winter.

He attended school here for some years, attending Hanna's first school, and during Hanna's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, he had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances with the first teacher, Mr. Herb De Bow.

Russell's sister, Gertrude, had returned to the United States of America with

the rest of the family in 1917. She later became an actress in Hollywood, we watched her on T.V. one evening in 1967.

Russell remained in this area and later took up land about three miles south of the Garden Plain store. As I recall, he had a very nice looking horse and buggy, and many a girl had a buggy ride with him. That horse could walk the slowest and trot the fastest of any horse in the district. I guess I enjoyed the most rides as he married me, Elechia Lepard in 1921.

Of this marriage there were four sons, Bill, Arley, Murl and Bert.

Russell left the farm there and bought the Tom Smith homestead one mile west of the Corinne School, and one mile from the shores of Sullivan Lake.

Our boys all attended school at Corinne. There were many laughs and many hard times as the years rolled by. I took great pleasure in dressing my boys in white shirts and dress pants for school. These were homemade. Finally Arley at twelve years of age came home the last day of school in June and said, "Ma, Ma, do we have to wear white shirts next year?" I said, "Yes, and you will be wearing ties too." All was forgotten till the first day of school, when he stood in front of me and said, "Do we have to wear ties too?"

Russell farmed that area for about forty eight years, raising black Angus cattle. He also was a Councillor in the Sullivan Lake Municipality for several years, and an original member of the Garden Plain U.F.A. Hall Committee, having helped build that hall in 1914. He was a staunch Co-Op member until his demise in 1966.

The boys all married and are now living in the Hanna area.

It might be of some interest to the readers to learn that while visiting my sister in Ontario, I learned that my grandfather had been a Quaker, and they took me to the one-time home of that group north of Toronto. It is now maintained as a Museum. While there I was told that each member had his name engraved on the under side of his chair seat, and sure enough, there I found Ezekiel Lepards' name. In one of the clippings from the papers kept there, it said my grandfather had been one of the finest fiddlers in North America.

Now I never heard my father mention this, and I'm sure grandfather never told the family he had been a Quaker or a fiddler (as he moved north to Orillia) and this was granddad's secret.

Two of his sons were real old time fiddlers, Jack Lepard played in the Garden Plain Hall and surrounding Schools; he could get the nicest sound from that fiddle I believe I ever heard. There wasn't much rubbed off on me, I was too busy with dishes and diapers. I played at it a bit. My brothers George and Mack as he was known, was a nice smooth player. My son Bert inherited more than the rest of us, he is a real good fiddler, just a natural.

I wonder how many remember the mild winter of 1913 and 1914. One of my uncles did some breaking of sod in January, and another seeded some wheat on January sixth. Of course, it came up but was frozen off in February.

ARLEY CHIDLEY, By Leoma Slemp Chidley — Arley Chidley, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley, was born in Castor on June 15, 1923. I attended school at Corinne and in 1954 married Leoma Slemp of Fleet. They have four children, Gary was born in Hanna in 1958; Debbie was born in Hanna, 1960; Donna was born in 1961; and Dixie, the youngest, was born in December, 1962.

Gary started school in Scapa and later attended school in Hanna, graduating from Hanna High in 1976 and is working for Special Areas. His three sisters, Debbie, Donna and Dixie are attending school in Hanna.

Arley took over his Father's farm in 1954 and in 1974 sold it to Mr. William

Boyson. Arley and I had an auction sale and moved to an acreage west of Hanna. Arley is employed as janitor at the Hanna Elementary School.

MURL CHIDLEY, By Sylvia Kerner Chidley — Murl Chidley, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell was born in Castor on November 24, 1924. He received his education at Corinne School and later married Sylvia Kerner of Stanmore. Murl and I have one son Dallas. He was born in Hanna, November 29, 1950. Dallas attended school in Scapa and Netherby, finishing his education in Hanna High.

In 1945 Murl and I lived on the Roney place the north west of 22-34-14. Then we bought the Walker farm in 1949. We moved to the Walker farm in 1953 to make this our home. We remained on this farm until 1974. Dallas started farming his own land in 1971. In July 1974 we decided to leave the farm so Murl and I along with our son, sold our farms to Morgan Transport Limited. We had an auction sale and moved to Hanna.

Murl is employed with Special Areas and Dallas works with Special Areas and the Co-op Gas Company. Later Murl and Dallas purchased the Hugh Campbell Estate, farming this land from town.

THE BERT CHIDLEY STORY, By Mary Chidley — Bert Chidley is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chidley. He was born in the Castor Hospital on February 11, 1934. He received his schooling at Corinne, later married Mary Kerner from Stanmore.

Bert and Mary lived on the Fred Slemp farm and the Wallace farm, later moving to Hanna. While residing in Hanna, Bert was employed in the Jenkin's Grocery Store and Grover's Transport.

Their only child, Dale, received his schooling in Scapa and Hanna. He graduated from Hanna High in 1976 and is presently working in a grocery store in Hanna.

WILLIAM GEORGE BOYSON, By Phyllis Boyson — Bill, his wife, Thelma and their three children farmed in the Airdrie district before moving to the Craigmyle district. They purchased the Bercht Farm in the Craigmyle district in May of 1964. They resided there until April of 1973 when they purchased the Arley Chidley farm one mile west of the Corinne School. Bill and Thelma have three children: Linden Archie born in Calgary in 1943, Dwight William born in Calgary in 1948 and Lela Mary born in Calgary in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. William Boyson, Dwight, Lela, Linden

Linden received his education in Airdrie and is presently farming in the Corinne district.

Dwight attended school in Airdrie, Elmer, Hanna High and later went to S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968.

Lela received her education at Airdrie, Elmer and Hanna High School. In November 1967, she married Laurence Nicholson of Vegreville. They have three children: Chris, Charlene and David. They are presently living in Peace River where Laurence is a Public Relations man for the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Bill and Thelma moved from the farm to Hanna in October of 1976.

DWIGHT WILLIAM BOYSON, By Phyllis Boyson — Dwight Boyson married Jean Phyllis Wolfert in the spring of 1968. We resided in Hanna where Dwight apprenticed as a heavy duty mechanic at C.C.I.L. In the spring of 1970 he received his Heavy Duty Mechanic License after attending school at S.A.I.T. in Calgary.

The spring of 1970 saw Dwight and myself off to the mining hamlet of Pine Point, N.W.T., where Dwight was employed as a H.D. Mechanic for Cominco Mines. The type of mining operation is open pit and experimental underground mining.

In the spring of 1972 we returned to the Corinne district and later purchased the Andy Harvey farm. Then Dwight, myself, our two children and Dwight's brother Linden took up residence and the management of his father's farm as well as our own.

We have two children: Kelly Dwight born in Hay River, N.W.T. in the fall of 1971 and Evonne Ann born in Hanna in the summer of 1974.

THE THOMAS SMITH STORY, By Orpha Wolfert — Thomas Smith came to homestead in 1910. He filed on the south east of 27-34-14. He homesteaded on the land until joining the Army in 1913. Thomas made his home with the John Wallace family.

During the war Thomas lost an arm. Returning with this handicap, Tom acquired the job of superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board. He sold his land to Mr. Russell Chidley in 1926 through the S.S.B. Later he moved to Edmonton.

The Castor Advance of 1916 stated "Garden Plain: A farewell and dance was given in December 1916 in the U.F.A. Hall in honor of Thomas Smith, who is a war veteran and is leaving the district."

He died in Edmonton where his wife still resides.

MR. ROBERT SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — Robert Smith homesteaded in the Corinne district on the SW 35-34-14 in 1912. Robert never lived on his homestead but lived with the John Wallace family. When the war started he joined the army in 1913. When he returned he worked as a superintendent for the Soldier Settlement Board. In later years he sold his land and went to live in Edmonton and later moving to Calgary, residing there until his death.

JAMES COOPER SMITH, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1912, James Cooper Smith, who is a brother of Robert and Thomas Smith, came to the Corinne district to take up a homestead, James filed on the NE of 23-34-14. He and his wife lived on their homestead until 1916. They left the district to find better land. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. FRANK GERRITZ, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Frank Gerritz was among the homesteaders that came to the district in 1910. He didn't take up residence in the

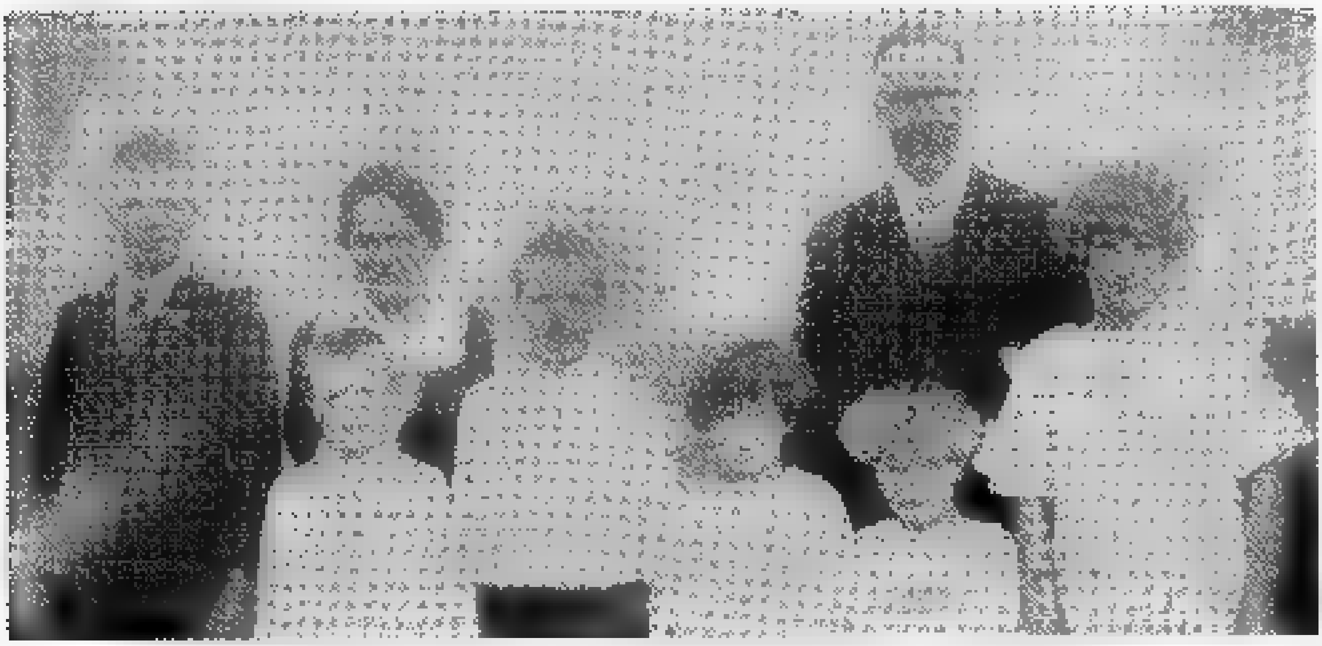
area but lived with his brother in the Cowan district, which is north of the correction line. In later years he sold his land to William Lepard. His destiny is unknown.

WILLIAM WAGNER, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. William Wagner homesteaded on the south half of 25-34-14. He and his wife Maggie had one son who remained in the States. He married there and came to live with his parents for a short time, then returned to the States.

William had a great interest in witching wells and helped the neighbors find water. William had a problem speaking, as his stuttering was very noticeable.

Bill and Maggie had a farm sale, selling their horses and cattle to the neighbors, before leaving in the thirties.

THE CARL BLUM STORY, By Paul Blum — Carl Blum homesteaded in the Bullpound district near Hanna in 1909, coming from the United States with the Mohl, Gall and Wiedrick families. In 1910 he married Johanna Wiedrick. To this union six children were born, Fred, Erna, Albin, Paul, Lillian and Selma. The latter passed away in 1942.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blum and family, Fred, Paul, Albin, Lillie, Zelma

In 1923 we moved to the Garden Plain district on what was then the Walker farm. Later my father purchased the William Wagner farm. In 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Blum moved north to Wetaskiwin. They both have passed away.

MACK McMILLAN, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Mack McMillan was a returned soldier from World War II. While in the war he was a Commanding Officer in the army. During the war he fell in love with a girl who was in the English Army in England, they were married and came to live in the Corinne district after the war. Mr. and Mrs. Mack McMillan bought the Frank Copp homestead through the Soldier Settlement Board, they lived in the district for a few years and then they left. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. CHARLES MAY LYON, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. Charles May Lyon homesteaded on the NW 16-34-14. Charles and his wife came to the district in 1910. They had one daughter who was married to Mr. Walker. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lyon didn't live here very long. They sold their land to Melvin Walker and left the district. Their destiny is unknown.

MR. WILLIAM CARLSON, By Orpha Wolfert — Mr. and Mrs. William Carlson came west to take up a homestead. They filed on the SW 36-34-14 in 1910. William and his wife didn't live here very long. While here William helped to make hay with James Hildreth, later they left the district, their whereabouts is unknown.

EDGAR DEAN, By Orpha Wolfert — Edgar Dean came to the Corinne district in June 1910. He took up a homestead on the east side of Sullivan Lake on the NE 26-34-14. Edgar never lived on his homestead very long before disposing of his land to a neighbor. His destiny is unknown.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Walker, taken in 1952. Mr. Walker was ninety-two years young. Sons standing: Melvin and Leslie

WALTER EARL WALKER, By Leslie Walker — Walter E. Walker was born in 1860. He came west at the age of twenty to the wide open spaces, so in 1909 he emigrated from Bonners Ferry Idaho to Alberta. He spent the last half of October with a Government Land Agent looking for land to settle on. Some snow was on the ground when he decided on the south half of 28-34-14, which was on the south east ridge of Sullivan Lake, so he couldn't have known that lake was an alkali flat. After filing on the homestead he worked helping to build the Castor Railway Depot.

In the summer of 1910, he freighted enough lumber from Stettler to build the fourteen and sixteen foot shack. He hired a man to break sixty acres of sod and in the spring of 1911 the first crop was planted. Not much profit was realized due to the expense of hiring the work done.

In March 1913 his wife and three sons were packed and ready to leave for the homestead, snow was still on the ground when we left Castor with a team of horses and a sixty bushel grain tank on a sleigh. We had horse blankets tacked over the top of the box and a kerosene lantern burning under the blanket for warmth.

A three foot snow drift had formed in front of the storm door and had to be shoveled away before we could enter. There had been no fire in the little cook stove for two days, so the house was really cold. In one corner was a four foot square bin, five feet high, full of seed grain for the spring planting. The shack had a dirt floor and a wooden floor couldn't be put in until the wheat was out, so the children's bed had to be made on the top of the wheat. We shivered for two nights till the wheat got warmed up.

The snow melted in April and by the first week in May it was time to seed again. When the grass became green, we got our first cow and calf. There was free range, so livestock roamed the prairie, where an occasional buffalo skull lay. Cropland had to be fenced.

Several trips were made to the Battle River area, this was fourteen miles north of Castor to bring home willow posts and poplar poles for the fence and corrals. The posts were sharpened and all the wood chips had to be saved and used for kindling.

The oldest son Melvin age seventeen worked in Hanna at the Royal Bank to help with the expenses. The second son Leslie age seven walked two miles to school and back each day, then walked to bring the cows in each night for milking. Also his chore was to draw water from the well with a pail on a rope to water the livestock and for the household use. The youngest son Kenneth age five, kept his mother company in the house.

Our summer vacations were short as the winters were so severe with blizzards that school would be closed for three or four days at a time. So we would have our Christmas concerts then and no school until March when it was warmer.

Time went fast and we got our first McCormick binder to take off the harvest in September. The wheat bundles had to be stooked up with a fork or by hand in a bunch of eight with heads upward for them to mature. If a threshing machine wasn't available right away, the bundles were hauled into the centre of the field and made into nice round stacks that were quite high and tapered in at the top to shed off the rain in the fall. Sometimes it would be February or March before the threshing crew came to seperate the wheat from the straw. Oats were harvested green and when the bundles were dry, they were stacked to feed the livestock during the winter. Sometimes it seemed like six months of winter, then three months more of cold weather.

In the spring of 1915, Melvin came from Hanna to help on the farm, we got more horses and cattle. The farmers all went together and bought a threshing outfit of their own so they could get their own grains threshed before it got too late in the fall. This was a big steam engine and separator.

The year of 1916-17 we had early frosts, so the wheat sold for feed at a reduced price. The fall and winter of 1919 was a bad one, as winter set in early in September and the wheat and green feed was still in the field. It snowed and kept on snowing, so we had to go out every day to dig out a load of bundles to feed thirty-six head of cattle and sixteen horses. We salvaged some of the grain in the spring and threshed it, more feed grain in the spring again. Spring planting was very late in 1920, mostly oats for feed. Right then I thought about going south with the birds, but I stayed.

The year 1921 was another dry one, the grain came up six inches, then turned brown and died. I got a job driving four horses on a fresno north of Castor on a highway job, and made enough to go to Spokane, Washington to spend the winter.

After that, trips out to the old homestead were just visits. I came back in 1923 to help harvest a bumper crop of fifty bushels to the acre and ninety bushels of oats to the acre. Every available space was filled with grain. That helped the old farm out of the red, and that was the only real crop I saw there.

I left Alberta then for good. Dad and Mother and Melvin remained for a couple of years. Eventually they sold to Murl Chidley and returned to Lewiston, Idaho, where Leslie had established a home, and my parents enjoyed several good and happy years before passing away.

Melvin and I are still living here. Melvin is eighty years young and I am seventy. We have an acreage and grow alfalfa for a pastime.

THE JOHN WALLACE SR. STORY, By Orpha Welfert — Mr. John Wallace Senior homesteaded in the Corinne district in 1910 on the NW 27-34-14. John Wallace was a very handy man. He was a carpenter and did some mason work. When the Corinne School was being built, John did the mason work and the plastering inside. Besides the schoolhouse he plastered many houses in the country and in different towns. One of his main projects was plastering the

courthouse in Hanna along with many other houses. When any plastering was to be done the people called on John Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace Sr. had four children: Jane, John, Alex and David. All four children attended school at Corinne. Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace moved from their homestead to Calgary. John passed away a few years ago and his wife died in 1976.

Mother Harvey sitting. Nellie, Andy, Frances, Fred, Josphine and Mildred

THE HARVEY STORY, By The Harvey Family — William Harvey, born in 1881 in Hansport, Nova Scotia, worked his way west doing carpenter work. He homesteaded the northwest quarter of section ten, Township thirty-four, Range fourteen, in 1912. He was later married to Adline De Gunther, born in 1886, who was a native of Ackley, Iowa. She came to Alberta to visit her sister, Mrs. Henry Simon. She taught Cowan and Lake Thelma schools.

They had a family of eight children born in Castor. Their first child passed away at birth; Mildred was born in 1916, Josephine in 1917, Daniel in 1920 — died at the age of three, Fred in 1922, Frances in 1924, Andy in 1926 and Nellie in 1928. The children took the majority of their schooling at Corinne School, travelling a distance of four miles by horse and buggy in summer and team and cutter in winter. A number of years the three oldest children attended the Catholic Separate School in Castor to avoid the long winter trips.

In 1927 Dad with the help of two neighbors, Jim and Harry Adams built a ten-room farm home. The gravel for the basement was hauled with team and wagon from the Camp farm, north west of Scapa, a distance of seven miles. The lumber came to Scapa by rail, and was hauled to the farm by team and hay rack. The plastering was done by another neighbor, Jack Wallace.

Then came the notorious dirty thirties, when grasshoppers and drought prevailed. A number of years Dad could not harvest enough grain for next year's seed. Relief was shipped to Scapa.

At the peak of the depression Dad was forced to sell one of his favorite horses to pay the grocery bill. Other horses were sold to buy milk cows to supply milk and butter, and have ready cash from cream cheques.

Regardless of the depression we still recall having many good times attending Christmas concerts, dances, picnics, card parties and ball games at Corinne School.

In the year 1932 one room of our house was converted into a high school classroom and was classed as a second room to Corinne School. This allowed us a government grant with which the teachers were paid. This amount was subsidized by each family paying fifteen dollars a year. These two amounts paid the teachers' salary. This facility provided education for children from surrounding areas. The students who attended were Marion and Patsy Taylor, Frances Herring, Dorothy Rehill, Ruth Ortt, Stuart McRae, Bill Riddle, Hazel Kennedy, Maxine, Marguerite and Kenneth Simon, Bill and Grace Wigley, Johnny Wallace and Mildred and Josephine Harvey. In the course of the three years that this was in

operation our home life was vastly changed. The girls from outlying districts roomed with us, and the teachers, Mr. Reid and Mr. Scallon boarded with us.

Many evening hours were spent doing homework around the dining room table.

In 1937 Dad's asthma and heart trouble forced him to leave the heavy work of the farm to his family. He passed away September 17, 1947. Mother continued to live on the farm with Andy and Nellie.

Mother spent the last few years of her life in Nursing Homes in Castor and Red Deer. She passed away January 6, 1970. The farm was taken over by Andy until 1973, at which time it was sold to the Boyson Brothers. Andy retired in Hanna, where he passed away April 8, 1976.

Mildred married Kenneth Williams, and has now retired from twenty-nine years of school teaching and is presently living in Mirror. They have two sons.

Josephine married Bernie McCullough, has a family of three girls and three boys, and was widowed in 1958. She has taught for thirty-three years.

Fred married Elsie Hein, has one son and two daughters. He has bought grain in Scapa since 1951 and been Post Master since 1946.

Frances married Charlie Johnson, and has one daughter and five sons. She taught school for four years. They reside in Hanna.

Nellie married Louie DeGiano and has one daughter and one son, and at the present time are living in Spirit River.

Our family house was used as a setting in the filming of the movie, "Why Shoot The Teacher" — shot in 1976.

THE JAMES EASTON STORY, By Elsohie Chidley — James or Jimmy, as he was well known, came over from Scotland in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, and took up a homestead near Corinne School. He lived with the John Wallace family and worked in the coal mine owned by T.A. Kane. Later he worked in another mine that was operated by Mr. Bradshaw.

In 1916, a lovely young Scottish lady by the name of Janet Wilkie came over from Scotland and landed in Hanna with no one there to meet her. She hired Mr. Dick Hannah to drive her to the Wallace farm to meet Jimmie, her future husband.

Having no building on his farm yet, they lived with the Wallaces for a short time, and were married a few days after she arrived in the new country that was to be her future home. I will always remember their Chivaree. While we were all banging the pans and plow shears, near me was Jimmie pounding on a dish pan, he looked around and said, "Chivaree her dam good boys."

They built a shack on their land and lived there for some time. Jimmie always worked in the mine. Later they bought a quarter section north of Corinne School and lived there till they moved to Castor, where Jimmie continued to work in a coal mine till he retired and then was Night Clerk in the National Hotel for some time.

Of this marriage, there were three children: David, Janet, and a baby who lived only a few years. David now lives in Red Willow near Stettler. Janet married Alex Mix, they live at Grand Forks. Janet and her husband had the misfortune to lose their home by fire, in which some of their children lost their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. James Easton were a friendly couple and took part in the community affairs, he could sing the Scottish songs, which we all enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Frances Unsworth remembers when Miss Wilkie came to Canada to marry Jimmie Easton. She spent her first Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis of the Garden Plain district. Miss Wilkie had a nursing career in Scotland before coming

to Canada. Her nursing profession was a great help to the people of this district.

One winter Mr. and Mrs. James Easton lived at the Three Star Mine, where she cooked for eight men and looked after her sick baby at the same time. Her husband worked in the mine. Mr. Bob Unsworth took Mrs. Easton and her sick baby to see the doctor, but the baby died in the car on the way to town. On different occasions Mrs. Easton was asked to accompany sick people on their way to see a doctor.

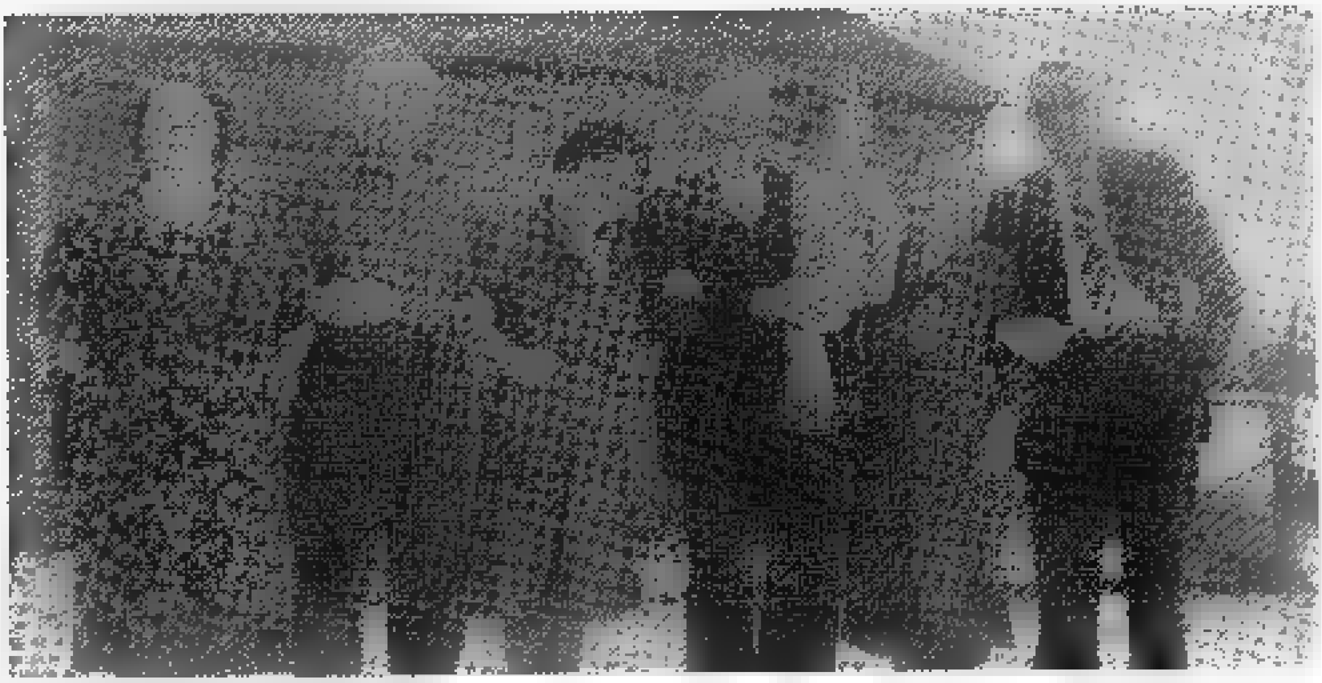
Mr. Easton passed away after they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. Mrs. Easton moved into the Paintearth Lodge in Castor. She was noted for her handicraft which was just beautiful, doing this until her passing.

JOHN BRATSBERG, By Margaret Nelson — John Bratsberg was born in Norway. As a young man there, he became a Ship's Pilot. He gave this up to come to Canada and try his luck at homesteading. He arrived in this area in 1911 and filed on the SW 30-34-13. He did his homestead duties and worked out breaking land for extra income. When World War I broke out he enlisted, and joined the Merchant Marines. He never returned to the homestead after the war. It is believed [redacted] remained in Norway.

In the early twenties Charlie Dahlgren bought the land.

CHARLIE DAHLGREN, as told to H. Nelson by Mrs. Clyde Wooden — Charlie Dahlgren came to Alberta from Rockford, Washington with his father, A. Dahlgren in August 1910, at the age of seventeen.

He filed on a homestead in township 35-13 with his father signing a proxy as he was not eighteen years old.



Dahlgren family and Wright family

He farmed there for about five years. On April 14, 1919 he was married to Rose Cresey at Edwall, Washington. He worked in that district till the fall of 1920 then returned to Rumsey, Alberta where he worked with his brother-in-law, Clyde Wooden for the winter. In the spring of 1921 he returned to his father's homestead.

About 1922 he rented a farm from his brother-in-law, Oscar Gustafson, which he farmed for some years.

About 1927 or 1928 [redacted] built a house on SW 30-34-13 which he had bought from J. Bratsberg some years earlier. He also bought a threshing outfit and threshed throughout the country for some years.

When the dry and dusty thirties came Charlie decided that it was time to leave this area. He sold his farm to T.G. Ironside and moved to Red Willow where he farmed for a few years. When they retired from farming they bought a house in Red Willow and Mrs. Dahlgren looked after a small store, which she had always wanted to do.

A year later they sold this house and built a house and store combined. Mrs. Dahlgren looked after the store and Charlie worked out. He did carpenter work and also ran the road patrol in that area.

Some years later they moved to Kelowna where Mrs. Dahlgren passed away on June 25, 1968.

Charlie then moved to Nanaimo where he died in his sleep the next fall. Mr. and Mrs. Dahlgren had a family of five. Two of these children died in infancy and are buried in Castor Cemetery. Marjorie Winterburn lives in Seattle Washington. Shirley McLeod lives in Vancouver and Ronald in Nanaimo, B.C.

FRANCIS BENZIE, By Harry Nelson — Francis Benzie was born May 23, 1884, in Scotland. While a young man he came to Alberta to join his brothers Robert and George who had come out a while before. Liking the look of the country, he decided to file on land.

In the spring of 1910 he filed on the NW 35-33-15 at Stettler. This was in what is now known as the Scapa area. He proved up his homestead and being a tailor by trade, he worked also in a tailor shop in Castor.

In 1917 he sold his homestead to C. Lohrmann and moved into the Garden Plain area, buying the J. Hutcheson homestead. This land he rented out to his neighbors and continued working for farmers in the area. He also worked in the coal mines at Garden Plain.

In 1927 he purchased a quarter section from the C.P.R. land company. He hired Alex Richard to break up about sixty acres which was done with a Caterpillar and eight bottom plow. He also hired W. Winmill to break forty acres which was done with a gang plow and eight horses. He rented this land out also, and continued working out.

About 1939 or 1940 brother Robert passed away and his brother George moved up on Frank's farm. George and Frank farmed in partnership till November 1957, when Frank passed away. The farm was sold in early 1958 to Harry Nelson. George retired and moved to Coronation. After the death of his sister, Mrs. Hunter in 1966 he went to Saskatoon to reside with a niece. He passed away there a year or two later.

MR. and MRS. JOHN HERMAN SIMON, By Maxine Simon Lee — My parents came from South Dakota in 1910 and lived in Castor for the first year where Dad worked in the lumber yard for Mr. O.W. Colley. Donald was born while they lived there.

In the spring of 1911 they left town, travelling by horse and wagon to the land of promise on their homestead in the Garden Plain district. Roads at this time were only prairie trails and before they reached their destination the mosquitoes left Mother in tears. She was ready right then to go back to the States.

The Simon children: Harold, Kenneth, Margurite, Maxine and Donald

During their first years on the homestead they lived in a small house but Mother provided many meals for other immigrants that were hauling freight from Castor or Stettler. While their horses were resting they enjoyed a good meal for a quarter.

Miss Isabell Ford, a teacher at Corinne School boarded with them. She was very good company for Mother, as she was lonely after leaving all her family in Dakota. In later years other teachers stayed with us. I remember Miss Hamilton and Miss Scott as two of them and I think both of those ladies were from Ontario. Dad served on the Corinne School Board and on the municipal council for some years.

Mother's brother and wife (Dad's sister) Mr. and Mrs. W. Collins came out a year or so later by covered wagon, but they didn't care for the prairie so went back to Dakota the same way. Dad's brother, Henry Simon, came up to Canada and stayed with us for awhile until he settled near the Correction Line. He and his family also went back to Iowa after a few years.

Times were difficult for these pioneers but the community spirit was wonderful. For entertainment people gathered at the school houses for card parties, Christmas concerts, and dances with music supplied by local talent. The main event of the summer was the U.F.A. picnic held at the hall in early July. No one would think of missing that picnic.

The family consisted of five children, two of them born at home in March. Doctor McPherson came out from Castor by team and cutter both times to attend.

There were many hardships to endure such as drought, hail, cold weather, poor prices and grasshoppers. Eggs and cream were sold in order to buy groceries but many items had to be stroked off the list because the cream cheque wouldn't pay for them. Cattle cheques weren't much better.

My first memory of a store and Post Office was at Wickson's. Mr. Olsen hauled the mail from Castor and went as far as Fertility and back two or three times a week. Later there was a rural route from Scapa.

Before the railroad went through and elevators were built at Scapa, Dad hauled the grain to Castor. It was always a two or three day trip. He hauled coal either from Kane's or Bradshaw's mines.

In the spring of 1935 they left the prairie and settled at Red Willow, where they farmed until 1943, then retired to Stettler. Dad passed away in December of 1944, Marguerite in May of 1968 and Mother in November of 1969. There are four living children, Maxine (Mrs. R. Lee) [illegible] Chilliwack, B.C. and the three boys, Donald, Kenneth and Harold all in Stettler, Alberta.

WILLIAM COLLINS, By Mrs. Orpha Wolfert — In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. William Collins Jr. came to the Corinne district in a covered wagon. They homesteaded on the NE 15-34-14. Mrs. Collins was [illegible] cook in the cook car for a threshing crew working with a Case horse-powered threshing machine. She took her milk cow along so they could have milk to drink. The threshing machine belonged to her brother, Herman Simon.

Mr. Collins Sr. persuaded his son and his wife to return to South Dakota. On [illegible] very cold day in May they left by covered wagon and arrived there in July.

PHILIP BRUDER, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1911, Philip Bruder came west to file on a homestead. He homesteaded on the SE 34-34-14, but Philip didn't live on his homestead very long. Later he sold his land to one of his neighbors and went to live with his brother [illegible] Cremona, Alberta. Philip's health started to fail, he then went to live in a nursing home south of Calgary, remaining there until his death.

R. E. HAMILTON FAMILY, By Jim Hamilton — I am the oldest of the seven children who arrived with our parents in Castor, Alberta on March 31, 1913 from Ontario. April 1, 1913 was a beautiful day, when we started out to our homestead. We had along with us, four cows and four horses, a few chickens, a couple of geese, one pig and some furniture. We arrived at the homestead before dark. My Grandfather was out a year before and started to build a two-storey house. It had a roof and walls up, and a plain board floor, building paper on the inside and one ply of shiplap on the outside. The wind sure blew for a couple of days. I was wishing I was back in Ontario. My Mother thought the same.

My Mother sure had her hands full. As there were seven children, the youngest being only four months old. We had to haul water from William Collins' place on the next quarter for several years. We had dug several wells with no luck, but after several tries we did get water and lots of it, fourteen feet deep.

I still remember the beautiful springtime on the prairies; it was wonderful after some very cold winters. The neighbors were most friendly, always willing to help one another when it was needed, with no thought of money changing hands.

I can well remember our first grain harvest and the threshing machine. It belonged to Herman Simon, it was powered by seven teams of horses. My uncle, Jack Lepard and Herm Simon always fed the machine by hand, the straw came out the back. Two men had to stack the straw by hand. My brother and I cut the bands on the sheaves for fifty-two days. One year we got finished the day before Christmas. It was all stack threshing in those days.

In all, I think we enjoyed the times as they came. We were young and kept ourselves busy, the time went fast.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy Wedding Day, November 29, 1907

THE FRANK A. KENNEDY FAMILY, By Hazel Kennedy Slemp — Mr. Frank Allan Kennedy was born May 29, 1879, his wife, Margaret Mabel Adams was born July 29, 1891, in the town Austin, Minnesota. They were married in the same town November 29, 1907.

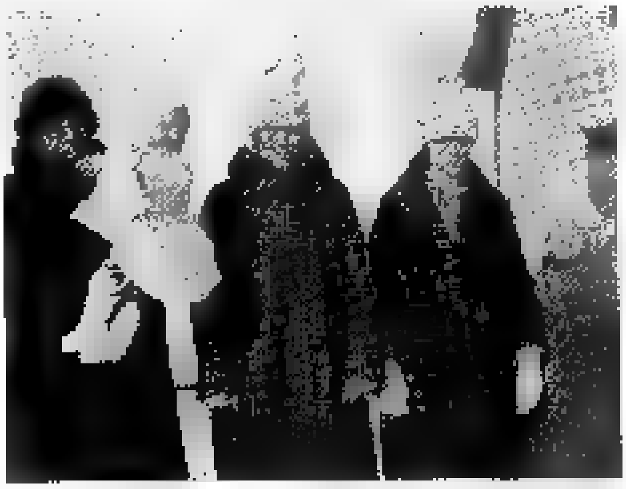
My Dad had acquired farming experience in the Dakotas. He and mother and my oldest sister Alberta, who was a mere infant, immigrated to Canada in 1910. He took up a homestead on section 13-34-14, this was on what was later highway 36. Strenuous labor at stripping coal and freighting, soon enabled him to build the home he longed for. His success was made evident by that landmark, the halfway point between Castor and Hanna.

My dad was always a baseball player and enthusiast; in recent years he always had the usually thankless job of umpire. In later years he branched out into buying cattle, not only for himself but for Adams, Wood and Weiller stock yard firm in Calgary. He would freight loads of cattle to Minneapolis, Minnesota, also bought and sold horses. Besides buying cattle and horses he did his own farming with horses and machinery consisting of sulky plows, harrows, drill, and a binder.

He served the Sullivan Lake municipality as a Weed Inspector for five years and was trustee and chairman in the Corinne School District No. 2497 for several years. My dad was elected to call a meeting to form the school district and get the school board organized in 1911. He was president of the Garden Plain U.F.A. local for several years beginning in 1913. The local group consisted of Laughlin Campbell, Steve Wagner, George Claypool, Olaf Larson, Martin Severson, Jack Lepard, James W. Taylor, John Campbell, William Wagner, Charlie Lohrmann, Billie Vischie, Bob Livingston, Billie Collins, Charlie Stanfield, Hugh McRae, my dad Frank Kennedy and Albert Kennedy.

My dad installed a Premier Gasoline service tank and pump to accommodate the travellers, tourists and hunters who travelled on highway 36. The tank was installed in the farm yard, this being the only gas available between Castor and Hanna.

In the summer of 1930, there were [illegible] number of grade VIII children graduating from the Corinne School. High School was not available and our parents couldn't afford to send us [illegible] town to go to school, so Mr. [illegible]. Simon, Mr. William Harvey and my dad managed to get a grant for a high school from the government, if they could get twelve pupils to attend. They were able to get fourteen pupils, and Mr. W. Harvey offered one room in his home, to turn into a regular school room. Besides our school work, we enjoyed putting on plays for entertaining the public. We used to make our own costumes and dress up to disguise ourselves.



Mrs. Frank Kennedy and daughters, Alberta, Helen, Hazel, Irene

On November 28, 1931, dad was taken suddenly ill and was taken to the Hospital in Castor. He was operated on and [illegible] spite of every effort and spirit, he passed away with peritonitis on December 4, 1931 at the age of fifty-two. My mother was left with four girls to raise; this was quite a task. She carried on farming operations with the help of us girls and hired help until 1936.

Later she moved to the coast where she lived for fifteen years and in 1952 she returned to Alberta and made her home with her daughter Alberta, Mrs. Mac Slemp, at Fleet, Alberta. She went to her final resting place on April 10, 1954. My oldest sister, Mrs. Alberta Slemp, passed away in Edmonton on March 18, 1974 after a lengthy illness.

The three remaining girls are all widows: Mrs. Helen Hill, Red Deer, Mrs. Irene Roxburgh, San Jose, California and Mrs. Hazel Slemp, Hanna.

ALEX WOLFERT FAMILY, By Orpha Couturier Wolfert — In 1927, Alex Wolfert, his parents and sister Matilda and three brothers; Jacob, Fred and Albert, who was six months old, emigrated from Bessarabia, Roumania. Arriving in Hanna [illegible] October, they were met by a friend who had previously immigrated. Living with this family [illegible] the Maunders district, later moving to a farm in the Spondin district. Alex attended the Great Star School. When he was a student in that school, his teacher then, is presently teaching in Hanna. She is Mrs. Housch and has taught his youngest daughter in Junior High. Alex and his brothers had to walk two or three miles to school to start the fire before the other children arrived. This wasn't [illegible] very nice task in real cold weather.

Later Alex worked at various farms for wages of ten cents a day to five dollars per month and to eighteen dollars a month. The highest wages he received were eighty-five dollars a month on a farm in the Coronation area.

Elsie and Leslie Storch, Orpha and Alex Wolfert, Phyllis and Dwight Boyson, Evonne and Kelly Boyson

In 1947, Alex Wolfert and Orpha Courturier were united in marriage. To this marriage two daughters were born; Phyllis in August 1949, in the Coronation Hospital and Elsie in Hanna Hospital in July 1957. Both daughters were educated in the Scapa and Hanna Schools. While going to school Phyllis worked as Secretary in the Hanna High and on the completion of school she worked for Mr. Charyk, Principal of the Hanna High School. Later she married Dwight Boyson of Craigmyle. They have two children; Evonne and Kelly. Elsie finished her education in Hanna, working at office work while she attended school. Elsie married Leslie Storch and is still employed by Mr. Douglas Todd, a lawyer in the firm, Ross, Clozza, Todd and Gough.

The Wolfert family settled on a farm near Coronation before coming to the Corinne district. We settled on the Fred Slemp farm, formerly the Frank Kennedy homestead, the west half of 13-34-14.

While establishing our home here we have had a few disheartening experiences. A severe hail storm in 1960 broke windows and battered the shingles so badly the rain came in. We tried to hold plywood over the broken windows, but the wind was so strong this was impossible. We were putting the storm windows on when the Delker brothers stopped in and said, "Alex, we don't put storm windows on in the summer." We had to. Crops and gardens soon became green from all the moisture.

The summer of 1976 was dry and windy. Hay crops were poor. One day while we were away from home, a terrible strong wind came. Visibility was almost nil. Coming home was a nightmare. Two power poles had broken off letting the line drop to the ground and starting a fire. The fire started about a mile north of our place, driven by the strong wind, it soon travelled south burning grass and trees in its path. Neighbors tried to keep the fire under control, but to no avail. We arrived home to see flames shooting skyward with only two by fours standing and people

silhouetted against the fire. The garage was burned to the ground, the grove of trees were a sad looking sight. Cars and trucks were parked on the road and fire trucks with their flashing lights were busy fighting fire. Entering the yard we saw that a friend had a car parked, she was serving coffee to the fire fighters. Her Salvation Army training gave her the insight to go home for food and refreshments. Neighbors stayed till the next day to watch so the wind wouldn't start it up again.

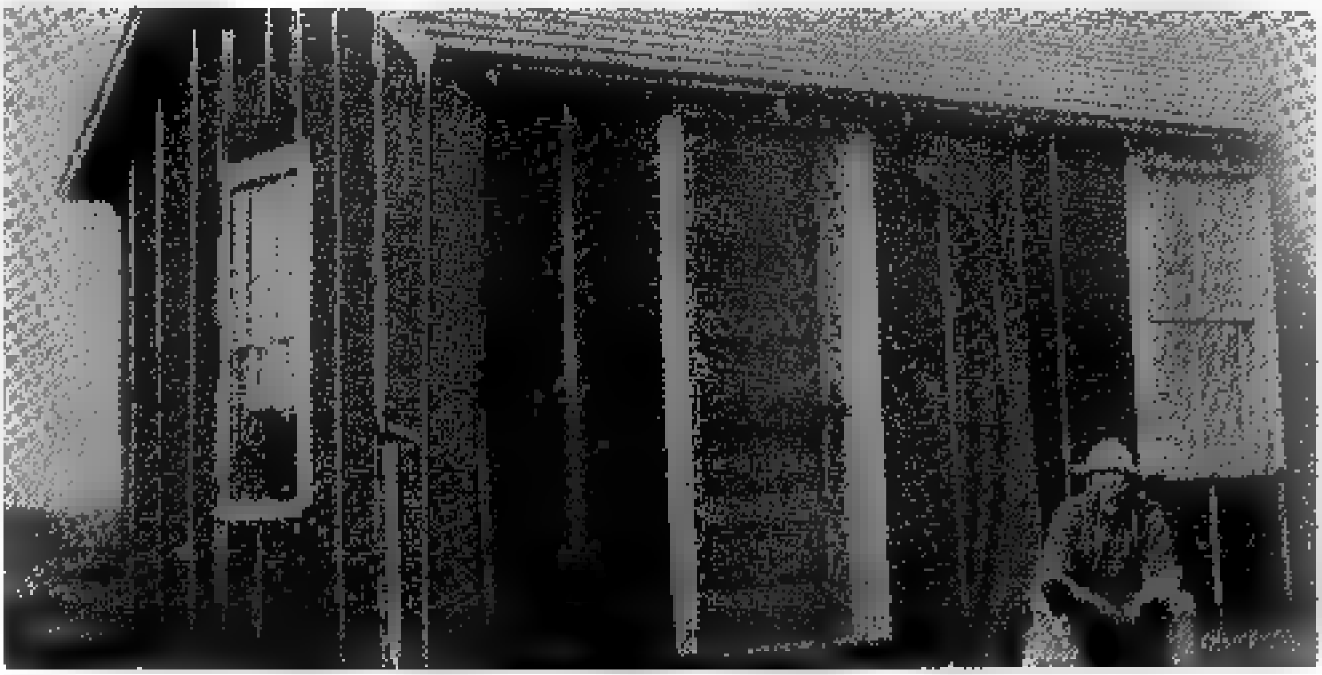
A few days later a clean-up bee was organized to clean the debris left from the fire. The ladies of the district helped to supply coffee, cake and sandwiches and helped serve the workers.

Gasoline pump in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy home with James Adams at the pump — 1923-30.

JAMES and HARRY ADAMS, By Hazel Slemp — James Adams came from Austin, Minnesota in 1908 to homestead on the NW 18-34-13. He was followed in 1910 by his son Harry who homesteaded the NW 9-34-14. Uncle James had lost his wife and another son Walter before coming to this district.

Harry Adams married the former Jean Ironside of Garden Plain. They had two children, Elaine and William. They lived on the farm only a few years, then moved to Calgary where Harry passed away.

After Harry and Jean were married, Uncle Jim came to live with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy. He was my mother's brother. Uncle Jim was a great help to mother and dad. He would pump gasoline from our underground tank and serve the customers as they stopped for gas on their way down highway 36. At that time the highway ran in front of our home, but was later moved one mile east to its present location.


Harry Adams sitting in front of his first home in 1911.

In 1932, Uncle Jim suffered a slight stroke which invalided him. From 1936 to 1940 he was a patient in the Hanna hospital, and died there on June 6, 1940, at the age of seventy-five years.

Slemp Family. Standing: Fred and Hazel Slemp. Seated: Mrs. and Mr. Edgar Slemp. Children: Faye and Norman Slemp

THE FRED SLEMP STORY, by Hazel Kennedy Slemp — Fred Slemp was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp. He was born at Verden, Oklahoma on October 23, 1912 and came to Canada with his parents in 1914 to Fleet, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Slemp and son Fred lived in Fleet until April 1914. They travelled by team and wagon across country, staying with the Harvey Burt family until they built a sod house. In 1917 they built a frame house. Fred took his lower grades in the Crowhill School and later attended high school in Fleet, Alberta. After his schooling he returned to his parents' farm in the Scapa district to help with farm operations.

In October 1936, Fred and I were married. We lived with Fred's parents and helped with the work till 1941, later moving to my parents' farm, the Frank Kennedy homestead. Our first home in the yard at the Kennedy farm was a garage that Harry Adams, my cousin had built on his farm. It was moved to this location and Mr. W. Harvey transformed it into a lovely home for Fred and me. We lived in it approximately twenty-two months and then moved into my mother's big house, after she moved to Vancouver. We sold our ranch to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wolfert, and they are presently living in the original house that Kennedy built on his homestead.

We had two children: Norman Ree born July 1940 and Marjorie Faye July 2, 1942. They attended school at Corinne for their lower grades.

We farmed the hard way with horses and the old fashioned machinery until we could afford a tractor, then we moved up to more up-to-date machinery, but in order to get this, Fred worked for a few years on the C.N.R. at Scapa and on the rip track from Scapa east line and at Big Valley. We had quite a herd of Hereford cattle, several pigs and chickens, which I helped to look after while he was at work.

In the early years Fred was an ardent baseball player, pitching and playing in the field for the Scapa baseball club, when the sport was highly popular. After his playing days were over, he was manager of the local team and the Hanna team. He was a great booster for sports and recreation of any type.

After leaving the C.N.R. he obtained a job with the Federal Government as an Inspector with Prairie Farm Assistance Administration for several years and later was promoted to P.F.A.A. Supervisor, having an office in Hanna in the Post Office Building.

We moved to Hanna in 1952 so our children could attend school, as Corinne was being closed due to the lack of pupils. In that year Fred carried the Liberal banner in the Hand Hill Provincial Constituency opposing the Honorable W.W. Cross, Social Credit Candidate, Minister of Health and Public Welfare. He was on the losing end, but received over one-third of the votes.

In October 1961, Fred had a heart attack and was hospitalized for six weeks.

but returned to his work as P.F.A.A. Supervisor in December of that year. He worked very steadily and strenuously until July 14, 1964, when he passed away quite suddenly from another heart attack.

Faye our daughter was married to Ted Morris formerly of Grande Forks, B.C. in June 1961. They have two children: Sherri-Rae and Darren Fred. They now reside in Calgary, previously lived in Hanna, where they owned and operated Ted's T.V. and Appliances.

Norman, our son, was married to the former Darlene Shubert of Acadia Valley, Alberta in June 1967. They had one daughter, Michelle Marie. Norman worked for Jimmie's Auto Service in Hanna as partsman for years and then took over as agent for Shell Bulk Oil until his untimely death in a tragic accident in his truck east of Cereal on August 15, 1973. Norman was a lover of ball games, as was his father.

I reside in Hanna and enjoy my job in the Hanna Herald Office.

EDGAR DEAN, By Orpha Wolfert — Edgar Dean homesteaded on the SW 34-34-14 in 1912. He farmed his homestead while living with his parents in the district north of the correction line. Edgar returned to the United States to live.

Donald Simon, Jim Roney, Harry McCafferty, Ken Simon

HARRY McCAFFERTY, By Orpha Wolfert — In 1918, Harry McCafferty, his sister and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCafferty came to the Corinne district. They lived on the north east of 34-34-14. This was the Frank Copp homestead. Harry and his sister attended school at Corinne.

After his father's death, Harry took the management of the farm. Later his mother took up residence in Castor and several years later moved to the Botha area. He enjoyed his bachelorhood on the farm there until he decided to live a more relaxed life in the Heart Haven Senior Citizens Home in Stettler. He enjoys driving his truck to visit his old friends. Reminiscing old times as a boy at school brings a chuckle from Harry. He enjoys good health and the comforts of the Home.

H. BASIL DUNN, By Orpha Wolfert — Basil Dunn, two brothers and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunn came to Canada from Wisconsin and settled in the Cowan district. Mr. Charles Dunn was superintendent of the Soldier Settlement Board.

His son H. Basil was in the first world war, he returned and got married. In 1924 Basil lost his wife. His mother lived to the age of 103 and died in 1975 while residing in Edmonton.

Basil took up a homestead on the south east of 35-34-14 in 1925. He proved up his homestead, but never built any buildings on his land. Later Basil worked for the Stettler Flour Mill. He died later as the result of a car accident.

GILBERT and AGNES TUCKER, By Agnes Thiel — Gilbert Tucker was born in Fisherville, Kentucky, in 1901. He came with his parents, the Watson Tuckers, to the Endiang district in 1907. He received his schooling there.

I was born in 1909 in Apache, Oklahoma, and came with my parents, the

Harvey Burts, to Castor in 1912. We settled five miles west and two miles south of Garden Plain store. We lived in a tent until Dad got the ten by twelve shack built for the winter.

I went to Wiese school for three months and stayed with the Wieses. Our school, built in 1919, had many German-speaking pupils. It was a struggle for the teacher and hard for the students to learn to speak and write English. A lot of learning was done by all, as we learned German words while they learned the English ones.

In November, 1928, Gilbert and I were married. We lived in the Endiang district for three years, then moved to the Huson place in the Crow Hill district. Ziemmers, Mattheis and Joe Campa were our neighbors. Our son Harvey arrived in 1933. A few years later the Mattheis lost a baby girl. It was just before Christmas, and I went to spend the day with Mrs. Mattheis. We bathed and dressed the wee one's body, ready for the casket when the men folks finished building it, and made paper flowers to line the casket. It was thirty below that week.

The hungry thirties came; in three years of seeding we threshed sixty-seven bushels of wheat. In 1936 we moved to the Corinne school district to the Willard Roney farm. It was no better; no rain and the soil drifting so that it covered up the fences.

When Harvey started to school, one of his teachers was Mrs. Harry Cook, who had been my teacher when she was Miss O'Neil.

Our daughter Jean arrived in 1938 and son Frank in 1939. There were no baby showers in those days, and we passed baby clothes down from one to the other. We seemed to manage to grow a garden and I canned everything I could.

Gilbert worked so hard, but with few returns, and his health started to fail. We moved in with my brother Harvey. Gilbert had several operations, but passed away in 1946.

Later we moved to Hanna, where the children went to school and I picked up what work I could. In 1955 I left Hanna and married Otto Thiel of Viking. We moved to Ponoka, where Otto had a mishap and lost the fingers of his right hand, so I went to work at the Alberta Hospital.

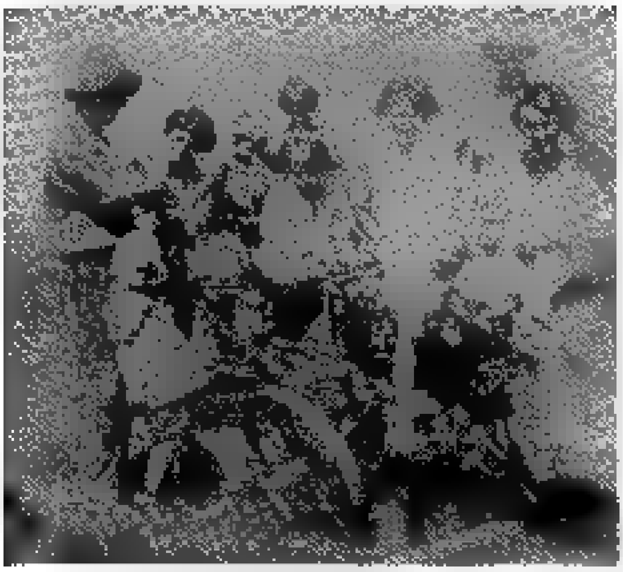
That was a very rewarding place to work, and I often thought of a talk that Mrs. George Banner had given to the U.F.W.A. about visiting the mental hospital. What she had said was so true.

In 1974 I retired. We make our home in Ponoka, where I have my garden and do lots of knitting and crocheting. We also have a hobby of collecting and polishing rocks, and make table tops, lamps and costume jewellery with them.

Harvey and his wife Mary are farming seven miles south of Westlock. Jean works at Sears in Kelowna, B.C.; she has three daughters and one son. Frank, his wife Lena and their two sons and daughter live in Calgary, where Frank works for Skip's Auto Glass and Lena is at the Foothills Hospital Intensive Care Unit for babies.

CHARLIE WIGLEY FAMILY, By Rose Wigley — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wigley with two daughters Lucy and Grace moved from Lethbridge to the Garden Plain area. They came to a Soldier Settlement Board farm which was purchased by his brother Art in the spring of 1920. That same year in December Bill was born in Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital in Castor. In those days we had no car so we went to Castor with a team and sleigh and changed horses at the farm of B. Schuffle.

We did not get rich as we never had very good crops. One year we were left with nothing as the grasshoppers were so thick. We threw out poison to try to kill them; they even ate the tobacco plants Charlie tried to grow.


Charley Wigley and family

We had very good neighbors in those days, that's what counted. Once a week in the winter time we would go to different places to play cards and would stay all night, have breakfast, came home to do chores and then go to bed for awhile. Fred, Charlie, George and Betty were born while we lived in the Garden Plain district.

The children always have a good laugh about me learning to drive the first car we had. One day I got real brave and was going to put the car in the garage. Instead of putting my foot on the brake I stepped on the gas and went right through the other end, so I took another try and I made it O.K. The kids helped put up the end of the garage so Charlie wouldn't see what I done. The next time he wanted to use the car he went to crank it and his seat hit against the end of the garage and it fell down. This caused a little commotion for awhile but everybody laughed it off.

It seemed to me we had more snow those days then we get now. In the winter the neighbors gathered at our place; while waiting for the mail man to arrive we visited over a cup of coffee. Those were the days when there were more visiting with neighbors and social evenings at the Corinne School. Television changed that.

We moved to Castor in 1935 where Charlie worked in the coal mine until his retirement. Richard was born after we came to Castor.

Charlie passed away in August of 1959. He was predeceased by one son Charlie who was killed in the Airforce over Germany during the last war.

I am living in Stettler now and the rest of the family are all married and live in different places in Alberta.

THE CORINNE THRESHING SYNDICATE

By Mildred Williams

In the early twenties the farmers in the Corinne district realized their need for a threshing machine so they formed a Company and purchased a steam engine and a large separator. When threshing they required a crew of about twenty men. Engineer, fireman, waterboy, separator man, two grain haulers with wagons and teams, eight men with bundle racks and teams, two field pitchers to help them load and two spike pitchers, who helped put bundles onto the separator. Mr. Clarence Roney was the engineer, Mr. J. Higgins looked after the separator. The rest seemed to work as their health and ability allowed. Although they worked hard, they were always ready for a good laugh and were constantly pulling pranks on each other.

The farmer's wife had a big job feeding these hungry men and usually obtained help of a neighbor. There was no power, no fridges or deepfreezers. Huge roasts and big pots of potatoes and vegetables were cooked for both dinner and supper. The women seemed to race for the title of Best Piemaker. The men were also given morning and afternoon coffee and sandwiches and cake or buns and cookies.

All made their own bread. Mother used to have eight or ten twenty-pound syrup pails that she filled with cookies and doughnuts in preparation for threshers.

If it rained or snowed before they got there we used to have a real treat, considering they could not be fresh a week or ten days later. Then she started baking all over again. It was our job to keep the wood box and the coal pail filled on such occasions.

I often wonder how they managed to keep meat on hand, and keep it fresh. The nearest butcher shop was in Castor twenty-six miles away, so they usually butchered their own.

I can still remember hearing the steam engine whistle blow loud and shrill every morning at six o'clock. It could be heard for miles around. Men got up and went to feed and harness their horses before breakfast around seven. They worked until dark each evening.

THE MURA FARM STORY

By Orpha Wolfert

In 1956 an Edmonton businessman, John Schadeck, became interested in the small animal with pastel colored fur, the Mura. He decided to start a Mura farm near Scapa, on the NW ¼ 27-34-14 W4. At the rate the Mura multiply he figured a farm was the smallest possible place to keep them on. By the end of 1956 the few pair of original stock had increased to 17,000 animals. This fur farm was expected to pay its way. Women soon were to be wearing lovely fur coats of stunning colors, white, black, brown, palomino and a beautiful sapphire blue.

The Mura was much the size of a Norway rat. They were kept in cages in rows inside a barn which had a cement floor. Each cage housed a family until they were separated according to color and put into other cages. Fresh water was supplied by an automatic system with water nipples in each cage. The barn was heated by a coal furnace.

Pest control officers worried about the rat-like rodents escaping. Yet a fur farm was a business even in this day of synthetics. To be certain of their identity as a fur animal, the advice of the Zoology Department of the University of Alberta and the British Museum was sought.

Mr. Schadeck drove from Edmonton to his Mura farm each week to see his stock increasing. His investment came to around $50,000 and within three years he saw his first fur, a sapphire blue.

The future of the fur farm came to an abrupt end when Mr. Schadeck lost his life in a traffic accident. His daughter inherited the business, but stated she was not interested in carrying on.

On April 7, 1960, a provincial fur supervisor and a pest control officer watched the death by drowning of lovely, but unwanted, Muras. Then, just to be safe, they sealed the Scapa Mura Farm by spreading rat poison all around the buildings where the animals had been housed.

DAYS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

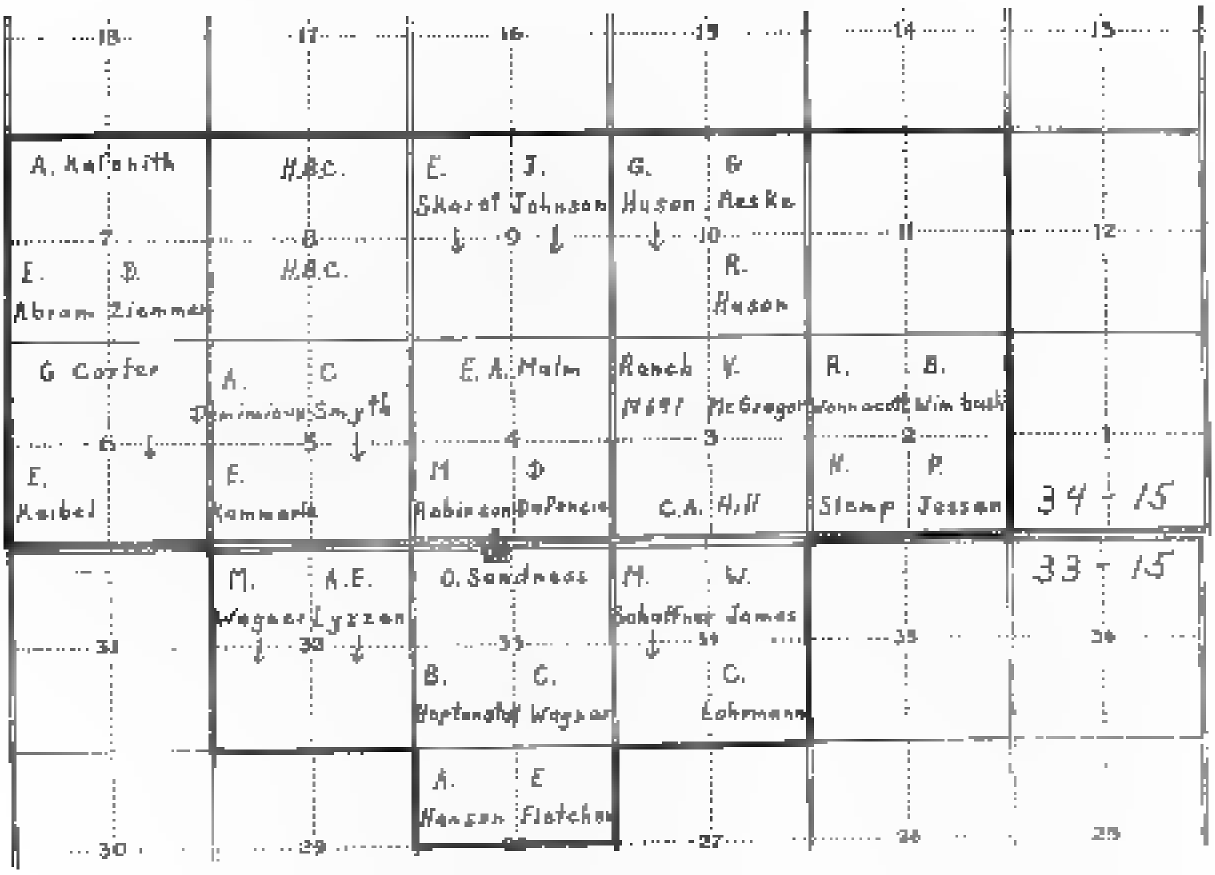
Attending Chivarees was a highlight of the early settlers. Jack Campbell often spoke of going to a chivaree for Mr. and Mrs. Corry and how they were all dressed in their best clothes for the occasion, riding along with a team and sleigh was fun until the sleigh tipped over dumping them out into the snow. This is when the horses bolted back to the farmstead, leaving them stranded. Jack and his friends collected their belongings, one of which was Jack's accordion, and hiked along to the chivaree and enjoyed the evening in spite of their disaster.

The early settlers had a unique way of entertaining themselves during the long winter evenings. With no radio, T.V. or telephone they resorted to card

games, reminiscing and musical evenings with whatever form of instrument they could find.

Christmas in 1908 saw a group of bachelor settlers in the community getting together, each one displaying their culinary art. Jack Campbell was chosen to cook the plum pudding. In Scotland, the traditional way to cook a plum was to prepare it in a cotton sack. However, such a luxury was not to be found in Jack's shack, not to be outdone he washed one of his good socks, stuffed the sock with pudding and cooked the pudding the steam method. The results the bachelor friends remarked tasted very good. To this day we are not sure whether the rest of the bachelors were ever really informed about this incident, but possibly the expression, "What the eye don't see, don't hurt the heart," would apply in this case.

CROWHILL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3633

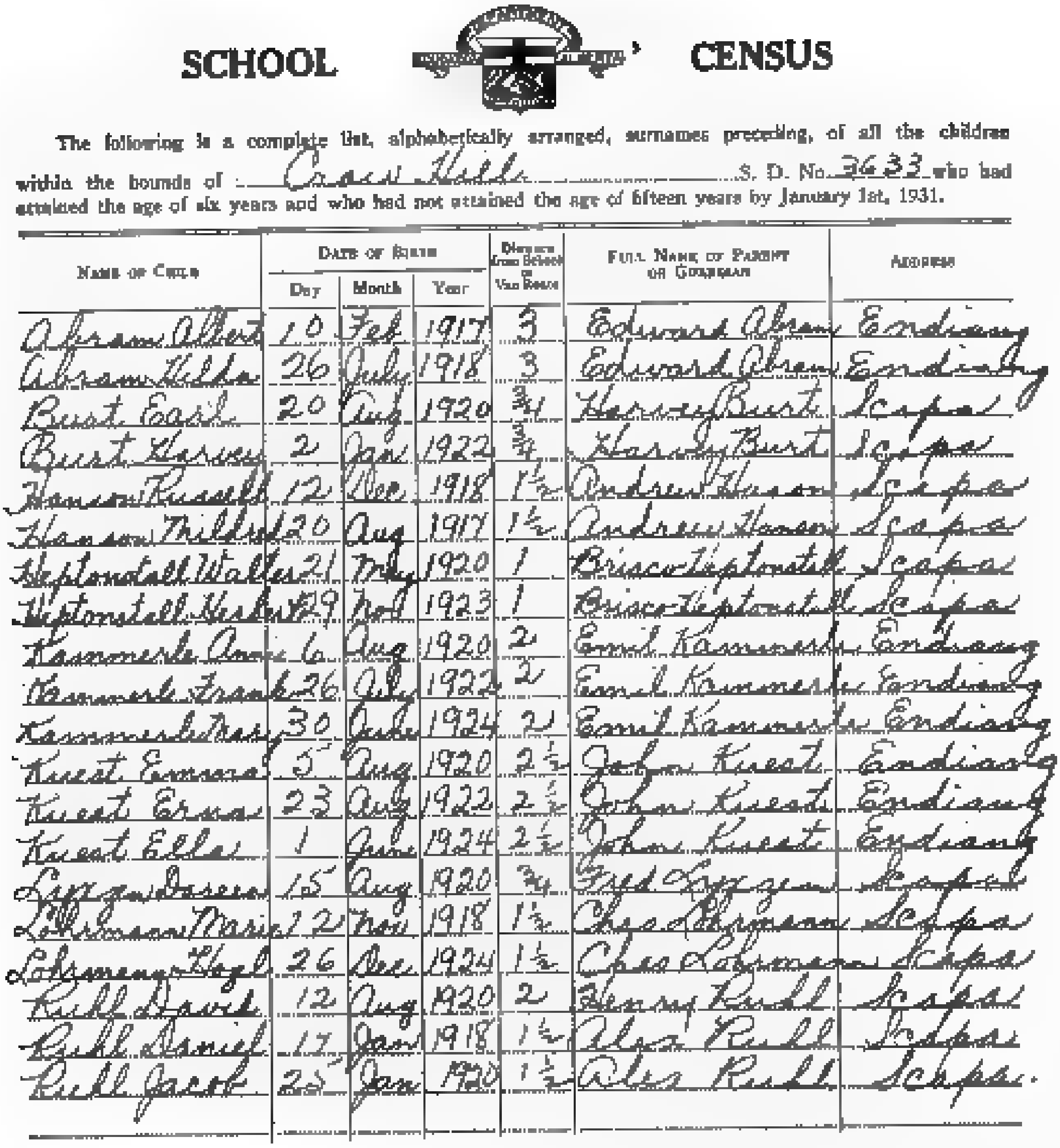


CROW HILL SCHOOL

By Jean James

Crow Hill School district No. 3633 was organized in 1918. In June of that year the total estimated cost of purchasing land, building the school, and buying furniture and equipment was two thousand dollars. The trustees managed to float a debenture for that amount of money, to be repaid over a ten-year period. As the maximum school tax [illegible] that time was sixteen cents an acre, and the school district comprised about fifteen sections, there was not too much money available for paying a teacher's salary, operating expenses and repayment of the debenture.

The Department of Education supplied blueprints of four possible plans for the school, depending on its location in relation to the road allowances. Each plan was for a single classroom with five large windows facing east, two cloakrooms, and sometimes a small entry. Quite often there was a platform about eight inches high across the front of the room. This is where the teacher's desk and chair were placed, and the few teaching aids which were available at that time. The platform also served as a stage.



SCHOOL CENSUS

The following is a complete list, alphabetically arranged, surnames preceding, of all the children within the bounds of Crow Hill S. D. No. 3633 who had attained the age of six years and who had not attained the age of fifteen years by January 1st, 1931.

Name of Child	Date of Birth			Distance from School or Van Route	Full Name of Parent or Guardian	Address
	Day	Month	Year			
Abram Albert	10	Feb	1917	3	Edward Abram	Endiang
Abram Hilda	26	July	1918	3	Edward Abram	Endiang
Burt Earl	20	Aug	1920	3/4	Harvey Burt	Scapa
Burt Harvey	2	Jan	1922	3/4	Harvey Burt	Scapa
Hanson Russell	12	Dec	1918	1½	Andrew Hanson	Scapa
Hanson Mildred	20	Aug	1917	1½	Andrew Hanson	Scapa
Heptonstall Walter	21	May	1920	1	Brisco Heptonstall	Scapa
Heptonstall Hester	29	Nov	1923	1	Brisco Heptonstall	Scapa
Kammerle Annie	6	Aug	1920	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kammerle Frank	26	July	1922	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kammerle Mary	30	June	1924	2	Emil Kammerle	Endiang
Kuest Emma	5	Aug	1920	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Kuest Erna	23	Aug	1922	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Kuest Ella	1	June	1924	2½	John Kuest	Endiang
Lyzgen Doreen	15	Aug	1920	3/4	Fred Lyzgen	Scapa
Lohrmann Marie	12	Nov	1918	1½	Chas Lohrmann	Scapa
Lohrmann Hugh	26	Dec	1924	1½	Chas Lohrmann	Scapa
Ruhl David	12	Aug	1920	2	Henry Ruhl	Scapa
Ruhl Daniel	17	Jan	1918	1½	Alex Ruhl	Scapa
Ruhl Jacob	25	Jan	1920	1½	Alex Ruhl	Scapa.

School Census — 1931

Elis Malm was awarded the contract to build Crow Hill school. He supplied the materials and erected the building, (excluding the blackboards and heater) for $1,800.00. The following year, 1919, he built and painted [illegible] school barn for the sum of $104.90.

The original site chosen for the school was on the south-east quarter of 33-33-15, but the Department of Education advised the trustees to build it on the north-west quarter of that section, so that [illegible] would [illegible] more central in the district which was five miles wide and three miles long. The borders of the school district were re-arranged in 1929. At that time several families who lived along the southern edge of township 34-15, were transferred from Hunt Lake to Crow Hill school district, and one family was transferred from Annasheim to Crow Hill.

When the school was first opened, the school year began in late February and ended just before Christmas, with a short break during July or August. Although the records are sketchy, it appears that some of the first teachers were university students who spent their summer holidays in the classroom, and it was not unusual to have two or three different teachers in one year.

Names found on old teachers' contracts and inspectors' reports indicate that

the following taught at Crow Hill school: Christina Campbell, Jessie MacLachlan, Mrs. Eleanor Flatman, Mr. C. Bourne, Elizabeth Smart, Helen Hamilton, Aldra Malhiot, Lavina Raymond, Zelma Samson (Mrs. Milne), Vivian Graham, Marjorie Chapman, Georgina Marois, Agnes Cameron (Mrs. J. Temple), Nielsine Hansen, Mrs. Katie Brocklebank, Louise Wade, Dolly Slemp, Olga Bakken (Mrs. Walter Jensen), Wilma Smyth, Miss Stewart, Lillian Kelly and Mrs. M. Williams (nee Harvey).

Crow Hill pupils in the early twenties: Herman Ziemmer, Adolf Abram, Wilma Smyth, Iris Smyth, Alice Smyth, Lizzie Wagner, Arthur Skaret, Jim Smyth, Morest Skaret, Chester Hill, Martha Ziemmer, Earl Hill, Albert Ziemmer, Bennie Ziemmer, Vivian Skaret.

Teachers' salaries varied with the economy of the country. In the early twenties nine hundred dollars per year was a good salary for an experienced teacher; by the mid-thirties a teacher with a second class certificate could expect only five hundred dollars per year, and might have to wait for that. In 1936 the government grant of twenty cents per pupil-day did not go very far toward paying expenses.

Among the trustees who struggled to make ends meet were C.S. Smyth, Emil Kammerle, Chester Hill, Mrs. Hazel Fletcher, Joe Camp, Ron Huson, Mrs. H.A. Burt, A.B. Hanson, W.E. Kading, and Mr. Lyxzen. Men who acted as secretary-treasurer were A.E. Tynzer, Edgar Slemp, H. Burt and A.B. Hanson. Here again, the absence of complete records may mean that we have omitted the names of some dedicated persons who gave unstintingly of their time to ensure that their children had the opportunity for an education.

Records do show that in 1926 Earl Hill was paid the sum of five dollars per month for janitor work, and that in 1927 Wilma Smyth earned five dollars by scrubbing and oiling the classroom floor.

At various times, high school classes were taught at Crow Hill. The minutes of 1935 state that Grace Donald and Lillian Schultz would be allowed to attend high school at Crow Hill, on condition that their tuition fees were paid by their home school district, Summerhill.

Crow Hill pupils in the late twenties: Albert Ziemmer, Bill Burt, Bennie Ziemmer, Fred Slemp, Olive Burt, Annie Ruhl, Dan Ruhl, Bud Hanson, Earl Burt, Albert Abram, Mildred Hanson, Connie Heptonstall, Elsie Abram, Katie Ruhl, Hilda Abram, Jake Ruhl, Walter Heptonstall, Doreen Lyxzen, Annie Kammerle, Marie Lohrmann, Mona Camp, Arthur Camp, Fred Kammerle, Harvey Burt.

Crow Hill graduates in the early thirties: Jim Smyth, Herman Ziemmer, Fred Slemp, Dolly Slemp (teacher), Connie Heptonstall, Olive Burt, Hilda Abram, Carl Abram, Elsie Abram, [illegible] Vanalstine, Ann Morley.

Crow Hill pupils — 1942: Emanuel Kalmbach, Ethel Diewert, Jean Smyth, Annie Mattheis, Ted Smyth, Bennie Kading, Lillian Kelbel, Doris Kelbel, Arthur Mattheis, Edwin Mattheis, Lucy Kalmbach, ? Smyth.

Crow Hill school closed its door in 1942. Family names which appeared on old school registers include: Abram, Burt, Delvert, Hanson, Hunt, Heptonstall, Hill, Kammerle, Kalmbach, Kuest, Lyxzen, Lohrmann, Mattheis, Nill, Ruhl, Schill, Stauffer, Symington, Schuler and Ziemmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lohrmann and their children, Tiny, Hazel, Lou and Doris.

CHARLIE LOHRMANN, By Christina Lohrmann — Charlie Lohrmann was born April 12, 1887, in Iowa, U.S.A. In the fall of 1909 he came to Castor where he worked on a construction crew putting up buildings.

He had a room in the hotel. One day he came down with measles. The hotel manager, afraid that his hotel would [illegible] quarantined, hustled him out, telling him to get on the freight train that was leaving for Stettler. Charlie was so sick he could hardly stand, so he went out the front door, around and up the back way and went back to his room. Sometime later the passenger train came in from Stettler, and the manager came up with some guests for that room. Was he ever mad to find Charlie there! A Mr. Lepard and another man told the manager that Charlie was his guest and it was up to him to call a doctor and take care of him, and that if he did not do so they would report him. Charlie got good care after that.

By the time he was able to get out of bed, his parents and sisters (Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Lohrmann, Polly and Marie) had arrived with their freight cars. After that it was a busy time to locate a homestead and get settled on it. He helped his father with the farming, and did his own homestead duties, until December 12, 1917, when he and I, Christina Leicht, were married.

By this time Charlie had four quarters of land, the north half of 35-33-15 and the east half of 34-33-15. One quarter he bought from Frank Benzle and one from Bill James. The 1917 crop was hailed out completely but he had hail insurance on it, so that helped.

In the winter of 1918-19 when the flu was raging, Charlie would do his chores, then get on a horse and go to see if any of the neighbors needed help. He made a couple of trips to Hanna for the doctor.

We had a lot of wonderful neighbors . . . I was to learn how wonderful. The Charley Hill family and Kate and Herman Siemp were the closest ones. Late in the fall of 1919 Charley Hill had a sale, rented the land to my brother Jack Leicht, and took his family to the United States.

A couple of days before Christmas Charlie and Jack went to Hanna in the car to get the Christmas order. They had a very bad trip; it was very cold, and they got stuck, and got chilled after shovelling and riding in the open car. Next morning Charlie went out to do the chores, but came back in a very short time, too sick to carry on. He came down with smallpox.

The councillor and the Mountie came out and quarantined us, but did not appoint anyone to look after us. So Edgar Siemp, coming two miles, and Harvey Burt coming four miles, took turns day about and hauled feed to the outside cattle. Mr. Burt also got what we needed from Hanna. I did the rest of the chores, with water to haul uphill for some distance. Our baby Marie was just creeping and

trying to walk, so I had to make many trips back to the house to see that everyone and everything was safe. Charlie was very sick. After he was able to be up and around the house, the baby took sick. We sat up all one night fearing the worst. I was so thankful that I did not take sick too.

In a couple of years the Hill family came back to their farm. Jack and Polly moved back to the Chris Lohrmann place.

Charlie, coming from a corn country, decided to try a field of corn. As it was a field variety it grew tall and had tremendous ears. At threshing time the girls in the cook car kept a pot of it on the stove all the time. As the bundle teams came in the drivers would run in and get an ear. When the threshing was all finished, Charlie turned the cattle into the corn field. It almost took the place of a fattening pen.

One year our crop was snowed under in the stook. To thresh it they had to dig it out of the snow. Some of the bundles were frozen to the ground and had to be cut loose with a spade. Needless to say the grain was damp. Some farmers left theirs till spring. The grain was dry then but they had trouble getting help to thresh it as everyone was busy with spring work. The mice had taken their share too, so I am not sure which was the best way to do it.

Hauling the grain to Hanna was a real problem. When you got there you had to wait in line to get unloaded and sometimes that was not until the next day. Some farmers bought, built or rented granaries in Hanna and stored the grain till spring. The trips were hard and cold . . . it was twenty-one miles to Hanna.

One day Mr. Hill and Charlie got their loads ready, two four-horse sleigh loads of wheat. They started next morning. The road was all drifted over and built up high; they were breaking trail all the way. They walked most of the way to keep from freezing. When they were about one and a half miles from Hanna, (it was dark by this time), they met a couple of the neighbors on their way home. They stopped and produced a bottle. Charlie said that if it had not been for the drink he did not think they would have made it. The horses were just as tired and hungry as the men. They made many such trips.

We had the horses that we did not need for hauling turned out. One cold morning Herman Siemp noticed one of our mares with a new colt. She was on one side of the fence and the colt was on the other, so he walked down there. The poor little thing was almost frozen. Herman took off his mackinaw, put the colt's front feet in the sleeves, and buttoned it up over its back, then hurled to tell us. Charlie hitched a team to a sleigh and brought them home. The poor little fellow froze part of his ears off, and a few patches on his legs and hips, but came out of it fine, thanks to Herman and his mackinaw.

The summer of 1922 things did not look very promising; it looked as if the crops would be a complete failure. Charlie got discouraged so we went to the Calgary Stampede for a few days. That trip was like a shot in the arm, for Charlie could not get home fast enough to get to work. He ploughed part of the crop under, getting ready for next year. It really paid off as we had a good crop the next year.

When that crop was cut and tied, but not one stook up, it looked like an endless job when we started stooking. But who should come along but Charlie's brother, Chris, who said, "If you go and haul some coal for me (he ran a big steam threshing outfit) I will move right over and start to thresh. No need to stook, we will pick it up right out of the windrow."

Needless to say Charlie went as soon as he could get a team hitched to the wagon.

In the fall of 1926 Charlie bought a threshing machine; he already had a tractor. Through the years he did a lot of threshing, and would be away from home

a great deal in the fall. That was the time of year when skunks would invade the chicken coops. Our chicken coop was a lean-to on one side of a granary; on the other side there was a lean-to for the car. I noticed that something was getting the chickens, so I set a trap. Next morning I had a skunk, but it had got under the door into the chicken house. I opened the door, but it would not come out, nor would the chickens, and I would not go in. I had no choice. I got the gun, went into the granary, put the barrel through a knot hole, and shot the skunk. The air got kind of blue. When I happened to think of the car, I got it out, but the fumes had done their work. You could smell that car for a long time afterward.

Shipping cattle was a problem, as they had to be driven the twenty-one miles to Hanna, where they were loaded into freight cars and shipped to Calgary. After the railroad came through we had just two and a half miles to go to Scapa, where there were stores, elevators and post office. That was a great help.

During the dry years of the early thirties we sold two head of cattle to the government for two cents a pound. We shipped some to Calgary for little more than the freight. We sold cream for sixty-five cents for a five gallon can. We had our share of hoppers, cut worms, wire worms and dust storms. We lost some horses through sleeping sickness. One year, after all the crop was harvested, we had two rack loads of unthreshed wheat for feed. We put Russian thistle through a threshing machine, then through a hammer mill, and fed that along with what little else we had. We lived by the rule of the old saying, "Use it up, make it do, wear it out."

This may all sound very grim, but we never suffered. We had a lot of good times and a lot of fun in the community. Charlie had a great sense of humor and always looked on the bright side of things, and somehow made troubles seem very small. One of his favorite sayings was, "It will be better next year. We will just chalk this up to experience."

Charlie was interested in all sports. He managed the Scapa ball team for a number of years. He and the neighbors got together and built the Scapa community hall, which he also managed for a number of years. Our children attended Crow Hill and Scapa schools.

We were blessed with four children, Marie (Tiny), Hazel, Lewis (Lou) and Doris.

In 1962 we sold the farm to Lou. We reserved the house and retired there, as Lou and his wife had built a house of their own. Charlie passed away March 18, 1964. I still live on the farm during the summer; I spend the winters in Hanna or Big Valley.

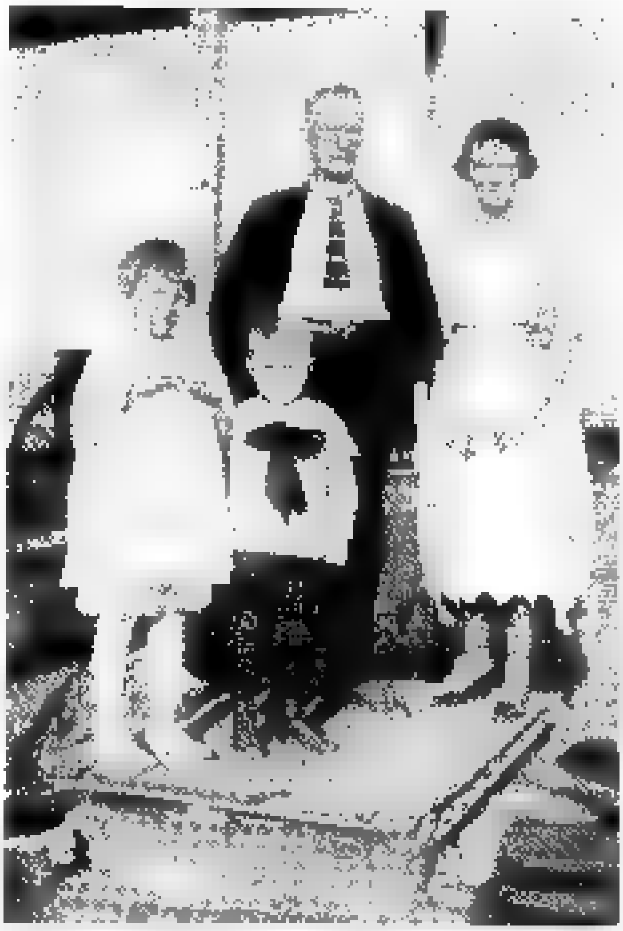
Andy Hanson, Ernest Fletcher, unknown, Tom Symington in front of Hanson's shack with the hogs in 1912.

A. B. HANSON STORY, By Mrs. Hanson — My husband, Andrew B. Hanson was born in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, on July 5, 1880. His father, Rassmus Hanson, had come to the United States as a young man; and after service in the Civil War settled on land granted to veterans. His fiancee, Gertrude Helmark, came from Norway after the Civil War to marry him, and to them eight children were born. Andrew was the second youngest of the family.

Andrew got his steam engineer's papers so he followed the harvest from

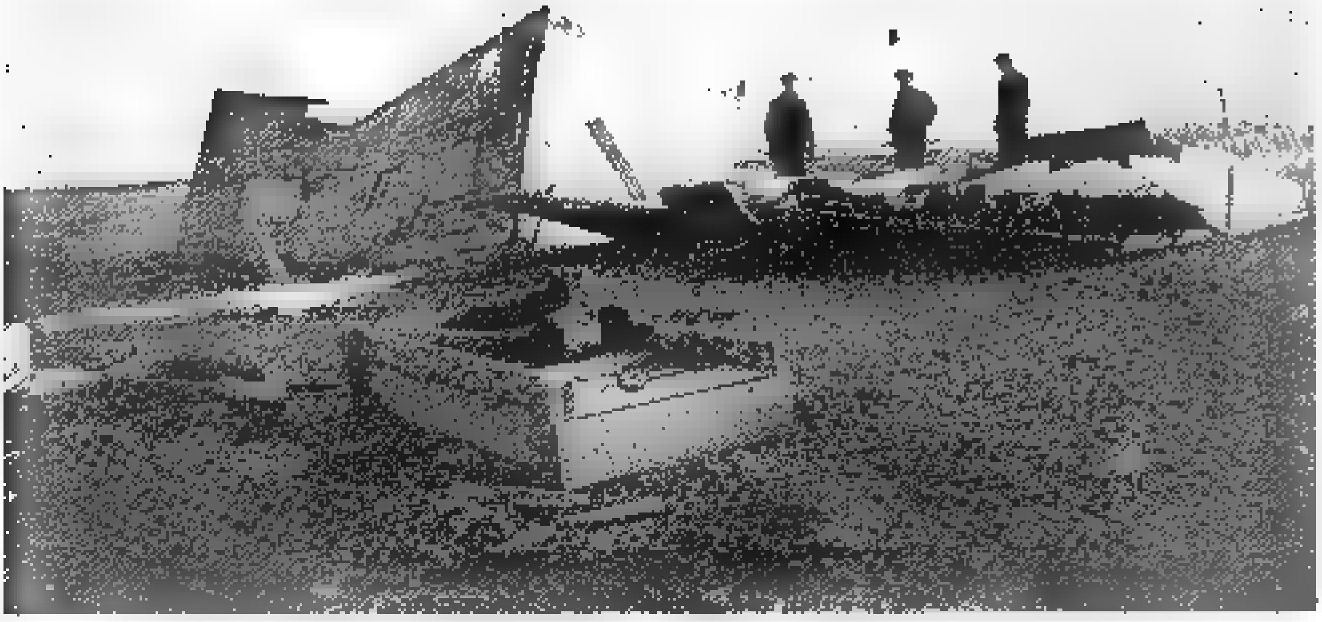
Minnesota to Washington, where he met a Mr. Ernest Fletcher; the two of them moved on with the harvest to Medicine Hat, with Andy running the engine and Fletcher the separator. Then they went to the Galahad area to work. Fletcher remained there with his brother, and Andrew bought lumber at Castor and moved down to the homestead to build his shack. He stopped for the night with his closest neighbors, the Bodemans, and the next morning they drove over to the farm and helped him build his shack. [illegible] was completed on December 18, 1910, and he moved into his new home.

Herman Kasten of Sheerness, Gordon Maxwell, Andy Hanson, Gust Cook and Joe Major. A storm had turned the bunk car [illegible] its side with the door down; the men had to make a hole in the roof to get out — 1919.



Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Mildred and Bud in 1923.

Andy Hanson's threshing crew in 1927: Emil Kading, Louie Weich, Joe Lidgett, Joe Stulberg, Donald McKenzie, August Hein, Paul Trettin, Bill Kading, Andy Hanson. Two days later a storm wrecked the building.



After the storm: Andy Hanson, Bill Kading, Freddy Cook

Many people looking for homesteads made this one-roomed shack their stopping place. The trail to the coal mine went right by the door, and people travelling it were always glad to stop for a hot cup of coffee.

In the first years Andy Hanson got his mail at Flagstaff, Watts and Garden Plain post offices, and like other homesteaders, walked a good many miles to get it. After the railway was built through Hanna, mail was delivered from the Dowling Lake post office to the Nick Lund home by horse and buggy, and Andy and his neighbors had only a few miles to go to get it.

For the first few years, Ernest Fletcher and Andy Hanson lived together in Hanson's shack, sharing the work and the money they earned. Andy was a mechanic; he would never drive oxen or even horses if he could help it. He ran Ed Donald's tractor for plowing and threshing and later operated George Chapman's outfit at threshing time. Wages in those days were low. The engineer got $2.50 a day; the bundle haulers got $1.50 and an extra fifty cents a day if they supplied the team and rack.

One year Andy took a team of oxen for wages. Fletcher was doing some breaking with them when the heel flies took after them and they ran into a slough. No one had a very large wardrobe in those days, so Mr. Fletcher climbed up on the seat to get out of the water, and removed his clothing. He was planning to hold his clothes up out of the water while he walked to shore, but was startled to hear a giggle, and looked up to see a couple of the neighbor ladies driving by. I think that must have been the first high dive ever taken from the seat of a plough!

The men had made a dugout shelter in the hillside for their pigs. One morning they got up to find them all roasted. Mr. Fletcher had been smoking and had dropped his cigarette while he was feeding them.

I came with my parents, my brothers and sisters, to the Craigmyle area in 1910. We had come from Germany to the United States in 1906, and the following year my father came to Canada to get some of the free land we had heard so much about. In July of 1909 [illegible] went to Acme and travelled from there to look for a homestead. In the fall my mother and we eight children came to Linden, and spent the winter at the Mennonite colony there. Next spring we moved to the homestead with all our possessions, three horses, one cow, four sacks of flour, a few sacks of potatoes, eight kids and seven dollars. It took us eight days to cover the eighty-five miles to the homestead three miles south of Craigmyle, my home until 1916 when I came here to marry Andrew Hanson.

That was over sixty years ago, and I have lived here ever since, except for a couple of years that we lived at Craigmyle and Delia, where Andy worked in garages. Our daughter Mildred was born in 1917, and our son, Russell, in 1918. In 1923 I was confirmed in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scapa, and our children were baptized there.

We tried to give our children an education, but it was not easy. In 1917 we still did not have a school in our district, and there were neighbors who had fifteen-year-old children who had never been to school, but who had been taught by their mother. Finally the district of Crow Hill was formed, and in 1923 Mildred and Russell (Bud) started school there. They took some of their high school at Scapa, but when it came time for them to take grade twelve, it was during the hungry thirties and we could not afford to send both of them. We sent Russell to stay with my folks at Craigmyle so he could finish his grade twelve in 1936.

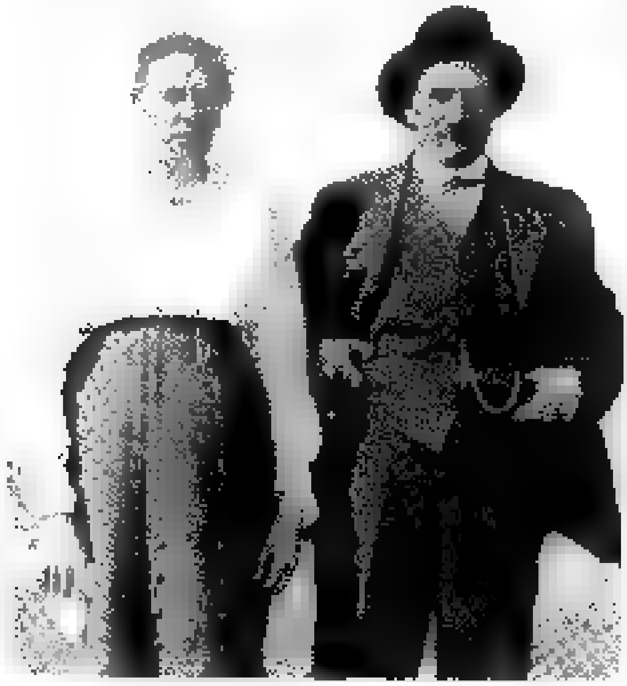
Mildred and Russell took music lessons from Mrs. Banner, an accomplished musician in spite of a handicapped hand. She was a real lady, with a world of patience; and while she was still taking lessons, Mildred began to play for church services.

In 1928 we were hailed out completely. My husband got work threshing in the Galahad area. I cut and raked the hailed grain and we put it up for feed. A neighbor lady, Mrs. Heptonstall, helped me haul it home. We would leave the last load of the day on the rack, and when her husband came home from work, he would put the top on the stack, which when finished was 125 feet long and 35 feet across the end.

My husband passed away in 1944. Mildred married Richard Zeamer. They had two daughters, Charlotte and Marlene, and are living in Hanna.

Russell is an electrician, working from home.

We still live on the same farm. All my old neighbors have left; some have passed on, some thought they could do better elsewhere. I have a small house in Hanna so I spend my time between town and the farm.



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ziemmer

MR. and MRS. DANIEL ZIEMMER, By Bennie Ziemmer — Daniel Ziemmer came to Canada from Wollinia, Russia, about 1900, and worked for a number of years with the Mennonites in Manitoba. While there he married Justina Rother, and my oldest brother Gerhard was born there in 1903.

Dad obtained his first land at Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and John, Herman and Martha were born there. In 1909 he homesteaded the SE 7-34-15. That fall he sold out at Lanigan; at that time anything bought at an auction sale did not have to be paid for in cash, but could be on time. He spent the winter at Leduc with his sisters, the Wetter and the Bienert families.

In the spring of 1910 he and Andrew and Louie Wetter shipped their equipment by train to Castor. Dad had a team of oxen and a horse, and he broke land with a walking plow. The family lived in a sod house on the homestead for the first year. Albert and I were born on the homestead.

There was open range then and at milking time the cows were sometimes miles from home. Mother churned butter and put it up in prints to be traded for groceries.

Their post office and store was at Old Endiang.

In the fall of 1916 we moved to the NE 10-34-15, where Dad had purchased land from Emil Reske and R. Eisentraut. We farmed with horses and lived off the farm, keeping cattle, hogs and poultry. At one time we hand-milked more than twenty cows, and every week Mother would drive to Hanna with a team and democrat, taking in eggs and cream and returning the same day with groceries and other necessities. The round trip was forty-six miles.

Grain was hauled to Hanna and livestock was driven to market there. Wheat was milled into flour, livestock was butchered and the meat was cured or canned. Neighbors would get together in the fall to butcher or dress poultry. For use during the winter, eggs were preserved in salt brine or waterglass.

On Sundays we dressed up and drove to church services as far away as Spondin, Craigmyle and the Hand Hills. Later we attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

At home we played horseshoes and baseball, boxed and rode steers. I recall a rodeo being held at Fedor Prokupuk's place. The first ball diamond was north of our place on the Keibel land, later it was moved two miles south, and still later, to Scapa.

When the railway came in 1925, the real pioneer times were over, as most of the farm land had been broken, fenced and improved with buildings. Some farmers had cars and tractors.

About that time Dad built a new barn, and had a well drilled, and a windmill installed to pump the water. We had a Coleman gas lamp for light and a radio with earphones. I can remember listening to the Dempsey-Tunney fight on that radio.

Dad purchased his first car in 1927, a Model T Ford, but driving in mud, half a mile in low gear and it would boil. In 1930 it was replaced by a Model A, which was a good unit.

Mother served as a midwife until the thirties. In 1931 Dad passed away and mother remarried. She and her husband, Gottlieb Schuler, lived on the homestead until they retired to Hanna. Both are deceased now.

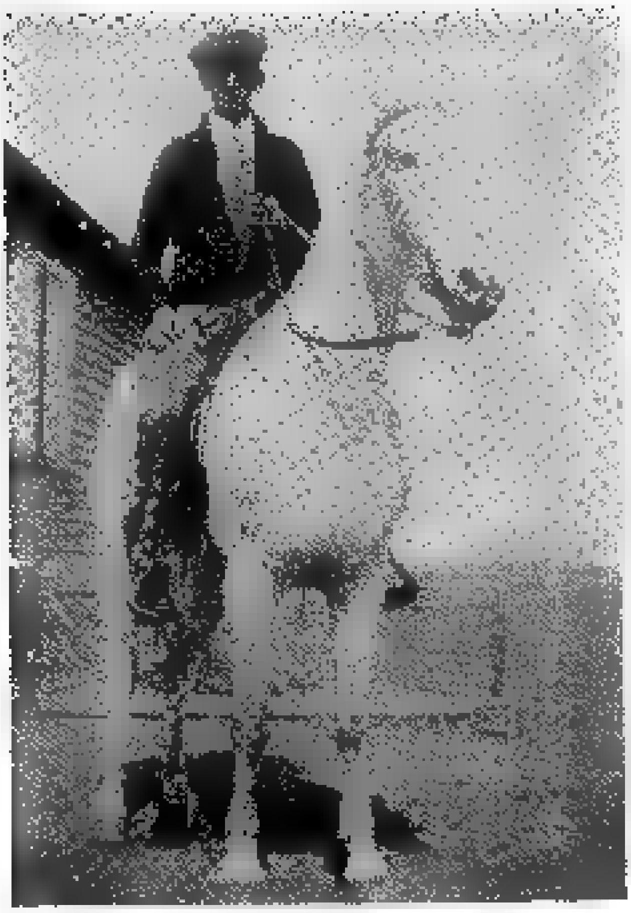
Our sister Martha, Mrs. John Mohl, died on Christmas Day, 1973. Brothers Gerhard and Herman live in the Mayerthorpe district, John [illegible] at Lacombe, and Albert and I live at Endiang.

HERMAN and PAULINE ZIEMMER, By Herman Ziemmer — In 1931 my dad passed away and that was when I started on my own. I batched until 1935 and then married Pauline Stulberg. As we remember, it was a very cold day, thirty below and the snow drifts six or eight feet high. It was so cold in the church that we froze our toes.

I had a quarter section of land, and rented another quarter from Ron Huson. I later bought that, and also the Charlie Hill half-section from the Ruhl brothers.

We lived in a two-roomed house for ten years. Then in 1945 we bought a school house, moved it from south of Hanna, remodelled it and lived in it for ten years. We did not like that house, for it was a high building and when the wind blew, the whole house shook. One day a window blew in. So we bought a house and moved it down from south of Edmonton.

In the dry years all that really grew was tumble weeds and Russian thistle. Towards fall the tumble weeds broke off and blew against the fences, then the dirt blew against them, until the fences were covered over.



Herman Ziemmer's courting days

We farmed with horses and horse-drawn machinery, as most people did. Herman went into the horse business. Over the years he travelled five different stallions. He broke horses to drive, and got paid ten dollars for each one he broke. He also had a little trap line which caught rabbits, weasels and skunks. At first he would get five cents for rabbit ears; later he skinned the rabbits and got as high as seventy-five cents for them. Skunks and weasels brought from one to five dollars. One winter we sold one hundred dollars' worth of skins, which was very good.

During the war years, we gathered dry bones from cattle that did not make the winter and took them in to Scapa where we sold them. However, this brought only a small amount of money.

We always milked cows and raised pigs, and in 1949 we bought a purebred Hereford cow, which had a heifer calf. That cow had twelve bull calves, which we always sold for good prices, as there were not too many purebred breeders in the area. We still have purebred polled cattle, but only enough to keep us busy.

FRED LYXZEN, By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Andrew Ernfred (Fred) Lyxzen was born October 17, 1885 in Vannas, Sweden. He had two brothers and one sister. His sister and one brother died of diphtheria while youngsters. His younger brother died in 1974. His father was the only one who came over here but he returned to the old country after a couple of years. In 1903 Fred immigrated to South Dakota where he had relatives. He worked on a large farm there for a couple of years and then went to Vancouver Island to work in a lumber camp. In 1907 he started working for a harness maker in Stettler, Alberta. Three years later he bought a building and started his own harness shop. Andy Robinson, an oldtimer of Stettler, worked for him.

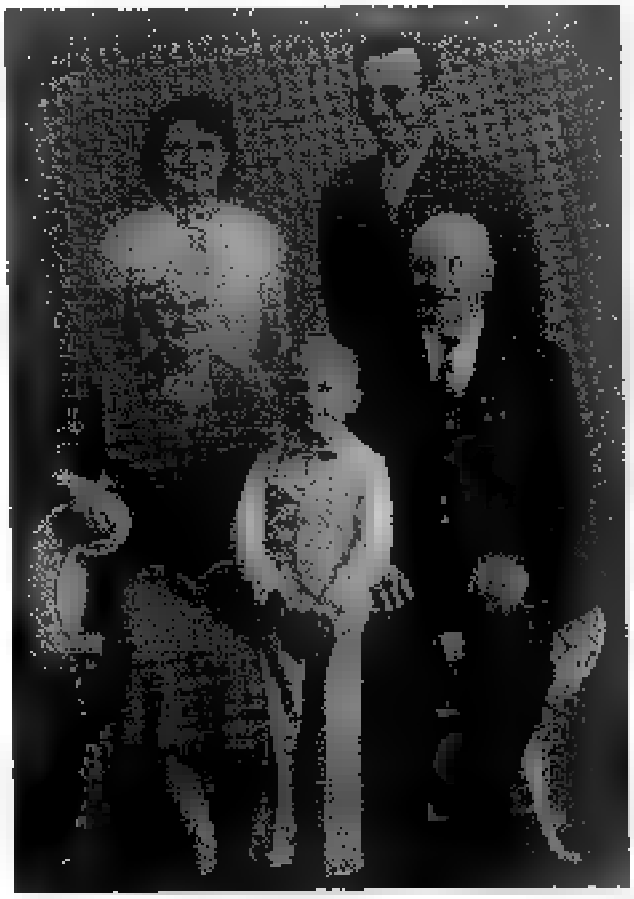
After getting married in 1911, he operated his shop for a couple more years, till he went broke due to too much credit on the books and no cash. He never did collect the money that was owing to him. After renting land south of Erskine and near Hanna, he took up a homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1915, and then went to work for the Government, at Great West Saddlery, for thirty-five cents an hour. He made bridles and saddles for war purposes until the quota was reached. He returned to the homestead with two horses and five cows he had acquired. Over the ensuing years he improved and increased his herd of Shorthorns many times over. Before the advent of tractors he farmed six quarters with horses.

They, as did all other pioneers, experienced many set backs; hail, drought, grasshoppers and the dirty thirties. In 1916 they had only a one-roomed shack covered with rubberoid roofing. A terrific hailstorm struck and tore off all the roofing, so they had to stand under an umbrella with their rubbers on. A canvas had been spread over the bed so it was the only dry spot. The chickens were startled and ran out only to be killed, so none were left. This was the storm that

killed Mr. Depencier, about one-half mile west of them. He was returning from Craigmyle with a load of lumber. He managed to crawl to some bush and was found with his hands over his head as though trying to protect himself.

Money was non-existant. Sometimes a pound of butter or such like was traded for some much-needed commodity. There was a flour mill in Hanna where farmers had their wheat ground. The closest trading centre was Endiang until Scapa was established.

Mr. Fred Lyxzen and coyote hounds



Doreen and John Kerner, Hilda Lyxzen, Brian Kerner and Fred Lyxzen.

Since Fred was a harness maker, in early winter and spring one would find him astride his "harness horse" making and repairing harness of his own and as a favor, also his neighbors'. He owned a threshing machine, before the advent of combines, and did threshing on various farms for many years. He owned three quarters of land and rented two quarters from Olaf Saunders who had returned to Sweden. Crow Hill School was in the north-east corner of this land. The Depencier quarter, which he had purchased after Mr. Depencier was killed, just cornered this to the north-east. In the twenties he purchased the quarter west of the homestead.

In the spring of 1945 he held an auction sale and bought the Red and White Store at Scapa from H.A. Burt Sr. They actually switched places. In 1949 the Pounds from Dowling bought the store and the Lyxzens moved to the land referred to as the Wallaces and Roneys; nine miles north-east of Scapa. In 1956 they bought a house in Hanna and retired from farming.

Fred was an avid hunter of coyotes, big game and birds — mostly geese. For most of the years on the homestead he kept numerous hunting dogs ■ various breeds — some were greyhounds. He spent the winters covering miles and miles of territory hunting coyotes. The pelts had to be carefully skinned and stretched on boards to be saleable. With fall came the goose hunting season. In later years on his second farm, he took many hunters out. His farm bordered Sullivan Lake and thousands of geese landed there. Today his guns are a prized possession of his grandson. After his retirement he did a lot of fishing, especially at Carolside Dam.

He also upholstered furniture. He made two sets of harness, one for a team of Shetland ponies in the Garden Plain area, the other was regular size. Unfortunately the harness, which was left locked in the garage, disappeared after his death. Somewhere there is an excellent set of hand-stitched harness made about 1959.

Because his wife was in hospital and his health was failing, he spent the winter of 1964-65 with his daughter, Doreen in Bow Island. He suffered a stroke and passed away twelve days later on May 20, 1965.

MRS. FRED LYXZEN, By Doreen Lyxzen Kerner — Hildur (Hilda) Karolina Erickson, daughter of Per and Elizabeth, was born December 25, 1888 in Helgum, Sweden. She [illegible] one of a family of one sister, four brothers and two half-brothers, one of whom, Edward, lives in Hanna. Two brothers Enock and Abe are still living at ninety-one and ninety. Her mother died when she was six years old, so she had a step-mother, Maria. She left Sweden in October 1903 with the Molander family to come to Erskine, Alberta where her father and brother, Albert, were. Except for her sister, the rest of the family came a year later.

In the spring of 1904 she started work in the kitchen of the Adelphi Hotel in Lacombe. There were no specified working hours; if a train happened to come in at midnight, she worked. There was no overtime pay; she earned fifteen dollars a month, most of which was given to her father. She worked eleven months, learned English and then did odd jobs for a while before she started her apprenticeship as a dressmaker. After recovering from an illness she rented a room above the Harness Shop in Stettler; opened her dressmaking shop and launched her career as a professional dressmaker in 1907.

On April 5, 1911 she married Andrew Ernfred (Fred) Lyxzen. Four children were born of this union but only the youngest, Victoria Doreen survived. They lived in Stettler for a couple of years where she kept on with her shop. After moving south of Erskine and then to the Reddel place four miles south of Hanna, she moved to the homestead four miles west of Scapa in 1915. Since her husband was working in Calgary, her brother August helped her on the farm.

Like all pioneer women she had to work out on the land, so she could handle horses as well as any man. She was a member of the old U.F.W.A. and later of the Home Ladies Club at Scapa. Upon retiring in 1956 with her husband, she became an active member of the Church of Christ in Hanna.

No matter where they lived, she always had a wide assortment of material, for she sewed for countless people in the Scapa and Hanna areas. For example, one Christmas season she had twenty dresses to make. Everyone had to have a new dress for the Christmas Concert.

She is an avid gardener and plant lover; and had lots of produce, beautiful flowers and house plants to prove it. At the age of eighty-eight, she still does a variety of handicrafts.

On October 19, 1962, she fell off the back step of their home in Hanna and broke her hip. Arthritis set in and after three operations and many months in various hospitals, she can get around only in a wheelchair. She remains cheerful and retains a sharp and agile mind. She now resides in the Bow Island Nursing Home.

MR. and MRS. HERMAN SLEMP, By Kate Huson Slemp — Herman Slemp came to the Fleet district from Oklahoma with his parents and the rest of the family in 1912. His wife (nee Kate Huson) came from England with her parents and one sister in 1913. Her four brothers had come in previous years. Her mother's sister, Mrs. Bob Climie of Lane and Climie ranch of Castor district, had come to Alberta

In 1901 when Red Deer was the nearest town. The fact of so many of the family being here decided her parents to leave England for a life in sunny Alberta.

Herman homesteaded the southwest 2-34-15, proving up in 1920. He was married in Castor in March 1920, driving the same day by team and cutter to the homestead where he and his wife made their home for forty-four years; moving to Castor in May 1964 where they enjoyed retirement until Herman's sudden passing in October 1976. His wife is still living there.

Kate Siemp: Pie eating contest at Hudson Bay School

June 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Siemp and John Wallace, raising Siemp's two-roomed house to put on a foundation.

Herman worked at various jobs before his marriage, one being a freighting job between Castor and Hanna with a four horse team. He also worked for Mr. Kane at Garden Plain Store and coal mine which was our post office for several years, the mail coming from Castor by team, twice a week I believe.

Their first home was a small two-room house, twelve by twenty feet and the few acres of crop grown in 1919 was snowed under and stooks stayed in the field until being threshed in May 1920.

The railroad came in the fall of 1925, bringing three elevators the following year; Herman operated the Searle elevator from about 1929 or 30 to about 1937 or 38. During the early thirties (commonly known as the hungry thirties) the elevator handled relief feed made possible by the government to aid farmers in carrying their stock through those difficult years.

There was very little income those years as wheat was nineteen cents a bushel, cattle one to one and a half cents a pound, eggs five cents a dozen and cream from two dollars to two dollars and seventy-five cents for a five gallon can.

Everyone tried to be optimistic, making their own entertainment by visiting families and gatherings at local school houses, at card parties and dances. In winter a group would organize a play, practising at different homes until ready for showing before spring work commenced. Sometimes they would journey to different places, affording people in other communities an opportunity to see the play. One year when roads were bad the railroad hand car was pressed into transporting the cast to another point along the railroad.

Farming was done with horses and Herman had two six horse teams — "Big Six" and "Little Six."

Times were hard those years but made one appreciate to the full the better years that followed.

THE HILL FAMILY, By Mrs. Maymie Hill Cattanach — Charles Ancin Hill (known as Charlie), his wife Alma, and their four children; Jessie Dee, Maymie,

Earl and Chester; arrived all the way from Steedman, Oklahoma to Fleet, Alberta to become "new citizens". They arrived in August, 1912 in time to help with the harvest. Alma helped in a cook car where the threshing crew were fed while Maymie looked after the baby, Chester. Chester was only one year old and Maymie six years of age so it was understandable that there were a few arguments!

In 1914 Charlie filed on a homestead two miles west of what is now known as Scapa. By 1917 he received his Naturalization Papers and his homestead rights from the Federal Government. He also received what was known as Pre-Emption Rights. Luckily for his children he named all of them on his application for Naturalization, thus they became Canadian citizens.

In 1918 Homer was born on January 13, while on September 13, 1919 Haskell (known as Hack) arrived on the scene. Mrs. Sexsmith, midwife in the district, ushered both new Canadians into the world without any benefits of a doctor.

It was in 1916 that Crow Hill School was built. Charlie Hill was the main "pusher" of the school as well as Chairman and Trustee. The first Crow Hill teacher was Miss Christine Campbell — later to become Mrs. Milo Loomer of Endiang. The school had an enrollment of approximately thirty children from grade one to grade nine. How about that, you 1977 teachers of today!

To make ends meet Charlie went to work for Harold Hunt of Endiang while Alma and Jessie ran the farm and the rest of the kids ran the house.

After a few years things got better and the work eased up, especially when the price of wheat went up. Charlie and Jessie built a two room building in Scapa in 1926 where Jessie ran a butcher shop on one side and Maymie ran a small restaurant on the other side. By 1925 there were two elevators in Scapa and farmers really appreciated something to eat after driving so far with their wheat. Elis Malm had started the Scapa Store by then, so a cup of hot coffee and a piece of pie was quite welcome.

In 1928 Charlie and Alma took over the restaurant after the farm was sold to the Ruhls. The rest of the kids had gone out working, leaving Homer and Hack the only kids at home with their parents. Scapa School had started up by then so schooling went on — much to their disgust.

In 1929 John Cattanach and Maymie Hill were married and continued farming on John's farm two miles east of Scapa. In 1931 Charlie, Alma, and the two younger boys moved to British Columbia for health reasons, as Homer had developed diabetes and was on a salad diet — something they couldn't get in Alberta. They sold the building in Scapa to Jim and Olive Boehlke who set up a store in it.

Homer passed away in 1942, Alma in 1944, Charlie in 1947, Jessie in October of 1966, Chester in May of 1967, Earl in September of 1971, and Hack in December of 1974, leaving Maymie as sole survivor of the Hill family from Scapa.

OLAV SANDNESS, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Olav Sandness homesteaded the NW 33-33-15 about 1912. Crow Hill school was built on two acres of land in the corner of his farm. In the mid-twenties he rented his land to Mr. Lyxzen and took a trip back to Norway, where he died.

THE WAGNER FAMILY, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Mr. and Mrs. M. Wagner had a homestead and pre-emption on section 32-33-15. They had four children, Lizzie, Chris, Benny and Mary. Their son Chris, who was married and had two children, also took out a homestead and a pre-emption. When Chris' house burned down, he and his family moved in with his parents.

When the men had proved up on their homesteads they sold them; C. Nill bought the M. Wagner homestead and [illegible]. Burt bought Chris'. The pre-emptions were let go back. Mr. Lyxzen took M. Wagner's as a second homestead, and Mr. Heptonstall filed on Chris' pre-emption.

In 1926, the Wagners returned to the United States. The only member of the families to remain in Canada was Mary, who had married Andrew Riebe of Delia.

Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren

HJALMAR HOLMGREN FAMILY, By Norman Holmgren — Hjalmar and Ruth Holmgren and their two children, Lila and Norman, came from North Dakota to Craigmyle about 1916. Dad got a house for us to live in, then found [illegible] job in the coal mine at Garden Plain. My brother Archie was born in 1916, and my sister Ellen two years later, when we lived on the Rom place.

Dad decided to try his hand at farming so rented land. There wasn't much money to be made at that, but with a part-time job in the coal mine we managed to survive. Lila and I started school at Princeton; about 1923 we went to Lillico school and while we lived on the Lyxzen place we attended Crow Hill. Dad put some land into crop on the NW 5-34-15 but had the misfortune to get hailed out.

When we moved to the Charles Loomer place we went to the Endiang school which was later re-named Hunt Lake. [illegible] wintertime Earl Hoover took us to school in a covered van pulled by horses. We left Endiang in the late twenties. Dad filed on a homestead in the Lindale area where he made his home until he suddenly took ill and passed away in 1941. Mother died a few years later.

Lila, Mrs. Norma Phillips, had one son. She died at Lindale in 1967. Archie died in 1975. His widow continues to operate the store and service station which he had bought at Carnwood. Ellen lives in Vancouver. My wife and I have three married sons. We farm at Lindale and I drive a school bus.

Going [illegible] school [illegible] learn to speak English: Emil Kading, 1927

EMIL KADING, By Mrs. A.B. Hanson — Emil Kading came from Germany in the summer of 1926 to stay with his brother, Bill Kading. As he was anxious to learn English, [illegible] did the janitor work at Crow Hill school, and stayed to listen to the children's instruction. Every day he drove by team and sleigh to the school, taking my children with him.

During World War I he had been an airplane mechanic for the German ace, Baron Von Richtofen, and he was hoping to continue the work he had been trained for in Canada. In 1928 Andy Hanson took him to Medicine Hat

to see if he could help him get his Canadian license. As he could not speak English very well, the examiners gave him an airplane engine to work on, and Mr. Hanson translated for him. He was given his permit to work in Canada and was sent to Vancouver.

In 1930 he was travelling as mechanic with a bush pilot whose plane was damaged after a forced landing. The three men aboard the plane spent two months in the mountainous country near the Liard River in B.C. before rescuers found them. One of the party had died from injuries and exposure.

After he had regained his health, his company sent him to Thunder Bay; he remained there throughout the Second World War and until his retirement. Then he returned to the Scapa area to live with his brother and his wife. He stayed with them for seven years; when Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kading decided to retire to Stettler, Emil was to go with them, but wanted to take a trip back to Germany first. The Bill Kadings moved his effects to Stettler with their own, while Emil visited with relatives in his homeland.

He died suddenly of a heart attack while visiting the home of his nieces in East Germany, and he was buried there.

The Heptonstall Family: Ron, 'Hep', Connie, Herb, Walter and Mrs. Heptonstall — 1963

MR. and MRS. B. HEPTONSTALL, By Connie Heptonstall Steeves — Mr. and Mrs. Heptonstall and their three children, Connie, Walter and Herb, arrived in Hanna from Yorkshire, England, on March 27, 1927. During their first few months in the area, they lived with Mr. Heptonstall's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Linley, and the children attended Chain Lakes school. They also spent some time with the Joe Liggett family in the Scapa district, and then moved to the Hill place about four miles west of Scapa. Late that summer 'Hep' as he was known to all his friends, took up the homestead that Chris Wagner had given up, a mile south of Crow Hill school.

Mrs. Hanson tells an amusing story. Apparently Walter Heptonstall became ill at school, and the teacher sent Connie home to get her mother. When Mrs. Heptonstall discovered that her son's illness had been caused by chewing tobacco, she switched him all the way home.

The youngest son, Ronnie, was born while Heptonstalls lived on this farm. In 1933 they moved south of Hanna, and the farm was taken over by their daughter Connie and her husband, Paul Schultz.

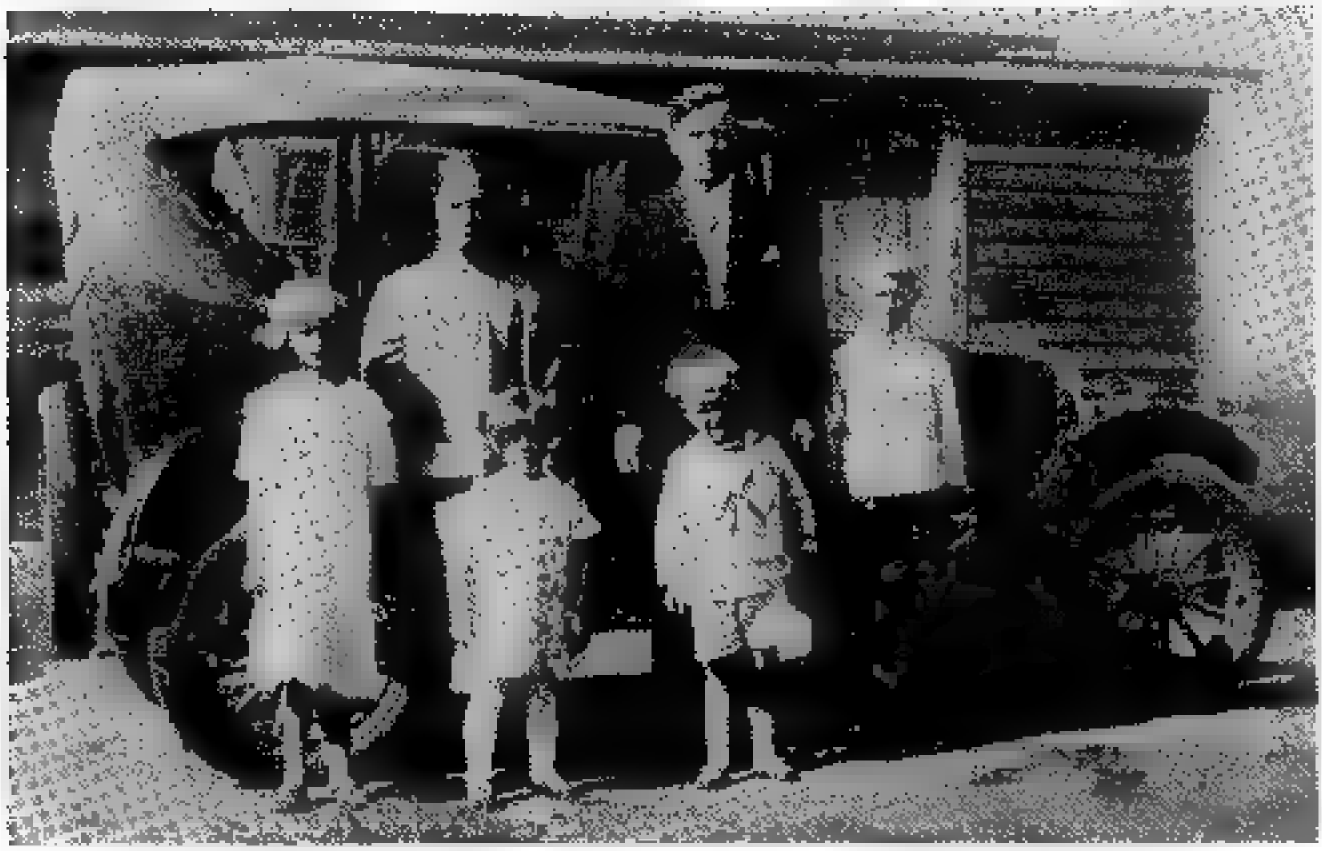
Hep, who was a veteran of World War I, joined the Home Guard during World War II, and moved his family to Hanna in 1941. Mrs. Heptonstall passed away in 1966, Mr. Heptonstall and their son Walter in 1975.

Ronnie still lives in Hanna, Connie and Herbert reside in Calgary.

EMANUEL KALMBACH, By Lucy Kalmbach Gutsche — In October of 1927 my dad, Emanuel Kalmbach, his wife, the former Bertha Irion, and their four children immigrated to Canada from Romania. Their family consisted of Roland, who was then six years old; Lilly, aged five; Hilda, two; and Emanuel Jr., who was

about seven months old when they arrived here. They stayed with relatives at Scapa for three or four months.

My dad had been a school teacher in the Old Country for a number of years. Conditions there at that time were very unsettled, and the country was overpopulated; I think that correspondence with relatives in Canada convinced them that they would be much better off living here. I don't know if Dad intended to teach school here, but three or four months after they arrived, he made a down payment on a farm which at that time belonged to Alex Kalenith.



Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Kalmbach, Lilly, Roland and Emanuel Jr., and Ethel Diewert

He started farming with very little in the way of machinery, but I was told that in spite of that he grew a thirty-five to forty bushel crop in either 1928 or 1929. Unfortunately a severe hailstorm destroyed the crop just before harvest. Things looked very bleak, as he had no means of supporting his family. He finally obtained work with a threshing crew south of Hanna.

In 1930 my dad's wife was not well, and was taken to Hanna where Dr. Baxendale diagnosed a tumor and performed an operation to try to remove it. It was not successful and she died in October of 1930, at the age of thirty-four. It was a severe blow for Dad and the children. He had no idea how he would be able to look after his family, so they were cared for by their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Irion, who lived just across the road. After her father's remarriage, Hilda continued to make her home with her grandparents and attended Endiang school.

Through friends, my mother, Mrs. Alvina Diewert, learned that my dad needed a housekeeper, and took the position. From previous marriages she had one son, Albert Brandt, who was employed at Mayerthorpe and who remained there, and one daughter, Ethel Diewert, five years old. Dad and mother were married in 1931 and I, their only child, was born in 1934, with Mrs. Gottlieb Schuler as midwife.

Ethel, Lilly, Emanuel and Roland all attended Crow Hill school in the thirties. I went there only two years before it was closed. We travelled back and forth to school with a horse and buggy in the summertime and a cutter in the winter. I can remember one day that Ethel and Emanuel had gone to school in the morning,

and later that day a terrible blizzard came up. Due to the severity of the storm they didn't make it home that evening. The storm raged all night, and it was bitterly cold. Mother and dad were terribly worried about where the children could be. They stayed up all night, and as soon as the storm abated somewhat, Dad took a team and sleigh and went to look for them. He found them at the Fred Lyxzen place, where they had spent the night. Possibly the teacher at that time was boarding with the Lyxzens, and had taken them there with her.

My dad was a faithful worker for St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa. He was church secretary from 1929 to 1955, church organist for the same period of time, and as choir leader organized and directed the music for the annual Christmas and Easter services.

I remember the crop failures, and Dad not always being able to make his land payments when they came due. Mother was an ardent gardener, and usually grew more than enough for the family. Sometimes she would make part of the land payment with vegetables; she also raised a lot of turkeys, and sometimes the money from their sale was used to help pay the taxes.

When Dad's health began to fail he disposed of the land and had an auction sale. He and Mother moved to Calgary where he worked as painter in a steel plant, but he developed lung cancer and died in 1958. Mother remained in Calgary for a couple of years, then moved to Hanna where she is still able to care for her own home.

Roland Kalmbach and his wife Margaret live in Calgary. They have four children.

Lilly and Ben Meyers live in Vancouver. They have four children.

Hilda Fischer is a widow. She and her children live in Vancouver.

Emanual and his wife Darlene and their children are on Vancouver Island.

Ethel and Ed Bertsch and their three children reside in Calgary.

I, Lucy, married Art Gutsche in 1953. We have three sons. We bought Dad's farm in 1958 and still live on the original farm site where we built a new home four years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mattheis, Ed, Irma, Art, Annie and Gus

THE DANIEL MATTHEIS FAMILY, By Art Mattheis — Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mattheis emigrated from Romania to Canada in the fall of 1927. They spent the first winter with Mrs. Mattheis' parents, the Pahl family, who had come earlier and who were living in the Scapa district.

The following year they purchased a half section of land from John Johnson. They lived there for a number of years and then moved one mile south, in order to be closer to school, and built a new set of buildings on land bought from Harvey Burt. Later on the house on this farm was traded to a machine agent for a 500 Case Diesel tractor, and moved to Hanna. The family moved to the Edgar Slemp farm because the house had a phone, was closer to town and was served by better roads.

All the above land is now farmed by sons Arthur and Gustav.

The children attended Crow Hill school, a two mile trek summer and winter.

After that school closed they went to Scapa and to Hanna. The family regularly attended church services at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Scapa.

On one occasion, Mrs. Mattheis and her children, Art and Annie, were taking two crates of eggs and three cans of cream to Scapa for shipment on the train. Just as they approached a railroad crossing, a speeder came down the track, frightening the horses. The runaway team galloped the mile and a half back to the farm. Mrs. Mattheis was very annoyed. She drove the team to the field where her husband was ploughing, traded the runaways for the team he was using, repacked her eggs, and still got to Scapa in time to meet the train.

In 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Mattheis retired to Hanna where they spent their remaining years. Mr. Mattheis died in 1965, Mrs. Mattheis in 1969.

They had five children.

Anna completed her nurse's training at the Holy Cross hospital in Calgary and is now married to Harvey Miller of Ottawa. They have two sons.

Arthur graduated from a two-year course at the Olds College of Agriculture, and is now farming north-west of Scapa.

Edwin became a petroleum engineer. He is married and living in Calgary. He has one son and one daughter.

Irma, a laboratory technician, married Henry Debre. They live at Valleyview and have two sons and one daughter.

Gustav completed a course in diesel engineering at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He is now farming and ranching in the Scapa district. He is married to June Keibel. They have one daughter, Kimberlie.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

By Mrs. A.B. Hanson

I hope you will find room in your book for this chapter on the wonderful neighbors we had. I know quite a few women who would not have survived if they had not had good neighbors. Since I am getting to be one of the older people in this part of the country, and have lived here since 1916, I have met and known most of the people who lived in this neighborhood.

Mr. Ernest Fletcher and my husband came to Medicine Hat from Washington in the fall of 1910. They had been working on threshing outfits; my husband was a steam engineer and Mr. Fletcher was the separator man. After harvest was finished at Medicine Hat they went to Galahad where Mr. Fletcher had a brother, and he stayed there for the winter.

In the spring he homesteaded the east half of 28-33-15, and my husband took the west half. In the winter Mr. Fletcher worked in the coal mines at Castor or Garden Plain. On November 12, 1918, he married Hazel Brum, a widow with one son. They lived on his farm until 1923, but Mrs. Fletcher did not like this country, so he rented his land to Bill Kading and moved back to Wisconsin.

Bill Kading took over the horses and cows with the land. In the spring he would get his cows in at five in the morning, milk eight cows and feed his pigs, and then go to work in the field to put his crop in. On March 24, 1929 he married Katie Morasch, and a better friend and neighbor no one ever had. They were my closest friends for fifty years and I do not know how I would have made it without their help when my husband passed on and my son was sick in bed for months. They remained on the farm until seven years ago when they moved to Stettler where their two sons were living. I cannot express what these people meant to us right up to the time of their passing.

The Heptonstalls homesteaded the land that Chris Wagner had let go back.

it joined our place on the north. One year we were hailed out, so my husband went threshing in the Galahad area, and Mrs. Heptonstall helped me haul home the feed that I had cut and raked, and when Mr. Heptonstall got home from work he would top off the stack for me.

The Stulbergs, Gus and Emma. If it had not been for them, many of the homesteaders would not have been able to keep going. I do not know how many cows and calves, and horses he saved for the people, and never a penny, as most of the homesteaders had no money. And a good many times it put a lot of extra work on his wife and children, as he would stay with the animal till it was out of danger. And it certainly showed in their family; they never raised one lazy youngster, they all earn their own living and my son and I are good friends of these same children who are now grown up with families of their own.

The Nills did not come until 1927. It did not make any difference what you needed, all the way from sewing shoes to harness, as these Old Country people had learned many trades, and how welcome that was to us! Praise goes to the wife and children as they had to take on extra work while Dad helped the neighbors. And may I say that is why their children are such good workers; they learned this at home and this district can be proud of children and parents like that.

Mr. and Mrs. George Banner. Mrs. Banner was a music teacher. How thankful a lot of young people were to that lady, as most of the parents could not afford to have their children learn to play an instrument. She had the patience of a saint, and put in her time for nothing; not one cent did she take and always a lunch when they were finished, just to give the neighbors' kids a chance.

Mr. and Mrs. Gust Abram. He would tan cow hides. When the years were so terribly hard and he saw how the people's shoes had no place left to nail a sole to, he would make the nicest mocassin slippers for them. He would come to visit and when he left there would be a paper bag in a corner, and there would be a slip of paper in with the slippers, and it would say, "I did not know what size you take, but I hope you can use these." He would tell the neighbors not to spend money for brooms. "Just cut the tail off one of your horses and bring the hair over and I will make you a broom." I still have one he made from an old Charlie horse we had. He has been gone a long time, but his tail hair broom is still working.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Burt. Mr. Burt was a farmer but looked after the elevator in Scapa. It was one of the business places that took the place of a bank. Mr. Burt knew just how hard up the people were, so often helped out with a few dollars which were very much appreciated and paid back out of the next cream cheque or crate of eggs. If someone did not know which way to turn, he called at the elevator, and soon came out smiling.

In March, 1936, my mother passed away, and since Mr. Burt had one of the few phones in the district, he brought me word that she had gone. He handed me five dollars, saying, "You might need this, and if you ever have it to spare you can give it back." That is the way our good neighbors were; they knew what you needed most and when. No need to say I made a special effort to pay back that five dollars, with a very thankful heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen. When the hungry thirties were just past, we had not had any crops to pay our taxes, and my husband had been sick for ten years before he passed on. The government of the Province said they were taking over our farm. It had been my home for so many years, and I was at my wits' end where to get the money. One night when Mr. and Mrs. Lyxzen were over for a visit, we told them about it. He never said a word, just made out a cheque for three hundred dollars, and said, "Shame the devil! Just pay your taxes. You can give it back when you sell your calves."

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schultz had a blacksmith shop in Gadsby. When farmers would drive a long distance there in a lumber wagon, it was impossible to make the return trip the same day. Many of them had no money for a hotel room, but instead of letting them sleep in the wagon box outside, Mr. Schultz would put their horses in his shop and took the people in his home where they were always made welcome and fed. The shop was filled with horses and the house was so filled with strange people that the Schultz children hardly knew which bed was theirs; it was usually on the floor, and strangers in their beds. They never charged anyone, so they were a Godsend to the poor homesteaders.

When they moved out to their homestead, they continued to help their neighbors. Half the girls in this part of the country should have been named Emma, for if a woman needed help, Mrs. Schultz would put on her white apron and put her medicines and other things she would need in a box, and stay until the mother was able to look after her new baby herself. And after the Lutheran Church was built, you would see the whole family going to church, and after the service they would not take no for an answer, and most of the young folks would go home with them, and they would be fed and made welcome; it did not matter if there were fifteen or fifty guests. They had eleven children of their own, and they each had their own friends, and after dinner they would play horseshoes or baseball or football. Everyone had clothes to cover them, and lots of food, and they did not have to work on a Sunday, that was the Lord's day.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker. Mrs. Steinbrecker used to have a big garden, I think it covered two acres. Spuds and peas and beans by the bucket full, and no one ever went home without all he could carry. I think not many folk bought seed for their gardens, or seed spuds, as long as Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecker lived on the farm. Their son, Sam, lives on the place now, and he is right there if any help is needed. They have the nicest children; they always show real respect for old people.

Sidney Linley, Joe Lidgett, Ida Banner, George Banner, Mrs. Lidgett, Mrs. Linley — 1924

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trettin A harder working man never lived, and a kinder hearted man you will never know. If you needed help you did not have to ask for it; he would offer to do what was needed, and their children are just like that too.

The Burt, Siemp and Leicht families in front of the Burt home in 1927

The stack of hailed grain put up by Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Heptonstall in 1931. Mr. Heptonstall on top of stack, Mrs. Hep, Bud Hanson and dog at the end of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Glubrecht. They were not ones to say, "Let me know if you need anything", they could see what was needed. They brought food if there was sickness in the house, and would loan their car or anything else you had to have.

Bernice and George Burns were among the later comers to the district. When they had the store at Scapa it did not make any difference if you had the money to pay for your groceries or not; they would even bring the groceries to the farm if they were needed right away.

Now that most of the old timers are gone, the young folks like the Lohrmanns, Erions, Heins, Weichs and Pattinsons are a credit to the country. They are there to help whenever they are needed. Very many times we were so thankful to be blessed with kind neighbors, and you can tell their children, yes, and even their grandchildren, by their politeness and friendliness.

Believe me, I agree with my son Bud, when he says that the kindest and best people in the world live around Scapa and Endiang . . . Mrs. A.B. Hanson's neighbors!

Good neighbors — 1960: the Kadings and Glubrechts

THE CHARLES SMYTH FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smyth and their children, Charlie Jr., Alice, Iris, Wilma and Jim, came from the United States, and lived in the Endiang district until homestead land became available. On April 4, 1913, Mr. Smyth filed on the east half of 5-34-15 as a homestead and pre-emption, land which had previously been filed on but abandoned.

At first the children attended Old Endiang school, but when Crow Hill was built they went there, as it was much closer.

Charles Jr. married Madge Pierce, who taught at several schools in the area both before and after her marriage. They now reside at Spirit River.

Alice Siemp and Iris White live in the United States. Wilma Baxter makes her home in Kelowna.

Jim remained at home, and moved to Endiang with his parents when they retired there. He continued to operate the farm until his untimely death in 1972. He was very interested in 4-H work and did a great deal to help the young people with their projects.

Mrs. Charles Smyth died in 1959, and her husband in 1962. They, and Jim, are buried in the family plot in the Endiang cemetery.

JOHN and MARIA SCHILL — In the year 1930, John and Maria Schill plus their five oldest children, came from Romania to a little place called Scapa, Alberta. For the first year they lived in a little shack owned by Maria's brother, Dan Mattheis. John worked for a neighboring farmer, Harold Hunt. For six months they lived on the Forrest Tucker place at Endiang, then they came back to Scapa once more, where they lived in the Garrett Zeimmer house. One winter John worked for Fred Lyxzen where the twins, Herbert and Freda, were born.

More moving — this time to the Jensen place in Sullivan Lake, where their youngest daughter, Hilda, was born. For two years John farmed three quarters of C.P.R. land in Sullivan Lake. Another move to the Louis Vedder place for two years, and from there to Halkirk where they farmed some more C.P.R. land for another two years.

Then one November day in 1943, the entire family made a big move from

sunny Alberta to beautiful British Columbia. This time they settled on a dairy farm in Pitt Meadows, farming for another nineteen years.

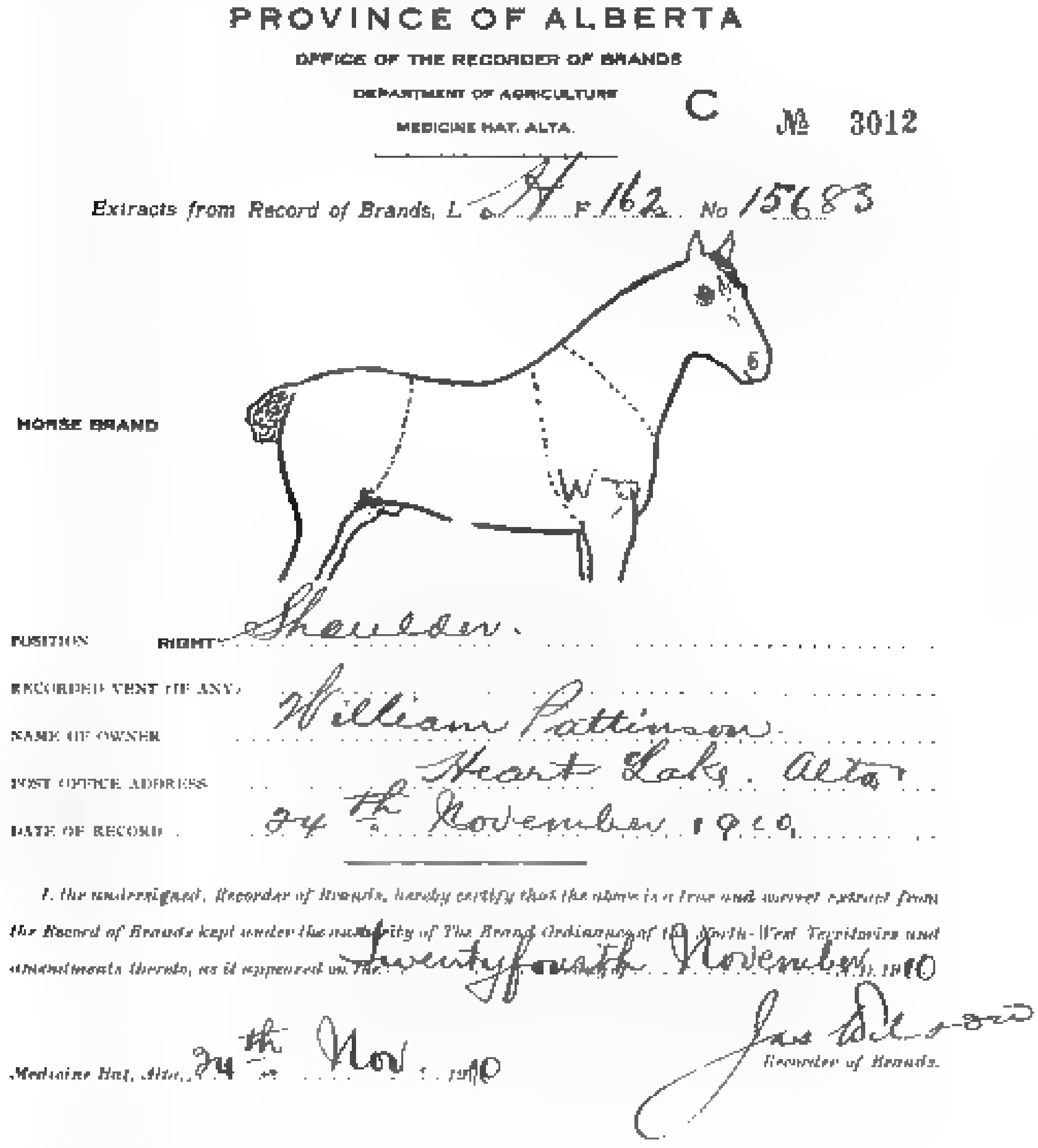
In 1962 John Schill sold his dairy farm and retired on a half-acre lot in Pitt Meadows.

They are both active and enjoying good health. They have a good sized vegetable garden and the most beautiful of flower gardens.

In February of 1976, John and Maria will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Little did they know what they had started! Besides their eight children, they now have twenty-one grandchildren and five great grandchildren. All are living in this area except for Hilda, who is in Fort St. James, B.C. The names of the children in order are: Gus, John, Arnold, Ella, Erna, the twins Herbert and Freda, and Hilda.

Gus is a blueberry farmer. John has an oil truck, also he and Arnold are commercial fishermen bringing in sockeye from the Fraser River. Herb is working for the school board.

BRANDS



PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

C № 3012

Extracts from Record of Brands, L H *F* 162 *No* 15683

HORSE BRAND

POSITION RIGHT Shoulder.

RECORDED VENT (IF ANY)

NAME OF OWNER William Pattinson.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS Heart Lake, Alta.

DATE OF RECORD 24th November 1910.

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of The Brand Ordinance of the North-West Territories and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the Twentyfourth November *19*10

Medicine Hat, Alta., 24th Nov *19*10

Jas Wilson
Recorder of Brands.

PRESENT BRANDS

AJ	L.R.	F. JOHNSTON	LM	R.SH.	A.B. HANSON+SON	ƎE	R.H.	A. WOLFERT
AJ	L.H.	B. JOHNSTON	IH	R.R.	B. MILLER	LB	R.R.	L. BOYSON
S2	L.R.	N. GREENWAY	LC	R.R.	L. LOHRMANN	AN	R.SH.	E. NELSON
Ab	R.H.	O. MILLER	4L	R.SH.	G. MATTHEIS	LR	L.R.	L. STORCH
JS	R.SH.	E. SIEPPERT	OH	L.SH.	G. HALL	XLX	R.R.	L. GUSTAFSON
KJ	R.R.	S. JAMES	W	L.SH.	H. WIMMER	ƎS	L.H.	E. STORCH
8M	R.R.	F. MILLER	NH	R.H.	S. STRANDBERG	S	R.R.	A. STANDING
HK	L.R.	A. KERN	-NH	R.R.	L. STRANDBERG	WN-	R.R.	W. NELSON
IT	R.R.	C. KERN	UN	R.H.	L. UNSWORTH	MK	L.SH.	J.K. MARLOWE
T3	L.H.	G. ROBERTSON	LRE	L.R.	WIENS BROS.	XA	L.R.	C. UNSWORTH
OW	R.R.	P. PAXMAN	MC-	L.R.	D CATTANACH	LS	L.H.	W.L. STORCH
EJ	R.R.	J. FORTNA	ZS	R.H.	D. MATTIS	IS	L.R.	H. STRANDBERG
Pb	R.H.	L. PAHL	UH	L.H	DON MATTIS	OO	R.R.	A. STORCH
JSP	R.R.	C PAXMAN	ƎF	L.R.	F FECHO	HƏ	R.R.	H. GUSTAFSON
MJ	L.SH.	J MARTIN	TJ	R.R.	T. JESS	OU	R.H.	J. MARLOWE
⊢7	R.H.	H. PFAHL	IK	R.H.	R. KAUTZ	-7S	L.R.	E. STRANDBERG
ƎE	L.R.	E. HIEN	-7B	R.R.	C BOYD	GS	R.H.	C. STANDING
ш	L.R.	O. WRIGHT	JR	L.SH.	K. REHILL	N-E	R.R.	H.G. NELSON
JJ	L.H.	R. JOHNSTON	ZL	L.R.	L. HEIDINGER	WOB	R.R.	W. BOYSON
HL	L.R.	H. HILDENBRAND	ЯR	L.R.	R.J. REHILL	AH	L.R.	A. HUTTON
MB	R.H.	A. BAES	JR	L.R.	J.J. REHILL	HB	L.R.	B. HUTTON
BE	R.SH.	E. BOSSERT	YM	R.R.	F. MOULDING	LI	L.R.	L. HUTTON
AB	R.H.	H. BOSSERT	TF	R.SH.	W. FAUPEL	62	L.R.	HUTTON+SONS
TZ	R.R.	K. HALVERSON	N-H	R.R.	A. EVANS	S3	R.H.	SCOTT FARMS
D4	R.H.	D. WEICH	C<	R.R.	C. CORRY	JV	R.R.	W. VISTE+W. GAUGLER
3H	R.R.	A. TRETTIN	C<	R.H.	R. CORRY	JV	R.SH.	W. VISTE+W GAUGLER
XV	L.H.	T. PATTINSON	W-E	L.R.	E. JOB	B↓	R.R.	R. BRUNNER
LWD	R.R.	L. DIEGEL	Wb	L.R.	W. JOB	TXS	L.R.	A. FECHO
NC	L.H.	F. NILL	-SO	L.R.	R. STANDING	SV	R.SH.	S. VISTE
NZ	R.H.	L+K. GRANTHAM	V8	R.R.	J. STANDING	OJ	L.R.	C. VISTE
R∞	R.R.	R. DOYLE	NH	R.H.	H. NELSON	JN	L.R.	M. VISTE+SONS
3S	L.R.	P+J. SCHULTZ	31	R.H	N. ANNAS	UT	R.SH.	R. ANNAS
L2	L.R.	L. WIENS	TK	L.H	W. MacKENZIE	IK	L.R.	W. T. MacKENZIE
Z3	R.H.	A. CAMPION	DR	L.R	R. MAYBERRY	⇇	R.R.	A. DUFF
BVB	R.R.	B. GLADDISH	-L↓	L.R	J. LUMSDEN	WL	R.R.	W. LUMSDEN
Y	L.H.	A. BANCO	UI	L.H	R. BANCO	KH	L.R.	H. KAUTZ
ZX	L.R.	W. SNEATH	MX	R.R	A. MIX	ƎS	L.SH.	G. SCHMIEDT
TF	R.R.	H. FORTNA	Δ7	R.R	D. BOYSON	AD	R.H.	DELKER BROS.

LH	L.H	F. HARVEY	Y4	R.R.	D. CHIDLEY	74	R.H	DALLAS CHIDLEY
CO	R.R	M. CHIDLEY	CH	R.R	A CHIDLEY	AR	L.H	T. G. IRONSIDE
JU	L.SH.	A.A. HUTTON	P	L.R	MORGAN TRANS. LTD.	RC	L.R.	D. JOHNSON

BRANDS 1915 — 1976

L	L.R.	VELMA MOORE	3X	L.R.	G. MOLDON	MP	R.R.	M. L. POPE
R9	L.R.	J. D. PARKER	3Y	R.R.	G. BUNBURY	JH-	R.R.	J. WALLACE
SX	R.SH.	R. A. McCUISH	7	R.R.	J. BURNS	3→	R.H	W. H. GILTNER
LH	R.H.	L. HANNAH	SL	R.H.	J. H. LEWIS	LW	L.H	W. D. LUMSDEN
FE	R.H	F. ENGEL	LO	R.SH.	L. GROVE	NB	L.H	N. BANGO
EE	L.SH.	[illegible]. PFAHL	EO	R.R.	E. GROVE	FK	R.R.	F. KAUTZ
KL	L.R.	A HARVEY	MC	L.H.	J. CATTANACH	L3D	L.R.	R.T. ROBERTS
LY	R.H.	J + H. CAMPBELL	TL	L.SH.	O. PAHL	J-R	R.R.	J. H. ROBERTS
SH	L.R.	E. SLEMP	OP	L.H	A. PAHL	UL	L.H.	F. W. MATTIS
NL	R.H.	A. H. GALARNEAU	-DS	L.SH.	AL. DESILETS	I-R	L.R.	T. F. IRONSIDE + SONS
SH	R.R.	H. BURT	SH	L.H	H. H. SLEMP	EX-	L.R.	N. LUND
3H	R.R.	[illegible]. FLETCHER	3H	R.R.	W. KADING	CO	L.R.	M. WALKER
AZ	L.SH.	H. SIMON	BH	L.R.	MRS. [illegible] HALVERSON	LY	L.SH.	A. E. + H. LYXZEN

HORSE BRANDS

I-R	L.SH.	T. F. IRONSIDE + SONS	OX	R.SH.	R. T. ROBERTS	RR	R.SH.	J. H. ROBERTS
TK	L.TH.	J. BURNS	WD	R.SH.	W. PATTINSON	&	L.TH.	L. DIEGEL
CO	R.SH.	C. OVERTON	ch	R.TH.	G. BUNBURY	SX	R.SH.	R. A. McCUISH
UL.	L.TH.	F. W. MATTIS	NH	R.SH.	S. STRANDBERG	WA	L.TH.	W. A. ANDERSON
AZ	L.SH.	H. SIMON	83	R.TH.	J. D. PARKER	C-<	R.TH.	JOHN CORRY

Compiled by Margaret Nelson and Mrs. Alex Wolfert

A SCENE TO PONDER

By Rita Storch

A season's growth of grass bends down, laid low
By passing wheels, the first to come this way
For many months. The maple trees still grow
And sturdy caraganas stiffly sway.
Two acres, maybe three, the trees surround,
And in the center of the yard huge stones
Lay strewn amidst tall grass upon a mound,
And to the east are sun-bleached cattle bones.

A squeaking windmill mourns the farm's demise.
It knows more than I of those who toiled
To build a better life beneath these skies.
Where have they gone? How were their efforts foiled?
As these and other questions flood my mind
I leave the lonely homestead far behind.

Reprinted from the 1974 Alberta Poetry Yearbook with permission of the author.

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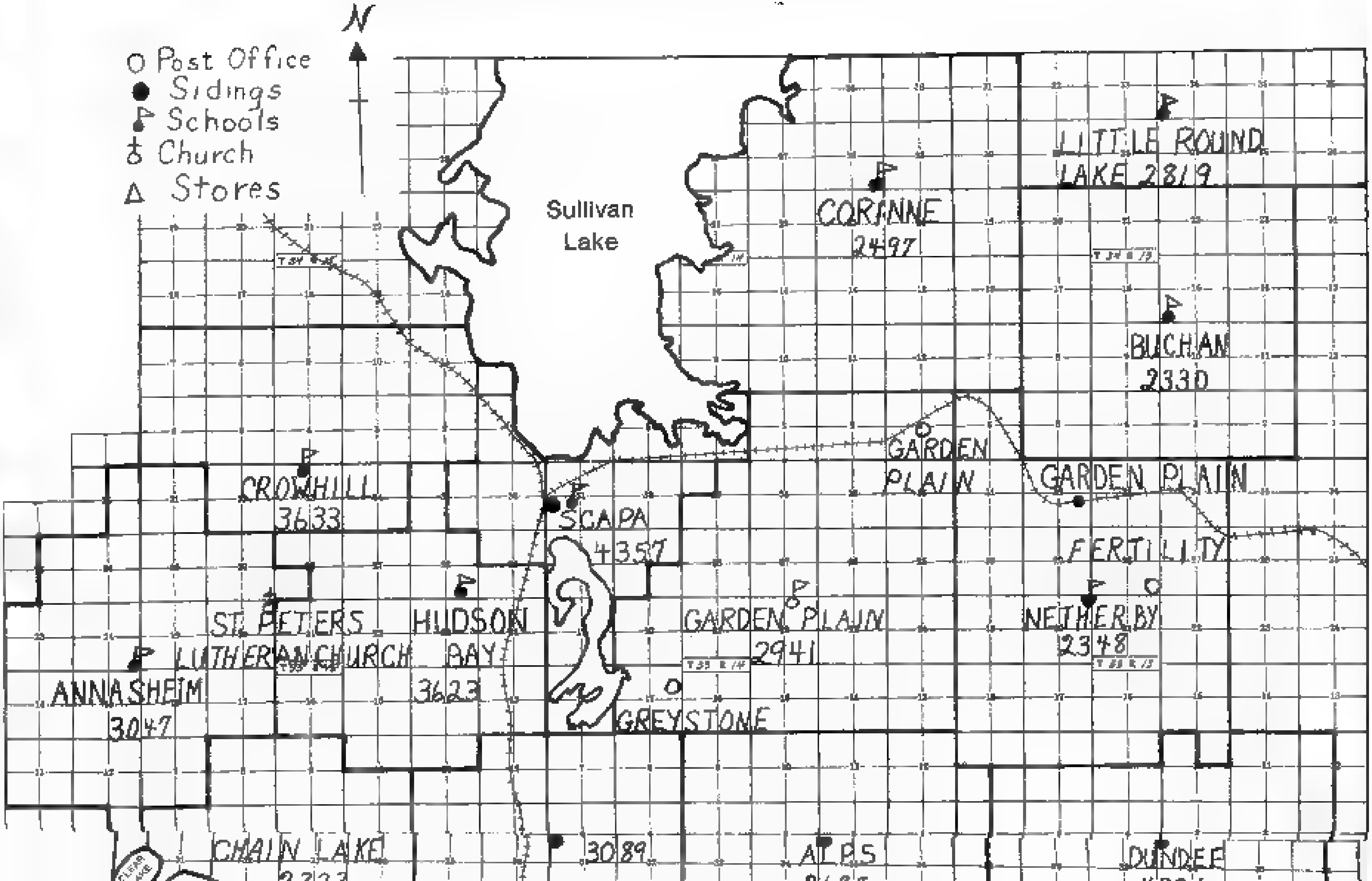
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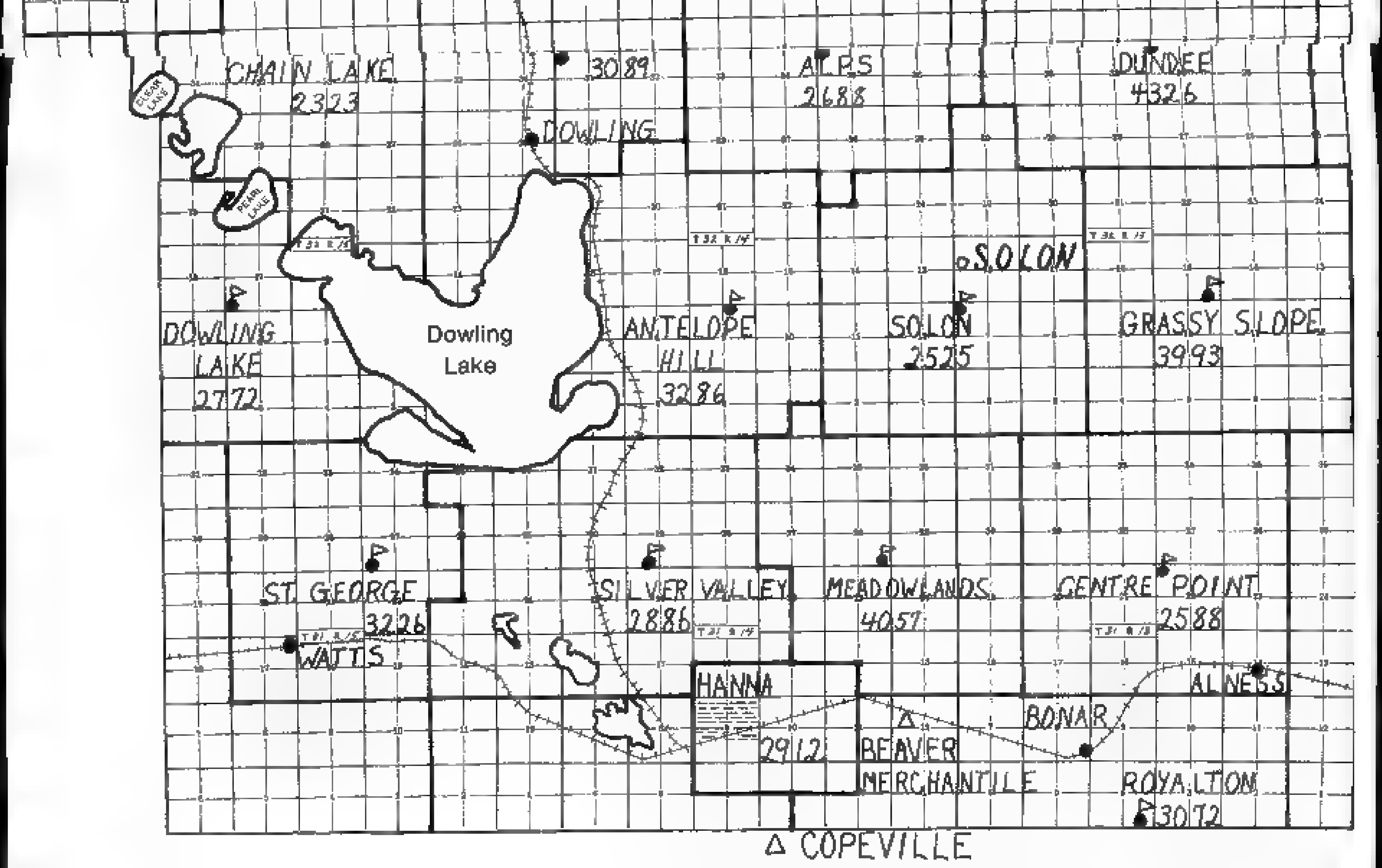
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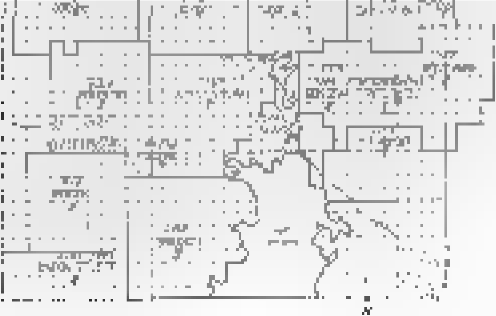

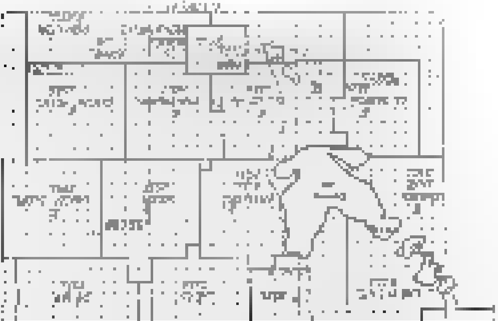

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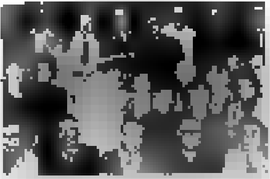

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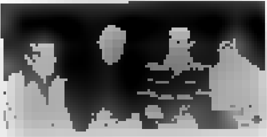

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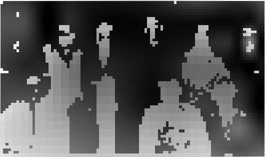

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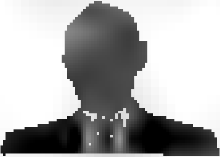

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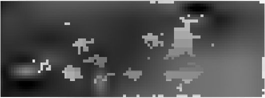

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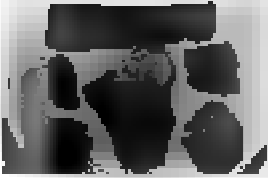

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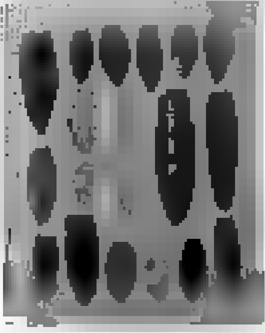

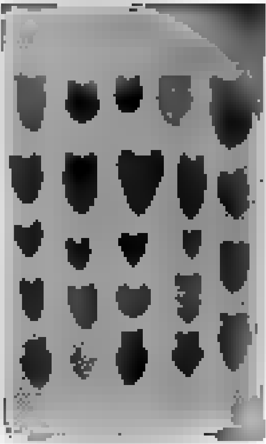

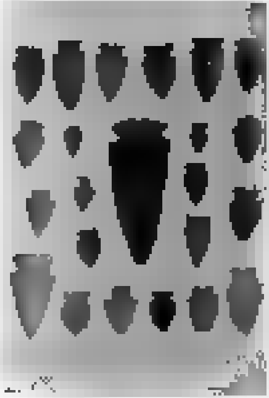

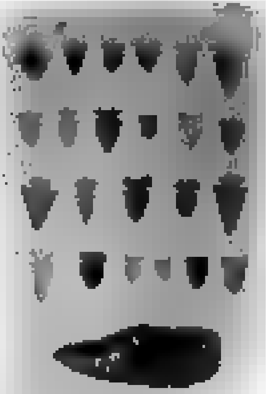

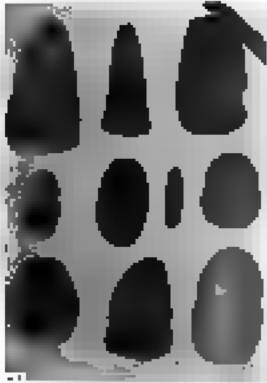

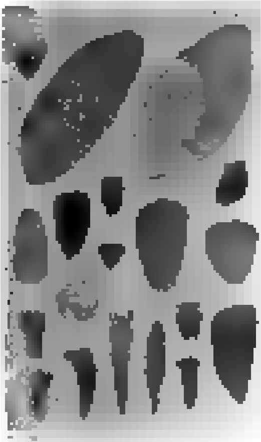

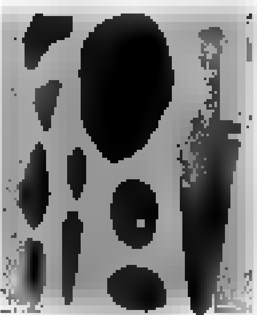

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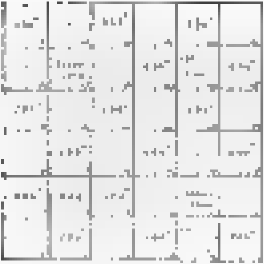

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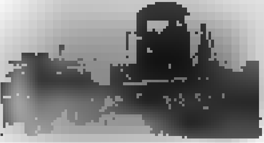

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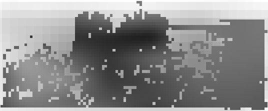

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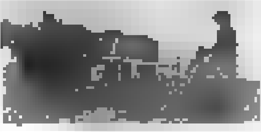

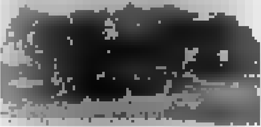

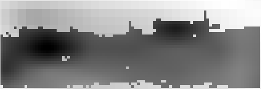

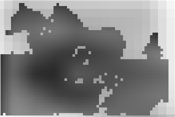

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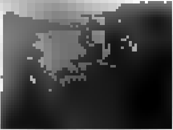

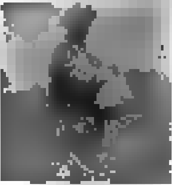

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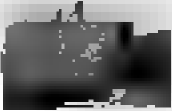

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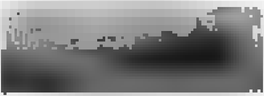

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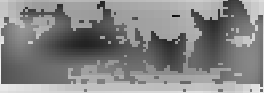

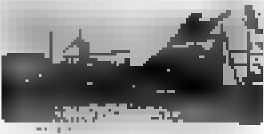

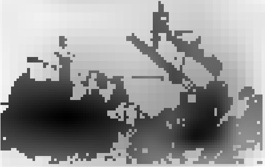

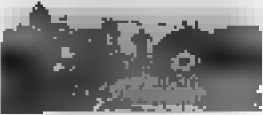

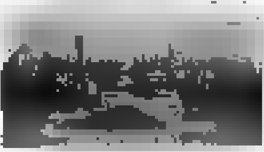

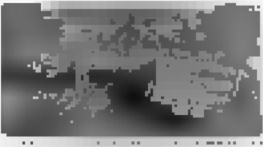

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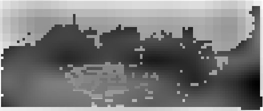

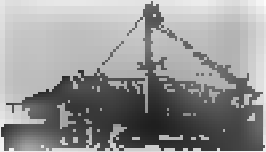

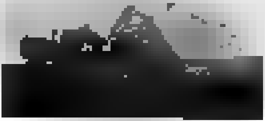

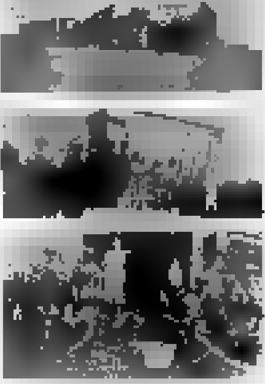

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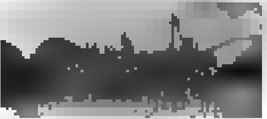

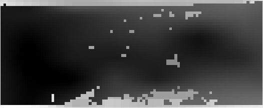

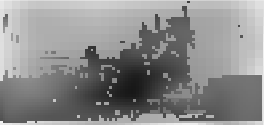

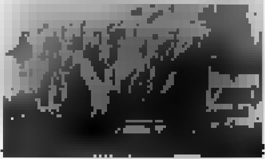

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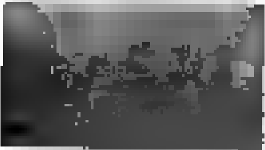

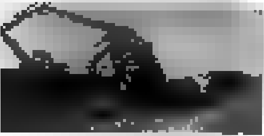

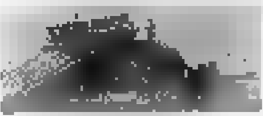

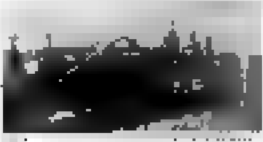

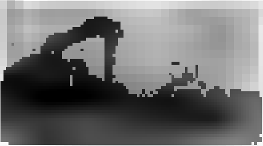

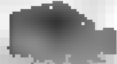

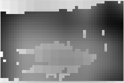
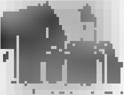

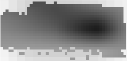

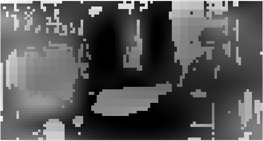

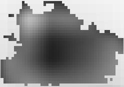

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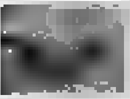

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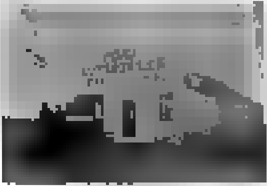

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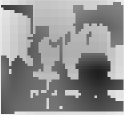

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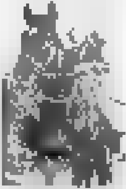

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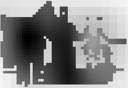

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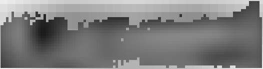

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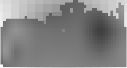

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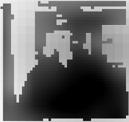

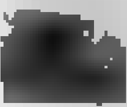

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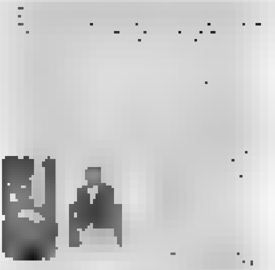

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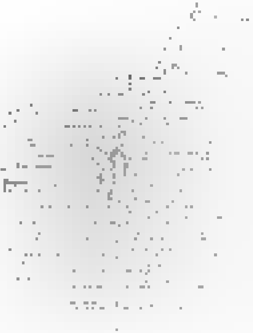

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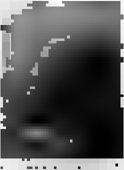

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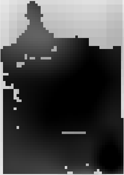

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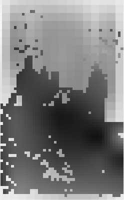

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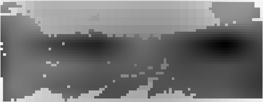

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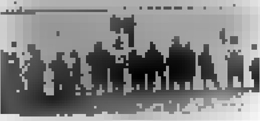

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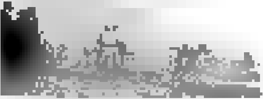

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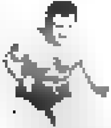

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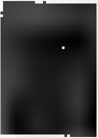

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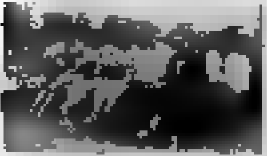

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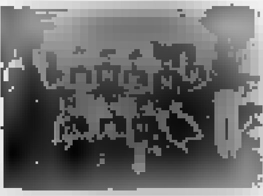

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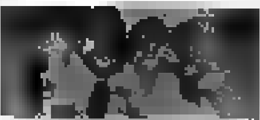

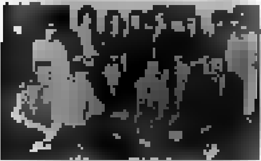

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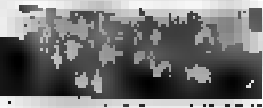

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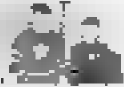

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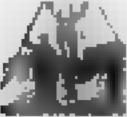

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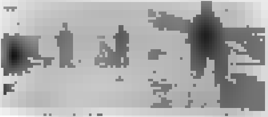

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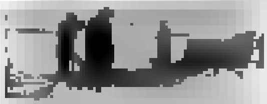

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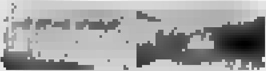

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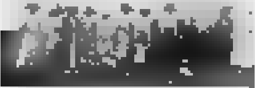

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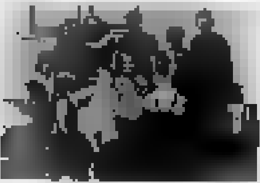

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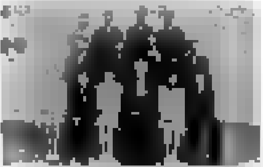

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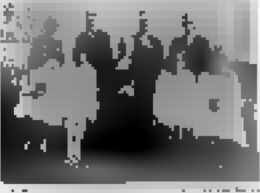

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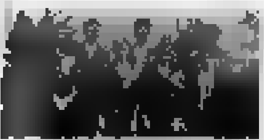

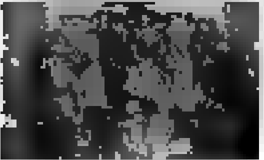

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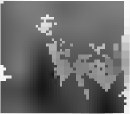

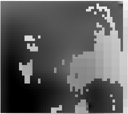

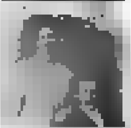

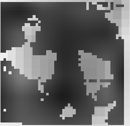

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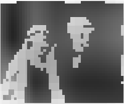

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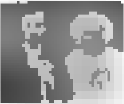

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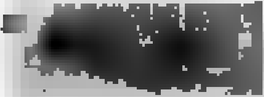

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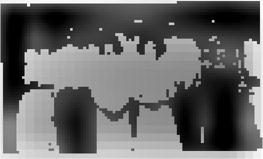

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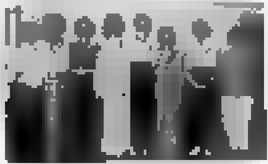

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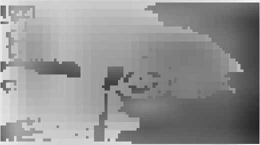

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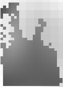

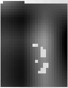

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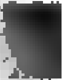

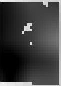

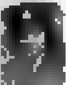

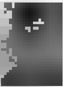

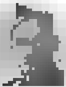

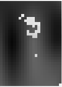

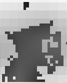

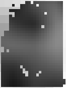

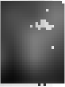

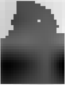

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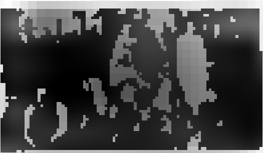

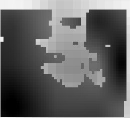

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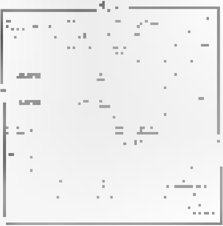

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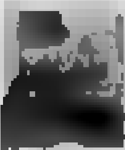

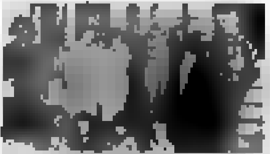

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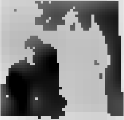

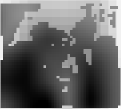

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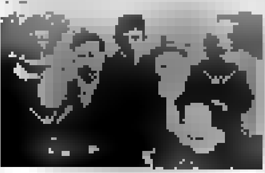

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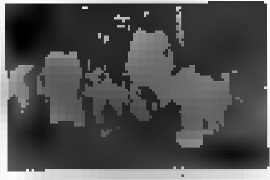

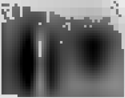

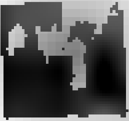

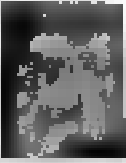

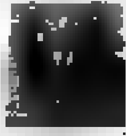

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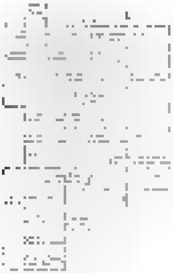

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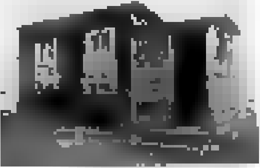

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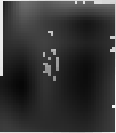

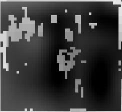

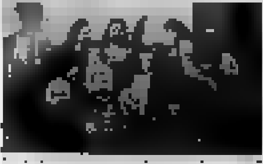

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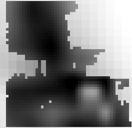

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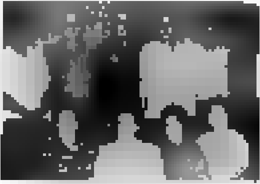

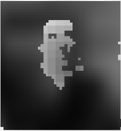

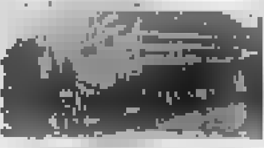

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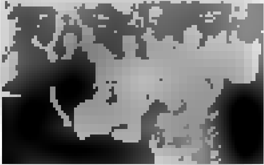

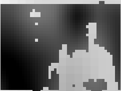

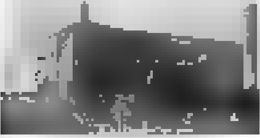

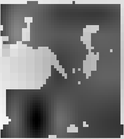

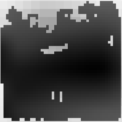

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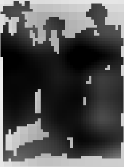

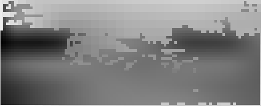

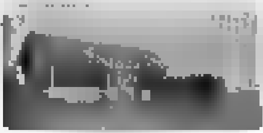

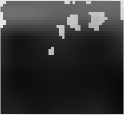

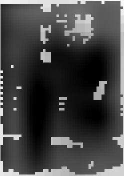

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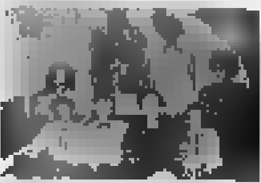

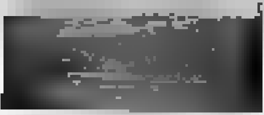

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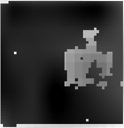

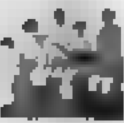

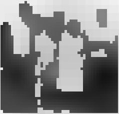

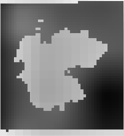

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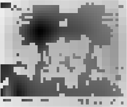

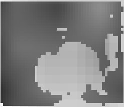

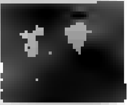

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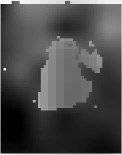

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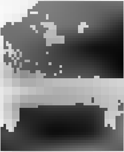

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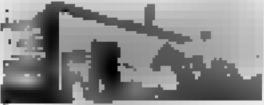

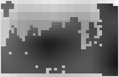

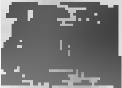

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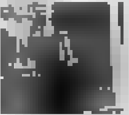

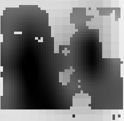

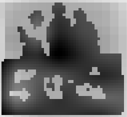

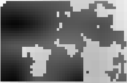

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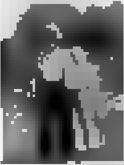

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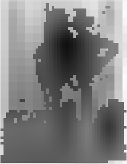

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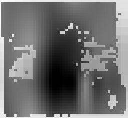

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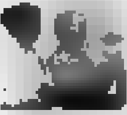

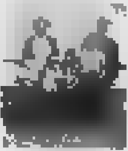

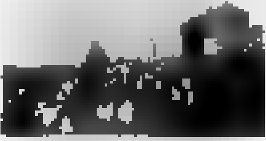

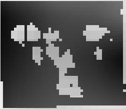

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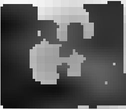

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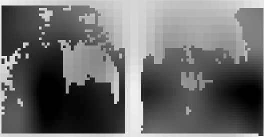

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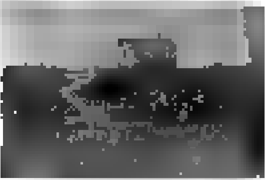

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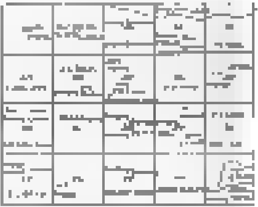

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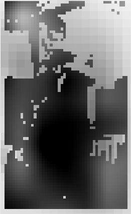

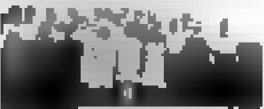

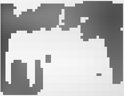

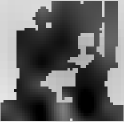

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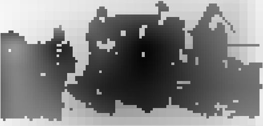

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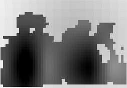

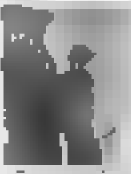

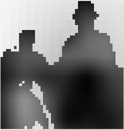

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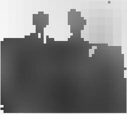

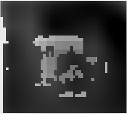

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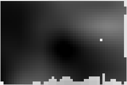

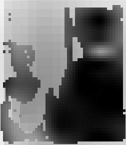

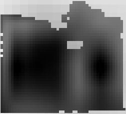

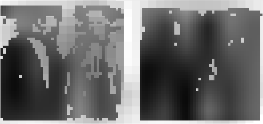

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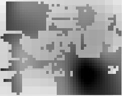

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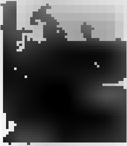

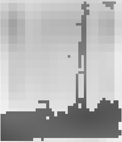

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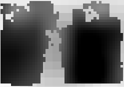

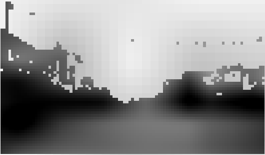

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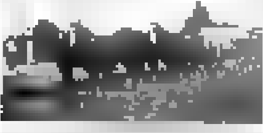

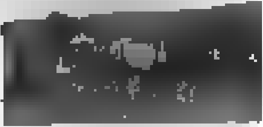

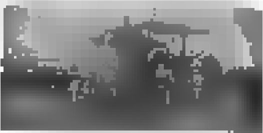

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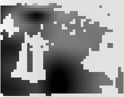

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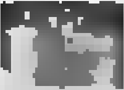

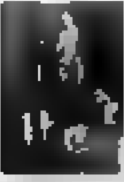

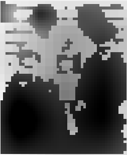

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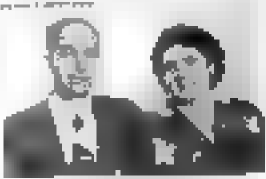

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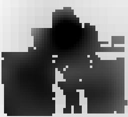

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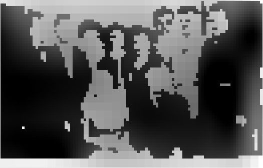

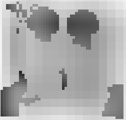

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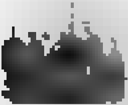

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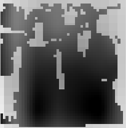

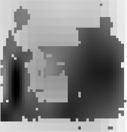

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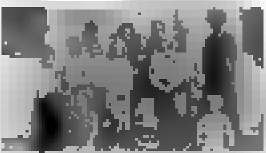

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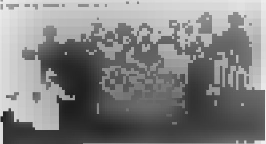

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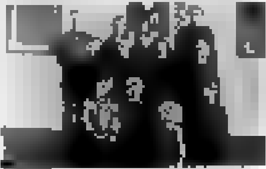

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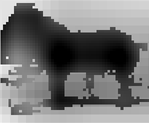

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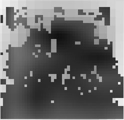

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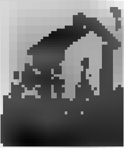

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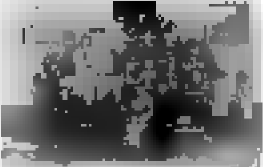

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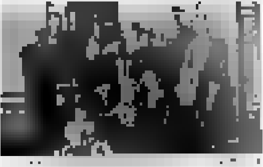

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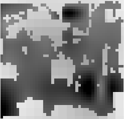

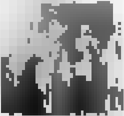

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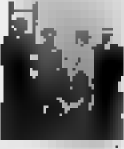

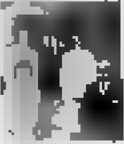

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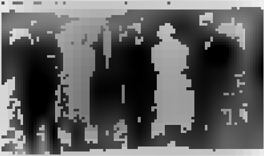

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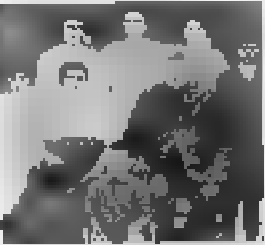

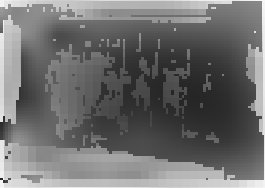

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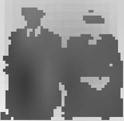

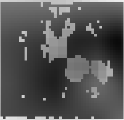

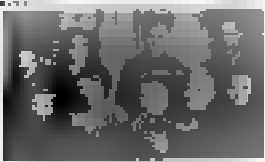

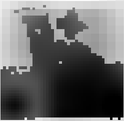

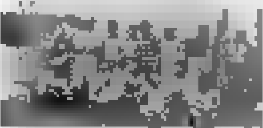

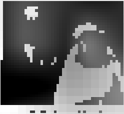

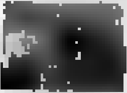

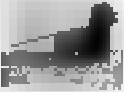

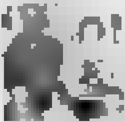

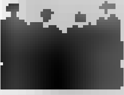

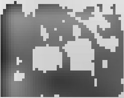

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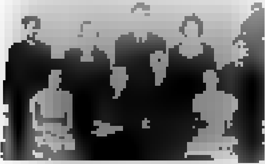

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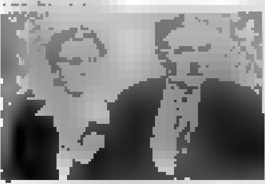

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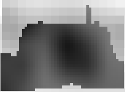

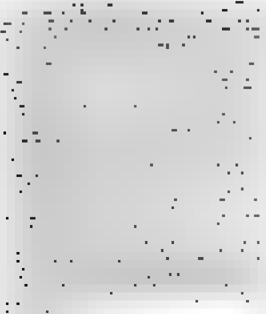

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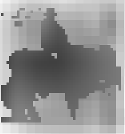

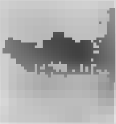

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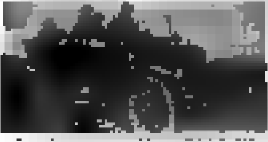

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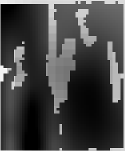

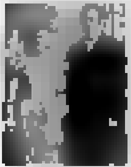

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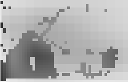

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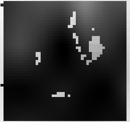

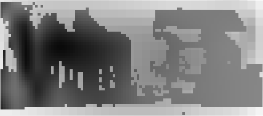

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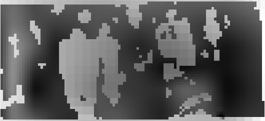

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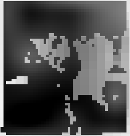

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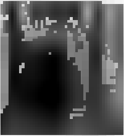

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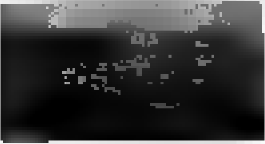

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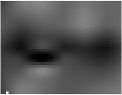

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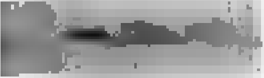

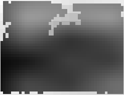

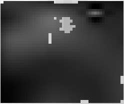

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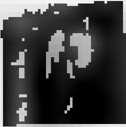

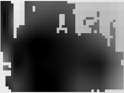

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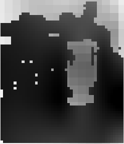

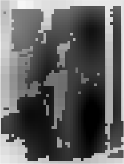

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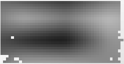

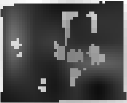

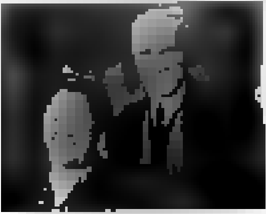

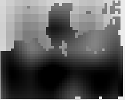

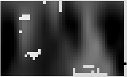

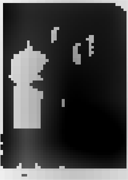

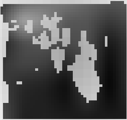

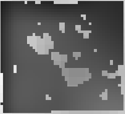

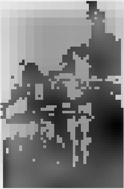

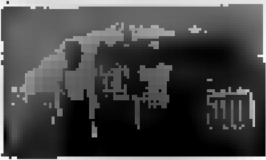

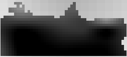

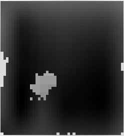

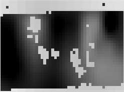

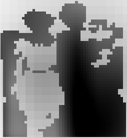

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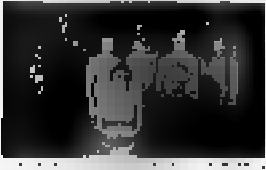

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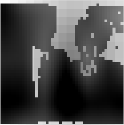

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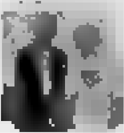

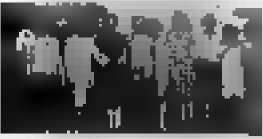

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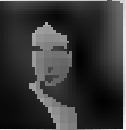

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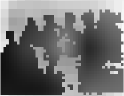

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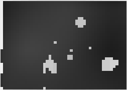

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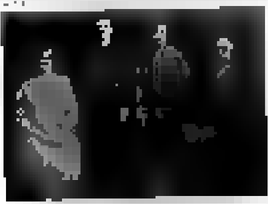

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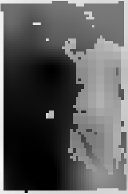

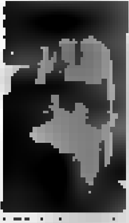

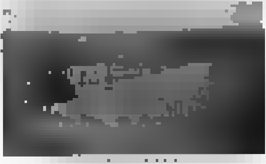

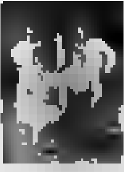

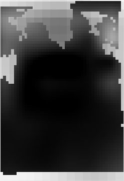

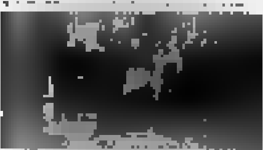

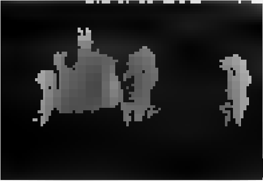

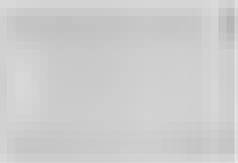

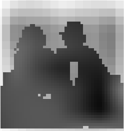

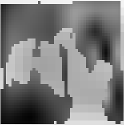

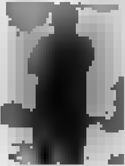

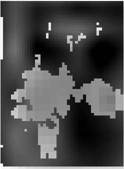

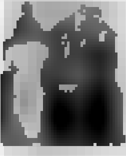

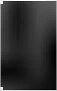

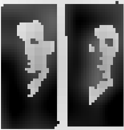

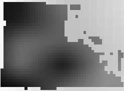

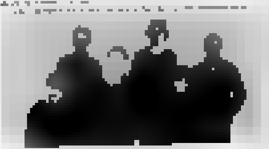

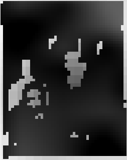

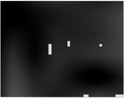

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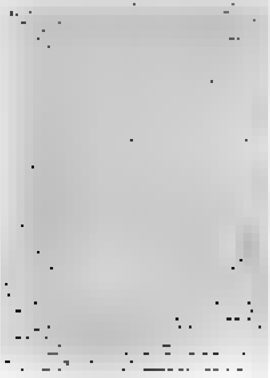

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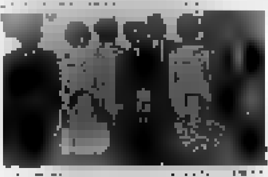

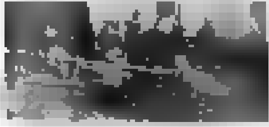

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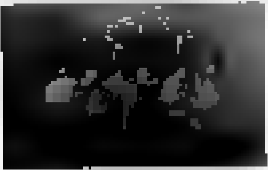

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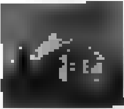

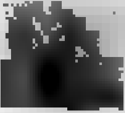

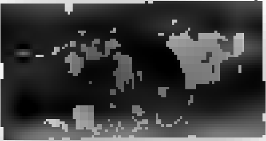

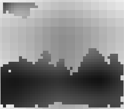

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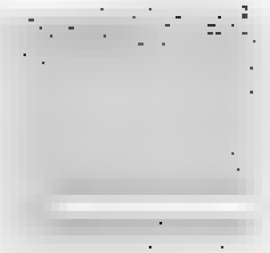

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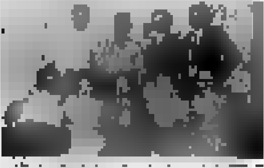

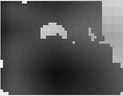

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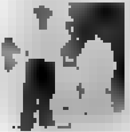

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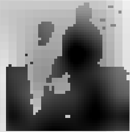

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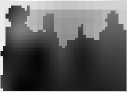

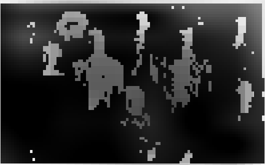

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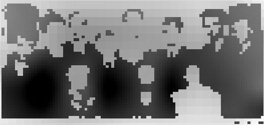

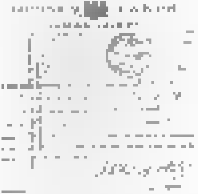

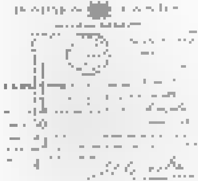

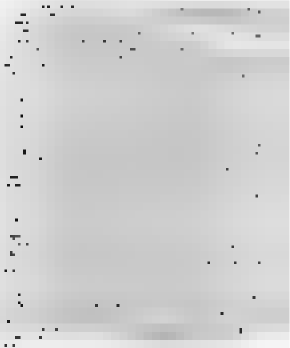

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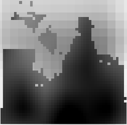

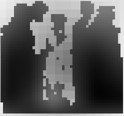

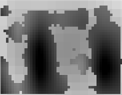

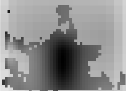

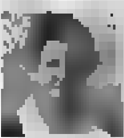

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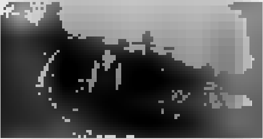

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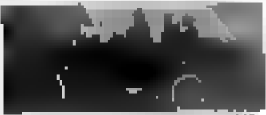

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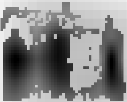

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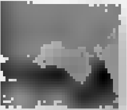

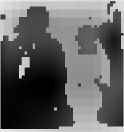

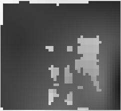

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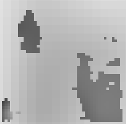

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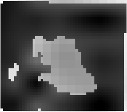

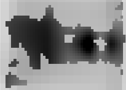

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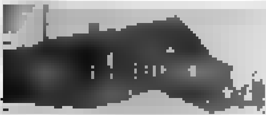

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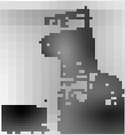

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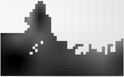

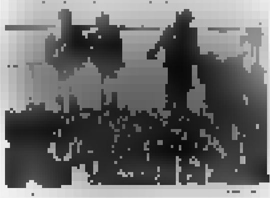

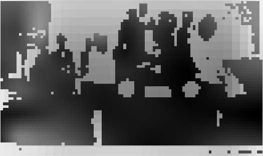

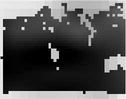

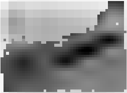

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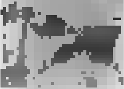

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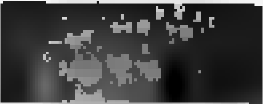

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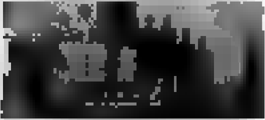

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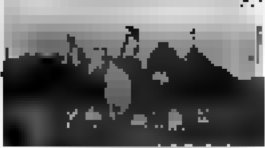

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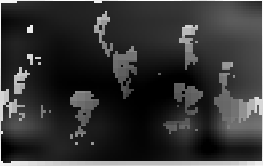

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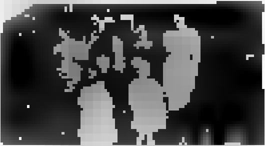

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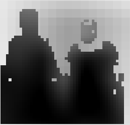

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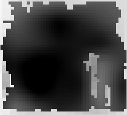

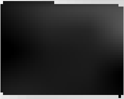

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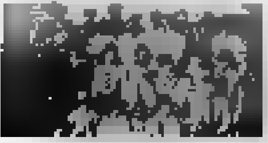

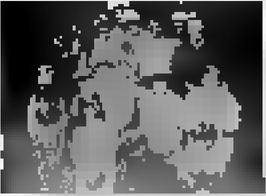

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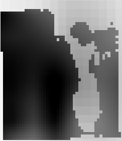

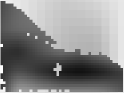

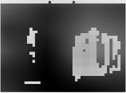

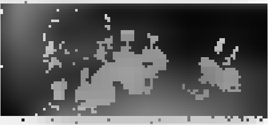

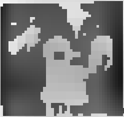

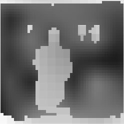

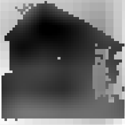

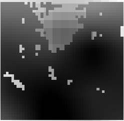

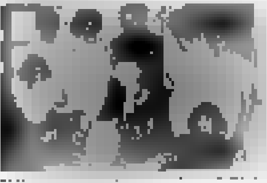

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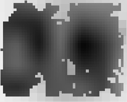

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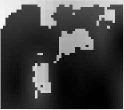

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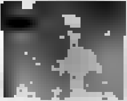

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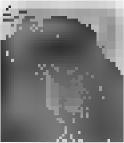

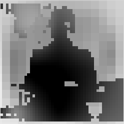

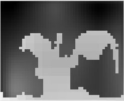

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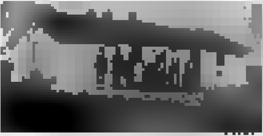

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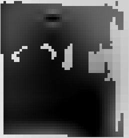

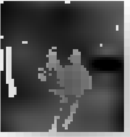

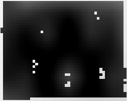

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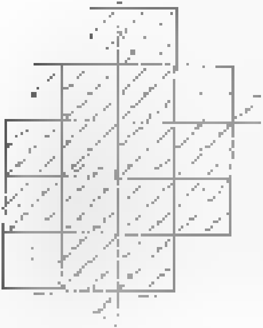

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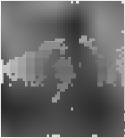

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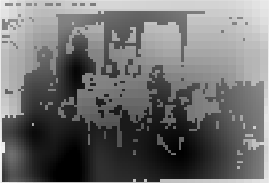

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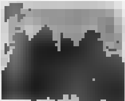

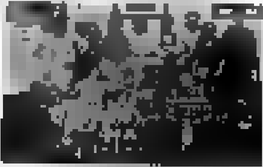

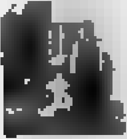

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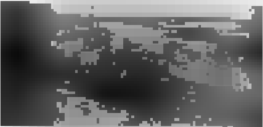

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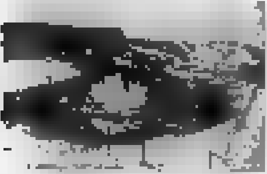

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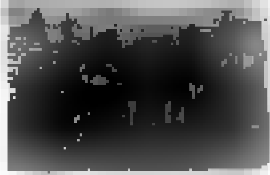

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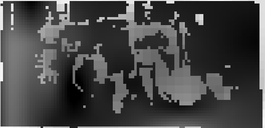

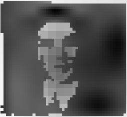

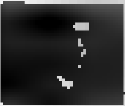

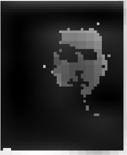

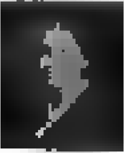

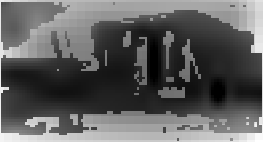

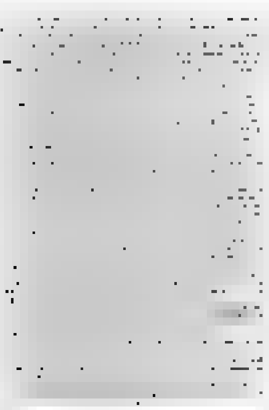

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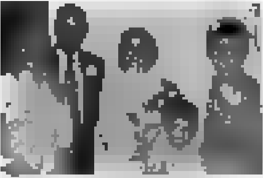

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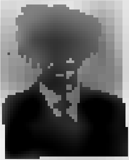

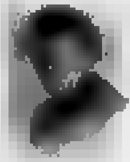

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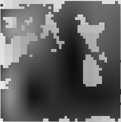

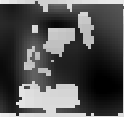

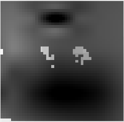

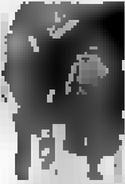

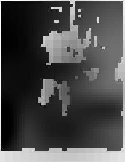

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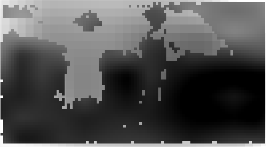

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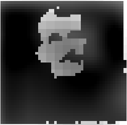

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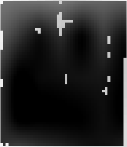

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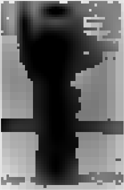

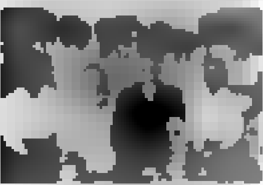

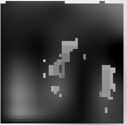

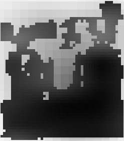

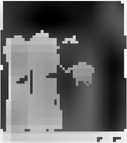

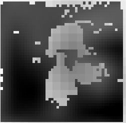

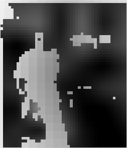

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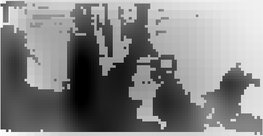

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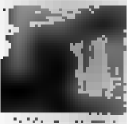

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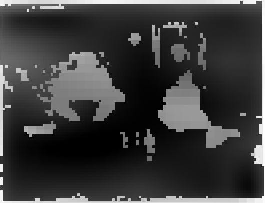

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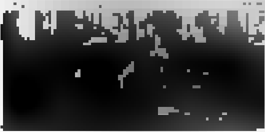

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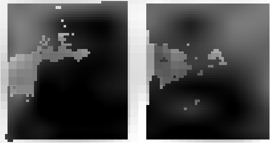

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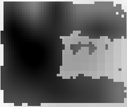

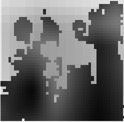

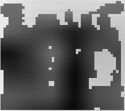

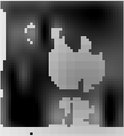

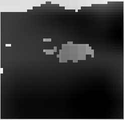

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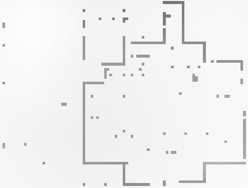

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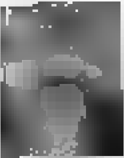

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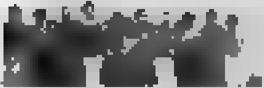

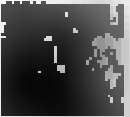

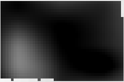

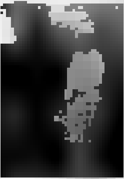

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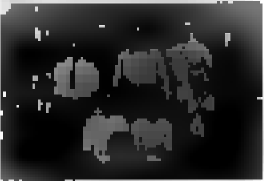

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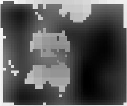

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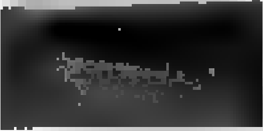

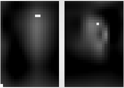

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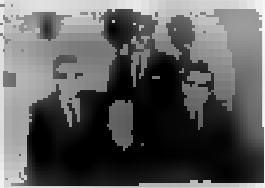

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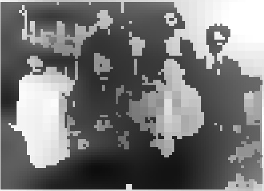

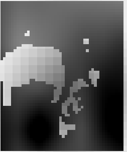

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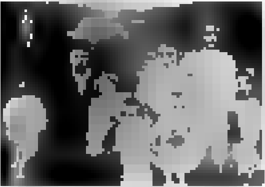

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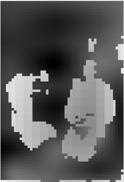

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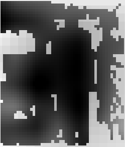

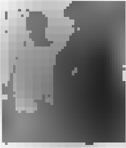

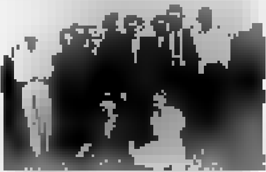

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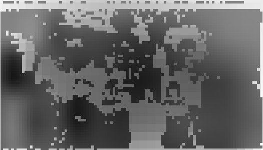

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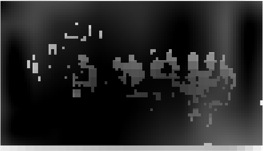

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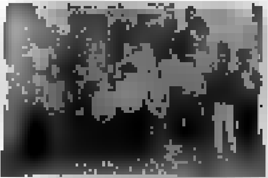

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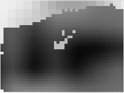

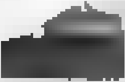

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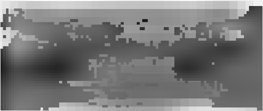

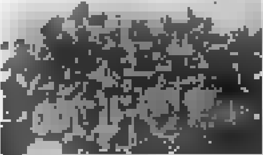

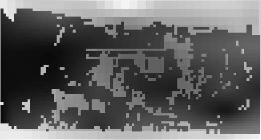

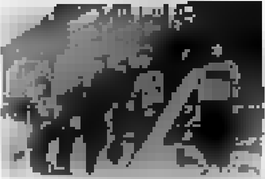

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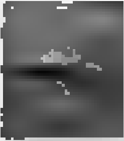

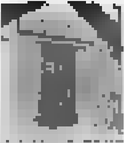

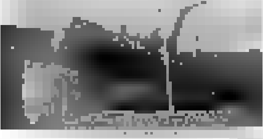

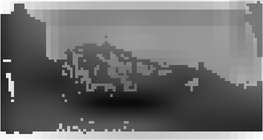

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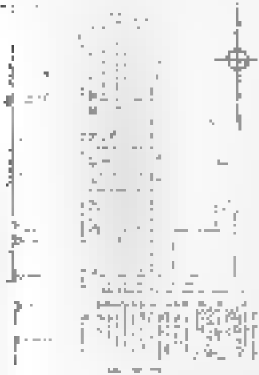

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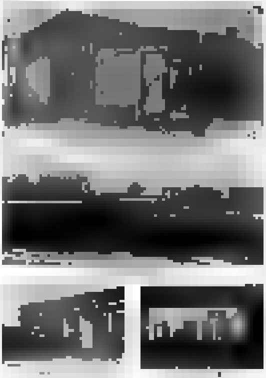

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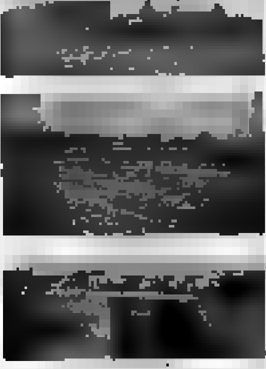

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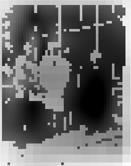

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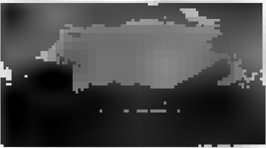

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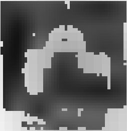

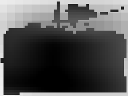

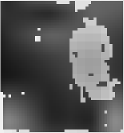

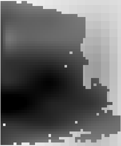

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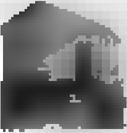

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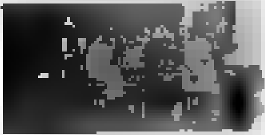

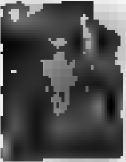

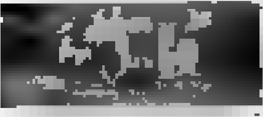

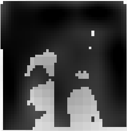

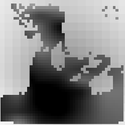

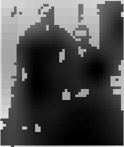

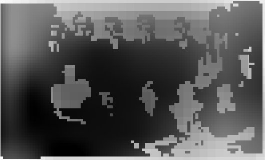

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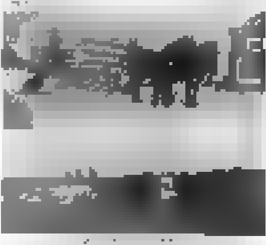

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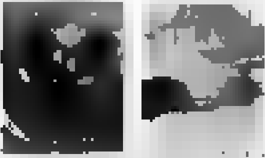

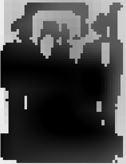

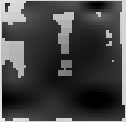

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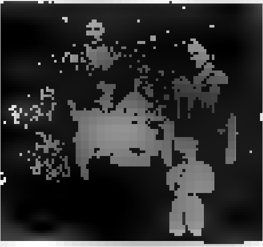

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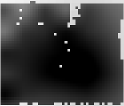

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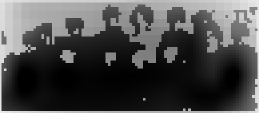

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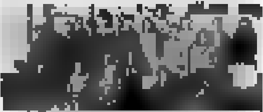

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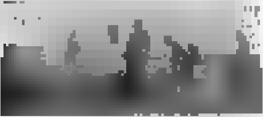

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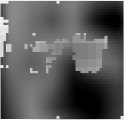
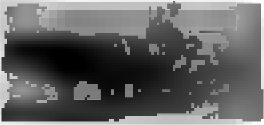
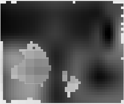
</br>





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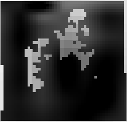

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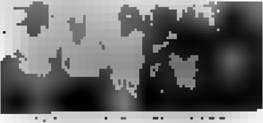

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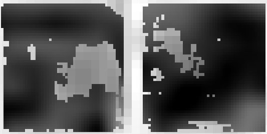

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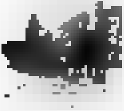

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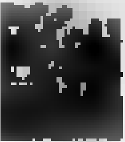

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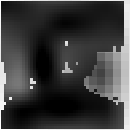

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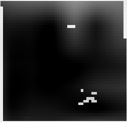

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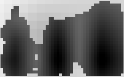

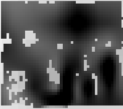

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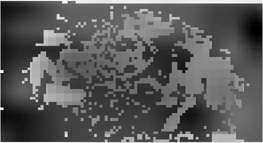

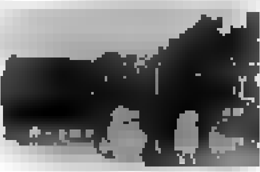

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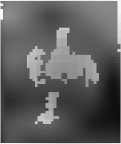

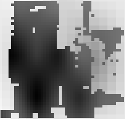

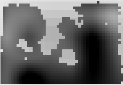

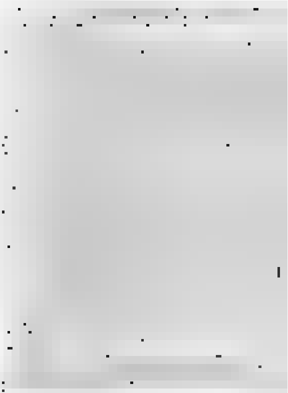

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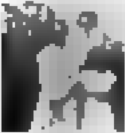

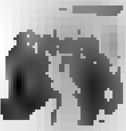

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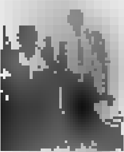

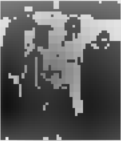

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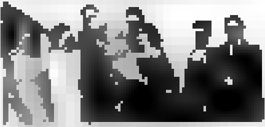

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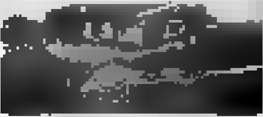

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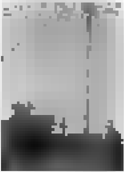

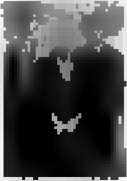

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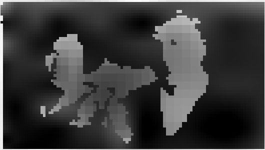

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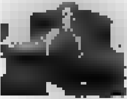

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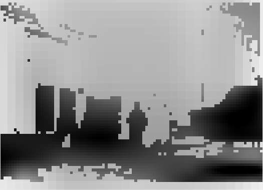

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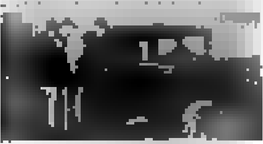

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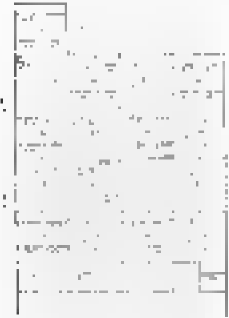

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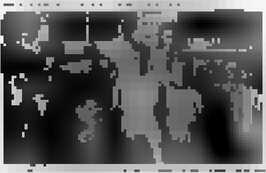

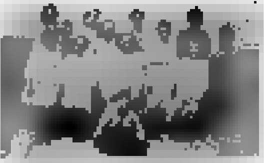

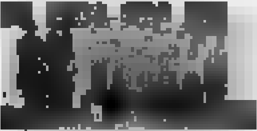

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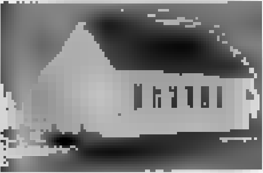

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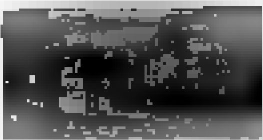

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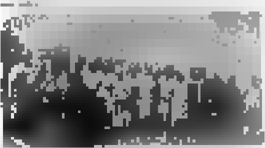

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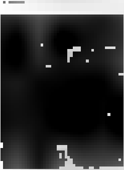

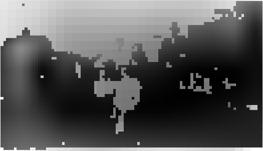

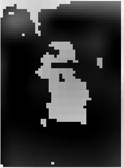

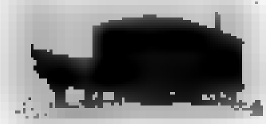

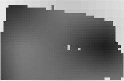

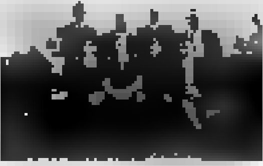

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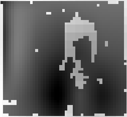

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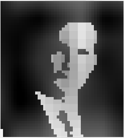

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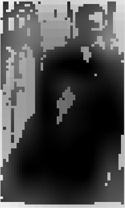

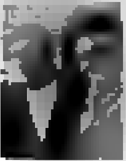

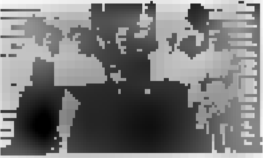

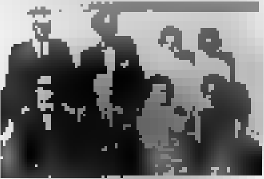

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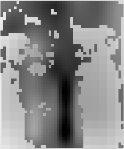

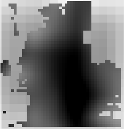

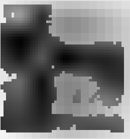

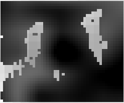

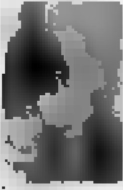

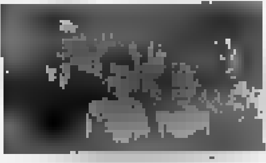

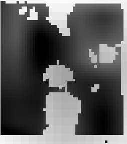

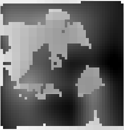

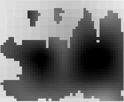

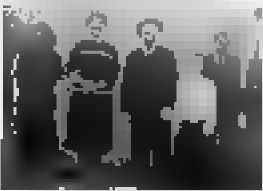

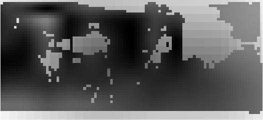

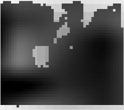

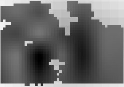

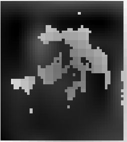

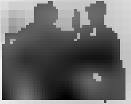

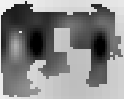

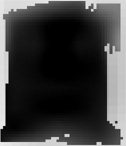

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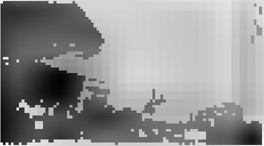

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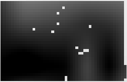

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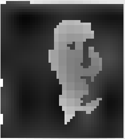

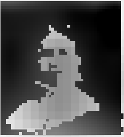

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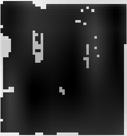

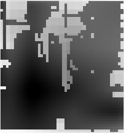

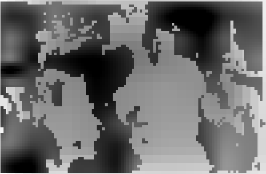

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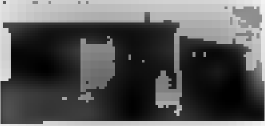

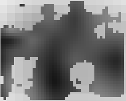

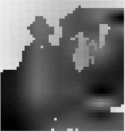

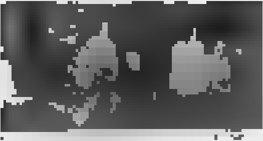

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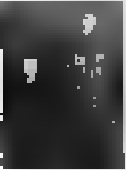

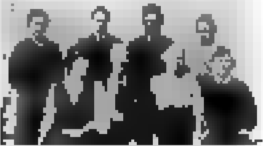

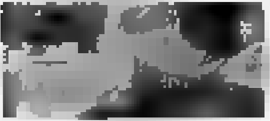

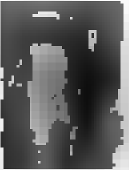

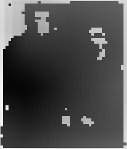

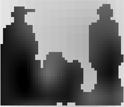

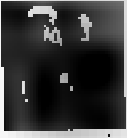

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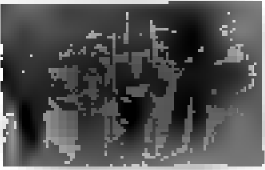

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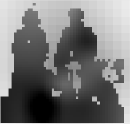

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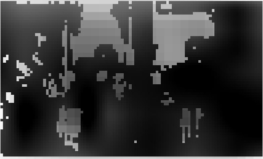

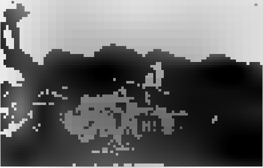

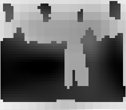

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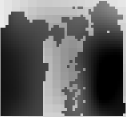

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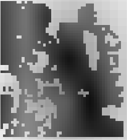

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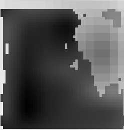

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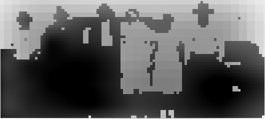

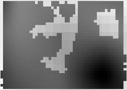

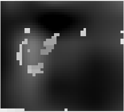

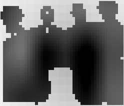

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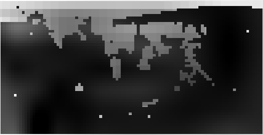

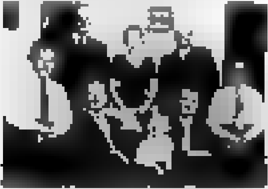

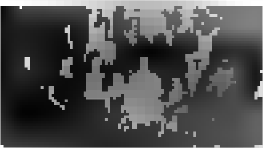

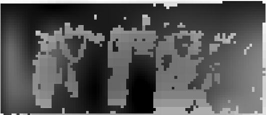

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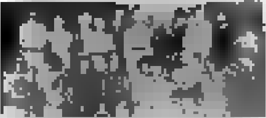

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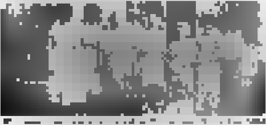

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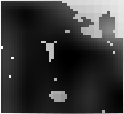

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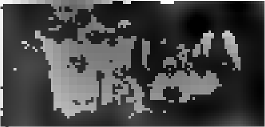

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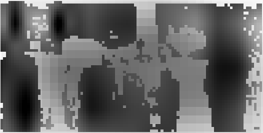

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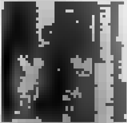

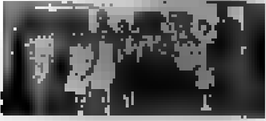

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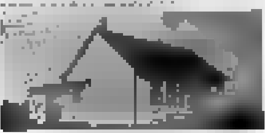

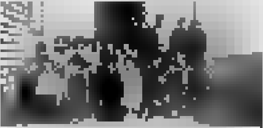

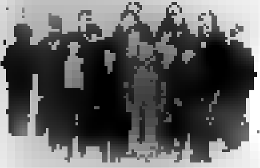

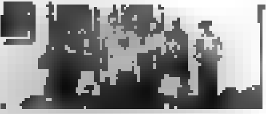

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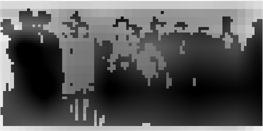

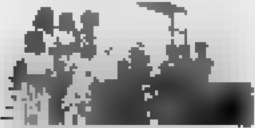

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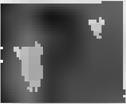

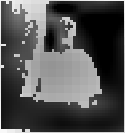

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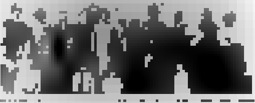

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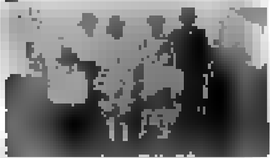

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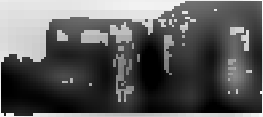

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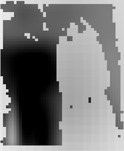

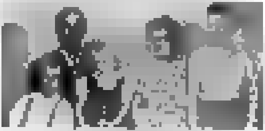

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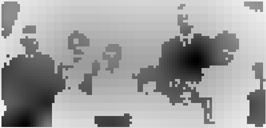

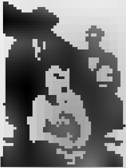

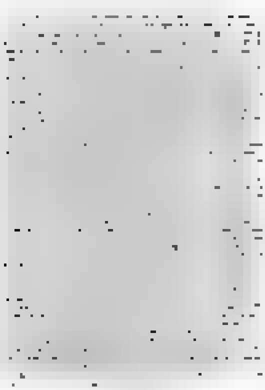

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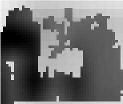

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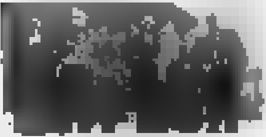

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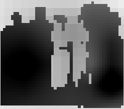

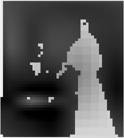

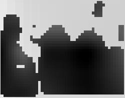

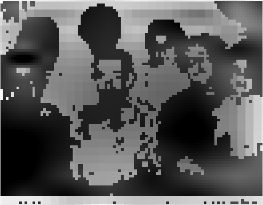

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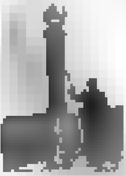

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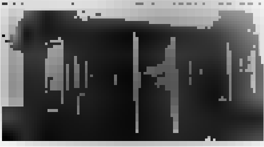

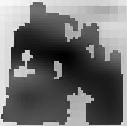

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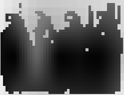

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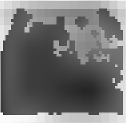

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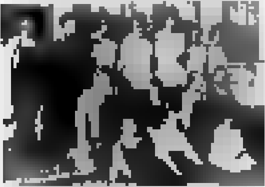

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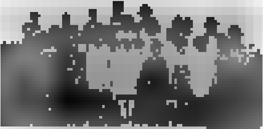

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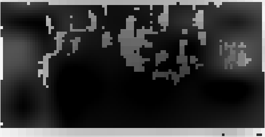

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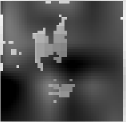

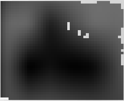

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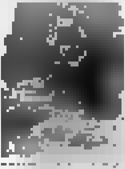

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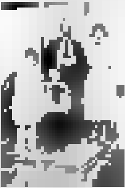

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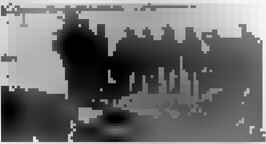

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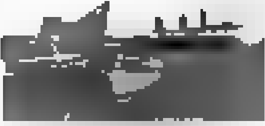

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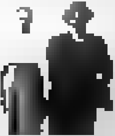

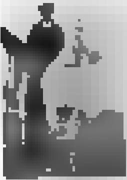

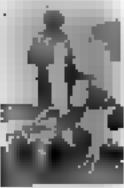

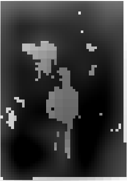

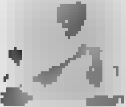

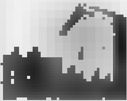

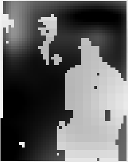

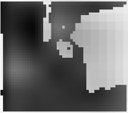

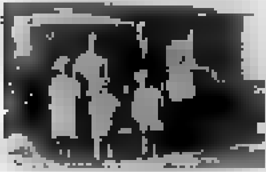

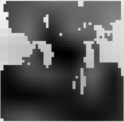

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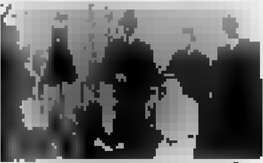

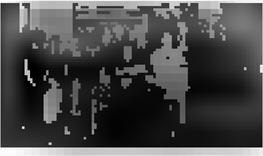

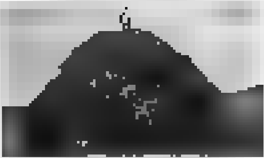

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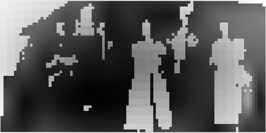

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